

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Diversified Livelihoods 2012-13



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT – 2012-13

For the period 01.04.2012 to 31.03.2013



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Sl.No.	Abbreviation	Expansion
1	AF-EC	Accion Fraterna, Ecology Centre
2	ATL	Area Team Leader
3	BIFSRA	Bio-intensive Farming System in Rain fed Areas
4	CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
5	CER	Certified Emission Reduction
6	FYM	Farm Yard Manure
7	CBO	Community Based Organization
8	IKG	Integrated Kitchen Garden
9	Ha.	Hectare
10	E&E Coalition	Empowerment & Entitlements Coalition
11	FCN	Fair Climate Network
12	FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
13	FFS	Farmer Field School
14	GHG	Green House Gases
15	GSS	Grama Sasyamithra Samakhyas
16	HEIDA	High External Input Destructive Agriculture
17	ICRISAT	International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics
18	IFS	Integrated Farming System
19	ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
20	IWMP	Integrated Watershed Management Program
21	KK	Karyakarthas
22	LCF	Low Carbon Farming
23	LEISA	Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture
24	MFTC	Multiple Fruit Tree Cropping
25	MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
26	MSS	Mandal Sasyamitra Samakhyas
27	NABARD	National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development
28	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
29	NPM	Non-pesticidal Management
30	NRM	Natural Resource Management
31	PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
32	PPME	Participatory Planning Monitoring & Evaluation
33	PME	Planning Monitoring & Evaluation
34	SA	Sustainable Agriculture
35	SC	Scheduled Caste
36	SMGs	Sasya Mitra Groups
37	SRI	System of Rice Intensification
38	ST	Scheduled Tribe
39	STO	Socio-Technical Organizer
40	UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change
41	LMV	Light Motor Vehicle
42	HMV	Heavy Motor Vehicle
43	AEO	Agricultural Extension Officer
44	EDF	Environment Defense Fund
45	VERs	Verified Emission Reductions

General Information

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Project Title : Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture &
Diversified Livelihoods

Name of organization : ACCION FRATERNA ECOLOGY CENTRE
(AF-EC)

Country of Implementation : INDIA

Project Number : 71-03-03-035

Period Covered : 01.04.2012 to 31.03.2013

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT:

1.1 General Situation of Anantapur District

1.1.1 Rise in expectations of Wage labourers:

MGNREGS is being implemented satisfactorily in the district. On an average each labour has utilized 70 man days of labour in project area in FY 2012-13. The aspirations of labour are increasing. They are demanding increase of employment guarantee days from 100 to 150 per annum per family and increase of wage to atleast Rs 150 per day. Though less in number, the migration of unsatisfied labourers to cities in search of better and continued employment is still happening. The shift is observed from distress migration to betterment migration. The demand to extend MGNREGS to cover farming operations is increasing. If extended it will benefit both labour and farmers, as most of the labourers are part farmers themselves and the cost of cultivation in farming will come down. There is a perception among the farmers that MGNREGS is adding to the crisis in agriculture. They see that MGNREGS can be tailored to reduce agricultural crisis and farmer distress through the very employment being generated. However, this is resisted by a section of labour as they fear that the farmers may socially and economically subjugate them as “employers” of labour and they may lose the new found socio-economic freedom from MGNREGS.

1.1.2 A shift in cropping patterns observed

AF's efforts are bringing some positive trends which are contributing towards achievement of its objectives. A clear beginning towards a shift in cropping patterns is observed in the district from mono crop of Groundnut to a more intercropping with millets and pulses. The sowing area of Groundnut in rainfed lands has come down by about 25%.

To make best use of this fast changing agrarian situation, which is seen as an opportunity, AF is advocating multiple cropping patterns with millets and pulses (mixed food crops), which are suitable for Anantapur agro climate. In this direction,

AF has developed 12 cropping models of Sustainable Agriculture considering different soils and different crop combinations for Anantapur agro-climatic conditions. The crop management guidelines for these cropping models to be adopted and suitable SA protocols and methods were prepared and publicized widely among the farmers. All these models are climate smart and based on the principles of Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA). They are all consistent with Low Carbon Farming (LCF). During the Kharif and Rabi seasons of 2012-13, demonstrations of these crop models were taken up on a big scale with 4200 farmers in 2550 ha of land in 214 villages.

