

**FINAL REPORT OF TAMWED SUPPORTED  
CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT  
October 2009 – September 2010**

**ISLAND TRUST**

**Implementing Organisation: Indo Sri Lankan Development (Island) Trust, Kotagiri, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India.**

**1. Base Line Survey on Climate Change Awareness:**

A base line survey among focus group communities was conducted in the months of October – December 2009. Community leaders, women and young people were interviewed using a specific questionnaire prepared by Tamwed. About 100 respondents from out of 25 focus villages participated in the survey. The survey finding was consolidated in the month of January 2010 and submitted to Tamwed.

**2. Awareness Generation on Climate Change Effects among various groups:**

**2.1. Climate Change Action Day:** On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a rally and public meeting were conducted in Ooty, the district headquarters to raise awareness on climate change. About 1,000 people from various walks of life participated. The rally was inaugurated by Mr Soundarapandian, District Forest Officer and it went through the main streets of Ooty and ended in Anna Stadium. Mr Oz Osborne from Tamwed, Mr Jothi Ramalingam, Project Coordinator of Tamwed, India, Mr. Mavadiyan, GAWDESY, Thiruvaiyaru, Project Partner of Tamwed were some of the guests who participated. Mr. Tony, Convenor of Tamil Nadu Environment Council, Dindigul participated as the key resource person. Local government and non-government representatives took part in the rally and public meeting. It was the first activity in the Nilgiris district to raise awareness on climate change.



Alphonse Raj being interviewed prior to the climate change parade.



Part of the parade in Ooty.

**2.2. Climate Change Prevention Campaign:** On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 another rally and public meeting was conducted in Kotagiri with women representatives of 200 self help groups. More than 500 women participated in the 3 km long rally and raised public awareness about the need to be sensitive about climate change and help reduce it in their daily activities by not using plastic carry bags and candescent bulbs. 500 tree saplings were distributed to the participants free of cost and they were asked to raise awareness in their own villages to grow more trees. The event was video filmed by Ms. Ruth from the BBC with Mr Adam and Ms. Sara – all visitors from the UK.

**2.3. Training:** Island Trust conducted four internal training for its staffs on climate change, its impacts and remedial actions. Mr. Alphonse Raj conducted the first training and explained about the objectives of the CC project under Tamwed. The second training was conducted by the staff who participated in the external training conducted by other NGOs and resource organisations. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> training, the

staffs had collected several materials about Climate Change effects from the news papers and magazines and shared about them. The materials were used for exhibitions and awareness classes conducted in schools.

2.4. Awareness Generation among communities: Awareness on CC was generated among the focus group communities in the 25 villages during the year. The activity was implemented in 17 villages in which 1,460 people from the 25 tribal villages participated. The youth and the community leaders realized the importance of regenerating the decaying environment of their area and resolve to plant trees as many as possible.



One of the public meetings called to raise awareness about climate change.



Distributing some of the thousands of seedlings and saplings that were planted during the year.

2.5. Training to NGOs / CBOs: Island Trust conducted 3 training sessions for the members and leaders of 20 organizations in Kotagiri who have been organised under the banner of the Nature's Eyelids. 64 persons participated in the 3 training sessions. An action plan was evolved with them to identify places where we could plant trees and protect them till they grow. With their suggestion, two schools – Kotagiri CSI HSS, and Kil Kotagiri Government High School – were selected for tree plantation.

2.6. School Awareness Education: Awareness about CC was given to 1,300 students and their teachers in 6 schools in Kotagiri taluk. Visuals were displayed and video film was shown to them to explain about the seriousness of the CC. The children avowed that they would inform their parents about CC and ask them to reduce the use of electricity, plastics and burning of garbage.

2.7. Participation in the Seminars: Island trust staff working on climate change project were invited to give talks and explain about CC in 3 seminars organised by the consumer organisation, Rotary club and Jaycees. Through these seminars we could reach to 340 people who are socially motivated. The resource talks were appreciated by the participants.

2.8. Exhibitions: Island trust put up exhibitions on CC and environmental protection in 4 places in the Nilgiris district. One was during the district level conference of the Consumer Federation and the other three were during the government festivals organized during summer. By a rough estimate more than 75,000 people visited our exhibition stalls and appreciated the effort. Many of the visitors took our education material printed in Tamil, Malayalam and English with them and said that they will spread the message in their own places too.

2.9. Training on Organic Farming: 8 training were conducted for the tribal families in 8 villages wherein 76 people participated. They are all marginal farmers who had incurred loss by adopting modern agriculture using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Now all of them have started practicing sustainable agriculture methods. For production of organic manure and nutrients, Island trust approached Siemenpuu Foundation, Finland and got 6 pairs of Cows and Calves to 6 families and they are engaged in production of organic manure and micro nutrient.

