Sustainable Income Security for the Poor in Anantapur District

Progress Report
From 01.04.2008 to 30.09.2008

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Our Vision

1. Every farmer/farm labourer lead a respectable life with social equity, gender equity and human dignity, in an atmosphere of democracy and peace.
2. People and nature live in harmony with each other showing due care for sustainable environment and biodiversity.

Our Mission

1. AFs mission is to organize and strengthen the organization of distressed farmers and farm labour for their empowerment, self-reliance, food and nutritional security.
2. AF is committed to work with small and marginal farmers and committed to promote Integrated Sustainable Farming Systems, with low external input and eco-friendly (as against high cost, high-tech, chemical based).
3. AF is committed to promote sustainable healthy environment and biodiversity where people and nature live in harmony and support each other.
4. AF is committed to work with women and youth and promote Diversified Livelihoods including agri-processing, marketing and non-farm skill based employment.
5. AF is committed to work for gender, social equality, human dignity, and to create a responsible social environment with peace and democracy.

Our Dharma

1. Concern for the poor
2. Work beyond duty
3. Pursuit of excellence in work
4. To reach as many needy people as possible
**Our Core Values**

1. We believe in social equality of all people and are particularly committed to the treatment of women, the disadvantaged and the poor with respect and dignity.

2. We ensure that all our policies and programmes have due consideration for sustainable environment and ecological balance.

3. We are committed to being gender-sensitive both within AF and in all our programs and interactions with people.

4. We are committed to working with Government and like-minded NGOs & CSOs in order to produce the best synergies in our combined and co-ordinated efforts.

5. We are committed to influencing Government policies and programmes for maximizing impact in favour of the poor, disadvantaged and sustainable environment.

6. We are committed to the pursuit of highest quality in our work.

7. We are committed to being a relevant and learning organisation through participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation; and open to change, new ideas and new concepts, which are likely to improve the lives of poor and disadvantaged.

8. We are committed to the ethos of Participation and Teamwork and these will be central in our approach to work within AF and with people.

9. We are committed to be transparent and accountable to all our stakeholders.
Why Anantapur? Located in southern Andhra Pradesh in South India, Anantapur receives the least rainfall in the state of Andhra Pradesh. One of the poorest districts in the country, Anantapur's farmers are largely dependent on drought-prone, rain-fed agriculture, and mostly a single crop of groundnut is sown under such harsh and agro-climatic conditions. Of its geographical area of about 19,00,000 ha, about 10,00,000 ha are cultivated through rain-fed conditions while only about 1,00,000 ha are irrigated, that too mostly through undependable tube wells and tanks.

With virtually no other industry, Anantapur's backwardness and poverty are well indicated in its severe rural indebtedness, high seasonal migration and highest number of farmer suicides in the country. About 20 per cent of the population comprises dalits and tribals, and 60 percent comprises of backward communities. Malnutrition, illiteracy, illness, deprivation, and caste and gender discrimination are rampant here. Add to this social discrimination, crime and discord between various factions and groups, and you find the answer to the question ‘Why Anantapur?’

We believe it is a big challenge to work and show results in such a harsh agroclimatic and socio-economic conditions. We see it as a challenging opportunity to make a difference. We believe that success in Anantapur district is a definite recipe for success in any other area.
## Relevance of Sustainable Agriculture in Anantapur District

- Predominance of 93% with Small and Marginal Farmers (5.6 lakhs out of 6 lakhs farmers)
- Predominance of refined agriculture with 90% land under rain-fed conditions (10 lakh ha., out of 11 lakh ha.)
- Chronically drought prone with three drought years out of every five years due to low and erratic rainfall.
- Predominance of red gravelly shallow soils with poor moisture retention.
- Non-viability of high-tech, high cost, chemical based mechanized agriculture due to small shallow holdings and poverty.
- Poor natural resources due to lack of forest cover and vegetation across the district together with low and erratic rainfall.
- High pressure on groundwater resources and over exploitation leading to unsustainable and undependable irrigation even under 10% of cultivated area.

## Our understanding of Sustainable Agriculture

AF understands that Sustainable Agriculture is an Integrated Farming System (IFS) with the following elements:

1. Income Security and a decent livelihood to the farmer
2. Healthy Food production and Food Security
3. Concern for Bio-diversity and Environmental Sustainability
4. Appropriate land use, crop diversity and crop-rotation
5. Dairying, livestock poultry and fisheries forming part of Integrated Family System
6. Appropriate water use and moisture management
7. Based on locally available inputs like seeds, manure etc.
8. Biological and mechanical management of Pests & Diseases
9. Biological and mechanical management of soil fertility

Resulting in food and nutritional security, sustainable environment, sustainable farming under the control of farmers and farmers with human dignity.
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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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<td>AF-EC</td>
<td>Accion Fraterna, Ecology Centre</td>
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<td>AME</td>
<td>Agriculture, Man &amp; Ecology</td>
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<td>APREGS</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme</td>
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<td>Andhra Pradesh Upadi Hakkula Hami Committee</td>
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<td>CEC</td>
<td>Centre for Environment Concerns</td>
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<td>Grama Sasyamithra Samakhyas</td>
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<td>Integrated Child Development Scheme</td>
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<td>ICRISAT</td>
<td>International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics</td>
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<td>LCO</td>
<td>Livelihood Coordinator</td>
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<td>LEISA</td>
<td>Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture</td>
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<td>LMD</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>Sustainable Agriculture</td>
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<td>SERP</td>
<td>Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty</td>
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<td>Sasya Mitra Groups</td>
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<td>System of Rice Intensification</td>
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<td>Socio-Technical Organizer</td>
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<td>Watershed Support Services and Network</td>
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1. SUMMARY OF PROJECT AIMS

OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To enhance the quality of life of 60,000 resource poor farmer and farm labour families by facilitating access to: a) Sustainable Agriculture, (b) 2 or 3 additional livelihoods, (c) basic needs and (d) pro-poor policies through participatory process focusing on gender and equity.

Specific Project Objectives:

I. Capacity building

1) Of the total 60,000 farmer and farm labour families, 80% men and 60% women have knowledge on:

   a) Sustainable Agri-practices.
   b) NREGP
   c) Social Welfare schemes like: PDS, Old age pensions, Arogya Sree (A scheme providing medical aid for heart surgeries)

II. Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods (including off-farm and Non-farm livelihoods):

1) Sustainable Agriculture (SA)

    Of the total 48,000 farmer families, 80% families:

      1) Grow border crops
      2) Arrange pest traps
      3) Introduce bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides.

    30% improve their land carrying capacity through land developmental works under NREGP.

    60% have diversified crops with food crops, fruits, fodder, useful bio-mass etc.

