ANDHRA PRADESH RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION PROJECT (APRPRP)

PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

ON

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
&
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

CONDUCTED BY

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT CONCERNS
HYDERABAD
FROM 21ST May 2002 – 31 May 2002
Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction to APRPRP .................................................. 3
1.1 Environment and Pest Management Plan (EMP & PMP) ............ 3
2.0 Public Consultations on EMP and PMP .................................. 4
  2.1 Purpose ........................................................................... 4
  2.2 Pre Consultation Process .................................................. 4
       Selection of locations/places for the consultation ................. 4
       Dissemination of information ........................................... 4
  2.3 Consultation Process ..................................................... 5
     2.3.1 District-Wise Summary Of Deliberations ....................... 6
         S.No. Mandal Village Date of Consultation ...................... 6
         Date : 24-05-2002 ....................................................... 13
  2.0 Village: Uppugallu ....................................................... 15
     6.0 Village: Akunur .......................................................... 16
     Mandal: Mulugu .............................................................. 17
  1.0 Village: Dhone .............................................................. 20
     Mandal: Kothapally ........................................................ 25
  2.3.2 State-Level Public Consultation on EMP & PMP: Hyderabad,
       31st May 2002 ............................................................. 26
3.0 Conclusion: Responses to EMP / PMP .................................... 27
1.0 Introduction to APRPRP

The Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has initiated AP Rural Poverty Reduction Project (APRPRP) with the support from 'The World Bank' to enable the 'poorest of poor' to articulate their needs; access and influence the quality of services; and create their own opportunities to improve their livelihoods in a sustainable manner.

APRPRP, will be implemented in 16 districts of the state and is build upon the World Bank funded Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (AP DPIP), which has been underway for 18 months in 6 districts.

The strategies to achieve the objective include

(a) Focus on the 'poorest of the poor' across the state in 500 selected mandals of 16 districts.

(b) Address the livelihood issues of the 'poorest of the poor' with a focus on land and water management on degraded areas.

(c) Support greater convergence of health, education, nutrition, natural resource management and anti poverty programs to be responsive to the needs of the poor.

(d) Evolve implementation arrangements to include other stakeholders such as local government and civil society.

I.
Details regarding the project are available at the website: http:\www.velugu.org

1.1 Environment and Pest Management Plan (EMP & PMP)

One of the key components of the project is that the poor are enabled to develop micro projects that meet the parameters of equity, productivity and sustainability. Thus environmental equity and sustainability play a major role in the development strategy of the project. Therefore an Environment Management Plan has been prepared to be put in place. As most of the projects would be
agriculture based projects it was thought pertinent to include a pest management plan as well. The full report of EMP and PMP are available at the above mentioned website.

2.0 Public Consultations on EMP and PMP

2.1 Purpose

In order to disseminate the contents of the EMP and PMP to the public and to obtain their views and suggestions about the project and the environmental aspects, public consultations were conducted at various levels to represent the cross section of the population in the project area.

This report delves on the process, followed prior to the public consultations and the deliberations during the consultations at various levels.

2.2 Pre Consultation Process

Selection of locations/places for the consultation

The EMP and PMP were put through public consultations in 3 districts of AP, namely Warangal, Kurnool, and Prakasam. These districts were selected on geo-political considerations. AP has three major geo-political regions: Telengana, Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema, from each of which a district was selected- Warangal from Telengana, Prakasam from Coastal Andhra and Kurnool from Rayalaseema. There were altogether 27 consultations in the districts, 9 in each district, conducted between 20th-31st of May, 2002. There was one consultation at the state level in Hyderabad.

The selection of the 8 villages in each District was on the basis of their varied geographical conditions. The selection was done in consultation with local NGOs and District officials. Local NGO field staff informed the villages about the programme and venue through tom-tom and house to house visits. All the village level public hearings were conducted at a convenient time in order to ensure villagers' attendance.

Dissemination of information

- The full report of EMP and PMP was posted on the website mentioned above.

- The Executive Summaries of the EMP and the PMP were translated into Telugu. 1000 copies were printed for circulation.
Orientation on the public hearing to the consulting teams was conducted on 14th May 2002 at Hyderabad.

Notification in newspapers was given in two widely circulated daily newspapers, namely Deccan Chronicle (English) and Vaartha (Telugu). A change of date for the Public Consultation in Hyderabad was also issued. These appeared on the 15th and 19th May respectively.

Executive Summaries in Telugu were posted to a number of NGOs and other relevant institutions and concerned local resource persons.

Executive Summaries in Telugu were distributed to govt. officials and non-officials, both before and during consultations.

Pre-consultation visits to the districts by the consulting teams were made to brief the officials and to fix the time schedule for mandal / village level consultations and to constitute district-level witness committees comprising of village elders, officials and prominent local resource persons. Consulting teams also visited the villages to inform the people regarding the consultations.

Arrangements were made to video-graph, and photograph the proceedings and for minutes to be recorded in Telugu and English.

