



ADATS

*Agricultural Development
& Training Society*

ADATS Campus,
Bagepalli 561 207,
Kolar district, Karnataka,
India.

Tel: 08150 - 2375, 2376, 2175
Fax: 08150 - 2176

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Mr. Bert Koenders,
Minister for Development Cooperation,
The Hague.
The Netherlands.

Dear Mr. Koenders:

We understand that ICCO is setting up a Fair Carbon Fund in order to support the development of pro-rural, pro-poor CDM Projects in developing countries, and we wholeheartedly and actively support this initiative.

ADATS is a secular NGO working with 38,615 small and poor peasant families in 915 villages of Chickballapur district, Karnataka, in South India for the past 31 years. We work in the fields of Community Organisation, Adult Literacy, Children's Education, Community & Referral Health, support to issues and struggles with Legal Aid & Aid Distress, Dry Land Development, Agriculture, alternate Credit, Women's Programmes, etc. We also work on issues of gender justice, secularism and democratisation. We are supported by our Northern Partners who are NGOs in the Netherlands, Germany, UK, and New Zealand. ICCO has been a major partner of ours for the past 28 years, since 1980. Please visit <http://www.adats.com> for more details.

Background

Our association with the Climate Change world and accessing Carbon resources goes back to a little over 14 years, well before the Kyoto Protocol was signed and ratified. Very many Kyoto activists found a sympathetic haven in Bagepalli where they could "field test" their theories on trans-global Carbon sequestration. We did not necessarily understand or agree with all the science behind the arguments. But we did go along to develop a camaraderie with this crowd. We also admit that we were tempted by the enormous development resources that could be unleashed by these constructs.

The Bagepalli Tamarind Project

14 years back, long before the CDM mechanism was created under the Kyoto Protocol, we together conceived the Bagepalli Tamarind Project, covering 1,000 hectares of dry and arid lands in our region to help poor farmers switch over from rainfall dependent Field Crops to more hardy Tree Crops. This was one of the very first to get Host Country Approval from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

We obtained US Department of Energy certification, and got it registered with the US IJI as an Activity for Joint Implementation in 1998. We then signed an MoU with Counterpart International, Washington D.C., and started scouting for US\$ 1 million. Unfortunately they were unable to find the resources, and it stayed on the back burner for 9 long years. However, this effort of ours is historically important. We believe that it was one among many serious precursors to what is now being called VER.

(Now, after all these years, we have re-established our contacts and are on the verge of getting Community & Climate Biodiversity certification for a near-identical clone of that project.

We prepared a Project Design Document covering 18,000 hectares called the Bagepalli CDM Reforestation Project which is currently under validation by TÜV SÜD, München. For more information, please visit <http://www.adats.com/cdm/ccba.php>

When the Kyoto Protocol was finally signed and CDM mechanism set up, many of our idealistic friends (feminists, environmentalists, climate change activists, scientists, *et al*) got thoroughly disillusioned. They quickly realised that CDM was not going to be the ideal mechanism by which resources would be transferred from the polluting rich to the non-polluting poor in developing countries. Ideological disenchantment creates very strong bonds.

Biogas CDM Project

In 2005, we shook ourselves out of the pessimistic mould and together wrote a PDD for 5,500 domestic Biogas Units. We got it validated and registered as a CDM Project with the UNFCCC. A Carbon Investor from France fully forward financed it – i.e. we sold the CERs that these 5,500 Units would generate over the first 7 years, for € 1.1 million, to this Carbon Investor. The amount was used to construct the Biogas Units.

Today, ADATS has finished building 5,500 Biogas Units for as many poor women. The first 19,000 CERs have been verified and issued into the ETS. We are the very first pro-poor rural CDM Project where this has happened.