### **3. Follow up action:**

3.1. Tree planting: 14,300 seedlings/saplings of fruit and native species have been planted in 17 tribal villages of our focus areas. They are all taken care of by the tribal families. The tribal families are aware that they are contributing towards reduction of CC and regenerating the community forest coverage in their area. While addressing the CC issue, the activity will also promote economic development and self sustainability of the communities in a few years.

3.2. Tree planting in the farm lands: Island Trust mobilised 14,500 Silver Oak seedlings from the forest department and distributed to the tribal farmers to give shade in their tea and coffee plants. The silver oak trees are known to save water for the tea bushes and improve the yield and quality of tea leaves in the summer.

3.3. Tree Planting in schools and Colleges: 745 seedlings have been planted in 2 colleges and 17 schools in the Kotagiri and Ooty taluks. They are being taken care of by the students in the name of Green Corps. The teachers and students are happy that their campus is made green through the voluntary distribution of seedlings. They say that the government is not bothered to give any support to grow trees and promote garden in the schools.

3.4. Seedling distribution to Communities: Island Trust identified 42 villages with potential to grow trees and identified eligible families and distributed 1156 seedlings to grow on their lands and houses. These families are protecting these seedlings like their children. They said that they did not know where to buy seedlings or they did not get what they wanted. They are grateful to the project because it gave free seedlings and according to their liking.

Totally 30,701 trees have been planted in our project area during the one year.

### **4. Allied Activities:**

4.1. Soil Testing: In order to grow appropriate seedlings in new lands, soil tests were conducted in 17 places in 3 tribal villages with the collaboration of the Agricultural Engineering Department. As per the test report seedlings were given to the farmers.

4.2. External training events attended: Key staff from the Island Trust were deputed to attend state level workshops/conferences in Tamil Nadu. 3 of our staff participated in a 1 day CC Conference conducted by the IYY, India in Madurai in the month of October and in Coimbatore in the month of December. One staff participated in a 3 day workshop in Madurai conducted by Habitat India in the month of January 2010. In the same way another key staff participated in the CC conference conducted by the Rotary Club International at Ooty in the month of February. Mr. Alphonse Raj, the Secretary of Island trust participated in the 3 day national level workshop conducted by Greenson organisation in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

4.3. Public Interest litigation against Water Bottling plant: Island Trust filed a PIL in the High Court of Chennai against a MNC Water Bottling unit started in the tribal area which threatened the life and livelihood of the tribal communities. The case was adjoined by 12 advocates in the High Court and therefore permanent ban was ordered by the High Court.

4.4. Video Film on CC impacts: A video film for documenting CC impacts on the tribal communities has been completed in the 20 villages. Interviews with community leaders, youth and women who could clearly explain about the CC impacts in their lives have been recorded. Currently editing of the film is going on. This will be completed very soon.

4.5. Flood Relief measures: The Nilgiris district witnessed a drastic catastrophe in the month of November 2009. Island Trust helped organisations to conduct survey about the damage and itself assessed the damage in its own working villages. With the financial assistance of TAMWED and related organisations, we could extend relief assistance to 17 tribal families to repair their damaged houses in 5 villages. In addition to this, seeds to recover agricultural damage were given to 33 families.



Floods caused loss of life and damage to homes and infrastructure. The Island Trust was able to help with food distribution, house repairs and support for the people most affected.

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>A. Programme Cost</b>			
1. Staff, Management, Supervision	40,000.00	40,000.00	0
2. Administration, IT, Stationery etc	21,600.00	21,034.00	566.00
3. Staff training	21,600.00	18,090.00	3,510.00
4. Travel , Subsistence	20,000.00	21,611.00	(1,611.00)
5. Resources - tree, plants etc	32,000.00	33,427.00	(1,427.00)
6. Meetings	30,000.00	31,112.00	(1,112.00)
7. Film Camera	34,000.00	34,040.00	(40.00)
8. Other equipment	14,400.00	14,350.00	50.00
9. Film Editing	10,000.00		10,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>223,600.00</b>	<b>213,664.00</b>	<b>9,936.00</b>
<b>B. Special Programme</b>			
1. Flood Relief expenses	47,540.00	48,355.00	(815.00)
2. World Earth Day	-	-	-
3. Summer Festival Campaign	-	-	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>47,540.00</b>	<b>48,355.00</b>	<b>(815.00)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271,140.00</b>	<b>262,019.00</b>	<b>9,121.00</b>

Conclusion:

Island Trust has become a key resource organisation in the field of CC in the Nilgiris district with support from Tamwed. Tamwed has helped Island Trust to be equipped with technical knowledge from different resource agencies and also from Tamwed itself through information sent electronically by its Secretary Mr. Oz. The project is the first of its kind in doing something concrete to address climate change in the district. The adoption of tribal communities in learning about climate change effects and assisting them to adapt to climate change is very strategic. They are the pioneers in the Nilgiris in protection of the eco systems and the forest. So it is only relevant that we learn from that community and help them to develop economically and socially with the project intervention.

