Centre for Environment Concerns

Presentation on Implementing framework for EGA
by

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* **CEC was established in 1984 by a group of academicians / activists and Its focus is on:**
* **Innovations and mainstreaming approaches to livelihoods on dry land farming and its ecology**
* **Food security**
* **Negotiating markets**
* **Drought mitigation through land management**

CEC

* **Its has a core team of eight full time personnel but works extensively with experts, academicians and activists on specific issues which include:**
  - **Raithu Sahaya Committee**
  - **NGO's committee on community forestry**
  - **AP Cotton for sustainable production**
  - **Godavari Vedika on River Basin Management**
  - **Mediating Medical Care**
  - **People's Monitoring Group on Power Sector Reforms**

About Myself

∗ **Educational Background**
  – Masters in Business Administration
  – Diploma in International Trade

Work experience

1977 – 81 :	Faculty, Administrative Staff College of India
1981 – 84 :	Project Administrator, IDL Rural Development Trust
1984 – 90 :	Founder cum Executive Director – Deccan Development Society
1990 – 94 :	With family in Netherlands & USA
1994 – till date :	Centre for Environment Concerns

Invited by the Planning Commission in the mid 80s by the Secretary, Sri K. V. Ramanathan, to make a presentation on the "Role of Management Leaning in Rural Development Programmes"

Issues in EGA

∗ **Patterned on the lines of FFW / SGRY and Maharashtra EGS**

∗ **Experience shows the following merit attention :**

1. **Corruption involving nexus of contractor and engineer**
2. **Women's work and Minimum wage**
3. **Selection of works**
4. **Community role in monitoring**
5. **Others**

Addressing corruption

Corruption begins with certain types of profit earning works being chosen and then its costs estimation negotiated with the Panchayat Raj Engineer

Solution :

Develop templates and generate computer aided costs estimate and technical plan for most works with input data provided by the Gram Panchayat.

Incorporate seasonality for revision of estimates based on when the work is done

Display a copy of the input data and the cost estimate output in the village

Each work must display the stages as completed with cost estimates at every stage. This will make payments easier.

Corruption contd…

Develop a cadre of trained barefoot engineers to record check measurement while the final measurement book recording will be by the government engineer or this task can be outsourced

Payment information to be captured on hand held biometric thumb impression reader with date and time of payment

Women's work and Minimum wage

• A time and motion work study in AP showed that the wages when based on standards schedules of rates was 2 to 3 times lower of the minimum wage for most category of work. The work output has since been revised, ensuring minimum wages.

• But the above did not solve the issues of wages to women because the measurement is of the works rather than the time / effort involved by the women. Hence men's output is the measure.

• Gender based time and motion studies must be carried out unrelated to the type of works and the SSR should be revised

• Lead us a major issue in women's work and this must be carefully addressed

Selection of works

• Criterion in developing works by any department must be based on potential additional bank / private investment. The list of woks by the departments must be developed in consultations with bankers, adthidars, farmers and only these must be taken up.

• In case of Panchayat the selection of works must be made by people using electronic voting machines to choose among the works

• A Quota should be provided among the works whose selection will be restricted to dalits, women, small farmers and dry land agriculturists.

• Land development of small farmers must have a three to five year time frame
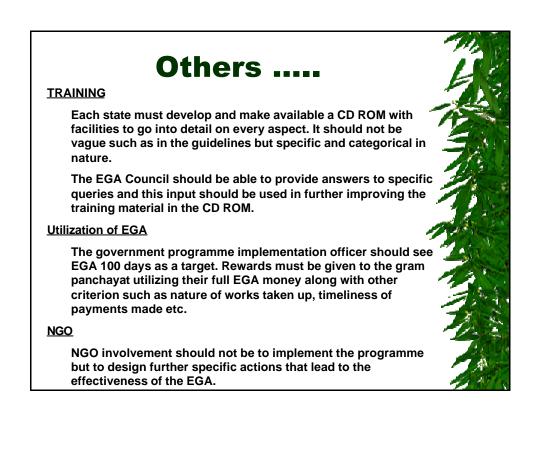
Community role in monitoring

• EGA brings along with it the right to information.

• The right to information can become real if the entire process is based on an IT enabled tracking system. The database should be made public and information should cover each aspect / stage of any particular work.

• The real time feeding of the data must be the responsibility of the programme implementation official at block and district levels.

• State EGA council should be provided with the summary and details of inspection reports as envisaged in the NFFW guidelines.

• The EGA council should monitor bottlenecks in the decision making chain as observed in the IT database and seek remedial measures

Others …..

TRAINING

Each state must develop and make available a CD ROM with facilities to go into detail on every aspect. It should not be vague such as in the guidelines but specific and categorical in nature.

The EGA Council should be able to provide answers to specific queries and this input should be used in further improving the training material in the CD ROM.

Utilization of EGA

The government programme implementation officer should see EGA 100 days as a target. Rewards must be given to the gram panchayat utilizing their full EGA money along with other criterion such as nature of works taken up, timeliness of payments made etc.

NGO

NGO involvement should not be to implement the programme but to design further specific actions that lead to the effectiveness of the EGA.

Others contd....

Food

> To insure food and nutritional security in drought prone areas grain must be included in the EGA. The grain must be provided with assured prices and quality.

> The adoption of food assurance and monthly payments must be built into the EGA.

Begin somewhere

> Areas which are connected up through IT should be the first points of contact to computerize the entire EGA. We should not wait for connectivity in all areas to start its application so a dual or multiple approach must be adopted based on the specificities of a certain location.