This is a CDM activity that has evident benefits in terms of meeting the practical gender needs of poor rural women. Moreover, we were able to stretch the benefits to provide a tremendous strategic gender support. From 2012 onward, the 3.6 CERs that each Unit will generate every year will be passed on to the participating women themselves. At a then (extremely conservative) rate of € 20 per CER they will get € 72 or Rs 4,680 as an annual income. *The rural poor, who in actual fact have a “negative footprint”, will get “rewarded for not spoiling the environment”.*

ADATS role will be to act as an honest broker to collectively sell the 20,000 CERs every year on behalf of all 5,500 women and ensure that every single Rupee goes exclusively to them. For perhaps the very first time, Coolie women are going to be paid for cooking in their own homes. *This is the really principled and exciting Climate Change reach that we can give to CDM Projects and Carbon financing!*

The PDD and Registration details of this CDM Project can be found at the UNFCCC website <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Projects/DB/DNV-CUK1131002343.1/view.html>

Biogas CDM Project of the Bagepalli Coolie Sangha

We are now preparing yet another CDM Project to build 18,000 Biogas Units in an additional 300 villages. This Project is currently under validation and ERPA negotiations are underway to once again obtain full forward funding from another Carbon Investor. Please visit http://www.adats.com/cdm/bcs_biogas.php for more information.

The Fair Climate Network

Our Climate Change/CDM collaboration with ICCO took off from these experiences. Together, we created the Fair Climate Network in order to share our longstanding experiences with fellow grassroots organisations in India.

ADATS viewed it as a propitious opportunity to link our *hopscotch* efforts with that of ICCO to create a North-South network. Both, ICCO and ADATS, had gained a rich and valuable human infrastructure of knowledgeable and committed friends and well wishers from all over the world.

These were persons who wanted to address severe disparities in consumption levels in the North and South, and see ethics and justice introduced into the Climate Change debate. At the same time, they wanted to make CDM work for the rural poor as a mechanism that transferred development resources from the North to the South.

Each and every one of them was invited to join the Fair Climate Network, with all of us internalising the principle that *"We can no longer do it on our own!"*

The objectives of this Network are to:

- Link Grassroots NGOs in the South with the Voluntary Efforts of Concerned Citizens in Annex I Countries/Societies
- Lead Topic-wise Debates & Discussions on Issues related to Climate Justice
- Place Young people in Learning and Contributing experiences
- Network and Lobby with the UNFCCC, EB & Methodology Panels, and Host Country DNA

- Capacitate, Facilitate & Handhold Grassroots NGOs to develop Pro-Poor CDM Projects
- Collectively Deal with Consultants, Experts & Professionals
- Put up a Joint Front in ERPA Negotiations with Carbon Investors
- Set Benchmarks & Standards for Project Proponents to play the role of "Honest Broker" between the Non-Polluting Poor and the Carbon world

- Assist in meeting high Transaction Costs of CDM Project Development
- Forward Finance pro-poor CDM Projects through the Advance Purchase of VERs and CERs.

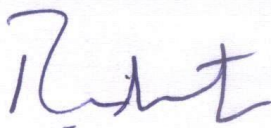
In a short span of just one year, we have had remarkable success in meeting many of these Network objectives. 25 grassroots NGOs, many of them ICCO's long-lasting Indian Partners for 3 decades and more, have participated in 3 CDM Meetings. Today, we have more than 8 pro-poor CDM Projects in the pipeline, at various stages of development. These include domestic biogas, photovoltaic lamps, fuel-efficient wood stoves, solar water heating and the like. ADATS, in the meanwhile, is still actively pursuing Afforestation/Reforestation (A/R) CDM.

We have already developed state of the art digital monitoring solutions that meet UNFCCC standards and serve the information needs of the Project Participants, End Users, DoE, DNA, Carbon Investors and concerned public for these CDM activities, in an open and transparent manner.

Very exciting possibilities are emerging in Methane Avoidance & Abatement. Methodologies are opening up for solid waste management in small *Moffusil* towns, as well as chemical free cultivation. This last is an area that most grassroots NGOs, including .

Many more can take off, provided the last 2 objectives are met. It is in this light that we wholeheartedly and actively support the setting up of the Fair Climate Fund by ICCO.

With every best wishes, I remain,
yours sincerely,



Ram Esteves
Project Director

