

8th PLW REPORT

Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme

Report

Of

**EIGHTH PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP
Maharashtra**

April 23rd and 24th 2007

AT

YASHADA, Pune

Table of contents

Particulars	Pg. no.
List of Acronyms.....	3
Executive Summary.....	5- 6
Background.....	7-9
Process, Approach and Methodology of the Workshop... 9-11	
Workshop proceedings	
Day I	
Welcome.....	11
PACS Programme Overview.....	11-12
Address by Chief Guest.....	13
Address by Special Invitee	13-14
PACS Journey milestones.....	14- 18
Land Rights- JAA.....	18-20
Child Education and SSA.....	20-22
Urban Governance -current debates.....	22-23
Address by MC-PACS.....	23-24
Day II	
Accreditation of CSOs- need and concerns.	
Networking and advocacy.....	26-27
Philanthropy and Community Resource	
Mobilisation	27-28
DHMJ-update.....	28-29
NREGS –National and State level Tribunals.....	29
Health and Mutual funds.....	29-30
Networking and Advocacy –	
New FCRA Bill.....	31
Right to Food Campaign – update and issues.....	31
Closure Kit and Financial	
Supportive Supervision.....	31-32
Sustainability – group feedback.....	32-33
Annexure.....	34

List of acronyms

AFARM	Action For Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DHMJ	Dushkal Hatvu Manoos Jagvu (Drought Forum)
EGS	Employment Guarantee Scheme
JAA	Jameen Adhikar Andolan
JFM	Joint Forest Management
JVSS	Jan Vikas Samajik Sanstha
MC	Management Consultant
MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation And Learning
NABARD	National Agriculture Banking for Rural Development
NCAS	National Centre for Advocacy Studies
NREGA	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PACS	Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme
PESA	Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (Act of 1996)
PLW	Peer Learning Workshop
PST	Project support team
PWC	Price Waters Coopers
RDC	Rural Development Centre
RO	Resource Organization
RTI	Right to Information Act
SCG	State Core Group
SEDT	Socio-Economic Development Trust
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SHG	Self Help Groups
SRC	State Resource Centre
SSA	Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan
STCI	Save The Children India
VANI	Voluntary Agencies Network Institution
VHAI	Voluntary Health Association of India
YASHADA	Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to all of our partners under PACS Programme in Maharashtra for attending and sharing their valuable ideas and opinions during the 8th Peer Learning Workshop.

We thank ANNAPURNA, for coordinating all the arrangements and logistic during the workshop.

We are grateful to our state based Resource Organisations - Constructive Catalysts and SAMPARK for facilitating the workshop.

We also extend our grateful thanks to all the external resource persons for sparing valuable time to share their knowledge and ideas during the workshop.

Executive Summary
8th Peer Learning Workshop – Report
23rd and 24th April 2007

Background:

The Department for International Development (DFID) of UK Government initiated the PACS programme in India, with partnership of grassroots CSOs to combat poverty. The programme focus was on empowerment of marginalized communities to realize their rights and entitlements and ensure sustainable change for improved livelihood options.

The Peer Learning Workshops were envisaged to generate an environment to analyze, review and synthesize the existing programmes performance, identify capacity building needs of CSO partners and provide strategic directions to the projects by introducing effective management systems.

Eight Peer Learning Workshops (four each at Aurangabad and Pune) were organised from 2003 to 2007 for Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra state through PACS interventions.

Sessions summary:

The 8th PLW held at YASHADA, Pune on 23 and 24th April 2007 had 12 sessions. Padmashree Prema Purav, founder president of “Annapurna, a PACS partner CSO and coordinating agency for the present PLW, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Arjun Chikale, Director of EGS, was the Guest of Honour.

Outside experts inputs were: -

- *Dr. Arjun Chikale* (Director, EGS) - NGOs help sought to generate awareness among the people about their rights, in social audit and bring grassroots activities to the notice of authorities.
- *Mr. Shukla* (Dy. Director of SSA) - SSA and advantages for future collaboration and funding support with PACS CSOs working in the area of child education and literacy.
- *Dr Ghare* - founder of AFARM – expert comments on FCRA Bill.
- *Dr. Nirmal Pandit* (Founder of NAVAM, a CSO for supporting NGO funds) - support for accessing donors funds for projects and seeking opportunities in community resource mobilisation.
- *Ms Rewati* of Credibility Alliance - Accreditation of CSOs - need and concerns; focus on credibility ratings for NGOs for accountability, transparency and generating better image in the eyes of the public, government and funds agencies.
- *Dr. Medha Sawant* of Annapurna Swasthayapurna Parivar and *Mr. Shailab* of Swabhiman – professed need for investment in health for the marginalized through health mutual funds support. Sharing Annapurna’s efforts to enable poor to access quality health services through health insurance schemes and Uplift India’s health support services.

- *Mr. Vijajanna Borade* –MP and PACS partner chaired and moderated child rights and land rights sessions.

PACS/DA/ PWC in-house experts delved on subjects as follows: -

- *Kiran Sharma*, MC, PACS - Enlisting CSOs support for programme closure, events planned for highlighting PACS programme.
- *Poonam Mehta*, *State Manager* - (PACS Programme overview issues addressed in Maharashtra by PACS.
- *Mr. Mittal*, *Mr Agarwal* and *Mr.* (Financial review – precautions and guidelines to be followed by CSO to ensure a smooth closure.)

PST team contribution: -

- *Mr. Shirish Kulkarni* and *team of Constructive Catalyst* (RO for PACS Maharashtra) - (traced PACS journey-milestones in Maharashtra and project status. Issues addressed were Cluster intensification efforts; SHG women empowerment Livelihood and Literacy; collaborating with NABARD, SBI, FWWB and other FIs, Rights based Approach; Child rights and trafficking; reviving cooperatives; Drought Mitigation; NRM and JFM; Bio Diversity, Rights of Urban poor.
- *Sampark*, *Communication RO* - Networking, and Advocacy and Right to Food Campaign, NREGA state activities and a short film on PACS in Maharashtra.

CSOs initiatives: -

- *Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni* of *SEDT* - (Child rights – ensuring quality education and reduction of child labour and school dropouts in project year)
- *Mr. Praveen Mahajan* of *Janarth*- (urban poverty and slum rehabilitation, legalization and recognition of rights of slum dwellers)
- *Ms. Mangala Daithankar* of *Drought Forum* (highlighted the activities of revamped drought forum managed entirely by CSOs. Over 500 non PACs partners involved in drought mitigation)
- *AFARM team* (The activation of JAA movement, land rights, dalits livelihood issue, legalization of encroached grazing land; updating of land records of 1000 villages; use of RTI to get information of 25000 land holders)

Discussions also veered on Project closure and ways forward for sustainability of programmes initiated through PACS intervention.

