

AWH annual Rept Apr 2008 to Mar 2009:

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 plan 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 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.

Ensemble (France)

The: ““Dryland farming Project”

The project seeks to combat *saltwater intrusion* by working with user groups to change their agricultural irrigation methodologies to become more sustainable via ***Integrated Water Development Plan*** (IWDP) coupled with organic agricultural. Both these models try to conserve resources and try and produce many resource on farm which leads to more self sufficiency. We will accomplish this by:

- to create village level local institutions (Water Users Associations) and institutional framework to manage and maintain the existing tanks and ponds in the village.

- to create Women Entrepreneurial groups so that they can gain more income in a sustainable way
- to create awareness among the various users groups about the impact they have on the water table
- to identify and introduce Government schemes to our farmer groups so that they may benefit from (our field staff would also help the farmers to apply for the programs)
- 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 reduce groundwater usage by improved irrigation practices (drip, micro irrigation, SRI (System of Rice Intensification) etc:
- to promote new and less water intensive crops for landless farmer groups
- to improve income generation by developing added value, environmentally sound and ethically correct
- to increase production and productivity through sustainable farming
- to reduce energy demanding practices and soil erosion.
- to build the capacity of the farmers through on farm field training and exposure visit to related field areas.
- to promote and develop integrated farming, organic farming and alternate crop in order to increase the overall income of the farm and create a positive impact on the environment.
- to train farmers in water conservation, appropriate and innovative farming technology, quality control, storage
- to reduce the accumulation of pollutants (chemical fertilizer and pesticide) on the soil, water and food chain.
- to disseminate and train our target group farmers in ecological dry land farming cultivation techniques
- to create a market accessibility for produced product.
- to conduct research on the impact of rehabilitated structures, best agricultural practices and conservation of natural resources in a sustainable way on groundwater recharge, groundwater and surface water quality and soil fertility.
- to create farmers associations in order to improve knowledge transfer, best practices, capacity building, quality control, better market accessibility, organic farming accreditation.

A4A (Aqua for All - Netherlands)/Vietens

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

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

A4A (Aqua for All - Netherlands)/Vietens

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

This project may look like a technological transfer project eg, the supply of water infrastructure for the village of Edayenchavadi, 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 importance of clean drinking water to improve their health and livelihood
- The program will designed and build a water distribution system for the entire village and colony