2.3 Consultation Process

Public Consultations were carried out in 24 Mandal/villages in three project districts. District level consultation at the three district headquarters – Warangal, Ongole (Prakasam) and Kurnool and a State level consultation at Hyderabad were also carried out.

A nine member committee comprising of elders, Government Officials, Dalit/NGO leaders and prominent political leaders was constituted in each district and the members of these committee have attended the public hearings at the village level as well. Local political leaders attended the public consultation as well.
2.3.1 District-Wise Summary Of Deliberations

DISTRICT: PRAKASAM

Public hearings were held in the following Mandals:

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<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Mandal</th>
<th>Village</th>
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<td>Vemavaram</td>
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<td>Peda Nagulavaram</td>
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1) Village : Gangapalem
Mandal : Ballikurava
Date : 21-05-2002

The public hearing was conducted at Grama Ramalayam (Village Temple) at started at 7.30 A.M. The village elders introduced the visiting team lead by Mr. K. Jagannadha Rao of Centre For Environment Concerns (CEC) to the villagers. The objective of the APRPRP and the purpose of the Public Hearing was explained. Mr. Rao then presented to the villagers the Executive Summary of EMP and PMP. The committee comprised of 4 village elders amongst whom were 2 women. The public hearing continued in a cordial environment. The issues that have come up for discussion during the consultation process area as follows:

♦ "Maa Vuriki Manchi Neeru Kaavali" (Our village needs good drinking water) is the demand raised by all the men & women in this public hearing. They said that their bones were crippled due to high fluoride concentrations in the drinking water.

♦ They said that their village is away from proper roads, drinking water facilities, health, and sanitation. Non-development of irrigation facilities increased their difficulties.

♦ They insisted on extension of the Nagarjuna Sagar canal to their village boundaries. They also insisted on construction of side canals so as to facilitate good drainage flow.
Villagers agreed that extensive drilling of bore wells caused depletion of the ground water table. Since their area is surrounded by hills, construction of check dams would be beneficial.

They were losing a lot of money to chemical fertilizers and pesticides and agreed on the need for minimized applications. Some farmers suggested traditional agriculture practices, like application of *penta eruvu* (FYM), cow dung, castor residues and other agricultural residues. They explained how neem oil application helps in controlling the pests. They deplored today's speedy agronomic practices and said that it was weakening soil strength and also escalating costs.

They emphasized revival of old practices and demanded more agriculture training programmes with effective agricultural practices.

Most of the villagers pinned much importance on the improvement of their live stock. They demanded construction of veterinary hospital for live stock.

The villagers at the public hearing said that their life was linked to agriculture. Their economy would become better if they had good access to water resources.

2) Village: Vemavaram
Mandal: Ballikurava
Date: 24-05-2002

The public hearing started at 11.30 A.M. at the village Primary School. 69 villagers attended the hearing. Many of the attendees were women. Mr. K.Jagannadha Rao, CEC – Hyderabad, told the villagers about APRPRP and how environmentally harmful practices cause destruction to livelihoods. He explained the Environment Management Plan & Pest Management Plan summary in a lay man's language.

The villagers flooded the public hearing with their village problems. They were facing many problems due to high fluoride content in water. They expected the village is provided with fluoride-free drinking water facilities.

Some of the villagers said that they were drilling bore wells with no results. They told that these drillings were yielding only temporary results. Increased bore well drillings in the village lead to the depletion of...
underground water resources. They said that extension of the Nagarjuna Sagar dam canal is the right & perennial solution to mitigate their problems.

- Most of the villagers requested the team to ensure good quality seeds in order to lessen pesticide & chemical application in their fields. They also said that it reduces their costs.

- Some villagers also emphasized rejuvenation of old agricultural practices in their fields i.e. neem oil application, FYM, castor residues etc.

3) Village : Mutukula  
Mandal : Pullalacheruvu  
Date : 22-05-2002

The public hearing started at 9.30 AM in the Mutukula Primary school. Totally 54 villagers participated in the Public Hearing. The 4 member village committee comprising K.Bangaramma, U.Ramayya, B.Susheela and G.Bangaramma was constituted to co ordinate the proceedings. The villagers told that Mutukula is the one of the most backward villages in Prakasam District. “The village resembles a graveyard as the soil there is not good”. One villager said that he was consuming poison from the drinking water because Fluoride concentration is very high.

The villagers said that they were living in miserable conditions.

- They said that their living environment would improve if Nagarjuna Sagar water comes to their village. They criticized the Government for not taking proper steps to solve their long-standing problems. One villager said that even though Sagar canal was very close to their village, not even a drop of water was available to their village.

- All the villagers attended at the public hearing insisted on erection of lift irrigation schemes along the Sager canal to irrigate their fields. They also insisted on Sagar water for drinking purposes. Recently a 400 Mt. deep bore well was drilled in the village, but they could not find even a trace of water.