    30% have either dairy animals or small ruminants. (80% women and 20% men)

2) Employment Generation:

   Of the total 36,000 farm labour families (including small and marginal farmer families):

    All the job seeking families (100%) have accessed employment under NREGP. (70% women and 30% men)
3) Alternate livelihoods for women and youth

- 2400 women have either some non-farm livelihoods or their own enterprises.
- 3000 families have their youth (50% boys and 50% girls) trained in non-farm skills.

III. Policy Advocacy

- 80% men and 60% women from 7800 families attend campaigns on NREGP, RTI etc.
- Identify the policy and implementation issues and raise them in appropriate forums.
- Changes in Policies and processes favourable for women.

IV. Internal Capacity building of Accion Fraterna.

- AF has:
  1) Gender sensitive staff.
  2) An operational PPME practice in place.
  3) Improved expertise in:
     - Sustainable Agriculture
     - Working with youth and organizing trainings in employable trades and entrepreneurship.
     - Non-farm livelihoods development including LMD, Value addition, Resource mobilization etc.
2. GENERAL REPORT

2.1 General Situation of Anantapur (during the reporting period)

2008-09 started off well for the farm laborers. They had sufficient employment during April-June this year under NREGP. Since there were timely and good rains, they also had sufficient employment in agricultural works. They could get decent wages in agricultural labor works @ Rs.80/- to Rs100/- per day, because of good wage rates in NREGP works. In AF-EC’s program villages about 38,000 farm labor families availed about 1,070,000 person days of employment under NREGP during this season. On an average each family could avail 28 days of employment at an average wage rate of Rs.92 per day. So, on an average each labor family could earn about Rs.2600 during this season in NREGP, in addition to agriculture wage labor. In spite of some problems in the implementation of NREGP, by and large it has helped many labor to avail employment during the summer, when it is most needed for the labor.

This year the Kharif season started well with good rains in the sowing time. The normal rainfall of Anantapur district during Kharif (June to October) is 449 mm. But it rained 548 mm during this season. In each and every month of the season the rainfall was either normal or more than normal. During this season, about 85% of the cropping area was sown with groundnut and in the remaining 15% area, other crops like Sunflower, Red gram, Castor, Jowar, Bajra and Korra were sown. In spite of the ideal conditions for a bumper crop, the groundnut crop failed to a large extent. There is luxuriant growth of stems and leaves and the plants look great, but the pods have not developed. The farmers and the agriculture scientists analyzed this strange situation. They felt that as there were continuous rains and cloudy weather and less than normal temperature during flowering time, it affected the pod formation process. Because of this, very low yields are expected this year. This phenomenon is often called “Green drought” or “deceptive green”.

According to crop estimation surveys and farmers’ estimate, only 10%-30% of crop yields are expected in about 80% of cropping area and in about 10% of the area total crop loss is expected. Only in the remaining 10% area, there seems to be a possibility of getting 30%-50% yields. The position of other rain-fed crops is comparatively better. Farmers are expecting 60% - 70% yields in millets like Jowar, Bajra and Korra and about 50% yields in Sunflower, Red gram and Castor. So, in general, the situation of groundnut crop in the district during the season can only be described as Hope less and Distressing!

There was a high inflation during the reporting period. The prices of basic commodities like groceries, vegetables and farm inputs sky-rocketed and the prospects of farm income look disastrous. In this dire situation people are forced to cut down even some of their basic needs!
Some solace came to people from various government programs. Some women benefited in the form of credit from banks under 3% interest loan scheme of government, for taking up alternate livelihood activities. For those, who were affected by serious illnesses, another government scheme “Arogyasree” (Wealth of health) came in as a big help. The re-introduction of Rs.2 a kg rice by government came in as a relief for all the poor. Together with NREGP, the people have been able to survive the hardship.

Anantapur district has about 100,000 rural youth, who were educated up to high school and dropped out. They are all in the age group of 18 - 25 years and unemployed. The number is increasing year after year. The rain-fed agriculture is not remunerative and there is virtually no alternate employment in the district. They are highly disillusioned because, with their poor educational status they neither get employment in private/Govt sector, nor are they interested in agriculture. They neither have the capital, nor do they possess any skill to go for any small entrepreneurship or skill based employment. About 40% - 50% of the rural youth are presently doing strenuous physical wage labor works in NREGP. Only about 5% have acquired vocational skills in works like masonry, electrical works, tailoring etc. Though the govt. has launched a special skills training program for rural youth called “Udyogasree”, in the district, there are many bottlenecks in their implementation. So still a lot of efforts are required to be done in this sector to come anywhere near the demand!

2.2 AF-EC’s role in response to the General Situation

AF-EC’s interventions during this period have been very strategic and effective. It has played an important role in creating awareness among the labor on the right to employment under NREGA. It created a critical mass of educated village youth to be vigilant during the implementation of NREGP and be able to question the authorities, if their rights are violated. It also encouraged Social Audit and use of Right To Information (RTI), for creating transparency and accountability in the implementation of NREGP. AF-EC on one hand facilitated the labour by organizing them into labour groups and demanding the employment, and on the other hand it assisted the field functionaries of Government in planning, implementation, work measurement and timely payment of wages to the labour etc.

AF intensive by campaigned on the relevance of Sustainable Agriculture (SA). And it trained the village activists from SMGs (Sasya Mitra Groups) and farmers on various practices of Sustainable Agriculture. It resulted in a more willing and favourable environment for Sustainable Agriculture among farmers. Thereby the physical achievements under Sustainable Agriculture have by and large exceeded the planned targets. This is just the second crop-season that AF has began its campaign on Sustainable Agriculture. The achievements have been very satisfying in terms of promoting SA practices – like diversified cropping, farm composting, vermin composting, liquid organic
fertilizers, bio-pest management, SRI, crop-rotation etc. The farmers began to show a positive response as it also saves on the cost of cultivation, besides other ecological and productivity benefits.

However, the failure of groundnut crop has dampened the enthusiasm of farmers and all of us!

AF has made a big leap forward during the period in providing job-oriented trainings for rural youth. Two driving schools – one at Kalayndurg and another at Anantapur have been started. They can train upto 240 youth in a year. Further two more Skills Training Centres (STC) one at Kalyandurg and another at Anantapur have been started. They have a capacity to train about 600 youth in various trades. These centres have been training the rural boys and girls in computers, hospitality, customer relations and sales, multi skilled workers, automobiles etc., these centres not only train the rural youth, they also find employment for them by negotiating with prospective industries in nearby cities like Bangalore, Chennai etc. It has been a big initiative AF of in response to the growing need for alternate employment for dropped out rural youth. Further, AF has been very successful in assisting the rural youth in accessing the Govt. programmes meant for rural youth.

