2008-2009

ANNUAL REPORT

FOUNDATION

ANNUALRE

AME FOUNDATION
No.204, 100 Feet Ring Road, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 2nd Block,
3rd Stage, Bangalore-560 085
Tel: 080-26699512, 26699522 Fax: 91-80-26699410,
Email: amebang@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in; Website: www.amefound.org

May 2009

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 a sensitivity to gender and equity concerns. Pursuing this goal, it works with farming communities, like-minded NGOs and concerned government agencies 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 PTD and 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With pleasure and pride we, the team of AMEF, present the Annual Report 2008-09. As always, AME Foundation keeps raising the bar and innovates in its mission of promoting LEISA for improving farm livelihoods under dry farming.

The core project with FAO concluded this year while SRI promotion picked up scale and momentum. The growing government initiatives are presenting varied prospects while LEISA remains relevant, not just for dry land agriculture but also for improving farming under irrigation. More and more civil society organisations are venturing into promoting sustainable agriculture, which in turn is an opportunity for AME Foundation to share its experiences and learn together.

We thank FAO India for giving us the opportunity to join the partnership project and reach out to thousands of farm families. Four years of promoting LEISA by using FFS was a unique learning experience. We did our best in changing the lives of the resource-poor farmers for the better. At the end of every such intense journey we tend to feel we could have done better. Just like any learning organisation AMEF shares the view with the vast knowledge gained in the rigorous project. We appreciate the critical insights and valuable suggestions made by the Evaluation Mission, FAO, Rome.

The support and encouragement of ILEIA, the Netherlands, deserves a special credit. We gratefully acknowledge the first-time opportunity given to AMEF by the Deshpande Foundation, Hubli, and the WWF-ICRISAT, Hyderabad. The support to SRI promotion came in at a critical juncture both for the farmers and AMEF.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Hyderabad, Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and CRIDA, Hyderabad, for providing us opportunities to contribute in various programmes.

We are grateful to ARAVALI, the NGO in Rajasthan, for pulling us out of our traditional southern Indian territory and from the routines of crop-based farming systems. We relished the experience of training their staff on FFS in goat farming, in Hindi, in Rajasthan, thus creating a piece of history. This opportunity only made it easier for us to extend similar training to AKRSP (I) while they came seeking insights into FFS.

We are thankful to NGOs in Anantapur, SEDS, Timbaktu Collective and RDT for their support. The contribution of each and every eco Network Partner is highly appreciated.

The farm women and men who have joined us in various programmes with great enthusiasm and inquisitiveness, have seen value in our work, made us richer with their own wisdom, will continue to be our inspiration. We owe a great deal to each and every one of them.

The guidance, support and the wealth of knowledge bestowed upon us by the Chairman, Dr. R. Dwarakinath, is gratefully acknowledged. The support from the Treasurer, Shri S.L. Srinivas, and all the Trustees is highly appreciated.

I thank and congratulate each staff member who stayed put in hard times and brought laurels to the Foundation.

We place on record our sincere gratitude to all those who are helping us in acquiring wider experience, deeper knowledge and a steady stature.

Arun Balamatti
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AME Foundation turns seven years as an Indian NGO with the conclusion of the financial year 2008-09. The year marks the end of the core-funding project, the AMEF-FAO Partnership Project on "Promoting Livelihood Improvements in Dry land Farming on the Deccan Plateau". With this, the nearly three decades long support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy comes to an abrupt halt. AME Foundation, thus, is now faced with the challenge of promoting LEISA with smaller assistance emanating from multiple sources. The challenge is being met by a stronger resolve and with the innate ability of the Foundation developed from its years of innovative work and core competence on promoting the LEISA basket of technology options and the training skills on participatory empowering processes. AME Foundation, therefore, is able to continue its pursuit of improving livelihoods of resource-poor farm families struggling to eke out a living from dry farming in the fragile ecosystems of the Deccan Plateau. The structural adjustment of reducing its number of operational units from 8 to 4 Area Units, and diversified engagements has been useful in maintaining continuity with very little disruption.

With the conclusion of the core project, AMEF has developed four specific areas of LEISA promotion. Continuation of establishing **eco farming bases**, joining **sponsored projects**, looking for opportunities to work with mainstream development agencies like the Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Universities, national and international research institutes as well as banking institutions like NABARD in the **convergence programmes**, and extending **educational support** to development agencies on LEISA and participatory processes form the four streams of activities.

Sponsored projects

The Partnership Project with FAO was the major assignment during the year. AMEF takes pride in having utilised this opportunity to reach out to over 14,000 farm families, both directly and through partner NGOs, in over 630 villages covering 13 districts and three states. Working with about 10,000 farmers has been the largest outreach by AMEF in a single year so far, which was made possible by forging partnership with 40 odd NGOs. The Project was an excellent training ground for the staff, both AMEF and the NGOs. As many as 46 AMEF staff and 521 staff of NGOs were trained in FFS facilitation skills, which resulted in conducting 1126 FFS in the four years of the Project covering 16 different cropping systems. The constant innovation made it possible for AMEF to design training of facilitators (ToF) and FFS suitable for dry farming situations, which made farmer learning an exciting and rewarding process.

AMEF continues to raise the bar in the LEISA India programme supported by DGIS/ ILEIA, the Netherlands, and grow beyond the production of the LEISA India magazine. The capacity building programme – knowledge management in civil societies, the LEISA enthusiasts meet in the north and the south India, special translated editions of LEISA India in three regional languages Kannada, Tamil and Hindi, are some of the unique feats in the year. The short assignment on peri urban agriculture and urban horticulture (UPA) concluded in December and AMEF is exploring possibilities of continuation of the activities.

AMEF has simultaneously developed competencies on promoting the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) to help farmers manage their natural farm resources in a better way. As a result, AMEF was able to promote SRI on a large scale with the support from the Deshpande Foundation in Dharwad district in Karnataka, and with the support from WWF-ICRISAT in Chittoor, Mahbubnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tiruchi and Perambalur districts of Tamil Nadu.

Convergence programmes

The year 2008-09 has offered many opportunities for AMEF to engage with the government development initiatives. AMEF's involvement in the non-pesticidal management programme (NPM) in Andhra Pradesh, conducting Farm Schools under the ATMA programme in Tamil Nadu, and AMEF getting selected as the Lead NGO to assist the Karnataka State Department of Agriculture for strengthening agricultural extension system in the state under the RKVY programme have been notable examples. This is an indication of the government's response to the agricultural crisis in the country and its recognition of the need for focussing attention on dry land agriculture, the relevance of LEISA, and the inevitability of working with civil society organisations.

Educational support

The two-week training of facilitators on FFS has become a flagship programme of AMEF. Many NGOs from different parts of the country are seeking training support. AMEF has trained ARAVALI, an NGO in Rajasthan, and has offered another orientation training to the staff of AKRSP (I) of Gujarat. This is apart from the increasing educational support being extended to NGOs within AMEF's operational districts.

The financial transactions of AMEF during the year were to the tune of Rs. 3 crore, which is about 34 per cent decline in comparison with the previous year on account of closure of the core project.

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AMEF	Agriculture Man Ecology Foundation
AKRSP(I)	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)
ARAVALI	Association for Rural Advancement through Voluntary Action & Local Involvement
ATMA	Agricultural Technology Management Agency
AU	Area Unit
CA	Cluster Activist
CBO	Community Based Organization
CRIDA	Central Research Institute for Dry land Agriculture
CTCRI	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute
CU	Central Unit
ENP	Eco Network Partner
ETV	Eenadu Television
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmer Field School
FYM	Farm Yard Manure
GEAG	Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICM	Integrated Crop Management
ICRISAT	International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics
IEM	International Editors' Meet
IFS	Integrated Farming System
IFFCO	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILEIA	Centre for Information on Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
LEISA	Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture
MANAGE	National Institute for Agriculture Extension Management
MMS	Mandal Mahila Samakhya
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NGO	Non Government Organization
NIRD	National Institute for Rural Development
NPM	Non Pesticide Management
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRC	Natural Resource Conservation
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
RDT	Rural Development Trust
RToF	Refresher Training of Facilitators
RUAF	Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Food Security
SA	Sustainable Agriculture
SC	Scheduled Caste
SEDS	Social Education and Development Society
SERP	Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty
SHG	Self Help Group
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
ST	Scheduled Tribe
SToF	Short-term Training of Facilitators
ToF	Training of Facilitators
ToT	Training of Trainers
TNAU	Tamil Nadu Agriculture University
UAS	University of Agricultural Sciences
VA	Village Activist
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty alleviation has been the focus of many organizations - governmental and non-governmental - engaged in rural development. The approach of the public agencies has been essentially technology-centred, prescriptive and top-down, benefiting largely the resource-rich, elite farmers, in favourable farming situations. They have hardly given attention to human resource development and empowerment of the handicapped farmer segments. The NGOs, on the other hand, engaged mainly in social service and community mobilization, and rarely ventured into land-based activities; and, when they did, the constraint they faced was their lack of competence in appropriate technologies.

AMEF has grown to fill this gap eminently, in the last few years, after evolving itself into a resource organization, and making a mark on small and marginal dry land farmers, concern-sharing NGOs, public agencies engaged in research and development, and even the input supply agencies. In the areas it operates, AMEF's efforts are seen in knowledge generation, capacity building, and catalysing institutional convergence.

AME Foundation is engaged in promoting **Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA)** in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on the Deccan Plateau, aimed at upgrading farm livelihoods on one hand, and stabilizing ecological conditions on the other. The thrust is on ecologically compatible alternative farming practices that are locally acceptable. In pursuing this goal, AMEF aims at the capacity building of civil society organizations, mainly the NGOs, promoting farmer groups on lines of SHG, through participatory processes of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Participatory Technology Development (PTD) and Farmer Field School (FFS), involving the practicing farmer groups as well as the enabling agencies working with them. The working principle is helping people to help themselves.

Building upon the strengths

AMEF has made a mark in conducting "hands on training" activities at the field level. These are participatory processes involving farmers' groups and in association with interested NGOs and other biomass actors. In their search for ways to save their crops, cut their costs and increase their yields, farmers come to learn the alternative methods of farming. In the process, farmers gain self-confidence and become more creative and innovative. This is the first step towards the adoption of sustainable land use practices. AMEF continues with this kind of field training activities to build up the tempo, and to provide illustrative learning situations in capacity building efforts.

At the regional level, AMEF has been recognized and accepted as a resource organization. In this sphere, AMEF engages itself in efforts related to capacity building, networking and linkage development. It is necessary to continue this catalytic and facilitative role in order to scale up the impact and achieve a multiplier effect.

Consolidating the earlier investments

AME has changed since 1996 from a training organization in ecological agriculture to an active promoter of alternative agriculture, mobiliser of biomass actors and facilitator of institutional convergence. In order to provide substance to practical training in eco-farming, AMEF established working relationships with farming communities in the three states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Using participatory methods with the farmers, and associating local NGOs and public agencies, a process of evolving and adopting alternative production practices, natural resource management and ecological regeneration has been initiated.

Built upon this primary effort came the other phases including capacity building, networking and linkage development to stabilize the process of alternative agriculture.

Beyond this, the phase of "institutionalising the development" by means of crop based working groups, annual workshops and stakeholder concerted action platforms have been attempted.

The initial process has been established effectively in all the three states, and needs to be nurtured and supported for further growth and stabilization.