The farmers made an important observation this season that the birds that have disappeared (like sparrows) have started appearing again because of pulses and millet crops on the ground during this crop season. The birds thrive on millets and pulses. The groundnut crop has been not bird friendly for about 3 decades! We feel happy that birds are coming back and enroming bio-diversity.

The policy advocacy and lobby efforts of AF-EC had resulted in further expansion of Rainfed Horticulture under MGNREGS and coverage extended to even non-SC/ST farmers. The extent of Rainfed Horticulture is increasing in the district because of favourable policies and support of MGNREGA. In near future, Ananatpur District will emerge as a Fruit Bowl of Andhra Pradesh.

1.1.3 Demonstration of package of SA practices introduced along with cropping models.

One important change introduced in this year 2012-13 is in the manner the bio-pesticide and bio-fertiliser promotion activities are demonstrated. These demonstrations are now being organized as an integrated package of SA practices for each crop model. Earlier each practice was demonstrated separately. The crop specific integrated packages of practices which include not only use of bio fertilizers and pesticides but also others like intercropping; preventive measures for pest and disease control are showing better results in crop yields.

1.2 Programmatic Changes in AF-EC

1.2.1 Changes in Staff:

During the reporting period 12 staff members mostly at grassroots level (6 men and 6 women) resigned for various reasons and 14 candidates have been newly recruited, of whom there are 8 Women. Presently, AF has 40% women staff (33 out of 82).

1.2.2 Better Project management:

AF-EC has strengthened its systems of internal control and monitoring during 2012-13. We have developed and introduced a Finance Manual for better finance management. Our performance in the field has improved with better monitoring and performance based incentive systems. We brought more seriousness among our field staff in implementing activities and ensuring quality work in the field. A more systematic involvement of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and women participation is emphasized. Our PME has further improved and strengthened. Action-Reflection and Learning is being mainstreamed. Our knowledge resources are strengthened and we are striving towards becoming a knowledge based organization.

1.3 The challenges ahead

The challenges at present are a) to orient and train the new field staff to be effective facilitators of CBOs and be effective extension agents, b) to train and orient the karyakartas (*village volunteers*) to be agents of change, c) to capacitate and strengthen the SMGs and their federations and d) to stabilize the processes of PME in the field.

Our grass root staff now, is mostly young and inexperienced women. The turnover among women staff is high. So, we need to create favorable conditions and opportunities for them to continue in service.

The groundwater situation is worsening in the district due to inadequate rains. So there is crisis both in irrigated and rainfed farming. There is need to adapt AF's activities and implementation processes to match the deepening crisis in the agriculture and rural livelihoods. There are both challenges and opportunities in it.

2. PROGRESS MONITORING PROTOCOL

2.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To increase and stabilise the income levels of the target families and improve their access to basic needs like employment and Food & Nutritional Security by promoting; (a) Sustainable Agriculture, (b) Natural Resource Management, (c) Alternate Livelihoods for Rural Women & youth d) Public opinion building and Lobbying with Government for Pro- LEISA policies.

2.2 Specific Objectives and their indicators:

OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS
1) To reduce the cost of cultivation and mitigate drought (by diversified cropping) in 11200 ha of land belonging to 5600 farmer families through SA practices by 2015.	1.1 35% of 16000 farmer families practicing atleast 3 of 5 main sustainable agriculture practices. 1.2 856 SMGs of 21400 farmers and farm workers and their federations work in a collective manner in order to adopt sustainable agriculture.
2) 15000 famers introduce Low Carbon Farming in their 12000 ha of land in order to gain access to the Indian CO2 market by 2015.	2.1 The method of low Carbon Farming is introduced in 12000 ha of land and is validated and certified for the Indian Co2 market. 2.2 The certificates are offered at the Indian carbon market.
3) The livelihood of approx. 3200 women and youth from the target families is diversified through alternate off farm/ nonfarm livelihoods by 2015.	3.1 Approx. 3200 women and youth are trained to contribute additional livelihood to the family with skill based employment.

