



A healthy growing plant is a good sign
of responsible human nature



Working Towards

- ✦ Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Environment
- ✦ Alternate Livelihoods & Diversification of Rural Livelihoods
- ✦ Building Farmers organizations and mutual cooperation
- ✦ Freedom from Drought and Poverty
- ✦ Restoring Human Dignity and Equity

1. Our Brief History

AF Ecology Centre was founded by Father Vincent Ferrer in 1982. Since then we have been involved in Rural Development. The programmes included watershed development, agriculture, drought management, non-farm livelihoods, gender and policy advocacy. We have made a substantial contribution since 1986 in Anantapur district with our Participatory Watershed Development Programme supported by EED (Germany) & ICCO (Netherlands). It was perhaps the largest participatory watershed programme by an NGO in India spread over about 300 villages, covering about 1.35 lakh ha of farm land and 60,000 farmers. We're known for our participatory approach and very high quality in watershed development on a sizable scale. The major interventions under the watershed programme included Soil and Moisture Conservation, Rain Water Harvesting, Horticulture, Rainfed Agronomical Practices, Farm Forestry, Bio-gas and Peoples Institutional Development.

Since 2007, we Shifted our programme to promoting Sustainable Agriculture. It was due to the Government initiating watershed activities in all villages in the District under MGNREGS. So we decided not to duplicate what Government is extensively implementing. However, we continue to implement participatory watershed development projects with the support from NABARD and IWMP (Integrated Watershed Management Project) & MGNREGS under Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. We have been also contributing substantially to the effective implementation of MGNREGS by way awareness raising and empowering the labour to assert and access their right to employment and utilize the same effectively to improve productivity of their lands by undertaking soil and moisture conservation, farm ponds, rainfed horticulture, plantation etc.

We have made a significant contribution in influencing a favourable and enabling policy conditions for a people centred watershed development, rural livelihoods, gender, poverty alleviation, and rural employment (MGNREGS) in the State of Andhra Pradesh. We have been actively involved in various policy making bodies like Andhra Pradesh Water Conservation Mission, Andhra Pradesh State Commission on Farmers Welfare, APRLP, APREGS and Advisory Committee on Watershed Development Programme of Andhra Pradesh. Further AF has been actively involved in various consultations by the Ministry of Rural Development at National level.

2. Vision, Mission, Dharma & Values

1. Our Vision :

All people in rural areas lead a respectable and decent life with economic security, social equity, gender equity and human dignity, in an atmosphere of democracy, peace, cooperation and community support.

And all people and institutions live as Eternal Trustees of Mother Earth and follow a culture of 'simple living' and ethics of conservation. Thus People and Nature live in harmony with each other showing due care for sustainable ecology, environment and bio-diversity.

2. Our Mission :

1. AFs mission is to organize and strengthen the organizations of distressed farmers and rural poor for attainment of their economic security, empowerment, self-reliance, food and nutritional security.
2. AF is committed to work with drought affected farmers in general and rainfed and small and marginal farmers in particular and committed to promote drought resistant, integrated and sustainable farming systems, with low external input and eco-friendly. (as against high cost, high-tech, chemical based).
3. AF is committed to combat desertification and promote sustainable ecology, healthy environment and bio-diversity, where people and nature live in harmony and support each other.
4. AF is committed to work with poor and disadvantaged women and youth and promote Diversified Livelihoods including agri-processing, marketing and skill based employment.
5. AF is committed to work for gender & social equality, human dignity, and to create a responsible social environment with peace, democracy mutual cooperation and community support.
6. AF is committed to work with Government, like minded NGOs, CBOs Civil Society Organizations and individuals. In this process it is committed to strengthen and coordinate the role of civil society, 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 improving in its work for people's well being. It strives to be positively influencing the society and changing itself to be relevant to the changing needs and contexts.

Our organization is an integral part of Anantapur District. We are not alone in this endeavour. There are several organizations, institutions and individuals working towards achieving the above aims and objectives - like Government, NGOs, CSOs, Media, Judiciary, Scientists, Intellectuals etc. Each one is playing its role individually and often collectively. AF is committed to play a pro-active role in this endeavour.