Presented here are the achievements of AME Foundation in the financial year 2008-09 in pursuit of its mission.

2 AREAS OF OPERATION

AME Foundation is operating with four Area Units in the district headquarters of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu with 11 neighbouring districts as Outreach Areas in the three states. The Central Unit is based in Bangalore and looks after the programme, financial and administrative matters and coordinates the activities across the Units. The list of Area Units and the outreach areas across the three states is given below.

Table 1: AMEF areas of operation

State	Area Units	Outreach Areas
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	Chittoor, Mahbubnagar
Karnataka	Chikkaballapur	Kolar, Bangalore-Rural
	Dharwad	Bellary, Chitradurga, Bijapur
Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri	Krishnagiri, Tiruvanmalai, Tiruchi, Perambalur

3 PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

3.1 AMEF - FAO PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The 4-year long Partnership Project between AME Foundation and FAO, "Promoting Livelihood Improvements in Dry land Farming on the Deccan Plateau" concluded on 31 December 2008. This was the major project implemented during the reporting period. The summary of progress made under this project is presented below.

The Partnership Project was based on certain premises. AMEF's endeavour to promote ecological agriculture, in its concept and strategy, in a region where the environmental degradation is severe and rapid, addressed the very core of humanitarian assistance in terms of livelihood improvements of resource poor farmers, trapped in degraded dry farming areas. It is gratifying that earlier phases of AME programme had made a tangible impact. This Project sought to build upon this base by following a particular strategy for **Promoting sustainability in dry land farming**.

Generation and promotion of alternative farming practices

Working with groups of farmers

Organizing farmers' interest groups involving men and women and working with people formed an integral part of the strategy of AMEF to promote sustainable agriculture. There will be improvements in farming only if farmers adopt desirable changes. Therefore, the underlying principle was that if the farm families were encouraged to recognize the adverse consequences of the present day land use practices, and were encouraged to seek and adopt alternative practices, with a holistic approach, many positive things were likely to happen. This would contribute towards livelihood improvement and better ecological balances. AMEF consciously took this route of working with farm families to

improve livelihoods. The purpose of AMEF working with groups of farmers in cluster villages was to guide groups of farmers in selected villages to manage rainwater in in-situ situations, gradually improve the nutrient levels in the soil, adopt modified crop production practices, move away from monocropping systems and thus establish visible examples of LEISA locally, called the eco farming bases. These could then be used as training opportunities for more farmers and ENPs to scale up LEISA promotion efforts.

Working with partner NGOs

In promoting LEISA, the focus of AMEF, beyond establishing the eco-farming base, was on working with network of partner NGOs, the Eco-Network Partners (ENP), for scaling up the alternative farming practices. A major advantage of working with the NGO networks was the more rapid spread of eco farming concepts and practices, and multiplication of organizational efforts in reaching a wider circle of farmers.

In the four years of the Partnership Project, AMEF worked with many ENPs in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

Table 2 – ENPs associated with the Project from 2005 to 2008

Operational States	Number of ENPs			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
Andhra Pradesh	10	10	9	6
Karnataka	9	12	15	8
Tamil Nadu	9	21	17	10
Total	**28**	**43**	**41**	**26**

At the end of 2007 the partnership with 15 ENPs was concluded with mutual consent. These ENPs chose to work towards linking their FFS groups to the Farmer Club programme of NABARD on their own, as part of the institutionalisation process. AMEF continued to work with the remaining 28 ENPs by training more of their staff members in FFS, who in turn conducted FFS with a large number of farmer groups. In the process, AMEF worked with not only the NGOs but also the CBOs, like CMRCs promoted by MYRADA, as ENPs.

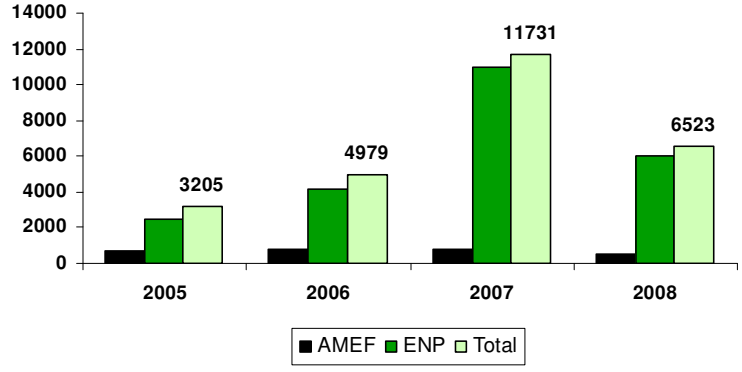
Table 3 - Farmers involved in the Project from 2005 to 2008

	2005	2006	2007	2008
AMEF	726	790	771	517
ENP	2479	4189	10960	6006
Total	**3205**	**4979**	**11731**	**6523**
Grand Total	**26,438 (14,044)**			

The number of farmers involved in the Partnership Project was 14,044 (cumulative 26,438), nearly four times more than what was foreseen in the Prodoc. Of these 14,044 farmers, as many as 12,907 farmers were involved in FFS during the Project phase.

The large number of farmers involved in LEISA promotion was made possible by training a large number of ENP staff. Out of the total 14,044 farmers reached, the ENPs worked with 13,232 (94%) farm families while AMEF worked with 812 (6%) farm families in cluster villages.

Farm families reached during the Project period



Gender

Gender in agriculture

Gender and equity concerns are deep rooted in AMEF's work. AMEF addressed these issues in its LEISA promotion work. It adopted the family approach in which both men and women were involved in planning and implementation. Deliberate efforts were made to involve more women in the programmes, to encourage their active participation, to harness their knowledge and develop alternative farming practices to meet the family's food security and nutrition security and to address drudgery reduction. One of the important reasons for initiating Project activities in Dharmapuri was to involve women SHGs of MYRADA in promoting LEISA. Similarly, the promotion of intercrops and mixed cropping, popularising simple agricultural implements (e.g. cycle weeder), kitchen gardening, nursery raising and production of bio agents were a few examples of deliberate strategies to encourage the participation of women farmers.

In 2008, of the total number of farmers involved in LEISA promotion, 2,141 (32%) were women farmers. The overall average for women's participation remained just over 30%, owing largely to cultural factors.

Improving land use practices for better management of natural resources

AMEF's main thrust was on improving livelihoods of poor, dry land farmers. For this purpose, AMEF enabled them to adopt simple, affordable technologies to increase land productivity and biomass, thereby protecting the environment.

In order to promote LEISA in the dry lands three key operations and two support operations were identified, namely:

- In-situ rainwater conservation,
- Soil fertility improvement,
- Promotion of good crop-specific production practices,
- Increasing availability of manurial biomass, and
- Income generation programmes.

For each of these operations, a set of interrelated activities was planned and put into action, in combination or in sequence. No single activity, by itself, will go very far in attaining the goal of improving livelihoods of resource-poor farmers in the dry lands. Therefore, the farmers were encouraged to practice various natural resource conservation (NRC) and utilisation (NRU) practices, in combination, after attending various capacity building events, including FFS. The NRC and NRU activities were suitably included in the FFS curricula.

Adoption of combination of basic operations in cluster and ENP villages

The farmers in AMEF cluster villages and in the ENP villages across Area Units adopted many practices of **in-situ rainwater management**. The data for the year 2007 is a revealing statistic in terms of the acceptance of a combination of practices by 7,922 farmers. Rainwater management practices such as fall ploughing (4,188 farmers, 53%), cultivation across the slope (4,502 farmers, 57%) and bunding (2,251 farmers, 28%) were the most widely adopted. Other practices like inter cultivation (2,482 farmers, 31%), mulching (212 farmers, 3%), conservation furrows (1,081 farmers, 14%), interception bunds and compartment bunds (1,045 farmers, 13%) were also adopted by farmers to conserve and make rainwater available at the root zone of different crops. The farmers

were linked to government programmes like NREGA to undertake activities like digging farm ponds and border trenches.

Soil fertility enhancement practices, like the use of bio fertilizers (5,149 farmers, 65%), legumes as inter/mixed crops (4,261 farmers, 54%), FYM and enriched FYM application (1,724 farmers, 22%) were adopted by most of the farmers. Many farmers started composting (1,874 farmers, 24%) and vermicomposting units (969 farmers, 12%), and applied the compost to their crops and realized the benefits. *In-situ* green manuring and incorporation of crop residues showed farmers an alternative way to improve soil fertility in dry lands.

Improved crop production practices adopted by the majority of farmers across the Area Units were, use of good quality seeds (4,696 farmers, 59%), improved varieties (907 farmers, 11%), maintaining optimum plant density (2,769 farmers, 39%) and practicing IPM using biologicals and botanicals (2,613 farmers, 33%). Other farmers adopted crop rotation (2,206 farmers, 28%), mixed cropping (586 farmers, 7.4%), strip cropping (515 farmers, 6.5%), and catch cropping and diversified the crop eco systems. Seed multiplication of different crops (groundnut, sorghum, sunnhemp, ragi, *navane*) was also practiced by some farmers.

Strip cropping

The curriculum of the FFS stressed the need for **generating plant biomass** on and off the field as a support activity to improve soil productivity and for use as fodder. Many farmers raised bund plantations (1,777 farmers, 22%) with manurial species. Nursery raising (642 farmers, 8%) at the individual level and at group level, were encouraged so that seedlings would be available during the monsoon. Farmers were given guidance on how to monitor the survival of the seedlings and take up measures to increase the survival percentage. Many farmers (1,161 farmers, 15%) planted different fodder species (subabul, Napier grass, fodder maize, fodder sorghum) and started azolla cultivation (1,793 farmers, 23%) as fodder supplement for milch animals and as green manure in paddy.

Farmers were encouraged to adopt different **income generation activities** to supplement their income from agriculture. Kitchen gardening or homestead gardening was widely adopted mostly by women farmers, across Area Units (2,595 farmers, 33%). The farmers realized that the practice served as a means of income security as well as family nutrition security. Some farmers started rearing poultry (321 farmers, 4%) and small ruminants (531 farmers, 7%).

Sheep rearing as income generating activity

Thus, the farmers adopted a combination of basic operations in the field as part of NRC and NRU, and realized the benefits through improved yields and reduced crop production costs. The ENPs learnt that the promotion of LEISA was a holistic approach to on-farm management of natural resources (NRM).

Capacity building through participatory approaches

The focus was to build capacities of farmers, ENPs and other development agents. Farmers and ENP staff were trained on the key basic operations, in-situ soil and water conservation practices, soil fertility improvement, improved crop production and protection techniques, and the support activities, importance and generation of biomass on and off the farm, and certain other aspects like marketing and entrepreneurial activities. FFS methodology was prominently used to address these issues. The curricula for 16 major cropping systems in the operational areas were developed and improved to suit the local requirements.

