

2017-18 Annual Report



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AME FOUNDATION

BELIEVES IN "HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES"

AMEF is a resource organization. It seeks to empower dry land farmers in degraded ecological situations on the Deccan Plateau, in improving their own livelihoods, along with sensitivity to gender and equity concerns. Pursuing this goal, it works with farming communities, like-minded NGOs and government agencies concerned in creating and testing technological options, for wider application. In the process, it strives to forge institutional synergy among the interacting bio mass actors, playing a catalytic and facilitative role.

AMEF is motivated by a deep-going concern. The initial transformation in Indian agriculture became possible through the Green Revolution technology, which benefited the better-endowed regions and resource-rich farmers, using expensive purchased farm inputs. But, it bypassed the vast dry farming tracts. Trapped in these areas are a large number of small and marginal farmers struggling to make a living, with their depleted environmental assets, eroded soils and rapidly sinking ground water resources. Therefore, a second transformation has become necessary. Working with these families, searching for alternative farming options is a matter of great socio-economic and strategic concern, today.

Does AMEF create something out of nothing? Hardly the case. Adopting the Participatory Technology Development (PTD) and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approaches, AMEF teams up with responsive farmers groups, interested NGOs and development agencies to locally explore new ways of managing the available natural resources more efficiently. In the process, new perceptions are generated, new insights are gained and new approaches are devised, combining the traditional knowledge with scientific findings. Thus, farmers are enabled to progress one step beyond the present.

CONTENTS

S.No	Title Control of the	Page No.
1	AME Foundation – Genesis and Focus	1
2	Areas of Operation	3
3	The Programmes	3
3.1	Improving dry farming through ecological agriculture (Dharmapuri Farm Initiative)	4
3.2	Improving dry farmer livelihoods through Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture (Telangana Farm Initiative)	7
3.3	S & T based sustainable and holistic dry farming alternatives for improving farm livelihoods through improved yields and incomes	10
3.4	Improving small farmer livelihoods in rainfed areas through climate resilient farming practices (Supraja Foundation)	12
3.5	LEISA India programme	16
Anne	kures	
1.	Staff	23
2.	Finance Matters	24
3.	AMEF Operational Areas	26
4.	Organogram of AMEF	27
5.	Board of Trustees	28

AME Foundation – Genesis and Focus

Agriculture sector, the primary source of livelihoods for nearly 67% of the population in India is displaying a sluggish growth. Small holders constitute the farming majority (around 70%). More than 60% of them are rain fed farmers. It is reckoned that in future, bulk of the food needs of the nation has to come from rain fed areas, as the irrigated areas have almost neared their peak, while the scope for further increase of irrigation is negligible.

Today, we are left with depleted farmlands, degraded farm environment and demotivated farm population who have nowhere else to go. Farmlands, under cultivation for generations, are getting depleted of their finer soil fractions, fertility and water holding capacity. Further, the degradation of the farm environment is aggravating the situation. Farming in regions like Deccan Plateau of Southern India with low and uncertain rainfall conditions is increasingly becoming unviable with inappropriate land-use practices and depleted vegetation. Challenges to feed and to fulfill the needs of a growing population in a sustainable way require a better more comprehensive insight ecologically sound crop production processes, especially in fragile environments of resourcepoor areas of the Deccan Plateau.

While the development programmes focus on a small section of elite, frontline farmers who are able to cope with the changes around them, the majority of small holders who are risk shy have nowhere else to go. AMEF focuses on building capacities of these farming majority to deal with their own situations better.

AME Foundation (AMEF), over the years, with its deep-rooted interest in sustainable agriculture (SA), has been seeking ways to fulfil its mission of empowering the dry land farmers in degraded ecological situations on the Deccan Plateau, in improving their own livelihoods, along with gender and social equity concerns. Born as a training agency in 1982, in

a temperate climate in The Netherlands, AME has moved into a tropical region in 1986. Going beyond the training of agricultural environmentalists, AMEF has entered into field situations to forge innovative farming practices combining the traditional and the modern methods.

Presently, AMEF is working as a developmentnon-government oriented, organization, devoted to promoting ecological farming alternatives among small and marginal farmers engaged in dry land farming. The twin objectives of AMEF are: improving the livelihoods of the farm families in dry lands and addressing the environmental concerns. The thus, includes improvement and promotion of alternative farming practices to bolster food security, strengthen livelihoods, address environment issues and promote more sustainable agricultural practices. It adopts participatory approaches that recognise local knowledge systems and involves local farmers' groups, community-based organizations (CBOs), organizations non-government (NGOs), government departments and other biomass actors in the development process.

The **focal activities** of the organization are given below:

1. Generating alternative farming practices: Beginning with on-farm crop improvements by means of Farmer Field School (FFS) and Participatory Technology Development (PTD) processes, technologies related to natural resource conservation and (NRC NRU) utilisation and generated leading to alternative land use practices. This, in turn, helps to conserve and develop the resources and rebuild environmental support to farming. In the process, the farmers' innovating capacities get enhanced.

- Forging gender equity social processes: AMEF seeks to mitigate and ameliorate the inequality based on gender, caste and economic status. Thus, AMEF addresses these issues while planning and implementing its activities.
- 3. Capacity building of farming groups through experiential learning methods: AMEF has a firm conviction and believes that farming is what a farmer does. Therefore, if durable changes in farming are intended, it is necessary that, the farmers' perception widened, insights deepened. attitudes modified and managerial abilities upgraded. are Therefore human resource development is the key. AMEF specializes in participatory and empowering education processes like Farmer Field Schools to guide farming communities.
- 4. Focus on building capacities of Rural Youth as Sustainable Agriculture Promoters: For the large and still growing rural population, agriculture still remains a major means of livelihood. For sustainable rural development, building the capacities of the rural youth to gainfully practice farming as well as guide their own farming communities is crucial. It enables rural youth to gain confidence in handling their resources better, get better returns as well as help them to get better social recognition which is so necessary for them to remain in villages.
- 5. Building NGO network: For scaling up of eco-friendly initiatives, AMEF interacts and strengthens the NGO networks involved in the land-based activities. By using training situations created in the cluster villages, capacity building of partner NGOs forms the major portion of AMEF's work.
- 6. **Developing institutional linkages:** AMEF seeks to build linkages with state, national, international research

- and development organizations to harness the technologies and methodologies for accessing information and involve such agencies to move towards participatory research and development approaches.
- 7. Information sharing strategies: Documentation and dissemination on methodology technology and ecological agriculture form an important responsibility of AMEF. It out brings manuals, guidelines, working workshop proceedings, papers, case studies etc.
- 8. **LEISA India publication:** AMEF intends to develop LEISA as a preferred platform for promoting ecofarming alternatives and reach more persons and institutions interested in sustainable agriculture. AMEF also works on enhancing the capacities of NGOs and others in documenting and disseminating experiences on sustainable agriculture.

