

## **GCP/IND/175/NET: Andhra Pradesh Farmers Managed Groundwater Systems (APFAMGS) Project**

### **Overall response to the Evaluation**

1. The evaluation contributed to the understanding of project implementation under the NEX modality within FAO by identifying the characteristics of the project implementation that accounted for its success (paragraph 4 in the Executive Summary).
2. The evaluation reinforced the assessment of FAO that implementation of this project through a network of partners instead of a single partner would lead to a successful project and larger impact in the sector.

### **Comment on the Findings of the Evaluation**

3. The recommendations have all been accepted without reservation.



## Response by Recommendation

Recommendations	Further donor funding req. (yes or no)	Acceptance by Management			Comment on the recommendations	Action to be taken		
		Accept	Partially Accept	Reject		Action	Timing	Unit Responsible
<p><b>Recommendation 1 (FAO)</b></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
<p><b>Recommendation 2 (APFAMGS)</b></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
<p><b>Recommendation 3 (APFAMGS)</b></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
<p><b>Recommendation 4 (APFAMGS)</b></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
<p><b>Recommendation 5 (APFAMGS)</b></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
<p><b>Recommendation 6 (APFAMGS)</b></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
<p><b>Recommendation 7 (APFAMGS)</b></p> <p>The Project should facilitate HUNs' access to other key programmes such as WWF/ICRISAT SRI and Organic Cotton Marketing Programme (Chetna</p>	No	√			Depends on	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS

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.								
<b>Recommendation 8 (APFAMGS)</b>  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.	No	√			No comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS
<b>Recommendation 9 (APFAMGS)</b>  The Food and Nutrition survey should be re-run, revised also following the technical suggestions formulated in the report (see 5.1.5).	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS
<b>Recommendation 10 (APFAMGS)</b>  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	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS
<b>Recommendation 11 (APFAMGS)</b>  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.	No	√			No Comment	Ensure that this is inbuilt into work plan as appropriate	Immediate	BIRDS
<b>Recommendation 12 (To Partner NGOs and Key Stakeholders)</b>  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.	Yes	√			No Comment	n.a	n.a	Partner NGOs
<b>Recommendation 13 (To the Government of India, FAO and other development partners)</b>  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.	Yes	√			No Comment	Explore new funding opportunities	Immediate	FAOIN
<b>Recommendation 14 (To Indian State and Central Governments)</b>  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.	Yes	√			No Comment	Will look for opportunities to emphasise this	Immediate	FAOIN
<b>Recommendation 15 (To Indian State and Central Governments)</b>  The participation and close involvement of locally well grounded and respected NGOs should be a common feature of government programmes aimed at	No	√			No Comment	n.a	n.a	n.a

capacity and institution building in rural areas								
<b>Recommendation 16 (To FAO India)</b> 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.	Yes	√			No Comment	Discuss with Gol	Immediate	FAOIN
<b>Recommendation 17 ( To FAO)</b> 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.	Yes	√			No Comment	Will discuss with NRLW	April 2009	FAOIN & NRLW
<b>Recommendation 18 (To APFAMGS)</b> 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.	Yes	√			No Comment	Include in the new project document	In the next phase	BIRDS
<b>Recommendation 19 (To APFAMGS)</b> 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.	Yes	√			No Comment	Include in the new project document	In the next phase	BIRDS