Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihood Program
Project Report
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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Expansion</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>APRLP</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood Programme</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>CEC</td>
<td>Centre for Environment Concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CLDP</td>
<td>Comprehensive Land Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisations</td>
</tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>DDP</td>
<td>Desert Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Employment Potential Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FFS</td>
<td>Farmer Field School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ICRISAT</td>
<td>International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>INDIRAMMA</td>
<td>Integrated Novel Development in Rural &amp; Model Municipal Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>ITES</td>
<td>Information Technology Enabled Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>LEISA</td>
<td>Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>LMD</td>
<td>Local Market Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>NABARD</td>
<td>National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>NPM</td>
<td>Non-pesticidal Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>NREGP/S</td>
<td>National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme/Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>PDS</td>
<td>Public Distribution System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>PPME</td>
<td>Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>REDS</td>
<td>Rural Education Development Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>RTI</td>
<td>Right to Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>SERP</td>
<td>Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty</td>
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SUMMARY OF PROJECT AIMS

OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To enhance the quality of life of 60,000 resource poor farmer and farm labor families by promoting:

a) Sustainable Agriculture,
b) Additional off-farm and non-farm livelihoods,
c) Youth rehabilitation in non-farm sector,
d) Access to basic services and
e) Pro-poor policies,

through Community Based Organizations, in a participatory approach encompassing gender and equity.

SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVES

➢ Organize 46,000 small & marginal farmers to take up Sustainable Agriculture including Dairying and livestock.
➢ Facilitate 3,600 youth and women to take-up Off-farm and non-farm livelihoods.
➢ Organize and facilitate 36,000 landless, small and marginal farmers to access NREGP so that,
   (a) There is no distress migration
   (b) They earn a decent wage
   (c) They access basic services available.
➢ Build appropriate alliances with NGOs, CSOs and CBOs in order to mobilize public opinion and enable policy advocacy on issues related to gender, sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods and basic services.
➢ Enhance Organizational efficiency and effectiveness in:
   a) Gender
   b) Sustainable Agriculture.
   c) Off-farm and non-farm livelihoods.
   d) Job oriented skills for youth.
   e) Fund raising from NGO donors.
   f) Accounts and financial management.
1. OVERVIEW BY THE DIRECTOR

1.1 General Situation of Anantapur and AFs response

1.1.1 Implementation of NREGP improves further

The year 2009-10 started of on a positive note for the farm laborers. They generally had adequate employment opportunity during April-July, in their own villages under NREGP. Besides small & marginal farmers, even the medium and big rainfed farmers were forced to seek employment under NREGP, given the distress of farmers. In AF’s 230 program villages about 42,000 families availed about 1,240,000 person days of employment during the reporting period. Some families worked for 2 shifts a day to avoid mid day hot in the summer and to make optimum use of the employment opportunity. On an average each family could avail about 30 days of employment at an average wage rate of Rs.96 per day and earned about Rs.2,880 during the reporting period.

AF organized awareness campaigns for all labor particularly literate young labor were trained on their rights under NREGP and how to access those rights. The literate young laborers were also trained on how they can control corruption in the program. They were trained to verify the muster rolls, daily attendance of labor to measure the volume of work done, the unit rates for various works etc. Now they are becoming a critical mass in each village and are able to confront the local functionaries on any unjust practice. More and more transparency is created in the work done, attendance, payments etc. Further AF and Govt. of AP have a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation under the program. As per the MoU, AF is invited for all mandal level review meetings of NREGP and Govt. provided to AF all details of works done, labor worked and payments made for wider dissemination. It has created more transparency and accountability among the Govt. field functionaries.

It did not mean that there were no problems or issues in implementation of NREGP. It means that things are gradually improving for labor and still has a long way to go in order to achieve the prime objectives of NREGP – employment on demand with all facilities for all labour and create productive assets for the poor.

1.1.2 Worst drought in the past 50 years or more!

This year the Kharif season began disastrously for the farmers of Anantapur. The rains played havoc by not appearing during the groundnut sowing month of July. Consequently the sowings could not be done except in about 10% of the area. People and cattle suffered alike due to scarcity of fodder and drinking water. The groundnut crop, partially sown in the month of June and July in Dharmavaram and Raphadu mandals was badly affected due to the prolonged dry spell of about 45 days. Some farmers sold away their cattle in distress because of fodder scarcity.
Following are the particulars of rainfall distribution in Anantapur area during the present season:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall Particulars</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal average in mm</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>338.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual received in mm</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>191.1</td>
<td>287.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above data it can be seen that, the lowest rain fall is received in July the crucial month for sowing kharif, which affected the crop sowings badly. Even the little hope of late sowings was also put-off, as the rains did not appear until late August.

1.1.3 Contingency Crop Plans by Seed Banks:

By about end of July, the farmers in the district were gripped by panic of severe drought, as their hopes of groundnut crop prospects withered. AF began to alert the Village Seed Banks to get ready with a contingency crop plan with millets and pulses. The crisis caused by the failure of groundnut crop was used by AF to campaign for diversified cropping of short duration food crops with millets, pulses and vegetables. The Seed Banks in the villages together with SMGs and GSS were activated to prepare a contingency crop plan for farmers in each village and procure quality seed accordingly and supply to the farmers. The Seed Banks have done an excellent job by organizing farmers meetings, identifying the farmers preferences for contingency crops, procuring the seed from various far away places and supplying quality seed to the farmers. Thus the crisis gave an opportunity to the Seed Banks to provide a useful service to the farmers. Further the Seed Banks also have played a crucial role in mobilizing the seed from Govt. as the Govt. also came up with contingency plan and was supplying jowar and redgram varieties of seed to the farmers.

During the second fortnight of August (on 22.9.09), there was a rainfall of about 30 mm across the District, which was just adequate for sowing. In spite of the undue delay, some farmers started sowings, in the hope of getting at least 40 - 50% crop yields and also fodder. The other farmers went in to sow contingency crops like Jowar, Bajra, Foxtail millet, Redgram following the contingency crop plans.

Finally the sowings were done from the last week of August, up to mid September as it started raining only from 22nd August. By then the sowing were late by at least one month to two months.

1.1.4 The Status of Crop Sowings

The final status of Crop Sowings as on mid September is as under:
• The total rainfed cultivable area, belonging to 46,128 farmers, in AF’s 230 Program villages is 356,440 Acs.

• Of the 46,128 farmers in AF’s program area, 10,040 farmers (About 22%), sold away (in August and September), 14,445 quintals of Groundnut seed, as the groundnut sowing season was over.

• Total extent of Crop Sowings done in AF’s program area is 285,268 Acs (80 % of the total Rain fed cultivable area) belonging to 37,477 farmers.

• Groundnut was sown in 193,220 Acs (About 54% of the total rainfed cultivable area), belonging to 22,982 farmers. Some farmers still preferred to sow groundnut, though the season was over, because of crop insurance facility available for groundnut.

• Other crops like Jowar, Bajra, Red gram, Horse gram, Sun flower, Castor, Korra were sown in 92,048 Acs (About 26% of the total rainfed cultivable area), belonging to 14,495 farmers. Such kind of crop diversity is highly exceptional and marks a new cropping pattern, which in healthy.

• 42,416 Acs, (12% of the total rainfed cultivable area), belonging to 5,524 farmers was left unsown because of those farmers’ apprehensions of not getting even the minimum yields, non-availability of seed etc.

• 28,756 Acs of Black soil area (8% of the total rainfed cultivable area), belonging to 3,127 farmers, will be sown with Bengal gram during late October as rabi crop.

1.1.5 Delayed monsoons provide an opportunity to spread AF’s key concepts

The delayed monsoons created a good opportunity to propagate the following key concepts of AF among the farming community:

• Shift from cost-intensive chemical farming to cost-effective LEISA farming.(Even the farmers practicing chemical farming reduced the usage of chemicals, as they considered it a wastage of money, when there were no timely rains)

• Shift from mono cropping of groundnut to multiple cropping with fruit crops, food grains, oil seeds, vegetables etc. (As the monsoons were delayed beyond the sowing time of groundnut, many farmers had to go for other crops)

• Strengthening the GSS and the Seed Banks. The delayed monsoons provided a good opportunity for the GSSs and the Seed Banks to work together for the procurement and distribution of different varieties of seed, strengthening them in the process)
The above average rains during September helped in increase of surface and ground water, good growth of green fodder and bio-mass. Most of the water bodies like check dams, tanks & farm ponds have received some water.

1.1.6 The expected yields

The yields from the above crops as per farmers’ guesstimates are as under, provided there are timely rains in October and November.

- About 30 – 40% of groundnut yields are expected in 19% of the cropping area sown during the months of June & July.
- About 20 – 30% yields are expected in the 35% area sown during August.
- About 20 – 30% yields are expected in millets like Jowar, Bajra and Korra
- About 20 – 30% yields are expected in sunflower, redgram and castor.

1.1.7 Rainfed farmers would have no income for 36 months!

Thus the 2009 crop season is heading towards a disastrous drought for sure. The next crop would be sown only in next July 2010 and if all goes well, the next harvest would be by December 2010. That is after 15 months from now. The last harvest they had was in December 2007, as the 2008 was also a drought year. That means they get one crop and one income in 3 years! One can imagine the misery caused by the drought.

1.1.8 Demonstration plots

Rainfed farming in Anantapur District has become a very risky and a threatened livelihood, especially for the small and marginal farmers. Due to scanty, erratic and unpredictable rainfall, the groundnut crop failure is occurring in 7 years out of 10 years. AF has been trying to create tree based alternate sustainable agriculture models, that are both eco-friendly and remunerative in collaboration with Research organizations. So, AF visited ICRISAT, Hyderabad and studied some models on Sustainable Agriculture, under rain fed conditions, developed by Dr. Om.P.Rupella, a renowned scientist, who was working with ICRISAT for many years. Presently, he is a consultant for FAO (food and agriculture organization). AF has utilized his services, as a consultant, to design a model called BIFSRA (Bio-Intensive Farming System in Rain fed Agriculture). Dr. Rupella is also providing hand holding to AF in the grounding and monitoring of these models. Moreover, the Director of AF has also developed 3 more models, along with AF’s Agriculture staff. They are: (1) IFS
(Integrated Farming System), (2) IBM (Intensive Bio-mass development) and (3) MCS (Multiple Cropping System). All these models are tree based. The simple reason is that trees like mango, tamarind, custard apple are rainfed and can withstand variations in rainfall and yield seasonally.

Naturally the tree based experimental cum demonstrations take long time, about 5 years to see their results. AF firmly believes that tree crops offer a better option for combating droughts and a better livelihood security to rainfed farmers in Anantapur District.

During the reporting period, all these 4 models have been grounded in project villages on an long term experimental basis (5 years) with the participation of selected farmers. Totally 8 BIFSRA plots, 43 IFS plots, 43 IBM plots and 86 MCS plots have been grounded in 180 villages with 280 rainfed farmers. However the delayed and erratic rainfall caused delayed grounding. We have to wait and see how the rains behave in October and November and the survival of the trees is very much depended on the late rains in October & November. (please refer to Annexure-3, for more details on the Demo plots).

1.2 Job oriented skills trainings for rural educated youth:

The recession has hit the employment market, particularly the lower end jobs in computers, hospitality, retail sales, electricians etc. So, AF did not begin new batches for these trainings in the first 6 months of the year. AF has been reviewing its strategy for the job-oriented skills trainings. According to new strategy, it is negotiating with placement agencies to already procure placement offers and train the youth in those trades for which the placement offers are on hand. Earlier AF used to train the youth and look for their placement. This has become risky now in view of the recession. AF expects to start a couple of trainings in the coming half year.

The Driving School began to train once the results have been announced for X class and admissions were over for +2. The Tailoring Centres continued to train girls uninterrupted and trained 525 girls during April – September, 2009.

1.3 Construction of Youth Centre:

The construction of Youth Centre is in progress. The infrastructure under construction offers space for a) driving school  b) 4 class rooms for other trades c) 2 dormitories to accommodate about 50 girls and boys. The construction work will be completed by about January 2010.

1.4 Staff Performance Assessment (April 2008 - March 2009):

The performance of AF staff was assessed for the period April 2008-March 2009 in May 2009. “The main objective of this assessment was to enhance the staff
performance and motivation levels”. Each staff member was assessed by, (a) self, (b) his immediate superior/sub-ordinate and (c) the area team, and the average of (b) & (c) was considered for assessment. 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%).

In addition to the above categories, a special category called EXCELLENT was introduced this time. All-rounders from each area, with top performance in the 15 selected activities, would be graded as excellent. They will receive a certificate of appreciation, a memento and a cash incentive of Rs.1,000.

Of the 69 staff members assessed, 20 were in the excellent category, 47 in the Above Average category and only 2 members in the Average category. There were none in the Below Average, Poor and Very Poor categories.

All the Above Average performers were appreciated for their high performance. They were motivated to sustain their performance levels and graduate to excellent category. The Average performers were counseled to understand the causes for low performance. They were motivated and encouraged to indulge in a healthy competition with others, to improve their performance levels.

1.5 Gender policy & H.R policy for AF

AF had decided to explicitly articulate its gender policy, which was more informal. So, it had requested the services of Ms. Swathi Patel, from Sevamandir (Udaipur) for the purpose. She spent about 2 weeks in AF consulting and discussing with AF Core Team, field staff, women staff and with the women and men in CBOs. Finally Ms. Patel has submitted a draft policy by September, 2009. This draft policy would be further discussed with the staff at different levels and finalized.

Further AF proposes to have an explicit HR policy. AF plans to work on the HR policy during the next half year. The gender policy and HR policy are closely related and so AF feels it is important to have both in harmony with each other.

