

Reporting Form

Project Progress (Narrative Report)

Financial Support

For all projects supported by the Protestant Agency for Diakonia and Development - Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service (hereafter referred to as Financing Partner) a progress report is required after every six months. The report shall be sent to the Financing Partner 3 months after the end of the reporting period at the latest. Its volume should not exceed a total of 12 pages. Any additional information should be added as appendices. This applies also to statistical data, photographs, etc.

1. General Information

Name of the Organisation	Accion Fraterna
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Project Title	Promoting Sustainable Agriculture & Diversified Livelihoods in Anantapuram district
Project-No.	N-IND-2015-0024/EZE-No.2015 74383
Project Period	From 01-04-2015 till 31-03-2018
Reporting Period	From 01-10-2016 till 31-03-2017
Date of Report	05.06.2017
Author	O. MOHAN, Head - PME

2. Change within the Organisation

During the reporting period, did any important events or changes take place within your organisation?

2.1

related to the management structure?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

2.2

related to your planning system?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

2.3

related to the composition of your staff?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

2.4

related to other issues?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

3. Changes of social, political, economic and ecological project context

3.1

Are there important changes (social, political, economic, ecological) in the projects' immediate environment since its inception?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

3.2

Is the underlying problem analysis of the project still valid considering possible changes in the context?

Yes

No

If No, please describe:

3.3

Do these changes have implications for the work, the project objective and the latter's achievement?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

4. Outcome and Impact

Project objective: In total 21,400 marginalised families improve their nutritional and livelihood security through the strengthening of CBOs, the promotion of risk mitigating sustainable agriculture practices and the diversification of their income sources.

Indicators (information differentiated by sex or one indicator for the gender dimension)	Achievement of objectives (Assess using indicators)	Planned activities	Implemented activities
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<p>1. 30% of 11500 household have benefitted from the adoption of drought coping technologies / practices recommended by the project.</p>	<p>30 % of 11500(i.e 3450) households have directly benefitted through additional yields ranging from 15 to 25% as compared to neighbouring farmers who did not adopt technologies/practices recommended by the project by the end of 2nd year of the phase itself. The additional yields and or reduced cost of cultivation resulted in additional net income ranging between Rs.800/- to 1500/- per acre.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing protective irrigation during dryspells 2. Fodder Development 3. Demonstration of Chemical free farming practices 4. Farmer Field Schools 5. Promoting cycle weeders & 3-layered seed storage bags 6. Productivity enhancement in tree crops 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Protective irrigation was provided to red gram covering 3206 acres belonging to 2619 farmer families. During the year protective irrigation was demonstrated on 3950 acres of land belonging to 3206 families. (Plz see annexure 2: Cases studies for the impact of PI) 2) Fodder seed like stylo, hamata was provided and fodder development was taken up by 143 farmers on 696 acres of land. 3) 999 chemical free demonstrations were carried out covering 1051 acres belonging to 999 families. 4) 465 FFS sessions were conducted in which chemical free farming practices were practised by the demonstrators. On an average 20 members including 8 women participated in each session as observers and learners.
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<p>2. 50% Women of those households which adopted the drought coping technologies / practices jointly {Women & Men} participated in decision making.</p>	<p>30% of the women of the households who adopted the drought coping technologies or practices jointly participated in decision making. Women played active role in selecting the beneficiaries for the project activities and managing the CBO assets. Women who were elected as Directors (Executive Committee members) actively participated in Millets and Navadhanya programs supported by the GoAP and were part of important decision making at CBO level like beneficiary selection, monitoring the progress etc. The directors also were integral part of preparing ground for CMSS program through Mandal level MACS. The program will be implemented during kharif 2017 expected to directly benefit over 5000 farmer families through availing good quality groundnut seed at a subsidised price within the village.</p>	<p>1. Strengthening of CBOs - Meetings & trainings 2. Capacity building of CBOs 3. Conducting campaigns on Women's Day.</p>	<p>1) 3987 SMG meetings were conducted against the planned 4800 in which average women attendance was 57% 2) 1021 GSMS meetings were conducted against the planned 1284. Average attendance of women was 70% in these meetings 3) 40 MSMS Meetings were conducted against 48 planned. 4) 2 ASMS Meetings were conducted as per the plan 5) 8 trainings were conducted to 8 MSMS members (including BoD of Mandal level MACS) on annual plan preparation. 320 members including 150 women participated. 5) 8 MACS meetings were conducted during February 2017 and detailed action plans for taking up the CMSS were prepared with active participation from women directors.</p>
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<p>3. Thirty percent of young women and men provided with vocational skills by the project earn not less than Rs.1500/- per month from home based employment and not less than Rs. 5000/- per month from outside employment.</p>	<p>1) 72 (70%) of the 128 boys trained in Driving got employed as drivers during the reporting period and earning a minimum Rs. 6000/- per month. 2) 40 girls given advanced training on garment making, they started earning Rs. 3,000/- by stitching garments at home. 3) AF is exploring opportunities to link the trained girls with garment making industry to get piece-work assignments by staying at home.</p>	<p>1. Training in LMV driving 2. Training in HMV driving 3. Advanced training for women on garment making 4. Training rural youth on two-wheeler mechanism</p>	<p>1) 43 youngsters were trained on LMV driving and 25 of them got employment with a monthly salary range of Rs.6000/- to Rs.8000/- 2) 10 youth were trained on HMV and all of them got employed with a monthly income of over Rs.10,000/- 3) 40 girls were given advanced training on garment making, out of which 20 have accessed bank loan and market linkages for setting up garment making centre. 4. A batch of 15 rural youth were trained on Two-wheeler mechanism</p>
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If the project is more complex and composed of different project components, kindly use the spread sheet attached.