In attaining the twin objectives of improving livelihoods and addressing environmental **AMEF** builds its operational concerns, strategies based on the fact that the farmer is the primary user of the land resources. Therefore, AMEF begins working with the farm families, farm resources and farming systems. A start is made in village clusters with groups of farmers, using LEISA technologies. This is used as a springboard for scaling up LEISA practices and as a training base for development agencies and practicing farmers.

So far, AMEF had been using combination of methodologies in implementing the focal activities. Empowering learning processes like Farmer Field Schools and Participatory Technology Development are used. While the primary objective remains promoting SA in the dry lands of Deccan Plateau, AMEF is making earnest efforts to address the issue of natural resource management in some pockets of rainfed and irrigated rice areas through the "System of Crop Intensification" principles in paddy, ragi and red gram. On a modest scale,

AMEF has been promoting revival of farmer preferred local varieties and promotion of home gardens with urban citizens.

AREAS OF OPERATION

AME Foundation continued its field operations with Area Units located in Dharwad and Dharmapuri and field programmes implemented in in Bangarpet, Chintamani of Kolar district, Karnataka and in Telangana.

THE PROGRAMMES

The major projects implemented included

Improving dry farming through ecological agriculture (Dharmapuri Farm Initiative) – supported by Srivats Ram

Improving dry farmer livelihoods through Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture (Telangana Farm Initiative) – supported by Srivats Ram

S & T Based sustainable and holistic dry farming alternatives for improving farm livelihoods through improved yields and incomes – *supported by KSTePS*

Improving small farmer livelihoods in rain fed areas through climate resilient farming practices – supported by Supraja Foundation

LEISA India programme – supported by MISEREOR and SWED BIO.

Improving dry farming through ecological agriculture



This project also called as Dharmapuri Farm Initiative (DFI) is a project of AMEF supported by Sri Srivats Ram, MD of Wheels India Ltd. The programme focused on improving the livelihoods of resource poor farmers in 5 villages of Pennagaram block through LEISA approaches.

After the total failure of seasonal crops due to drought previous year, it was suggested that AMEF continues working in the same villages so that farmers are not left disillusioned. Donor appreciated the idea and supported the activity and suggested intensifying allied activities such as kitchen garden, mushroom production, back yard poultry, diverse fodder crop promotion and azolla cultivation.

Pre seasonal group meetings were held in all 5 villages of Nagadhasampatti, Yerikarai, Mangarai, Bikampatti and Gotlumarampatti. The discussions in such meetings focused mainly on village specific climatic conduction, rainfall receipt, expected rainfall etc. Accordingly, the crop plans for each group in all the 5 villages were prepared based on IMD's predictions and farmer's preferences handled through micro planning exercises.

In the pre-seasonal meetings with group members the following aspects were discussed participatorily - Importance of rain water conservation, arrangements for modular training events, preparatory work for allied farm activities like kitchen garden, poultry, plans for creating a farmer led trainer forum and registering farmer organization. The impact of drought on their day-to-day activities,

the livestock animal and fodder situation were also discussed and activities planned accordingly.

In terms of crop choices, to begin with, farmers were keen on Groundnut crop as first priority (by 95% farmers) in dry lands – the rationale being that groundnut crop provides food income and fodder. As they received lesser rains, contingency plans were evolved with the farming communities. Based on available soil moisture, millet crops such as ragi, samai and cholam were sown in dry lands. This helped in household food security. With lesser rains during the year, farmers took up ragi, samai and even groundnut in some areas.

Horse gram was taken up as 2nd crop by most of the farmers (95%) as there was good residual moisture in soil after main crop harvest. The crop stand was good owing to quantum of dew fall and crop could be harvested during last week of January to 1st week of Feb 2018 along with intercrops of Red gram and Cow pea.

As mentioned earlier, as the project was being implemented in project intervention villages affected by drought during the previous year, FFS was not conducted. Modular trainings were conducted for each group at village level (between March and May) focusing on Soil water conservation and management. Specific topics included summer ploughing, and crop sown across slope to negate easy runoff of rain water. Under soil fertility management, the aspects covered included, possibility of green manuring prior to main crop, assessing the quantum of FYM required, enrichment of FYM etc.

The sample harvest details on ragi, samai, Groundnut were collected and yield details of DFI and non-DFI farmers, compared. Accordingly, on an average, the groundnut yield per acre for DFI farmers was 22 bags (880kgs.) while it was 17 bags (680kgs.) for non-DFI farmers. Similarly, DFI farmers could get higher yields in ragi and samai. The improved yields are a result of adopting LEISA practices by DFI farmers. It was observed that while yields improved, the costs of cultivation

got reduced significantly to an extent of 20 to 30% in groundnut, 10-15% in Ragi and 5-7% in Samai compared to non-DFI farmers' plots.

Farm allied activities

Kitchen gardens were propagated with distribution of seeds of 13-17 types of vegetables. Which included Bitter gourd, Snake gourd, Ridge gourd, Bottle gourd, Cluster bean, Radish, Dolichos, Brinjal, Tomato, Chillies, Moringa, Cow pea, Bhendi and 4 varieties of greens.

Establishment of kitchen garden in back yard spaces was done with 100 farm families. In few villages, there was damage by rats in some plots. The raise in rodent population was attributed to their shift to household areas - as they were starved of grain in the field, owing to total drought, last season. The damaged plots were re-sown with fresh seeds. The creepers such as ridge gourd, snake gourd, bitter gourd have yielded well. With 3-5 kgs of each vegetable harvested by the families, around 100 DFI farmers and 50 non project farmers have established household kitchen gardens.

Backyard poultry production: This is another activity that attracted majority of farmers, where desi poultry birds were reared in backyard spaces. The poultry initiatives have been expanded to 100 families. Initiated in 2017 with two batches of distribution, with exchange processes it has expanded to other farm families in 5 villages. Presently, each family holds poultry birds worth Rs. 3000 to 6000/-. Besides fulfilling their own family consumption needs, they get reasonable additional income by selling the birds.