1.6 Food & Water Security Coalition

Southern Region Workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture - Sept. 25-26, 2009

As per the decision of the Food & Water Security Coalition, AF was responsible to organize Southern Region Workshop on the theme of “Climate Change & Sustainable Agriculture (CCSA). The Southern Region included Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala. Accordingly the workshop was organized on 25 – 26 September, 2009 at AF Ecology Centre. The workshop was well attended with about 60 participants from AP, Karnataka and Tamilnadu. The key leaders and campaigners of Sustainable Agriculture like Dr. Nammalwar (Tamilnadu) Dr. Narayana Reddy (Organic Farmer from Karnataka) Mr. V.Sobhandreeswara Rao
(Former Minister of Agriculture, Govt., of A.P.) have participated for both the days. The participants included NGO activists, Research and Academic Institutions like CRIDA, ANGRAU, NDRI, and Prominent NGOs like CSA have participated. The focus of the workshop was on a) Revival of rainfed farming in drought-prone areas b) Securing future for small and marginal farmers c) Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change. Food and Nutritional Security at different levels from household to national level was the cross-cutting theme.

Dr. Gopal, Convener, Food & Water Security Coalition and Dr. Malla Reddy facilitated the workshop. Mr. Pradeep Esteves and Ms. Sathyasree have also participated in the workshop. A report on the proceedings and recommendations is being prepared by and will be shared with the participants once it is ready.

1.7 Empowerment & Entitlement Coalition:

A 3 day workshop of the E & E Coalition was held at REDS, Tumkur, during 26–28 June 2009. 17 members from 9 NGOs including Ms. Clarieke from DNN, Netherlands participated in the workshop. Ms. Frederika, Ms. Kalamani from ICCO’s Regional Working Office, Delhi and Ms. Elske from ICCO also participated. Ms. Satya Sree and Mr. Pradeep were the facilitators.

“The objectives of the workshop were; (a) to fine tune and finalize the E&E coalition program and (b) to plan the mobilization of funds for the program”.

The Coalition program was planned during July 2009- Dec’2010. The tentative budget was worked out at Rs. 4,328,000 (€ 65000 Approx). ICCO will contribute about € 31,000 and to raise the remaining € 34,000, the Coalition partners will implement some program activities from their current project funds. ICCO will give a formal consent to such expenditure.

The members felt that, by being in the coalition, they get an opportunity to challenge their own assumptions on Core Values of Dignity, Equality and Peace, from time to time. They expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the workshop.

1.8 Staff training on Documentation

Documentation has been an important area of concern for AF staff for many years. Many AF’s achievements in villages went un-reported for want of documentation and reporting skills of village level staff. So, AF planned a 6-day training program with Mr. Suresh, consultant from Hyderabad, to be conducted in 3 phases of 2 days
each, for 38 senior AF staff. The first phase was organized during 25-26 September 2009. Totally, 38 staff members from all cadres participated in the training.

“The main purpose of this training phase is to; (a) inculcate the habit of documenting any important events/achievements/impacts in village level staff and (b) sharpen the writing skills of all the staff”.

The training dealt with; (a) types of documentation, (b) tips on effective writing, (c) proper usage of language, (d) structuring a report, (e) organized presentation of data and (f) learning through analysis of data.

The second module is scheduled to be conducted during 20-21 October 2009.

1.9 FMSF Workshop on Budgeting, Budget Monitoring & Reporting

A 2-day workshop on **Budgeting, Budget monitoring & Reporting** was organized by FMSF, Delhi for ‘EED partners in southern region’ at AF Ecology Centre, Anantapur during 17 - 18 Sept’ 2009. Totally, 27 members from 7 EED partner organizations participated. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Sanjay Patra, Ms. Selvi, Ms. Aarti Sharma and Mr. Hari Krishna from FMSF.

“The purpose of the workshop was to provide inputs on ; (a) planning & preparation of budget (b) monitoring & budgetary control of the projects and (c) financial reporting, to the EED partner NGOs in southern region.”

The workshop was very useful for AF’s accounts department and the PME cell, to refresh and upgrade their knowledge and skills in budgeting, monitoring the program finances and financial reporting. They also clarified some doubts the participants had during the workshop. They expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the workshop.

1.10 Conclusion

Overall, the 6 months have been very challenging due to disastrous failure of rains. Some of our usual plans have gone disarray due to drought situation. The NREGP saved people from distress migration. AF increasingly realizes that tree crops integrated with dairy and livestock offer a solution to drought and to create a minimum of livelihood security. The CBOs have just began to function and still a long way to go to be able to function effectively. Gender and social equity need more focused attention and monitoring.
2. NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

2.1 Interventions in NREGP

The implementation of NREGS was reasonably successful during the reporting period. To a considerable extent, it achieved its main objectives of (a) Providing employment to farm laborers during the critical summer period, and (b) Improving the carrying capacity of farmers’ degraded lands. The farm labor, particularly the women were very happy as they were earning more than double the wages in NREGS compared to what they normally used to earn as agri-laborers. Even the demand for them as agricultural laborers has gone up in the villages and they were able to bargain for decent wage rates with the farmers. It has certainly enabled them comparatively a better living. They have used the earnings mostly for consumption and some have used for other purpose like, (a) Crop investments, (b) Purchase of Dairy animals, Sheep, Goats etc (d) Purchase of Agricultural tools (e) Education & Health needs of their families and (g) Purchase of some ornaments etc.

2.1.1 Strategies followed and role played by AF for empowering the labor and enabling effective access of NREGP:

AF has been playing a pro-active role in creating wide spread awareness on the rights of labor and the provisions of NREGA. The labor groups, particularly the educated youth in AF’s program area were oriented about their rights, entitlements, roles and responsibilities. AF has encouraged the labor to participate actively Social Audit and use of Right to Information (RTI), to bring transparency and improvement in the implementation of NREGP. AF is an active member of AP Upadhi Hakku Haami Amalu Committee (APHHC), a state level network of NGOs concerned with lobbying for effective implementation of NREGP. The network at Hyderabad is coordinated by CEC (Center for Environmental Concerns), an NGO, actively engaged in improving the implementation of NREGP. AF is working in close collaboration with APHHC and CEC. Following are some of the important strategies followed and roles played by AF in the implementation of NREGS:

1. Creating Awareness to; (a) laborers on their rights and entitlements under NREGA, (b) to farmers on accessing NRM works under NREGA.

2. Identifying educated labor youth and building a critical mass who can understand their rights and confront the authorities when necessary.

3. Training the rural youth on the procedures and critical aspects like (a) applying for work and obtaining a receipt (b) timely provision of work (c) verification of the muster rolls and making them tamper proof (d) precautions
to be taken by labor during measurements (f) timely payments to the labor and (g) transparency in all transactions.

4. Assisting the NREGS personnel in supervising the quality of works, recording measurements, verification of muster rolls etc.

5. Organizing campaigns both for labor and farmers on NREGP and Sustainable Agriculture. Awareness on both NREGP and Sustainable Agriculture is provided simultaneously because it is difficult to separate farmers and laborers. About 90% of the farmers are also working as laborers in NREGP. So, the Village level awareness campaigns are organized jointly for labor and farmers.

6. Organizing Mandal level Campaigns for the labor, targeting particularly the educated labor youth in all the mandal head quarters of AF’s program area. The purpose of organizing these Campaigns is to; (a) create awareness on the Laborers’ rights and provisions under the act, (b) bring out and voice the problems and issues faced by the labor and the bottlenecks in the implementation of the scheme.

7. Organizing Face to Face meetings of the laborers with District level Govt. functionaries in all the mandal head quarters of AF’s program area. The purpose of organizing these Meetings is to; (a) Redress the grievances of the laborers and (b) Provide information to the laborers about any new programs/schemes planned at mandal level by the Govt. (c) Clear any misunderstandings between the laborers and the local Govt. functionaries.

8. Organizing weekly grievance redressal at Mandal Office for the laborers: This is arranged on every Friday, wherein the concerned Govt. officers from various line departments attend. The purpose is to; (a) Redress the grievances of the labor in time, (b) Address the issues related to the implementation of NREGS.

9. Collaborating with State, National level NGOs working on Lobby & Advocacy of NREGA for favorable pro-labor and pro-small farmer policies by the Govt.

2.1.2 Achievements of AF in NREGS:

2.1.2.1 Outputs of AF’s role in its program villages under NREGS:

- There are 59,183 families in AF’s 230 villages. These families have 66,344 job cards under NREGS. Totally, 51,348 persons from 42,167 families have worked in NREGS during the reporting period. A total of 1,239,977 person days were generated by which the families could earn wages of Rs. 120,984,142. Each family worked for about 30 days on an average during this season and earned on an average about Rs. 96/- per day. Women got equal wages, on par with men. On an average each labor family could earn Rs.2,880 through NREGS works during the reporting period.

- Under NREGS; (a) 1668 rain fed farmers improved the carrying capacity of their 3624 ha. of degraded farm lands through Soil bunding and (b) 92 rain
fed farmers improved the surface storage in their farm lands through the
collection of Farm Ponds, during the reporting period.

2.1.2.2 Some of the Effects of AF’s role in NREGS, observed in its program
villages:

1. Increase in average No. of days of employment per family from 22 during the
same time last year to 30 during the reporting period.
2. Improvement in quality of works.
3. Improvement in timely payments.
4. Improvement in work site facilities.
5. Increase in Horticulture Plantation and Bio-mass plantation.
6. Dual benefit of employment for short-term relief and land productivity
development in the long term for the farmer-cum-laborers.
7. Increase in confidence of women, due to equal wages and more earnings.
8. Increase in skills and knowledge of labor families in technical aspects like
verification of muster rolls, marking, recording measurements etc.

2.1.2.3 Some of the Impacts of AF’s role in NREGS, observed in its program
villages:

1. Improved self confidence and capacity to assert their rights and entitlements.
2. Distress migration totally stopped in AF’s program villages.
3. Improved bargaining capacity of labor families.
4. Considerable increase in income levels of labor families.
5. Increase in small assets of labor families through savings from their earnings
in NREGP.
6. Improved Economic freedom of Women.
7. Reduced dependence on money lenders.
8. Increased ability to cope with droughts.

2.2 Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

The aims of AF in promoting Sustainable Agriculture include a) to drought-proof the
rain fed agriculture and stabilize farmers income b) to promote eco-friendly, low cost
and low external input agriculture, to reduce the cost of cultivation c) to make the
agriculture sustainable environmentally and free it from chemicals.

2.2.1 Strategies followed by AF

1. Forming primary farmers groups called Sasyamitra Groups (SMGs) and their
federations at village, Mandal and District levels, to promote Sustainable
Agriculture practices across its program area of 230 villages.
2. Creating awareness and motivating farmers to adopt Sustainable Agriculture practices in their farm lands through Campaigns and Rallies.
3. Increasing the in-situ production of bio-fertilizers, through bio-mass development in farm lands.
4. Reducing the risk of crop failure and ensuring food security, through multiple cropping with 2-3 food crops, fruit plants etc.
5. Designing and planting of various tree based cropping systems for experimentation and demonstration of sustainable agriculture relevant to Anantapur agro-climate conditions.
6. Building Capacities of farmers in Sustainable Agriculture, through Farmer Field Schools, Trainings, individual and group interactions.
7. Facilitating cross learning through farmer to farmer interaction and exposure and organizing farmers’ days.
8. Planning and implementation of contingency cropping in view of failure of rains during sowing season.
9. Organizing Seed Banks for procurement and supply of suitable seeds for various food crops.
10. Increasing land carrying capacity, through eco-friendly and cost-effective bio-fertilizers, instead of using costly and hazardous chemical fertilizers.
11. Controlling pests and diseases on crops through NPM Practices (mechanical & biological control instead of using harmful chemical Pesticides)

2.2.2 Sasyamitra groups and their federations at different levels:

AF has been implementing Sustainable Agriculture Program from 2007-08, in its Program Area of 230 villages. In the process AF began to build an effective CBO (Community Based Organizations) system to work at different levels.

A four level CBO system with equal representation for women and men:

AF has designed a CBO system with 4 levels from primary group upto the District level. Further a unique CBO system is designed which provides equal representation and opportunity for women and men at all levels. However, AF is fully aware women need appropriate nurturing and capacity building to be able to bring out their leadership and equally important to work with attitudes of men on gender to accept and appreciate the women’s leadership. The four level CBO system with equal representation for women and men is as follows:

1. The SMGs (Sasya mitra Groups) are the primary farmers groups formed of 25-30 small and marginal farmer families. Each family is represented by two members, one man and one women in the group. These SMG members select a Convener and a Co-Convener. Of them invariably, at least one must be Woman, preferably the Convener. The purpose of SMGs is to mutually cooperate, enable and facilitate member families to practice Sustainable Agriculture, in order to achieve Food Security to their families and a decent life with human dignity.
2. The GSSs (Grama Sasya mitra Samakhyas) are the Village level federations of the SMGs. They are formed with the conveners and co-conveners of all the SMGs in the village as a General Body of GSS and have equal membership of men & women. The General Body selects a Convener and a Co-Convener, invariably one must be a Woman, preferably as a Convener. The main purpose of these village level network groups is to coordinate and strengthen the SMGs to achieve their objectives, by providing them the necessary support and guidance.

3. The MSSs (Mandal Sasya mitra Samakhyas) are the federations, formed with the Conveners and Co-conveners of all the GSSs as a General Body at Mandal level. The General Body selects one man and one women as Convener and Co-convener for MSS. The main purpose of these federations is to coordinate and support GSS in order to spread Sustainable Agriculture in all the villages of the mandal and to act as farmers forum for voicing the policy issues related to Sustainable Agriculture with the Govt at various levels.

Up to Mandal level CBOs have been constituted. At the District level it is contemplated but yet to be formally launched. The proposed DSS is as follows:

4. The DSS (District Sasya mitra Samakhya) will be a district level federation of the MSSs in all the 8 mandals in AF’s program area. It will be formed with the Conveners and Co-conveners of the MSSs as its General Body. The General Body selects one woman and one man as Convener and Co-conveners of the DSS. The main purpose of the DSS will be to bring out the policy issues in practicing Sustainable Agriculture and to Lobby with Govt. for favorable policies.

