

**Follow-up to the Management Response on the Evaluation of:
GCP/IND/175/NET: Andhra Pradesh Farmers Managed Groundwater Systems (APFAMGS) Project**

Current Status

1. The project was extended (Recommendation 1) and the office is now in the final throes of closing the project.
2. The recommendations to APFAMGS (Recommendations two through eleven) have all been implemented, with the exception of Recommendations two and six. Recommendation two could not be implemented due to a reduction in staff as the project entered the 'close-down' phase and implementation of Recommendation six on training on topics other than water management did not result in any demand from the HUNs.
3. The partner NGOs did not find it feasible to implement Recommendation 12 on "the development of a vision, strategy and methodology for the work."
4. Efforts to scale up and further develop the concepts successfully piloted on this project have been supported by the allocation of funds from GEF and the actions of the World Bank to mainstream it into its work. In addition, the project was profiled in a recent feature on water in *The Economist*. Recommendations 13 and 14 were therefore, by and large, also implemented.
5. Recommendations 15 through 19 which focus on other aspects of the sharing of the lessons have been implemented wherever it has been in the purview of FAO and/or BIRDS and partners. On the matter of the inclusion of the APFAMGS model in the normative work of the Organization, NRL comments that the APFAMGS website is now used as a common/widely disseminated reference for community based groundwater management in agriculture.
6. The table included in the Management Response has been edited to include the actions taken and is presented on the following pages.

Response by Recommendation

Recommendations	Further donor funding req. (Yes or No)	Acceptance by Management			Comment on the recommendations	Action to be taken			Action Taken	Issues Emerging
		Accept	Partially Accept	Reject		Action	Timing	Unit Responsible		
<p>Recommendation 1 (FAO)</p> <p>The Evaluation recommends that the project duration be extended to March-April 2009, within current budget availability.</p>	No	√			No Comment	Follow-up with BIRDS for work plan, process, approve and amend the agreement	Immediate	FAOIN	Extended till Dec 2009	
<p>Recommendation 2 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>The Project should develop a formal and crystallized APFAMGS model of intervention, to make it available for replication elsewhere as a complete approach and for informing national policy for the sector. Attention should be focused on the key elements required for the approach to be effective. The model could foresee a phased approach and/or modular form, if appropriate</p>	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	FAOIN & BIRDS	Prepared and submitted to Jt. Secy. MOWR Govt. of India, to all states and Govt of Rajasthan requesting support from FAO for implementing this model.	
<p>Recommendation 3 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>The exercise of Crop Planning should be based on sufficiently precise groundwater monitoring so that farmers can plan irrigation withdrawals between recharge events and should be introduced for the Kharif season as well, to increase awareness about groundwater cycle over the long term and contribute to the sustainable management of the commonly shared water resource and to the decision making process available to men and women farmers for coping better with climate changes.</p>	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	FAOIN & BIRDS	This was implemented and is now being re-emphasized	
<p>Recommendation 4 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>The Project should ensure that information about groundwater availability and water-saving cropping patterns are shared as widely as possible with rain-fed farmers, landless, labourers and other marginal groups in the habitations.</p>	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	FAOIN & BIRDS	Done	

<p>Recommendation 5 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>Advocacy work should be conducted at the Government level, to emphasize the need for continuous technical support (from PNGOs and, if funds permit, TST) to the pool of 1000 farmer facilitators.</p>	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	FAOIN & BIRDS	Partially attempted. New funds required for future follow up.	
<p>Recommendation 6 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>Increased training to HUNs should be provided on request in the following areas: marketing, market linkages, post-harvest management and processing. Wherever required, refreshment of leadership skills, management skills and financial management skills should also be envisaged.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS	No demands from HUNs.	
<p>Recommendation 7 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>The Project should facilitate HUNs' access to other key programmes such as WWF/ICRISAT SRI and Organic Cotton Marketing Programme (Chetna Organic/ETC India) and other GoAP programmes, for technical innovations, marketing and equipment and linkages to existing and new emerging markets for farmers, e.g. "water-saving" products.</p>	No	√			Depends on	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS	Linkages for water saving devices were only accepted by HUNs.	
<p>Recommendation 8 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>Further uptake of good agricultural practices and reduction of spraying for management of pest and diseases should be ensured, through refresher training and monitoring of farmer facilitators/FWS, especially on AESA on pests/diseases and Long Term Experiments.</p>	No	√			No comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS	Informed to HUNs as trainings are taken over by HUNs.	
<p>Recommendation 9 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>The Food and Nutrition survey should be re-run, revised also following the technical suggestions formulated in the report (see 5.1.5).</p>	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS	Not done.	Due to down scaling staff.