Fodder promotion: Cultivation of improved fodder varieties of sweet sudan, CoFs 29 multicut and Co4CN grass was taken up by 100 families (20/village). The efforts have led to improved access to fodder, significantly. Members could get 100-150kgs of fresh green fodder through 5-6 cuttings throughout the year. It can be valued at Rs.8000-14,000/family. They are able to preserve the green and dry fodder for the 7-12 months and

avoid external purchase of green fodder (estimated at Rs.15000 to 18000).

Mushroom Production: Mushroom cultivation training events which included hands on learning were organized and distributed to 100 farm families at 20 per village in all the 5 project villages. Two beds per family were prepared which yielded 3 to 4kgs of mushroom in (3-4 harvests). All the members who harvested mushroom have started consuming and sharing with their neighbours and relatives, furthering diet diversification. All the families used the mushroom for their own consumption with an estimated value of Rs.600 to 800/- per family. Murugeshan One farmer Mr. Gotlumarampatti is planning to expand production as an enterprise.

Donor visit:

A team of officials consisting of Mr.Jeyanth, Mr. Mani and Mr. Nataraj of SRFI, Chennai visited DFI villages on 15th Sept. 2017 (Yerikarai, Gotlumarampatti, Nagadasampatti villages). The team witnessed good stand of ragi, samai and cholam crops along with barrier crops and intercrops in the field. They have interacted with the farmers directly, and were positive about the outcomes. The team has requested AMEF to pursue water conservation measures in a select village as a pilot project for the future. This activity is being conceived as a supplementary activity for the core program to be funded by Supraja Foundation.

Improving dry land farmers livelihood through promotion of Sustainable Agriculture



Telangana Farm Initiative (TFI) supported by Srivatsram promoted ecological agriculture in 5 villages of Kondurg Mandal of Mahaboobnagar district of Telangana State during 2017-18.

In 2016-17, the programme was implemented in 5 villages - Yedira, Mustipally, Venkriyal, Agriyal and Kasalabad.

Eco farming groups were formed in all the 5 villages. New FFS groups were formed in Yedira and Mustipally villages. In new village Ganganaguda, Gram Sabha and farmers meeting were conducted.

In all the five villages, training events were organized. Seed treatment, selection of quality seeds, method of sowing, planting intercrop has been completed to initiate Kharif season activities.

FFS was initiated in two villages on red gram based cropping system (intercrop maize/ green gram 2:4 rows ratio and jowar as border

crop. Collaborator farmers' fields identified in two villages i.e Yedira and Mustipally. In remaining three villages including new village (Ganganaguda), after group meetings, procurement of inputs like Seeds, Bio agents, Gypsum, Kitchen Garden seeds (Ridge gourd, Cluster Beans, Tomato, Chilli, Radish, Bhendi, Coriander, Drumstick, Methi) were organized. For non FFS farmer groups, specific training events on preparation of eFYM, bio pesticides, egg solutions, jeevamrutha, panchagavya was completed in all the project villages.

Farmers have been adopting these eco alternatives in their respective fields. Women farmers have been taking lead organized as mahila sanghas. Farmer groups have



Use of cycle weeders

prepared and used botanicals like Dashaparni, Panchagavya, Jeevamrut, Ganajeevamruta, egg solution, NeemKashaya. Around 300 pheromone traps were mobilized and installed in 75 farmers' fields. Vermicomposting was taken up by 4 farmers while Compost units using compost culture was established in 20 farmers' fields for improving soil fertility and reducing use of chemical fertilizers. In collective activities, in farm resource centres in Yedira, Kaslabad and Mustipally villages, farmers have taken up production of botanicals.

During December and January, farmers were involved in harvesting of their field crops. Encouraging results were reported in project area. Farmers followed two intercropping systems – (red gram and green gram)(red gram and maize) and got an average yield of 6 quintals of red gram and 2 quintals of Green gram per acre while non-project farmers got 4 quintals of red gram as monocrop. In the other mixed cropping system, (red gram-maize), farmers got 19 quintals of maize and 6 quintals of red gram. While the gross income from red gram and green gram combination was lower, the survival percentage and resilience was better.

Farmers were keen to acquire a **dal mill** for their group purposes. A small scale dal mill is being mobilized with women groups' contribution and project support. The women groups are determined to process the red gram as well as gain additional income from other processing by- products too.

The harvest data of the previous year's rabi season of SRI has indicated the following: Ten farmers took up SRI on a pilot basis. Farmer's average yield was 26 bags compared to 22 bags in non SRI method of cultivation while the costs of cultivation was Rs.7604 in SRI method and Rs. 12200 in non-SRI method. The net incomes from SRI method was Rs.33,996 while in non-SRI method it was Rs.23000. In the current year, SRI was continued with 8 new farmers. Farmers got an average yield of 22.5 quintals/acre in SRI method, where as in non SRI method, farmers got an average yield of 19 quintals/acre. The transplanting operation for the next season (2018-19) has been done in the month of January 2018 with 30 farmers. Critical inputs like bio fertilizers and cono weeders were utilized.

Farmers used cycle weeders in Red gram field and cono weeders in SRI paddy field resulting in better productivity and reduced labour dependence and drudgery.

Farm allied activities

Kitchen gardens were established by 60 farmers in their back yards which included diverse varieties. They are primarily for home consumption and they grow limited surpluses for marketing. On an average, farmers had some savings on avoiding purchase of vegetables in 8 months and got small additional income by selling the surpluses.

Twelve farmers established **azolla** units in their backyards to feed the milch animals.

Women groups in Yedira, Mustipally and Kaslabad villages have taken up household **poultry** for the first time.

Fodder production was initiated by 30 farmers by planting species like hybrid napier grass on the bunds. Farmers are getting regularly green fodder for their cattle. Fodder species slips were mobilized through farmer to farmer linkage and planted on the bund of farmers' fields to overcome the fodder scarcity.

Fruit and forest tree seedlings were mobilized and planted on the bunds for

biomass generation. (including 4 edible species for household – gooseberry, lemon, guava and jamun).

Sharing events were conducted in Kaslabad and Yedira villages in which 90 farmers participated. Farmers were interested in low cost alternatives, lesser use of chemicals and use of botanicals in crop production.