AF-Ecology Centre has been assisting women from poor farmer and farm labour, to take up non-farm / off-farm income generation activities, under it’s alternate livelihoods program. Totally 479 women have taken up various non-farm / off-farm income generation activities during the reporting period like Multi-crop threshers (For agri-processing), NPM shops, Garment making, Saree weaving, Brick making, Basket making, Fish rearing etc. It is still pre-mature to see the impact of these activities, but in general, they are being well implemented and the women have started getting substantial income.
3 NARRATIVE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

3.1 Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (APREGS)

Role of AF-EC in implementation of APREGS:

During implementation of APREGS last year, there were many shortfalls like low and delayed employment for job seekers, delay in payments, absence of basic amenities at work spots, incidences of corruption and non-payment of compensation etc. These shortfalls were partly due to improper functioning of Government machinery and partly due to lack of awareness amongst labor community. AF-EC has been collaborating with Government and playing a vital, supportive role in order to address the shortfalls and enable proper implementation of the scheme. During the reporting period, AF-EC has played an important role in:

1. Creating wide spread awareness on the scheme and it’s provisions.

   • AF-EC conducted village level awareness campaigns for the labour on APREGS, particularly on their rights under the Act. It involved all the concerned government officials as resource persons where in awareness was given on their right to 100 days of employment by each family, ensuring work-site facilities, participation in planning of works, proper quality in implementation, timely payments, systems of transparency etc.

   • AF-EC also organized Mandal level awareness campaigns targeting labour educated youth in 8 mandal headquarters. These campaigns covered 2500 men labor and 1500 women labor. Dr. Malla Reddy, Mr. G. Gopal, Project Director, DWMA, Mr. K.S. Gopal, APUHHC President; concerned Govt. officials, Local political leaders etc. addressed these campaigns. Massive Rallies, Photo exhibitions and cultural events were arranged, which gave good awareness to the labourers on their rights and opportunities under the Act.
2. Helping the farmers and farm labour in participatory planning of NRM works in their villages.

3. Helping the labor families in applying for job and getting the receipt for the same.

4. Getting work sanctions in time.

5. Enhancing the capacities of Govt. field level workers through trainings and assisting them in taking measurements of executed works in time.

6. Helping laborers in getting timely payments.

7. Helping laborers to raise their voice on the problems they are facing at mandal / district level.

8. Policy advocacy and lobby on various policy issues and bottlenecks in the implementation of APREGS at district level and at state level.

Achievements of AF-EC in APREGS:

Since AF-EC is active member in the district and State level APREGS committees, it is playing active role in lobby and advocacy work. It is also collaborating with other NGOs like CEC (Centre for Environment Concerns), WASSAN, and other state level net works. Issues like work site facilities, timely payments, non-payment of compensation etc., which were raised at village, Mandal and district levels were taken to state level (Commissioner, NREGP), and as a result favorable actions were initiated by the Govt. administration. As AF-EC has good relationship and accessibility with Govt., officials at all levels the lobby and advocacy work is giving good results.

Following are some of the issues taken up by AF-EC and solved recently:

- Laborer’s medical bills in case of any work-site accidents, can be certified by local Doctors now. Earlier certification by Govt. Doctors was mandatory (Delay in paying medical bills reduced now).

- Sanction of Rs.100 wage payment to water suppliers on par with wage laborers.

- Tools were customized to reduce the drudgery of the labor (Provision of smooth rubber handles to earth excavating tools)
• Successful lobby with the district administration to take APREGS works even in forest lands.
• Horticulture activities are included in order to create productive assets for the rainfed farmers under the programme.
• Atleast 30 field level functionaries have been dismissed on charges of corruption.
• Delays in payments have been drastically reduced.
• An on-going system of Social Audit is introduced involving the educated rural youth.

There are 60,120 families in AF-EC’s 230 Project villages out of which 52, 043 families have job cards under APREGS. From the Job Card holder families, 69,330 persons from 38,238 families worked during the reporting period. A total of 1,070,322 person days were generated by which the families could earn wages of Rs.98, 874,896. Each family worked for about 28 days on an average during this season and earned about Rs.2, 600 at a wage rate of Rs.92/day.

**Agricultural wages increase dramatically:**

Due to the additional employment created under APREGS, the wages the farmers pay for agricultural operations have increased from about Rs.50/- per day to about Rs.100/- to Rs.150/- per day. The APREGS, though it created only 100 days of employment per family in an year, it enhanced the bargaining capacity of the labour and their distress sale of labour has disappeared. Incidentally in Anantapur district, over 80% of the labour who work under APREGS are also rainfed farmers themselves!

3.2 Sustainable Agriculture

*Formation and strengthening of Sasyamitra groups (SMGs)*

SMGs (Sasyamitra Groups) have been formed with 25-30 farmers each based on their affinity or based on contiguous area they cultivated. From each enrolled family one woman and one man are the members in SMGs. The purpose of the SMGs is to promote and practice sustainable agriculture in their villages.

Totally, 1624 SMGs have been formed till date in AF-EC’s 230 villages with 42,363 farmer families, since the inception of the program in 2007. These SMGs are actively
participating in Farmer Field Schools, conducting campaigns on sustainable agriculture, following some sustainable agriculture practices etc.

**Formation of Sasyamitra samakhyas (SMSs):**

Village level federations, with the Conveners and Co-conveners of the SMGs, in which 50% of the members are women, have been formed in all the 230 villages during the reporting period. These are called Grama Sasyamithra Samakhyas (GSS). They are involved in (a) enrolment of farmers into SMGs, (b) follow up of SMGs, (c) monitoring FFS, (d) preparing NPM plans, (e) maintenance of village level NPM records. They are also planning to establish seed banks in their villages. They are called the GSS will be federated at Mandal level and Mandal Sasyamitra Samakhyas (MSS). The MSS will be federated at the District level called DSS. The main purpose of making these federations at various levels is to act as forum for voicing various policy issues with Government at various levels.

**Farmers Field Schools & Campaigns on Sustainable Agriculture:**

AF-EC has conducted 4,616 farmer field schools (84% of the planned 5520) in it’s 230 villages. Totally, 41,173 women farmers (89% of the planned 46,160) and 58,265 men farmers (84% of the planned 69,240) attended the FFS during the reporting period. The SMGs have organized 238 village level campaigns on sustainable agriculture(103% of the planned 230), during the reporting period, where in awareness was created on the hazardous effects of high cost chemical fertilizers and pesticides, ill effects of mono cropping, the need for bio-diversity and utilization of the locally available bio-ingredients as substitutes to chemical pesticides and fertilizers. 26,568 women farmers (113% of the planned 23,600) and 26,869 men farmers (114% of the planned 23,600) attended these campaigns, during the reporting period. Two Ecology days were also conducted as planned at anantapur and kalyanadurg wherein about 3600 people (about 2000 men&1600women) attended against the planned 3450.
**Village activists’ trainings:**

During the reporting period, AF-EC conducted a refresher training course to all the 230 village activists, to brush up their knowledge and to update them on the latest NPM practices. (A village activist is a village level volunteer, who is also a NPM practicing active farmer from the village, to co-ordinate the work at village level).