FFS in groundnut crop, Tiruchi

Table 4: Cumulative number of farmers reached through FFS (2005-2008)

Year	No. of FFS		Farmers involved		Total	
	AMEF	ENP	AMEF	ENP	FFS	FFS farmers
2005	26	46	497	845	72	1342
2006	42	194	792	3732	236	4524
2007	41	467	771	9823	508	10594
2008	29	281	517	6006	310	6523
Total	**138**	**988**	**2575**	**20406**	**1126**	**22983 (12907)**

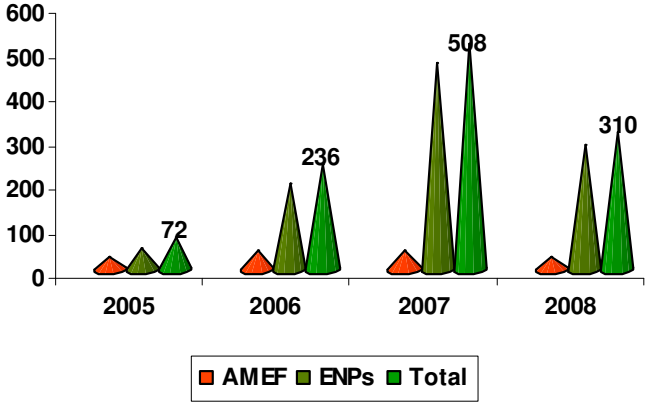


Fig. 5 – Number of FFS from 2005 to 2008

The number of FFS increased from 72 in 2005 to 508 in 2007. Another 310 FFSs were conducted in 2008. In all, 1,126 FFSs were conducted in four years by the trained FFS facilitators. Accordingly, the farmers empowered through this capacity building process increased from 1,342 farmers in 2005 to 10,594 in the year 2007 and 6,523 farmers in 2008, which was the withdrawal year of the Project.

The FFS methodology as an empowering process was useful in bringing positive changes in the farmers' attitude towards dry farming, in improving their farming skills resulting in a wider adoption of LEISA practices. FFS also helped the group members to understand the importance of unity and group cohesiveness through collective input mobilisation and marketing of farm produce. The decision-making and observation skills of farmers improved through discovery learning and experiential learning opportunities in

the FFS methodology. Women farmers involved in the FFS showed a significant increase in confidence and learnt the skills of facilitation, presentation and documentation.

Participatory Technology Development

PTD is another unique participatory approach used by AMEF to help farmers develop appropriate solutions for location specific crop related problems. The Area Units identified a few problems in different crops where exclusive attention was required. Solutions were sought through PTD. The process of choosing various options, using indigenous technologies as well as modern technical know-how was done in consultation with farmers and scientists. For this purpose AMEF maintained functional linkages with the State Agricultural Universities and other research institutes, of national and international status.

PTD – Varietal trial in groundnut

PTD programmes were started in collaboration with the research stations. For instance, an operational research project to address issues of dry land tapioca was started in Dharmapuri with the objective of 'Experimenting and evolving location specific low cost solutions to field problems in enhancing net returns of Dry land Tapioca' in collaboration with the Tapioca and Castor Research Station in Yethapur.

A few other PTD programmes addressed issues related to crop varieties, plant density, plant protection and Uzi fly management in silkworm rearing. In 2005, there were 405 farmers involved in PTD in different crops. Subsequently, with FFS becoming the major capacity building approach, PTD was incorporated into FFS curricula as short and long-term experiments.

PTD and FFS complemented each other as participatory empowerment processes, making farmers better decision-makers. These processes also provided a conducive environment for extension workers and scientists from the mainstream R & D agencies to come together to work towards a common cause.

Sensitising the communities towards improved land use practices

In areas where AMEF was active, efforts were made to sensitise as many responding farmers as possible about the negative effects of chemical-intensive farming practices, and help them to explore eco friendly farming alternatives, combining the best of traditional knowledge and new technologies.

Initially, farmers were taken on study tours to show them the NRC and NRU activities in the fields of progressive farmers, R & D agencies and many other locations. Internal tours were also organised by the Area Units providing farmers an opportunity to see, observe and interact with the farmers of other groups in the same Unit and between Units by making use of eco farming bases as learning situations. The farmers from ENP villages were taken to AMEF cluster villages of the respective Area Unit to learn from the ongoing SA activities. In all, 199 study tours were organised.

Totally, 479 field days and sharing events were organized to spread the knowledge acquired by the participating farmers to other farmers through interactions, field visits and exhibitions. Many farmers from the community and from the neighbouring villages were sensitised. Scientists of Universities and Research Stations, officers of Agriculture Department, lead banks of the region, other NGOs were invited. The programmes were covered by various mass media in the districts.

In order to spread SA experiences to a large number of farmers, NGOs, research and development actors, 248 events were organised across Area Units, including many rallies, farmer congress, street plays and exhibitions. Another 704 events such as World Food Day, World Environment Day, pre and post seasonal conferences were organised across Units in four years especially to sensitise the CBOs on LEISA practices.

Study tours, field days and important occasions were sparingly, yet effectively, used to sensitise a large number of people on LEISA. While farmers involved in FFS moved towards the adoption of LEISA systems, the people sensitised through these events were seen adopting certain LEISA practices as a first step.

Training NGOs in participatory methodologies like PTD and FFS

Promoting LEISA through the network of NGOs (ENPs) was necessary for the rapid spread of eco farming concepts and practices, and multiplication of organizational efforts to reach a wider circle of farmers. These efforts also helped in achieving a larger impact on resource mobilisation and policy advocacy. AMEF supported ENPs to build the capacities of their field staff by training, providing technical guidance and staff support. After acquiring practical knowledge and skills to promote alternative eco-friendly practices for natural resource conservation and utilisation, the ENPs implemented the programmes with groups of farmers in their areas of operation.

In 2005, eight AMEF staff members and one staff member from an ENP got the opportunity to be trained in FFS methodology in the season-long ToF organised by FAO with master trainers. As a follow up, a one-month ToF event was organised by AMEF with two objectives; one was to give the freshly trained staff an opportunity to apply and improve their facilitation skills; and the second was to prepare more FFS facilitators to conduct FFS in the next season. Later, AMEF organised three more ToFs, on its own, two with the help of FAO trained facilitators serving in the State Agriculture Departments and the other with its own trained facilitators. Seven more short-term ToFs (two-week duration) were organised in 2007, to prepare about 183 facilitators.

Eventually, after gaining experience from five ToFs, the AMEF staff developed a shorter-duration ToF of 15 days called the Short-term ToF (SToF). The SToF would solve the problem faced by many NGOs, which could not spare their staff members for longer periods of training. The 15-day training on the LEISA practices and FFS methodology was followed by a season-long FFS, which was run by the trainees under AMEF guidance. The SToF was refined with a 3-day per month review and planning added to the season-long FFS that followed the 15-day training programme. As many as 17 such events were conducted between 2007 and 2008 which was a testimony to its effectiveness, convenience and costs as experienced by the beneficiary NGOs.

Table 5 – Number of staff trained through ToF and SToF events during the project period

	AMEF	NGOs	Total	% of NGOs
ToF	21	86	107	80
SToF	25	435	460	95
Total	**46**	**521**	**567**	92

AMEF was thus able to make use of the in-house staff trained by FAO to multiply the FFS facilitators manifold within AMEF and among the ENPs. Adopting FFS in dry farming and reaching out to over 12,000 farmers in quick time was made possible mainly because of the innovative way in which AMEF developed the ToF events.

Organizing fellowship programme for preparing agricultural professionals in LEISA

Agriculture is facing environmental, social and agronomic challenges. Field situations are dynamic as problems are constantly changing and require multi-pronged action to solve them without harming the environment. There is a need to address the problems from a broader perspective integrating traditional production disciplines with ecology, environmental sciences and sociology. There has to be practical application of the crop

management principles in the field to gain better understanding. Future employees in agriculture will have an advantage if they are innovative, flexible, oriented to real world problems, capable of working with groups and have an ability to apply analytical skills. Since there were very few programmes in sustainable agriculture, the Fellowship Programme on 'Operationalising Sustainable Agriculture' developed by AMEF with encouragement from the RNE and the FAO support had immense scope for nurturing field professionals in sustainable agriculture.

The Fellowship programme trained young professionals in LEISA practices by putting them in real situations for gaining hands-on experience.

Graduation Day of Fellowship students, 2007

Thirty-three candidates benefited from the programme including 13 females and 20 males. There were 16 candidates from Tamil Nadu, 14 from Karnataka and 3 from Andhra Pradesh. The poor enrolment from Andhra Pradesh was because graduation at the University was in the middle of the agriculture season, which made it a very inconvenient time and there were better employment opportunities for agriculture graduates in the state. Hence, in 2007, AMEF offered the Fellowship course to the non-agriculture graduates from its ENPs.

Thus, the fellowship course was originally developed for fresh agriculture graduates and two batches were trained successfully. With the success of the training programme an attempt was made to train the staff of NGOs, who are not always agriculture graduates. While the trial succeeded, it called for extensive effort by the trainers to carry a mixed group of candidates in terms of language and diversity in academic preparation. As expected, the NGO staff performed well in the field situation working with farmers, while the agriculture graduates were able to grasp the principles and insights into LEISA promotion relatively better.

Strengthening linkages with institutions and other biomass actors

Development of linkages was another key task for AMEF to mobilise useful and relevant knowledge from other biomass players in the field. Engaged in agriculture development, there are many agencies such as research organisations, development departments and voluntary bodies that share responsibility for eco friendly farming. Wherever it saw the possibility of sharing and accessing relevant knowledge, skills and resources, AMEF established functional links with these agencies for continuous interaction.

AMEF, as a resource agency in SA, aimed at empowering the farmers as 'practitioners' of farming by organizing farmers' interest groups and building their capacities. AMEF also had a role in building capacities of the 'enablers' – the other stakeholders in the development process. In order to become holistic, the approach has to have a synergy between the resource users and decision makers who come together to agree on common objectives.

The activity involved developing functional linkages with other development actors like Development Departments of State and Central Government, Agriculture Universities, regional, national and international extension and research institutes like MANAGE, NIRD, CRIDA, ICRISAT, KVKs, banking institutions like NABARD, local banks, and other NGOs. The main objective of building linkages was to help farmers to mobilise LEISA inputs and technologies, on their own, on a continuous basis, and to share experiences of LEISA promotion and emerging research and development agendas and policy

advocacy. This helped AMEF to play an increasingly proactive role in developing suitable strategies for mainstreaming LEISA technologies.

With linkage building becoming an ongoing programme it was possible to link the farmers to various development institutions so that they could access knowledge and resources and continue to undertake LEISA activities. The four years of the Project gave AMEF the opportunity to go through a cycle of LEISA promotion in terms of preparation, capacity building, upscaling and institutionalisation.

Producing various documentation materials

AMEF recognises that progress towards LEISA is a long road. It involves several operations over a period of time, to be conducted by the participating farmers. There were many lessons to be learnt and shared from the field experience. Documentation helps to build organizational memory, put information in suitable forms for wider sharing, and assemble information for time-line analysis and drawing strategic lessons, for internal use and to share with donors and outsiders.

Perspectives and Selected Readings (5 nos.), Guidelines for Field Application (5), Fact Sheets of Area Units (15), Training Manuals/Session guides (6), Case Studies (9), FFS Newsletters (7), AMEF Policy Advocacy Series (3), Technical Briefs on Good Agriculture Practices (10), FFS in Dry land Agriculture – A Guidebook (1) and the Project Completion Report were some of the important documentation products brought out during the project period apart from the AME info and the AMEF House Magazine. 1

AMEF is known for its innovative documentation and dissemination strategies. The Partnership Project provided ample opportunities for AMEF to further strengthen its capacities and share its innovative experiences on a much wider scale.

Exploring various communication media for dissemination

AMEF made efforts to share its experiences and learning through both print and electronic media like newspapers, AIR and television. A large number of case studies, articles, technical papers and news items were published in local languages – Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, and in the English dailies. They were also broadcast/telecast on radio/television. Two radio serials (13 episodes each) were produced and aired in collaboration with All India Radio (Tiruchi) on prime time. One was on dry land agriculture and the other on FFS. The radio programme reached almost all the farmers in the state of Tamil Nadu, as AIR Tiruchi is known for its innovative and high quality programme content.