Donor visit

On 15th November 2017, Mr. Jayanth and Mr. Natarajan from Wheels India visited the project villages, reviewed the progress made, interacted with the farmers directly, were positive about the continuity of the programme.

S & T based sustainable and holistic dry farming alternatives for improving farm livelihoods through improved yields and incomes



This programme is supported by KSTePS to promote ecological agriculture in 10 villages of Kolar district of Karnataka State during 2017-18.

Under the proposed KSTePS supported programme, ten villages were identified in Chintamani Taluk – namely, Ragimakalahalli, Musturpatna, Devapalli, Venkatarayanakota, Guttapalya, Guntturgadda, Yerraiahgarahalli, Kondavenakapalli, K. Raguttahalli, Narasapura. A local field office was set up for easy implementation of the programme.

PRAs were conducted in all ten villages wherein 566 farmers participated. Base Lines and formation of EFGs was done. Based on PRA exercises, input estimates required for Ragi, Ground nut, Red gram, Avare, Same farming systems was made. Procurement of small millets such as same, navane, haraka

was taken up based on individual farmer's requirements. In all the ten villages, training events were conducted which included skill building on the following aspects - seed treatment, selection of quality seeds, method of sowings, in-situ moisture conservation practices, inter-crop choices. Ragi staggered nurseries in 3 stages were maintained to enable transplanting optimum age seedlings till September.

In each village, one collaborator farmer was selected for conducting season long FFS. Season long FFS were conducted in 10 villages – Groundnut in 5 villages; Ragi in 3 villages and Red gram in 2 villages. In total,

two hundred farmers participated in the FFS events. In addition to FFS, modular trainings were organized in each village on sustainable dry land practices and resilient crop combinations.

Farmers preferred to take up Ground nut and Redgram as first priority followed by Ragi plus redgram and avare as mixed crops and Jola and Castor as border crops. Sowing of Groundnut was done from second week of June and continued up to August second week due to erratic rainfall. An area of 556 acres of Groundnut was covered, involving 638 farmers adopting LEISA practices. Line sowing and gypsum application was done by about 435 farmers. RAGI ML 365 was taken up in an area of 160 acres by 200 farmers. Redgram BRG was sown as mixed crop. Minor millets were promoted (Same - 50 kgs in 20 acres, Navane - 40 kgs in 15 acres, Haraka - 15 kgs in 5 acres). Normal rains from September resulted in good Groundnut crop and good peg formation resulting in improved yields. While average yields were 5.5 to 6 qtls per acre in fields of project farmers, it was 3.5 to 4 gtls per acre for non-project farmers. With good quality seeds of ragi and red gram, with staggered nurseries offering resilience, and weeding done at right stages, good yields were observed in ragi with 11.5 to 12 qtls per acre in ragi as against 8.5 to 10 qtls per acre by nonproject farmers. More than 485 project farmers have benefited with the type of food security gained.

The Red gram crop suffered in earlier stages owing to moisture stress. The crop picked up growth after the onset of September rainfall coupled with bud nipping resulting in good flower production and pod formation, yielding 2.5 to 3 quintals per acre in comparison to 1.5 to 2 quintals per acre for non-project farmers. 55 project farmers benefitted from this activity.

Mixed cropping in 1 hectare model plots helped farmers to get food, income and nutritional security through crop combinations of millets, Groundnut and red gram.



Farmers meet at Bangarpet

Introduction and promotion of small millets like Same, Navane, Haraka and Bajra has been done. These crops were taken up by 25 to 30 farmers resulting in yields of 2.5 to 3 qtls per acre per farmer.

Seed production was taken up in redgram (BRG - 4 and 5) with ten farmers in five villages in an area of five acres. Varietal trials were initiated with redgram (BRG 4,5); Ragi with varieties ML- 365, ML- 322, MR-6.

The backyard kitchen gardens were initiated with 156 farm women with diverse vegetables for household consumption as well as limited sales. They took up cultivation of 15 different types of vegetables.

In ten villages, 55 farmers have taken up azolla cultivation and feeding the milch animals which resulted in better milk yields. Mr. Venkat Reddy of Thuluvanuru village has fed his milch cow with 1 kg azolla per day which resulted in 1 litre extra milk per day, fetching Rs.4320 for 6 months, with very little expenditure.

Due to good rains and supply of good variety of fodder slips like co4, farmers could meet their fodder requirements through fodder production.

As a result of poultry taken up earlier, good birds weighing 3 to 3.5 kgs fetching Rs.400 and Rs.450 were reared in the second generation and sale of eggs gave additional income.

Improving small farmer livelihoods in rainfed areas through climate resilient farming practices



A programme on climate resilient practices, supported by Supraja Foundation was initiated in three districts in South Indian States – Kolar and Dharwad in Karnataka, and Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu. The programme was initiated with an overall goal of improving dry farming livelihoods through better natural resource management, mixed cropping practices towards resilient sustainable farming systems.

Agriculture sector is the primary source of livelihoods for 67% of the population in India. Small holders caught in fragile ecosystems like dry lands constitute the farming majority (around 70%). With climate change aberrations, their livelihoods are threatened. While the costs of production have increased enormously by using fertilizers and pesticides, the yields and income have been on the declining trend. Owing to the way agriculture is being practiced, there has been deterioration in natural resources like soil, water and biodiversity. The bulk of nation's food for the future has to come from rain fed areas, and this has to come by following a system of farming which is eco-friendly. Therefore, rain fed farmers welfare is crucial for food and nutritional security as well as ecological stability. In general, these farmers are resource poor and risk shy. There is no formal extension to cater to their needs. Focus on empowering farmer education processes is the key to support them. Through guiding them, it is necessary to build their self-confidence and esteem, organise them to deal with their own situations, collectively.

With this broad vision in mind, Supraja Foundation has agreed to support the programme with the following broad objectives

- Improving productivity in dry land crops of millets/cereals/pulses for improved yields and farm incomes through diversity and reduced costs of cultivation.
- Guiding farming communities through empowering farmer education processes like Farmer Field Schools
- Organizing farmer collectives to manage their own seed and fodder requirements, share resources like equipment, explore joint initiatives for processing and value addition.

The project has proposed to implement climate resilient agricultural practices in 60 villages, 20 each from 3 regions of Dharwar and Kolar Districts in Karnataka State and Dharmapuri District in Tamil Nadu.