**Field staff trainings:**

- AF-EC conducted a test on sustainable agricultural practices to all its 62 field level workers (46 STOs + 16 LCOs). The objectives were to (a) assess their level of knowledge and skills in sustainable agricultural practices and (b) identify their training needs.

- Based on the above assessment, AF-EC arranged 2-day training to field level workers. This training was conducted by Agriculture officers at area level.

- A repeat test was also conducted for the 31 under-performers, who scored less than 70% in the test. All of them fared well in the Repeat test.

- AF-EC arranged a 3-day training on Farmer Field Schools to all the field level workers. AME (Agriculture, Man & Ecology – Our consultants in Sustainable Agriculture) conducted this training in two batches during June 2008 at AF Ecology Centre.

- AF-EC also arranged a 1-day training on the concept of seed banks to LCOs and Senior staff. This was conducted by CSA (Centre for Sustainable Agriculture) at AF Ecology Centre.

**ADOPTION OF NPM PRACTICES**

**Mechanical pest management:**

- 36,885 pheromone traps have been installed in 3688 ha, of cropped land belonging to 1229 farmers during the reporting period. (pheromone traps are installed to trap the male insects before mating.)

- 169,965 white and yellow boards were installed by the farmers in 11,331 ha., of land belonging to 6,517 farmers during during the reporting period. (White and yellow boards are installed to trap small winged insects)
• Food crops like Bajra, jowar and cow pea were grown as border crops in 1,43,400 ha., of area by 41,516 farmers during the reporting period.(Border crop is grown to restrict the entry of thrips into the main field.)

• Trap crops like Castor, Sunflower and Mary Gold etc. were grown in 47,881 ha., of area by the farmers themselves during the reporting period.(Trap crops are grown to trap the harmful larvae by their colorful flowers.)

**Bio-pest management:**

• The SMGs and village activists have educated and motivated the farmers to prepare and apply bio-pesticides in 8,516 ha. of area during the reporting period.

**Bio-fertilizers preparation & application:**

• 2,585 vermi compost units were established, by 2585 farmers and about 72 tonnes of vermi compost was produced, which was used for fruit orchards and vegetable crops in an extent of 160 ha during the reporting period.

• 7,306 farm compost units were established in the fields, which are expected to cover an extent of 2,435 ha during the reporting period.

• The SMGs and village activists trained and motivated 3258 farmers to prepare and apply Jeevamritham, a liquid or concentrate bio-fertilizer to their crops mostly fruit orchards and paddy in an extent of 3941 ha. during the reporting period.
CROP DIVERSIFICATION

With food crops:

- Keeping the issue of food security of the community in mind, AF-EC and the SMGs motivated 3,944 farmers to diversify from mono crop of groundnut and grow diversified food crops like millets, pulses etc., in 6,040 ha., of land during the reporting period.

With useful Vegetation &Bio-mass:

- For promotion of Bio-mass in the fields, plantation of forest species and seed dibbling with Pongamia, glyricidia, neem, tamarind seed was taken up, on the field borders, soil bunds and waste lands. The vegetative cover protects the soil and also gives the green matter for compost making. 10,449 ha., of fodder, timber and bio-mass plantations were raised by 14,854 farmers during the reporting period. Various types of fodders like tree fodder, grass varieties etc., was also promoted to support dairy development.

3.3 Alternate livelihoods for women and youth rehabilitation

- 479 poor women from farmer and farm labor families (80% of the planned 600) availed AF-EC’s livelihood support during the reporting period and established various off-farm and non-farm income generation activities like Multi crop threshers, NPM shops, Brick making units, garment making, Saree weaving, Basket making, Fish rearing etc. The women have also started getting reasonable income from the above activities. Totally, during the project period,
839 women (47% of the planned), could be covered under non-farm livelihood support against the planned 1,800. This is mainly because of the delay of about 9 months in starting the program. It is possible to cover most of the back-log during next half year of October – March 09, as the activity has picked up well.

- Under Skills development and youth rehabilitation program, 398 boys (106% of the planned 375) and 168 girls (45% of the planned 375) have been covered during the reporting period. Totally during the project period, only 565 boys and 516 girls totally 1081 youth (48% of the planned), could be covered under non-farm skills development against the planned 2250. This is mainly because of the time lost in starting the training centers. AF expects to clear the backlog of 2007-08 during next half year of October – March 09, to the extent possible.

3.4 Performance assessment

- The performance of AF-EC staff was assessed in September, with the main objective of enhancing staff performance level.

- Each staff member was assessed by, (a) self, (b) his immediate superior/subordinate and (c) the area team, and the average of (b) & (c) was taken.

- Totally 5 categories were made based on the marks scored. They are (a) Above Average (91% and above), (b) Average (71% - 90%), (c) Below Average (61% - 70%), (d) Poor (51% - 60%) & (e) Very Poor (Below 50%).

- Of the 70 staff members assessed, 50 were in the Above Average category, 19 in the Average category and only one in Below Average category. There were none in the Poor and Very Poor categories.

- All the Above Average performers were appreciated for their high performance. They were motivated to sustain their performance levels. The Average and Below Average performers were counseled by the area teams to understand the causes for low performance like, gaps in competencies, motivation etc. Their training needs were identified and steps were taken to bridge the gaps. They were also motivated and encouraged to indulge in a healthy competition with Above Average performers, to improve their performance levels.
3.5 Plans for the next half year (October – March 2009)

AF-EC has planned to implement all the regular activities as planned. In addition to that, it has planned to upscale some activities like alternate livelihoods for rural women, skills trainings for rural youth, additional farmers’ campaigns etc, based on the present context of crop failure in the district. About 970 farmer and farm labor women are planned to be covered under alternate livelihoods program, 540 rural youth are planned to be covered under skills development program and 230 farmers’ campaigns on sustainable agriculture are planned to be conducted additionally during the coming Rabi season. AF-EC has also planned to initiate some new activities like intensive bio-mass development in farm lands, establishment of seed banks, and small farmers’ co-operatives, which are part of it’s long-term strategy, and would act as preparatory activities for 2009-12 phase of the program. Following are the details of these new initiatives:

**Intensive Bio-mass Development in Farm lands**

AF recognizes that biomass development is critical for promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Anantapur district. Keeping in view, the scarcity of bio-mass in farm lands needed to produce bio-compost, AF-EC has planned to develop bio-mass in farm lands intensively, as per the fertilizer requirements of the farmers. Initially (a) the fertilizer requirement of the farmers, (b) the number of plants required to produce the desired amount of fertilizer are calculated and plants are grown accordingly. The leaves of the plants are cut at regular intervals and buried in the pit adjoining the row of plants. This bio-mass gets decomposed in the pit and becomes rich bio-compost, which is readily available to the farmer in his farm land itself. This will largely reduce the initial investment on chemical fertilizer and increase the net returns on investment.

AF plans to cover 150 rainfed farmers and 340 ha, land under the Intensive Biomass Development during this year.