✿ 3. Our Dharma:

AF adopts the following Dharma as its guiding principles and a code of conduct for itself and its staff.

- Concern for others, particularly poor and disadvantaged
- Work beyond duty
- Pursuit of excellence in work
- Reaching as many needy people as possible



✿ 4. Our Core Values

1. Basic human values of compassion, love, concern, honesty, hard work, sincerity etc.

We are committed to practice and promote the basic human values of love, compassion, concern, honesty, hard work, sincerity etc driven by the Vision, Mission and Values of AF Ecology Centre.

2. Social Equality and Gender Sensitive

We believe in social equality of all people and are particularly committed to the treatment of women, the disadvantaged and the poor with equality, respect and human dignity. We are committed to being socially equitable and gender-sensitive both within AF and in all our programs and interactions with people.

3. Concern for Sustainable environment

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

4. Work together with Govt., NGOs, CBOs and CSO.

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

5. Influencing Govt., policies and programmes

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

6. Pursuit of highest quality in work

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

7. Relevant and learning

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

8. Participation and Team work

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

9. Transparent and Accountable

We are committed to be transparent and accountable to all our stakeholders.

3. About Anantapur District and relevance of Sustainable Agriculture, Watershed Development & Alternative Livelihoods



Located in south-western corner of Andhra Pradesh, Anantapur District is the centre of rainshadow area in South India. It receives the least rainfall in the state of Andhra Pradesh, and the second lowest in India, after Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, averaging at 552 mm annually. It is one of the poorest districts in the country.

Anantapur farmers are largely dependent on chronically drought-prone, rain-fed agriculture; and mostly a single crop of groundnut in a year is sown in about 9 lakh ha under such harsh and agro climatic conditions. Of its geographical area of 19,00,000 ha, (largest in AP) totally 11,00,000 ha is the cultivated land; a vast 10,00,000 ha are rain-fed while only about 1,00,000 ha are irrigated, that too mostly under undependable tube wells and surface water bodies. This is the only drought-prone district with a meagre 10% of cultivated area under irrigation and a large 90% under rainfed farming.

With virtually no other non-farm livelihoods, Anantapur backwardness and poverty are well indicated in its severe rural indebtedness, high turn up of labour under MGNREGS, farmers migration, seasonal migration and highest number of farmer's suicides in the country. The District has predominantly i.e., 6.3 lakh rainfed small and marginal farmers (93%) of the 7 lakh total farmers, mostly belonging to Dalits, Tribals and other Backward communities. About 20 per cent of the population comprises dalits and tribals, and 60 per cent comprises of backward communities. Malnutrition, illiteracy, illhealth, deprivation, caste and gender discrimination are rampant. Added to these social divisions, crime and discord between various factions and groups are common in the district.

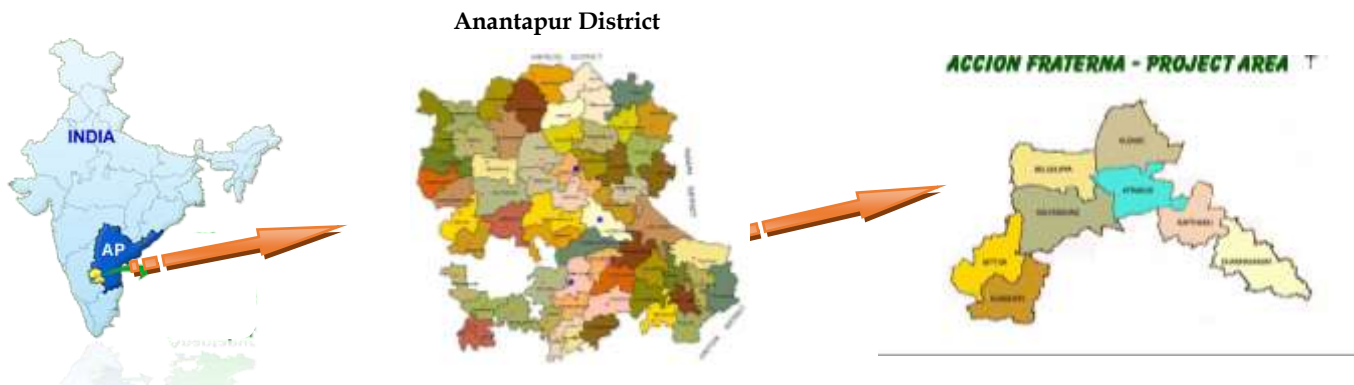
Green Revolution model of agriculture, which is high-tech, high cost and chemical intensive is highly hazardous for Anantapur due to small holdings and frequent droughts. High pressure on groundwater resources and over exploitation leading to undependable and unsustainable even the meagre irrigation of about 10%.