2.3 Progress at outcome level:

Objectives	Indicator (or) Desired Result by 2015	Achieved during April- March 2013	Remarks
1) To reduce the cost of cultivation and mitigate drought (by	1.1) 35% of 16000 farmer families practicing atleast 3 of 5 main	Of the 16000 small and marginal farmer families enrolled into AF's SA program: During the reporting period (April 2012 to March 2013)	The achievement in SA practices was low during kharif season

<p>diversified cropping) in 11200 ha of land belonging to 5600 farmer families through SA practices by 2015.</p>	<p>sustainable agriculture practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1892 (12%) Farmers have adopted crop rotation and diversified cropping covering 766 ha. of rainfed lands. • 3022 families (19%) have used Pest traps in their crops covering 1270 ha. • 2880 families (18%) have applied Bio- pesticides to their crops covering 1171 ha. • 3115 families (19%) have used Bio-fertilizers like Jeevamritam to their crops covering 1320 ha. • 197 families (1%) have practiced SRI in paddy covering 82 ha. <p>Totally, during the reporting period April 2012 to March 2013, 2480 families (15% of the enrolled farmer families) have adopted in 1506 ha of land (13% of 11200 ha) at least 3 of the above LEISA practices saving cost of cultivation by about Rs 1500 per ha.</p>	<p>due to lack of timely rains during the sowing season which resulted in reduced sowing area.</p>
	<p>1.2) 856 SMGs of 21,400 farmers and farm workers and their federations work in a collective manner in order to adopt sustainable agriculture.</p>	<p>During the reporting period (April 2012 to March 2013):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of 856 SMGs formed 820 (96%) groups were reorganized. • The membership fee was collected from all the new SMG members and deposited in respective GSS Bank Accounts. • Out of 856 SMGs about 80 SMGs (10%) began to practice in small ways the mutual cooperation between SMG members. (eg: exchange of labour, 	<p>Reorganizing the SMGs was an opportunity to invite interested farmers into the groups in place of farmers who left the groups. It also strengthened the leadership in SMGs.</p>

		<p>implements etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of 21,400 families in 856 SMGs about 800 (4%) families are following mutual cooperation in farming activities. 	
2) 15000 famers introduce Low Carbon Farming in their 12000 ha of land in order to gain access to the Indian CO2 market by 2015.	2.1) The method of low Carbon Farming is introduced in 12000 ha of land and is validated and certified for the Indian Co2 market.	<p>During the reporting period (April 2012 to March 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In both Kharif and Rabi season together LCF was attempted by 7008 farmers (109% of the planned 6420 farmers) in 4621 ha (115% of the planned 4000 ha). 	
	2.2) The certificates are offered at the Indian carbon mkt.	This activity has not yet started. This can be done only after the carbon revenue viability of LCF is established.	
3) The livelihood of approx. 3200 women and youth from the target families is diversified through alternate off farm/ nonfarm livelihoods by 2015.	3.1) Approx. 3200 women and youth are trained to contribute additional livelihood to the family with skill based employment.	<p>During the reporting period (April 2012 to March 2013)</p> <p>Youth (Girls & Boys) from 518 families (74% of the planned 700) have acquired skills to employ or self employ and diversify their family livelihood. Of them 284 Girls have been trained in garment making and 204 Boys trained in LMV Driving and 30 boys trained in HMV driving.</p>	AF is planning to train more youth and link them with industry in coming years.

2.3 Progress at output level (Milestones)

2.3.1 Campaigns on; (a) Sustainable Agriculture, (b) Gender and (c) Adaptation to Climate Change

These Campaigns are organized at different levels like village level, area level and project level. The farmers, the scientists, the activists, NGOs, Government agencies, media and elected representatives will be coming together and participating in these campaigns. The Farmer groups (GSS, SMGs) and Federations (MSSs) played active

role in organizing these campaigns. In these campaigns awareness is created on; (a) various SA practices including Crop Diversification with millets, pulses, and multiple tree crops, (b) Integrating cattle and livestock into the farming system and (c) Adaptation measures to cope with effects of climate change like changing rainfall patterns etc. The practicing farmers share their experiences in SA with other farmers. Good cropping practices, Bio-fertilizers, Bio-pesticides are demonstrated to the farmers in these campaigns. More women farmers are motivated to participate in these campaigns.

During the reporting period April 2012 to March 2013,

- 401 Village level Campaigns (92% of the planned 436) were conducted. 21,560 women farmers (100 % of the planned 21,400) had participated in the campaigns, of whom 6,200 (29%) were from SC & ST families. 11590 women farmers (108% of the planned 10,700) had participated of whom 3,840 (33%) were from SC & ST families.
- AF had organized a big campaign at project level '**World day to combat Drought and Desertification**' in Anantapur on 17th June 2012. This campaign has sensitized the farmers, govt officials and policy makers on situation of drought in Anantapur and discussed solutions. A "10 point programme" to overcome drought and combat desertification in Anantapur District was presented by Dr. Y.V.Malla Reddy. The presentation was very thought provoking and was appreciated by one and all as the suitable solution for combating drought and desertification in Anantapur.