**Establishment of seed banks**

The seed availability, quality and price, are all the problems farmers face for groundnut and also others seed like millets, pulses and vegetables. Sasyamitra Groups and their samakhyas are discussing the problems of seed seriously. Keeping the problems in mind, AF-EC is encouraging SMGs to establish seed banks in their villages. So the SMGs in all the 230 AF villages have been encouraged to establish seed banks in their villages during the coming months. These seed banks will be
managed by SMS. The SMS will purchase the quality seeds of millets and pulses both from within and outside the village based on availability. They will also arrange a place to store the grain. Later during sowings farmers can purchase the seed from the seed bank. As far as ground nut seed is concerned, it is not purchased and stored by the committee for want of both storage space and capital as well. Instead the farmers who have seed and those who need seed are linked by the committee, so that they can deal amongst themselves. AF-EC is planning to provide some initial investment to establish seed banks, which will play a vital role in the next sowing season.

**Small Farmers’ Co-operatives**

Given the harsh agro-climatic conditions of the district, the recurring droughts and the rapid rate at which land fragmentation is taking place, it is becoming increasingly difficult for small dry-land holder farmers to go ahead with rain-fed farming and most of them have been forced to give up farming and become agricultural wage laborers. Since these small & marginal farmers constitute about 90% of the farming community of Anantapur district, it is the need of the hour to develop systems, which promote mutual support among them to continue with rain-fed agriculture. For this AF-EC has planned small farmers’ co-operatives, with about 15 small and marginal dry-land farmers having 100 to 150 acres of dry land. These co-operatives can be formed with farmers, either on an affinity basis or on a geographical area basis. These farmer cooperatives can own some common assets like Tractors and agricultural implements etc. which they all can utilize for preparatory cultivation. They can go for bulk purchase of seeds, and save on seed cost. They can prepare the bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides collectively. They can share labor amongst themselves and bargain the rates collectively for their produce. They can process their agri-produce and realize better prices. As a cooperative they can raise loans from banks and other financial institutions. In future they can also raise their voice for pro-farmer policies. This achieves the twin objectives of saving small holder farmers on one hand and rain-fed farming itself on the other. So AF-EC is planning to form farmers’ co-operatives.

In next 6 months AF plans to organize 6 small Farmers Cooperatives on experimental basis.

3.6 Collaboration with Government and other organizations:

(Collaboration with Government on APREGS is explained in 3.1)

AF-EC is implementing it’s Non-Pesticidal Management (NPM) Program, in collaboration with Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), a state govt.agency since 2007-08. In these 18 months, it has been able to achieve the primary objectives of (a) taking the NPM program to the farmers,(b) sowing seeds of change in the minds of farmers from traditional to chemical-free sustainable agriculture.

- AF-EC is implementing 3 watershed projects with NABARD funding, since 2007-08.
During 2007-08, four sramadans (Voluntary work by the villagers) were organized in each of the above watershed village to qualify them for selection, as part of the selection process under NABARD guidelines. In these watersheds, the focus was mainly on NRM works and Sustainable Agriculture. During the reporting period, under NRM, Soil & Moisture conservation works were implemented in 9 ha of land, 57 Gully plugs and 8 rain water harvesting structures were constructed. Under sustainable agriculture program, 90 FFS and two exposure visits were conducted for the farmers. Vegetation development was taken-up in 50 ha, and in 30 ha, dry land horticulture plantations were raised. 66 vermi compost units were also established in the above watershed villages.

The land development activities were not taken up under NABARD because they have been taken up under APREGS. Only those activities which could not be taken up under APREGS have been taken up under NABARD.

- NABARD has sanctioned 3 more new watershed projects to AF-EC and the implementation has begun from April 2008.

In all the above new watershed villages qualifying sramadans for 4 days were organized and exposure visit was also arranged for the farmers on sustainable agriculture.

- Collaboration with ICRISAT continues for seed development and seed multiplication of groundnut.

- The Government “New Watershed Guidelines 2008” have come into effect from 1st April, 2008. AF-EC has applied for these new watershed projects with Government and hoping to get the sanctions soon.

3.7 Budget realization

Given all the changes in programme activities and time to settle down, the budget realization was very low at about 50% for first 2 years together against a planned 65% (Rs.49,135,578 spent against the planned Rs.62,805,882). Of the remaining
50% (Rs.48,411,429) AF-EC has spent INR.11,876,355 during the reporting period. The payment of about Rs.15,00,000/- to Skill-Pro, which was due in the reporting period, could not be made because of some technical reasons. This will be paid in October, 2008. AF-EC has planned to initiate some important activities like establishment of seed banks, farmers’ co-operatives and intensive bio-mass production in farm lands, during the next half year. These important activities are also part of AF-EC’s long-term strategy, and act as preparation for 2009-12 phase of the programme. AF has also planned to cover 947 women under livelihood support at a cost of about Rs.7 million and skills training at a cost of about Rs. 3 million. AF is confident of implementing all the planned activities before March 2009 and spending the remaining balance of Rs.36,535,074.

3.8 Some important events

3.8.1 ICCO partner meeting

ICCO partner meeting was held in AF-EC campus during September 11-13, 2008. The meeting was well attended by 17 participants from 8 partner organizations of ICCO. From ICCO, Ms. Elske van gorkum, program officer, D&P Ms. Zwaantje Van’t Veer and Ms. Frederika meijer, Regional process co-ordinator attended the meet. It was facilitated by Mr. Pradeep Esteves. The main purposes of the partners meet are, (a) Introducing and discussing the recent changes in ICCO( ProCoDe) and their consequences on “ICCO-Partners” relationship and (b) Exploring ways forward to develop a programmatic approach for D&P in India.

During the 3-day meet, a common understanding was reached on ICCO’s ProCoDe changes, Regional Council, and the Programmatic Approach. Partner’s responses were also discussed in detail. Then, finally, the way forward, as to how the partners would like to carry the process of developing program coalition was discussed. The meet ended fruitfully with the emergence of a concrete action plan to develop a program coalition with ICCO Partners.

3.8.2 Water and Democracy Workshop (EED)

The Water & Democracy South Asia Workshop was jointly organized by EED and CWS (Centre for World Solidarity) on 9 – 10 of April 2008 at AF-Ecology Centre, Anantapur. Participants from South Asian Countries (i.e.) India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan etc., attended the workshop. Ms. Rupa Mukherji was the facilitator of the workshop. Dr. Gerlin Schneider, Asia & Pacific Desk, EED and Ms. Avanthi Rao, Water & Democracy initiative, CWS, participated in the workshop. From AF-EC, Dr. Malla Reddy, Director and Mr. Khaleel Ahmed, Assistant Director participated in the workshop.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

a) Reach out to the larger network of partners and participants who attended the Water and Democracy consultation in 2006.

b) Update the participants on the progress of the program and

c) Invite ideas, inputs and suggestions from the participants.
The discussions about progress, plans and new ideas were broadly in the following areas:

1) Development of a data and media base.
2) Participatory water monitoring.
3) Capacity building.
4) Networking, lobby and advocacy.