Conclusion:

The CSO heads and representatives made the 8th PLW an interactive and learning session. Contribution from resource persons provided a future direction for CSOs after PACS programme closure. CSOs should concentrate on supporting PACS and PWC team for evaluation and financial review to bring their projects to a logical closure. They should look into sustainability of the programmes initiated by them that would take them way forward.

Workshop Proceedings report

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 PACS Programme Perspective

The Department for International Development (DFID) of UK Government initiated the PACS programme in India, to combat poverty in partnership with grassroots CSOs working for the marginalized community. The PACS programme thrust was to halve the country's poor by the year 2015. The programme focus was on capacity building of CSOs and empowerment of marginalized communities to realize their rights and entitlements in their efforts to alleviate poverty. The programme proposes to ensure sustainable change for improved livelihood options to the poor.

1.2 PACS Peer Learning Workshop Rationale

The Peer Learning Workshop held twice a year, is a convergence meeting for all PACS project partners for mutual sharing, learning and to address critical development concerns at state level that can become advocacy issues.

The purpose of peer learning workshops was to create a platform to broaden CSOs perspective on development issues in the region through interaction, dissemination of information and learning from each other's project progress.

The workshops generate an environment for analyzing, reviewing and synthesizing the existing programmes performance, identifying capacity building needs of partners and provide strategic directions to the projects by introducing effective management systems.

These processes enable a closer partnership between PACS and the CSOs for clarity of the issues at stake and also ensure smoother programme management and delivery systems at all levels. It helps the partners to better their understanding about the thematic issues and explore means for achieving the expected results.

The ultimate objective of the PLW is to design options and promote sustainable development among the partner organizations through sharing of best practices, linkages with government schemes even after withdrawal of DFID support.

1.3 PACS Peer Learning Workshops in Maharashtra – An Overview

From 2003 to 2007 eight Peer Learning Workshops were organised in the Marathwada and the Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra state. The brief information on the PLWs held so far is given below: -

1st Peer Learning Workshop - 12th to 13th July 2003

The first Peer learning workshop held at Aurangabad, oriented CSO partners to PACS mission, vision and programme perspective and strengthening partnership for joint action.

The purpose of PLW was clarified - for mutual sharing of each others project activities and achievements. Discussions were held on various methods, learning, government linkages and capacity building programmes for the partners. Effective integration of MEAL systems into the projects in Maharashtra was introduced.

2nd Peer Learning Workshop - 11th to 13th March 2004.

The 2nd Peer Learning Workshop held at Aurangabad at MCED (Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development) focused on the importance of media advocacy for inducing policy change.

Future trends and action plans on issues for e.g. Micro-finance, rights based movement, livelihood generation, women issues and drought were highlighted for PACS programmes in Maharashtra.

Action plans to mitigate droughts - a major concern the region was taken up and all CSOs jointly decided to participate actively.

3rd Peer Learning Workshop - 13 to 15th September 2004.

The 3rd Peer Learning Workshop deliberated on the outcome of regional workshops to combat droughts. Presentations by CSOs on drought assessment of their project areas reflected that severe water scarcity impacted on humans and animals, leading to a desperate situation. The PACS partners decided to start a 'tanker-free' movement by careful planning and involvement of all stakeholders to tackle the drought situation in the region.

The workshop also designed a MEAL roll out plan.

4th Peer Learning Workshop - 14th to 16th March, 2005.

The fourth Peer group review workshop (PLW) held at Aurangabad, dealt on different state and national issues for advocacy and policy change. Guidelines were set for the PACS partners' involved in

droughts movement based on the learning from experts in the field of women's SHG movement, water rights and cultural movement.

The significant component and focus of the 4th PLW was sharing of the learning from the experiences of the partners through cross visits. The visits helped CSOs to share and understand key issues and learn from the best practices of the programmes.

MEAL Phase I process has neared completion and the Phase II process was to be initiated.

5th Peer learning workshop – 15th -16th September 2005

The 5th workshop on Peer Learning Workshop was organized at YASHADA Pune, to address issues like Poverty in Maharashtra; Millennium Development Goal; Disaster mitigation strategies; RTI; Microfinance in addressing livelihood issues; and group work on Women Empowerment.

6th Peer learning Workshop – 25th-26th March 2006

The 6th PLW held at Pune framed the broader understanding of NREGA EGS, RTI and gender perspective. Experts on the subjects delved on linkages with government for assessing entitlements. The number of PACS partners had grown to 117 and the reach spread to 11 poorest districts of Marathwada and Vidharbha region of Maharashtra.

7th Peer learning workshop – 7th -8th September 2006

The learning workshop had various development experts who focused on how to make drought a state level movement with people's support, involving PACS and non PACS partners.

The speakers emphasized on the need for careful planning, groundwork study of situations, creating a mass pressure to highlight the drought issue at the State level governance.

8th Peer learning workshop – 23rd-24th April 2007

The 8th and the last PLW of PACS programme's held at YASHADA, Pune, provided PACS Programme overview and traced PACS journey-milestones in Maharashtra, with focus on child rights, droughts issue update, cluster intensification processes, livelihood intervention and SHG literacy. Discussions also veered on project closure and way forward for sustainability of programmes initiated through PACS intervention.

2.0 PROCESS, APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY OF THE WORKSHOP

The PACS Maharashtra PST laid out the broad framework and design for the 8th PLW to finalize the themes for discussion for the peer group learning. The duration of the workshop was decided for two days to review the PACS capacity building inputs for the projects partners. The workshop would be an interactive session for all project partners to share their achievements, learning and way forward for project sustainability after PACS withdrawal.

It was decided to hold the workshop at YASHADA in Pune and the logistic responsibility was given to Annapurna, the local CSO partner.

2.1 Participants: (list annexed)

- The lead CSOs of 27 projects were represented by their head and project coordinators.
- The Management Consultants (MC) –Ms. Kiran Sharma Programme Director, Ms. Poonam Mehta State Manager for Maharashtra
- The ROs – Constructive Catalysts; Sampark and Info change
- PwC representatives - Mr Rajesh Agarwal, Vivek Mittal and Mr Madan (local financial consultant),

2.2 Key Areas Covered

The 8th Peer group review workshop dealt with the issues mentioned in the agenda presented below: -

The Agenda

Day -I, 23rdApril 2007

1. Registration by coordinating agency - Annapurna
2. Welcome by host organisation- Ms. Medha Samant of Annapurna
3. Overview of PACS programme – MC - Ms. Kiran Sharma and Ms Poonam Mehta
4. Address by Chief Guest – Ms Prema Purav
5. Address by Director EGS – Dr. Arjun Chikale
6. PACS Journey in Maharashtra by PST
7. Land Rights - AFARM and JAA team
8. Child Education and SSA – SEDT
9. NRM and livelihoods – current scenario in Vidarbha – Mr. Ajay Dholke
10. Urban Governance- current debates- Mr. Pravin Mahajan , Janarth
11. Short film - Sampark

Day -II, 24h April 2007

1. Recapitulation of day I – CSO representative
2. DHMJ update. – Ms Mangal Daithankar , SAAD
3. NREGS – Tribunal – Vikas Sahayog Prathisthan
4. Accreditation of CSOs- need and concerns – Credibility Alliance
5. Networking and advocacy – VANI & AFARM
6. Philanthropy and community resource mobilisation- opportunities – Dr. Nirmal Pandit , Naman
7. Health Mutual Funds- concept and scope for SHGs - Uplift India Association
8. Right to Food Campaign – update and issues. – Sampark
9. Project closure guidelines – PWC representatives
10. Vote of thanks

3.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of Day – I, 23rd April 2007

Proceedings began after registration of all participants. The inaugural session was chaired by Padmashree Ms Prema Purav, the chief guest and Mr. Arjun Chikale, Assistant Commissioner, EGS, Maharashtra, the special invitee. Ms Yogini, Project Coordinator of Annapurna facilitated the session.