2.3.2 Trainings on (a) Sustainable Agriculture, (b) Gender and (c) Group dynamics & leadership development

The trainings for Farmer and Labour SMG members are organised at cluster level, wherein gender issues like division of work & sharing of work load by men, prevention of domestic violence, girl child education, economic freedom to women, participation for women in decision making in family matters, cropping choices, livelihoods, women and child health etc are being dealt with. Also Group dynamics in SMGs, and group processes like participation, cooperation and leadership are imparted in these trainings.

At village level, **Farmer Field Schools (FFS)** are conducted during the cropping season. FFS is a practice based learning where farmers “learn by doing.” The main objective of FFS is to empower the farmers to manage their crops effectively without agro chemicals by adopting Integrated Crop Management practices. FFS is conducted from sowing to harvest of the crop, so that the farmers can observe and analyze the dynamics of crop ecology across the season. STOs and KVs facilitate the FFS sessions. The topics dealt in FFS sessions are seed treatment, sowing methods, preparation and application, of Jeevamrutham, bio-pest and disease management, benefits of FYM, multiple crop cultivation & crop rotation.

During the reporting period April 2012 to March 2013,

- 55 cluster level trainings (92% out of planned 60 trainings) were organized. 1680 GSS leaders and SMG members had attended these trainings. Out of them 855 (51%) were women. Of the total participants 640 members (38%) were from SC/ST communities.
- 3,026 Farmer Field Schools (88% of the planned 3424) were conducted in 214 villages. 5640 farmers (88% of the planned 6420) had attended these FFS sessions, out of them 3384 (60%) were women participants and 1820 (32%) farmers were from SC/ST communities.

2.3.3 CBO Meetings (SMG, GSS, MSS)

There are 4 SMGs and 1 GSS functioning in each of 214 project villages. Each SMG meets once a month and every GSS meet twice a month. The field staff and Karyakarthis facilitate the regular meetings of SMGs and GSSs. The topics discussed in the meetings are Sustainable Agriculture, implementation of various planned



activities, importance of mutual cooperation and other related issues. Selection of deserving and eligible beneficiaries for incentive based activities is a key responsibility of the SMGs and GSS. The AF staff and KVs facilitate SMGs and GSS in the beneficiary selection process considering Gender & Social equity. The resource

poor, small and marginal farmers, willing to practice LEISA/NPM practices would be given preference.

There are 8 MSSs functioning in 8 mandals in the project area. The MSS meetings are facilitated at Mandal level by Area Team Leaders (ATLs) and Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs). The MSS members are playing an important role particularly in organizing mandal level awareness campaigns, International women days, ecology days and in mobilizing public opinion on issues concerning agriculture, environment, gender etc.

During the reporting period April 2012 to March 2013,

- 8054 SMG meetings (78% of the planned 10272) were conducted for 856 SMGS in 214 villages.
- 4622 GSS meetings (90% of planned 5136) were conducted in 214 villages.
- 92 MSS meetings (96% of the planned 96) were conducted for 8 MSS in 8 mandals.
- 42 KK (Karyakarta) review meetings (88% of the planned 48) were conducted.

2.3.4 Non-Pesticide Management (NPM)

The purpose of Non Pesticide Management (NPM) is to dispense with agro-chemicals which are expensive and hazardous and promote cost effective and eco-friendly practices of Pest management. NPM is a set of activities to control pests using locally available resources which include both mechanical and bio pest control. AF



is intensively promoting NPM methods to reduce the cost of pest management and to grow healthy crops.

Also AF has helped GSSs in setting up 26 NPM shops in 26 project villages to provide low cost NPM inputs to farmers. These shops are managed by identified entrepreneurial rural youth trained in Sustainable Agriculture and in preparation of bio-manures and bio-pesticides with locally available resources. Concerned GSSs had extended financial assistance to these youth to set up the shops. The Pest traps,

Bio-pesticides, Herbal pest repellents and Jeevamritham are available in NPM shops for sale. Sprayer sets are available in 9 NPM shops to enable farmers to use them and spray Bio-pesticides at nominal rent. During the reporting period all the NPM shops were functional and provided necessary inputs to the farmers.