- The visiting team asked the villagers about an alternative to the digging of bore wells. Some villagers replied that their area was bound with 3 natural streams and by hills. Construction of check dams & diversion canals would solve their problems.
Uppalla Ramayya, a villager told that construction of rock beds and water retention beds along the hills and wastelands would help in re-charging of ground water and thereby promote water level in nearby ponds. It would also lead to afforestation and pasteurization and support their livestock in an effective way.

Some village women said that stagnation of water results in the outbreak of many diseases in their village. She requested a construction of a proper drainage system in the village.

When asked by the visiting team about the old agricultural practices, some villagers praised the traditional practices like application of FYM. The told that they were losing large amounts of money for pesticides. They requested the visiting team for cost-effective training programmes in agriculture.

The women requested installation of skill training center in order to upgrade their skills.

4) Village : Chowtappacherla  
   Mandal : Pullalacheruvu  
   Date : 22-05-2002

To lead the hearing, a 4-member committee of village elders was formed. Most of the villagers expressed their existing problems and how they were creating hurdles in their development.

Most of the villagers accused themselves for not uniting to solve their problems collectively. They said that lack of drinking water was the main problem in their village. Most of the villagers were suffering from fluoride-related problems.

Their fields were away from the Sagar canal command area thus the agriculture production in the village is minimal.

Drinking water, proper roads, and a Primary Health Care center were some of the major identified needs.

The villagers said that lack of proper irrigation facilities is resulting in large scale migration. Due to depleted ground water levels, bore well irrigation is becoming expensive.

Villagers also complained of untimely power cuts.
They emphasized the importance of tree plantation and other water retention methods. The villagers informed that 5 streams surrounded their village. Villagers suggested construction of check dams to mitigate their problems.

The visiting team asked the villagers about the importance of traditional agriculture practices. Some villagers told that even though traditional practices were good they do not yield quick and high yields.

5) Village : Marripalem
   Mandal : Konakanamitla
   Date : 23-05-2002

The public hearing was conducted at Marripalem village at primary school. The hearing began with problems put forth by the villagers.

A villager said that nearly 90% of the villagers are depending on agriculture. Their only irrigation source for the 2000 acres in the village was bore and opens wells. But depleted underground water table and unreliable power situation was costing them thousands of rupees. He questioned the visiting team how this programme will help to bring color in their lives. "Can this programme help in completion of Velugodu Project" he questioned. He said that completion of this project was the only source to their better livelihood. Mt. K. Jagannadha Rao of CEC explained the programme, its coverage and how it would help the village.

Most of the villagers insisted on speedy completion of Velugonda Project and critiqued the Govt. for wasting money on unproductive segments. Villagers insisted on Nagarjuna Sagar water for drinking purposes in order to mitigate the problem of fluoride.

Most of the villagers told the team that they were in need of technical advice in times of agriculture season. They complained good quality seeds were not available. Some villagers suggested training programmes in IPM to improve their yields and returns.

6) Village : Ambapuram
   Mandal : Konakanamitla
   Date : 23-05-2002

A village level public hearing conducted at Ambapuram on 23rd of May 2002. The hearing went on initially with ventilation of village problems.
Most of the villagers requested the visiting team the provision of fluoride free drinking water to their village. Villagers insisted on Sagar canal water for drinking / irrigation purposes.

Some villagers told that their village was newly constructed and basic amenities were not provided. Some villagers agreed that there is need for massive tree plantation. Some expressed that each house should be adorned with 10 trees and this would result in greener environment around the village.

Some villagers told that their village is bounded by wastelands. Sometimes heavy rains and flooding streams were causing soil leaching and erosion. To mitigate this problem villagers suggested water retention constructions and digging of ponds at several places to capture more water. Villagers told that utilization of this water proved to be the best solution to the existing water crisis instead of extensive digging of bore wells.

Some of the village elders attached much importance of traditional practices for the agricultural problems in the village.

They insisted on collective practices rather than individual.

To improve their economic position construction of check dams were preferred by the villagers. They told that they would maximize the water storage capacities in the soil and there by promote marketable crops.

Heavy application of pesticides and their subsequent results were discussed in the hearing. Some villagers complained that they were incurring high expenses on chemicals with low crop yields. To come out of this problem the hearing discussed on alternative mechanisms like Integrated Pest Management

7) Village : Bodapadu  
Mandal : Markapur  
Date : 22-05-2002

The public hearing was held at Bodapadu village in Markapur mandal. It was held at Village Ramalayam in the evening hours.

The public hearing started with the existing village problems.
A. Nageswara Rao, a villager told that their village was networked with dusty roads having improper drinking water sources. The visiting team indeed found that the village was very far from proper drinking water facilities.

Most of the villagers were depending upon agriculture.

They complained of untimely power cuts. They also expressed the need for sanitary latrines in order to keep the surrounding environment cleaner.

A villager named Gangireddy Rami Reddy told the visiting team that their village has in possession of 1000 cattle. He insisted on improvement of good quality livestock in order to promote their economic position without harming the surrounding environment. When asked by the team the advantages of improved livestock, he told the team that it would improve pasture development in the village thereby arrests soil erosion and fosters sustainable development.