During the workshop 4 groups were formed and each group discussed on one of the above areas, outcome of the group discussions:

- To ensure greater visibility of the program by (a) creating a water & democracy brochure, (b) publishing a quarterly water and democracy news letter.
- To improve communication by reviewing the Yahoo group.
- To enabling community to do water monitoring, regulation and to resolve conflicts.
- To design the modules for capacity building based on contents like core values, rights perspective, political economy of water, privatization of water, conflict management, natural resource base etc.
- To take-up lobbying on issues like, anti-privatization, water as a human right, access to all, privatization of rivers etc

3.8.3 Social audit of govt.ICDS program

Mr.K.R.Venugopal, a very senior beurocrat from Indian Administrative Service, an architect of many Pro-poor programs at the level of A.P and National level took initiative to organize a social audit of ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme). He has been the architect of the ICDS way back in early 70s, when he was in service. He has been very passionate about the scheme, as it aims to address the very basic foundational and non-negotiable needs of Mother and Child health. At this instance, CEC (Centre for Environmental Concerns) Hyderabad, AF-EC and REDS (Rural Education & Development Society) Anantapur, formed a core group to design and implement social audit of ICDS in Anantapur district. The core group consisted of Mr.K.R.Venugopal, Dr.Malla Reddy (AF), Dr.Gopal (CEC) and Ms.Bhanuja (REDS). The Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi came forward to fund the social audit initiative. The core group began it’s work from January 2008. It approached the state government and District administration of Anantapur with the idea of social audit of ICDS of Anantapur district. The government at A.P.State level as well as at Anantapur level responded positively and formed a District level committee to work as core group and undertake social audit of ICDS. Thus it was a joint initiative of NGOs and the Government. More NGOs were involved in the actual field work. RDT (Rural Development Trust), which has a long years of hands on experience in community health, mother and child health and Hospital administration played a key role in planning and execution of field work of social audit. By December the field work of ICDS was over and in the stage of compiling the data and preparing the report. The report will be ready by the end of January 2008.
4 OUTPUTS
4.1 Physical Achievements from 01.04.2006 to 30.09.2008 in AF-EC’s Project Villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for 2006-09</th>
<th>During 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2008</th>
<th>Achievements During the reporting period 01.04.2008 to 30.09.2008</th>
<th>Total 01.04.2006 to 30.09.2008</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Farmers’ trainings(*)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>Activity replaced by farmers’ campaigns from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Farmers’ campaigns</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>New activity started during 2007-08 as per the revised log frame.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Labour trainings (*)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>Activity stopped from 207-08, because the content, mainly about NREGS was covered in (a) farmers' campaigns itself since most of the labour are farmers themselves and (b) Mandal level labour campaigns on NREGS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mandal level labour campaigns on NREGS</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>New activity started from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PGN trainings (*)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Activity stopped from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: (*) mark indicates that the activity was either stopped or replaced by another activity from 2007-08.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for 2006-09</th>
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<th>During the reporting period 01.04.2008 to 30.09.2008</th>
<th>Total 01.04.2006 to 30.09.2008</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gender sensitization trainings.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>2,256</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Women’s Days</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ecology Days</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Grama Sabhas (*)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Activity replaced by farmers’ campaigns from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Farmers’ trainings on LEISA (*)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>Activity replaced by farmers field school from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Farmer Field Schools</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>19,200</td>
<td>7,460</td>
<td>4,616</td>
<td>12,076</td>
<td>New activity started during 2007-08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Soil &amp; Moisture conservation measures (Bunding)</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>5,760</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>Activity continued under NREGP from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Rain Water Harvesting Structures</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Activity continued under NREGP from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: (*) mark indicates that the activity was either stopped or replaced by another activity from 2007-08.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for 2006-09</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>During 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2008</td>
<td>During the reporting period 01.04.2008 to 30.09.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Bio-fertilizers application</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Vermi Compost units</td>
<td>No. of units</td>
<td>6,486</td>
<td>3,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Farm compost units</td>
<td>No. of units</td>
<td>20,820</td>
<td>11,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bio-pesticides application</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>19,200</td>
<td>19,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Border Crops</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>115,200</td>
<td>108,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Pest traps</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>16,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>1,458</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Plantations (Fodder, timber, bio-mass etc.)</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>22,710</td>
<td>14,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: (*) mark indicates that the activity was either stopped or replaced by another activity from 2007-08.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for 2006-09</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>During 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2008</td>
<td>During the reporting period 01.04.2008 to 30.09.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Crop diversification (Food crops)</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>7,442</td>
<td>6,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Fodder plots</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>13,134</td>
<td>13,533</td>
<td>9,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Bio-gas units</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Smokeless Chulhas(*)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Improved breed calves born</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5,070</td>
<td>3,201</td>
<td>1,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Cattle health camps(*)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Non-farm IGPs (Livelihood support)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2,750</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: (*) mark indicates that the activity was either stopped or replaced by another activity from 2007-08.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for 2006-09</th>
<th>During 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2008</th>
<th>During the reporting period 01.04.2008 to 30.09.2008</th>
<th>Total 01.04.2006 to 30.09.2008</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>516</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Employment generation under NREGs.</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td>27,027</td>
<td>48,531</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>11,536</td>
<td>20,799</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>PGN trainings on Policy Advocacy (*)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Activity stopped from 2007-08.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>District level campaigns on NREGA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: (*) mark indicates that the activity was either stopped or replaced by another activity from 2007-08.
### 4.2. Outputs realized Under APRLP, DDP & CLDP during April 2007-Sept 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Outputs realized April 07 to March 08</th>
<th>Outputs realized April 08 to September 08</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Financial (Rs.)</td>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Financial (Rs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DIVERSIFIED SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1</td>
<td>Revolving loans to farmers for productivity enhancement of groundnut and other crops.</td>
<td>No. of farmers</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>420,000</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRI-PRACTICES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1</td>
<td>Farmers field schools conducted</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>7460</td>
<td>746,000</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2</td>
<td>Exposure visits on sustainable agriculture</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>32,600</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>DRY LAND MANAGEMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Soil &amp; Moisture conservation works (Bunding + waste weirs + RFDs)</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>210,576</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2</td>
<td>Rain Water Harvesting structures (Check walls + Farm ponds + Check dams)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2,401,246</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3</td>
<td>De-silting of tanks</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1,182,542</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4</td>
<td>Un-cultivable lands developed</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>218,460</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>INCOME GENERATION PROGRAMME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.1</td>
<td>Non-farm income generation activities taken up</td>
<td>No. of IGAs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,321,424</td>
<td>6,956,733</td>
<td>12,278,157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3. Outputs realized in NABARD Watersheds during 01.04.2008 to 30.09.2008 (3 watersheds)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for 2008-09</th>
<th>Achieved during 01.04.08 – 30.09.08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Soil &amp; Moisture conservation works (Bunding)</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Gully Control Works</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Stone Plugs</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Rock fill Dams</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rain Water Harvesting structures (Farm ponds)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Plantations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Dry land Horticulture</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Agro Forestry through seed dibbling</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Sustainable Agriculture related activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) NPM activities like pheromone traps,</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>application of trichoderma viridi, neem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cake etc.,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Vermi Compost Units</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In the above 3 NABARD watershed villages which were sanctioned in 2007, 12 days of sramadan (voluntary work by villagers) was organized and one exposure visit on sustainable agricultural practices was also arranged for some of the farmers from these villages during the year 2007-08.