With the wide coverage of LEISA events and activities in the mass media, extensive visibility was created for the Partnership Project.

Gains from the Partnership Project

AMEF benefited in many ways from the Partnership Project with FAO. It provided a good opportunity for AMEF staff to get trained on the systematics of FFS. There were many opportunities for innovation in FFS. On the process front, AMEF has acquired the skill to build up FFS cadres enabling the large-scale up scaling of LEISA. On the content front, AMEF has been able to take FFS from IPM to livelihood improvements in dry farming situation. As a result, there is tremendous goodwill and visibility for AMEF and FAO from the grassroots (farmers' groups) to the policy level. This is evident from the fact that the government, NGOs and various donor agencies have given AMEF and its partners recognition and opportunities to work on LEISA. The farmers are now empowered, thanks to their own improved ability and heightened confidence in handling their farm operations and the improvement in their natural farm resources, improved yields and reduced production costs. There have been environmental gains from the Project. Biomass promotion activities have gained ground, crop residues are being decomposed instead of

being burnt, nursery raising and bund planting have become common practices, bio agents are replacing chemicals.

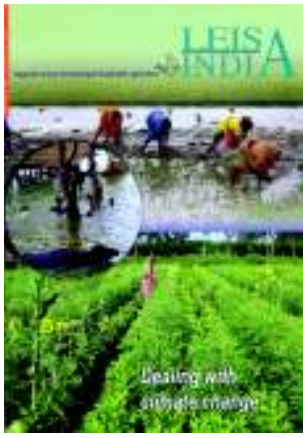
As a result, AMEF is getting more recognition in policy circles. AMEF considers the greater insights gained into FFS as one of the very fruitful outcomes of the Project. AMEF would therefore pursue efforts to integrate the systematics of FFS into the mainstream programmes by broad-basing FFS curriculum from crops to farming systems, improving the structure and scope of training of facilitators (ToF), bringing in innovations in FFS and ToF and trying out value chain concepts in the FFS curricula.

4 SPONSORED PROGRAMS

4.1 LEISA India Programme

Magazine production

Efforts were intensified during this year by the LEISA India team towards producing the magazine as per the schedule, (planned and circulated earlier) - sometimes, a bit ahead too. These efforts have helped in moving towards synchronisation with the global edition.



LEISA India team was involved in the production and distribution of four issues of LEISA India as per the planned schedule. Following issues were produced during the reporting period.

- Towards Fair Trade
- Living Soils
- Farming and Social Inclusion
- Dealing with climate change

This was also a period where collaborative activities among LEISA India and ILEIA were little more concrete, be it sourcing or coordinating for the global edition, contributing to theme discussions and special projects.

Readership

The total number of subscribers as of December 2008 is **11680**, registering an **increase of 18%** in the last one year.

Systematic efforts have been made to increase the number of subscribers. A special insert requesting readers to suggest new names, was enclosed in all the four issues. During the last one year, about 2219 addresses have been added and 450 deleted, with a net increase by 1769. Around 2108 of the new subscribers belonged to the Indian region and the remaining 111 from other neighbouring countries. Following were the categories of new subscribers in 2008,- Individuals – 437 (20%); NGOs – 346 (16%); Academic Institutions- 362 (6%); Research Institutions – 296 (13%); Farmers – 250 (11%) and Students – 160 (7%).

The highly customised software development subscriber database system is in final stages - pending data export and merger into the new system. The system would enable accepting different types of contributions/donations, generating customised letters etc., besides several Management operations.

New initiatives

Several **new initiatives** were conceptualised, planned and operationalised in consultation with consortium partners. While in some, LEISA India played lead role (Capacity Building programmes e.g. Knowledge Management in Civil Societies) in several others, the partners took the lead role (Translations into three language editions), organising first

ever – face to face meetings of LEISA enthusiasts – forging LEISA Alliances in South India and North India.

Capacity building programme – Knowledge Management in Civil Societies

In an attempt to move a step beyond skill learning and practice – from Documentation and communication - a programme **on Knowledge Management for Civil Societies** was conceived. This programme was organized as a capacity building programme for consortium members as well as leading NGOs during April 2008.

The objective of the workshop was to focus on the importance of Knowledge Management in civil societies, and discuss how it can be operationalised in civil societies. As part of the programme, the workshop focused on Organizational learning processes, systems development as well as specific qualitative methodologies for capturing and sharing field learnings.

Knowledge Management in Civil Societies programme concept is getting positive reactions from diverse sources and diverse specialisations – Institutional learning, documentation and communication, and Information systems. Efforts are being made to translate these interests into tangible capacity building activities.

LEISA Enthusiasts meet - North

The meeting was organized by GEAG in collaboration with LEISA India team of AME Foundation on 11 November 2008 at New Delhi. The invitees included readers and contributors of magazines - LEISA India (English) and Vasundhara (Hindi). The objective of the meet was towards strengthening the LEISA movement through unstructured alliances. The meeting enabled 'face to face' sharing of experiences.

Organising LEISA Alliance meetings was a great challenge, immensely enjoyable based on the outcomes. The North Indian meeting was organised in collaboration with GEAG in New Delhi with full cooperation and support from the partner. Together, the meeting focussed on LEISA movement being strengthened though magazines (LEISA India and Vasundhara) and field action of GEAG and AMEF. Efforts are being made to bring together both the participants of meets of South and North India. Both have been sent proceedings of the other meet.

For the first time, few donor representatives invited for alliance meetings interacted with LEISA magazine readers and were part of the innovative participatory meetings. They were appreciative of the strength, commitment and ideas shared during the meetings.

Translations to three local languages

The three language special editions of LEISA India were brought out in Tamil, Kannada and Hindi.

Translations into three languages simultaneously with strict deadlines and shared responsibilities was another major challenge. Selection of articles for translation has been arrived at through participatory processes. Stylistic coordination was done from LEISA India team. While GEAG took the lead role for Hindi edition, Suresh Kanna has taken the lead role for Tamil edition and Poornaprajna, a renowned LEISA enthusiast, took the lead role for Kannada edition. The translations were done by them respectively with overseeing done by LEISA India team as well as staff within AMEF. Hindi edition was published in Gorakhpur, Tamil in Chennai and Kannada in Bangalore.

The budgets for this activity was taken up through the funds remaining from 2nd instalment of 2007 funds of LEISA India core programme. A part time coordinator has been looking after the consortium related activities, budgeted from the same funds.

Thus, through consortium approach and through enhanced basket of activities the message is expected to break barriers of English language atleast in three local languages – Hindi, Kannada, and Tamil.

Magazines released through video conferencing

The special editions were released on 28 March 2009, in a videoconferencing mode simultaneously in three locations **-** Bangalore, Gorakhpur and Salem. Special messages were given by eminent personalities like Dr. R Dwarakinath, Dr. Nammalwar, Dr. Shiraz Wajih on the occasion. Ms. Edith van Walsum, Director, ILEIA, gave her message from The Netherlands through audio input. The magazines were released by Dr. Valli Seshan (Kannada) and others in different locations and handed over symbolically to farmer representatives. Researchers, academics, NGOs, media representatives and farmers shared their perceptions in the meeting. The local press covered this unique sharing and celebration event of LEISA family. The entire videoconference lasted for one and half hours.

PR products

- A folded wall calendar (A2 size) was produced and distributed to all the subscribers in the "Farming and Social Inclusion" issue.
- Desk calendars of 2009, with one side devoted to the facts on LEISA India programme was produced and shared with the participants of the LEISA Alliance meet of the North.
- A leaflet on LEISA India programme was brought out.
- LEISA India PR Video (7 minutes) has been developed which holistically presents the vision, strategies and activities of the LEISA India programme. The video has been uploaded on the LEISA India webpage as well as on www.youtube.com

Readers Survey

Having completed a decade of progress, LEISA India conducted readers' survey in the month of February 2009. This is the third in the series. The first survey was conducted in 1999 and second in 2004. A one page questionnaire, simply structured as well as reasonably open ended was sent. In just over a month's time, more than 1300 subscribers have responded and shared their views. The percentage of responses from diverse backgrounds is as follows – research institutions (13%); academic institutions (19%); Government (11%); NGOs (29%); International donors (2%); individuals (19%). The survey results were fed into a database to enable quick analysis of the results.

Overall, 96% of the respondents have reported usage of the magazine content. About 84% of the respondents cited specific instances. Some of them went a step further – by sparing their valuable time in describing the instance in detail. Separate published compilation of "inspiring cases" is being planned.

In general, around 99% of the respondents have found the magazine interesting. 74% of them opined that LEISA India was the source for alternative agriculture. The balance of local and global experiences was what made it interesting to more than 50% of the respondents.

Around 95% of the reader respondents share the contents with other farmers (53%), in workshops and meetings (41%) and with professional colleagues (47%).

Participation in IEM and Planet Diversity Conference

LEISA India team of Mr. KVS Prasad and Ms. T M Radha attended the IEM Bali meeting during April 2008. It was a great opportunity to exchange learnings as well as in a limited way the unique approaches of each region. The clarity provided on various issues as well as insightful observations from Vijay Padaki and Paul ter Weel added a new dimension to

learning as a network interested in learning. Besides contributing to day wise proceedings, specific contributions were made to initiate theme discussions. Also, the LEISA Bazaar was a useful concept to learn from each other and for exploring joint initiatives.

Mr. KVS Prasad participated in the Planet Diversity Workshop at Bonn during May 2008. Specific presentations were made as part of the ILEIA team and partners in the special workshop on Knowledge Exchange. New contacts could be made and the exposure to the global thinking and efforts was a huge learning. Based on what has been heard, short reports were sent to ILEIA to integrate into their main report.

Ms. T M Radha participated in the Documentation Workshop and mini IEM organised by ILEIA in Zeist during December 2008. Experiences from various regions on documentation programmes were exchanged. Ms. T M Radha shared the initiative on knowledge management for CSOs which was well appreciated.

4.2 Urban Horticulture and Peri Urban Agriculture Project

The project supported by RUAF Netherlands through IWMI, Hyderbad, made good progress in this period. Besides strengthening multistakeholder processes as conceived in the project, AMEF conceptualised and operationalised *two* pilot projects – one in a peri urban area, **Magadi** focusing on strengthening farmer's knowledge through Farmer Field Schools in SA production systems; another in **City** encouraging citizens of select residential areas to take up home gardens and recycling domestic wastes.

The overall focus of the project is to strengthen farmer's livelihoods through eco-friendly farming systems in peri urban areas with linkage to urban markets and encouraging citizens in the cities to explore using available spaces in their homes for growing organic vegetables for self consumption.

The focus of the ***Magadi pilot project*** has been 'Farmer Field School' organized with sixty farmers in three groups in three villages. They were involved in Ragi based farming system. Besides productivity improvements through natural resource management and eco-friendly alternatives, they were exposed to concepts like value addition for their produce. Farmers were enthusiastic about their learnings which they shared in multistakeholder forums in Magadi, while the officials were supportive to the purpose of the programme. As the project has come to a close, new funding opportunities are being explored for taking forward this pilot initiative.

