

Annual Report 2009-10



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**AME FOUNDATION
BELIEVES IN
“HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES”**

AMEF is a resource organization. It seeks to empower dry land farmers in degraded ecological situations on the Deccan Plateau, in improving their own livelihoods, along with 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.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Indian agriculture is often talked about in relation to the Green Revolution and its heterogeneous record of successes and failures. Yet the majority of Indian farmers practice rain fed agriculture, an entirely different farming system from that practiced in the irrigated areas. Overall, almost two-thirds of Indian farmers rely solely on rainfall to derive a livelihood from the land.

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

The poor conditions for agriculture on the Deccan Plateau in Southern India require the implementation of careful and complex farming strategies in order for farmers to produce enough food to sustain their families throughout the year. In such environments, biodiversity and food security are inextricably intertwined.

AME Foundation (AMEF), over the years, with its deep-rooted interest in sustainable agriculture (SA), has been seeking ways to fulfill its mission of empowering the dry land farmers in degraded ecological situations on the Deccan Plateau, in improving their own livelihoods, along with gender and social equity concerns. Born as a training agency in 1982, in a temperate climate in The Netherlands, AME has moved into a tropical region in 1986. Going beyond the training of agricultural environmentalists, AMEF has entered into field situations to forge innovative farming practices combining the traditional and the modern methods.

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

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

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

2. **Forging gender equity social processes:** AMEF seeks to mitigate and ameliorate the inequality based on gender, caste and economic status. Thus, AMEF addresses these issues while planning and implementing its activities.
3. **Capacity building of stakeholders:** The CBOs, SHGs, Panchayat Raj bodies and local staff of development agencies who can play a facilitative role in making use of this knowledge will be sensitised and trained on the knowledge generated in the sphere of alternative agriculture/land use practices.
4. **Building NGO network:** For scaling up of eco-friendly initiatives, AMEF interacts and strengthens the NGO networks involved in the land-based activities. By using training situations created in the cluster villages, capacity building of partner NGOs forms the major portion of AMEF's work.
5. **Developing institutional linkages:** AMEF seeks to build linkages with state, national, international research and development organizations to harness the technologies and methodologies for accessing information and involve such agencies to move towards participatory research and development approaches.
6. **Information sharing strategies:** Documentation and dissemination on technology and methodology of ecological agriculture form an important responsibility of AMEF. It brings out manuals, guidelines, workshop proceedings, working papers, case studies etc.
7. **LEISA India publication:** AMEF intends to develop LEISA as a preferred platform for promoting eco-farming alternatives and reach more persons and institutions interested in sustainable agriculture. AMEF in collaboration with ILEIA works to enhance the capacities of NGOs and others in documenting and disseminating experiences on sustainable agriculture.
8. **Preparing professionals in LEISA technologies:** AMEF is making innovative efforts to institute fellowships for fresh graduates in agriculture to be oriented and practically trained in eco friendly farming systems, natural resource management as well as rebuilding environmental support to agriculture.

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

The **major tasks** pursued by the organisation are the following:

Creating and using eco farming base – Working in clusters of villages, with groups of farmers, develop ecologically sound farming systems, which will serve in preparing the staff in practical work experience and in providing effective learning situations for the NGO and others in their training. Further, it will serve as a springboard for scaling up of LEISA activities.

Working with NGO network partners for scaling up of SA – Preparing and working with like-minded NGOs as partners to scale up sustainable agricultural concepts and practices. The partner NGOs are called Eco Network Partners (ENP).

Fostering LEISA initiatives, promoting SA – Beyond the clusters of villages and operational areas of NGO partners, we promote and foster interest and initiatives on the part of individuals, groups and organizations in sustainable agricultural operations.

Building linkages with key biomass players, creating synergic impact – Establishing working relationships with other agencies interested in eco farming like SAUs, government departments and private organizations to share useful knowledge related to sustainable agriculture.

Documentation and dissemination for wider sharing– Since there are many lessons to be learnt and shared in relation to sustainable agriculture, making systematic efforts to document and share useful knowledge with those interested.

So far, AMEF had been using combination of methodologies in implementing the focal activities. Empowering learning processes like Farmer Field Schools and Participatory Technology Development are used. While the primary objective remains promoting SA in the dry lands of Deccan Plateau, AMEF is making earnest efforts to address the issue of natural resource management in some pockets of rainfed and irrigated rice areas through the “System of Rice Intensification” principles. Also, the principles of SRI are being tried out in Ragi and Red gram.