Dr. Medha Samant, Chief functionary of Annapurna, the local coordinating agency, welcomed the participants to the 8th and last Peer Learning Workshop of the PACS programme. She stated that all those present at the workshop worked under PACS umbrella for poverty alleviation. She said that they should use this workshop platform to discuss past and present issues, and make it a sharing and learning session. She thanked PACS for giving 'Annapurna' the opportunity to coordinate this learning workshop.

Ms. Kiran Sharma, Programme Manager PACS programme extended a hearty welcome to the guests and all participants.

3.1 PACS: Programme overview - by Poonam Mehta, State Manager

Poonam Mehta presented the PACS interventions from 2001 onwards to realize the UN Millennium goal to reduce poverty.

She said that PACS responsibility for India was to strengthen CSOs to manage programmes for capacity building of poorest area community to realize government entitlements. Her presentation highlighted the following: -

- PACS had 178 projects in partnership with CSOs
- Reach of the programme in different states
- Communication and advocacy processes – for policy change
- NREGA – RTI seen as opportunity by PACS to generate awareness among CSOs – NREGA Study report by PACS submitted to PM
- Good success gained by working closely with government (focussed intervention in Bihar just before the Panchayat elections led to 1772 women out of the 5000 who contested, to get elected – a record achievement entirely through CSOs interventions)
- Draft Habitat policy – BASIN: - consultations in 19 states led to a report on needs of poor for housing. PACS invited to give inputs at the 11th Planning meet
- Child rights – PACS Maharashtra focus for quality education through State and National consultations
- Dalit rights – report ready for planning commission
- Right to food – working closely with Harsh Mandal
- VHAI – process to understand effectiveness of government schemes
- Literacy for SHG women – PACS target to make 1 lakh women functionally literate
- Disability – focussed work with CSOs involved in disability work
- MEAL – 1st phase over in all states, 2nd phase introduced (PST and SCG activated)

Ms. Poonam added that in Maharashtra there were 28 projects with 135 partners working in 11 districts. She then focussed on the immediate future plans before PACS programme closure –

- Capacity building - Gender and SHG federation
- Study on Dalit rights
- Women literacy campaign
- Effective implementation of NREGS
- Alliance Building for convergence
- Consolidation of programmes
- Campaign and events

Kiran Sharma, Programme Director PACS programme, added that there was a need to carefully plan activities for the next 9/10 months.

3.2 Address by the chief guest – Padmashree Prema Purav

Ms Prema Purav, the main force behind alternative livelihood for marginalized women through the 'Annapurna' movement since the past 3 decades, was awarded Padmashree by the President of India for her contribution towards women empowerment, the fire band social activist now in her seventies, continues to guide and support the movement.

Ms. Purav began her speech by highlighting 'Annapurna's' role in the upliftment of the marginalized people.

Annapurna's activities began 40 years ago in Marathwada region, when the women were not able to enjoy the rights due to them nor did they have an identity. Traditional restrictions made women shy away from uttering their own name.

Ms Purav recollected the first women's 'melawa' organized in Marathwada in the year 1972 where local women attended in large numbers, despite their traditional restrictions and backwardness.

Support from "Grameen Banks" and World bank helped 'Annapurna' to initiate micro credit activities as a process for women empowerment. She extolled the credible work undertaken by many NGOs whose aim was to reach the poor in the most remote villages where the Government was unable to reach.

She ended by saying that today the status of women has improved to some extent and the traditional barriers are being crossed as women and girls get exposed to global culture, mainly due to the efforts of NGOs.

3.3 Speech by Honorary Guest - Dr. Arjun Chikale.

Dr. Chikale, Deputy Director of EGS, Maharashtra, praised PACS efforts at generating public awareness on NREGA. He said that the government faced many difficulties in implementing the NREGA. Therefore the NGOs could help by doing the following: -

- Registration of families – identify needy families
- Involve in and ensure social audit processes (which needs to be done every six months)
- Prepare water assessment plans
- Generate awareness and support in filling forms(11 zillas under MREGS in 2007-8)
- Ensure proceedings and follow up for unemployment bhatta (e.g. Shramdaan Prathistan an NGO from Nashik, did credible work in this respect)
- Support at each level – from securing social security to labourers to training of facilitators (Dhule/Nandurbar regions unable to get human resources despite advertisements)

- Involve and build people's capacities to manage Gram Sabha
- Involve Grameen Banks for awareness generation
- Create a link with the government to prevent hurdles in implementation.

Interactive discussions with participants: -

- Very less work was allotted in EGS so far. Can an instance or example be given where labourers got unemployment benefits?
- About social audit – how does one start it, who should do it? What are its processes?
- There are many hurdles in EGS implementation for e.g. No facilities for women and children at workplace; no work given despite filling form 4; no unemployment 'bhatta'; corruption in getting identity cards; - so what can a government agency like yours do to reduce these hurdles?
- Why the government approved labour rate (Rs. 66/-) for work under EGS not granted to labourers?
- Can NGOs be a link between government and Gram Panchayat in EGS?

Clarifications by Dr. Chikale: –

Dr. Chikale pointed out that one should not mix the different provisions granted under NREGA and EGS. One has to go by rules and action can be taken if no work is allotted despite following all the procedures. Officers up the line can be approached if no action is taken.

Rs. 66/- is the approved labour rate from the date of implementation of work. The Gram Sabha (where all villagers remain present) has the authority to give notice on social audit. Records, photos of all work done are presented and a check list of questions to be asked is also given. Hence the chances for corruption are minimized.

He concluded that NGOs can be of great help in generating awareness among the people about their rights.

4.0 SESSION I

PACS PROGRAMME IN MAHARASHTRA – Milestones – by Shirish Kulkarni, Constructive Catalysts, RO for PACS programme in Maharashtra

Mr. Shirish Kulkarni traced PACS journey and milestones in Maharashtra from 2001 to 2007.