Project initiation and Planning

The project was sanctioned by Supraja Foundation during December 2017 with the signing of Letter in Acceptance. The first six month project planning was prepared by AME in a team involving the Field Units of Dharwar, Kolar and Dharmapuri.

On 29th January 2018, a team of delegates from Supraja foundation visited Guntturgadda of Chintamani taluk. The team comprising of Trustees of Supraja Foundation namely, Mr. Jaymin K.Trivedi, Mr. S. Kasinathan, Mr. C. S. Kedar, I.A.S., Dr. VenkateshTagat interacted with the farmers. Mr. H. K. Lakshminarayana from Supraja, AMEF-ED, Program Manager, and Team Leader-Kolar along with field staff of AMEF were part of the event. The purpose was to to understand the agricultural practices being followed and preparedness of AME to implement the project. After welcome by AMEF, farmers along with field staff explained

the PRA process, the FFS learnings. They displayed a wide array of exhibits on ecological alternatives. They also demonstrated biological preparations and explained their usefulness for soil and crop eco systems. The visitors appreciated the enthusiasm and keenness of the farmers to pursue ecological climate resilient practices and the learning methods.

The three Area Units and the Central Unit teams met thrice during the period to understand strategise programme and implementation. The first meeting held on December 19th 2017 was for launching the project, sharing the project objectives and preparing to initiate activities. Dr.Venkatesh Tagat was invited to the meeting to guide the staff on the importance of farmers' collectives, benefits of collective marketing of produce and a few examples of such successes in India. He emphasized on the end-to-end support to the farmers of not only the cultivation and crop management aspects, but also use of ICTs to provide advisories, market information and price predictions which would help in decision making for getting improved profits.

Staff orientation meetings

This was followed by a three days meeting held during Feb 14-16, 2018 in Central Unit at Bengaluru. In the meeting, the Central Unit and Area Unit teams discussed and decided plan of activities for the first six months and prioritized them. The calendar for the six months was prepared including responsibilities of the team members in both Area Unit and Central Unit. The activities focused on preparatory activities of Gramasabhas, PRAs and Baseline surveys and to create Eco-Farmers Groups.

Table 1: Participation in Gramasabha meetings							
Regions	No. of	No. of	No. of Men	Total			
	Meetings	Women					
Dharwar	20	234	838	1072			
(Karnataka)							
Kolar (Karnataka)	20	315	768	1083			
Dharmapuri (Tamil	13	912	179	1091			
Nadu)							
Total	50	1461	1720	3181			

The third meeting held on March 7 and 8 participated by all the three Area Unit Teams and Central Unit Team prepared day-wise curriculum for the Training of Trainers of 20 progressive farmers in each region, selected from 20 villages as representatives. The curriculum included orientation training on preparatory activities such as conducting Gramasabha, PRA and baseline surveys. Further, the topics covered aspects of LEISA, soil and water conservation, group formation, financial inclusion and formation and benefit of Farmers Producers Organisation/Company. The emphasis was also on topics of participating farmers' cooperation collective actions.

Gramasabhas

Gramasabhas have been conducted in three regions with participation as indicated in Table 1.

In Dharmapuri, almost 90% of the participants were women. The reason behind men migrating to to cities and towns for jobs leaving women at home to manage both farming and household works. In Dharwar region, women participation recorded was 23% while in Kolar it was 29%.

Participatory Rural Appraisal

The introduction of AME and the proposed project was followed by primary data collection of the demography, livelihoods, resources and institutional opportunities in all the project villages. The well-known Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises were conducted involvina the participants into drawing. discussions and preparing matrix tables. The exercises included village mapping, resource mapping, time-line series, seasonality

analyses, Venn diagram of institutions and transect walk in the agriculture fields.

The details of PRAs conducted in the three areas are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Participation in PRAs						
Area Units	No. Women Mer			Total		
	of					
	PRA					
Dharwar	18	119	681	800		
(Karnataka)						
Kolar	12	187	495	682		
(Karnataka)						
Dharmapuri	8	563	55	618		
(Tamil						
Nadu)						
		•	•			

Eco-Farmer Groups were formed. They conducted monthly meetings and planned participation in the Farmer Field School programme scheduled for Kharif season in all the three regions.

Farmer to Farmer meet

Farmers are the actual practitioners of alternative farm practices which help them get better yields, improve food and nutritional access and net incomes. The farmers who are practicing eco alternatives facilitated by AME in the drought prone district of Kolar shared their learning experiences and challenges to nearly 400 farmers and different stakeholders through this Farmers Sharing Meet held on March 28, 2018 in Bangarpet town in Kolar District. Farmers got most convinced and felt confident after hearing from their fellow farmers who shared their experiences and learnings in LEISA practices. The event also had demonstrations and exhibits of models and

pictures, sharing of experiences and one-to-one meeting.

A simple handout in Kannada was published and released which described briefly the various good practices popular in the area. Farmers who were new to the programme expressed deep interest to try out these alternatives in the Supraja funded programme villages.

The project is promising progressive gains in participation, adoption, self reliance, exchange of knowledge and institutionalization. Regular orientation meetings with fixed planning processes are enabling high motivation levels, clarity of purpose and reorientation of strategies where necessary within the project proposal guidelines.



PRA in a village in Dharwad

LEISA India

LEISA magazine is recognized as the leading magazine for sharing field based experiences in Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture. LEISA India, published in English, is the regional Indian edition of Agricultures Network of the global LEISA magazines, presently coordinated by IED Afrique, Senegal. With continued support from MISEREOR from 2017, LEISA India programme continued to strengthen grass root level knowledge sharing through local language editions (Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Oriya, Telugu, Punjabi and Marathi) and limited copies of print edition of English. Besides print editions, magazine is widely distributed as e-copy, downloadable on the website and shared in social media.

LEISA India magazine is being produced from the year 1999. The Indian edition (LEISA India) of the global magazine Farming Matters (earlier called as LEISA Magazine) was supported by ILEIA, The Netherlands till 2010-11. Later on, the initiative was funded by MISEREOR in two phases (2011-14 and 2014-17). From April 2017, MISEREOR support for the further continued its programme for another three year period (2017-20). Besides limited copies of English print edition, MISEREOR has been supporting production and distribution of four issues per year of 4 language editions (Kannada, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu) and two issues per year for two new language editions- Punjabi and Marathi.