We thank TAMWED for supporting a very relevant project at an appropriate time.

**M.L. Alphonse Raj      Executive Secretary**

# GAWDESY

**Implementing Organisation: Gawdesy, Thiruvaiyaru, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu**

## **1. Baseline and Follow Up Survey on Climate Change Awareness**

The base line survey was conducted during October and December 2009 in the two project villages identified – Karuppur and Anthiyur to establish the awareness levels on the problem of Climate change. The survey was undertaken using a schedule applied to all households. The survey was repeated in November to assess the impact of the programme. The main findings were:

- a. The number of families who have awareness of climate change was 86% in September 10 as against 39% in November 2009.
- b. The number of families who felt the effect of the climate change is 66% in September 10 as against 4% in November 2009.
- c. The number families who have taken remedial measures is 57% in September 10 as against 4% in November 2009.



Gawdesy Field Staff surveying villagers

## **2. Activities on Awareness Generation on Climate Change Effect**

The Climate change project was launched formally on 22 October 2009 in the presence of Oz Osborne, Secretary, Tamwed and Jothi Ramalingam, Tamwed's Indian Project Coordinator. The Assistant General Manager of NABARD, Thanjavur, the Indian Bank Manager of Micro Finance, the City Lions Club President and Secretary together with local leaders, all participated in the event. Oz explained the problems of global warming and need for local action to mitigate its impact.



Mavadiyan, Jothi Ramalingam and Oz Osborne planting a sapling during the project launch day.



Around 4,000 tree saplings were distributed to 3,000 Women Self Help Group members who participated in the launch event.

## 2.1 Training

The 24 staff of the Gawdesy NGO were given training by the President and Secretary of Gawdesy periodically.



Gawdesy's President, Mavadiyan, leading staff training.



**Independence Day** was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The theme was not only global warming but also the evils of alcoholism. Self Help Groups from 20 villages joined a procession in mini vans and cars. In each of the vehicles, climate change posters were displayed. Publicity through loud speakers was done in each village along the route. 3,000 SHG members and youth volunteers were given lunch. Saplings were issued in each village along the route. At the end of the procession at Gawdesy's centre, concluding speeches covering global warming, sanitation and avoiding the use of plastics were delivered by speakers. 5,000 saplings were provided by the City Lions Club.

In September 2010, staff were also taken to the Island Trust at Kothagiri for exposure and exchange of ideas and sharing views among staff.

## 2.2 Awareness Raising Among Villagers

Gawdesy's entire staff went door to door of the two villages on which the project is focusing, where they issued pamphlets explaining the reasons for global warming and urged them to take part in activities such as planting and rearing of trees, separating degradable and non-degradable waste and reducing the use of plastics.

400 saplings and 100 bamboo caskets were issued in January 2010 with the assistance of local leaders.



Distributing saplings and caskets to villagers.



The requirements need for saplings was also assessed during door to door visits in July 2010 by the entire 24 staff and 1,800 saplings were subsequently distributed in July and August 2010.

Meetings of youth groups and farmers clubs were held and informed about global warming. Saplings were issued and members were motivated to take an intensive interest in this subject.



Members of Farmers Clubs and Youth Groups attending a session on climate change.

### **2.3 Climate Change Campaigns**

Self Help Group and Village Council meetings from the two villages were convened every month for follow up activities and to urge them to spread the message.



### **2.4 School Awareness**



There are two primary schools in the two villages. Sessions were taken by Gawdesy staff in these schools to educate students on the reasons for the increase in global warming and remedial measures to be taken with the help of poems, stories and pictures.

### **3. Follow Up Action**

Village Development Council and Self Help Group representatives and Gawdesy staff visit each village periodically where they use pamphlets and pictures to raise awareness about the importance of separating household wastes and protecting of tree saplings that have been planted.

### **4. Conclusion**

Gawdesy managed to keep up the “one tree for every house” slogan among other prerequisite slogans for socio economic growth and issued saplings once a year. We thank Tamwed for their generosity in lending a helping hand to take up a project which helped to focus on the activity.

### **5. Budget**

No	Expenses	Budget	Spent	Balance
1.	Management supervision	62,000	62,000	-
2.	Administration, stationary	16,400	16,400	-
3.	Travel Subsistence	8,000	9,773.50	(-) 1,773.50
4.	Resources: trees, plants, irrigation	38,000	38,000	-
5.	Staff Training	7,000	7,000	-
6.	Meetings	33,800	33,800	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>165,200</b>	<b>166,973.50</b>	<b>(-) 1,773.50</b>

**Mavadiyan, President, Gawdesy**