<p>Recommendation 10 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>Awareness should be raised at GMC and HUN level on the possibility for rainfall and groundwater data collection to become a source of income: focus should be on the need for high reliability and precision of data collected and on the realistic marketing potential of this activity</p>	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS	Already being implemented.	
<p>Recommendation 11 (APFAMGS)</p> <p>Within the framework of its exit strategy, the Project should formalize a light methodology for PNGOs to monitor the quality of FWS, GMCs and HUN's performance after the project ends. It should include tools and indicators for the monitoring process and a mechanism for taking remedial action insofar as possible.</p>	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS	Done. Included in FWS manual.	
<p>Recommendation 12 (To Partner NGOs and Key Stakeholders)</p> <p>BIRDS, Partner NGOs and their close associates should develop a vision, strategy and methodology for the work they intend to carry on in future as a network, to become a fully fledged partner for funding organizations.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	n.a	n.a	Partner NGOs	Not feasible.	
<p>Recommendation 13 (To the Government of India, FAO and other development partners)</p> <p>The Evaluation recommends that efforts be undertaken to ensure availability of budget for an intervention on a similar geographical scale to be run until 2011 by BIRDS and its partners; FAO should provide high-level technical assistance and guidance in it.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	Explore new funding opportunities	Immediate	FAOIN	Partially being covered under GEF funding and proposal submitted by BIRDS to Govt of AP for funding.	
<p>Recommendation 14 (To Indian State and Central Governments)</p> <p>APFAMGS experience is a breakthrough in the management of groundwater and in securing livelihoods of poor farmers in India: since both are key concerns of the central Government of India and of many State Governments, the approach should be adopted and mainstreamed in the Government's policy and development work.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	Will look for opportunities to emphasise this	Immediate	FAOIN	GoI accepted the model for up-scaling and has written to all states and World Bank published a document advocating this model.	World Bank may finalise new Ground Water Loans on this model.

<p>Recommendation 15 (To Indian State and Central Governments)</p> <p>The participation and close involvement of locally well grounded and respected NGOs should be a common feature of government programmes aimed at capacity and institution building in rural areas</p>	No	√			No Comment	n.a	n.a	n.a	No comment	
<p>Recommendation 16 (To FAO India)</p> <p>FAO-India should commit to advocacy work on behalf of APFAMGS, to facilitate mainstreaming of the Project's experience in policy work at national level and in supporting the diffusion of the model to other States in India; the model could typically be diffused and up scaled through FAO's collaboration within the UNDAF framework.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	Discuss with GoI	Immediate	FAOIN	Done and continuing. Presentation made to parliamentary forum, various states, World Bank and at other Fora.	
<p>Recommendation 17 (To FAO)</p> <p>FAO HQ should mainstream the APFAMGS model and experience on Farmer Water Schools in its normative programme, to facilitate diffusion and adoption of the approach and method in other countries. This might include the preparation of FWS manual.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	Will discuss with NRLW	Apr-09	FAOIN & NRLW	Under consideration.	
<p>Recommendation 18 (To APFAMGS)</p> <p>The membership and community ownership of GMCs and HUNs should be extended to include adequate representation of rain-fed farmers, landless, labourers and other marginal social groups, through sensitisation and visioning workshops, to facilitate the sustainable use of all natural resources.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	Include in the new project document	In the next phase	BIRDS	Project made suggestions to HUNs.	
<p>Recommendation 19 (To APFAMGS)</p> <p>Agricultural bio-diversity, soil/land, drought, watershed and conflict management sessions, as well as attention for Payments for Environmental Services (PES), should be added to the Farmer Water School, to provide all users, men and women, with an experiential learning platform for managing sustainably their commonly shared natural resource and coping better with climate changes and other external threats.</p>	Yes	√			No Comment	Include in the new project document	In the next phase	BIRDS	Partially included in the GEF funding project.	