LEISA India continues to be part of the global Agricultures Network whose Secretariat has been shifted to IED Afrique upon closure of ILEIA. LEISA India programmes's global outreach as well as roles in global governance are evolving during the transition year with fresh support from Swedbio to support the process and continuity of the Network activities to a limited extent.

1. English Edition

During this period, four issues of LEISA India magazine were produced.

a) Climate Change and Agroecological Approaches (Vol 19.2, June 2017)



This issue was **published in collaboration** with ABC Network, a global knowledge initiative started in 2011. The issue focused on ground experiences on how small farmers have innovatively adapted their farming practices and systems to cope with changing climate conditions. The issue included 10 full length articles. The magazine was of 36 pages.

There was a very good response to call for papers. We received 24 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them 10 were selected and included in the issue.

b) Ecological Livestock (Vol 19.3, September 2017)



The issue included 11 full length articles. The response to this issue was lukewarm. We received around 12 articles in response to call for papers and selected 7. Two articles were proactively sourced. We also included two articles sourced from the Agricultures Network, which were earlier published in Farming Matters. One article belonged to Indian region and the other was a global perspective which we wanted to share with our readers. The magazine was of 36 pages.

c) Millet Farming Systems (V.19, no.4, December 2017)

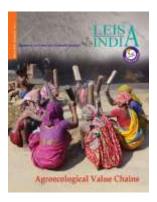


This issue included 8 full length articles. The issue focused on ground experiences on how small farmers are increasingly shifting towards millet farming, especially in the context of climate change. Other dimensions which were reflected through articles were millets in terms of nutrition, local culture and emerging markets. A new feature "In the News" was started to included some latest news on issues related to eco-friendly farming and new initiatives by various individuals and

institutions working in the farming sector. The magazine was of 36 pages.

There was a very good response to call for papers. We received 19 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them 8 were selected and included in the issue.

d) Agro ecological value chains (V.20, no.1, March 2018)



The issue included 9 full length articles. The response to this issue was lukewarm. We received around 12 articles in response to call for papers and selected. Two articles were included, drawn from other sources. Of them one was earlier published in Farming Matters., the global magazine of Agricultures Network. The magazine was of 36 pages.

Reader category

The total number of subscribers for the **English Edition** as of March 2017 is 7874. Out of them, 3353 received printed edition. These include farmers and grass root NGOs and CBOs. Around 6129 readers received the electronic version. They include readers from categories like NGOs, Academics, Research Institutions, students etc. This also includes a few of the farmers, NGOs and paid subscribers who are receiving printed edition, who also wished to receive the electronic version.

Of the total readers, 93% belong to the Indian subcontinent while 4% belong to neighbouring Asian countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan, Bhutan etc., and the

remaining 3% from across the globe. Among various categories, NGOs formed the major chunk with 33%, followed by academics and researchers (13%), farmer and farmer organisations (12%), and students (6%).

2. Special language editions

Special language editions are produced in 7 languages – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi and Punjabi. While the first five language editions were being produced during MISEREOR Phase I project (2011-14), two new editions– Marathi and Punjabi were added during the second phase – MISEREOR Phase II (2014-17). Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya editions are produced four times a year (June, September, December and March) while Marathi and Punjabi editions are produced two times a year (June and December). All the language editions include translations of selected articles from the LEISA India English edition.

The language editions are brought out in partnership with LEISA India consortium GEAG. partners Gorakhpur (Hindi): Mitramadhyama Trust, Bangalore (Kannada); Kudumbam, Trichy (Tamil); ORRISSA, Bhubaneswar (Oriya); Yuva Rural Association (YRA), Nagpur (Marathi) and Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM), Faridkot (Punjabi). The Telugu editions being produced in collaboration with consultants till the designing stage while printing and distribution are being taken up by AMEF.

During the reporting period, four issues (June 2017, September 2017, December 2017 and March 2018) of the special translated editions in Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Telugu, Oriya, have been produced. During the same time, two issues (June 2017 and December 2017) of Punjabi and Marathi language editions were produced.

HINDI EDITION

2017-18							
June	September	December	March				
LEISA Maratesa	LEISA charafrees	LEISA elon sinese	LEISA MNDIA Han Shoon				
			A Secretary				

KANNADA EDITION



TAMIL EDITION



TELUGU EDITION



ORIYA EDITION





The outreach for language editions was **12384**. Out of this, the highest readership is for Hindi edition (24%), followed by Tamil (21%), Kannada (17%), Telugu (13%), and Oriya, Punjabi and Marathi at 13%. The language editions were distributed primarily to grassroot institutions who are comfortable with local language only.

During the reporting period, one **Consortium** partners meeting was organized during 19 January 2018 through a video conference. The issues discussed included both strategic ones as well as maintenance functions. The focus was on how to improve efficiencies in production, outreach besides preparing for impact studies and raising co-finance for the magazine. Presently, the frequency of the editions is limited to the project proposal and its funding. The progress was reviewed and plans for the next phase were discussed.

3. Dissemination

LEISA India magazines are disseminated through various means.

- Print Copy Print copies of English and Language Editions reach readers at the grass root level. Around 3353 copies of English edition and 12384 copies of language editions (all 7 languages) were disseminated as hard copies (Total 15737).
- E-magazine English edition is also disseminated through email as an e-copy for those who have access to internet. Around 6129 readers are reached through e-copy.
- 3. **LEISA India website** LEISA India website was redesigned during this period (www.leisaindia.org). New features were added and made more reader friendly. All the editions (English and 7 Language editions) are uploaded regularly on the website.

The language editions (Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya, Punjabi and Marathi)

are also uploaded on the LEISA India website.

- 4. Social networking: LEISA India is on Face book and Twitter. These accounts were started in January 2015. During the reporting period, it has got more than 5237 followers on Face Book and 113 followers on Twitter. The online/digital versions of the magazines are gaining immense popularity among the urban population. Also, through social media, the magazine is reaching a much larger readership.
- 5. Dissemination in larger forums: The magazines were presented in various workshops, both nationally and globally. Partner organisations have been displaying language edition magazines at the local level during meets and fests. These displays have garnered a lot of subscriptions too for the magazine.

LEISA India contributions

Around Rs.7.82 lakhs has been received as voluntary contributions from readers, so far, with Rs.44052 during the year. A part of the contributions is being used as co-finance for the programme. To raise further resources for co-finance, a call for advertisement has been placed in the English as well as language editions.