The visiting team questioned the villagers the advantages that lie in the traditional vs. modern agriculture practices in terms of environment. Villagers came forward with the following points in the discussion.

Crop diversification from traditional crops (i.e. Jowar, Maize etc.) to cotton and tobacco tripled their expenses in terms of chemicals and pesticides. Diminishing profits followed by cost escalation has worsened their plight.

Lack of knowledge on scientific cultivation methods that include crop rotation and Integrated Pest Management methods.

Global Environment has suffered due indiscriminate use of chemicals.

G.Ramana Reddy, a villager told the team that the present losses in the agriculture were due to farmers’ ignorant practices. He questioned the other farmers how they pacify their parched throat with a hot chilly. He told that farmer’s ambition for quick results is causing enormous problems. Terming the agriculture as art of living, he emphasised the importance of harmonious practices for richer yields. Grass root level training programmes on new practices and implementation in the fields are necessary. He said implementation of IPM practices i.e. Pheromone traps, bird perches, and bio-chemical applications in the fields would be very beneficial--"all these practices augment and enrich the soil with 100% pollution- free certificate".
8) Village : Peda Nagulavaram  
Mandal : Markapur  
Date : 24-05-2002

- The public hearing was held in a local Church at Peda Nagulavaram village at 8.30 PM.

- Rather than environment implications, villagers insisted on a discussion on basic needs of the village. They said that their village was deficient of proper road facilities.

- Village women were facing many problems due lack of water facilities.

- A bridge on nearby stream was very essential as during rainy season the stream gets flooded. A village woman said that last year 5 villagers died in the stream. Deaths were recurring in every rainy season.

DISTRICT : WARANGAL

Public Hearings were conducted in the following places apart from District HQ. at Warangal that was held on 21st May.

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<td>Jangalapally</td>
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District Level Consultation: Warangal

After the introduction of APRPRP by the District Collector, the EMP and PMP was presented. Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation, AP Govt – Mr. Kayam Srihari, along with District Collectors and Officials of various departments have participated in the public hearing held at Warangal. The discussions centered around the project components rather than the EMP and PMP. The respondents welcomed the fact that environmental aspects were being addressed in this project.
Mr. Ramesh Gupta explained the importance of the environment, and the need to maintain an ecological balance. People’s participation in eco-conservation projects is important. State and Central Govt projects that have been implemented till now, have not included an EMP for developmental projects. It was appreciated that APRPRP is concerned about the environmental and attempted to develop and EMP to mitigate any adverse impacts.

Given below are the issues raised by the villagers:

- Supply of spurious seeds.
- Stranglehold of middle-men in granting access to villagers to developmental projects.
- Illiteracy
- Inefficiency of State Govt officials in implementation of Projects.
- Failure of Govt officials to spread awareness among the people about govt projects.
- Poverty alleviation projects have a faulty process for the Identification of the Poorest of the Poor sections in villages
- Involvement of political leaders and allotment of projects to their political supporters and henchmen.
- Lack of water for cultivation, irregular power supply, uneven rainfall, are some of the problems faced by them
- Overuse of pesticides and declining income have pushed poor farmers to suicides
- Farmers, women, poor, illiterate and unemployed youth should be given special training in implementation of projects so that proper people-friendly projects can be implemented
2.0 Village: Uppugallu  
Mandal: Zaffargadh  
Date: 22/05/02

- Unemployed youth in the village told the Committee that State and Central govt poverty alleviation projects have been failing due to people’s lack of awareness and understanding about the projects.

- They said that youth are the backbone of the village. Any projects implemented by the govt. should involve youth. Projects should also be helpful to women and farmers.

- Govt. is spending 50,000/- to 60,000/- on village schools and their teaching staff. However, they are of no use to the poor children.

- Village elders said that instead of implementing new projects, the State Govt should concentrate on ensuring water supply for agriculture and regular supply of power. If this is done, poverty would get reduced on its own.

- It was said that the govt should give 40-50 acres of land for group cultivation by the landless, the destitute, and widowed women with children.

- Govt should encourage small-scale industries.

- Govt should ensure supply of quality seeds and monitor usage of pesticides.

3.0 Village: Kesamudram  
Mandal: Kesamudram  
Date: 23/05/02

- It was pointed out that people were aware of environmental problems but did not quite know how to redress them. It was good that a plan has been formulated in this project to addressed to them.

- Water pollution is the most important problem in the village-there are 52 cases of filariasis in the village and the govt. has done nothing about it.

- Turmeric dust from turmeric mills is causing air pollution.
Tree planting would not only improve the environment but also provide employment.

4.0 Village: Inugurthy
Mandal: Kesamudram
Date: 23/5/02

High pesticide use in cotton and chillies is polluting the ponds and lakes and causing harm to fish.

Para -medical training is needed for educated unemployed youth to deal with environmental and health problems.