The above harsh agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions warrant an urgent and high priority for Sustainable Agriculture, Watershed Development and Diversified Rural Livelihoods.

AF sees it as challenging opportunity to make a difference. We believe that success in Anantapur district is a recipe for any other region.

4. Our Project Area and Target Groups:

The project area comprises of 230 habitations in 8 mandals (out of 63) in Anantapur district, which consists of Rappthadu, Dharmavaram, Atmakur, Kuderu, Kalyandurg, Beluguppa, Settur and Kundurpi. Totally there are about 70,000 families or a population of 3.5 lakhs in the above 230 habitations.



4.1 Our general target communities for awareness creation & public opinion building

We generally work with all farmers and rural communities in the Project Area (about 70,000 families) for awareness creation and building public opinion on a) the ill-effects of HEIDA (High External Input Destructive Agriculture) and the strengths and suitability of LEISA (Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture). b) on issues concerning ecology, environment, agriculture, gender, poverty, rural livelihoods, droughts, desertification etc. c) dissemination of knowledge and skills on practices of Sustainable Agriculture.

4.2 Our primary target communities for Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Livelihoods Programme:



We primarily focus our work with about 21,500 rainfed poor farmers, landless and artisans whose livelihoods are inadequate and threatened by frequent droughts and poverty. We are particularly focusing on working with women and youth within the primary target groups. We have organized these families into about 850 SMGs (Sasyamithra Groups) of 25 families each and four such SMGs in each village. The SMGs are federated at the village level called GSS (Grama Sasyamithra Samakhya). The GSS are federated at Mandal level called MSS (Mandal Sasyamithra Samakhya). There are 8 mandals and MSSs. The MSSre fedarated at project level called PSS (Project Sasya mithra Samakhya).

✿ 4.3 Target Communities under Watershed Development Programme:

We work with the whole village in our watershed development programmes. We are covering 6521 families in 20 villages in 6 NABARD Watershed Projects and 3 IWMP (Government) Projects. In each village a WDC (Watershed Development Committee) is organized and several User Groups and Livelihood Groups are organized. We follow social and gender equity and positive discrimination to secure maximum benefit to the poor and disadvantaged.



✿ 5. Our Present Priorities and Programmes:

✿ 5.1. Accessing Basic Services:

1. Campaigning and organizing the rural poor on their rights and accessing Basic Services such as MGNREGS, PDS, health, education, non-farm employment etc.
2. Policy Advocacy for pro-poor policy conditions and for removal of bottlenecks in the implementation of MGNREGP so that the poor will access employment as well as improve the productivity of their lands.