The presentation covered the following:

- Projects and their Coverage
- Participating CSOs and Thematic Areas Addressed
- MEAL Roll out and present Status
- Livelihood

- CI Processes
- Capacity Building initiatives
- Communication and Advocacy
- Alliance Building for Sustainability

Mr Shirish said that from 5 projects in 2002 PACS managed to reach 29 projects by 2006. PACS project area covers 71 talukas and 1798 villages (about 20% of the villages in Marathwada and Vidharbha has been reached) in 11 districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha. PACS programme has 27 projects (23 lead and 114 partner organizations) covering a population of 1,118,456. Today the PST has become an information hub.

The different issues addressed by the projects were: -

- *Rights of women; Discrimination against Women; Marginalization of Tribal Women; Trafficking & VAW; PRI and Economic Empowerment of Banjara Women*
- *Child Rights/Child labour*
- *Livelihood (Of farm and On Farm, IGPs); EGS Revitalizing Defunct Cooperatives; Minimum Wages for Unorganized Labour; Livelihood and Drought Mitigation*
- *Land Rights; Land Degradation, NRM and JFM; Bio Diversity*
- *Local Self governance; Integrated Development*
- *Rights of urban poor.*

Mr. Shirish presented the PACS funding status of 29 projects - A Category (1.5 crores +) = 2 projects; B Category (80 lakhs to 1.5 cr.) = 4 projects; C Category (20lakhs to 80 lakhs) =13 projects and D Category (up to 20 lakhs) = 10 projects. A total of 16 .06 crores of funds were invested in projects for Marathwada and Vidharbha regions of Maharashtra.

Regarding MEAL process, Mr. Shirish mentioned that MEAL Phase I was undertaken from October 2005 to June 2006. In this phase 23 CSOs completed output tracking, CBIA processes were completed in 19 projects and ODSA in 2 projects. The self evaluation report card was introduced and 4 CSOs have submitted their project self evaluation report card. MEAL refresher Manual was in use by the project holders.

Speaking about amendment projects in the state he said that 9 projects got amendments from PACS. Capacity building on different issues formed the main focus of PACS intervention process in Maharashtra such as MEAL, drought forum, media, case studies, advocacy, NREGA, SHG gradation, resource mapping, cluster intensifications around livelihoods, Right to Food, SHG literacy to SHG federation and FI linkages.

Mr Shirish concluded by stating that sustainability for Maharashtra CSOs partners was initiated through alliance building with the following: -

- Dialogue and discussion with FIs and FFIs (SBI, NABARD, FWWB, MAVIM), Marathwada Gramin Bank
- Initiated discussion with different donor agencies
- Collaboration with SSA (Education), State Resource Centre (National Literacy Mission)
- Collaboration with Taragram –livelihood options

Mr. Shirish Kulkarni after concluding his presentation called PACS PST members, Ms. Lopa Dasgupta, Mr. Shyam Diwanji, Ms. Aruna Ashtekar (from Constructive Catalysts, RO for PACS Maharashtra) and Communication RO Mr. Baliram Balsaraf to make their presentations.

4.1 Vidarbha Cluster Intensification - Shyam Diwanji: -

Mr. Diwanji glimpsed through the Vidarbha Intensification processes, in which 6 CSOs from 3 districts were involved, covering over 200 tribal and forest population.

Regional issues were identified like Forest Management, FDA, RTI, NREGA and PESA. Planning meetings were held for deciding on operational mechanisms. The cluster helped to fulfil the CSOs needs for discussion, action on common needs and development of policy advocacy agendas.

He described the brainstorming sessions aimed to initiate action for future effective cluster intensification. It has no formal structure but is linked into the existing structure and has both PACS and non PACS members.

Future strategies planned for sustaining the Vidharbha Cluster Intensification processes:

- Regular monthly meetings.
- Development of the linkages with FFI for livelihood opportunities.
- Exploring the possibilities for the formal structure.
- Advocacy and lobbying for policy change.

4.2 SHG Livelihood Cluster Intensification Process under PACS –Ms. Lopa Dasgupta

Ms Dasgupta traced the livelihood cluster intensification processes initiated for PACS project partners in Maharashtra. She said that 16 projects were directly involved with SHGs and livelihood, and more than 100 CSOs were using SHG platform to address various issues.

Statistics on SHGs gathered from CSOs show that 16 Project Partners are directly involved with 3578 SHGs for implementing various activities under PACS programme. These SHGs cover 30,940 households from 863 villages of 8 districts of PACS coverage area.

The scale of livelihood status of SHGs promoted by PACS programme showed that 1,180 SHGs were linked with banks and 2,884 SHG members were involved in livelihood activities and 1,878 members were involved in collective livelihood activities.

The cluster intensification strategies involved - identification of geographical clusters, creating a platform for dialogue with FIs and FFIs (NABARD, FWWB, SBI, MAVIM, Grameen Bank), capacity building, processes and vision building with CSOs, promoting net-work with PACS partners and various organizations working in the sector of livelihoods and micro-finance activities.

Future opportunities lay in alliance building with FIs, access to government programmes and TOT for SHG federation process.

4.3 SHG Literacy Programme- Maharashtra –Ms. Aruna Ashtekar

The SHG literacy programme using the traditional method was initiated in Maharashtra with 13 CSO partners from April 2007. A launch workshop was held for CSOs in Feb 07. Nearly 10,000 illiterate SHG members from PACS project area will be targeted for the literacy programme.

The State Resource Centre handling the Adult and Continuing education programme, based at Aurangabad will collaborate with PACS for training, monitoring and evaluation of the SHG literacy programme in Marathwada and Vidharbha.

Nineteen CSOs submitted literacy data of the SHG members under the PACS projects. Analysis of the data indicated that the illiteracy rate ranged from 66% to over 90% among the PACS project area SHGs members. Hence the introduction of SHG literacy by PACS was both relevant and crucial for women empowerment.

Future focus lay on sustaining the learners' interest through linkages with state continuing education programme and formation of information centres managed by literate SHG women for accessing government schemes, and support for the formation of federation/micro finance process.

4.4 Advocacy and Communications initiative in PACS– Programme in Maharashtra – by Mr. Baliram Balsaraf

Capacity building of CSOs for media advocacy, communication RTI RTF, NREGS, documentation and case studies formed the focus of Sampark, Communication RO for PACS Maharashtra.

Mr Balsaraf began by stating that all PACS projects have Advocacy scope. People's Initiatives in the state led to the following activities where the communications processes were activated: -

- Drought forum.
- NREGS
- Right to Food
- S.S.A.
- Cluster intensification
 - Livelihood
 - JFM /NTFP
- Literacy

The issues of CSOs particularly those concerning land rights were raised in the State assembly sessions through legislative members' support.

Mr. Balsaraf presented future advocacy plans on:-

- Right to Food activities -
 - Compile the data from 20 villages.
 - Prepare analytical report of RTF.
 - Share the report with govt. and Media
 - Tracking the food security schemes in identify villages.
- Child Rights promotion -
 - State level convention
- Land Rights advocacy -
 - State level consultation

After the presentations Mr Shirish Kulkarni, summed up the session by pointing out that workshops on rights based approach, land rights, livelihood were aimed to impact on policies for rights of people. Future focus lay on studies and documentation on impact of SEZ.

