

Chintana Foundation Visit: Tree Plantation projects (completed)

We visited Chintana Foundation in Ajjampura on January 24, 2013. PPI had two tree planting projects with them recently, one child/100 trees and tree plantings to reduce carbon emissions in schools in two villages Gadihalli and Bhaggavalli. We visited the Gadihalli village with Mr Channappa, his wife Chitravathi, Santosh (Chintana staff). School principal Mr. Anandappa met us at the school and showed the progress made at the school. With the help of local community, they have put a compound on one side, have started a kitchen garden and have completely fenced rest of the school field. All the plantings look healthy, are getting tall. They do have a water tank storage facility with which they are able to water the plants. The school field which was a barren dump site for the village garbage, now looks like a beautiful garden. Enclosed pictures speak for themselves. The school principal is a gardening enthusiast and is taking special interest in making sure that plants are cared for. He said the teachers hold classes on the site to teach the kids about various plant species and their usefulness.

We went to the Channapura school site where we started the original one child/100 trees project in 2008. The phase I and II plantings, although have taken root, are not as robust as the Gadihalli school plantings. Mr. Channappa said that is due to several factors; difficult to monitor and water the plants by the school kids and teachers as it is one km away from the school, soil is less fertile and lack of sufficient rainfall. As a result, Chintana folks are looking after the plants and are watering regularly under our maintenance program. The phase III mango plantings look good and healthy as the soil is more fertile and they grow ragi and other crops during the growing season.

Before we left, I had a talk with Mr. Channappa about his biosand filter proposal that we had put on hold last year to monitor Vikasana's progress. As the Vikasana project is going well, I asked him to send us a revised budget based on current material costs and training at Vikasana as opposed to going much farther to Kolar. He might send it in early March and we can revisit his proposal at that time. I did talk to Varghees and he has agreed to provide support to Chintana, if we approve the proposal.

Shim