In the other **C*ity pilot project***, Citizens in JP Nagar and Banashankari have undergone trainings on home gardens. Few 'maalis' have been trained too to help them sustain the initiative. A large awareness progra was organized by Banashankari Association involving people's representatives to explore further expansion of the initiative in that area. A modest terrace garden has been organized on AME Foundation's roof top. Several nominally paid trainings have been organized for general public in AMEF Bangalore office on growing organic home gardens on available spaces like roof tops,

Terrace garden of an enthusiast

backyards and front yards. The primary resource person for this initiative has been Dr. B N Vishwanath who has been pioneering this effort for several years. The response from citizens has been encouraging. The programme is being covered in mass media too to raise public awareness and demand for such learning events.

4.3 AMEF-Deshpande Foundation Project

The collaborative project on *"Improving Livelihoods through Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in Dharwad district"* between AME Foundation and Deshpande Foundation, Hubli, commenced from April 2008 and was concluded in March 2009. The project was implemented in 8 villages, spread over in 2 taluks of Dharwad district. The Project aimed at improving the livelihoods of the farm families through promotion of LEISA technologies and other suitable alternative farming systems. The project activities concentrated on reaching around 160 farm families. Out of the 8 villages, promotion of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in paddy was taken up in 4 villages of Dharwad taluk, LEISA technologies in dry farming in 2 villages and reducing usage of chemicals in vegetable cultivation was taken up in 2 villages in Hubli taluk through 8 Farmer Field Schools.

Project reach

Table 6: AMEF-DF project outreach

Sl. no.	Particulars	Numbers	Taluks & villages
1	Taluks covered	2	Dharwad, Hubballi
2	Villages covered	8	**Dharwad:** Ramapur, Kallapur, Veerapur, Nagalavi **Hubballi:** Kurdikeri, Karadikoppa, Inamveerapur, Bommasamudra
3	FFS events	8	Involving 168 farmers
4	Farm families sensitized about LEISA technologies	1600	Mainly through common events (sharing events, Exposure visits and Field days)

During the project period, a 15-day SToF programme was conducted from 28 April to 13 May 2008 in which 19 participants from 5 different NGOs were trained on FFS methodologies, LEISA and SRI. Another week-long ToT was conducted in the month of December 2008 at BAIF Training centre Surashettikoppa (Hubli) in which 25 volunteers belonging to 4 NGOs including AMEF were trained on LEISA, FFS and SRI under rain fed conditions. In total 44 volunteers were trained in LEISA, FFS, SRI and income generating activities. Totally, 80 farmers were involved in 4 FFSs (20 each in FFS) with 84 farmers adopting the SRI principles in their fields including 4 non-participating farmers and 45 farmers have adopted one or the other LEISA technologies in dry farming, in their fields. There has been a 17% increase in yield in Soybean crop as a result of adoption of LEISA Technologies in their fields. More than 1600 families have been sensitized on rain fed SRI and LEISA technologies, not only in 8 project villages but also in surrounding villages. Two 'Group to Village' programmes were conducted to share the learnings of the FFS group members each in Dharwad and Hubli taluks. Two SRI Field days were also conducted in Dharwad taluk. A "Sustainable Agriculture" stall was put up in UAS Dharwad Krishimela during October 2008 in order to sensitize large number of farmers on LEISA and SRI under rain fed conditions. Nearly 50,000 people visited the stall in 4 days.

Farmer using cycle weeder in SRI paddy

Rainfed paddy farmers go in for SRI methods in Dharwad - a Case Study

Farmers of Veerapur, Kallapur, Ramapur and Nagalaavi villages in Dharwad district have been growing paddy under rain fed conditions. Characterized by a mix of red and black soils, the region receives 772mm of rainfall on an average, in a year.

In the past, excessive weeds, incidence of pests and diseases and poor yields were some of the problems faced by the farmers in this area. Also, farmers were relying more on chemical fertilizers and pesticides and using a high seed rate of about 30-35 kg per acre, thereby pushing up their costs of production. No attention was given to selecting the right quality of seed. Water was allowed to stagnate in the field upto a depth of 10-12 inches. All these inappropriate practices ultimately resulted in low yields and returns. AMEF therefore felt an urgent need to help these farmers in managing their paddy crop. It organized a season-long Farmers Field School to promote SRI method of paddy cultivation. Around 80 farmers participated in this programme and got benefited.

The FFS helped farmers understand the paddy ecosystem and they gained many insights and new practices. They learnt easier methods for selecting good quality seeds. They treated them with bio-agents, for making the plants resistant to pest and disease. Farmers also drastically reduced the seed used – from 30-35 kg to 5 kg per acre. They provided enough spacing between plants to ensure better aeration and sunlight. They started replacing some of the chemical fertilizers with vermicompost and enriched FYM. All these resulted in increased number of tillers, some getting upto 34 tillers per plant. The productive ones among them were also more, about 19 on an average.

Above all, farmers learned the importance of aeration in the root zone. They drained out excess water ensuring sufficient moisture but also, aeration in the soil. But, in the absence of standing water, the weed growth increased substantially. Weeding was done using manually operated weeders such as cono-weeder and roto-weeder. Farmers, for the first time, also tried out cycle-weeders.

On an average, 4 quintals more yield was harvested from an acre of land. With production costs being lesser than usual, the net returns from SRI plots were two fold, as compared to conventional plots. FFS has played a critical role in motivating farmers to adopt SRI practices in a short time. With good results in the very first year, SRI has shown the potential for wider spread in the region.

4.4 AMEF-WWF-ICRISAT Project

The AMEF-WWF-ICRISAT Project on "*Producing More Food Grain with Less Water – Promoting Farm Methods to Improve Water Productivity"* was implemented by promoting and up-scaling System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of paddy cultivation in dry land districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu focusing on farmers' need for knowledge and skill support. The project commenced in June 2008. The project has been implemented in the Year - I, 2008-09, in nine districts across three states namely, Mahbubnagar and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Peramabalur, Pudukottai and Tiruchi in TN and, Dharwad and Hassan in Karnataka, targeting 2000 farm families covering 1000 acres in 77 villages.

The strategy of AMEF has been to promote SRI through group formation and capacity building in SRI practices both directly, and through partnering with like-minded NGOs. During the first year of the project, AMEF, with its partner NGOs, has reached **1783 farmers** covering an area of over **1160 acres** in **77 villages**. The farmers in these villages and neighboring areas are expected to see for themselves the results in the first phase and get motivated to adopt the practices in the future.

Programme highlights

The important features of SRI practices adopted by the farmers are the reduction in the seed rate, wider plant spacing, using young seedlings and better water management practices. From the interactions with the farmers and observations in the field, it is evident that our educational (training) modules were quite useful and effective in translating the knowledge into field practices.

Tillering under SRI practice

As part of scaling-up and spreading SRI to more farmers, sharing events, field days, study tours and workshops were conducted during the reporting period. The precious experience and learning generated so far will be utilized to promote SRI practices under irrigated and dry land paddy farming systems.

5 CONVERGENCE PROGRAMS

5.1 AMEF – DBT Project

The DBT supported project titled – *"Promoting Simple Biotechnology Options to Improve Livelihood of SC/ST Families in Kolar District"* was initiated in Bangarpet taluk of Kolar district in the month of February 2007 to assist about 300 SC/ST and resource poor farm families for improving their livelihood through improvements in farming and livestock rearing. The project laid emphasis on promotion of simple biotechnologies, such as vermicomposting, azolla and fodder cultivation. The project was scheduled to end in January 2009, but is extended up to April 2009 to utilize the unused project funds.

Farmers on study tour

The initial project activities included visit to about 20 villages to identify suitable villages with high concentration of SC/ST population. The rapport building visits were then followed by a baseline survey. Certain criteria were set for selecting the farmers. Since the SC/ST population is scattered over the taluk, the project area extended to more villages. The activities initiated with 233 farm families in the year 2007-08 in 10 villages were extended to 513 families (45.40% SC, 18.90% ST and 35.70% other weaker sections) in 48 villages by January in 2009 (71% more than the target envisaged).

In all, 118 training events were organized to build awareness on simple biotechnology options, vermicomposting, azolla cultivation and fodder production. Additionally, the farm families were trained on sustainable agriculture practices by using Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology for two weeks. For this purpose, the staffs of the project were trained by AMEF trainers.

Vermicompost adoption

As many as 306 farmers have started vermicompost production units among which 38 farmers have adopted low cost method. The cost of low cost units ranged between Rs.400 and Rs.500.

Azolla adoption

In all, 315 farmers having livestock and poultry, have adopted azolla cultivation as low-cost feed supplement, of which over 130 units are low-cost units using plastic sheets instead of cement structures (Unit cost, Rs.150-200).

Fodder promotion

Another 306 farmers have started cultivating at least one of the different grass and legume fodder species (Signal grass, Buffel grass, Napier grass, Guinea grass, Stylosanthes), besides glyricidia and subabul. Signal grass is performing better in dry lands, whereas Napier grass and Sesbania are performing well under irrigated condition.

Project impacts

Beneficiary farmers have taken up vermicomposting, as an income generation activity, apart from using it for improving soil health in their own fields. Application of vermicompost to crop increased the grain yield by 17 to 25 per cent in ragi and 18% in groundnut compared to control. Farmers have realized increase in milk yield and fat content after 15 days of feeding with azolla @ 1 kg per day. The increased fat content of the milk in azolla fed animals has fetched the farmers a higher price of Rs. 0.25 to 1.35 per litre. Ten farmers in the project villages tried azolla with paddy and observed better growth, development and yield of grains and, have saved Rs.200 per acre on an average on weeding.

5.2 AMEF – SERP Pilot Project

A Pilot Project in collaboration with Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty titled – *"Promoting LEISA for Improving Livelihoods in Andhra Pradesh"* was implemented in the reporting period. SERP has been implementing the Non-Pesticide Management (NPM, now renamed as Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture) programme in Andhra Pradesh. The CMSA programme which is a pest management initiative, intends to look at the backward production technologies to explore options for input cost reduction in farming.

The objectives of the CMSA programme are,

- Increasing the knowledge base of farmers on pest and disease management
- Reducing the cost of pest management by at least 50%
- Propagating eco-friendly practices

The CMSA programme is making use of federated institutional platforms of women groups called as *Mandal Mahila Samakhyas* (MMS) for the implementation of the programme activities. Starting with Red gram, the CMSA is gradually extended to other crops like castor, paddy and groundnut cultivation.

AMEF's willingness to join the CMSA programme was driven mainly by two main objectives of CMSA - promoting eco-friendly practices and its strategic decision to involve community-based organizations like the women groups (MMS) in development efforts, both are in alignment with AMEF's operational strategy and development values.

AMEF played the role of a resource agency in the NPM programme. AMEF undertook trainings on LEISA promotion at two levels. Firstly, AMEF trained the Village Activists and Cluster Activists (VAs and CAs) on LEISA practices and they were developed as FFS facilitators. Secondly, AMEF provided handholding support and technical guidance to the trained VAs and CAs in organizing FFS events for the farmers in NPM programme.

AMEF's capacity building activities were restricted to Mahbubnagar and Anantapur districts in the pilot project. AMEF worked with three MMS (Panagal, Kothapalli and Gopalpet) in Mahbubnagar and two MMS (Roddam and Somandepalli) in Anantapur.

