



Piloting Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (APREGS) - 2005 Parigi Mandal, Ranga Reddy District

Report - 7 : March 23 – April 1, 2006

Mainstreaming the Pilot....

The pilot testing of the operational procedures of the APREG scheme ended with integrating it into the mainstream program. By this time, it had finished a complete cycle of the scheme including awareness building, registration of wage seekers, issuing job cards, planning the shelf of works, rounding the works and payments through banks and post offices. These initiatives brought out various nuances in the various processes of the scheme. Along with the social process, the pilot was also able to test the software package developed for the APREGS.

The formal closure of the pilot initiative is in consonance with the Directorate, APREGS decision and this was communicated to the DWMA, Ranga Reddy and MDO, Parigi. Though the pilot was initially planned for three months between December 15, 2005 and March 15, 2006, it was extended for another 15 days as there were operational problems in making the first payment. Even after the first payments on March 20, the pilot was continued to complete the planning process at Mandal level so as to take out the estimates for all the works in mandal and also to extend hand holding support to the regular program operation team of the EGS.

As part of the pilot, works were launched in three villages in Parigi mandal and payments were made twice. While one work was completed, two other works are still going on. The Farm Pond in Nazeerabad of Syed Malkapur was finished except for stone pitching and the payment to the wage seekers was made. The stone pitching could not be done, as the rates for tractor decided in the EGS were not matching with the local rates. The bunding work taken up in Roofkhanpet village was going on which has already finished two cycles of payments.



The percolation tank taken up in Ibrahimpur is in progress which also had completed two payment cycles. However there were delays in the second cycle of payments as the technical assistant had gone on leave and the measurement records were with him. Hence the payment was delayed by four days. There was another problem because Golconda Grammeena Bank did not accept the pay orders as the bank was busy with closing of financial year. However with great persuasion from MDO office he finally agreed to pay them on March 31 and paid accordingly.

In Nazeerabad the wage seekers who applied for the work were desperately waiting for the work. Here the estimates for the new works were not yet done as the process of improvising the software version is still going on.

The input data sheets for the works in remaining 18 gram panchayats were also completed by the EGS regular teams with the help of pilot team and the estimates are under generation to get the works started in the first week of April in accordance with the scheme implementation throughout the state (covering 13 districts).

Training to Field Assistants

Field Assistants are one of the key personnel in the implementation of the scheme as they are responsible for the critical operation elements like dealing with wage seekers and getting the works done and support the payments systems. The field assistants in the pilot mandal have undergone two cycles of training that gave them the orientation of the scheme and taught the process of the scheme. The first training by the pilot in the month of February gave them the required orientation towards the salient features of the scheme and gave training in planning the shelf of works in PRA method. They have also undergone the regular training that came as a package in all the districts. However the pilot also gave them another four days of rigorous training split into two days each particularly after finding the gaps in the piloting the scheme in the first cycle.



The first two-day training (March 28-29) held at CLRC Parigi by WASSAN focused on giving inputs in taking measurements in the field. There was also field orientation to the training team.

DWMA, Ranga Reddy also planned two days of training to field assistants on 31st March and April 1st which was also facilitated by the Pilot Team. This two day training dealt with re-orientation of the scheme and focused on the roles and responsibilities of the field assistants in tune with the gaps found in the piloting the scheme.

Joint Commissioner Review

Mrs. Nirmala, Joint Commissioner reviewed the pilot and the regular process that was going on in Parigi on March 29th along with DWMA team. She interacted with the pilot team and the regular staff for EGS in the mandal and found out the progress of the scheme.



While reviewing the payments method, she suggested that the family can hold the account and the individual accounts for individual wage seekers was only an option as decided by the Directorate. In case the family holds the account it should be on the name of the woman, she suggested. However the accounts opened in the first three villages of the pilot mandal where the works grounded and payments made were on the individual names.



Nirmala also suggested the programme officer that the VOs should be given the responsibility of opening accounts and distributing the pay slips to the wage seekers for which they would be paid service charges. Discussing on some of the gaps in the muster rolls and measurement books, she suggested focused training to the field assistants on those issues, which was incorporated in the training that took place in the next two days. Joint Commissioner restressed that the wage employment is for 100 days which is mandatory and it should not be calculated on the basis of quantum of payment for a day.