Participants' comments -

- Land rights issues and conditions of dalits and their isolation from mainstream society need also to be focused in study
- To see that atrocities on dalits get press coverage
- Difference of wages in MREGS and EGS needs addressing

5.0 SESSION - II

Land Rights and Livelihood promotion – JAA - Chairperson of the session – Mr. Vijayanna Borade, MP and PACS partner

5.1 RBA in land rights: -

Mr. Shirish Kulkarni, requested Mr. Vijayanna Borade to take the seat as chairperson of the session. He then introduced the session chairperson and the speakers. He briefly mentioned the process behind the RBA (Rights Based Approach) for state livelihood strategies on land rights. He said that the purpose of forming RBA cluster intensification forum was to enable CSOs involved in land rights to come together on a regular

basis and brainstorm on current issues to evolve strategies against the wrong development policies at block, district and state levels.

He outlined RBA strategies as follows:

- Create opportunity for CSOs to understand the RBA to Livelihood by providing forum, sharing, learning and action.
- Understand the policy issues affecting poor – dalits.
- Make efforts to bring together CSOs from PACS and non – PACS areas to create a broad base for deliberations on policies and interventions.
- Organize Cluster Intensification Meet for PACS and Non- PACS.

He said that the future action plan proposes to motivate CSOs to organize similar discussions with their staff to enhance their confidence to share information with the communities and organize them with appropriate strategies to demand the rights from State.

Mr. Kulkarni invited the three speakers, members of JAA to present their views on RBA strategies. The three partners were also involved in land rights activities with AFARM.

5.2 Strengthening JAA movement by Mr. Tamboli Project coordinator of AFARM

Mr. Tamboli outlined the genesis of JAA (Jameen Adhikar Andolan) movement which began in 2001, when CHR (Campaign for Human Rights) and MLVM (Marathwada Lok Vikas Manch) came together and formed the JAA as movement on the issue of grazing land rights.

The AFARM project proposed to strengthen JAA through -

- Capacity building of CSO's associated with land right movement on the issues of land right, livelihood & gender.
- Advocacy efforts for land entitlement & livelihood security.
- Demonstration of low external input sustainable agriculture.

He informed that the focus of JAA was on issues related to rights of the marginalized particularly the dalits in 6 districts, Beed, Osmanabad, Latur, Parbhani, Nanded and Aurangabad, covering 6000 dalit families from 270 villages in 18 blocks.

The challenges ahead were -

- Increasing the efficiency of government authorities for land entitlement of those landless Dalits having legal proofs.
- Sustaining the interest of landless Dalits having land for cultivating it for their livelihood security.
- Sustaining the CBO after 2007.

5.3 Rights of Dalits through JAA by Mr. Tukaram of RDC (a dalit rights activist and PACS CSO partner based at Beed)

Mr. Tukaram said that a close relationship between land rights and livelihood promotion has a direct impact on the dalits development. There is need to continue with the capacity building of dalits to further strengthen them to demand their rights and entitlements from the government. The JAA movement has initiated a movement for economic and social equality of dalits in keeping with the National interest for an equitable and just social structure.

5.4 Land rights through JAA by Mr. Todkar (chief functionary of Paryay, an Osmanabad based CSO working for land rights and women empowerment of the marginalized),

Mr Todkar remarked that the present project led by AFARM has activated the JAA movement. He said that the real fight of JAA activists is with the government for permanent resolution of livelihood issues and land rights of the dalits.

The movement has led to updating of land records of 1000 villages. He added that there in need to generate advocacy issue from the land records generated and use of RTI will be used to get further information about 25000 land holders.

He related that the pasture land acquisition by government for SEZ was a move against the rural poor for whom their lands was the only means of livelihood.

Summing up and ways forward by Chairperson: –

After all the three speakers expressed their views, Mr. Borade, the chairperson of the session, concluded that a major concern for the land rights movement was the ownership issue. He said that the formation of an organization/mahamandal like the JAA will give hope to the landless who had encroached upon the grazing land.

6.0 SESSION III

Child Education and SSA -

Panel -Chairperson of the session, Mr. Vijayanna Borade, Mr Shukla, Dy. Director, SSA and Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni (Chief Functionary of SEDT, a CSO based in Parbhani).

6.1 Child rights process in SEDT –by Mr Musa Project coordinator of SEDT, cited the efforts made by SEDT from 2003 to 2005 for right to education for rural children. Mr. Musa substantiated his claims with statistical proof.

According to the study conducted by SEDT on the drop out rate of school children in its project area villages, considering all castes and groups, showed that nearly 54% children enrolled dropped out of

primary school. (Of these 8% was due to teacher abuse and 5% due to family migration).

Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni, Chief Functionary of SEDT, added that SEDT has developed a workable model for keeping children in school. He rued that lack of educational facilities for rural population was a hindrance to development. He observed that the allotted government budget was not used for school improvement. But with intervention of SEDT wherever people took interest there was qualitative improvement in school education.

At a recent meeting on Education in Pune it was highlighted that 48,000 children were not in schools. Mr. Kulkarni urged the CSOs to monitor and use the government budget to qualitative improvement in the schools of their project area. He concluded that one cannot neglect schools if one has to ensure quality education for all children.

6.2 Speech by Mr. Shukla, Director, SSA:-

Mr. Shukla began by questioning that if there was money allotted for SSA then do we need to spend all of it? He pointed out the neglected state of district primary education programme for Marathwada and Vidarbha.

He assessed that no progress is possible if a society does not fulfil its moral obligations to children. When it concerns children the self factor should be left behind as all the children are our children – whether in urban or rural areas.

He regretted that the government and NGOs do not hold the same viewpoint on education. But there was an urgent need to work in collaboration as each has some advantages – the NGO has better experience and understanding whereas the government has better reach.

He informed that despite intensive efforts by the government to encourage drop out children to rejoin mainstream schooling, the status report of 2003 showed that 48,000 children were not in school. He said that the government's education focus for 2003 to 2010 was to make education compulsory up to 8th class for all children. He urged that the need of the hour was to concentrate on how to reduce the present dropout rate.

Mr. Shukla briefly described the three main objectives of SSA – enrolment, retention and quality education. SSA also aims to bridge gender differences and reduce educational gaps among socially disadvantaged groups at primary stage by the year 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.

SSA focus is on training 5 lakhs primary teachers to create a team of resource persons for implementing SSA. Yet he felt there were fears that the scheme may get neglected, because unless there was people's participation effective implementation of SSA would be impossible.

