The overall aim of the master program is to create multidisciplinary professional cadres that are capable to plan and manage sustainable change with and for rural communities. The integral focus is capacity building of those who work in all fields of sustainable development to achieve social change and better quality of life in society.

School of REED and Research:

School of REED students conduct research projects related to problems of rural communities in different regions of Sudan. The following are main areas of their researches:

- Participation of female farmers in agricultural development.
- The traditional knowledge and technologies
- The situation of internal displaced persons IDP.
- Food security in different regions of Sudan.
- Population problems.
- Agricultural extension approaches.
- Issues relevant to sustainable rural development.
- Environmental problems.
- Community based organizations (CBOs).

School of REED and Local Communities

School of REED has been established in 1987 with a vision to link the students and the staff with local communities. The school curriculum has been designed to prepare the students to play the role of community facilitator. The staff are trained and qualified to work with the rural communities, especially on capacity building, organization of community based organizations and participatory planning.

REED: has good capacity in conducting outreach program including:

- Planning of field work.
- Training of village leaders.
- Organization of rural communities.
- Enhancing initiatives in community.

The school is conducting the above activities through the following Mechanisms:

- Rural Extension program.
- Summer training attachment.
- Staff community development work activities.
- Training of village leaders (training of trainers).
- Participatory approaches and gender are cross-cutting issues.

For more information: Ahfad University for Women - Cumbrian, P.O.Box 167, Sudan / Tel: 249 367575169 / Fax: 249 187575401
ahwa@ahfad.edu.sud / ahwa@info@gmail.com / www.ahfad.edu.sud /
www.ahfad.org

Empowering rural women and ensuring gender equality.
Introduction

The School of REED was established in 1987 and started with eight students from the most marginalized states of Sudan. It aims to fulfill AUW philosophy through:

- Filling the gap of female change agents
- Offering special scholarship programs for students from deprived rural areas of Sudan. 230 out of the 330 students are on such scholarships.

Vision

The school vision is to be among the leading schools of rural extension education and development in Africa and the Middle Eastern Region, and to be continually a source of well prepared graduates capable of contributing solidly to sustainable human and natural resources development and the empowerment of women.

Mission

The mission of School of REED is to help prepare outstanding multipurpose change agents and specialized sustainable rural development professionals through use of multidisciplinary approaches to learning in the diverse areas of extension education and community development. Particularly, the School is committed to the mission of preparing graduates to provide leadership in the following areas:

1. Contributing to achievement of the millennium development goals.
2. Management and coordination of human and natural resource development activities targeted towards the disadvantaged urban and urban areas.
3. Planning of participatory community-based extension activities.
4. Programming for disseminating knowledge and achieving desirable attitude change.
5. Conducting research, training, and community service activities.
6. Facilitating community decision making
7. Establishing and sustaining community based organizations (CBOs) to serve as focal points in their areas and promoters of networking with other communities.
8. Empowering women of rural women and ensuring gender equality.

School of REED and Rural Communities:

The School of REED put great emphasis on field work. Beside the major Rural Extension Field Trip, the students of the school are linked with the rural communities through the Summer Training Attachment (STA).

The school of REED is responsible for running the Rural Extension Program. The theoretical aspects of the program are taught by the staff to the six schools of AUW. They also organize the annual field trips which make the main practical part of the program for the fourth year students within the whole University. The field trips are organized in groups of 20 students and are headed by a supervisor. The groups are totaling about 800 students visiting about 50 villages and targeting about 55,000 audiences from rural areas.

The Rural Extension Field Trip presents a considerable challenge to student’s self reliance in terms of traveling, living and giving further. It also allows for some multidisciplinary work in the village by the students.

Summer Training Attachment Program (STA):

The STA program is central to REED curriculum. The students are engaged in field work when the school is not in session.

The process of STA starts with:

1- An one month attachment to a project by group of 3-5 students for 3 consecutive years. This means identifying about 50 placements each year during May-June.

2- Discussion of the attachment experience (STAXX) takes place when students present their findings to the whole classes.

3- Plans will then be made to return to the same project for the second STA to study one of its activities (such as forestry, women’s program) in-depth.

Through this program the students make an active contribution to the community based activities and some benefited from it by collection of data for their graduation research.

Master of Science in Sustainable Rural Development (SRD):

An M.Sc. in Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) is developed from the perceived need to address rural poverty, food insecurity, rural resource degradation and the general well-being of the rural communities. The M.Sc. started in 2003 with 30 students.

For more information: Ahfad University for Women - Gomhurri, P.O.Box 167, Sudan / Tel: +249 817993250 / Fax: +249 817972310

www.ahfad.edu.sd / ahfinfo@gmail.com / www.ahfad.org / www.ahfad.org