

**Vikasana Report:** (Visit January 11, 2012)

Project -Tree plantings to reduce carbon emissions (November 2010 - November 2012)

Went to see this project at Duglapura cluster. They have planted about 1000 plantings at their model farm site at Duglapura and rest at the nearby villages. I was very pleased to learn that the model site is a 3.5 acre of land purchased by Vikasana with a large donation from ASHA, (Seattle?), USA and some local contributions, They are running an orphan bridge school center at this site for 23 orphan kids of 6-14 years of age. They have a sign board of both ASHA (for the orphanage project) and PPI (for tree plantation project) at the entrance.

The tree grower committee members had gathered there and many of them spoke proudly of the success of their plantings on their land and wanted more plantings from both us and the local panchayat. Apparently, each panchayat also has a government program to distribute a limited number of plantings. Then, we went to see the model farm where they bring the villagers to see various plantings and explain the benefits of different herbal medicinal plants. Next to this, they have planted about 1550 plantings of silver, teak, neem, mango, lime. Plantings seemed to be healthy and doing well.

We also went and saw some plantings at two private farmer lands. While farmer Suresh's land is about 2 acres and has planted mainly Silver and Teak, farmer Chandrappa has planted about 75 mango plantings on a 2 acre plot. These plantings seem to be doing ok. But they do need additional continued care in watering till they take root. While Suresh land has water connections, Chandrappa's land is on sloping hill away from easy access to tank water and is mainly dependent on the rain.

We returned to Vikasana office and he showed me a video on the recent successful completion of our "Sustainable Agriculture" project. The video is excellent but the narration is mainly in Kannada. I suggested that they put English sub-titles for wider distribution. He intends to do it and send us a copy.

We talked a little about Vikasana's proposal on Bio-sand water filter project. My inputs were to focus on three villages, reduce the admin costs and to include sanitation training as an integral part. Also told him that PPI members need to review the proposal and there may be other questions that need to be clarified.

**Chintana Foundation Report:** (Jan 12, 2012)

Projects - Tree plantings to reduce carbon emissions (May 2010 - May 2011) and One child/100 trees (May 2008 – May 2011)

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, visited Mr. Channappa at Ajjampura to see the above two projects. They have planted a total of about 1500 plantings in both schools. First, we went Gadihalli middle school to see the plantings. It's a large site by the school and the all plantings seemed to be healthy and doing well. Plantings include a variety of fruit (mango, guava, jack fruit, etc) and agro-forest species (teak, silver oak, bambo, sisu,.. etc). The school principal said prior to our project, the site was being a waste land with villagers dumping garbage. Now it is a beautiful garden like setting fenced and maintained by the school management and the children. They have assigned five trees for each child (with their name on the sign board on the fence) to water and look after the plants. There was a brief meeting with all the kids and school officials, along with some songs and dance program by the kids.

Then, Mr. Channappa took me to the Gadihalli high school. They want to give also about two acres along the edge of their playfield for tree plantings and wanted our help. So their may be a request coming from Chintana Foundation for this program.

After lunch, we went to Baggavalli middle school where they have planted about 425 plantings. The plantings are a mix of fruit and agro-forestry plants like in the other school. Here again, the plantings are doing well. Each kid has the ownership of five plantings to look after (watering, composting,. etc). The school has a bore well, tank for water supply. Here again, there was a brief meeting with the school teachers and school kids sang some songs and a couple of dance program for us.

One Child/100 Trees project (May 2008-May 2011): Went to see our tree planting project at Channapura school site that started it all in 2008. Many of the plantings have come up well in our phase I with good growth. The land was a bit dry due to water shortage and they had intentionally left the grass on the land to keep the soil from heating up. Phase II (land across from the original site – mango, silver oak,..etc ) and phase III (additional piece of land adjacent to the main street - mainly mango plantings) were ok, but not as healthy as in Phase I plantings and need of more watering.

It looks to me that Mr. Channappa has not correctly estimated the need of watering in his tree maintenance budget. The cost of labor and getting water by tanker trucks has gone up and they do need to water during 3-4 months until the plants take root. I told him to correctly plan his watering needs for each of the tree plantings in both this project

and tree plantings to reduce carbon emissions that we have funded so far. I think PPI's money would be well spent to see that all these plantings take root. He may send us a proposal for the Gadihalli high school plantings and also include maintenance budget for these plantings.