✿ 5.2. Sustainable Agriculture

1. Capacity Building and strengthening of 850 Sasya Mitra Groups (SMGs) and 214 Grama Sasyamitra Samakhyas (GSS), 8 Mandal Sasyamitra Samakhyas (MSS) 1 Project Level Sasyamitra Samakhya, 6 Farmers Cooperatives, 28 Watershed Development Committees (WDCs) and various User Groups & Livelihood Groups so that they respond proactively to the crisis in agriculture and rural livelihoods.
2. Organising demonstrations of Sustainable Agriculture with diversified land use, various cropping systems; integrating a mix of suitable rainfed perennial tree crops (fruit, fodder, bio mass) and annual crops (food, fodder & cash) ; and breaking the groundnut mono-cropping system.
3. Organising Farmers Field Schools (FFS) and promoting SA through learning by experience.
4. Campaigning, demonstrating and promoting Sustainable Agriculture with Non-Pesticidal Management (NPM) through Pheromone traps, White & Yellow boards, border crops, inter crops, trap crops and biopest management by using local botanicals, spices trichoderma cards etc.
5. Campaigning, demonstrating and promoting Sustainable Agriculture with biomass development and bio-fertilisers like farm composting, vermi-composting, liquid fertilisers like Jeevamrutham, Beejamrutham, Vegetation development.
6. Local processing and value addition of agri-produce like foxtail millet, groundnut, redgram and local marketing development for enhancing market returns.
7. Organising Mutually Sided Farmers Cooperatives for self-help, mutual cooperation, farm based services, agri-processing, marketing etc.

✿ 5.3. Alternate Livelihoods for Rural Youth and Women

1. Managing Driving Schools (LMV & HMT) with a capacity to train about 300 rural youth/year, and assisting to find employment.
2. Organising other Skills Training Centres such as garment making, ITES for under educated rural youths and assisting to find employment or to be self employed.
3. Enabling rural youth to access various vocational trainings by Government and other Agencies like RUDSETI, APBIRED etc.
4. Training and assisting rural youth and women for starting new non-farm enterprises or improving the existing non-farm livelihoods.
5. Enabling credit and marketing linkages for various non-farm products produced by the rural youth and women.



✿ 5.4. Participatory Watershed Development:

The Watershed Development together with Sustainable Agriculture will make the intervention wholistic, yield best synergic results and make both environment and agriculture sustainable. The watershed based interventions would upgrade and sustain the natural resource endowment and enhance the prospects for Sustainable Agriculture.



The focus is on participatory processes in planning and implementation with emphasis on drought mitigation by taking up Soil & Moisture Conservation, Rain Water Harvesting, Horticulture (Tree Crops), Sustainable Agriculture, Vegetation Development and strengthening the Non-farm and Off-farm livelihoods, particularly for women and poor. We emphasise social and gender equity and positive discrimination to secure maximum benefit to the poor and disadvantaged.



Further AF advocates and facilitates MGNREGS programme to take up more and more watershed based activities for creating land based assets to the rainfed farmers and enhancing natural resource endowment across the district.

✿ 5.5. Public opinion building and Policy Advocacy

1. Campaigning and building Public Opinion on policy issues of Gender, Poverty, Food Security, Environment, Agriculture, Climate Change etc.
2. Alliance Building & informal networking with NGOs, CSOs and CBOs on issues of Gender, Poverty, Food security, Environment, Agriculture, Climate Change etc.
3. Advocacy and Lobbying with Government for pro-poor policies on above issues and removal of various bottlenecks in implementation of concerned programmes.

5.6. Low Carbon Farming – A Research Project for exploration of Carbon Revenues for farmers:

We are undertaking a trail blazing scientific research project in order to explore the possibility of accessing carbon revenues to the farmers who follow low carbon / climate smart agricultural practices. We believe it is possible to access carbon revenues under compliance / voluntary carbon markets to the low carbon farmers by scientifically establishing actual emission reductions. The low carbon farming practices include conservation farming practices like low tillage, replacing agro-chemicals with organic manures & pest management. This project is taken up with financial and scientific cooperation from Environmental Defence Fund (EDF), USA and Fair Climate Network (FCN). If the research is successful, millions of farmers will benefit from carbon revenues and transform the paradigm of agriculture to be farmer friendly eco-friendly and climate smart.

