

About the project

Project Design document form for afforestation and reforestation project activities [CDM-AR-PDD] Version 4 –

The project is implemented in the two states of India: Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, 3 districts in each state.

In Odisha - includes small land holders in the districts of : Rayagada, Koraput and Kalahandi.

In AP - Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram dists

These six districts have a pre-dominance of tribal communities, with the majority of them struggling to reclaim their resources from being taken over/grabbed .

Stated objectives of the project

- To provide **additional income** and to **promote livelihoods** of resource poor farmers through carbon revenues.
- To **reforest** degraded lands to control soil and water erosion and reclaim lands.
- To **reduce the dependence** of industry on natural forests thereby **conserving biodiversity**.
- To build capacity of various stakeholders to **benefit from global mechanisms**

What have we been doing to understand the issue

- **The villages were selected from the project document**
- **We visited 27 villages (out of 56 villages in Rayagada as per the project doc) and talked to farmers.**
- **Had structured and unstructured discussion with villagers, visited the sites , reviewed project document , a reports on the ecological implications of eucalyptus and talked to a scientists who has done his doctoral and post doctoral studies in ecological economics .**
- **Had detailed discussion with all farmers in seven villages who have standing eucalyptus on their land . This number is 40 farmers (28 M+12 F) (98% of them are small and marginal)**

The doc. Says.....

- The small land holding size and high demographic pressure on available land resources require ways **to diversify the sources of farm incomes to address poverty and enhance the livelihood opportunities.**
- The revenue from the sale of carbon credits is **expected to partially alleviate the investment cost incurred by the farmers,** transaction costs of participation in the project as well as delays anticipated in the income from sale of timber.

Perspective as described in the project doc.

- the farmers have legal right to harvest and sell the wood products as well as the revenue generated from the sale of emission reductions.
- The farmers own wood and non-wood products produced on the land and therefore,
- The **wood will be sold by the farmers** at the highest price to the paper mills where appropriate and the resultant income from the sale of timber would entirely be transferred to the local farmers.

The doc says

- The lands to be afforested /reforested are highly degraded and are subjected to further degradation or will remain low in a carbon steady state **in absence of the present project activity which proposes to undertake agro-forestry plantation in these degraded lands.**

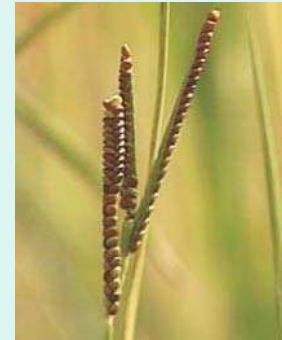
Where is Agro and Forestry

Area as described in the project doc.

- The area proposed for the project is degraded farmland.
- The lands are either not put to any use at present or being intermittently used for rainfed agriculture for cultivation of minor millets, cereals and pulses **because of many barriers such as technological and financial.**

The land is separated from the ecosystem .

In reality - area has history of rich crop diversity of dry land crops
- millets, sorghums, pulses, oil seeds, beans, roots and tubers
and varieties of uncultivated food



In reality

Crop Diversity

- In 2011 farmers have grown 84 varieties of crops (oil seeds , pulses , beans , millets sorghum and short duration rice)



Eucalyptus plantation has led to ... Water problem

People say that eucalyptus plantation has disturbed the growth of vegetation around. It has led to growth of sterile fruit trees.

“There is a mango tree here which used to give good yield but since the past few years not a single mango has grown” - Wendy Jakesika.

“Drying up of two natural springs which gave water even after 4-5 months of monsoon has forced people in the village to walk for more than half a kilometre to take bath in the river.” - Kamla Jakeshika.

“Eucalyptus has lateral roots which suck up the soil moisture and prevents ground from getting recharged, thus lowering ground water levels over the period of time.” Vandana Shiva in *Ecological audit of Eucalyptus*.

Dried Mango tree in between eucalyptus plantation

Effect on other crops

In **Majhialama**,

Loda's field is next to Nari Praska's eucalyptus plantation. He complained that crops do not germinate in about half of his field where he used to grow millets, oilseeds, pulses.

Eucalyptus plantation has led to ...

Food Scarcity

Shared Sona Majhi Kadreka –

- “We use to get about 1 quintal finger millet, 1 **quintal little millet, 5 kg foxtail millet, 1 quintal sorghum, 60 kg Pigeon Pea, 10kg Maize, some quantity of Sesame, Niger and variety of vegetables** like brinjal, tomato, cowpea from an acre throughout the year.
- All these varieties of millets, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables used to sustain his family for 6 months and the PDS Rice provided for 3 more months. But, now eucalyptus has -----

Another farmer Shobana complained that his trees did not grow at all, “they were stunted. Earlier, growing finger millet, sorghum gave us some returns at the end of the year but this cursed eucalyptus ignited in us hopes for profit, made us wait for 5 long years, in the end left us to bleed under the the burden of loan” .

Raju Himirika passed away sometime time back. Raju has a standing loan of more than Rs.80000/- on him which his 17 year old son does not know how to repay. Eucalyptus from their field was never harvested as it was considered to be not of good standard by JK.....

Pentamma complained, I also had dreams to educate my child in a good college, so when we were told that after the first five years- post harvest the loan would get adjusted and from then onwards every five years the money we get after the harvest would be ours. Now we have a loan of over Rs.40000/-. How am I suppose to repay, what if my plantation does not give me good yield next time.....”

Forced to become loanee



Few of the loanees

List Of Loanees from Utkal Grameen Bank, Chatikona:

Shobana Himirika	-	Rs 43,212
Narsingh Hikoka	-	Rs 43,942
Jaganath Himirika	-	Rs 35259
Patri Himirika	-	Rs 11,744
Siniga Himirika	-	Rs 25,773
Sadanand Nag	-	Rs 13,112
Pulu Himirika	-	Rs 24,249
Raju Himirika	-	Rs 80,372

Source – a plain paper with amount signed by a bank official without any stamp

“Agreement “ ?????”

- An institutional mechanism “VEDA Climate Change Solutions Limited (VCCSL)” has been established to specifically deal with issues related to carbon revenue. Farmers’ agreements have been signed among VCCSL, JKPL and the farmers, as an addendum to JKPL’s timber purchase template, which lists the responsibilities of each partner clearly. Copies of the agreements made with the farmers who have already enrolled into the project activity will be presented at the time of validation.

What we saw and heard

- **No documents available with the people.**
- **PRA was done in villageS by JK. The local Grameen/Rural bank, was contacted by JK for extending loans to people. People did not get money in hand and were told that the loan got adjusted in terms labour, seedling cost.**