

# Field Visits, November 2009

On the 21- 25th November the project team visited several villages in the Krishna and Cauvery basin to understand the farming systems, water related issues and discuss the main problems with the farmers.

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## Krishna basin



*Picture 1: Farmers meeting in Veerapuram village, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh*

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009, the project team visited Veerapuram and Rentala villages in the Krishna basin. In the Veerapuram village (Piduguralla mandal, Guntur district), a farmers meeting was held at a local farm. Local farmers explained their farming management, irrigation strategies and problems they encounter. A total of about 30 farmers participated in this meeting. The main problem they expressed was the lack of insurance policies. The farmers stated that the crop insurance is not released at the time it is needed. Another issue is the release of irrigation water from the major dam in periods of droughts.

After this visit, the project team had a visit at the Rentala village (Rentachintala mandal, Guntur district) to communicate with the farmers. This meeting included totally about 25 farmers. After the farmer meetings, the team visited the main Nagarjuna Sagar Dam. Nagarjuna Sagar is an important irrigation dam on river Krishna. It creates the third largest man-made lake in the world. It has mainly 2 canals - right canal and left canal. The length of right canal is 203 km and length of the left canal is 179 km. Agricultural irrigation is the main purpose of these two canals, in addition to drinking water, hydro power and fisheries. Prioritizing the water is based on the level in the lake, and is decided by the board. Farmers can, through their local representatives, indicate when and how much irrigation water they need. This causes occasionally some friction, like this year when the rain season started later than normal. The water was not released for irrigation, but priority was given to drinking water.



*Picture 2: Farmers meeting in Rentala village, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh*

### **Cauvery basin**

The team visited the Agricultural Research Station at Bhavanisagar and were apprised of the various research activities in the region, the on farm research based activities. The ARS will be involved in ClimaRice to validate certain adaptation technologies on farmers fields in the Bhavani Basin.

Later, the project team interacted with farmers in a nearby village. An interaction with the farmers, the women and the project group was held. A total of about 30 farmers, and 30 women participated in the discussion. The major problem encountered by this village was the lack of labor. This may become a bottle neck in future, and the farmers plan to try to avoid this situation by starting more cooperations on e.g. nurseries. Also, the possibilities for mechanizing the rice crop are investigated. This village is partly guided by the TNAU research station, which was visited as well.



*Picture 3: Women in Bhavani Sagar*