Mr. Shukla spelled out the major provisions under SSA:

- EGS
- Provision of process-based community participation
- Provision for special innovative interventions for girls and SC/ST
- Training programme for community leaders.
- Effective implementation of mid-day meal programme
- Adequate teaching-learning equipments
- Community based monitoring

He suggested that NGOs can play a positive role in areas like research and evaluation, provide feedback on ground level situation of SSA (conduct rapid surveys), undertake baseline assessment studies, support in mid term assessment survey, conduct impact study of the subject, study utility of child centred education (DPEP), etc.

Mr. Shukla concluded that there was no dearth of funds, and interested NGOs can put up proposals which will be considered on experimental basis.

Short film by Sampark –

The film showed the PACS Maharashtra programme in action based on the clippings and video photos sent by CSOs. The 15 minutes film covered shots of PACS themes, workshops, people's movements and learning sessions.

7.0 SESSION – IV

Urbanisation Process in the state in the next decade – Scope and Challenges by Mr. Pravin Mahajan (chief functionary of Janarth, a CSO based in Aurangabad)

Mr. Mahajan presented the problems and issues that arise as a result of rising urbanization, trends and its impact on the people.

He said that Maharashtra was on the forefront in urbanization increase. There were many push factors that drove villagers towards towns, the major reasons being unemployment factor, low levels of income in villages, casteism, low status of women, low literacy level and lack of development opportunities.

He informed that the cities of Maharashtra was a tinderbox of opportunities where future security was available, better infrastructure, concentration of quality education institutions and improved social

status of women and the dalits. These were the pull factors for migration of rural and from other states to the urban cities.

He related his CSO's experiences while working with urban slums in Aurangabad district. The slums had cropped up to accommodate the increasing number of rural migrants to the cities. He found that the need of the slum population was - to maintain their basic human rights, to get basic facilities, information on government schemes and the use of RTI.

He stated that generally slums were viewed negatively by the general urbanites, who saw their scarce urban land being usurped, roads invaded and deterioration of city's hygienic conditions – due to influx of rural migrant labour.

He said that in Maharashtra there were 2.5 crores of people residing in slums. Efforts made by Janarth and other like minded NGOs have helped to regularize 12 lakhs of slums who can now breathe easy with all government facilities.

He concluded that there was still a need for sustained effort to regularize many urban slums at the same time village infrastructure should be developed to generate local employment opportunities which will prevent migration and reduce urban load.

9.0 Address by Kiran Sharma, Programme Director, PACS

Ms. Sharma addressed the PACS partners by saying that this was not the last PLW but a new beginning. She assured them that whether or not there was PACS funding in future the work started by CSOs cannot be stopped. There was a need to sit together and do a little thinking for sustainability. She spoke extensively on PACS programme.

She stated that by December 31st all PACS projects will be closed. Contractual obligations from both the sides, MC and CSO need to be fulfilled. She felt that generally that enthusiasm is not there towards the project end.

She assured CSO partners that PACS will support to put up credentials for CSOs to other funding agencies. The years have flown by – there were lots of disagreement as well as consensus on many issues. She said it was going to be an uphill task for PACS to close over 200 projects (25 million pounds programme) to a logical conclusion, for which the CSOs support is sought.

She requested CSO partners to respond positively to instructions given from time to time. The closure should be done in good faith and 3 months advance information will be given to CSOs so that there will be no tensions on both the sides (especially financial side).

PACS has intervened to handle different issues – the learning gained is that with limited resources one can address a whole range of issues. She explained that one major issue has been added towards the project end – the SHG literacy component, which is being addressed through the additional budget. Interested CSOs can join within the time line.

Programmes like RCH, AIDS control, SSA - linkages are beyond PACS. She stated examples of Bihar and UP where concerned directors were ready to talk to PACS as a programme - as a single window. SSA has the potential to meet NGO expenses. In NREGA data from 2nd round of village level reports needs to be collated and presented for possible work opportunities for CSOs. She urged the CSOs to document information on RTI in their activity reports to capture the learning. A second round of awareness camps on RTI is expected soon.

Speaking on disability, Ms. Sharma, felt the need for documented data on certification of disability and what sort of support is needed. Regarding land rights issue she was happy to note that the best work was done as a people's process participation in Maharashtra. Now thoughts be given on how to take this process forward. She cited that one, Mr. Ajit Sahi has planned major events for NGOs.

Access to entitlements – the main focus of PACS programme – will need further support from CSOs, who need to train field workers to get entitlement information of their project area. She saw a lot of opportunities in NREGA, RMK and SSA. The CSOs can access DFID website to learn more about the Governance Transparency Fund of 10 million pounds, and start preparing proposals.

She congratulated Maharashtra for moving ahead of other states in implementing the evaluation report card. She said the self evaluation by CSOs will be validated by MC.

Ms. Sharma extended a personal invitation to all CSOs for the National Conference to be held in New Delhi on 5th of Dec 2007. Describing the National Habitat Policy future plans, she added that a 5 lakhs signature campaign was initiated on the website to implement the rural habitat policy, which will be submitted to the Prime Minister.

She requested CSOs handling different thematic issues to submit at the earliest the matrix forms given to them stating their areas of work interest. This was to help them in future support areas.

Ms Sharma concluded by stating that two major forthcoming events were planned to gain visibility in Maharashtra: -DHMJ and Child Rights convention.

Summing up of the day's session by Chairperson – Mr. Vijayanna Borade

Mr. Borade remarked that the presentations by various speakers and the speech given by Ms. Kiran Sharma indicated that some development has taken place in the villages, through PACS project interventions. He said that there is need to further improve facilities like quality education in rural areas to reduce load on cities.

He said that there were discrepancies between Western region and Marathwada. A lot of labour was available in Vidarbha and Marathwada, but many are not registered on a larger scale (75% tentative registration). He regretted that despite so much labour availability the spate of farmer suicides continued.

He spoke of impact of land mining on the environment; the need to have a high tech future vision to keep up with global market needs.

DAY II

Condolence - Before recap of the 2nd day's sessions all the house held two minutes silence in memory of Mrs. Vipula Kadri, Chief Functionary of STCI, PACS partner from Marathwada, who passed away suddenly on 24th April 2007.

Recap of Proceedings of Day I by Mr. Dilip Gaikwad a CSO network partner of STCI. He briefly narrated the previous day's session's presentations.

Mr. Shirish Kulkarni, of Constructive Catalyst, announced that there were some changes in the agenda schedule and the open house discussions will not be held because of time constraint and scheduling of some sessions from the previous day to be accommodated the 2nd day.

Rest of the second day's sessions proceeded as scheduled.

10.0 SESSION V

Accreditation of CSOs- need and concerns by Ms. Rewati Bhagwat Dy. Director Credibility Alliance

Ms Rewati Bhagwat briefed the main purpose of Credibility Alliance – building credibility of organizations by promoting public disclosure and good governance.

Credibility Alliance's objectives are: -

- To promote accreditation systems Credibility Alliance and capacity building initiatives for voluntary organizations to comply with norms
- Policy advocacy for credibility acceptability of the work done by voluntary agencies in the eyes of government donor, corporate sector, media and public.