5.0 Village: Cheriyal
Mandal: Cheriyal
Date: 24/5/02

Old vehicles are causing air pollution
High fluoride content in drinking water affecting people 's health
Drainage channels in the village will mitigate the sanitation problems
Agricultural extension in IPM is necessary. Improper water supply and power for agriculture were important problems for them.

6.0 Village: Akunur
Mandal: Cheriyal
Date: 24/5/02

Political interference is the most important hurdle to development.

Installation of garbage bins, drainage channels, construction of latrines in public places, ban on alcohol, training camps for educated unemployed youth will improve sanitation at the village level.

Agricultural extension officers should crate awareness regarding pesticides and fertilizers.
7.0 Village: Mulugu  
Mandal: Mulugu  
Date: 25/5/02

- Fish market creating environmental problems such as bad odor and water pollution.
- High fluoride content in water.
- Afforestation, construction of drainage channels, ponds and lakes will mitigate these problems to some extent.

8.0 Village: Janagalapally  
Mandal: Mulug  
Date: 2/5/02

- Scarcity of drinking water, lack of toilets, improper drainage are, the important problems in the village. These should be addressed through training camps for women.

**DISTRICT: KURNOOL**

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**District Level Consultation: 20th May, 2002. Kurnool District Collector’s office**

The APRPRP Consultations on EMP and PMP was held at the DPAP Conference Hall in the District Collector’s office. About 35 people attended and deliberated over the report on EMP and PMP.

The PD, DPAP Mr. Dana Kishore presided over the meeting. PD, APRPRP explained the details of the project and its chief features and components. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Uma Shankari, CEC, who gave a brief
summery of the EMP and PMP and invited suggestion and opinions. Mr. Kishore said that unlike other projects of the Govt. this project is heavily process-oriented and not target oriented, secondly potential environmental impacts have been anticipated and an EMP & PMP have been prepared and wide-ranging consultations are being held on the same so that the developmental aspects can be addressed.

PD, DRDA Rama Shankar Naik observed that since most of the projects will be agricultural based and HRD-oriented projects, there is very little scope for any serious environmental impacts.

Ms. Laitha Kumari of MERIBA expressed the doubt that since the beneficiaries are likely to be illiterate, an advice on the pesticides, IPM may not be followed. She also said bio-fertilizers must be emphasized along with IPM.

Ms. Uma Sankari of CEC said that all such new ideas take some time to get established. It is the responsibility of NGOs and the extension wings of the Govt to influence people towards environment-friendly practices.

Ms. Zubeida said that nowadays even illiterate farmers are responding to the advises on environment matters. Group approach will bring better results.

Mr. Kishore said that group approach will greatly facilitate quick dissemination of ideas.

Mr. Paul Raja Rao of BIRDS said that since most of the projects will be agriculture-based, IPM and FFS should not only be applicable to the beneficiaries, but should be made mandatory for all farm operations. Attention should also be given to cropping patterns like crop rotation, inter-cropping, etc. Nurturing the health of the land should become a priority. In dairy projects, the practice of hormone injections to make the animal give more milk should be discouraged. It is a matter of satisfaction that environmental aspects are addressed in this project.

Nabi Saheb has said that the use of pesticides should be definitely discouraged, because people are not aware of how seriously they can affect us. They often wash the containers in the water bodies like ponds, and the same water is consumed by cattle.

Tirupati Reddy said that attention should be given to hygiene and sanitation aspects as well.
Subba Reddy, APO, DPAP, said that in the Godavari districts, the use of pesticides has considerably decreased due to increased awareness. Post-harvesting technologies are inadequately addressed in our projects and we are losing a lot of crops to rodents. Parthenium, a weed known to cause pneumonia and asthma should also be addressed. It can be easily controlled with salt solutions.

Manju Vani, JD, Animal Husbandry, drew attention to three kinds of problems. Lack of coordination between Line Departments, commitment of beneficiaries and dissemination of training. She pointed out that the bigger dairy farms are using hormone injections (oxytocin) so that they can get more and then sell off the animals after the lactating season. She also said that instead of broiler-based poultry farms, backyard poultry with an improved indigenous varieties like Vanaraja, and Giriraja should be encouraged although they are heavy and find it difficult to run and escape attacks from dogs. Enterotoxemia in sheep is also becoming a critical problem, and it has been established that it has a high correlation with the use of pesticides. Disposal of carcasses by deep burial should be insisted upon.

Mohan Raju said that farmers are being cheated by the seed companies with spurious seeds. Groups should be trained in seed production. Herbal plantations are also to be encouraged.

Zubeida of Mahila Mandal Aikya Sangham said that dairy animals are not performing as well as they are expected, even when they are managed carefully. This was endorsed by many others, including Uma Shankari, Subba Reddy and Jabbar. They all pointed out that animals are brought from regions with very different conditions such as cooler climates, better water availability, etc. They were not able to adjust to the hot and dry conditions here. Green fodder availability is a big problem. Artificial insemination is also often failing.

Jayamma said that biogas is an environmentally-friendly by-product and should be developed under this project.

