

A Brief on Achievements of WASSAN Foundation As The Lead Technical Agency in AP Drought Mitigation Project

This note provides a brief summary of the work done/ achievements of LTA in APDMP as per the TOR. The accompanying flash-drive with a browsable file on outputs provides a navigable web-page alike interface for browsing through all the numerous output files/ notes; these includes the Quarterly reports.

TOR of the LTA:

As per the mandate of LTA, WASSAN Foundation is responsible for design and laying out various process steps of the components, orientation/ capacity building of the S/DPMU and LFAs, communication, process evaluation and supporting SPMU in planning, liaison with resource organisations and lessons learnt. The TOR of LTA is on deployment mode and the payment is on the basis of time given by the resource persons deployed.

Report and Invoice:

WASSAN submits a work done report along with the deployment details for the quarter. After the report is accepted by SPMU, it raises invoice. The quarterly report gives LTA-person wise details of work done, number of days etc. The Quarterly reports are all provided in the soft copy.

Major Achievements:

The major achievements of LTA (in brief) together with SPMU are as follows:

- APDMP is acclaimed as one of the well designed and comprehensive projects; that even IFAD is showcasing internationally. It was shared in their presentation during the recent COP – on CCD. Much of this is WASSAN's contribution.

Component 1: Climate Resilient Production System

- The project has a complete "Project Cycle Management" document detailing the strategy, outputs, activities, roles and performance indicators for all the different components; prepared by WASSAN.
- Support in strengthening FPO's institutional capacities and developing strong viable business lines – seed marketing (CMSS), farm-machinery rental (CHC), fertilizers and bio-inputs marketing, farm produce processing, value addition and marketing of rain-fed crops (groundnut, millets, pulses). LTA experts anchored the process of APDMP FPOs becoming MVKs under the CMSS programme, run pilot CHCs to come up with real-time cost-benefit analysis
- The grounding of FPOs-105 in such a short span and their coming into function and managing the project implementation – is remarkable and the numbers speak. Several of them have crossed 500 stakeholders who have paid Rs.1000 share capital – unheard of in the Dept of Agrl's history. That these FPO members are mostly S&M farmers and even from the poorest of the poor families identified is remarkable. These are moving towards high net worth FPOs.
- 'FPOs' in APDMP made an impact on the Dept of Agriculture also, and has become a point of celebration; so much so, they are offered much higher level of farm-mechanisation support.

- Business ecosystem around FPOs is getting consolidated. WASSAN could link the FPOs with NABKISAN, Samunnati, NeRL, Warehousing etc.; by next year's produce this system would be well in place moving towards the target of a cumulative Rs.100 crores business by next year..
- The concepts of CLiCs – the designs around helped in conceptualising the RBKs.
- Custom Hiring Centres have been planned, initial exercises to orient the FPOs on the concepts, framing of the guidelines, orienting the teams, developing MIS module etc., were done by WASSAN.
- APDMP- FPOs in 2 years time – are able to produce 80000 qtl of certified seed under CMSS – nearly competing with any seed agencies in the state. The entire knowledge/ skills of processes of seed production protocols, procurement, processing, certification – are transferred largely by WASSAN team.
- FFS strategy, various modules and material were developed by the LTA team. The TOTs were also conducted on the modules.
- LTA has conducted three workshops for the project staff –LFA, FA and DPMU covering market linkages (attended by representatives from marketing agencies), post harvest value addition for millet and groundnut (attended by equipment fabricators and entrepreneurs running mills) and credit linkages (NabKisan) have been conducted.
- Living Soils – is a comprehensive initiative taking the work on soil health from the conventional soil health cards to realistically addressing the soil organic matter issue. This is tough work on ground but, APDMP is able to initiate it in the clusters. This 'Living Soils' sub-project frame is fine tuned and well in place for achieving something substantial, if implementation is supported.
- There is large scale crop diversification to millets and Navadhanya. Millet production is substantial and WASSAN could even initiate market linkages. Campaigns, FFS also helped in this larger scale diversification.
- Demonstration of the concept of 'Protective Irrigation'; extensive number of farm ponds are coming up with this purpose of Protective Irrigation. Together with the custom hiring centers having Tankers and tractors, and, sprinklers for protective irrigation – this is on the pathway to be a major breakthrough in seeing irrigation differently in drylands.
- 13 sites for Groundwater Collectivisation are ready for implementation; farmers have paid their contribution and waiting for project to sanction their proposals. Few will be completed by April/ May, 2020. Once these are implemented before Kharif – there would be many more in the pipeline.
- The 'Rearer Field School' is unique to APDMP. First time sheep and goat rearers are reached out in large numbers and their issues surfaced and some of them addressed. This is a 'first' of its kind initiative. Villages have now Drinking water exclusively meant for small ruminants – heart-filling videos/ photos of sheep drinking water from these sources!
- Para-workers are well trained, attending to the issues and health care of animals in the RFS. In several cases, they are also paid for their services. Another - 'first'!
- Backyard poultry model is now grounded; it is upcoming as a promising initiative and soon will be one of the hallmarks of APDMP.

