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Myrada kamasamudram project: a brief report on PRA conducted at Bodapatty from 22-25 October 1990

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• Objectives

- To plan Bodapatty micro watershed in a participatory way;
- To provide more knowledge for our project staff in PRA methods;
- To train staff of other volags in PRA;
- To provide more experience to our project training team in PRA; and,
- To introduce the PRA approach of appraisal to the villagers in their own development.

• Exercises conducted

1. Time-line on:
 - Village events
 - Agriculture
 - Animal husbandry
 - Forestry
 - Health
2. Historical transect on trees;
3. Non-farm livelihood;
4. Individual family profile;
5. Social mapping to understand the location of case and the families;
6. Resource mapping to understand the available resources in and around the village;
7. Transect (cross country walk) to understand the soil, crops, trees, fodder, problems and opportunities;
8. Modelling and mapping of watershed the existing and for treatments;

9. Seasonality to understand the annual distribution of the rainfall, moisture depth in the soil, employment of labour for both men and women, health and festivals;
10. Wealth ranking to understand the economic status of the families in the village;
11. Venn diagramming to understand the relationship between different institutions and public service department; and,
12. Planning of activities budget for the watershed including local contribution.

All these exercises conducted over in a period of 4 days at Bodapatty in small groups. The outcome of each exercise in small groups was presented in the larger group and approval was sought where the errors were rectified and opinions balanced.

• Learnings and highlights

- This PRA helped to a great extent in understanding the village on various points such as history and present status of resources of livelihood, the life situations and opportunities.
- It was learnt that the majority of the farmers in the watershed are benefiting from the seepage water of the Kamasamudram minor irrigation tank to grow paddy in small area ranging from 1 Gunta to 5 Gunta except a few farmers for 1.0 to 1.5 acres. This benefit is due to the real efforts of one farmer of this village who built a small check bund and diverted

the waste water wisely to the agricultural field in 1985.

- It was learnt that the farmers have put a lot of effort into conserving soil and water in their own way but it is not sufficient and more systematic effort is necessary for the total management.
- The selection of spots for fixing street lights for Bodapatty was done unanimously. In this PRA exercise at the time of social map presentation by the small group to the large group for which member of mandal panchayat was present with 4 tube lights to fix.
- It was learnt that there are 35 open wells with different status possessed by 35 families of 3 villages.
- The indicators used to depict items were local, low cost and were easy to understand.
- A big farmer was one of the participants in the PRA who was dominating the others in the beginning. As the exercises went on and made the participants clear about the PRA he turned to be a good facilitator, as full participation emerged in the group in which he was present.
- The seasonal analysis of health hazards in the area says that more people fall sick during the custard apple season where the fruits are abundant and people eat plenty.
- This PRA was conducted when there were crops standing which helped the participants to learn more about crop varieties, performance and people preferences.
- A master plan with budget including local contribution for the Bodapatty micro watershed came out well as a result of this PRA.

• Opinions of the participants

- Most of the participants have expressed that it was a nice experience at Bodapatty while doing PRA which is more relevant for their day-to-day field work related to the rural development.

- Participants have expressed that they have learnt a lot and will be adopting these methods for rural appraisal.

• Adoption and actions

As a result of providing training on PRA to our project staff the methods are being adopted in project planning, implementing, monitoring and for evaluation.

Watershed programme planning for individual lands was done at the following villages where all the beneficiaries of the watershed were present at their fields and the activities were planned to take up according to the needs of treatment:

- Garudakempanahally
- Ramakrishnapura
- D D Hally Resettlement
- Ramasandra of Mustrahally Watershed
- Nadampally of Kongarahally Watershed

Wealth ranking and social mapping exercises were conducted at Giddavanahally and Venkatapura of our project area. The above activities have been taken up after the PRA at Bodapatty. PRA activities earlier to Bodapatty PRA were not included here. We are proud and happy to extend our services to others who wish to have training in PRA. The following were the participants for the PRA at Bodapatty from 22-25 October 1990.

- Participants from MYRADA Kamasamudram Project (Staff) - 22
- Participants from other villages (prayog) - 2
- Participants from 3 villages - 43
- Resource persons (staff of MYRADA Project) - 62

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