5.7. CDM Bio Gas Project is registered with UNFCCC and awaits forward funding:

The Biogas CDM project preparatory phase is over and successfully registered with UNFCCC. Now we are looking for carbon investors for taking up construction of Biogas units. The objectives of this programme are a) facilitate biogas for cooking for the farmers b) to access carbon revenues through renewable energy of biogas and b) to save local trees and environment; by constructing 15,000 biogas units for 15000 families in 15 mandals of Anantapur district with a unit capacity of 2 cubic meters for each family. The biogas units will meet the cooking and water heating requirements of each participating family. Every family with 5 or 6 family members uses about 3.4 to 3.8 tons of firewood per year for their cooking and water heating requirements. The bio-gas units will not only save trees and provide smoke- and pollution-free cooking, but also accrue carbon revenue to the farmers. Each biogas unit is estimated to generate CERs of 3.77 carbon tonnes. It has many benefits in general and particularly for women. This programme is very relevant and beneficial particularly to Anantapur district which is a semi-arid drought and poverty stricken region.

However it is yet to take off due to steep fall in carbon prices in the world market.

6. Our Human Resources

AF has acquired two most valuable assets through its work and history of about 30 years. They are a) its personnel who are committed and competent and b) its credibility with people and Government. AF Ecology Centre has about 100 committed, trained and experienced personnel and about 100 of them are women.

6.1 Our Core Team

It has a Core Team of about 20 committed and experienced persons. The Core Team (Executive Committee) consists of all staff in the middle level and senior level, headed by the Director. They are senior professionals, well trained and richly experienced in their respective field of work. Their rich expertise includes Sustainable Agriculture, Participatory Watershed Development, Alternate Livelihoods, Gender, PPIME, Organisation Development, Personnel Management, Participatory Approaches, Leadership Development, CBO formation, Capacity Building. The Core Team also has rich experience in Policy Advocacy and networking with NGOs and CSOs.

6.2 Our Grass root Organisers

It has about 60 committed and experienced Socio Technical Organisers at grassroot level. They are all educated rural youth. Many of them are trained and well experienced while some of them are new. Their training and experience include Sustainable Agriculture, Watershed Development, CBO formation and capacity building, participatory planning and implementation, community organisation etc.

Their technical training and experience include a variety of watershed development skills like Soil and Moisture Conservation, Rain Water Harvesting, Horticulture, Sustainable Agriculture

includes Rainfed Agronomical Practices, Bio-diversity, Crop-diversity, Bio-Pest Management (NPM) Bio-fertilizers like composting, liquid fertilizers, Alternate Livelihoods for Women and Youth etc.

6.3 Our Village Based Organisations:

There are 850 Sasyamithra Groups (SMGs) 214 Grama Sasyamithra Samakhya (GSS) 8 Mandal Sasyamithra Samakhyas (MSS), one project level sasyamithra samakhya, 5 Farmers Cooperatives, 18 Watershed Development Committees (WDCs) and several User Groups covering totally about 30000 families under both Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Livelihoods Programme and Watershed Development Programme.

Our Summary of Major Achievements Under Watershed Development Programme 1987 – 2007

S.No.	Activity	Unit	Extent covered / No.	Families benefited
1.	Soil & Moisture conservation works and adoption of rainfed farming practices.	Ha	1,34,500	60,314
2.	Restoration of Old Tanks	Nos.	326	2,216
3.	Construction of Percolation Tanks	Nos.	436	3,128
4.	Construction of Check Dams	Nos.	1,536	4,378
5.	Construction of Farm Ponds	Nos.	269	269
6.	Horticulture plantations	Plants	1,916,000	19,960
7.	Forest Plantations	Plants	13,514,444	60,013
8.	Farm Forestry (Bio-mass development)	Ha.	1,32,674	52,414
9.	Crop diversification (Food crops & Fodder)	Ha.	2,508	10,330
10.	Border Crop (Millets & Pulses)	Ha.	23,300	7,738
11.	Vermi compost units	Ha.	6,121	6,121
12.	Farm Bio-compost units	Nos.	1,079	1,079
13.	Bio-pest Management	Ha.	9,510	2,239
14.	Bio-gas units	No.	1,623	1,623
15.	Smokeless chulha units	No.	15,000	15,000

Our Achievements under Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Livelihoods Programme – 2007 to March 2013