MISEREOR extends funding support for third phase (2017-20)

The second phase of MISEREOR 3 year programme concluded during April to June 2017. The final comprehensive narrative report for the 3 year phase was submitted to the donor. Besides the excellent programme outcomes in the previous phase, well written proposal based on consortium approach, timely submission of mandatory reports, indication of compliance of donor suggested accounting procedures for handling administrative cost, Misereor project specific auditor's report for the programme enabled continuity and support of the programme.

MISEREOR has agreed to extend support for another phase of three years (April 2017-March 2020). They have agreed to support 88% of the project cost after AMEF has assured to generate 12% of the project funding through other sources. These sources include existing and potential income from voluntary contributions from readers, partial income support from AMEF's own income (Rent and interest on corpus of capital); cofinance through collaborative activities with other agencies and advertisements during the year programme period. three implementing quickly procedures in accounting systems to deal with administrative costs received paved the way for sanction of the new project.

During this reporting period, based on the sanctioned programme, agreements with the partner organisations were finalised for jointly managing the programme. India is the only region which has received funding support for publication of the magazines and maintenance of web site. While ILEIA, Netherlands is closing its office; Latin America, Brazil and Africa are yet to get full time funding support for the magazine.

Agricultures Network – Changes in Governance and functions

ILEIA, which was the Secretariat for the network for around 3 decades prepared for its final closure of the organisation by June 2017. The decision to shift the secretariat to IED in Senegal was taken in the International Agricultures Network Meeting (AIM) Ethiopia. Mr. Prasad and Ms. Radha participated in the Agricultures International Meeting (AIM), organised in Ethiopia. Mr. Prasad from AME Foundation, as member of the international governance group, is involved in decision making regarding the future of the network. Currently, the network is based in Senegal, with the governance being handled by Bara (IED Senegal), Prasad (AMEF), Paulo (ASPTA), with Edith as Advisor. SWEDBio is funding the transition process and is keen that the network is managed by Southern partners. They have provided a budgetary support till December 2017 and few more months in 2018.

A series of Skype meetings were organised regularly to manage the transition as well as fundraising for the Network activities which primarily include knowledge sharing through digital platforms, magazines and capacity building on knowledge management. Ms. TM Radha has been contributing as well as providing suggestions on managing the digital platform as well as production of special issues. ED and Radha were invited to participate in the ILEIA-Agricultures Network transition meeting in the Netherlands during 31 October - 3 November 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to officially handover the Agricultures Network Secretariat from ILEIA to IED Afrique in Senegal.

As ILEIA office is no longer operational, the network decided to continue production of Farming Matters (global edition) in its digital format. The five day meet therefore included orientation on Deziner platform for producing the digital edition of magazine. The network decided to bring out a special issue of the magazine, in collaboration with IFOAM, for the FAO Conference on "Scaling Up Agro ecology and SDGs", organised in Rome during April 2018. The meeting included discussion on issues related to the production of this special issue. Each member of the network agreed to share an article from their region for the magazine. The special issue will be produced both at the global level as well as at regional levels. This special issue is being partly funded by Swed-Bio, through Agricultures Network. Currently, the transition phase till March 2018 is being funded by Swed-Bio.

Readers Feedback

Wonderful journal for all involved and related to agriculture. It inculcates the eco friendly technologies in agriculture.

Srinivasan Anbumani

LEISA magazine is highly useful and gives practical information to its readers.

Mr. Rufus Kamran, Society for Peace and Sustainable Development, South Punjab, Pakistan.

Articles published in Leisa India are very much informative and of immense importance for a wide range of readers from policy makers, scientists, extension specialists, development practitioners and progressive farmers.

Dr. Umasankar Nayak

The way you explained each point with necessary details and maintained good balance between theory and practice is really commendable. Thanks a bunch for sharing.

Rahmat Ullah Malik

Congratulations for bringing out very useful articles. I read all of it carefully and consider the magazine as a rich knowledge pool.

Jaya Kritika Ojha

Very much informative and up to date articles. Nice to see the regional language content. If this reaches the farmers, it can do wonders

Dr. Siddarth Ranabijuli

The issue on "Millet Farming Systems" is very useful and I want to share the copies with the Chielf Minister, Agriculture Minister and Principle Secretary, Andhra Pradesh to make them know about millet farming in drylands of Andhra Pradesh. I am reading your articles for more than 10 years and LEISA India caries useful articles and subjects.

Mr. D. Madhusudana Rao, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh.

It is always good to read your publication that gives me vast knowledge on diversified sectors of food security.

Mr. Pabitra Paramanya

Staff as on 31.03.2018

SI. No.	Name Designation				
Bangalore					
1	Prasad K V S Executive Director & Chief Editor				
2	Radha T M	Managing Editor-LEISA India			
3	Poornima	AAO / Consortium Coordinator			
4	4 Rukmini G G Secretary				
5	Sanath M N	Secretary – Accounts			
6	Shivappa	Driver			
7	Chikkanna	Attendant			
Dharwad					
1	Mallikarjun Patil	Team Leader			
2	Prasanna V Secretary cum Accountant				
Dharmap	Dharmapuri				
1	Krishnan J	Team Leader			

Consulta	Consultants and Contractual Staff				
SI. No.	Name	Area			
1	J Srinath	Bangalore			
2	Murthy N	Bangalore			
3	Ramachandra K S	Bangalore			
4	Nagendra Rao V	Bangalore			
5	T Mallareddy	Telangana			
6	Mayachari A	Dharwad			
7	Akkamahadevi M Patil	Dharwad			
8	Prasath K	Dharmapuri			
9	Venkatesan K	Dharmapuri			
10	Munirasu M	Dharmapuri			
11	Balakrishna Murthy M R	Kolar			
12	Ramesh Kumar B V	Kolar			
13	Ranganna Setty S R	Kolar			
14	Narendra P	Kolar			

FINANCE MATTERS

BALANCE SHEET

GOWTHAMA & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 23/57, 41st Cross, East End C Main Road, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069 Ph : 26636042, 26656194