Subba Reddy said that industries are releasing pollutants without any treatment. Pesticides are also a major source of water pollution.

Goverdhan said that nitrate pollution is becoming a serious matter after the use of fertilizers has become common. It becomes a cancerous material when it reaches water bodies. Treating through vegetation will mitigate to some extent. Origami farming should be encouraged.
Discussing the environment impacts on human health, it was said that nutritional standards of people should get attention too, and not just cereal availability.

TB and asthma are becoming common in rural areas due to lack of nutrition as well as lack of hygiene. Milk and eggs consumption should be widely encouraged and kitchen gardens should be an integral part of this project.

PD, DPAP said that at one time, we ourselves insisted on the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Today after our bad experiences with them, we are advising an environment-friendly approach. It is good that in this project an attempt is being made to anticipate and discuss.

1.0 Village: Dhone
Mandal: Dhone
Date: 21/05/02

Shiva Narayana Raju introduced the subject. Uma Shankari gave a brief summary of EMP and PMP.

The points that came up in the discussion are:

♦ In Banda Meeda Durgam village a farmer to avert wild pigs from feeding on the sown ground nut seeds, treated the seed with the pesticide Thimmet. By accident a few cattle (40 in number) had fed on them and died. The same happened in Lakshmipalle, where a farmer lost 2 bullocks and 3 calves.

♦ Chemical fertilisers are being used in high doses -- almost 30 bags per acre are being applied where 150 to 200kgs are indicated.

♦ Application of tank silt should be made possible -- govt. should enable and encourage this practice.

♦ Buffaloes are brought from Nellore and they are not able to withstand the dry and hot conditions of kurnool. In sheep units also there is a lot of mortality. The cause is not known.

♦ The most important problem is that the loans should be given to genuine persons, and not to proxy farmers, as is the practice today.

♦ The main problem for the farmers is not getting remunerative price. In foreign countries subsidy is given to farming sector to the tune of 70 to 90%,
but in our country it is a mere 2 to 3%; so farmers are becoming desperate, and applying high doses of fertilizers and pesticides. However awareness about this is increasing and pesticide consumption is gradually decreasing. Some pesticide shops have closed up.

- Awareness about the Velugu project should be more widely disseminated, so that genuinely poor people can avail its benefits.

- Watershed programs are going on in unsuitable places. Since rainfall has become erratic, people are going for chemical fertilizers as they are quickly absorbed.

- Protective measures are not being used while using pesticides causing diseases and even death, particularly of children.

- Malaria due to water stagnation, respiratory diseases in mining areas and skin diseases in factories are quite common and need to be addressed.

- Biogas units should be encouraged in this program

- Literacy should be an important part of this program because people are following wrong practices due to ignorance.

2.0 Village: Pattikonda
Mandal: Pattikonda
Date: 21/05/02

- Resources for Manure pits should be made available. Now the practice is to throw the dung in heap that gets washed in rains and dirties the surrounding areas.

- Yield depends not so much on pesticides as soil fertility. FYM alone is sufficient ground nut waste near the oil mills can well be used in farms as FYM and in poultry and fish farms.

- Today the farmers are desperate because of lack of remunerative prices and will not listen to us. When we say hazardous pesticides should not be used, there is no point telling the illiterate farmers; their production and sale itself should be banned. When they are freely available in the shops, how do you expect the illiterate farmers to not buy and apply them? Does the govt. have
the courage to effect a ban on them from production and sale? Only IPM pesticides should be available in the shops.

♦ The housing program is promoting smokeless chulhas and they are being used widely. Toilets are however a big failure but slowly awareness is increasing and a few people are using them.

♦ Forest Dept officer said, banning the goats into forests has been a welcome step. Forest dept is doing a variety of environment enriching works, like Continuous Contour Trenches, Check dams, Vana Samrakshana Samithi, etc.

♦ DPAP officer said area approach is being adopted in DPAP with people's participation and coordination between various departments

♦ The rule to maintain adequate distance between two bore wells should be strictly implemented.

♦ In ground nut Phorate is being used widely against red hairy caterpillar which pollutes the ground and surface water- can we ban the sale of it? Immigrant farmers from Guntur are using 30 bags of chemical fertilisers per acre! The local people want to copy them. Crop rotation and inter cropping should be revived/encouraged. Commercial, short duration crops don't provide fodder for livestock.

♦ Harmone injections to milch animals is a common practice- this is a harmful practice. Environmental suitability of livestock should be considered before buying them.

♦ High fluoride content in water because water harvesting in tanks and ponds has been neglected.

3.0 Village: Yemmiganur
Mandal: Yemmiganur
Date: 22/05/02

♦ Borewells should be recharged with recharge pits; for every tree that is cut, more should be planned.

♦ The use of bio gas should be made a part of this program.

♦ Latrines should also be built as part of housing programs.
Too many spurious pesticides are on sale and they should be effectively dealt with.

Farmers want immediate effect, so going in for strong pesticides, right from beginning to end of the crop season. New generation crop specific pesticides should be used.