The training curriculum comprised of two important components – the SA technologies and the FFS methodology. AMEF put in its efforts to enrich the CMSA programme by widening the scope from non-pesticide management to larger on-farm natural resource management (NRM).The LEISA technology options (both under dry farming and irrigated agriculture) focused on *in situ* rainwater management, upgrading soil fertility and modified cropping systems. In addition, support operations like generating and recycling manurial biomass and income generation activities were also built into FFS curriculum. On the methodology front, the VAs and CAs were trained on FFS facilitation skills with emphasis on discovery and experiential learning opportunities and communication skills which would enable them to conduct quality FFS with farmers. The 15-day ToT was split into three modules of 5-day each and was conducted in both the districts as below:

Participants doing AESA

Anantapur	: Module – I: 23-27 July 2008
	: Module – II: 21-25 August 2008
	: Module – III: 21-25 September 2008
Mahbubnagar	: Module – I: 4-8 August 2008
	: Module – I: 9-13 September 2008
	: Module – I: 18-22 December 2008

The multidisciplinary curriculum helped the participants to learn FFS methodology and SA technology through experiential learning. Post-training improvement in the facilitation skills was also observed in the participants. The pre and post evaluation test results indicated 38% improvement in the knowledge of participants. The field support, review meetings and refresher trainings further improved the quality of Farmer Field Schools. Farmers not only got additional returns by reducing the cost of cultivation and higher yield but also improved the farm ecology.

5.3 AMEF – ATMA Programme

AME Foundation, Dharmapuri was invited to join the ATMA Management Committee of Dharmapuri district during March 2007. One Farm School was sanctioned for summer 2008 season. The Farm School was conducted on tomato crop in Kammalapatty village of Palacode block during April to July 2008. The Farm School was conducted to build the capacities of farmers in Integrated Crop Management including field preparation, seed treatment, IPM, INM and post harvest technologies focusing on reduction in cost of cultivation. There were 30 participants in the Farm School. Totally, 6 sessions were conducted in summer season. Following the completion of the Farm School, farmers learnt about various INM and IPM technologies in tomato cultivation.

Subsequently, during *Rabi* 2008, 16 Farm Schools were sanctioned to AMEF in Dharmapuri district. The crops/topics covered in the Farm Schools included cotton, paddy, tomato, groundnut, flower crops and poultry. The Farm Schools were organized in 16 villages of 6 blocks of Dharmapuri district. The sessions were started during January 2009 and the Farm Schools are in progress. Total number of participants involved in these Farm Schools is 380 (72 men, 308 women). Resource persons are drawn from

AMEF, Department of Agriculture and MToF trained facilitators. The Farm School experiences/learnings were shared among fellow farmers of the respective villages during field days/sharing events.

6 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

6.1 S-ToF on FFS in Sustainable Agriculture, SEDS, Andhra Pradesh

During the *kharif* season in 2008, AMEF had extended support to SEDS staff in conducting season-long FFS. With the encouraging response from the farmers, SEDS expressed its willingness to continue FFS in the year 2009 as well with improved quality. To improve the quality of FFS and cover more villages, SEDS felt that training for the staff and selected lead farmers would help in the long term. Thus, AME Foundation conducted a Short-term Training of Facilitators (SToF) on FFS in Sustainable Agriculture for the staff members of SEDS and their lead farmers in Anandapuram, Penugonda, Anantapur district for improving the livelihoods of the dry land farmers from 11-26 March 2009. The SToF was planned with the following objectives:

- To build the capacities of selected staff and lead farmers as trainers on SA concepts, practices and training skills.
- To guide the staff and lead farmers in promoting LEISA technologies for improving and stabilizing crop yields, improving cropping systems, improving livelihoods of resource-poor farmers and sustaining natural farm resources.

6.2 Human Resource Development Support, Timbaktu Collective

AMEF has been working as a resource organization providing technical and human resource development support to Timbaktu Collective, an organization based in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh. During the reporting year, following activities were conducted by AMEF for Timbaktu Collective:

- Providing field support to the organic farming team for effective implementation of the FFS methodology.
- Regular review and monitoring support for improving the quality of the FFS sessions during the cropping season.
- Conducting trainings to the team members based on the needs identified during the period.
- Support in preparing relevant information on the organic farming practices specific to the Anantapur conditions.

A workshop was facilitated by AMEF to develop the curriculum for the season-long Farmer Field School on 28 – 29 May 2008 at Timbaktu Collective, C.K.Palli. Sangha volunteers, farmers and Timbaktu Collective staff were present in the workshop. The event focused on baseline survey of groundnut cropping system and different problems on *in-situ* rain water conservation, soil fertility improvement, and good cropping practices. The long term experiments, short studies and special topics were finalized in the workshop. The non-formal education content was also built in to the curriculum.

AMEF deputed two Master Facilitators, Mr. Ch. Nageswar Rao and Ms. N. Bhavani for regular support on groundnut and millets production technology and FFS methodology. AMEF also deputed other Master Facilitators namely, Mr. Nagana Gouda, Mr. Aneel Kumar and Ms. Hemalatha from time to time based on the requirements of the project activities. During the reporting period AMEF has extended 100 person-days support to Timbaktu Collective. Field support included FFS visits, field visits, discussion with farmers and volunteers to enrich the programme quality.

Staffs of Timbaktu Collective were trained under ToT, which was organized by Timbaktu Collective and facilitated by AMEF in two batches in which 28 staffs were trained. This ToT focused on FFS methodology and promotion of sustainable agriculture.

6.3 Training on FFS Methodology, RDT

AMEF staff conducted two Trainings on FFS Methodology for the staff of RDT, Anantapur from 16 – 18 June and 18-20 June 2008 at Kalyanadurgam and Anantapuram, respectively. Totally, 63 staff members were trained on FFS methodology. The trainings were well appreciated by Dr. Malla Reddy, Director, ACCION FRATERNA.

These trainings were followed by refresher trainings, which were conducted on 7 and 8 November 2008 at Kalyanadurgam and Anantapuram, respectively. The main objectives of this training programmes was to appraise the quality improvement brought about in the FFS after the training on Farmer Field School, improve the quality of FFS further based on the problems faced by the facilitators during FFS implementation and discuss FFS documentation. It was seen that notable improvements were brought about by the facilitators after the training on FFS.

6.4 SToF on FFS in Goat Farming, ARAVALI NGO, Rajasthan

The MToF programme, which was held in Dharmapuri in 2006, had attracted visitors from various quarters. The chief functionary of ARAVALI, an NGO Network, operating in Rajasthan state, after visiting MYRADA, Dharmapuri in 2008, asked for FFS training for the staff of ARAVALI and its partner NGOs. This gave AMEF the opportunity to cross the borders of its traditional base, the Deccan Plateau, and undertake a ToF in Ajmer, Rajasthan, on goat farming. This ToF was first of its kind in India and it was also another first for AMEF since it had so far conducted ToF and FFS on crop-based farming systems while this time it was able to do it on livestock. Thus, the training to ARAVALI was a piece of history created by the team of AMEF staff in the year.

Participants doing Goat Ecosystem Analysis (GESA)

AMEF team along with a Veterinary Officer organized the 15-day Short-term Training of Facilitators (SToF) on Farmer Field School in Goat Farming for ARAVALI NGO in Ajmer, Rajasthan from 27 July to 14 August 2008. Totally, 24 participants were trained on FFS in goat farming. The training was aimed at preparing facilitators who could, in turn, work with goat farmers and help them apply FFS principles in goat rearing and improve their livelihoods.

Subsequently, a Refresher Training of Facilitators (RToF) was conducted for the facilitators trained in SToF from 25 – 28 March 2009 at Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

6.5 Orientation on FFS, AKRSP(I)

AME Foundation conducted a 3-day orientation programme on Farmer Field School for the staff of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, AKRSP (I) from 19 to 21 March 2009 at RDT Ecology Center, Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh). The main objective of the orientation programme was to orient the participants on the concept of Farmer Field School as an extension tool and Sustainable Agriculture with a focus on LEISA technologies.

7 DOCUMENTATION & DISSEMINATION

AMEF recognises that progress towards LEISA is a long road. It involves several operations over a period of time, to be conducted by the participating farmers. There are many lessons to be learnt and shared from this experience. Documentation helps to build organizational memory, put information in suitable forms for wider sharing, and assemble information for time-line analysis and drawing strategic lessons, for internal use and to share with donors and outsiders.

The following documentation and dissemination products were brought out during the reporting period:

AME Info: The quarterly newsletter was produced and distributed to selected people interested in AMEF's activities. During the year, four issues of AME Info (Jan - March 2008, April - June 2008, July - September 2008 and October - December 2008) were produced.

House Magazine: The in-house monthly magazine with both programme related and personal information keeps all the staff abreast of what is happening across the Area Units and helps to develop solidarity among the team members by knowing each other well. Twelve issues of House Magazine were produced and circulated.

Operational Guidelines: Guideline on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was brought out.

Technical Briefs: AMEF with its vast experience in dry land agriculture has found certain alternative farming practices highly accepted by the farmers. Such practices are considered as Good Agriculture Practices and needs to be widely disseminated. Ten Technical Briefs on different good agriculture practices were brought out as suggested by the FAO Evaluation Mission.

FFS in Dry Land Agriculture – A Guidebook: This FFS guidebook, also suggested by the FAO Evaluation Mission, is an account of AMEF's experiences in conducting FFS in dry land agriculture. The Guidebook draws from the know-how generated by conducting season-long trainings of facilitators, short duration trainings of facilitators, and over 1100 FFS covering 16 different crop-based farming systems over a period of four years. This could be the only guidebook on a comprehensive LEISA approach to improving livelihoods of farmers dependent on dry land agriculture with some of the unique experiments, studies and group dynamic exercises devised by the staff of AMEF.

Calendar: A Calendar for the year 2009 focusing on the Climate Change and Ecological Agriculture was brought out.

Papers presented

Dr. Arun Balamatti presented a review paper on *"Climate Change, Energy and Livelihoods"* at the *SESAM/ARTES South Asian Regional Level Workshop on "Renewable Energy for the Sustainable Development*" in Pokhara-Kathmandu, Nepal, during 19-23, 2008.

Ms. Gandhimathi and Ms. T. M. Radha participated in the *"International Workshop on Women in Agriculture in South Asia"* on 12 - 14 August 2008. Ms. Gandhimathi presented a paper on *"Access to Knowledge: Key to Women's Empowerment – an Experience from Tamilnadu"*. The workshop was jointly organized by IFPRI and Aga Khan Foundation at NASC, Pusa, New Delhi.

Dr. R Dwarakinath presented a paper on Considerations in "*Reshaping the Agriculture Extension System"* and Dr. Arun Balamatti presented a paper on "*Capital Gains – Assessing the Impact of FFS on Livelihoods of SHG Members in Drought-prone Areas, South India"* in the International Seminar on Strategies for Improving Livelihood Security of Rural Poor held from 24-27 September 2008 in Goa, India

Dr. R Dwarakinath receives Life Time Achievement Award

Dr. R Dwarakinath, Chairman, AMEF was felicitated with the Life Time Achievement Award for his significant contribution to Agriculture Extension Education during the International Seminar on Strategies for Improving Livelihood Security of Rural Poor from 24-27 September 2008 in Goa. Dr. Burton Swanson (USA) and Dr. Van Dan Ban (The Netherlands) were the other two recipients of the award.

AMEF staff associated with SRI programme participated in the 3rd National SRI Symposium at TNAU, Coimbatore from 1-3 December 2008. A paper titled *"AMEF's Experience on Scaling up of SRI through Farmer Field School in Tamil Nadu",* was presented in the Symposium, by Ms. Lalitha.