She informed that Credibility Alliance began as a consortium of CSOs. A need was felt for enhancing credibility of voluntary sector because it was accused of having no legitimacy, lacking credibility, accountability and transparency.

Hence a draft National policy on voluntary sector was formulated by the planning commission in 2003, to help voluntary organizations to set their own codes of conduct and governance standards.

So, Credibility Alliance set forth to make a conceptual framework for accreditation, by identifying agencies, which will accredit voluntary agencies against Credibility Alliance norms of good governance. Such certified agencies will be credited with providing quality services. She

cited some accreditation models in India like the Indian NGOs.com; ICRA Limited; The rehabilitation Council of India, etc.

She informed that accountability and transparency was less in the voluntary sector. Often voluntary organizations have no idea of where they fall short, and had no clarity about where they should be accountable and transparent and before whom.

Ms. Rewati described the accreditation process, criteria and the norms of Credibility Alliance, along with the benefits that voluntary agencies would get by getting accredited.

Participants' comments:-

Several apprehensions and doubts were raised by the participants about accreditation certification for voluntary agencies –

- Why Credibility Alliance as it involves comparing voluntary sector with the corporate sector, and it is difficult to do standardization in voluntary sector.
- Why voluntary sector has to be questionable? Government has little control over voluntary sector therefore they want to know their strengths.
- How can outsiders do accreditation for voluntary agencies?
- Voluntary sector cannot be bond by grades. Commitment to the community credibility is alliance between public and NGO. Contributions of NGO should be considered despite financial limitations.
- Bombay Public Trust Act certification rules bind NGOs – was there a need for certification for grass roots workers?

Ms Rewati answered that the purpose of the session was to elicit NGOs responses and opinions on what changes are to be incorporated for accreditation. She would keep in mind all the concerns raised by NGOs.

11.0 SESSION VI

Philanthropy and community resource mobilisation-opportunities - Dr. Nirmal Pandit, Managing Trustee, NAMAN, Pune

Dr. Nirmal Pandit addressed the audience by stating that huge funds lay to be tapped with the government and outside agencies (16 billion rupees available for women's activities and 2000 million rupees with the government for the voluntary sector).

She ran briefly through her NGO NAVAM's role and procedures for community resource mobilization work. Dr. Pandit added that organized philanthropy was the need of the hour and NAVAM has initiated procedures to get funds for NGOs. NAVAM taps suitable donors, present NGOs development plans with the aim to mobilize local resources for NGOs.

She gave the following information to the participants:

- 1% of company's account is earmarked for voluntary sector
- Where government is unable to manage NGOs have moved in the development sector
- NGOs drawbacks – lack of transparency, communication systems and documentation
- Useful for NGOs if their needs are reflected in writing and distributed to people – as a means for resource mobilization
- NGOs should ask only required funds (as much as it is needed)
- Funding agencies need local based organization with local reach
- NGOs need to probe what they want to achieve, improve in quality, follow the market rules, standardization norms, and have a clear vision and goals.

She concluded that NAVAM will guide NGOs by connecting them to donor agencies.

12.0 SESSION VII

12.1 DHMJ Update–Ms. Mangala Daithankar, EC Member of DHMJ (Dushkal Hatvu Manoos Jagvu)

Ms Mangala Daithankar presented the work of revamped DHMJ - drought forum. She recalled the drought forum's mission – to initiate individual, organizational and collective practices that are necessary towards achievement of the vision.

She highlighted the processes in the 11 districts covering 960 villages where drought forum is active with PACS and non PACS CSOs. Several capacity building trainings of drought warriors (proposed 200 warriors) were held in different districts to handle issues like right to information, water scarcity, RTI EGS and NREGS.

Drought dairy highlighted emerging issues like lack of EGS work; non implementation of NREGA work; lack of potable drinking water; insufficient food supply from Public Distribution Shops and migration.

Future steps envisaged: -

- Proposed book on droughts will have stories, interviews, drought warrior's information, quantitative and qualitative data collated from all partners, expected to be ready by June 2007
- Liaison with other stakeholders
- A shared perspective understanding amongst all Forum members
- Introduction of new resources, skills, fund raising, communication strategies, policy influence and research.

12.2 NREGS – National and State Tribunal by Mohan Surve, Project coordinator, Vikas Sahayog Prathisthan (a CSO working on cooperatives formation and reviving defunct cooperatives to generate livelihood options for the marginalized in Buldhana district, Vidharbha region)

Mr. Surve described the salient features of the State Level tribunal held at Yavatmal on November 2006. This was a follow up on the National Tribunal on NREGA held at India Social Forum. The forum discussed the PACS initiated State level Awareness Campaign (2nd July to 9th July), for the 5 PACS project area NREGS districts of Maharashtra where village awareness meetings, rallies and press Conference were some of the activities organized.

Mr. Surve quoted several grass roots level experiences of difficulties faced by the desperate villagers in their efforts to get job cards and demand work from the indifferent attitude of authorities.

13.0 SESSION VIII

Health Mutual Funds - concept and scope for SHGs by Mr. Shailab, SWABHIMAN and Dr. Medha Samant, Director Uplift India and Chief Functionary, Annapurna

Mr. Shailab and Dr. Medha Samant clarified the concept of Health Mutual Funds for the voluntary sector, where there was maximum people's participation.

13.1 The Health Mutual Funds -Mr. Shailab said that the Health Mutual Funds supports all those NGOs registered under either a Trust or Section 25 Company.

Mr. Shailab from SWABHIMAN, an NGO promoting health mutual funds, in voluntary sector professed the need for investment in health for the people considering the rising cost of health services today.

The boom in health market (increase in family expenditure, rise in hospitals chains) to meet global standardization is getting beyond the reach of common man. Access to good hospitals is denied to the poor because of they can ill afford the heavy doctors' fees, inflation in medicine costs, private hospitalization care.

He said that the quality of Government Hospitals is questionable and there is need for improved health services. Hence the future focuses on Health Services for the poor through an alternative service i.e. the Mutual Funds to support the health needs of the poor.

Mr. Shailab felt that NGOs from Marathwada and Vidharbha regions needed to do the following for preparing ground for better health services:

- Mapping of MBBS Doctors in each district/block

- No of Doctors settled in Market Area
- Preparation of Doctors List
- Link with Doctor for village visit
- Provision of discounts and services from Doctors

(Many examples were cited with medical costs for various illnesses)

He added that by addressing and taking care of issues like repayment ratio against mutual fund premium can be calculated which is within the reach of the poor.

He ended by saying that the voluntary agencies should give Health Mutual Fund a thought as it helps the poor to access good local medical services at low cost as well as cover financial costs of hospitalization.

13.2 Dr. Medha Samant as Director of Uplift Mutual Funds provided an overview of Health services of “Annapurna Parivar Swasthyapurna” offered to the marginalized. Dr Samant briefly described the Annapurna Parivar activities.