2. AREAS OF OPERATION

AME Foundation is mainly operated through Area Units (AU) located at Dharwad and Chintamani in Karnataka, Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu. After the conclusion of the FAO programme in December 2008, with abrupt disruption in fund flows, AMEF had to find ways to survive and continue its activities. There were spirited efforts by each area unit to mobilize resources. However, by the end of the year 2009, out of the four area units, Dharwad and Dharmapuri were seen to be able to support themselves in the Financial year 2009-2010. After prolonged internal discussions within the organization at all levels, the Board recommended closure of units in Anantapur and Chintamani with effect from 01.01.2010. However, the field activities were continued by training rural youth and NGO staff.

3. THE PROGRAMMES

The major activities of the year included

- a) implementation of donor supported projects
- b) collaborative programmes with Government and
- c) providing educational guidance to other projects/ networks.

Donor supported Projects

The major projects implemented included

- a) SRI promotion supported by WWF-ICRISAT, Hyderabad
- b) SRI promotion supported by Deshpande Foundation, Hubli
- c) Agro-biodiversity project supported by the UNDP GEF
- d) LEISA India programme supported by the ILEIA, the Netherlands,
- e) AMEF-FAO – The Growing Connection – Urban Agriculture initiative

Collaborative Programmes

AMEF was involved in guiding several Farm Schools of ATMA programme, Government of India.

Educational programmes

The training programmes focused on building capacities of NGO staff of several organizations on Sustainable Agriculture practices, agro biodiversity as well as SRI through participatory learning processes like Farmer Field Schools. (As the FAO programme concluded by the end of December 2008, AMEF offered several educational programmes to NGOs and NGO networks.) Also, AMEF through LEISA India Managing Editor, Ms T M Radha, handled international assignments of MISERIOR and CARITAS on process documentation and information product development.

3. 1 Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Practices

AMEF's main thrust is on improving the livelihoods of poor, dry land farmers. For this purpose, AMEF enables them to adopt simple, affordable technologies for better natural resource conservation and use, increasing biomass and land productivity, while protecting the environment.



Many farmers in Kolar are taking up azolla production to supplement cattle feed

During the year, the rainfall in the AMEF operational areas began on an encouraging note. In Andhra Pradesh, good rainfall during the second fortnight of May enabled farmers in Anantapur region to prepare their lands. However, prolonged dry spell later in the month, seriously affected groundnut sowing. Hardly 10% of the area was sown. In Mahabubnagar area, owing to a deficit rainfall of 87%, only 40% of the total area was sown with groundnut. For the rest of the area, farmers have gone with alternative crops like sorghum and minor millets.

In Karnataka, blessed with early showers during May, farmers in Kolar district started the pre-seasonal activities like early ploughing, broadcasting of green manuring seeds like sunhemp, preparation of enriched FYM, rainwater management practices etc. But as Kharif monsoon was delayed, farmers had to go for alternative crops to cope with the moisture stress. Farmers in Kolar

and Chikkaballapur districts have sown sorghum and minor millets like ragi, navane and *same* instead of groundnut. Dharwad district as a whole received not only low rainfall but also witnessed less number of rainy days. Sowing of Kharif crops like paddy, soyabean, chilli, cotton, groundnut, redgram, etc., was delayed almost by two weeks. Due to erratic and low rainfall, significant area under paddy was diverted to soya bean and sugarcane crops.

In Tamil Nadu, farmers in Dharmapuri have taken up alternative crops like maize, *same*, ragi and pulses, replacing groundnut, owing to delayed monsoons. There was no rainfall in AMEF working villages of Harur and Nallampalli Taluk in Dharmapuri. Thus, farmers could not take up preparatory operations for ragi and minor millets. Few farmers on a limited area in Tiruchi and Perambalur have taken up groundnut sowing. In Kaveripattinam and Palacode area in Tamil Nadu, farmers after harvesting *Navarai* (Summer season paddy) took up preparatory activities like green manuring, preparation of enriched farmyard manure, seed treatment and nursery raising.

Some Illustrative field activities

A total of 44 groups consisting of 766 farmers are involved in developing **ecofarming bases (EFB)** in four Area Units. The unit-wise breakup is: 18 groups (315 farmers) in Dharwad (including Bellary and Bijapur Outreach Areas) and 11 groups (186 farmers) in Dharmapuri, 9 groups (166 farmers) in Chintamani and 6 groups (99 farmers) in Anantapur. The major farming systems are Groundnut, Tomato, Paddy, Tapioca, Sorghum and other vegetables.