2.2.3 Awareness building through village level farmers’ campaigns:

The purpose of organizing these campaigns is to sensitize the farmers about; (a) The hazardous effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and the need to shift to eco-friendly farming, (b) The ill effects of mono-cropping and the need to shift to multiple cropping, (c) The importance of Tree corps, Vegetation and Bio-diversity, to support the livelihoods as well as ecological balance. d) Non pesticide Management and preparation of various manures.

These campaigns were organized by the GSSs. The responsibilities like gathering the farmers, arranging logistics etc. were shared between the GSS & SMG members. Efforts were made to mobilize women in large members. AF staff provided the
necessary support and guidance, in organizing the events. Awareness was created through speeches and education materials like posters, pamphlets, audio-visual aids to the participating farmers. Exhibitions were arranged to show-case various practices and products by the practicing farmers to facilitate mutual learning among them. Some farmers shared their experiences and motivated the participants to adopt Sustainable Agriculture practices.

During the reporting period, AF organized 230 Village level farmers campaigns in all its program villages, as planned. Totally 18,250 women farmers (106% of the planned 17,250 women farmers) and 17437 men farmers (101% of the planned 17,250 men farmers), attended these campaigns.

2.2.4 Capacity building through Trainings

2.2.4.1 Farmers Field Schools (FFS)

In the Farmer Field Schools; (a) Crops position (b) Beneficial and harmful insects and their Life cycles and (c) Measures taken to control Pests & Diseases etc. are observed by the participating farmers. The observations and deliberations are recorded during the FFSs.

The SMGs in the village and the GSS play a key role in conducting the FFSs. They select the farmers in whose fields, FFSs are to be conducted and fix the dates and ensure regularity in conducting the FFSs, every week. They motivate the farmers to adopt the measures, recommended during FFS. They also work for the promotion of LEISA and discourage the use of Chemicals in the village.

AF staff help the SMGs and the GSS in; (a) planning of the FFSs, (b) facilitating the conducting of FFSs, (c) dissemination of the outcome of FFSs to other farmers (d) suggesting suitable measures to be taken and (e) maintaining the records etc.

During the reporting period, AF conducted 5,471 Farmer Field Schools (49% of the planned 11,040 for the year 2009-10) in its 230 villages. Totally, 18,780 women farmers (102% of the planned 18,400 women farmers) and 22,600 men farmers (82% of the planned 27,600 men farmers) attended the FFSs.

2.2.4.2 Village level Gender trainings:

Gender trainings are conducted at village level, wherein equal number of women and men from farmer and labor families including the CBO members participate. These trainings deal with issues like gender sensitivity, gender equity, decision making by women at individual, family
and village levels, sharing of work load by men, women health, education of girl child, domestic violence etc.

The GSSs are involved in selection of participants, making sure they attend the trainings, organizing the trainings and arranging logistics. AF staff are responsible for (a) creating awareness on gender (b) facilitating the participants to identify gender issues in their day to day lives, (c) facilitating them to find solutions to the extent possible and (d) continuing the follow-up.

During the reporting period, **AF conducted 180 Gender trainings (78% of the planned 230 trainings).** Totally, **5,198 women (75% of the planned 6,900 women)** and **4,295 men (62% of the planned 6,900 men)** attended the Gender trainings.

### 2.2.5 AF’s long-term measures for the promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in rain-fed areas:

#### 2.2.5.1 Promoting Bio-mass development in farm lands - The greatest need and biggest challenge in Anantapur

Sustainable agriculture cannot thrive in the absence of adequate bio-mass and Anantapur district is mostly devoid of bio-mass. The biggest challenge in Anantapur is to enhance biomass. So, AF is promoting vegetation in the crop lands through farm forestry, as a long term measure. Plantation of suitable forest species for bio-mass and seed dibbling with Pongamia, glyricidia etc is taken up on the field borders and soil bunds in all the 230 villages. The vegetative cover protects the soil and also provides enough green matter for compost making.

The SMGs and GSS are playing a vital role in promoting bio-mass. They are involved in (a) farmers’ selection, (b) procuring the seeds and plants, (c) supervising the seed dibbling and planting and (d) making payments to labor.

AF staff are responsible for; (a) preparing the plans for bio-mass development in farm lands, (c) supervising seed dibbling, planting and watering and (d) regular follow up on survival of plantations. Promotion of bio-mass in farm lands has been very successful, during the reporting period in AF’s program area.

- 5,492 farmers (119% of the planned 4,600 farmers) have planted saplings in their 12,081 ha of farm lands (131% of the planned 9,200 ha).
- 7,373 farmers (107% of the planned 6,900 farmers) have dibbled seed in their 16,217 ha of farm lands (118% of the planned 13,800 ha).
- Totally 12865 farmers covering 28298 ha. of boundary and bund plantation has been done with manurial Biomass plantation.
2.2.5.2 Promoting multiple cropping in dry lands - For assured income security

Mono-cropping of groundnut in the district, has made the crop susceptible to many pests and diseases. AF has been motivating farmers to go for a multiple/diversified cropping system. AF has been extensively promoting food crops like millets, pulses etc to address food security in its program villages. It is promoting fruit crops and vegetable cultivation to address income & nutritional security of the farmer families. It is also promoting various types of fodder species like tree fodder, grass varieties etc., to support dairy development.

The SMGs and GSS are promoting multiple/diversified cropping system in all the program villages. They are involved in (a) farmers’ selection, (b) procuring the seeds of food crops and vegetables, (c) supervising the planting of fruit plants, fodder plants etc. and (d) making payments to labor. AF staff are responsible for; (a) preparing the plans for multiple crops in farm lands, (c) supervising planting and (d) regular follow up on watering and survival of plantations. Promotion of bio-mass in farm lands has been very successful, during the reporting period in AF’s program area.

- Fruit tree cropping with mango, sapota and amla plants was taken up by 772 farmer families in 309 ha of dry land, against the planned 288 ha. The plants were mobilized from RDT and Govt. Horticulture department

- Vegetable cultivation was taken up by 15,183 farmers (132% of the planned 11,500 farmers), during the reporting period.

2.2.6 AF’s short-term measures for the promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in rain-fed areas:

2.2.6.1 Promoting Alternate (Food) crops – A safety net against groundnut mono crop failures.

AF has been strongly advocating the promotion of alternate (food) crops, in its program villages, as groundnut crop has been consistently and miserably failing year after year because of the monsoon vagaries. The ground nut crop has been failing at least for seven times in a span of 10 years. So, it is all the more necessary, that a safety net be provided to save the poor small & marginal farmers from these droughts. AF believes that growing alternate (food)
crops is the best safety net, as it provides the vital food security, to the drought-hit farmer families.

Crisis due to delayed rains was used as an opportunity by AF to promote alternate (food) crops, in its program area:

AF’s crop diversification program was an astounding success, during the reporting period. This was possible mostly because of the delayed rains for sowing groundnut. By the time the rains came, the groundnut sowing season was over. So, AF saw an opportunity in the crisis to promote diversified food crops in the place of groundnut. So, the farmers were motivated and organized to go for other crops like Jowar, Bajra, Red gram, Horse gram, Sun flower, Castor, Korra etc in about 92,000 acres of farm lands. Crop diversity of such a huge magnitude is highly exceptional.

The Seed Banks had to play a very important role, to address the seed scarcity of other contingency crops’ in time. Their role included; (a) collecting the seed available with farmers in the village, (b) working out the seed requirement for the village, (c) procuring seed from outside and from Govt, (d) coordinating with SMGs and GSS (e) distributing seed to the farmers, as per their need in time.

- 14,495 farmers particularly the poorest rainfed farmers from SC, ST and other backward communities sowed other crops like Jowar, Bajra, Redgram, Horsegram, Sun flower, Castor, Korra etc. in their 36,280 ha. of farm lands, against the planned 1150 ha. of alternate crops, during the reporting period.

2.2.6.2 Promoting bio-fertilizers- An eco-friendly alternative to chemical fertilizers

Compost making and vermi composting

AF is encouraging the farmers to go for farm compost and vermi compost making by utilizing the farm waste green leaf and any other available organic matter. Thereby farmers expenses on fertilizers would come down heavily, soil carbon could be enhanced and biotic life in the soils would be restored.

The SMGs and GSS are playing an important role in (a) farmers’ selection, (b) helping farmers in procuring the required material, (c) making payments (incentives from AF) and (d) mobilizing resources from Govt. AF staff are responsible for; (a) motivating the farmers to prepare and use farm compost and vermin compost, (b) monitoring the quality and usage of compost, (c) follow up on recycling and (d) monitoring the effects and doing comparative study.

The achievements have been very satisfying in promoting production and usage of bio-fertilizers, during the reporting period.
• Totally, 6,289 farmers (59% of the planned 10,580 farmers) prepared and used bio-fertilizers.

• 5,041 Farm compost units (55% of the planned 9,200 units for the year 2009-10) were established, which can cover about 2000 ha. of farm lands.

• 1,248 vermi compost units (90% of the planned 1,380 units) were established. They covered about 100 ha. of fruit orchards & vegetable crops.

**Jeevamrutham**

Jeevamrutham is the cheapest indigenously prepared liquid and solid bio fertilizer concentrate. It is the best low cost alternative to chemical fertilizers.

4,542 farmers have prepared and applied Jeevamritham to their crops mostly fruit orchards, vegetables and paddy in an extent of 8,606 ha, during the reporting period.

**Jeevamrutham has become popular in AF’s program area. The farmers, who have used it, are highly satisfied with the results. It is gaining more popularity in the villages by the word-of-the-mouth publicity of the farmers.**

**2.2.6.3 Promoting NPM Practices- A set of healthy bio-farming practices**

**Mechanical pest management**

AF is against the use of chemical pesticides for pest control, as they are harmful to the beneficial insects, ecology and also to human health. The best way to overcome this menace is mechanical pest management. So, AF is promoting Pheromone traps, White and Yellow boards, Border crops and Trap crops to control the pests. The harmful pest larvae and the small winged insects get trapped by the above measures and then they are separated from the crop.

The SMGs and GSS are involved in mobilizing the traps and boards from Govt & AF and making sure they are installed properly. AF staff are monitoring the type & intensity of pest incidence and suggesting suitable control measures.

During the reporting period;

• 1802 farmers (157% of the planned 1150 farmers), have installed pheromone traps in their 5,046 ha. of lands (219% of the planned 2,300 ha).

• 2,048 farmers (178% of the planned 1150 farmers), have installed white & yellow boards in their 5,531 ha. of lands (240% of the planned 2,300 ha).
This high achievement was possible because in half of the area these traps and boards were totally installed by the farmers themselves.

The pest incidence was low during this season, because of late sowings and control measures taken (Summer Ploughing, Bon Fires etc).

The farmers have seen the advantages of growing border crops for the last 5-6 years. So, during the reporting period, 41,516 farmers have grown Border crops in 143,400 ha. of rain fed cropping area, on their own, without AF’s support.

Biological pest management

The pests that escape the mechanical measures are controlled by using biological methods, which include; (a) spraying decoctions of pungent spices, Neem kernels, and wild herbs, to kill pest larvae, (b) Applying neem oil to repel the larvae, and (c) Trichogramma cards to parasitize the eggs of pests.

The SMGs and GSS are involved in helping the farmers in procuring material for preparing decoctions and discussing the effects with other farmers in the village. AF staff are training farmers in the preparation of bio-pesticides, recommending suitable bio-pesticides and documenting the effects.

During the reporting period, only 2,562 farmers (56% of the planned 4,600 farmers), have applied bio-pesticides in their 5,644 ha. of cropped lands (61% of the planned 9,200 ha). The achievement is low because the pest incidence was low due to delayed sowings and control measures taken.

Neem seed extract spraying has become a habit among the farmers in AF’s program area. They are convinced that this is a good substitute to the chemicals.

NPM Shops

The purpose of establishing NPM shops is to promote the usage of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides and ensure that they are available to the farmers in villages. The material in NPM shops include; Pheromone traps, boards, various Neem products, decoctions, Sprayers, Vermi compost, Jeevamrutham, tricho-gramma cards, etc. Up to now 24 NPM shops have been established in 24 villages spread across 8 mandals of AF’s program area. The shop keepers have been earning an additional income of about Rs.2000/- to Rs. 2500/- per month.

The usage of bio-fertilizers and pesticides has considerably increased in all the villages of AF’s program area, because of NPM shops.

Farmers benefiting from NPM:

Totally, 42,262 farmers (38,574 SMG farmers and 3,688 other farmers), practiced at least 1 or 2 of the above NPM practices. Of them, 1,229 SMG farmers were provided
with incentives to install Pheromone Traps and Boards, during the reporting period as per the Approved plan. Out of them:

- 176 (14%) are small and marginal SC & ST farmers, with less than 4 ha. of dry land.
- 898 (73%) are small and marginal BC & OC farmers with less than 4 ha. of dry land.
- 57 (5%) are medium BC & OC farmers with 4 – 8 ha. of dry land.
- 98 (8%) are medium BC & OC farmers with 4 – 8 ha. of dry land and 0.5 – 2 ha. of irrigated land.

Of the 1,229 farmers provided with incentives, 1,074 (87%) are small & marginal farmers from SC, ST and BC communities, owning less than 4 ha. of dry land.