- For the 3 new watershed villages sanctioned in 2008, 12 days of sramadan was organized during the reporting period and an exposure visit was also arranged on sustainable agricultural practices. Detailed plans have been submitted for two villages and plans are being prepared for one village.
CASE STUDIES
“Eggs in two baskets proves wise”

- Case study of a rainfed farmer diversifying the crops.  
  (Mr. Lakshminarayana, Hanimireddipalli Village)

Mr. K. Lakshminarayana is a poor dry-land farmer from Hanimireddipalli village of Kalyanadurg mandal. His family consists of himself his wife and 3 kids, of whom 2 are attending primary school and one is still a toddler. The family has 5 acres of dry land, where he and his wife Anjinamma toil relentlessly to maintain their family. They also work as Agriculture laborers, when there is no work in their own land. They have been growing mono crop of groundnut in their 5 acres of dry land continuously for many years like other farmers in their village. They were investing a lot of money on seed and chemical fertilizers and pesticides for groundnut crop. The crop yields were good initially, but as years passed by the yields started decreasing gradually, as the land productivity started going down because of mono-cropping(?). The soil got degraded and infestation of pests and diseases increased due to continuous mono cropping of groundnut. Added frequent droughts the family income from land went down drastically. The family was forced to borrow loans for crop investments, got entrapped in the vicious circle of indebtedness and suffered a lot for many years.

During 2007-08, AF started its sustainable agriculture program in Hanimireddipalli village and conducted a series of awareness campaigns and meetings to motivate the farmers to adopt sustainable agriculture practices. They emphasized on the need for crop diversification in order to spread the risk of crop-failure and enhance the soil productivity. At this juncture Mr. Lakshminarayana and his family met AF-EC staff and discussed about their problems of low yields. When the situation was analyzed it was found that depending on mono cropping was the main reason for their distress. So they decided to change the cropping pattern and follow crop rotation in half of their land. Accordingly during the present kharif season (July 2008) they sowed Red gram (pigeon pea) in 2.50 acres and groundnut in the remaining 2.50 acres of land.

They followed the other sustainable agriculture practices like summer ploughing, installation of pheromone traps and yellow boards, application of bio-fertilizers,
spraying of bio-pesticides etc. for both the crops. The results are shown in the form of statistics as under:

A – The investment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Red gram (2.5 acres)</th>
<th>Groundnut (2.5 acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Seed cost</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>2100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Preparatory cultivation</td>
<td>750.00</td>
<td>750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fertilizers and Pesticides</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td>1750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Weeding + Inter-cultivation</td>
<td>1250.00</td>
<td>2500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Harvesting (expected expenditure)</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,000.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,600.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B – The yields and gross incomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Gram Yield</th>
<th>Groundnut Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Particulars</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amount</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Kgs of Red gram @ Rs. 22/- Kg</td>
<td>11000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder</td>
<td>700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,700.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net returns in Groundnut**                  **Net returns in Redgram**
Income - Rs.9000                               Income - Rs.11700
Expenditure - Rs.8600                           Expenditure - Rs. 4000
Net returns - Rs. 400                           Net returns - Rs. 7700

This year the groundnut crop failed and yields were very low.

As seen from the above, the net return on investment from groundnut crop this year is a meager Rs. 400/- (Rs.160 per acre), whereas for Red gram crop it is Rs. 7700/- (Rs.3080 per acre). The poor farmer family is very happy because in spite of the groundnut crop failing, (when most of their fellow farmer families have incurred losses) Mr.Lakshminarayana’s family is able to earn Rs.8100 from their land, which can be very useful in these hard times.

If they had to go in for groundnut mono crop, they would have had a net return of Rs.800/- only.

Mr. Lakshminarayana and his family expressed their opinion that it is wiser to spread the risk between two crops rather than resorting to gambling with one crop. They have decided to raise at least one more crop, other than groundnut every year, so that (a) they can have some assured income from the land even during the droughts,(b)their land fertility will increase because of crop rotation and (c) the pest and disease attack will decrease.
“DETERMINATION + OPPORTUNITY = SUCCESS”

A case study of “Gowri” of Jellipalli village.

Ms. Gowri is a young girl from Jellipalli village of Kuderu mandal. Her father, Mr. Arodhi is a poor farmer, with 5 acres of dry land, which was the only source of income for the family. Because of recurring droughts the family was unable to get sufficient income from the land and hence started running a small petty shop to maintain the family. Even then the faced a lot of hardships to maintain the family.

Gowri passed her 10th class examinations, from a high school in the village with flying colors, as she was a bright student academically. But the real problem started at this stage as she had to go to Anantapur for studying Intermediate course. Her parents were not in a position to bear the college fees, cost of books and hostel expenditure and so they expressed their inability to send her for higher studies. Her mother discouraged her by reminding their customs according to which, getting married and settling down is more important. She became helpless and stayed back at home for 2 years, but her thoughts for continuing education and being supportive to the family grew stronger. She learnt tailoring, but that did not give her satisfaction and she developed a burning desire to become self reliant economically.

Then she convinced her parents, that she would pursue her career and joined in a computer course at her Aunt’s native town. But the training was not up to the mark, for want of well qualified faculty. She was rarely getting the opportunity of operating computer. She realized that the course was not at all useful and nothing but a burden to her parents economically and returned back to her village, without completing the course.

At this juncture AF-EC started job oriented skills training centres, which provided her the much needed opportunity to pursue her computer training. Gowri and her parents attended the awareness campaigns and meetings conducted by AF-EC on job oriented trainings and got motivated. She opted and got selected for the trade “Information Technology enabled Service” (ITES) at AF’s skills training centre, Anantapur. Soon she realized the difference between her earlier training and training at AF-EC, where in each candidate was given a separate computer and tutored by qualified and committed faculty. She learnt spoken english as well as some sessions on personality development along with the computer course and gained lot of self confidence. Apart from training, AF-EC, also took the responsibility of placement.

Gowri was called for an interview and got selected for the job of a receptionist in “Asha Hospitals” at Anantapur. She felt very happy and joined new job. AF-EC also supported her financially to meet the first month’s expenditure until she gets her first salary.