Dr. Arun Balamatti and Ms. Nivedita Mani participated in the Development Dialogue held at Hubli from 27-29 January 2009 and presented a case study on "*System of Rice Intensification under Rain fed Farming - Innovation in the Sandbox*".

Dr. R Dwarakinath presented a paper on *"Strategic Considerations in Reshaping the Agriculture Extension System"* in the National Seminar on Agriculture Extension held from 27-28 February 2009 at New Delhi.

8 STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

AMEF offers continuous learning opportunities for the staff by organizing internal capacity building events, encouraging the staff to participate in relevant workshops, conferences and seminars. By this way the staff keep themselves abreast of the developments in the sector, gain newer insights and grow better and better as professionals.

- Mr. Ranganath Babu and Ms Sowjanya participated in one-day training on *Fodder Promotion* on 9 May 2008, at IGFRI Dharwad.

- Dr. J. Diraviam participated in the training programme on *"Public Private Partnership for Agricultural Development"* at TNAU Coimbatore on 16 July 2008. He shared about the
- experiences of ATMA Farm School organized by AME Foundation in Dharmapuri.

- Mr. Ravindranath Reddy participated in an advance level ToT on *Visualization of Participatory Programme (VIPP)* at St. Ulrich, Freiburg, Germany, from 10-14 November 2008.

- Mr. Aneel Kumar participated in the training on Dr. Rupella's model on 5 November 2008, at ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

- Mr. B V Joshi participated in the Management Development Programme on Team Building at Anand, Gujarat from 24-28 March 2009.

9 VISITORS

- Mr. Govindaraj, Field Manager, IFFCO, visited Milaganatham and Vaithyanathapuram in Perambalur district on 28 June 2008. The purpose of the visit was to know the efficiency of smokeless chulah to promote them in their working areas.
- Dr.D.V.Raidu, State Project Advisor, SERP, Hyderabad interacted with FFS group farmers in Madanapalli.
- FAO Inception Mission comprising of Mr. Robert Moore and Dr. Tullia Aiazzi from FAO Rome visited CU on 28 April 2008. This was followed by the visit of FAO Impact Assessment team consisting of Prof. B.V.Sharma, Dr.Rajashekar and Dr.Alida Lawrence, Netherlands, and other members, to the CU and the working areas in Madanapalli.
- Mr. Bhaskar Mitra, Program Officer, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust visited CU on 6 May 2008.
- Dr. Sadhana Prasad from Canada visited Chintamani Unit on 20 May 2008 and participated in FFS sessions to gain an understanding of the learning process.
- Eight students along with two faculty members from Iowa State University (ISU, USA) visited Madanapalli Unit from 1-7 June 2008.
- Dr. Devinder Sharma, policy analyst and renowned journalist, visited Bangalore Office on 21 June 2008 and interacted with AMEF staff. He shared his strong views on Indian agricultural policies and systems. He congratulated AMEF for its wonderful work with small farmers in the field of sustainable agriculture in difficult terrains.
- Dr. Ravi, Scientist, CTCRI and his team visited Vadugapatty village in Dharmapuri on 3 July 2008. He observed the farmer trials on testing the drought tolerance of five Tapioca cultures. Among the five cultures, CI-260 and CE-534 performed well under drought situation.
- JSYS team visited GD Maradhalli, Gudlahalli of Gudibande taluk in Kolar district, to study AMEF activities.
- Coffee board team visited Karigatammanhalli, Nichchbandi halli village of Gudibande in Kolar district, to participate and learn about FFS and PRA.
- Dr. G R Desai, MANAGE, Hyderabad visited AMEF Bangalore on 9 July 2008, for discussing the possibilities of organizing training on process documentation.
- Ms. Anita Singh from GEAG, Gorakhpur, visited Chintamani Unit on 4 August 2008. She participated in FFS activity in Gundlahalli village of Gudibande taluk.
- Ms. Eby Heller, Masters Student from McGill University, Canada, and Ms. Ida Assefa, a student from Yale University, USA, visited AMEF, Bangalore on 20 August 2008.
- Mr. A. D. Kotnal, Member, Board of Regents, UAS-Dharwad, visited the Hubli Unit on 10 July 2008. He had discussions with the staff about the activities taken up by the Unit.
- CRIDA and UAS team visited Bavarhalli, Appenehalli, Balamande of Bangarpet taluk, to study and interact with farmers about impact of tank silt.
- Team members from Concern Somalia visited Dharmapuri Unit. They observed a FFS session on cotton in Kullanur village and interacted with farmers.

- Dr. N. Loganandan, Visiting Scientist, WWF-ICRISAT, visited SRI areas in Konapureddypalli village in Madanapalli and Appajipalli and Vattem villages in Mahabubnagar.
- Mr. Rameshkumar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Dharwad, visited Veerapur, to know about SRI in drill sown paddy under rainfed conditions
- ETV channel's farm journalists visited Veerapur in Dharwad district to video document SRI paddy.
- A team of 32 Danish teachers visited AMEF, Bangalore on 11 October 2008 and discussed about Indian agriculture situations and AMEF's activities.
- A team of 14 agriculture officers from Indonesia visited AMEF, Bangalore, to gain an understanding of the agricultural programmes in India, in general and Karnataka, in particular. This was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Indonesia, under the "Participants Comparative Study to India" on 15 December 2008.
- Dr. Vinod Goud and Dr. N. Loganandan from WWF-ICRISAT, Hyderabad visited AMEF CU on 27 February 2009 for the WWF review meeting.
- The staff of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, AKRSP(I) visited AMEF, Bangalore on 23 March 2009.

10 STAFF

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
Bangalore		
1	Arun Balamatti	Executive Director
2	KVS Prasad	CKC & Managing Editor, LEISA India
3	Ravindranath Reddy	CPO-Training
4	S.P.Srikanth	CPO - Programme Co-ordination
5	TM Radha	Editor-LEISA India
6	Nivedita Mani	Associate CPO-Information Specialist
7	Asha R	Secretary - General
8	Shobha Maiya	Secretary - Information & Doc.
9	Vijayalakshmi S	Secretary - Accounts
10	Hemalatha G	Secretary-Training
11	Ramu K	Driver
12	Gopalakrishnan R	Driver
13	Lalitha N	Cook cum Cleaner
14	Chikkanna	Attendant
15	Kantha A	Cleaner cum Cook
16	N.Narayana	Attendant
Anantapur		
17	M.Nagana Gouda	Programme Coordinator
18	Aneel Kumar	Acting Area Unit Coordinator
19	S.S.N.Malleswara Rao	APO-IFS/NRM

20	B.Nageswara Reddy	APO-IFS/IPM
21	J.B.Raghavendra	Secretary cum Accountant
22	N.Ramadasa Reddy	Driver
23	D.C.Kullayappa	Attendent
Dharmapuri		
24	J.Diraviam	Area Unit Co-ordinator
25	G.Mathumalar	APO-GEC
26	R.Kuttimani	APO-IFS/NRM
27	N.Lalitha	APO-IFS/NRM
28	B.Kandasamy	Driver
Hubli		
29	Mahentprasad B.Pattanashetti	Area Unit Co-ordinator
30	Shreesail N. Doni	Area Unit Co-ordinator
31	Sheshagiri L Desai	APO-IFS/NRM
32	Sangeeta R Patil	APO-IFS/IPM
33	Prasanna V	Secretary cum Accountant
34	Virupaksha kelur	Driver
35	Dyapur	Attendant
Kolar		
36	B.V.Joshi	Area Project Officer
37	Sanjeev N.Joshi	APO-IFS/IPM
38	S Kavitha	Secretary cum Accountant
39	Basavaraj B Awati	Driver
40	P.Y.Manjunatha	Attendant

Consultants and Contractual Staff		
1	Raghavendra Rao	CU
2	Poornima	CU
3	Murthy	CU
4	Prabhakar US	CU
5	Rukmini	CU
6	Manohar Badigar - DF	Hubli
7	Navi	Hubli
8	Sowjanya	Kolar
9	Srinivas Gouda	Kolar
10	Ramesh - Crida	Kolar
11	Prasath	Dharmapuri
12	Charles	Dharmapuri
13	Nagaraj - SAP	Hubli
14	Priyadarshani	Chintamani

11 BUDGET

10.1 Sources of funds

AME Foundation received financial support for various programmes from the agencies as below:

Table 6 Statement of budget, expenditure and funds received 2008 – 09 *(Amount in Rs.)*

Projects	Opening Balance	Funds Received	Total	Expenditure	% Expenditure	Ending Balance
FAO	6,538,252.00	6,410,756.88	12,949,008.88	13,979,344.00	107.96	(1,030,335.12)
LEISA India	2,238,714.82	6,188,507.22	8,427,222.04	4,236,489.52	50.27	4,190,732.52
IWMI		1,596,742.00	1,596,742.00	1,596,742.00	100.00	-
DBT	121,804.00	876,000.00	997,804.00	1,040,608.00	104.29	(42,804.00)
Triad Foundation	40,156.50		40,156.50	40,156.50	100.00	-
DST	(250,219.00)	250,219.00	-		0	-
CRIDA		300,000.00	300,000.00	397,889.00	132.63	(97,889.00)
WWF		1,798,200.00	1,798,200.00	1,375,087.00	76.47	423,113.00
Deshpande Foundation		1,149,138.00	1,149,138.00	1,082,601.00	94.21	66,537.00
ATMA		755,000.00	755,000.00	194,331.00	25.74	560,669.00
AMEF own Funds	5,543,828.44	5,609,488.48	11,153,316.92	1,767,934.50	15.85	9,385,382.42
Total	**14,232,536.76**	**24,934,051.58**	**39,166,588.34**	**25,711,182.52**		**13,455,405.82**

10.2 Budget Utilization

The budget utilisation under respective projects during the year is given below:

FAO: The AMEF-FAO partnership project on "Promoting Livelihood Improvements in Dry land Farming on the Deccan Plateau" came into effect from 11 August 2004. However, the programme implementation started from January 2005. An amount of Rs. 65.38 lakh was carried forward from the year 2007-08 and Rs. 64.10 lakh was received during the year. The total available fund for the year was Rs. 129.49 lakh, and Rs. 139.79 lakh has (108%) been utilised. The Project concluded on 31 December 2008 and reimbursement of excess expenditure from FAO is awaited.

LEISA India: AMEF and ILEIA, The Netherlands, are involved in the second phase of funding (2007-10) in the collaborative project to produce and distribute the Indian edition of the LEISA magazine on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture on a quarterly basis. An amount of Rs. 84.27 lakh was available for different activities during the year and an amount of Rs. 42.36 lakh (50%) has been utilised.

IWMI: AMEF is collaborating with IWMI, Hyderabad, for promoting urban horticulture and peri-urban agriculture project with Bangalore as the focal city. An amount of Rs. 15.96 lakh was released and 100% of the amount was utilised for the project activities and the project concluded in December 2008.

DBT: The Department of Biotechnology project on simple biotechnology to be promoted with SC and ST families in Kolar district had an outlay of Rs. 9.97 lakh for the year and Rs. 10.40 lakh (104%) has been utilised for programme activities. The excess spending of Rs. 42,804 will be reimbursed by DBT.

TRIAD Foundation: TRIAD Foundation, New York, has supported AMEF for promoting SRI method of paddy cultivation with an amount of Rs. 0.40 lakh which was fully utilised for SRI promotion activities.

