

EGS & Livelihoods An Emerging Framework

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Based on Experiences from...

- **Experiences under AP REGS** (mainstream experiences)
- **AP Drought Adaptation Initiative (AP DAI)** – supported by the Govt. of AP and the World Bank
- **Engagement with EGS** (supported by the Ford Foundation)
- **Revitalising Rainfed Farming** (supported by the Ford Foundation)

Opportunities of Livelihoods Improvement with EGS

1. Continuous wage income:
2. Improving Common Assets
3. Improving Private Assets
4. Creating common assets/ natural resource access for poor for specific production systems
5. Labour subsidies in production
6. Using labour subsidies as a driver for equity / access to resource for poor / promotion of sustainable agriculture
7. Provision of critical services for improving the production systems

1. Continuous wage employment..

- Plugging the wage employment gaps have several livelihood result areas
 - Unionisation / better and equal wages/ income surpluses / clearing debts / better working capital/ food security / staying in the village → increased access to welfare programs / reviving agriculture

2. Improving common assets

- Repair of feeder channels / water bodies / access roads etc.,
- **'Community Based Ecological Restoration of Common Lands' program : (FES / APPS – coordinated by WASSAN)**
 - Patches of common lands are taken up for natural regeneration with selective plantation of trees/ grasses that strengthen livelihoods.
 - Has three components viz.,
 - organising community /
 - planning and implementation of conservation and regeneration programs /
 - dove-tailing livelihoods investment on marketing and value addition
 - (about 80,000 acres targeted in the first phase, presently field plans are being prepared)
 - Partnership program where the facilitation and livelihood funds are mobilised by NGOs while RD funds the works and plan implementation.
- **Developing tanks for better fish production**

2. Improving private assets – land development

- Blocks of Assigned Lands are taken up for development.
 - Initially CLDP (end-to-end investment of developing assigned lands with RIDF funds)
 - Now the work component is dovetailed into EGS, while RIDF funds are used for creating irrigation facilities
- Development of horticulture – wage component from EGS and planting material from NHM
- **Project Approach:** recently shifted to this approach taking up 100 ha area blocks (of poor) for development in every village. EGS works exclusively in these blocks

2. Improving private assets – farm systems

Diversified Farming Systems (under AP Drought Adaptation Initiative – AP DAI- being scaled up as Rainfed Land Development Program)

- 100 ha patch identified for comprehensive drought adaptation measures – work for 4 years:
 - Soil and moisture conservation
 - Water harvesting
 - Biomass development - Integrating tree component (fruit / fuel / fodder/ timber)
 - Crop diversification and sustainable agriculture practices
 - Diversifying crop systems (intercrops and fodder to provide a basis for livestock)
 - Promote Non-Pesticide Management of Pests (NPM)
 - Improving soil fertility – addition of organic matter, green manuring practices and crops,
 - Provision of critical irrigation wherever possible

Establish backbone support systems such as: nursery, NPM shops and seed banks

(100 villages in 5 Mandals in two districts) – facilitation costs from APDAI and physical investments from EGS.

3. Improving private assets – tribal farming systems

- At the initial stage.
 - Tribal habitations are taken up and comprehensive plans for improving productivity are generated.
 - Development of lands accessed under Forest Rights Act
 - Improving soil fertility
 - Investment on *podu* (*shifting cultivation*) lands – including horticulture
 - Improving fish / other production opportunities
- 300 habitations in Paderu area – partners- CInI, CCN, Vikasa, Chetna and WASSAN
(Facilitation costs and critical investments from SRTT / Ford Foundation/ other donors and physical investments from EGS)

4. Creating Common Assets / access to natural resource to poor

- As a part of AP DAI (small pilots- yet to scale up)
- Creating access to fodder in leased in land
 - 4 acres of leased in land developed as exclusive fodder plots for 10 single women households using (partly) EGS.
 - Loan for purchase of buffaloes from Banks
- Fodder trees / fodder grasses and fodder banks: the goat rearers group planted fodder trees (that goats prefer) in their lands using EGS
- Large scale aerobic composting: compost pits + support for establishing glyricidia around bunds + support for critical watering of compost and plants for two rounds.

4 & 5. Labour subsidies & subsidies as drivers for promotion of sustainable farming

- As a part of AP DAI (small pilots- yet to scale up)
- Large scale aerobic composting: compost pits + support for establishing Glyricidia around bunds + support for critical watering of compost and plants for two rounds- integrated into EGS.
 - Providing labour subsidies for promotion of System of Rice Intensification (SRI)- not fully integrated into EGS but provided under National Food Security Mission
 - Providing common facilities for NPM – to preparing bio-pesticides using local material/ biomass: not yet integrated into EGS
 - Providing critical irrigation / sharing of water -

6. Provision of critical services for production system

An example: As a part of AP DAI

- A *crèche* for goat kids: one person looking after the goat kids (upto 4 months age) in a common facility created while the main flock goes for grazing (reduced mortality of goat kids) - (not yet integrated into EGS)

Changes required...

• Definition of an asset:

- For e.g, looking at building soil fertility as an asset creation process though it has 'consumables'.
- An enterprise of / for poor that can provide sustainable employment after a gestation period – if part of labour is subsidized initially.

Changes required...

• **Employing Labour vs Allocation**

- Presently works are planned – sanctioned – implemented individually.
- Need a departure in terms of establishing an institutional system and allocating xx number of wage days for a particular program. The community institution will decide when and at what time to initiate a work i.e. work orders issued by community based organisations.. With adequate protocols and payment/ measurement systems.

Building Livelihood Programs Overlaid on EGS

- Open scope for civil society partnerships.
- Pilot a large scale livelihood program overlaid on EGS- across states with selected NGOs so that there would be conceptual and operational innovations for effectively using EGS for sustainable livelihoods. Elements of such a program could be:
 - exploring ways of promoting sustainable farming (agriculture, livestock, fisheries etc.) in a project mode
 - Allocation of 'bundled wage days' to a livelihood program to be implemented by community based organisations.
 - Evolve protocols / procedures / methodologies for planning, developing proposals, sanction, measurement, payment systems etc.

A National program can be built on these experiences.