

AWH annual Rept Apr 2006 to Mar 2007:

AWH is working with several European NGO as well the City of Hilden, Germany to carry out our salt water intrusion mitigation work and associated work to protect the aquifers of the bio-region.

Ensemble (France)

The: **“SALINITY MODERATING AND PROOFING OF COASTAL AQUIFERS : INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT WITH A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH”**

The project is using an integrated water management to:

- increase rainwater harvesting capacities and improve groundwater recharge by rehabilitating the traditional tanks and ponds
- to rehabilitate and extend the interconnected channel system of the area to 11200 meters
- to create village level local institutions (Water Users Associations) and framework to manage and maintain the existing tanks and ponds in the village.
- to create awareness among the various users groups about the impact they have on the water table
- to create a Hydro meteorological data collection framework through weather stations and to train the people in assessing the water balance of their own area
- to establish integrated organic farming demonstration plots in order to increase the overall income of the farmers, to reduce water consumption and improve the environment
- to conduct trials on building sanitation facilities in the villages in order to reduce water borne diseases
- to conduct research on the impact of rehabilitated traditional tanks (on groundwater recharge), the impact on organic/sustainable agricultural practices and improve the surface water quality and soil fertility.

A4A (Aqua for All - Netherlands)/Vietens

“A pilot project for sustainable and durable development through integrated water resources development”

This project may look like a technological transfer project eg, the supply of water infrastructure for the village of Kottakorai, however it was really a Social Mobilisation project. We carried out the following:

- Met with all stakeholders in the village and colony (dalit-untouchables) to explain the aims and objectives of the project (to design a new water delivery system to all the people of the village)

- Carried out household survey to determine demographics, level of knowledge about water borne diseases (very little)
- Carried out many Social Mobilisation programs via movies, street theater, discussions with stakeholders, PRA (Participatory Rural Assessment)
- Discussed many issues related to disease and fecal matter
- Discussed EcoSan toilets and their ability to reduce disease, to provide an agricultural product
- Discussed solid waste and the different problems associated with SW
- Discussed importance of clean drinking water to improve their health and livelihood
- Discussed all the above and ways to combat the above problems
- Carried out social/ecological programs like: Solid Waste Management, EcoSan toilets, water purification, rainwater harvesting, gray water for vegetable gardens,
- The program also designed and built the first ever (in India) rural water delivery to most of the homes in the village and colony

The City of Hilden (Germany):

“Restoration of Traditional Rainwater Harvesting Tank and the Recharge”

The project seeks to:

- To promote the way their ancestors used water sustainability.
- To improve groundwater recharge via rehabilitation of 1 rainwater harvesting tanks
- To use innovative design (tanks) and technologies (recharge wells) to recharge the aquifer.
- Build 2 recharge wells
- To capture more rainwater runoff
- To identify where to locate the 3 new checkdams
- Design and build innovative new checkdams
- To drill some recharge and observations wells so that we can monitor how successful (or not) the project is.
- To try and protect the coastal area from salt water intrusion of our aquifer by increasing the storage area of tanks and channel systems
- Build a new irrigation channel (1500 meters long) so that a new area for planting can be available for farmers

Pondicherry Dept of Public Works:

“Tank Rehabilitation Project Pondicherry”

The project seeks to:

- To promote the way the farmers ancestors used water sustainability.
- To improve groundwater recharge via rehabilitation of 1 rainwater harvesting tanks

- To capture more rainwater runoff
- To try and protect the coastal area from salt water intrusion of our aquifer by increasing the storage area of tanks and channel systems
- Build renovate and build new channels that will feed other tanks in the catchment area
- Improvement of traditional infrastructure setup
- Erosion control
- Rainwater harvesting will assist in creating a more sustainable water system by recharging the aquifer
- Local farmers will be able to irrigate using surface water and reducing their need from pumping water from the aquifer