Some diseases are not known even to agricultural extension officers; they should strengthen their knowledge and give sound advise to farmers.

Two farmers tried to raise the issue of electricity charges. They walked off when told that we cannot address the issue.

4.0 Village: Kawthalam  
Mandal : Kawthalam  
Date: 22/05/02

Irrigated area forms 50% of this mandal.

Threat of fertilisers and pesticides getting into food chain is high.

Bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides should be encouraged under the program.

Carry bags made of plastic being widely used. They are even getting into farmer's fields. They should be banned.

LP gas stoves have been distributed. The poor women don't have the income to buy the gas. Instead bio-gas should be widely promoted.

Girl children are being used widely for cotton seed production. Use of pesticides affects their reproductive capacities and some have even died. Both girl child labor and pesticides should be banned. 1500 seed companies are operating in AP their licenses should be cancelled if found working child labor. The farmers should certify that they are not using child labor.

Harmone injections in milch animals reduces their life span to half.

On one side we plant trees and on other side we keep cutting trees. Tree cutting should be dealt with strictly.

Family planning should be encouraged as we are producing one Australia every month in India.
Vehicle pollution and sound pollution should also be addressed.

In housing colonies tree planting should be made mandatory.

Science clubs should be an important activity in schools so that children learn to be environment-friendly from young age.

High fluoride content in water needed to get water from LLC - Tungabhadra to summer storage tanks and supply.

5.0 Village: Rudravaram
Mandal: Rudravaram
Date: 23/05/02

Girl children working in seed cotton fields should be compulsorily sent to school. It should be done on a war footing.

Healthy crops are dependent not so much on pesticides as on organic manure. People in their desperation are going for 3000kgs of chemical fertilisers where only 150kgs are recommended. They are losing both money and the soil thereby. This should be discouraged through heavy campaigning.

Soil testing facilities should be made available and it should be encouraged.

Pesticides are being applied in heavy doses as well as in cocktails. This should be discouraged through propagation of IPM and FFS.

Media should carry success stories of these attempts.

Complete village planning is necessary including environmental aspects.

We have good capabilities in all spheres but due to negligence we are not paying attention. Once I was told to spray a mixture of green chillies on my crop of cotton and it gave good results. We should not think only chemical pesticides will work.

Every person should be able to stand up and speak about his or her concerns. Building self-confidence should be an important part of this program.
♦ Exposure visits to IPM fields will go a long way in promoting IPM. Agricultural workers should also be given training in IPM.

6.0 Village: Sirivel  
Mandal: Sirivel  
Date: 23/05/02

♦ Due to use of chemical fertilisers the food we are eating is not as nutritious.

♦ Pesticide residues in milk, vegetables, etc. are dangerous and may cause dreaded diseases like cancer. IPM is a low cost, environmentally friendly method where safe pesticides are used only as a last resort. Our exports are getting rejected due to high pesticide residues.

♦ We used to swim in wells in summer but today there are no wells and no water in them. We have to become more environment conscious.

7.0 Village: Pamulapadu  
Mandal: Pamulapadu  
Date: 24/05/02

♦ Mr. Prasad, NGO leader introduced the subject saying, government seems to have learnt lessons from movements like NBA and decided to include environmental aspects in this project. Pesticides are a slow poison and we should work towards natural methods of farming. Govt. should set aside a 10 acre plot in this village as a demonstration plot for IPM.

♦ Agricultural Officer said that IPM is a low cost-high yield method and should be promoted. He gave a detailed description of components of IPM.

♦ Village Development Officer said that corruption and apathy should be addressed otherwise even the best program will get derailed.

8.0 Village: Kothapally  
Mandal: Kothapally  
Date: 24/05/02

♦ Most of the villages are very close to the forests in this mandal and construction of roads would disturb the forest flora and fauna. The Rollapadu sanctuary is the place for the Great Indian Bustard. They face a threat from pesticides that enter into the backwaters of the reservoir. In training
programs this should be focussed. Training programs should also focus on medicinal plants and involve traditional healers.

- The villagers were happy that environment figures in this project. They suggested that for induction of one motorcycle in the village 10 trees should be planted.

- There are too many programs but most of them do not deliver.

- There is too much corruption and too little awareness.

- Literacy should be promoted
- All schemes talk about loans but we hardly have work opportunities. How to repay the loans if we don’t have work?

- Poclains and harvesters have taken away the work opportunities for the poor.

- NGOs should be involved to educate and train the poor in various aspect as in the project.

2.3.2 State-Level Public Consultation on EMP & PMP : Hyderabad, 31st May 2002

The hearing was held at SERP office from 11a.m. to 1p.m. The public hearing was attended by representatives from Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, CPR Environmental Education Society, AP NOG’s Committee on Forests, Suraksha and Assist, NGO’s from Prakasam District, ECO development society from Kurnool and MV Foundation from Hyderabad. Mr. Vijay Kumar, Project Co-ordinator introduced the subject and Mr. Sujeet Kishen of Ernst & Young Pvt Limited, briefly described the contents of EMP and PMP and invited opinions and suggestions form the participants.