### 2.3 Status of women’s livelihoods taken up during 2007-09

Under AF’s Diversified livelihoods program for women 2607 women have formed into 295 livelihood groups of 8-10 members. They have taken up 295 off-farm and non-farm IGAs during the year 2007-09. The following is the list of IGAs and the women covered under each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>No. of units</th>
<th>Women covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Groundnut/ Multi crop threshers (Agri-Processing)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Garment Making</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sari Weaving</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Brick Making</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Tamarind Processing and Business</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Basket Making</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Fish Rearing (Pisci culture)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Power Tillers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Construction Equipment (Centering material, Masonry Tools)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>NPM Shops</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>295</strong></td>
<td><strong>2607</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.3.1 Role played by AF staff

Following are some of the important roles played by AF staff in promoting livelihoods of rural women:

- Arranging skills trainings to rural women and enabling them to take up remunerative, skill-based IGAs.
- Extending necessary support and guidance, in grounding the IGAs.
• Assisting them in mobilizing resources, from banks and other financial institutions.
• Assisting them in establishing, forward and backward linkages.
• Providing awareness on value addition.
• Helping them in establishing market linkages.

2.3.2 Present status

Of the 2607 women, who have taken up IGAs, 1908 women (73%) are continuing them. Following are the average earnings of women per annum in some of the major IGAs:

• **511 women (52 groups) are running groundnut/multi-crop threshers.** It is a seasonal activity. They are getting about 3 months of harvesting work of agricultural produce in kharif and Rabi. **On an average, each woman is earning Rs.5,000 - Rs.6,000 in a year,** in addition to their usual income.

• **563 Girls/women (48 groups) are doing garment making work almost throughout the year.** But the demand varies based on the season, the size of the village, skills level etc. Each girl/woman is earning in the **range of Rs.15,000 - Rs.18,000 per year.**

• **406 women (46 groups) have taken up sari weaving activity.** Each woman is earning in the range of Rs.10,000 - Rs.12,000 per year.

• **169 women (16 groups) have taken up tamarind processing activity.** It is a seasonal activity. These groups are earning a net income of about Rs.50,000 per season spanning 3-4 months in a year. Each woman member is earning in the range of Rs.4,000 - Rs.5,000 per season, in addition to other wage labor works.

93 IGAs covering 699 women are not being continued for various reasons like; (a) some of them were one-time activities, (b) inability to raise additional capital (c) marketing problems and (d) running losses etc. AF staff are trying to analyze the reasons behind these discontinued IGAs and making efforts to revive them or learn lessons from the failure.

2.3.3 Impact on rural women

- More economic freedom to women and reduced dependency on men.
- Increased role in family decisions.
- Increased self confidence and self-esteem.
Leadership, sociability and interpersonal relations have increased.
Taking better care of their health. And better education and health care to their children.
Acquired some assets like sheep, goat, dairy animals and ornaments for the family. And some have repaid the old debts.
Attained skills in IGPs, Entrepreneurship, problem solving and management.
Attained more respect both at family and village level.

2.3.4 The future outlook

To enhance the impact of diversified livelihoods for women, AF is planning to:
- Intensify its support to women in raising capital from banks/Govt. schemes, for reviving the discontinued IGAs.
- Improve value addition and marketing of produce.
- Study the value-chains of all the major IGAs and identify the areas of intervention.
- Eliminate middle men from the value chains to the extent possible.
- And prepare viable models that can be replicated.

2.4 Status of Skills trainings

As part of Job-oriented Skill Development Program for rural under educated youth, AF has started youth skills development centers at Kalyanadurg and Anantapur during the year 2008-09, with the collaboration of Skill Pro-Foundation. The trainings offered were Computers, Hospitality, Sales and Marketing, Rural electricians and Motor mechanics. The MOU with Skill Pro-Foundation ended by March 2009. Subsequently AF has been planning to run the centers on its own.

2.4.1 Skill training centers

AF had been running the skills training centers, in rented buildings, both in Anantapur and Kalyanadurg. But now, it has started the construction of a skills training center in its main campus - the AF ecology center, at Anantapur. This new center under construction can accommodate a Skills training center with 4 class rooms and a Driving School. It is also planned to provide accommodation for about 50 girls and boys. The center is expected to be complete by January, 2009.

Meanwhile, the global economic melt-down forced AF to re-think its strategy. The potential employment sectors like ITES, Hospitality and Sales & Services came crashing down. The employment market for start up jobs crashed as the higher qualified began to seek lower end jobs in view of recession. AF has been keenly vigilant of the developments in the employment sector. As there are some signs of improvement, AF is planning to start the courses before the year end, with a revised strategy. The revised strategy is first to obtain placement orders from the prospective employers and then train the youth as per the employers needs. Earlier we were training the youth in certain skills and then looking for employment for them. This has now become very risky as the jobs are not available easily. Apart
from this AF has also been successful in assisting the rural youth in accessing the Government skills training courses like advanced tailoring & embroidery, electrician, and computers. AF has been collaborating with RUDSETI, JSS (Jan Sikshana Samsthan) etc. in mobilizing candidates from our target communities for various trainings offered by them.

2.4.2 Driving Schools

The enrolment was not done for 2 months i.e., from April 2009 to May 2009 for driving school due to non-availability of the candidates because of SSC and Intermediate exams. Later 46 candidates were selected for Driving schools at Anantapur and Kalyanadurg. Training began in June and was completed by 16th August 2009. The next batch with 28 candidates has been started in Anantapur centre in the month of September, 2009. The selection of candidates is under process for Kalyanadurg centre and most probably it would start in the month of October, 2009. Out of the 46 trained candidates, 16 have already got placements with private owners.

2.4.3 Tailoring centers

AF has provided sewing machines for 17 tailoring centers @ 5 machines per centre, which are spread over in 4 operational areas. During the reporting period trainings have been conducted for 21 batches of girls/women in 21 villages and 525 girls have been trained in Tailoring and Embroidery. The salary of the tailoring instructor and the cost on consumables has been met by the trainees themselves. They have also arranged room for training at their own cost.

Of the trained 525 girls about 182 girls have already been linked to small business promoters who give them piece work on contract basis. The remaining 343 girls are either waiting for work or working in tailoring shops or working on their own in their villages. Most of them are likely to be linked to the business promoters soon.
### 3. OUTPUTS

#### 3.1 Physical Achievements (AF+SERP) from 1-4-2009 to 30-9-2009 in AF's Project Villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for 3 years (2009 - 12)</th>
<th>Planned for (2009 - 10)</th>
<th>Achieved during (1-4-09 to 30-9-09)</th>
<th>% Achieved</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Campaigns on Sustainable Agriculture &amp; Gender.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Campaigns on Sust. Agri.</td>
<td>Camps.</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Women's day campaigns</td>
<td>Camps.</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Women's days do not fall between April &amp; September. They will be conducted during March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Ecology Days</td>
<td>Camps.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>They were planned to organize in June. Father Ferrer's sudden sickness and his death disturbed these campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Farmer Field Schools</td>
<td>FFS</td>
<td>33,120</td>
<td>11,040</td>
<td>5,471</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>They are planned for the crop season i.e., July – November. So they will continue up to November, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Trainings on Sustainable Agriculture &amp; Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Trainings on Sustainable Agriculture</td>
<td>Trgs.</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Trainings on Gender sensitization</td>
<td>Trgs.</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sl. No.</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Planned for 3 years (2009 - 12)</td>
<td>Planned for (2009 - 10)</td>
<td>Achieved during (1-4-09 to 30-9-09)</td>
<td>% Achieved</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
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<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CBO Meetings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>NPM Sub committee Meetings</td>
<td>Mtgs.</td>
<td>8,280</td>
<td>2,760</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Village Activists' Meetings</td>
<td>Mtgs.</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>MSS &amp; ZSS Meetings</td>
<td>Mtgs.</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Exposure visits on Sustainable Agriculture</td>
<td>Visits</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>To be arranged, after Kharif season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Land Developmental activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Soil &amp; Moisture conservation measures</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>3,624</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Implemented under NREGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Farm ponds</td>
<td>F.P.</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Implemented under NREGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Farm forestry through planting seedlings</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>27,600</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>12,081</td>
<td>131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Farm forestry through seed dibbling</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>41,400</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>16,217</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sl. No.</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Planned for 3 years (2009 - 12)</td>
<td>Planned for (2009 - 10)</td>
<td>Achieved during (1-4-09 to 30-9-09)</td>
<td>% Achieved</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NPM/LEISA related activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Pheromone traps</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>5,046</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>Half of the Traps (2523) were installed from Farmers' contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>White / Yellow Boards</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>5,531</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>Half of the Boards (2765) were installed from Farmers' contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>Bio-pesticides</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>27,600</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>5,644</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Usage of bio-pesticides was low because of low incidence of pests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Vermi Compost units</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>2,760</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Half of the Units (624) were installed from Farmers' contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Farm compost units</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>27,600</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>5,041</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>Jeevamrutham</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>34,500</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>8,606</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Crop Diversification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Mobilized from RDT/ Govt. horticulture department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Alternate (Food) Crops</td>
<td>Ha.</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>36,820</td>
<td>3,202</td>
<td>The abnormally high achievement is because the rains were delayed. Since there was little use of sowing groundnut, farmers sowed alternate crops, which are suitable for sowing in August and September. Our seed banks mobilized seed for these crops from Govt., besides their own contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sl. No.</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Planned for 3 years (2009 - 12)</td>
<td>Planned for (2009 - 10)</td>
<td>Achieved during (1-4-09 to 30-9-09)</td>
<td>% Achieved</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Vegetable Cultivation</td>
<td>Plots</td>
<td>34,500</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>15,183</td>
<td>132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Experimental Demo Plots on Sus. Agri Practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>IBM (Intensive Bio-mass) Plots</td>
<td>Plots</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>The planned plots are established. The survival needs to be monitored in the coming months and years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>IFS (Integrated Farming System) Plots</td>
<td>Plots</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>The planned plots are established. The survival needs to be monitored in the coming months and years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>BIFSRA (Bio-Intensive Farming System in Rain fed Areas) plots</td>
<td>Plots</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>The planned plots are established. The survival needs to be monitored in the coming months and years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>Multiple Cropping plots</td>
<td>Plots</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dairy &amp; Live stock Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>Fodder Development</td>
<td>Plots</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>5,329</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>Half of the fodder plots (2664) were established from Farmers' contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>Breed improvement in Dairy animals</td>
<td>Calves</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>3,299</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Half of the improved calves (1650) were not paid incentives. For these calves the expenditure for A.I. was borne by the farmers themselves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sl. No.</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Planned for 3 years (2009 - 12)</td>
<td>Planned for (2009 - 10)</td>
<td>Achieved during (1-4-09 to 30-9-09)</td>
<td>% Achieved</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bio - gas</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Job oriented skills training for rural youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>Youth trained in Skills training centers</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>This program is being reviewed and redesigned in view of global meet down and dwindling job opportunities in industry. AF is exploring the opportunities with various companies for seeing a kind of job guarantee before we start the trainings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>Youth trained in Driving Schools</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>The new strategy would emerge by about this year end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>Youth trained in tailoring centres</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>The other skills trainings like Driving &amp; Tailoring could not also be conducted as planned because of (a) the exam season from March - June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Employment generation under NREGs.</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>14,836</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>Because of severe drought conditions &amp; delayed rains even the big and medium rain fed farmers were forced to work as labor. Hence the high out turn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td>36,512</td>
<td>145</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.2 Physical & Financial achievements in NABARD watersheds during 1.04.2009 - 30.09.2009 (4 watersheds)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Planned for the period 1.04.09 – 30.09.09</th>
<th>Achieved during 1.04.09 – 30.09.09</th>
<th>Expenditure (in Rs.) during 1.04.09 – 30.09.09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Soil &amp; Moisture conservation works</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) New farm bunds</td>
<td>RM</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>127,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Stone outlets</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Water absorption trenches</td>
<td>Cum</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gully Control Works</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Stone Gully Plugs</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Rock fill Dams</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rain Water Harvesting structures (Farm ponds)</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plantations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Dry land Horticulture</td>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Agro Forestry through bund plantations</td>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Agro Forestry through seed dibbling</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Broad casting grass seeds</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>555,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. CASE STUDIES

4.1 Multiple cropping with Vegetables ensures family income round the year

- CASE STUDY OF A SMALL S.C. FARMER FAMILY FROM NAGEPALLI VILLAGE

Nagaraju is a small S.C farmer from Nagepalli village of Settur area. His family comprises of his wife Nagamma, their two children and his old mother. The family has 1 acre of dry land and 1 acre of irrigated land. They were cultivating paddy in their one acre of irrigated land, for which they used to get Rs. 6,000/- - Rs. 7000/- per year, after deducting their investment on growing the crop. Some times, they were suffering crop losses also because of water scarcity (paddy is a highly water-intensive crop) and various pests and diseases.

Nagamma attended AF’s awareness campaign on Crop Diversification and multiple cropping in their village. She was motivated to shift to multiple cropping in the place of paddy as a mono-crop and she put the issue for discussion in her family. Her husband and mother-in-law accepted the proposal. She planted 5 drumstick plants and sowed seeds of various vegetables like chilly, tomato, beans, ladies finger, brinjal, ridge gourd, bitter gourd and five varieties of greens in half an acre of their irrigated land. In the remaining half an acre, she sowed the seed of marigold flowers.

As per the advice of AF she prepared and applied bio-fertilizers like vermi compost and jeevamrutham and bio-pesticides like decoctions of locally available wild herbs to the crops, instead of costly chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Thereby she could reduce the cost of cultivation. She could also reduce the usage of water and power by shifting from paddy cultivation to vegetable cultivation. She got good yields from all the varieties of vegetables.