4.1

What other changes beyond the ones described in the above table did you observe/detect? Please mention anything that may be of relevance to the project progress.

Further changes: No further significant changes have been observed.

4.2

In case you observed any direct negative outcome of the project, please describe it, too.

Potential negative outcome: No potential negative outcome was observed

4.3

Which incidents / events could you observe, which you consider to be contributing to or interfering with the accomplishment of the development goal (impact-level)?

The GoAP has been convinced on the importance of protecting crops during dry spells by providing protective irrigation. The Government has come out with a scheme called "Rakshaka Thadi" literally meaning "Protective Irrigation" in the district. Department of Agriculture has provided protective irrigation to annual crops. One time protective irrigation was provided for groundnut crop covering 309,417 acres and for redgram covering 24,742 acres benefitting about 100,000 families using water from the reservoirs & canals wherever available and even transported water from distant places where there was no nearby source. The department also provided the farmers with equipment like rain guns and diesel pump sets for irrigation. The concept was well understood and received by the farmers across the district. The exercise could have been more beneficial, if it was taken up when the dry spell period was less than 30-40 days. An unusually long dry spell of 80 to 120 days in this year resulted in severe water scarcity for protective irrigation for second time. However, the Chief Minister on various forums shared that it was a learning experience for the department as it was the first year and assured that it would be carried out with increased efficacy from the next year. The protective irrigation caught the attention of farmers, policy makers and bureaucrats and entrepreneurs alike and everybody could see a win-win possibility in it.

This development, on successful implementation could positively impact the farm income of large number of farmer families in the years to come.

4.4

Which methods did you apply to assess your project's outcome and impact?

The outcome was assessed using the following methods:

1. Focused Group Discussions were conducted in the project area to assess the use of output, outcomes and also women participation in project activities.
2. Random verification of results of project activities.
3. The data was collected and consolidated from village level records maintained in each of the 230 villages like Village Activity Registers, Minutes of Meetings, Monthly progress reports etc. and analysed.
4. Individual Interviews with some specific farmer & farm labourer families were organised to assess the outcome for certain activities.
5. The findings from various methods were triangulated comparing FGD reports, field verification and monitoring reports of STOs, AEOs, Subject Matter Specialists and PME team members.
6. The action learning cycle was used to reflect, learn and draw lessons for improving planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

5. Conclusion for the Future Work

5.1

Based on your experience gathered, do you see a need to change the planned activities in order to accomplish the project objective?

Yes No

If Yes, please state the reasons and elaborate on the changes:

Not applicable

5.2

In case you require consultancy services, please state the respective area:

Consultancy services for Strategic Planning: AF has been striving to be a dynamic and learning organisation. AF has been constantly reflecting and learning to bring in necessary strategic changes in order to align them to be able to serve the communities. The last strategic planning exercise was carried out in 2007 which made the organisation to be more relevant to the needs of the communities it has been working with. The strategic planning exercise for the coming 5 years would be conducted during 2017-18 with support from highly qualified and experienced consultants who had successful stint with BASIX, one of the pioneering organisations in the field of promoting livelihoods of rural poor. And the strategic plan would be reviewed every year and updated, so that the strategic planning would be a continuous process rather than once in a 5 years or 10 years event.

During 2016-17, AF took up protective irrigation on a very large scale covering 3206 farmer families directly and over 8,000 families in the project area indirectly by collaborating with the GoAP. However, we found great difficulty in collecting, analysing and interpreting huge volumes of data about these families. Hence we propose to hire consultancy support in computerisation and streamlining of MIS. In this regard, negotiations and initial testing of software has been initiated during the reporting period.

5.3

Which are the most important lessons learned during the reporting period?

Please refer to gender equality issues also.

Lessons learned:

1. It has been a disastrous monsoon year for the district with prolonged dry spells spanning over 80-120 days. The normal annual rainfall for Anantapur is 552.3 mm. In the year 2016-17 only 333.8 mm of rain fall was received; out of which 197.3 mm (59.11%) was received in June & July itself (Please see annexure 4 for detailed rain fall data for 2016-17). The climate change might result in repeated occurrence of such harsh monsoon years in the future also which is an alarming sign for the farmers in the district. The present drought mitigation technologies could not fully address such highly erratic situations. It needs further research and strategies for conjunctive

use of water sourcing from bore wells, harvesting surface water, economically viable measures for transporting water from various sources etc. A lot more work needed to be done for developing strategies and influencing the policy makers for conducive policy environment for drought stricken areas like Anantapur to cope with extreme climate change disorders which might continue to occur in the years to come.

2. Convergence can create synergic impact:

Recent efforts of AF in creating convergence with various Government programmes and linkages with entrepreneurs and financial institutions proved that greater impact could be achieved when CBOs accessibility to these schemes and stakeholders increased.

For the past two phases over 3000 women were trained on garment making. However their employability was not as encouraging as expected in the absence of market potential at village and mandal levels. During the past 6 months two groups were promoted with 10 women in each who were given advanced training in garment making. Linkages were established with garment industry and local banks. It has been proved to be highly effective linkage in ensuring a regular income of over Rs. 5,000/- per month which was just around Rs.2500/- when worked individually depending on village market potential.

The success of these women groups could win the trust from local bankers and they came forward and extended loans to other SMG members for various non-farm activities like petty businesses, sheep rearing etc.

AF learnt that special focus on convergence could create bigger impact at large scale which will further be scaled up in the coming years.

Annexe to 03-5 (Narrative Report):

Project components' objectives	Indicators (information differentiated by sex or one indicator for the gender dimension)	Achievement of objectives (Assess using indicators)	Planned Activities	Activities implemented / carried out
1.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
2.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
3.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
4.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			