S.No.	Activity	Unit	Extent covered / No.	Families benefited
A	SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM			
1.	Farmer Field schools conducted	No.	32,464	48,762
2.	Extent brought under Non-Pesticide Management(NPM) /Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA)	Ac.	210,318	37,094
2.1	Mechanical control of pests	Ac.	169,677	29,049
	• Through installation of Pheromone traps, White & yellow Boards.	Ac.	86,586	23,894
	• By growing Border crops & Trap crops	Ac.	156,325	26,562
2.2	Biological control of pests & Diseases (By spraying decoctions of various locally available herbs, Chillies, Garlic etc.)(Cumulative Since 2007)	Ac.	52,606	24,003
2.3	Application of Bio-fertilizers	Ac.	70,263	29,564
	• Farm compost, Vermi compost & NADEP Units (Cumulative)	No.	45,764	26,473
	• Jeevamritham (An indigenous Solid & Liquid bio-fertilizer prepared from cow dung, urine, pulses & jaggery) (Cumulative)	Ac.	36,995	25,967
2.4	Crop diversification	Ac.	199,262	35,066
	• Seed Banks	No.	127	12700
	• Food crops like Millets, Pulses etc. (Cumulative)	Ac.	22,172	12,235

	• Bio-mass plantations (Cumulative)	Ac.	170,570	27,385
	• Perennial Fodder	Ac.	6,520	14,683
	• Tree crops	Ac.	220	150
2.5	Low Carbon Farming		11,090	7008
B	ALTERNATE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM	No.	5,920	5,920
1.	Non-Farm / Off-farm IGPs (For rural women)	women	2,607	2,607
2.	Skills trainings & Rehabilitation (For rural Boys & Girls)	No.	3,313	3,901
	• Boys	Boys	1,438	1,642
	• Girls	Girls	3,470	3,754

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ACHIEVEMENT UNDER - IWMP - WATERSHED PROGRAMME 01-04-2009 to 31-03-2013

Sl.No	Activities	Unit	Extent Covered /Nos.	Expenditure (Rs.in Lakhs)	Number of Families Benefitted
A Soil & Moisture conservation					
1	Rock Fill Dams	No	170	34.54	37
2	Farm Ponds	No	207	71.89	207
3	WAT(Water absorption Trench)	Ha	64	11.16	12
TOTAL				117.59	
B Rain water Harvesting					
1	Check Dams	No	11	28.05	65
2	Percolation Tanks	No	4	5.93	21
3	Recharge of Dried up wells	No	3	0.57	3
TOTAL				34.55	
C Vegetative Measures					
1	Avenue Plantation	Km	15	13.06	CPR
2	Block Plantation	Ha	18	8.62	CPR
3	Barren Hill Afforestation	Ha	127	0.99	CPR
TOTAL				22.67	
D Agriculture & Horticulture					
1	Dryland Horticulture (Manual Watering)	Ha	583	398.18	289
2	Fodder Development (Grasses Fodder)	Ha	22	2.27	51
3	PSI (Production System Improvements)	No	286	9.40	286
TOTAL				409.85	
E Non - farm livelihoods					
1	Livelihood Programme	No	156	30.00	156
TOTAL				30.00	
F Other Activities (Entry Point Activities)					
1	Animal Health Camps	No	32	7.88	449
2	Water purification plants (EPA)	No	8	21.12	648
3	Solar Street Lights	No	10	1.91	Common Facility
4	Village Tent House	No	3	7.26	Common Facility
TOTAL				38.17	
G Convergence with Govt & other Institution					
1	Provision of drip by RDT (Rural Development Trust) to Horticulture	Ha	13	..	8
2	Milch Animals (RDT)	No	14	..	14
3	Agriculture Implements Service Stations for Farmer user groups	No	6	..	28
4	Demonstration of sustainable agri practices (Accion Fraternal)	Ha	69	..	171
TOTAL				--	
GRAND TOTAL				652.83	