Installation of Pest traps (Pheromone traps & Color boards): Pheromone Traps and Color Boards are used to monitor/control the incidence of pests and to trap them mechanically before they are multiplied.

- **During April 2012 to March 2013**, 3022 farmers (47% of the planned 6,420) installed pheromone traps, white & yellow boards, in their 1270 ha of farm lands (49% of planned 2,600). Of them 635 farmers (21% of the farmers covered) were from SC & ST families with a coverage of 268 ha (21% of the area covered). Lower achievement was due to lack of timely rains during the sowing season which resulted in lower sowing.

Application of Bio-pesticides: Preparation of Bio-pesticides and pest repellants with locally available herbs, spices and cow urine were demonstrated to the farmers. The prevention of pest & disease incidence through usage of bio-pesticides like decoctions was demonstrated.



- **During the reporting period April 2012 to March 2013**, 2,880 farmers (45% of the planned 6,420) applied various decoctions as bio-pesticides in their 1171 ha of farm lands (45% of the planned 2,600). Of them 895 farmers (31% of the farmers covered) are from SC & ST families with a coverage of 375 ha (32% of the area covered). Lower achievement was due to lack of timely rains during the sowing season.

2.3.5 Promotion of Bio-fertilizers

AF is promoting the farmers to use FYM and Bio-fertilizers (mainly Jeevamritham) instead of chemical fertilizers. Jeevamritham is an indigenous, low-cost environment-friendly and highly effective concentrate bio-fertilizer.



Demonstrations of preparation and use of Jeevamritham are conducted in SA campaigns and FFS sessions. AF is providing incentives to demo plot farmers to prepare and apply Jeevamrutham to their demo plots. AF is encouraging other farmers in village to prepare and apply Jeevamrutham to their farm lands at their own cost.

- **During the reporting period**, 3115 farmers (49% of the planned 6,420) applied Jeevamritam and FYM to their 1,320 ha of farm lands (51% of the planned 2,600). Of them 872 farmers (28% of the farmers covered) were from SC & ST families with a coverage of 370 ha (28% of the area covered). The Low level of achievement was due to lower sowings due to lack of timely rains during the sowing season.

2.3.6 Promotion of Rainfed Farmer Cooperatives

AF - EC is planning to establish Rainfed Farmer Cooperatives in 4 villages. It is exploring various models of sustainable cooperatives with inputs from experienced people like Dr. O.P. Rupela, retired scientist of ICRISAT, Hyderabad. During the reporting period the process of selection of villages has began. Initial meetings were conducted by field staff in 8 villages.

2.3.7 Tree Cropping Models in wastelands under Rainfed conditions

AF firmly believes that tree crops offer a better option for combating droughts and a better livelihood security to rain fed farmers of Anantapur. So it is campaigning for Tree Crops extensively and advocating that every rainfed farmer should have at least 30% of their land under various fruit tree crops as safety net against the annual crop failure (droughts). AF has established some tree-based farming models suitable for Anantapur agro climate and socio economic conditions, that are drought resistant, eco-friendly and remunerative. They are;

- a) *Integrated Farming System (IFS) for Rainfed Lands is a tree crop model in which annual crops, Fruit trees, Biomass trees, Fodder trees and small unit of dairy animals or small ruminants will be integrated in one ha. of rainfed land.*



- b) *Bio-intensive Farming System in Rain fed Areas (BIFSRA)* is a model which *aims* at producing adequate bio-mass on farm for mulching the land particularly during summer months, to avoid exposure of soil to sun, rain and wind. This improves the soil organic matter (SOM) and soil biotic life and minimizes the need of any additional manure. It can hold the moisture for longer periods and crop is less stressed for moisture under rain fed conditions.
- c) *Multiple Fruit Tree Cropping (MFTC) plot* has multiple rainfed Fruit Tree Crops, like Mango, Sapota, Amla, Custard Apple etc. and a lot of bio-mass yielding trees in plots of a size of one acre to one and half acre. This model is expected to provide continuous income all through the year, perennially, and add tree diversity to the agro-ecology.

Due to strong lobby from AF - EC, the Government is now supporting Fruit tree crops extensively through MGNREGS. But the waste lands of the farmers are still neglected. So AF has developed a new tree cropping model suitable for wastelands with a mixture of fruit bearing, fodder, fiber and biomass yielding trees which will grow well in rainfed conditions and yield seasonally. This turns wastelands into productive lands and enhances farmer incomes and livelihood security.