They sold the vegetables in the markets of their village and the surrounding villages during the market days. On other days her husband vended vegetables on the bicycle in the surrounding villages. Nagamma rambled in the village with a basket of vegetables in their village. Some of the villagers, came to their field to purchase fresh vegetables. Following are the particulars of their income & expenditure during August and September 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Through sale of 680 Kg of Tomatoes @ Rs.11/- per kg = Rs. 7,480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through sale of 1,120 Kg of other vegetables @ Rs.9/- per Kg = Rs. 10,080</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through sale of 840 Drumsticks @ Rs. 3/- per No. = Rs. 2,520</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through sale of Greens                                        = Rs. 4,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong>                                                    <strong>Rs.24,280</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The family had spent a total amount of Rs.6,100/- on cost of vegetable seed, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides and other miscellaneous things. They have earned a net profit of Rs. 18,180/- after deducting all the expenses, during these two months. As they will be continuously replanting the vegetables, there will be continuous yields of vegetables and greens, they are expecting returns throughout the year. Nagamma and her family are happy as they have more income on regular basis, they use only bio-manures and bio-pest management which is less-expensive and not at all hazardous to their soils and themselves. Further they have multiple crops grown in their land, they will have enriched the soil and have less and pests and diseases. And equally important, their produce in organic and the consumers have chemical free vegetables.

“We feel very happy that we shifted from paddy cultivation to vegetable cultivation. We are receiving daily income from the sale of vegetables and we will have money in our hands throughout the year”. 
Nagamma & Nagaraju Naigenalli Village
4.2 From desperation to a decent living
-CASE STUDY OF A DESPERATE YOUTH FROM AKUTHOTA PALLI VILLAGE

Suryanarayana was unemployed and a distressed rural youth, who had lost hope. He hails from Akuthotapalli village, of Dharmavaram area. His family consists of his old parents and an unmarried sister. They have about three acres of dry land. They are not cultivating the land, because they are not in a position to make crop investments. In these dire conditions, Suryanarayana could not continue his studies beyond X std. So, he and his sister started working as agricultural wage laborers. But the earnings were grossly insufficient to meet even the basic needs of the family. So he was in search of some alternate job to shore up his family. In his desperation, he joined as a cleaner of a lorry. Away from home, he did strenuous physical labor, as a lorry cleaner. In return he got such a paltry income, which was not even sufficient for his needs, leave alone the needs of the family. In exasperation he left that job and was idle for one year. The parents were not at all happy with him being idle and day to day frictions started in the family. At this point of time, he come to know about AF’s Driving School through AF field staff. He applied for admission and got selected.

During the training he learnt Driving along with Mechanism. The Driving training also included personality development and spoken english, awareness on HIV etc. The training was highly useful to him as he learned many things apart from driving practice.

Within 8 days of passing out of the Driving School, he was called for an interview by a Professor in S.K University, Anantapur. He got appointed and is working for the past 7 months and earning Rs. 5,000/- per month. He is, using Rs. 1500/- for his own expenses and sending Rs. 3000/- per month to his parents. He is also saving Rs. 500/- per month in post office recurring deposit scheme. He also got joined his sister in the tailoring centre run by AF in the neighboring village.

Suryanarayana and his family members are very happy now.

Recently the professor, who appointed Suryanarayana, contacted AF Driving School and congratulated the authorities for producing such drivers with good skill and decent behavior. He requested AF Driving School to provide one more driver for one of his friends.
Ramana is a small farmer from kattakinda palli village of Dharmavaram area. He has 2 acres of wet land in the village tank ayacut. He has been cultivating paddy in his 2 acres of land, following traditional methods, using chemical fertilizers and pesticides for the past 25 years. During a good crop year, he used to get 44 bags of paddy @ 22 bags per acre. So, the income, valued as per the current market rate of Rs.950 per bag, was Rs. 41,800 per annum. The crop investment was about Rs.12,000 @ Rs.6,000 per acre. Finally, he used to get an annual net income of about Rs.29,800 from his 2 acres of land.

At the start of kharif 2008 season, he attended AF’s campaign on Sustainable Agriculture in his village. He got motivated and decided to adopt LEISA practices in paddy cultivation. So, on the advice of AF staff, he made the following changes in paddy cultivation:

- Applying bio-fertilizers like Jeevamrutham and growing azolla, instead of using chemical fertilizers.
- Adopting mechanical measures like installing white & yellow boards, providing alleys in the field at regular intervals and biological measures like spraying neem kernel extract and decoctions of wild herbs for pest control, instead of using chemical pesticides.

By adopting the above LEISA practices, he could bring down the crop investments drastically from Rs.12,000 to Rs. 4,000 for his 2 acres of paddy crop. The yields increased from 22 bags/ac to 28 bags/ac. Since his produce was totally organic, he got a better rate for his produce @ Rs.1,100/bag.

Presented here under are the income and expenditure particulars under the two methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A) TRADITIONAL PRACTICE</th>
<th>B) LEISA PRACTICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME= Rs. 41,800</td>
<td>TOTAL INCOME= Rs. 61,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2 acs * 22 bags/ac * Rs.950/bag)</td>
<td>(2 acs * 28 bags/ac * Rs.1,100/bag)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURE= Rs. 12,000</td>
<td>EXPENDITURE= Rs. 4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2 acs * Rs.6,000/ac)</td>
<td>(2 acs * Rs.2,000/ac)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET INCOME= Rs. 29,800</td>
<td>NET INCOME= Rs. 57,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above statistics, it can be seen that the net income of Mr.Ramana, has almost doubled by shifting to Sustainable Agriculture practices. Now his family is very happy and they have vowed never to go back to traditional agriculture again.

“We are getting double income through LEISA practices. We are also eating chemical-free food. We will never use chemicals again.”

Mr.Ramana & his family Kattakinda palli village
5. ANNEXURES

5.1 Formulation of AF’s Gender policy

The present status:

GENDER is a cross cutting theme in all program activities of Accion Fraterna. Mainstreaming gender goes much beyond building perspectives. The main challenge is to address gender in all the elements of the organization and bringing changes in activities, processes and culture of organization and its programs. Though a definite Gender policy had not been articulated, yet AF has been practicing gender in the following ways:

- **AF made it a policy that there has to be equal representation of women in all its CBOs, for the past 15 years.**
- **AF strictly followed the policy of equal wages to women & men in all kinds of work it implemented in its watershed villages, for the past 24 years.**
- **AF was making all programme payments, exclusively in the name of women, since many years.**
- **AF made it mandatory, about 15 years back that women should also sign the agreements to execute soil conservation works, along with men.**
- **AF encouraged women to make cropping choices, to address food security and crop diversification.**
- **AF designed a Off-farm and Non-farm Livelihood support program exclusively for women of landless artisans and small & marginal farmer families.**
- **AF focused on job-oriented skills for women.**
- **AF organized a OD programme on Gender mainstreaming convening all its staff facilitated by HIDF, Bangalore. They provided a OD hand holding support to AF for 18 months. So, AF and all the staff members had the sensitivity and understanding on gender.**
- **While recruiting new personnel AF has been giving top preference to women. In rare cases, when women are not available, then only AF is considering men.**
- **AF has created exclusive space for women staff who meet every month to discuss their problems and instill confidence in them by providing moral support to each other.**
- **Gender sensitivity is a dimension in the assessment of staff performance.**

Drafting AF’s Gender Policy:

AF requested Miss Swathi Patel, Program coordinator for women’s development, Sevamandir, Rajasthan to draft the Gender Policy for AF.

Initially she met AF’s senior staff to get a overview of the Gender related practices in place. The Director and the PME staff explained the present status of gender, in the organization. Then she met the AreaTeam Leaders, Agriculture Officers, Field coordinators and other Central office Staff and gave some exercises to assess their understanding, perceptions and attitude towards gender. Then she had meetings and elaborate discussions on gender practices with village level field staff of AF. She also attended a Women’s Day celebration in Dharmavaram area and shared the problems faced by rural women in Rajasthan.
Finally, she visited Mallapuram village, of Kalyandurg area and had separate meetings with women and men of the village. She discussed with them on many gender related issues like girl child education, child marriages, dowry, differential treatment to girls and boys at home, work sharing by men at home, women’s role in family decisions, women’s health problems, alcoholism in men, domestic violence and organizational support in these issues etc. Then she drafted a comprehensive gender policy for AF.

**AF’s draft Gender Policy (Still under discussion)**

**Introduction**
Accion Fraterna (AF) shares the aspirations and vision of the rural communities it works with and is committed to social equity, gender equality and human dignity. It works towards the empowerment of the disadvantaged landless, small and marginal farmers and particularly that of women, in the district of Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. AF recognizes that while in some cases, both men and women face deprivation and exploitation of their basic human rights and are vulnerable, in most instances, women face greater vulnerability. Even though women are not a homogenous group and their situation varies with age, caste, class, religion, ethnicity and place of domicile, overall the subordination of women in our society makes them poorer and more vulnerable than men. Women face social and cultural discrimination, have less access to resources and power and are less likely to be involved and represented in decision-making bodies and their voices are less likely to be heard. AF believes that any development effort which is not gender sensitive leads to further marginalization and inequity. In recognition of this inequality, AF strives to address gender issues in all aspects of its functioning. The Gender Policy document of AF is a public statement of its commitment to promote gender equity and equality. and establishes the basis for AF to ensure that gender differences are taken into account and dealt with in relation to the institution and all its programs. This document describes briefly the context AF works in, outlines its vision, mission, and values and articulates its conception of gender and highlights AFs strategies/interventions for mainstreaming gender at the institutional level and in each of its programs.

**Situational Analysis**
Anantapur, located in southern Andhra Pradesh (AP) is one of the poorest districts of the country. The district has a population of 3.7million or about 800,000 families 20% of the population of the district comprises of Dalits and Tribal, and 60% comprise of backward communities. 75% living in the rural area have an average land holding of a meager 5 acres and are dependent on rain-fed agriculture and farm labor for their livelihoods. Anantapur being chronically drought-prone, the rainfed agriculture is a loosing gamble with about only 3 normal crops in 10 years resulting in perpetual poverty, vicious cycle of indebtedness. The farming community is in severe distress. Poverty, manifested in malnutrition, illiteracy, illness, deprivation and caste and gender based discrimination is highly prevalent.
As per the Human Development Report of India prepared and published by the Planning Commission of India in 2001, with regards to the Human Development Index (HDI) Andhra Pradesh ranks 10th in the country. Whereas, within the state, amongst the 23 districts, Anantapur ranks at 20th on both HDI and Human Poverty Index (HPI) and lags behind in terms of indicators that reflect human development (per capita district domestic product, adult literacy rate, life expectancy, IMR, access to basic amenities, etc.). The HDI & HPI of the district has relatively not changed in the past decade.

The Gender related Development Index (GDI) is the third important index, that takes into account inequalities in achievement between women and men using the same dimensions and variables as the HDI does. The GDI of the district has improved during the period 1991 – 2001, moving from 18 to 19. However, the rate of change as compared to other districts was the lowest and hence, its relative position was worse in 2001 when compared to 1991. In terms of Gender Empowerment Measurement Index (GEMI), Anantapur ranks 17th. Indicating that women in Anantapur district are at a greater disadvantage with regards to the three indicators i.e. percentage of women representatives elected in local body elections, rate of violence against women and child sex ratio (CSR). (Source: Andhra Pradesh Human Development Report 2007)

The sex ratio of the state has improved by six points in the past decade form 972 in 1991 to 978 in 2001 and is far better than that of the country. However, the child sex ratio has further worsened with a sharp decline from 978 in 1991 to 960 in 2001, which raises serious concerns regarding the value attached to women in our society. (Source: Census of India). The sex ratio of Anantapur district at 958 (2001) is lower than that of the state. The table given below shows the difference in sex ratio for all the 8 mandals of the district that Accion Fraterna works in. With Raptadu mandal showing the lowest sex ratio i.e. 920, it is indicative of poor status of women in the area. It is evident from the table given below that in terms of literacy, women in all the mandals of the district are far behind men. Early marriage (age of marriage being 16 years) and early pregnancies is another indicator of the lower status of the girls in the district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandal</th>
<th>Sex Ratio</th>
<th>Male Literacy Rate (%)</th>
<th>Female Literacy Rate (%)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anantapur</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapthadu</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kudair</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dharmavaram</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalyandurg</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beluguppa</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kundurpi</td>
<td>952</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settur</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atmakur</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further, lack of forest cover and vegetation across the district and soils exposed to sun and wind render the district poor in natural resources. Rapid degradation of forest cover has again entailed negative consequences for women who are dependent on the forest for fuel wood, fodder and NTFPs.

About 80% of the farmers in the district have shifted from subsistence agriculture to mono-cropping of ground nut under rain-fed conditions, which has reduced the soil fertility and increased the outbreak of pests and diseases. This has increased the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that have an adverse impact on health of both men and women. It has also displaced subsistence food crops, like coarse cereals, millets and pulses, which are important for sustenance of food requirements at the household level.

For a majority of landless and small farmer families, especially women the main source of income in drought years and otherwise during the lean season is wage labor in agriculture. Though the wages paid to the agriculture labor have increased in over time (from Rs. 30/ to Rs. 100/ per day) women who spend far more time in agricultural activities than men, are still considered to be inferior and for similar work are paid about 20% less than men.

Further, the lack of policy support in terms of institutional credit, remunerative prices for agriculture produce, insurance against risks of droughts, support for dairy, livestock, poultry, fisheries and alternate employment opportunities is creating distress and sense of hopelessness among the farmers. During 1999-2004, about 500 farmers (highest number in the country) in the district committed suicide, leaving women alone to cope with the situation. And forcing them to give up agriculture and become wage labor, some women are even forced into trafficking.

With increasing out-migration of men and youth to town and cities women are triply burdened and are left alone to cope with their farms, livestock, work as labor and care for the young children and old in the family. On one hand, this has made women’s role in agriculture more visible than before, but on the other they lack social security and support systems like full day crèches or AWWs.

In Dharmavaram and other mandals of the district, losses of traditional livelihoods like silk weaving, basket weaving, brick making and coffee powder making has specific gendered implications for men and women.