Fax No: 26651104

AME FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2018

31.03.2017 Rs.P.	LIABILITIES	31.03.2018 Rs.P.	31.03.2017 Rs.P.	ASSETS	31.03.2018 Rs.P.
	FUNDS			FIXED ASSETS	
25,612,712	As per Schedule I	25,072,240	9,220,541	As per Schedule III	9,117,985
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			LOANS & ADVANCES/ DEPOSITS	
	& PROVISIONS			As per Schedule IV	
	As per Schedule II		14,432,207	Fixed Deposits	12,874,301
650,000	Rental Advance	650,000	88,115	Other Deposits	88,115
107,270	Sundry Creditors For Expenses	41,391	74,500	Advances	54,500
427,616	Unutilized Grants	1,485,886	511,837	TDS Receivable	471,493
42,254	Provisions	91,179			1
				CASH AND BANK BALANCES	
			1,657,420	As per Schedule V	4,734,302
25,984,619		27,340,697	25,984,619		27,340,697

SOUND OF SOURCE SO

Place: Bangalore

Dated: 21.08.2018

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PUNDARIKAKSHA PARTNER Membership No. 214283

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INCOME & EXPENDITURE

GOWTHAMA & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

23/57, 41st Cress, East End C Hain Road, 9th Slock, Jayanagar, Sangalore-560069 Ph : 26636042, 26686194 Fax No : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION

Ra.P.	EXPENDITURE	31.03.3018 Rs.P.	21.03.2017 Rs.P.	INCOME	31.03.2018 Ra.P.
4,613	To Bestis Charges	8,495	936,924	By Herral Income	859,580
288,698	To Office expenses	393,657	43,150	By Donationa-Letas	44,06
3,352,143	To Salary to employees	3,388,053	223,262	By Miscellaneous Income	24,000
1,696,968	To Consultancy Charges	3,245,159	10,805	By Terrace Gurdening	1,20
275,260	To Rent, Electricity & Water Charges	205,641		TEACHER CONTRACTOR	
218,464	To Rates & Taxes.	323,546	9,137,904	By Grants Utilized	11,500,80
35,312	To Hommeral Gurdens	122,390	428,950	By Institutional costs	476,090
721.072	To FFS Coordination & Field guidance	404,030	2,500	By Sale of Books & Perindicula/Confelines	7
552,434	To Travel & Convenience	648,776	1.6	By Programmer Guidanes	100,493
1,621,344	To Capacity Building of Parmers	494,370			
281,732	To Critical Inputs & Support Cost	986,282		the housest income	
356,326	To Repairs & Maintenance	303,462	1.023,370	FD Interest	876,57
193,019	To Vehicle maintenance & linearance	205,546	90,214	Accrued Interest	18,031
109.058	To Printing & Stationery	133,998	111,900	Bunk FCRA Interest	50,50
100,964	To Postage & Courier	35,680	17,737	Interest in IT Refund	11,78
377,573	To Telephone & Internet	192,997	99,706	SB Interest	77,85
105,841	Tis Security Charges	117,391		H-Sup-man	
71,069	To Board Meeting Expenses	72,521			
288,075	To Meeting Expenses	397,845			
263,320	To Audit Frees	29,500			
199,029	To Insurance	314,405			
33,500	To Henorarium	7,000			
	To Magazine Expenses (Production &	e (1530)			
3,077,092	translation)	1,063,476			
475,844	To Distribution Expenses	340,077			
13,419,968	TOTAL C/F	13,224,269	12,086,443	TOTAL C/F	14,061,97



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GOWTHAMA & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

23/57, 41st Cross, Bast End 'C' Main Read 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560 069 Telephone : 26636042, 26656194 Telefax : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

31.03.2017 Rs.P.	EXPENDITURE	31.03.2018 Rs.P.	31.03.2017 Rs.P.	INCOME	31.03.2018 Rs.P.
13,419,968	TOTAL B/F	13,224,289	12,086,443	TOTAL B/F	14,061,97
5,000	To AMEF Donation to World Food Day	5,000			
6,950	To Advertisment	10,725			
16,675	To Web Updating				
428,950	To Institutional Costs	476,093			
39,800	To Seed production & distribution	16,250	- 4		
348,278	To Depreciation	324,256			
2,179,178	To Excess of Income over Expenditure	5,363			
12,086,443		14,061,976	12,086,443		14,061,97

Dated: 21.08.2018

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> Membership No. 214283

AMEF OPERATIONAL AREAS

Central Unit

No. 204, 100 Feet Ring Road, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 2nd Block, 3rd stage, Bangalore – 560 085 Ph: 080-26699512, 26699522, 26794922, Fax: 080-26699410

Email: amebang@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in; amefbang@amefound.org / amefbang@yahoo.co.in;

leisaindia@yahoo.co.in

Website: www.amefound.org; www.leisaindia.org

Area Units

DHARMAPURI

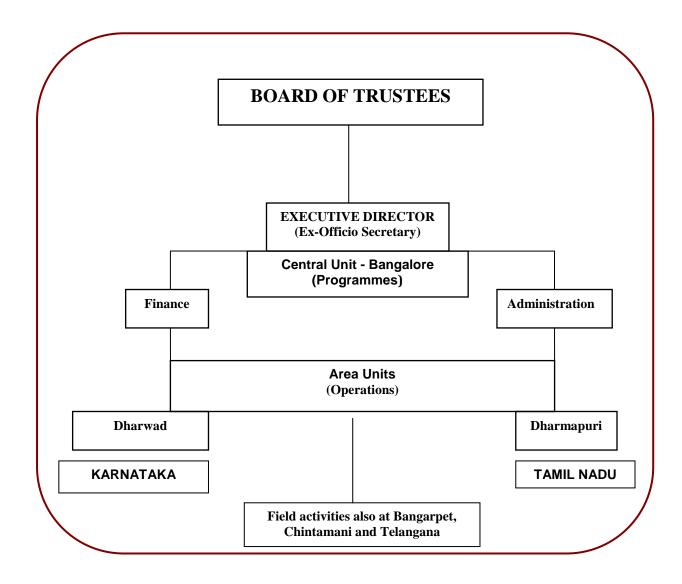
5/1445, VP Singh Street, Elakkiyampatti, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu Ph: 09842963832 Josephkrish6383@rediffmail.com

DHARWAD

No.39, 1st Main, 2nd Cross Behind Shri Ramakrishna Ashram Channabasaveswar Nagar (C.B.Nagar) Dharwad 580 007 Ph: 0836 –2472822 ame_foundation@yahoo.com

Other operational areas: Bangarpet, Chintamani and Telangana

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