DST: The project supported by DST, Bio farms for livelihood development of small and marginal dry land farmers, was concluded on 31 March 2008. The utilisation on the project activities during the year 2007-08 was Rs. 4.62 lakh. The excess spending of Rs.2.50 lakh was reimbursed by DST.

CRIDA: The project supported by CRIDA, Tank Silt as an Organic Amendment for Improving Soil & Water Productivity, had an outlay of Rs.4 lakh out of which Rs. 3 lakh has been released so far. A total of Rs.3.97 lakhs was spent on the project activities. The excess spending of Rs. 0.97 lakh will be reimbursed by CRIDA.

WWF: The WWF-ICRISAT supported project on Producing More Food Grain with Less Water - Promoting Farm Methods to Improve Water Productivity had an outlay of 17.98 lakh out of which Rs. 13.75 lakh (76%) was spent on project activities.

Deshpande Foundation: Deshpande Foundation supported a project on Improving Livelihoods through Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in Dharwad District with an amount of Rs. 11.49 lakh of which Rs. 10.82 lakh (94%) was spent on project activities during the year.

ATMA: ATMA supported the Farm School program in Dharmapuri district. The fund received under this program was Rs. 7.55 lakh out of which Rs. 1.94 lakh (26%) was spent on the program and the activities will be continued in the financial year 2008-09.

The overall annual transaction for the year ended 31 March 2009 was to the tune of Rs. 2.57 crore. The overall expenditure for the Foundation, as per the balance sheet, is **Rs. 3.02 crores**

AME FOUNDATION : BANGALORE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

LIABILITIES	SCHEDULE	Rs. P.	ASSETS	SCHEDULE	Rs. P.
FUNDS	1	22,805,078.46	FIXED ASSETS	3	13,419,696.04
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	2		CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	4	
Sundry Creditors			Cash on Hand at Banks		15,116,686.13
For Expenses		339,321.00	Deposits		140,410.00
For Others		260,000.00	Advances		1,635,293.81
Unutilised Grants		6,348,381.52			
Provisions		559,305.00			
		30,312,085.98			30,312,085.98

CHAIRMAN

TREASURER

As per our report of Even Date
For RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN
Chartered Accountants

M.S. Rajagopal

Partner

PLACE : Bangalore
DATE :08.06.2009

AME FOUNDATION : BANGALORE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

EXPENDITURE	Rs. P.	INCOME	Rs. P.
To Support to NGO & Network for SA	1,043,383.00	By Grants Utilised	23,510,383.37
" Capacity Building of NGO	436,121.00	" Donations	194,910.00
" Input for SA Promotion	356,210.00	" Sale of Books	36,780.00
" Capacity Building of Farmers	1,709,899.00	" Resource Fee	1,935,228.00
" Internal Capacity Building	789,687.00	" Consultancy Charges	1,866,551.00
" Workshop/Training Others	321,181.00	" Rent Received	343,460.00
" Training Leisa Specialist (Fellowship)	77,958.00	" Miscelleneous Income	24,826.00
" Printing of Journals (Leisa)	87,531.00	" Interest from Bank	786,025.93
" Distribution Expenses (Leisa)	566,148.00	" Remibursement of Expenditure	
" Salaries & Provident Fund	11,691,327.00	- Programme	321,557.55
" Staff Training	5,987.00	" Depreciation/Sale of Asset -	
" Travelling Expenses	1,206,027.00	Withdrawn from Capital Fund	1,184,385.37
" Communication Expenses	274,263.00		
" Postage & Courier	80,774.00		
" Rent, Electricity, Insurance & Water Charges	427,045.00		
" Reference Material Library	7,175.00		
" Publication / Manuals / Video	533,869.00		
" Consultancy Fee	2,270,777.00		
" Meeting Expenses	102,735.00		
" Payment to Auditors	67827.00		
Carried forward	22,055,924.00	*Carried forward*	30,204,107.22

EXPENDITURE	Rs. P.	INCOME	Rs. P.
Brought forward	22,055,924.00	*Brought forward*	30,204,107.22
To Security Charges	196,297.00		
" Repairs & Maintenance			
- Vehicles	520,744.00		
- Equipment, Computer & other Assets	209,772.00		
- Building	128,100.00		
" Membership & Subscription	33,272.00		
" Office Expenses	625,910.00		
" Property Tax	162,381.00		
" Consumables and Training	530,149.00		
" Leisa Alliance Meet	15,268.00		
" Bank Charges	13,066.52		
" Rates & Taxes	2,500.00		
" Depreciation	1,184,385.37		
" Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year transferred to Balance Sheet	4,526,338.33		
	30,204,107.22		30,204,107.22

CHAIRMAN

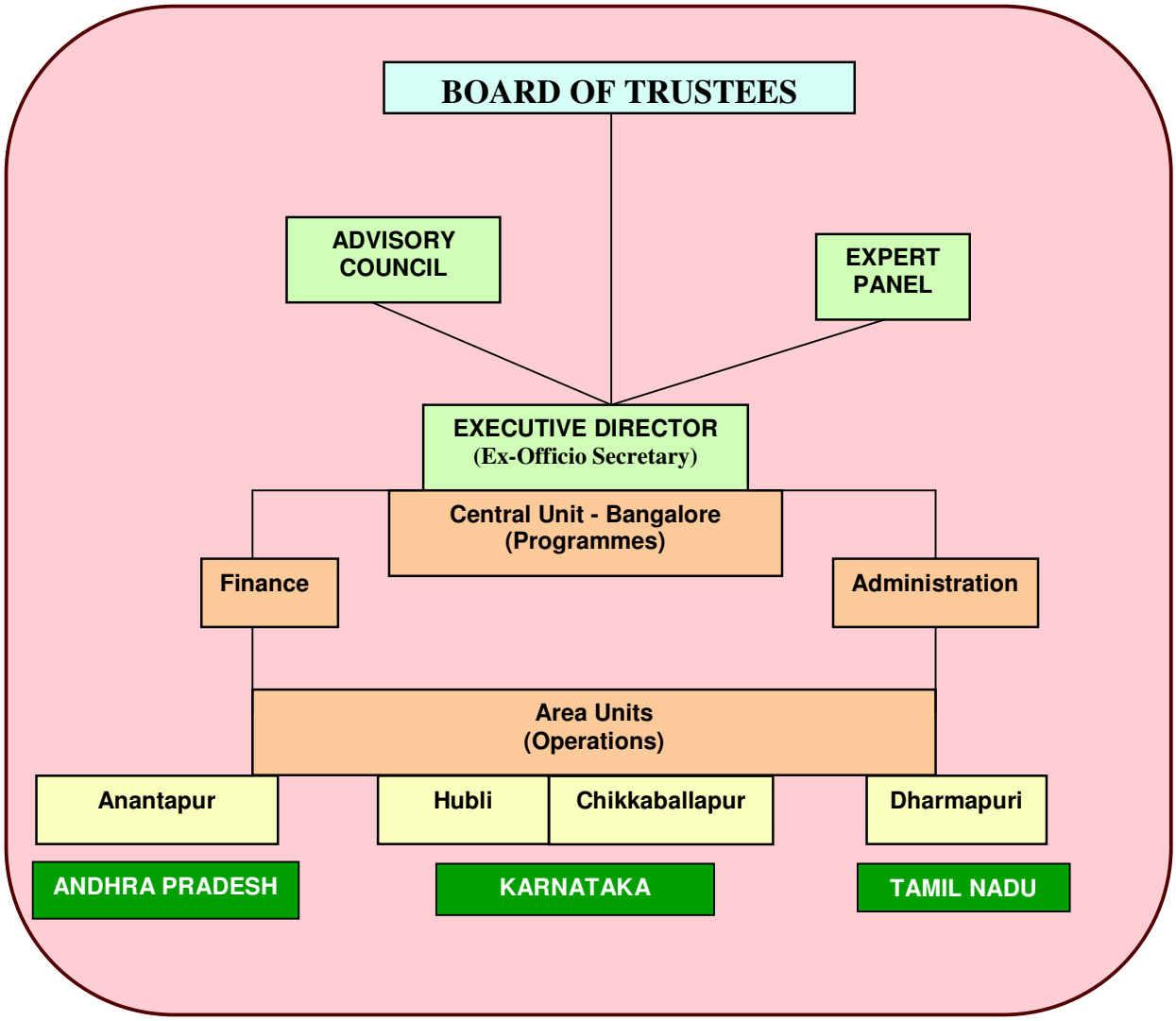
TREASURER

As per our report of Even Date
For RAJAGOPAL & BADRI NARAYANAN
Chartered Accountants

Partner

PLACE : Bangalore
DATE :08.06.2009

ORGANOGRAM OF AME FOUNDATION



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
Website: www.amefound.org

Area Units

ANANTAPUR
No.3-10, Shri Lakshmi Nilayam,
LIC Colony, JNTU College Road,
Anantapur – 515002, Andhra Pradesh
Ph: 08554-277511
amefatp@yahoo.co.in

CHKKABALLAPUR
Brindavan Nilaya, Prabhakar Layout,
Chintamani – 563 125, Karnataka
Ph: 08154 251220
amefklr@yahoo.co.in

DHARMAPURI
No. 5-1299-B-2, NSC Bose Street,
Behind TAMS Colony, Lakkiampatti,
Dharmapuri – 636705, Tamil Nadu
Ph: 04342 234305, 234335
amef.dpi@gmail.com

HUBLI
H. No.8, Lingaraj Nagar South,
Behind Kattimangalam Temple,
Hubli – 580 031, Karnataka
Ph: 0836 2277722
amefhubli@yahoo.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. R. Dwarakinath, Chairman
Former Chairman, Karnataka Agriculture Commission,
Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore

Shri S. L. Srinivas, Treasurer
Former Financial Controller, CARE -India

Dr. Vithal Rajan
Chairman, Governing Body, Confederation of Voluntary Associations, Hyderabad

Padmashri Aloysius Prakash Fernandez
Executive Director, MYRADA, Bangalore

Dr. N.C.B. Nath
Former Director, Steel Authority of India Ltd.

Padmashri Dr. M. Mahadevappa
Advisor, JSS Rural Development Foundation, Mysore,
Member, ICAR Governing Body, New Delhi, Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad and Former Chairman, ASRB

Dr. K. Shivashankar
Former Professor of Agronomy and Forestry, UAS, Bangalore

Dr. P.G. Chengappa
Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore

Dr. C. Ramasamy
Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore

Dr. Arun Balamatti, Member Secretary
Executive Director

AME VISION

AME subscribes to a global, socio-political and economic system, which affords just and equitable opportunity for all, in the development process. AME recognizes that in the prevailing circumstances, the worst affected are a large number of disadvantaged families dependent on farming in rain fed areas, with a future rapidly going out of their control. AME believes that sustainable livelihoods for all are attainable through systematic ecological approach to the development process.

AME MISSION

AME is committed to realizing its vision through a holistic perspective in all its endeavours. AME will work towards sustainable livelihoods through innovations in technology, harnessing indigenous and advanced knowledge systems. AME will promote sustainable agriculture and natural resource management systems that address issues of ecological degradation. These developments will be disseminated widely for empowering the resource-poor and disadvantaged farm families and communities. In generating these alternatives, AME will integrate the needs of gender and equity issues. These efforts will be complemented with the facilitation of collaborative and participatory processes for both effective dissemination and advocacy.