Anantapur district has about 1,00,000 educated unemployed rural youth in the age group of 18-25 years. On the pretext that schools are far and education is expensive, every year about 25 to 30% rural youth especially girls, are dropping out of school at the primary level itself. Their education is grossly insufficient to fetch them any employment in government or private sector. They neither have the entrepreneurship nor the skills nor capital to take up any alternate self-employment or employment.
In April 2006, the NREG Programme (National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme) was launched in Anantapur district. Though it is benefiting many a labour to an extent, there have been many shortfalls in implementation of the scheme like delayed employment for job applicants, delay in payments, absence of basic amenities at work site, corruption and non-payment of compensation. These issues can be attributed partly to unpreparedness of the Government machinery to cope with such a high volume of work, and partly due to lack of awareness among the community.

A Brief about Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre

Accion Fraterna (AF), Anantapur was founded by Father Vincent Ferrer in 1982. Since then, in response to the above stated context, Accion Fraterna has been involved in empowerment of the poor through drought management, development of the environment and policy advocacy. In all these years, the organization through its Participatory Watershed Development Program has reached out to over 300 villages, covering about 1.35 lakh hectares of land and 60,000 farmer families. Major interventions have been soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, horticulture, rain-fed agronomical practices, bio-gas and peoples institution development. It has made a substantial contribution to increasing the land productivity and improving the conditions of drought hit farmers in the district. At the state policy level, AF has made significant contribution in creating a favourable and enabling policy environment for a people centered watershed development approach.

Meanwhile, there were significant changes in the policy and programs of the Government, like launching of the National Rural Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in April 2006, covering all villages and needy families of the district, and the decision of the government to undertake all its conventional watershed development related activities under NREGS though with inadequate preparedness. All these and other contextual changes, spurred Accion Fraterna to revisit its vision, mission, activities and strategies and the organization structure. In keeping with its tradition, AF conducted the review exercise in a participatory and democratic manner, drawing wisdom and inputs from its entire team and the CBOs.

Based on the review exercise, AF developed a new Perspective Plan stating its reformulated vision, mission, values and strategic priorities. The new plan, beginning 2007 onwards, focuses on enhancing the quality of life of 60,000 resource poor farmers and farm labor families by promoting,

a) Sustainable Agriculture
b) Sustainable diversified livelihoods.
c) Alternate skill based employment for youth.
d) Access to basic services.
e) Advocacy for pro-poor policies
This is being achieved through community based organizations, (CBOs) adopting a participatory approach encompassing social and gender equity. This commitment of the organization reflects in its vision, mission statement and the values stated below. The plan is being implemented in 230 villages of 8 mandals (namely Amatkur, Belugapa, Rapthadu, Dharmavaram, Settur, Kundurpi, Kalyandurg, Kudair) of Anantapur district.

**AFs Vision**
1. Every farmer/farm 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 bio-diversity.

**AFs Mission**
1. AFs mission is to organize and strengthen the organizations 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 bio-diversity 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.

6. AF is committed to work with Government, like minded NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and individuals. In this process it is committed to strengthen and coordinate the role of different organizations, intellectuals, experts and individuals in the interest of social well being.

7. AF is committed to being a strong, dynamic, dedicated and sustainable organization. It builds itself into an organization, learning from experiences and always working for people’s well being. It strives to be positively influencing the society and changing itself to be relevant to the changing contexts.

**AFs Core Values**

- AF believes in social equality of all people and is particularly committed to the treatment of women, the disadvantaged and the poor with respect and dignity.
• AF ensures that all its policies and programmes have due consideration for sustainable environment and ecological balance.

• AF is committed to being gender-sensitive both within the organization and in all its programs and interactions with people.

• AF is committed to the pursuit of highest quality in its work.

• AF is committed to being a relevant and learning organization 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.

• AF is committed to the ethos of Participation and Teamwork and these will be central in its approach to work within AF and with people.

• AF is committed to be transparent and accountable to all its stakeholders.

• AF is committed to working with government and like-minded NGOs & CSOs to produce the best synergies in its combined and coordinated efforts.

• AF is committed to influencing government policies and program for maximizing impact in favor of the poor, disadvantaged and sustainable environment.

AFs 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

Concept of Gender & Gender Mainstreaming

Gender is a culturally acquired specific set of value characteristics that influence and determine the social behavior of women and men and the relationship between them. Gender, therefore, refers not simply to women or men, but to the relation between them, and the way it is socially constructed. It is thus a relational term and includes both women and men. And it is specific to a given cultural and socio-economic context.

Gender equality means that women and men have equal conditions and opportunities to realize and fulfill their full human potential; participate and contribute to the political, social, economic and cultural development process. However, gender analysis reveals that providing equal opportunities for women and men do not necessarily yield equal results, and that, different treatment of women and men may sometimes be required to achieve sameness of results.
To ensure gender equality and equity in the existing “mainstream”, various methods and strategies for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences, an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economical and societal spheres need to be adopted.

AF staff defined mainstreaming gender as a cross cutting theme in culture, processes, and all program activities of the organization. It is actually understanding and working with thinking, feeling and changing behavioral process.

AF’s vision and mission places emphasis on social equity between all people with gender equality and equity being one of the important values that it strives to mainstream in institutional structures, processes, approaches and program. AF also recognizes that in all spheres and parameters of development, women are far behind men and that along with mainstreaming gender in all its processes and programs it is equally important to facilitate women specific projects/interventions that will address the practical and strategic needs of women and will enable them to gain experience and ensure their empowered participation. AF thus adapts a twin track strategy, comprising the following two components

- Specific activities aimed at women’s empowerment.
- Integration of women’s and men’s concerns needs and interests throughout the development process (in all its policies and programs).

**Goal and Objectives**

**Goal**
The goal of Accion Fraterna’s Gender Policy is to promote the development of a democratic and peaceful society, in which women and men enjoy equal conditions, opportunities and rights and become active partners in the process of development.

**Objectives**

- Empower women and girls to realize their full potential as human beings and as actors in development.
- Enhance women’s, men’s, girls’ and boys’ equal participation in planning implementation and benefit sharing in all policies and programs supported by Accion Fraterna.
- Establish a gender sensitive culture promoting values such as participation, team work, cooperation, sharing, transparency, openness, concern mutual support accountability and fairness within the organisation and the communities supported by AF.
• Create a gender voice in society and a voice against all forms of discrimination, domination and violence and build public opinion in favour of any enabling and gender sensitive policy environment.

**Mechanisms and Structures for Mainstreaming Gender**

Accion Fraterna is committed to ensure that gender does not remain isolated, but gets systematically woven into the fabric of the organization. And that change in gender relations and gender thinking become deeply rooted in every realm of AFs organizational structure, program strategy, policy, staff development, and culture. This section highlights AFs specific policies and strategies aimed at promoting gender equity and equality within each program.

**(A) Institutional level**

Accion Fraterna has about 110 competent and committed staff members. AF considers them as its principal resource. A look at the gender balance of staff shows that there are no women workers at the field level, all the Social - Technical Organisers (STOs) are male. This is because of its historical reasons. Up to 2002, AF was part of RDT, and was known as Ecology Sector, with a focus on only watershed development. RDT’s structure in sector based and there was a separate women sector, where only women staff worked. The nature of the job was different in watershed development and required staff to work strenuously in the open lands during the harsh summers also. Women coming into RDT mostly chose other sectors and the Ecology Sector remained largely male. After 2002, once AF became an autonomous organization itself, it did try and correct this imbalance. From having no women colleagues in 2002, AF now has 14% women on its rolls. At the middle level management there is about 36% woman which is indeed very good, though the ratio is weak again at senior management level.

What further complicates matters is the location of AF. Anantapur is one of the most backward districts of Andhra Pradesh, and its remoteness means that few women from outside want to come and work here. AF is committed to improving the gender balance at all levels in the organization. The work culture of the organization is such that all staff members, women and men, feel comfortable working with each other.

**AF Women Team**

AF has created a forum and a space for all women working in AF called AF Women Team. All women working in AF are members in the Women Team. The objectives of the Women Team are a) to build a solidarity and cooperation between the women staff b) to provide a forum to share their problems in work and at home c) to suggest gender sensitive policies and procedures to AF d) to suggest gender sensitive policies and procedures in the programmes and in the CBOs e) to identify training needs of women staff and organize or arrange such trainings f) to interface with RDT’s Women Core Team (WCT) for mutual support and learning. Only women attend the meetings once in a month for one full day. The Director or any other staff will attend only on their invitation.
Gender specialist
Accion Fraterna will try to induct a full time Gender focal point person. If not possible to find a suitable one, it will at least find a part time person on regular basis to support gender in AF. Gender focal person (woman) will be responsible for a) providing inputs for a proactive gender policies within AF and in its programmes b) introducing and monitoring gender initiatives, sharing and reflecting on experiences and for bringing in new ideas, identifying gender training needs for staff and people at various levels and suitable resource persons to address the same. The organisation will establish a core team in each Mandal to support gender mainstreaming in all the programs. Further the Gender focal point person facilitates the empowerment of AF Women Team through capacity building, promoting systems of conflict resolution, grievance redressal within Women Team and within AF.

Recruitment

1. Equal Opportunities
Accion Fraterna is an equal opportunity employer – it encourages women candidates to apply for all its posts and does not discriminate on the grounds of marital status, pregnancy, caste, class, religion or disability.

2. Policy of internal promotion and relaxation only to attract women candidates
AF follows a policy of internal promotions for filling up vacancies at higher levels. The only exception to this policy is when there are suitable woman candidate from outside, then the promotion is opened up only for external women candidates. The earlier efforts to induct educationally qualified women in leadership had proven to be unworkable, as they did not last long. Taking a positive step the organisation has promoted women within the organisation as Area Team Leaders (ATOs) (leadership level) and has taken steps to build their capacities.

3. Reservation of positions for women
To achieve gender balanced representation of women and men, the organisation has reserved 50% positions Field Coordinators for women only. Such reserved positions will not be filled up by men. In order to maintain the 50% women ratio, over induction of women for that position is being done.

4. Preference for women in case of equal scores in selections.
During recruitment process if 2 or 3 more candidates are found scoring equal points, for one post, women candidates will be automatically preferred.

Governance
The Governance structure of AF has two bodies. The first one is the Board of Trustees (BoT) and the second one is the Executive Committee (Core Team) headed by the Director. There are no women members in the BoT. In the Executive Committee has three members out of 10 members. While the BoT is the highest policy making Body and legal entity, the Executive Committee is appointed by the BoT and is responsible for execution of the programmes in pursuance of the objectives of BoT.
Efforts will be made to invite women to the AF Board of Trustees as special invitees in order to create a gender balance in the highest policy making body. And the efforts will also be made particularly to induct women staff at the Executive level.

Staff Policies

Gender specific working standards are put in place, They are

1. Arranging transport for women staff while travelling in the night.
2. Following safety protocols like accompaniment of male staff or group members.
3. Limiting the late night meetings for women staff members only when urgent.
4. Preferential consideration for housing on the campus for single women
5. Reviewing office timings (central office) and permitting flexible hours of work for women staff, especially for expecting and young mothers.
6. Allow to stay and dire in the office of the care takers accompanying the mothers who have to bring children to office, for trainings, meetings etc.
7. Maternity leave of 3-4 months (depending on the health conditions and other factors can be negotiated upon) is provided to all women.
8. A paternity leave of 5 days is allowed up to 2 deliveries.
9. A special leave of three weeks is available to staff members on providing a medical certificate of miscarriage or medical termination of pregnancy.
10. A leave of up to 5 days is allowed to staff members who undergo vasectomy to encourage men to take responsibility for family planning.
11. A leave of upto 8 days is allowed for women who undergo tubectomy operation.
12. AF realises that the process of development and change is slow and tiring and opportunities for moving up in the organisation are limited. Thus it is important to make efforts towards in sustaining motivation and commitment of the staff members. The organisation will thus make provisions for training in additional skills like computers, English, documentation, management etc, for both women and men staff members for enhancement of their skills and personality development.
13. Accion Fraterna believes in family-friendly work policies, like hiring of couples as staff and making efforts to place them at the same location and at regular interval organizes family gatherings and ensures active participation of all.
14. Accion Fraterna has made efforts to provide women staff members a safe working environment and avenues to grievance redressal and seek justice. Women Team, a platform to help women address their problems
pertaining to harassment or ill treatment has evolved. The Women Team members meeting on a monthly basis to discuss problems at work. Specific cases of grievances are taken up with the higher officials and appropriate and just actions are taken. The organization also arranges for counseling services to its staff members whenever required.

15. AF is also working on formulating and adopting a sexual harassment redressal policy.

16. Performance Assessment

There is a system of Performance Assessment in AF for all staff.

Indicators to assess gender sensitivity in the overall performance of staff by self, supervisors, peers and subordinates is incorporated in the Performance Assessment.

17. Gender Trainings

Accion Fraterna organises gender trainings for all its staff members (Women & Men) at regular intervals, to build gender perspective and in order to weave in gender concerns into planning, implementation and monitoring of programs.

(B) PROGRAM LEVEL

I. Sustainable Agriculture

The two broad objectives of the sustainable agriculture program of AF are:

- Protecting the small farmers by making their farming viable.
- Promoting sustainable agriculture which is low cost, low external input and eco-friendly, through Sasyamithra Groups and their Samakhyas.

These village institutions focus on promotion of Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) methods to control pests and diseases, and Low External Input for Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) practices.

1.1 Family twin membership and equal participation for women and men in CBOs.

The farmer based primary groups called Sasyamitra Groups (SMG) and their federations at village level, mandal level and district level are the main actors and leaders of Sustainable Agriculture. AF pursued equal representation and participation for women and men in these farmers’ organizations. AF has introduced a CBO structure with a twin membership from each family for equal representation and participation of women and men in its CBOs both at General Body and at the Executive Body level.