Today Gowri earns some salary on her own. It is a step towards her self-reliant and self-made, she is bold enough to face the world with confidence. She expressed her gratitude to AF-EC for helping her with the training in ITES.
“A frustrated teenager became an asset to the family through skills training”

A case study of Chakali Suresh from Hulikal Village.

Chakali Suresh is a native of Hulikal village of Kalyandurg Mandal. He has studied up to Intermediate and discontinued his studies. His family has only 5 acres of dry land which is the main source of livelihood for the family. Being educated up to intermediate course, he was neither interested to work in their farm land nor to work as a wage laborer. He tried his best to get a job in government and other private sectors but could not get any job. His parents could not support him in starting his own business due to poverty and distress. Thus he was very frustrated and became a liability to the family.

At this juncture AF-EC started 2 skills training centers in its project area – one at Kalyandurg and another at Anantapur to equip the rural youth with job oriented skills in various trades like, Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), Hospitality Services, Customer Relation and sales, House Wiring cum Motor Re-winding and Automobile Mechanism (Two-wheeler). The skills trainings are organized in collaboration with skill pro foundation. Mandal Level mobilization camps were arranged to select rural youth for skills trainings.

Mr. Suresh attended the mobilization camp and got selected for the trade “Information Technology Enabled Services”. He traveled daily from Kalyandurg to his native village and had to bear his food and other expenses on his own. He was very regular to the classes during the 3 months training period and acquired good skills in computers.

AF-EC got him placed as a computer operator in “Mega Mars Cloth Stores” at Bangalore city. He is now getting a salary of Rs. 5500/- per month since 2 months and has managed to get a good name with his employer, because of his hard work.

Mr. Suresh and his family are very happy as they are getting substantial monthly income for the family maintenance. He has taken the responsibility of maintaining the family and thus a frustrated, futile teenager became an asset to the family. His family members expressed their gratitude to AF-EC for assisting him in settling down in life. Now the family is proud of him because of whom, it got some recognition and value in the village.
Our Present Programme Activities

1. Accessing Basic Services:
   - Campaigning and organizing the labour on their rights under NREGP and other Basic Services
   - Facilitating in planning and implementation of NREGP at village level for the benefit of labour
   - Policy Advocacy for pro-poor policy conditions and for removal of bottlenecks in the implementation of NREGP

2. Sustainable Agriculture & Value Addition
   - Organising farmers into Sasya Mitra Groups (SMGs) and Sasya Mitra Samakhyas (SMS) and Small Farmers Cooperatives.
   - Promoting diversified land use with a mix of perennial tree crops (Horticulture) and annual crops.
   - Promoting diversified cropping pattern with a mix of food, fodder and commercial crops.
   - Organising Farmers Field Schools (FFS)
   - Campaigning and promoting Non-Pesticidal Management (NPM) through Pheromone traps, White & Yellow boards, border crops, inter crops, trap crops and bio pest management by decoctions, neem extracts, trichoderma cards and NPV solutions etc.
   - Campaigning and promoting Bio-fertilisers like farm composting, Vermi-Composting, liquid fertilisers like Jeevamrutham, Beejamrutham, Vegetation development.
   - Campaigning and promoting food and nutritional security and soil health through crop diversity, crop rotation and intercropping.
   - Local processing and value addition of agri-produce like groundnut, redgram and local marketing development.
   - Promoting diversified income opportunities through dairy and livestock and better marketing facilities by mobilizing bank credit and government resources.

3. Alternate Livelihoods for Rural Youth and Women
   - AF runs two Driving Schools with a capacity to train about 250 rural youth/year
   - And two other Skills Training Centres are run with the capacity to train about 1000 rural youths/year (SkillPro Foundation). They are training in job oriented skills training for dropped out girls and boys in Driving, ITES, Hospitality, Customer Care, Automobiles, Electrical Wiring, etc.
   - Enabling access to rural youth for various vocational training by Government Agencies.
   - Training and assisting rural youth and women financially for starting new non-farm group enterprises or improving the existing non-farm livelihoods.
   - Enabling credit and marketing linkages for various non-farm products produced by the rural youth and women.

4. Alliance Building and Policy Advocacy
   - Campaigning and building Public Opinion on policy issues of Gender, Poverty, Environment, Agriculture.
   - Alliance Building & informal networking with NGOs, CSOs and CBOs on issues of Gender, Poverty, Environment and Agriculture
   - Lobbying with Government for pro-poor policies and removal of various bottlenecks in implementation of various anti poverty programme.

Our Project Area and Target Groups

- The project area comprises of 235 habitations in 8 mandals (out of 63) in Anantapur district, which consists of Rapthadu, Dhamavaram, Atmakur, Kuderu, Kalyandurg, Beluguppa, Settur and Kundurpi. Totally there are about 70,000 families or a population of 3.5 lakhs in the above 235 habitations.
- We primarily work with about 60,000 small farmers and landless labourers, whose livelihoods are inadequate and threatened by frequent droughts and poverty. We are particularly focusing on working with women and youth within the primary target groups. However, we also work with medium and big farmers particularly in promoting bio-pest management and bio-fertilizers.
Our Human Resources

AF has acquired two most valuable assets through its work and history of about 40 years. They are a) its personnel who are committed and competent and b) its credibility with people.

AF – Ecology Centre has about 100 committed, trained and experienced personnel. The average working experience of personnel in AF is about 18 years!

Our Core Team

It has a Core Team of about 20 committed and competent persons. They are senior professionals, well trained and richly experienced. Their rich expertise includes Participatory Watershed Development, Sustainable Agriculture, Alternate Livelihoods, Gender, PME, Organisation Development, Personnel Management, Participatory Approaches, Leadership Development, CBO formation, Capacity Building. The Core Team also has rich experience in Policy Advocacy and networking with NGOs and CSOs.

Our Grassroot Organisers

It has about 65 Committed Socio Technical Organisers at grassroot level. They were originally rural educated youth, recruited, well trained with a long field experience by now. Their training and experience include CBO formation and capacity building, participatory planning and implementation, community organisation and consensus decision-making, conflict resolution in communities, promoting community leadership etc.

Their technical training and experience include a variety of watershed development skills like Soil and Moisture Conservation, Rain Water Harvesting, Horticulture, Rainfed Agronomical Practices, Bio-diversity, Crop-diversity, Bio-Pest Management (NPM) Bio-fertilizers like composting, liquid fertilizers, Alternate Livelihoods for Women and Youth etc.

Our Core Competencies, Organisational culture and Credibility

Core competencies:

At present our core competence lies in a) Watershed development & Sustainable Agriculture b) Alternate Livelihoods for rural youth & women c) Participatory Planning Monitoring & Evaluation d) Strong work culture in working with people e) Pursuit of excellence in quality of work f) Rooted firmly with people in villages.
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