In all these initiatives – WASSAN has designed the initiatives, developed the process steps and cost estimates, developed training modules, developed communication material, demonstrated them on ground, oriented S/DPMU and LFAs on the concepts, helped them in the field taking it to clusters.

We have all the modules, communication material in all the above initiatives – is a remarkable achievement for any organisation in 2 years time.

Component 2: NRM and Groundwater Governance:

- 53 GPs chosen for initial work. All the initial training, well inventory was complete with a mobile application. Initial Crop-water budget exercises were also complete. Staff were trained.
- But implementation of this component is caught up in 'Procurement Issues' and now staff issues. Huge effort went on ground from WASSAN in capacity building of staff and organising the field exercises for demonstration.
- WASSAN brought in FES to support on commons, facilitated and supported them in taking up the commons related work across the project.
- Groundwater Governance committee formation and functional guidelines are also prepared but waiting for the project teams to come up on this agenda.
- Borewell recharge structures – the guidelines are in place; awaiting take off.

Component 3: Implementation support, policy and lessons learnt

- **Process Monitoring:**
 - Developed the method for monitoring the processes (as per the design) and their field level deviations. Two rounds were carried out and latter due to several issues did not continue.
 - Two Quick studies to understand the why expenditure was not picking up and functioning of BRCs were taken up and given feed back to SPMU for necessary action.
 - FPO monthly self assessment framework was developed and integrated into the portal.
 - Supported SPMU several times in assessing the status by compiling the data from the MIS portal.
- **Partnerships:**
 - Supporting the SPMU to liaison with different implementation and support agencies- holding workshops, drafting Terms of Reference and contracts/MoUs. LTA has facilitated end-to end collaboration between the SPMU and different expert agencies such as ANGRU for localized crop and weather advisories at the CliC centres, AFC for conducting baseline and end-line impact surveys, FES for creating a GIS Portal (a visual database of APDMP interventions), IFHD for building FPO capacities on business development, KVK, Yagantepalli for providing technical support to BRC entrepreneurs, NBSS and LUP for testing out the Land Resources Inventorisation, CSIRO for climate risks assessments, Safe Harvest, Big Basket, Manyam Grains for market linkages, NABKISAN for linking FPOs with credit etc..; several rounds of discussion with ICRISAT and VASSAR labs did not result into a partnership.
- **Communications:**
 - Set up basic communication system across the project levels in G-Suite.
 - Web portal for external consumption.
 - WhatsApp group for sharing of events across the program levels.

- Weekly Digest of news – that picks up from the posts in the WhatsApp group communication and others. This also provides external stories also to APDMP teams.
- “Sankalpam” – quarterly magazine that profiles stories from the field in APDMP; printed copies are circulated by SPMU widely; English translated versions are also prepared in some cases.
- Communication material for various thematic areas.
- Flip Charts as training aids.
- We have such communication/ training material for all the major themes of APDMP – would be about 75 to 100 products.
- Exhibition displays.
- **APDMP has several IT / Data applications viz.,**
 - APDMP Portal
 - MIS Platform: capturing data online for usage and analysis; includes performance data for e.g., of Custom hiring centres.
 - **Mobile APPs:**
 - Mobile Application: for on field capture of data along with geo reference
 - Well inventory for groundwater monitoring using ODKs
 - A planning tool for Groundwater collectivisation.
 - CLART tool for planning the initiatives in Commons
 - Geo-Portal: Anchored by FES – integrating the spatial data and MIS data (nearly ready for launching)

In all the above, WASSAN team has provided the basic design, framework and user interface. And also provided some backend IT support.

- Helped SPMU in periodical reviews, identifying and suggesting design changes.
- Worked on and supported SPMU in the preparation of Annual Work Plan and Budgets in its all iteration; integrating it with project design and priorities and with the IFAD mission’s recommendations.
- Supported SPMU in the preparation of Annual reports
- Supported SPMU with all the preparations, reports and documentation in IFAD Missions.
- Have supported SPMU and Dept of Agri in developing the Millets policy.

In spite of severe impediments such as fund flows, the project could not gain the speed it should have for several reasons. The backend material is all prepared in most of the aspects.

In Summary: The LTA team has substantially contributed to the success of APDMP, despite several impediments.

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LTA Team
WASSAN Foundation
3rd March, 2020.