**ACHIEVEMENT UNDER NABARD (WDF) WATERSHED PROGRAMME
01-04-2009 to 31-03-2013**

Sl. No.	Activities	Unit	Extent Covered /Nos.	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	Number of Families Benefitted
A	Soil & Moisture conservation				
1	Farm bunding with stone outlets	Ha	2384	57.18	1192
2	Stone bunding	Ha	316	25.78	165
3	Stone bunding with revetment	Ha	357	20.30	198
4	Stone gully plugs & Rock Fill Dams	No	805	29.54	448
TOTAL				132.80	
B	Rain water Harvesting				
1	Farm Ponds	No	63	11.31	63
2	Mini percolation Tanks	No	7	9.43	CPR
3	Check Dams	No	4	2.25	CPR
4	Diversion Drains	Rmt	2242	4.58	CPR
TOTAL				27.57	
C	Vegetative Measures				
1	Seed dibbling & Farm forestry	Ha	680	8.61	1192
2	Block Plantation	Ha	370	3.17	CPR
3	Avenue Plantation	Km	8	0.65	CPR
TOTAL				12.43	
D	Agriculture & Horticulture				
1	Dryland Horticulture (Manual watering)	Ha	485	49.40	320
2	Agri Horticulture (for irrigated farmers)	No	560	0.34	35
3	Back yard Horticulture	No	240	0.44	240
TOTAL				50.18	
E	Non - farm livelihoods				
TOTAL				83.09	1281
TOTAL				83.09	
F	Convergence with Govt & other Institution				
1	Provision of drip by RDT (Rural Development Trust) to Horticulture	Ha	120	..	75
2	Solar pumpset by RDT	No	4	..	12
3	Demonstration of sustainable agri practices in Rainfed Areas (Accion Fraterna)	Ha	72	..	186
4	MG NREGS - DWMA, Dryland Horticulture	Ha	90	..	32
TOTAL					
GRAND TOTAL				306.07	

7. Our Association with policy making bodies (Government)

Our Director Dr. Y.V. Malla Reddy has been serving in various policy and advisory bodies as a member and in other capacities also. The important ones are:

1. Member-Commission on Farmers Welfare, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh (2004): A 13 member commission, comprising National level experts on farmers issues and headed by Dr. Jayathi Ghosh, set up to study the causes for distress of farmers and to recommend appropriate policies and programmes for farmers welfare. The Commissions Report has been widely acknowledged as very farmer-friendly, aimed at addressing the causes of farmers distress.

2. Member-Andhra Pradesh Water Conservation Mission (2000-2004): Comprising National level experts in water issues and headed by Honorable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. A policy Advisory Body on Water Management Policies to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

3. **Member-Andhra Pradesh Land Water and Trees Authority (2002-04):** A statutory body comprising experts and social activists on groundwater issues in order to conserve water and to regulate exploitation of ground water, and promote plantations in private lands and regulate felling of trees in cropped areas.
4. **Member - Andhra Pradesh State Level Watershed Advisory Committee:** An advisory body set-up by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh on policies and implementation of Watershed Development Programmes.
5. **Andhra Pradesh Govt - NGO Coordination Committee:** Setup by Govt. of A.P. for proper coordination and building synergies between Government and Non Governmental organisations.
6. **District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee:** A body setup by District Collector particularly aimed at overseeing the welfare and development programmes meant for SG,ST, physically challenged, destitute etc.
7. **District Forestry Committee:** Setup by the District Collector for overseeing and advising Social Forestry and Afforestation programmes in the District.
8. **District Dairy Development Committee:** Setup by the District Collector for overseeing and advising Dairy Development.
9. **Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA):** A committee setup by the District Collector for development and dissemination of suitable agriculture technologies in the District.
10. **RUDSETI Local Advisory Committee:** An advisory committee to advice on the suitable vocational trainings for self-employment or employment.

8. Awards – International, National, State and District level

8.1 Jalamitra Award by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh:

Government of Andhra Pradesh awarded “Jala Mitra” (Friend of Water) award to Accion Fraterna for it’s outstanding work on rain water conservation.

The Award carried a Gold Medal and a cheque for ` 50,000/- by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N. Chandra Babu Naidu, It was given to us for our outstanding work on Rain Water Conservation for the year 2002-03.



8.2 Krushi Sahyog Samman -National (Runner up) Award - 2011:

INDIA AGRI AWARDS - 2011 by Mahindra & Mahindra awarded to AF Ecology Centre “Krishi Sahyog Samman (Runner up) National award. The Award carried a memento and a cash of ₹ 1 lakh.