At the primary SMG level, each farmer family is represented by two members with at least one woman as a compulsory member. The exception is only when there are no women in the family. About 25 farmers’ families are formed into an SMG. Thus they are 50 persons in each General Body of SMG. General Body of each SMG selects one Convener and one Co-convener and atleast one among them must be a woman preferable the convener. There are about 5 to 8 such SMGs in each village. At the village level, these SMGs are federated and called
Grama Sasyamithra Samakhya (GSS). The Conveners and Co-conveners of all the SMGs in the village form the General Body of the GSS. This General Body will select one convener and co-convener for GSS, again at least one woman compulsory. There are about 30 such GSS in each mandal. The conveners and co-conveners of GSS are federated at the mandal level called Mandal Sasyamithra Samakhya (MSS). At the mandal level the General Body selects one convener and co-convener, again at least one woman compulsory. Such mandal level conveners and co-conveners form a district level federation called District Sasyamithra Samakhya (DSS). The DSS selects one convener and co-convener, again at least one woman compulsory. These CBO structures are designed to bring equal participation of both the genders in planning, decision making, implementation and sharing of the benefits.

1.2 Farmers Field Schools (FFS) an important intervention in Sustainable Agriculture. The FFS are organized once a week. AF facilitates participation of equal number of women and men in FFS thus providing equal opportunities for learning, skill building and participation in decision making on agriculture matters, both at family and at the SSG level.

1.3 The sustainable agriculture program addresses the concerns of women farmers for growing various food crops by promoting pure and border crops, intercrops, trap crops and vegetables. Millets like bajra & jowar and pulses like cow pea, red gram, castor, marigold, sunflower are encouraged in order to replace the monocrop of groundnut.

1.4 The SMG women members are encouraged to raise plant nurseries at the village level for ensuring timely availability of good quality plants and some additional income for women and contributing to the restoration of the vegetative cover.

1.5 The traditional know how and practices of local women and men in Non Pesticides Management (NPM) are being strengthened and will be promoted for prevention of a variety of diseases and reducing expenditure.

1.6 Seed Banks are established at the village level and are managed by a sub-committee comprising of equal women and men, for preservation and conservation of food crops, coarse cereals, pulses, thus ensuring access and control of women on seeds and choice of crops.

1.7 As a policy, cash payments in any of the interventions carried out for the target families by AF are exclusively made to women only.

1.8 AF organizes gender trainings for both women and men (separate & combined) in the SMGs, focusing on awareness on gender disparities between women and men in health, education, work load, access and control over resources etc.

1.9 AF, through the Sasyamithra Groups their Samakhyas (SMGs & SMS), advocates with private farmers for equal wages to be given to women and men.
1.10 AF will conduct gender analysis of its sustainable agriculture program to further understand the concerns and priorities of women and men and will re-strategize its interventions to address them.

2. Women initiatives and Sustainable Non-farm Rural Livelihoods
The sustainable rural livelihoods support program of AF adopts a “women specific approach” and aims at diversifying the family livelihood base by enabling women to take up viable off-farm and non-farm income generation activities (IGAs). To achieve this objective, AF formulated a comprehensive livelihood support policy, which promotes women from SC & ST, poor and marginal farmer/labor families to take up various micro-enterprises.

2.1 AF will facilitate financial support to groups of women by enabling access to credit for various IGAs by linking them with, banks and other financial institutions.

2.2 AF will organize & support interventions for enhancing women’s awareness and building their capacities in identifying viable income generation activities, preparing proposals, establishing market linkages and skill-building.

2.3 AF will strive to strengthen women’s role in household and market economy by promoting revival of traditional livelihood activities like sari weaving, mat and basket weaving etc.

2.4 AF will provide opportunities for gender centric and women lead activities like “Women’s Day Celebrations” Ecology Days and also explore creation of new spaces for women to lead, organize, share their experiences, learn from each other and to voice collectively their needs, priorities and issues.

2.5 AF has ensured equal representation of women in all village level institutions and as office bearers. Further, it will organize trainings for women leaders in leadership development and management of resources and governance.

2.6 AF will continue to support collaboration between the different village level institutions promoted by both AF and government. Efforts will also be directed at developing deeper understanding and awareness of both AF staff members and that of the women members on gender discrimination (declining adult and child sex ratio, domestic violence, reproductive and sexual health etc.). Based on the understanding a perspective plan on addressing structural and social issues affecting women’s subordination will be drawn out.

3. Skill-building for Alternate Employment for girls
Accion Fraterna has initiated a programme for rural youth for skill development, which can help them to get employment or self employed. AF has started courses in driving, motor re-winding, hospitality services, customer relation and services and information technology enabled services, garment making etc. AF has also
mobilizes youth to attend other skills training courses run by government by organizations like RUDSETI, JSS, and NAC etc. AF strives to enhance the coverage of girls in all these training programmes.

3.1 Accion Fraterna promotes identification and mobilization of educated and unemployed youth. Special efforts and provisions are made to enable more girls to make use of these opportunities – like fee concessions, travel passes, hostel facilities, preferential selections etc.

3.2 At present only boys are enrolled in driving and house wiring and motor winding course. Breaking the gender stereotypes, in future AF will also motivate girls to take up admission in these courses.

3.3 AF provides support services for placement of the trained youth particularly girls and acts as a liaison between employers and the trained youth. AF bargains for better terms of employment for the youth with prospective employers. It will conduct follow up visits to the companies and ensure safe and supportive work environment for the youth, especially for girls.

3.4 Accion Fraterna is in the process of reviewing its skill-building program; it will take this opportunity to look empathetically at the needs of the girls like that of accommodation and other enabling conditions.

3.5 Young girls and boys in the villages will be given responsibility for survey, identification and mobilization of potential trainees for various skill-building trainings. The young people will be involved in need assessment and planning of the courses.

3.6 Skill-building trainings provide an opportunity to create awareness and to impart information and dissemination skills to the youth on relevant issues like gender, early marriage, early pregnancy, reproductive and sexual health and other gender related issues etc. AF will equip the trainees with knowledge and skills on the above issues as they will be instrumental in educating their peers and will also sensitize them as individuals.

4. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)
Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (APREGS) is being implemented in all the 230 villages in 8 mandals of Accion Fraterna’s project area. AF collaborates with the government in proper enabling implementation of the scheme. Moreover a pilot project is being implemented with a special drive for total and effective implementation of APREGS in 2 Mandals of AFs work area (Kalyandurg & Rapthadu). AF strives to enhance women’s access to employment.

4.1 Besides creating widespread awareness amongst women and men with regards to the rights of labour under the scheme and its provisions, AF regularly gets feed back on the inadequacies in policy, procedures and in actual implementation particularly for women under AREGS. Based on the feed back it will plan advocacy initiatives. It is observed that nursing mothers and single women are at a disadvantage under the present scheme. So, efforts
will be made to bring enabling conditions for nursing mothers and single women.

4.2 AF is doing capacity building for the government APREGS staff. It will also sensitize them on gender issues faced in policy and implementation of the scheme.

5. Project Monitoring & Evaluation (PME)

5.1 Wherever applicable AF will develop gender specific indicators and will generate gender disaggregated data (both quantitative and qualitative).

5.2 The budget of AF gives information on allocation of funds for women specific programs. The organization will review its budget and will strive to make it more gender friendly.

5.3 Accion Fraterna will make allocation of resources for mainstreaming gender in all its policies and programs.

5.4 The PME team will conduct review of the gender policy of the organization at regular intervals.

5.5 Research, studies on gender related issues like that of declining child sex ratio, women’s land rights etc. will be conducted to develop deeper understanding and to incorporate learnings into AFs strategies and interventions.

5.6 AF will ensure procurement, development and dissemination of reading/reference material related to gender issues.

5.7 Accion Fraterna will identify gender related issues and networks working on these issues, for networking, cross learning, joint effort, policy advocacy and lobbying.

Conclusion

The gender policy document of AF is intended to be as a set of principles and policies to guide the organization’s work on institutionalizing gender concerns. The promotion of gender equality, social equity and empowerment of women is part and parcel of AFs vision, mission and strategic priorities. Thus AF will continue with its proactive efforts at re-ordering gender relations between women and men. Besides making efforts at integration of women’s and men’s concerns in all its programs and policies AF will create spaces for women to realize their full potential as human beings and so that they may act as equal and valued partners in the development of their communities.

Accion Fraterna understands that mainstreaming gender in the organisation will be a continuous process and is committed to making efforts to bring about changes in perceptions, values and attitudes, at both organisational and personal level. AF will strive to keep alive the dialogue on gender issues and reinforce these values through gender sensitive organizational structures policies, processes and procedures.
Report on Demo Plots

Introduction:

In Anantapur district rain fed farming has become a very high risk, especially for the small and marginal farmers due to erratic rainfall year after year. The recurring droughts have become a common phenomena. About 90% of the farmers are small and marginal. They are forced to give up farming as the cost of cultivation is increasing, and they are not assured of crop yields. Since many years AF has been exploring various possibilities of making rain fed farming a profitable and assured source of income. AF has been collaborating with reputed research organizations and scientists in this process.

In the beginning of the year 2009 the senior staff of AF visited ICRISAT, Hyderabad and studied some Sustainable Agriculture models developed for rain-fed areas. AF took initiative and developed three models for rain fed areas. These models include 1. IFS (Integrated Farming System) 2. M.C.S. (Multiple Cropping System). 3. IBM (Intensive Bio-mass development). Then AF developed one more model called BIFSRA (Bio-intensive Farming System in Rainfed Agriculture), in consultation with Dr. Om.P.Rupela, a renowned scientist. He was formerly working with ICRISAT and now he is also a consultant for FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). Dr. Rupela is also providing hand holding support to AF in implementing BIFSRA model. During this kharif season, all these 4 models have been implemented in project villages on experimental basis with the participation of selected farmers. Totally 43 IFS plots 8 BIFSRA plots 43 IBM plots and 86 MCS plots have been implemented in 180 villages with 280 farmers.

The over all objective for all the Demo plots is to successfully demonstrate Sustainable Agriculture at farm level under rain fed conditions that is economically and ecologically viable even in a drought prone district like Anantapur.

1. Integrated Farming System (IFS) PLOTS:

In each IFS plot of 2.5 acres rain fed land, perennial fruit crops like Mango, Sapota, Custard Apple and Amla have been planted under 3 methods i.e., (1) Rock wool (2) Mother womb and (3) Common method. All three methods are specially designed in terms of pit size, spacing between the plants, planting and watering in order to ensure maximum survival with less water. Apart from the fruit plants, perennial fodder and bio-mass plants like Pongamia, Casia Siamea, Subabul, Sesbonia, Glyricidia etc have been planted on the field borders apart from the seed dibbling. Diversified seasonal crops including food crops like groundnut, millets, pulses and vegetables are sown in the land. Fodder and vegetables are also grown in these plots in about 30 cents each. The farmer can rear 2 or 3 dairy animals and 2 or 3 small
ruminants with the available grass fodder from the 2nd year onwards. Bio-fertilizers like Jeevamrutham, Vermi Compost and Fly Ash have been applied for each fruit plant for quick establishment and better survival. The details of fruit plants planted under 3 methods in each plot are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name of the plant / variety</th>
<th>Rock wool method</th>
<th>Mother womb method</th>
<th>Common method</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mango</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sapota</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Custard apple</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Amla</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totally 7640 fruit plants have been planted in 43 IFS plots in 43 villages covering 43 farmers in the project Area.

Once these fruit plants start yielding the farmer will be getting income through out the year as the different plants yield in different seasons. Thus the income will be stabilized from all the above sources if this model succeeds. The farmer will also get green matter for Bio-fertilizers through Bio-mass plantations and need not depend on external inputs.

2. Bio-Intensive Farming System in Rainfed Areas (BIFSRA) PLOTS:

In each BIFSRA plot of 2.5 Acres alleys at 50 feet interval are made by ploughing. Fruit plants like Mango, Amla, Sapota and Custard apple have been planted in the alleys. In between the fruit plants fodder and forest species seed like Subabul, Sesbania, Pongamia, Glyricidia and Casia Siemia have been dibbled. The same seed is dibbled on the field borders also. For each plant 5 Kgs of Vermi Compost, 5 liters of liquid Jeevamrutham, Fly Ash are applied for better growth and survival. Staking is done for each plant. A specially designed method called “Mother womb method” has been followed for planting fruit plants (In this method pit is dug in concave shape with 60 mm diameter and 30 cm deep. The depth and diameter may vary with age and size of sapling)

On an average 75 Mango, 49 Sapota, 28 Amla and 30 Amla (Total 182) plants have been planted in each BIFSRA plot. **Totally 1570 fruit plants are planted in 8 BIFSRA plots covering 8 farmers in 8 villages of the Project Area.**

Once these fruit plants start yielding the farmer will be getting assured income through out the year as the different variety of plants yield in different seasons, apart from the income that comes from the annual crops like ground nut, millets, pulses and vegetables. Thus the income will be stabilized from all the above sources. The farmer will also get green matter for Bio-fertilizers through bio-mass plantation and he need not depend on external inputs as fertilizers.
3. Multiple Cropping System (MCS) PLOTS:

The objective of the Multiple Cropping System is to achieve food and nutritional security for the rural community through diversified cropping under rainfed conditions that is economically and ecologically viable.

In each multiple cropping plot of 2.5 Acres, 1Ac. of Groundnut with intercrop, 30 cents of pure castor, 30 cents of pure Redgram, 30 cents of pure Jowar, 30 cents of pure Bajra, and 30 cents of pure vegetables have been sown. In each demo plot 10 cart loads of F.Y.M (Farm Yard Manure) and 8 cart loads of Tank Silt has been applied before sowing. There is good response from the farmers as the investment is not so high for sowing multiple crops. And moreover there is minimum guarantee of getting yields at least from one or two crops. The farmers have invested about Rs. 3000 and the expected yields are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Groundnut</th>
<th>Red Gram</th>
<th>Castor</th>
<th>Bajra / Korra</th>
<th>Jowar</th>
<th>Vegetables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yield in Kgs</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth in Rs.</td>
<td>4400</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiple cropping is considered as one of the drought proofing mechanism / system in Anantapur District. Totally 86 Multiple Cropping Plots have been implemented in 43 clusters covering 86 farmers in 43 villages of the Project Area.