- It was pointed out that developmental activities other than APRPRP were also carried out by other projects that did not have an environment screening process, which may have bearing on the environment of the region. There is need to extend the environment aspects to all the projects.

- Although APRPRP is a demand driven project there is a need to suggest a basket of eco- friendly projects to the people so that their choices will be made that much easier, instead of rejecting their choices of projects on the basis of environment screening.
- In spite of stringent laws, poaching and smuggling goes on in forests on a large scale. There is need to show the tribals alternative avenues of employment.

- The great Indian Bustard in Kurnool District is facing threat from high pesticide use, which gets leached into the reservoir during rains.

- High schools in the project area should be actively involved in Environmental matters and providing training to teachers will go a long way to enhance environment awareness.

- Water harvesting structures considerably decreases the fluoride content in drinking water and should be actively promoted in fluoride, affected villages.

- The relevant laws and acts should be displayed in relevant public offices so that people become aware of them (e.g. laws relating to pesticides, bore wells, poaching, etc).

- Everybody ends up asking for livestock units in demand driven projects. Non farm employment avenues and training in them should be imparted.

3.0 Conclusion: Responses to EMP / PMP and Recommendations

Cordial and lively atmosphere prevailed in all the hearings. 30 to 100 persons attended the hearings in different places. They included elected representatives (Zilla Parishad members, Mandal Presidents, Sarpanches, ward members, Members of Legislative Assembly), government officials, NGO leaders, academics, Self-help group members especially women, etc. People appreciated that for the first time environmental dimension was being addressed in such a govt. program. Everywhere people discussed their local problems and suggested environmentally friendly solutions as well.

High fluoride content in drinking water, lack of drinking and irrigation water, high dosage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides were the most common issues, which came up for discussion. They endorsed the EMP and PMP to be a good beginning in planning "development with environment".
Recommendations

Drinking Water

- In many villages people demanded drinking water facilities. In some Fluorosis affected villages it was found that the canals of the irrigation projects were passing through in the immediate neighborhood. The people naturally felt aggrieved that this fluoride free water which could have been supplied to them is denied to them. Effort must be made on an emergency basis to supply drinking water from the canals to the villages in the neighborhood. In one of the villages de-fluoridation plant under Netherlands Assistance Programme was found to be functioning satisfactorily. How to extend this facility may be explored.

- Indiscriminate bore well sinking increases fluoride contamination in ground water. Restriction of Bore well sinking will mitigate the fluorosis problem to some extent.

- Roof water harvesting for direct use for drinking should be piloted especially in fluoride affected areas. Similarly water from natural hill springs can be stored in closed tanks for drinking water purpose.

Health & Sanitation

- A demand for drainage channels came up repeatedly in many villages. Wherever the drainage channels are already there, maintenance mechanism was found lacking. This should be put in place through the Panchayat system.

- Some demand for toilets came up in some villages, these should be constructed complete with maintenance machinery.

- Safety measures and protection devices against pesticides while spraying particularly for agricultural workers and women should be well publicized and made available in the local medical / pesticides shops. Information about how to handle pesticides should be widely disseminated through posters and hoardings.

Land, agriculture, irrigation

- Soil erosion should be arrested through watershed development programme.

- Waterlogging was found to be a big problem in some villages. This can be controlled by constructing channels along the fields. This can be a sub project in this program and it can also be taken up as part of watershed development programme.

- There was a lot of demand for soil testing facilities to be made more easily accessible so that unnecessary and high use of fertilizers can be avoided.
• Increase of cattle population to enhance organic manure availability with development of adequate fodder base and veterinary facilities should become an important component of the programme.
• Green manuring crops & Vermicomposting should be promoted in a big way.
• Information campaign on pesticides use should be a mandatory component of the programme.
• More emphasis should be focused on bio-pesticides production, training for the same should be imparted to the farmers.
• Organic crops should be promoted with incentive price support and marketing facilities.
• Farmers reported that water from surface sources was found to be more nutritive for irrigation purpose than ground water. Surface water resources should be developed for irrigation purpose wherever possible.
• Competitive drilling of borewells should be tackled by developing a package of incentives & penalties. The recently enacted Land water Tree Act should be implemented effectively in its spirit to further prevent depletion of ground water table.

Horticulture and Forestry
• In some areas, particularly in Prakasam district, very little greenery was noticed including on the hills. Afforestation programme and social forested, ogrammes should be promoted.
• Suitable horticulture crops with drip irrigation facilities will wean people away from water intensive crops like sugarcane and paddy as well as increase the vegetative cover

Fisheries and Industry
• Aquaculture projects should be promoted with due caution, as land degradation and water pollution from aquaculture is endemic in these areas.

• Slate & granite industry workers in Prakasam district suffer from respiratory problems and malaria. The large pits in these areas should be covered or water should be treated against vectors like mosquitoes. Workers should receive suitable medical treatment on a concessional basis.