She presented the Annapurna Swasthyapurna Health Mutual and Micro Insurance scheme which had 300 members and 12 elected directors, who provide guidance to local members and network with health care providers.

To meet health and insurance needs of its members Annapurna Parivar joined the Group Insurance scheme of LIC, namely ‘Janashri’ in 1998. The ‘Janashri Family Security Mutual Fund’ also provided additional benefits to the deceased member’s family.

Annapurna realized that besides accident coverage for members and their families within an affordable insurance premium, the members also needed health guidance.

Hence, Annapurna Parivar decided to set up a Health Mutual Fund, namely Swasthyapurna in 2003 in partnership with Uplift. Each member got a health insurance cover with a contribution of Rs. 50 per year.

Uplift Health has solidarity with 8 Organizations, MFIs / MIUs sharing the same vision in different parts of Maharashtra and the health care providers offers 24x7 phone guidance.

Dr. Samant informed that there were around 60 health care providers enrolled in Pune and Marathwada. She concluded that a Health Mutual fund member is also a Health activist and urged CSOs to become Health activists.

14.0 SESSION IX

Networking and advocacy – New FCRA Bill - Mr. Ganesh (VANI Pune Unit) and Dr. Ghare (AFARM, Pune)

Dr. Ghare discussed the New FCRA policy and the campaign against FCRA bill 2006

The salient features of Dr. Ghare's presentation are as given below: -

- 1976 recognition of NGO's contribution during the emergency
- Support of Cooperative Organizations
- Free flow of Funds prior to 1976
- Impact on work for whom – Government or People
- Different Sources of funds flow through the finance minister
- NGO funding was through the home minister
- To control NGO's source of fund the government activated the FCRA
- Reach of NGO was more than 20-22 crores of population
- No local productive income for NGO's
- Whether NGO or Government the revenue is the same
- Need to rebel against the new act
- No clarity as to why the new Act is being put into force
- The new Act will involve explanation and control of all funds received by NGOs

15.0 SESSION X

Right to Food Campaign – update and issues - Mr. Baliram Balsaraf (Sampark) – Mr. Shyam Diwanji (CC)

Mr. Baliram Balsaraf and Mr Shyam Diwanji detailed out the activities and action plan for CSOs under the RTF Campaign. Awareness through workshops was generated for CSOs. The following action plan for the future s envisaged.

Right to Food Campaign activities: -

- Compile the data from 20 villages.
- Prepare analytical report on RTF.
- Share the report with Government and Media
- Tracking the food security schemes in identify villages.

16.0 SESSION XI

Closure kit and financial supportive supervision - PWC team Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, Vivek Mittal (Financial Consultants to DA and Mr. Madan.

The financial advisors offered guidelines to the CSOs on the procedures to be followed for financial closure of the projects and financial strategy.

A detailed discussion ensued with the advisors who gave information on strategies to be followed for project closure : -

- Financial closure will involve audit by DFID; Books of A/C-recordkeeping; sustainable record keeping systems of CSOs
- Financial systems – Account trainings received and capacity building sessions of CSOs

The advisors provided the following reasons for the statutory compliance, to ensure smooth closure of projects with the following objectives-

- timely effective closure to ascertain peoples fund requirement
- fixed assets created (consolidated audited financial statements compilations)
- to get audited financial statements of project period

Mr. Madan, the state financial advisor for PACS projects presented his brief on financial system which includes:

- Provision of local support to CSOs
- Assessment of accounting and interim control systems and institutionalization of best practices
- Capacity building of staff
- Experience sharing process

The team gave their observations on the financial review which was undertaken with some CSOs from Maharashtra and cited areas where improvements needs to be done – for e.g. listing of overhead expenses separately; regular back up data; CSO TOR details to auditors; need monthly bank reconciliation statements; follow up on petty cash systems; proper expenditure statements; vouchers to be authorized and stamped; regular updating of cash books; proper balancing of field level expenses; maintenance of vehicle log books; calculations of interest earned on PACS funds; etc.

The advisors assured that these financial guidelines were followed for all projects funding and this will ensure that the CSOs to incorporate a sound financial system.

17.0 SESSION XII

Way Ahead - Programme sustainability – CSO plans

The CSOs did a quick brain storming on plans envisaged by them for sustaining the issues addressed through PACS programme after the projects closure.

Plans expressed by CSOs are enumerated below: -

- Utilize the social capital and community support structure promoted during the project duration.
- Trade Union and Agriculture labours will carry forward processes initiated and mobilize them for EGS work. However Trade Union will still require capacity building inputs for some more time.

- Formation of SHG federation and strengthening existing federation programs to generate funds
- Linkages with existing Govt programs bank.
- Issue based agitations/movements at village and cluster level can help sustain enthusiasm of youths in programme.
- Libraries, sports activities, study circles might require little support but can sustain village level activities
- Health Insurance , EGS, are already self sustainable programmes
- District and Taluka support centres in HMF programme can support itself by charging fees from clients.
- Linking groups with existing government programmes
- Linking children's groups with SSA programme
- Lobbying with central and state governments and initiating dialogue with government agencies to explore possibilities of collaborating with various schemes
- Community Institutions like JFMG /GPs to work on the issues /challenges (NRM and livelihoods) identified with CSOs
- Micro credit projects should take up livelihood programme for sustainability
- Village self governance committees will implement village development plans

Vote of thanks:

Ms. Poonam Mehta, State Manager, PACS, thanked all the guests, speakers and CSO heads and representatives for making the 8th PLW an interactive and learning session.

She thanked Annapurna for coordinating the PLW. She thanked the PST Maharashtra and Constructive Catalysts for planning and organizing the PLW.

She thanked YASHADA for the hosting and making arrangements during for the workshop. PACS has gained a lot so also the CSOs who should now concentrate on sustainability of the programmes initiated by them and take them way forward.

She then declared the 8th PLW as closed.



8th PLW
List of CSO Participants (PACS -Maharashtra)

1. AFARM - Action For Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra
2. ANNAPURNA
3. ASMITA Institute for Development
4. ELGAR
5. GNSP
6. GSMT – Gramin Samasya Mukti Trust
7. GRASP
8. GVM – Gramin Vikas Mandal
9. HML - Halo Medical Foundation
10. IGSS – Indira Gram Sudhar Sanstha
11. JANARTH
12. JVSS – Jan Vikas Samajik Sanstha
13. KALA PANDHARI Magasvargiya And Adivasi Gramin Vikas Sanstha,
14. MSSM
15. MPSSM
16. PARYAY
17. RDC – Rural Development Centre
18. SAAD
19. SAHYOG NIRMITEE
20. SANDHI NIKETAN
21. SEDT – Socio Economic Development Trust
22. SIPRA
23. STCI – Save the Children India
24. VSP – Vikas Sahayog Prathisthan
25. VNCS – Vidharbha Nature Conservation Society
26. YUWA GRAM