Under the normal weather conditions the farmer will get stabilized annual net income about Rs. 7000/- from 2.5 acres of land and have food and nutritional security not only for the family but also for the cattle from both commercial and food crops (fodder).

4. Intensive Biomass (I.B.M.) Plot:

The objective of the IBM is to successfully demonstrate on farm bio-mass production for improving soil fertility and carrying capacity of the land and in turn promote organic farming.

In each cluster one plot with 10 ha. of land has been selected for developing biomass. The forest species seed / plants like Pongamia, Glyricedia, Casia Siamea, Subabul and Sesbania were dibbled / planted on the field border bunds during the rainy months of July, August and September 2009. When there was sufficient moisture in the field bunds. Totally seed dibbling and plantation has been done in 4300 ha. of land in 43 clusters of the Project Area. About 3,00,089 dibbles and 14900 plants have been dibbled / planted. The survival is 90% in seed dibbling and 95% in plantation. Provision for critical watering and gap filling is made for the 1st year i.e., 2010 for better survival of the plants.
The yield (availability of Bio-mass / Green matter) will start from 3rd year onwards. It is estimated that about 20 tonnes of green matter (worth Rs. 20,000) will be harvested in 2 cuttings / loppings a year which will give sufficient compost for the 10 ha. plot. Because of the production of Bio-mass the farmer will be saving the investment (about Rs. 20,000/-) on fertilizers for 10 ha. of farming land. He need not depend on external inputs like chemical fertilizers. Thus the IBM production will play pivotal role in promotion of Sustainable Agriculture.

A part from the fruit plants and Bio-mass plants 33100 Agave plants have been planted in 8 BIFSRA and 43 IFS plots.

/topic Farmer’s participation in Demo plots
- Assisting the staff (STO/FC/AO) in Marking, Alignment and Planting the plants accordingly.
- Staking, Fencing, Mulching and Weeding on regular basis
- Application of organic fertilizers like F.Y.M Vermi compost and Jeevamrutham
- Dibbling of seed (Bio-mass) in between the fruit plants and field borders
- Regular watering once in 15 days.
- Gap filling in place of dead / dried up plants.
- Sharing of experience and motivation to other farmers.

/topic GSS participation in Demo plots
- Awareness and motivation to other farmers
- Assist the SMGs in selection of Interested Farmers (preference to women farmers)
- Support to the farmers in implementation
- Visiting the demo plots once in a week or 10 days and assist the staff in monitoring the progress.
- Necessary support and suggestions to the farmers and staff.

/topic Role of AF staff
- Awareness and motivation to the SMG farmers
- Timely supply of required material (plants, rockwool blocks, seed etc)
- Strictly follow the technicalities as per the plan.
- Regular monitoring of plots and timely actions (Mortality, Pests, Diseases, Water problem etc)
- Maintaining records (plan, visits, material register, photos, practices followed etc)
- Arranging name boards with all details in each plot.
- Assistance to the concerned farmers in regular management of the plot.
- Arrange field days and motivate other farmers.
- Keep records of expenditure and income for each demo plot.

AF strongly believes that these models will be successful and are replicable.
E & E Coalition Report

A 3 day workshop of the Empowerment & Entitlement Coalition was held at Bhooshaki Kendra, REDS, Tumkur, from 26th – 28th June 2009. 17 members from 9 NGOs including Ms.Clarieke from Dalit Network Netherlands, Amsterdam participated in the workshop. Ms. Frederika, Ms. Kalamani from ICCO’s Regional Working Office, Delhi and Ms.Elske from ICCO also participated in the workshop. The focus of the workshop was on giving a shape and structure to the E&E coalition and on designing a concrete Coalition program.

For the first 2 days the group worked on (a) The Purpose, (b) The Objectives, (c) The Strategies and (d) The Activities of the E&E coalition program. Then on the final day, the Budget for the coalition program and the Sources of Funds were discussed.

The purpose of the Coalition program is strengthening of the Disadvantaged and excluded communities, both at Micro & Macro levels to access and manage resources and exercise rights in an inclusive, participatory and just manner.

The objectives are; (a) To enhance the Partner capacity, (b) To establish Local - Global linkages, (c) To Advocate and Lobby for pro-poor policies and (d) To campaign for Electoral Reforms.

The Strategies are; (a) To Work at Micro and Macro levels,(b) To Link people’s organizations, (c) To Promote women’s leadership,(d) To Appropriate implementation of laws and (e) To Influence the polices.

The Activities are; (a) Conducting coalition meetings,(b) CBO exchange visits, (c) Information dissemination,(d) Participation in State and National Coalitions, (e) Participatory studies to take up campaigns, and (f) Creating a grid of lawyers and supporting human rights defenders

The Budget for the Coalition program was planned from July 2009 to December 2010. The tentative budget was worked out at Rs. 4,328,000 (€ 65000 Approx), for the 18 month program. Ms. Frederika Ms Elske told that only € 31,000 can be arranged from ICCO, for this program. The Coalition partners agreed to raise the balance amount of € 34,000 by hosting some events from their current project funds to bridge the gap. ICCO will give a formal consent to such expenditure. Ms Kalamani was requested to mobilize funds from ICCO, to the extent possible.

At the end of the 3 day workshop, the members felt that being in the coalition; they get an opportunity to challenge their own assumptions on Core Values of Dignity, Equality and Peace with freedom, from time to time. They expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the workshop.
Annexure-4

Southern Region Consultation of “Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture”

1. Introduction

A 2 day workshop has been organized by the Food and Water Security Coalition, India at Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre on 25th and 26th September 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and make concrete recommendations to the Central Government / NAPCC on Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture. The Government of India will be participating and presenting it’s views and recommendations in ‘Copenhagen’ meet on “Climate Change”. These consultation workshops are to be conducted in 4 places i.e., South, North, East & West. Eminent people like scientists from various disciplines, farmers who are practicing organic farming and representatives of NGOs and CSOs from different parts of southern India attended the workshop. The special invitees include Dr. Nammalwar, Tamilnadu, Dr. Dwarikinath, Director, AME, Bangalore, Sree Vadde Sobhanadeeswara Rao, Ex-Agriculture Minister, Dr. Narayana Reddy, well known organic farmer and Mr. K.S.Gopal, CEC, Hyderabad who is also convener of this 2 day workshop. The workshop was attended by about 32 members.
Synopsis of the consultation workshop is annexed:

**Food Security- Problems**

- Hi-tech agriculture disempowering farmers, displacing them as they cannot afford the expensive inputs
- It has added to destruction of land and climate and crop pattern
- Food production is affected and concentrated in fewer pockets and travels several miles before it reaches us
- Farmers rely heavily on fertilizers and chemicals—wisdom of ancestors lost
- 50% of our land is saline. Consumers are falling into diseases with the food they are eating.*1
- There has been no Agriculture Policy in India*2
- The 3 levels of using crops and plants for food, medicine and as pest control is a forgotten wisdom*3
- Conventional agriculture has proved to be 35% contributor to ill impacts of climate change and agriculture is the prime sufferer
- Defects in agriculture are all man made and Sukuoka has proved it
- We have polluted our sea, rivers, cattle, land, air and all these are considered impacts of green revolution
- There is less than 10% investment in last 60 years on agriculture and 70% of our lands are rain fed.

Ref-*M.S. Swaminathan

**Food Security- Solutions Community Food Security System**

Conservation - Cultivation – Consumption - Commerce

- Gene Bank
- Seed Bank
- Grain Bank
- Water Bank

Pathway to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger and poverty

- Govt should add jowar, ragi, foxtail millets in PDS in this region for nutrition security
- Dung can feed eco conditions along with soil carbon. Growing Millets do that job better
Food Security- Solutions

- Focus on
- Food security
- Availability
- Accessibility
- Acceptability
- Nutritive value of food
- Locally produced and locally consumed will reduce food mileage
- Farmers should feel ownership of land and a role in its protection
- Govt should add jowar, ragi, foxtail millets in PDS in this region for nutrition security

Land Quality- Problems

- Urea kills entire micro organism, thus the soils in last 40 years is spoilt, lost eco viability of farmers, Good pests are destroyed by chemicals, Pests and diseases may increase
- Consumers are eating contaminated food.
- We have polluted our sea, rivers, cattle, land, air and all these are considered impacts of green revolution
- Agriculture is a process of communication and not a land to land method of imposing. Scientist has to be in farms and not in labs
- Land with less or no micro nutrients, no planning of improving cattle population, cattle health, water conservation and making millets an orphaned crop- all these are location specific micro family issues
- There will be less land available for cultivation for higher demand, less water to produce more food
- The loss of soil carbon is diminished from 3% to .3%, a 100 times depletion most importantly over the moisture
- While the land needs 8% soil carbon we have only 1 or 2%. no earthworms are left on the soil
Land Quality - Solutions

- Follow the ancient wisdom. Ban chemicals & fertilizer use completely.
- State farms be handed over to SHGs.
- Agriculture being a state subject the issues should be addresses by a locally formed commission before formning policies and not lead by Ministers
- For nitrogen fixing we need more cow dung that means more cows, more grazing lands and 70% is already available in legume plants for micro nutrients
- “Agriculture is location specific” and has location specific solutions
- Feed bacteria into land to rejuvenate land
- Planting more native trees around cultivable lands. Tree cover gives income when crops fail. Trees being store houses of water the biological relations improve with predators, birds and bees around trees
- Build more soil carbon to bring up humus
- Encourage termites as this creates ½ tonne of manure free from ant hill. It holds oxygen & retains water
- There should be adaptation and mitigation strategy which is farmer friendly and location specific
- Increase awareness among farmers on hazards of chemical? Fertilizer use and its lasting impacts on land quality
- Increase bio diversity- biomass in forest and farm lands
- Sensitize people on CC and SA
- Coping strategies and nets to be formed
- Grazing on rotation
- Dung can feed eco conditions along with soil carbon. Growing Millets do that job better

Water Resources - Problems

- Should ground water be used all 365 days as there is 5 times more water consumed in summer months. Where is the time for revival of ground water?
- Temperatures will change- micro climatic conditions will change
- Aberration in rainfall pattern- How can agriculture sector face these two problems and sustain
- productivity?
- Evapotranspiration is high – 1850mm annually. Day and night temperature gaps are widening
- In Anantapur region 30 years back water was 15-30 feet deep there were open wells built 500 years ago. Tradition was to grow 20 varieties in one acre-toaday
- We need smaller crops to minimise run off
- On a desert terrain 60% water evaporates
- 40 to 60% deficient rains from some years
- 4 months of rain come down to 2 months though average rainfall is the same
- Atmospheric water reserves covers the entire eco system but the green revolution has phased it out
Water Resources - Solutions

- Formulate Ground water management advocacy
- Pooling of bore well water (Common use)
- River water rights- equitable sharing
- Adopt Rain water conservation techniques to retain moisture
- Check how many irrigation projects are defunct and why? There are already too many dams- no more needed
- Need for interlinking rivers not worth-Just revive local water sources
- Displacement due to water linking causes social rift

The recommendations came out of a dialogue as - Dialogue tries to see the entire picture, examining and synthesizing all sides of an issue before taking action

Strategy:
- Rain fed Agriculture altogether requires a different focus and should not be communalized with irrigated agriculture. Rain fed Agriculture to move towards LEISA farming
- Restructuring the policy appropriate and exclusive to rain fed farming that differs with that of irrigated farming systems.

The rain fed policy must address the:
- Enabling a policy that strengthen the natural resources
- Avoid the exploitation of resources is the prerequisite
- Encourage productivity improvement of natural resources
- Focus on sustainable development of land & water
- Make the rain fed farmer less dependent on external inputs
- Provide appropriate support for inputs, marketing, price, risk mitigation etc.
- Policy to provide due support to ITKs
- Community centric and community driven, simple technology
- Policy support for rural enterprises
The outcome of the policy must be:

- NRs will become productive
- 30% of land should be covered under tree farming
- Gradually phasing out of chemical inputs
- Ground water regulation and equity in usage
- Enhanced soil health

Problems

- Green revolution technologies contributed and aggravated the problem
- Conventional Energy Conversion, Utilisation and Costing are Flawed
- Subsidies on all ‘climate change’ instigators, including nuclear & thermal power stations, fertilisers, industries and urban life styles.
- Large country with diverse climate (15 ACZs)
- Diverse seasons, crops and farming systems
- High monsoon dependency
- Small holders, poor coping mechanisms and low penetration of risk management products
solutions

**Adaptive agriculture**

- Investments in adaptation research capacity: varieties, land use systems, resource conservation technologies, pest surveillance
- Changes in policies e.g. incentives for resource conservation (C,W,E) and use efficiency, pricing of resources, credit for transition to adaptation technologies
- Investments in infrastructure for water management
- Relocation to more productive areas
- Greater insurance coverage for the farm
- Improved communication of climate changes and options to adapt to them
- Creating alternate livelihood options and reducing dependence on agriculture
- Short, Medium and Long range of weather forecasts has to be converted to
- Location and farming systems specific action plans
- Agro forestry systems have the capacity to enhance the use efficiency of rain water

**Crop based approach**

- Crops and varieties that fit into new cropping systems and seasons
- Development of varieties with changed duration
- Varieties for high temperature, drought, inland salinity and submergence tolerance
- Crops and varieties that tolerate coastal salinity and sea water inundation
- Varieties which respond to high CO2
- Crop-Crop Diversity for adapting to increased pest incidence
- Shelter belts for moderating micro climate

**Germplasm**

- Need for revisiting gene banks with a view to search for unique traits required for climate change
- Indigenous knowledge and farmers wisdom has immense value
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