8.3. Excellence Award for National Social Activity 2012 awarded by Global Achievers Foundation.



8.4. International Status Award for International Integration awarded by Global Achievers Foundation.



8.5 District Level Awards : AF Ecology Centre, its Director and several of its staff were given Certificates of Appreciation for their montorious service by the District Administration on the August 15 for Independence Day and on the Republic Day on 26th January.



9. Our Funding Partners & Collaborators
Principal Funding Partners

<p>Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service, 10115 Berlin, Germany Tel.: +49 (0)30 65211 1301, Fax: +49(0)30 65211 3301</p>	
<p>ICCO - Cooperation South & Central Asia Regional Office III Floor, Ramnath House, Yusuf Sarai Community Centre Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi, India- 110049 ,T: +91-11-46866700</p>	
<p>NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) Plot No. C-24, 'G' Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Post Box No. 8121 Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, Tel: (91) 022-23569895/96/99</p>	
<p>Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Secretariat, Hyderabad, A.P., India 040-27650041, 42 (O)</p>	
<p>EDF (Environmental Defense Fund) USA 1875 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20009 Ph: 800-684-3322</p>	

Other Collaborators

ICRISAT (International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics)

Patancheru 502324 Andhra Pradesh, India Tel: 040 30713071



Department of Agriculture, Anantapuram (Technology Transfer)



10 Our Office Campus & Conference Facilities

AF Ecology Centre is a pleasant campus located in 7 acres on the outskirts of Anantapur town. It has an office complex and training facilities. Its training facilities include 2 well equipped training halls, accommodation for 100 persons (including dormitories) with a canteen attached. It has a very serene, pleasant and peaceful environment with fully grown greenery and well spaced functional buildings. It is an ideal space for conferences and workshops.



What others say. . .

"AF Ecology Centre's achievements are outstanding in Watershed Development and Sustainable Agriculture. They also authentically pursue policy issues and enable people-centred policy environment."

**Dr. C.Suvarna IFS.,
Special Commissioner
Watershed Development,
Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Hyderabad**

"The Ecology Centre is my preferred conference and training venue in South India. The staff members and leadership of the Centre have been able to create an excellent learning environment. The meeting halls are constructed in a manner that facilitate face-to-face interaction among participants. The staff members of the Centre have a service oriented attitude and the required skills to provide back-up support to facilitators and trainers".

**Fons van der Velden
Director
Context, international cooperation
Utrecht, the Netherlands**

"We had APMAS workshop, training programs and exposure visits to Anantapur. And AF Ecology Centre was always our host. The place has some magic in it, as I feel like coming again and again. Food great! Discussion with Shri Malla Reddy are enriching. APMAS enjoys partnership with AF."

**C.S.Reddy,
CEO, APMAS,
Hyderabad.**

"Rainfed agriculture is passing through a deep crisis. It has remained largely untouched by technology and innovations. Unless farmers are brought on the centre stage of research and development, the situation is unlikely to improve."

In this regard, the work of AF-Ecology Centre in Anantapur is highly appropriate and commendable.

AF-Ecology Centre and ICRISAT are working together in partnership with farmers to improve the groundnut situation in Anantapur. Increasing popularity of Anantha Jyothi (ICGV 91114) among farmers highlights the value and power of our partnership with farmers".

**Dr. S.N. Nigam,
Principal Scientist,
ICRISAT, Patancheru,
Hyderabad**



sustainable . human . nature

Accion Fraterna Ecology Centre,
Upparapalli Road,
Bangalore Highway, Anantapur - 515002,
Andhra Pradesh - India

Contact Person
Dr.Y.V.Malla Reddy
Director

Tel.: +91 (0) 8554 – 244 222, 246 884
Fax: +91 (0) 8554 – 244990

Email: actionf@sancharnet.in; action_atp@dataone.in
yvmallareddy@yahoo.co.in; mallareddy@accionfraterna.org

www.af-ecologycentre.org