AF is now following a 3 pronged approach to promote tree crops in Rainfed lands.

- a) Extending support for pot-watering and gap filling for existing and eligible IFS, BIFSRA and MFTC plots to ensure their survival. (The pot watering support is needed for the first 3 to 4 years)
- b) Setting up new IFS and BIFSRA plots.
- c) Establishing Multi Tree Crop model plots in waste lands.

During this reporting period, (April 2012 to March 2013)

- a) Pot-watering support was extended for 6 IFS plots, 4 BIFSRA plots and 35 MFTC plots.
- b) Process of setting up new IFS & BIFSRA plots (30 IFS and 30 BIFSRA plots) is in progress.

- c) Multi Tree crop plots in 18 ha of waste lands belonging to 10 SC community farmers were taken up in Malayanur village of Kundurpi area.

2.3.8 Job - Oriented Skills Trainings for Rural youth in Garment making and driving & Promoting Rural Youth as Entrepreneurs

During the reporting period (April 2012 to March 2013)

- 284 Girls were trained in garment making in 4 tailoring centers. Of them 130 girls (46%) are from SC/ST communities.
- 204 Boys trained in LMV Driving in 2 Driving schools at Anantapur and Kalyanadurg. Of them 132 boys (65%) are from SC & ST communities.
- 30 boys trained in HMV driving at HMV driving school at Anantapur. Of them 15 boys (50%) are from SC & ST communities.
- A training session on enterprise development was given to rural youth to motivate them to take up businesses.



AF is exploring opportunities for linking the girls trained in garment making to the garment manufacturing companies so that they will have skill based employment and regular income.

2.3.9 Low Carbon Farming:

During the reporting period (April 2012 to March 2013)

- In both Kharif and Rabi season together LCF was attempted by 7008 farmers (109% of the planned 6420 farmers) in 4621 ha (115% of the planned 4000 ha).
- The LCF research programme is continuing well and will give us soon a more definite indication of its carbon revenue feasibility.

3. WHAT WENT WELL AND WHAT DIDN'T:

3.1 Things that went well in 2012-13:

- The farmers began to appreciate the importance and benefits of diversified cropping particularly with food crops (pulses and millets) as a result of crop demonstration programme. This is contributing towards reduction in cost of crop cultivation and a more favorable agro- ecology, food and nutritional security at farm household and community level.
- The tree based farming systems propagated by AF are proving as effective demonstration farms with farmers to overcome drought and come out of poverty. However pot watering the tree crops is becoming increasingly a challenge as water availability is affected by low rainfall.
- Integrated Kitchen Gardens (IKGs) are ensuring Nutritional Security and in some cases even an additional income to the farmer family. This activity is affected in some villages due to lack of water and power shortage.
- More and more farmers are showing interest in Sustainable Agriculture; and resorting to tree crops, bio fertilizers, bio-pest management, dairying and livestock rearing.
- Campaign events on ecology, environment, climate change, gender, sustainable agriculture, watershed development etc are generating public consciousness and creating public opinion. The people's voice for more favorable agri policies is rising gradually.

All these observations indicate a positive movement towards the achievement of AF's development goal considerably.

3.2 Things that did not went well in 2012-13:

The achievement of some of the planned activities like NPM methods and use of bio-fertilizers was low due to lower sowings which was due to lack of timely rains during the sowing season. Also the rainfed farmer cooperatives could not be grounded as per the plan. The rainfed tree cropping models did not do well because of water scarcity and some farmers converted the rainfed trees to irrigation by drilling new bore wells. It is a bit disappointing because our objective was to show rainfed tree crop models.

4. LESSONS LEARNT:

The following are the lessons learnt during the reporting period:

- The grass root staff (STOs) are not adequately effective in providing day to day extension services to farmers. There is a strong need to train and develop them as barefoot agricultural professionals.
- AF understands that it has to grow and position itself as knowledge based organization. Because of its legacy it is still perceived as “implementer of activities”. So there is need to change our own mindset and of the people.
- Lessons are learnt in evolving MIS and participatory PME systems for better project management. These are crucial for improving organizational efficiency, effectiveness and also achieving project objectives.
- More attention on CBO strengthening is required.
- The gender aspect in the organization and in the programmes (People & Activities) requires consistent reinforcement.



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