In Chikkaballapura, nine groups involving 166 farmers were involved. 8 FFS were conducted with these groups. Group formation, baseline analysis, problem identification and preparatory activities were taken up before conducting FFS. Of the 8 FFS planned for cluster villages 5 FFS were done through collaboration with ATMA in the following crops and villages - 1 FFS on Ragi (Bennerpatti), 1 FFS in Paddy and 1 FFS in Redgram (Balamande); 1 FFS in Redgram (Byadabale). Activities in FFS in Redgram included introducing cowpea as intercrop. Beyond these 5 FFS, in the cluster villages, 3 FFS were conducted on Ragi (Munuganahalli) and SRI Paddy (Brahmandinne). Varietal trials in Ragi were established in Munuganahalli. ADAs, AOs and KVK coordinator attended the FFS sessions. Farmers have practiced the seed treatment, border crop, intercrop and soil and water conservation practices. Importance of minor millets as drought proof mechanism was promoted among the cluster villages. Minor millets were introduced with Rajaalu doing well. Groups were linked to the banks for credit, night meetings were conducted for regularizing the savings. Formation of staggered nurseries in Ragi helped the farmers in getting seedlings at right time.

Thirty eight farmers have **adopted combination of set of practices** of soil fertility upgradation and improved cropping practices such as application of enriched FYM, composting, vermicomposting, selection of good quality seeds, seed treatment with bio agents, maintaining optimum plant population, mixed crops (sunhemp), incorporation of green manure crops and IPM measures.

Around 40 farmers in Magadi area are trying out mixed cropping – especially, mustard, cowpea, and castor. Sesame too is being tried out. To conserve rainwater in-situ, farmers have taken up dead furrows in between the two Rows of Red gram crop. Dead furrows help the farmers to conserve the rain water as well as act as feeder channel in case of excess rainfall. Twelve farmers had taken up this activity.

In Dharwad district, 45 farmers have taken up sorghum as a mixed crop. They have treated sorghum seeds with bio agents, have applied enriched farm yard manure and used botanicals. By adopting these practices, they have realized on an average, two quintals more yield per acre.

Around 20 farmers in Dharwad district have reduced the costs on chemical pesticides, to the tune of Rs. 2000 per acre by using low cost bio pesticides, prepared locally. They adopted these methods after participating in a follow up FFS (Farmers Field School) on 'Alternative measures of reducing use of agrochemicals in vegetable cultivation'.

Around 60 farmers in Dharwad district raised sunhemp along with paddy. The sunhemp crop was later ploughed into the soil to improve soil health. They observed that sunhemp in paddy crop helps not only in controlling weeds, but also improves the soil fertility.

Six farmers in Kolar district adopted raised bed nurseries in tomato. They could get good quality, disease free seedlings with lesser cost compared to private nurseries.

In Dharwad, 45 farmers have taken up seed treatment with Bio agents for sorghum. Regular group meetings & savings are done by farmers. 10 farmers adopted vermicomposting by linkage with the Agriculture department.

Tamil Nadu farmers are trying out various options on their farms through **PTD** (Participatory Technology Development) process. Around 25 women in Santhanapatti village of Tiruchi district have planted Bajra Napier hybrid grass (Co 4 variety) to assess its suitability on their farms. Another farmer in Vadamathur village of Tiruvannamalai district laid out a trial to compare the broadbed furrow method of planting with the conventional flat bed method in groundnut crop under irrigated condition. The yield in broad bed furrow method was 10% higher than the flat bed method. The root growth was also vigorous with higher nodulation in broad bed furrow method.

Chikballapura farmers who had applied tank silt observed significant changes in yield and water use efficiency. Farmers had also used vermicompost for improving soil fertility. Other farmers are also motivated to apply the tank silt and vermicompost for improving soil fertility.

Around 246 farmers in Balamande, Kuppanahalli, Bydabale, Doddapura villages of Bangarpet, Kolar region were guided to grow fodder varieties, azolla and vermicomposting through support from Department of BioTechnology. They are now getting supplementary income through these intervention. Five farmer-facilitators have emerged in these villages. The sharing events and the inter village visits were organized in the project area, resulted in sensitizing more farmers in adopting low cost simple biotechnologies.

Azolla as cattle feed is receiving very good response from farmers in Kolar area. Around 20 farmers have constructed Azolla pits. Dairy cooperatives in the region are showing interest in providing financial support for constructing Azolla pits as means of promoting it widely.

In Magadi, 13 farmers have taken up azolla activity. Three members were linked with Department of Animal Husbandry in constructing the cement structure for cultivating azolla. Farmers opined that by feeding azolla, they can reduce the cost on feed as well as get increased percentage of fat content in milk.

3.2 SRI Programme

Though the focus of AMEF is improving dry land agriculture, believes, it can make a difference, by addressing the issue of water use in irrigated lands. As SRI (System of Rice Intensification) is based on similar principles of 'Producing More with Less' and using judiciously precious natural resources like water and inputs, got interested in 2004-05 in a small way. With programmatic support from Deshpande Foundation and WWF, started promoting SRI since 2008 in three states. Besides promoting SRI under varying growing conditions (irrigated and rainfed), has been enabling farmers to adopt SRI principles in other crops too, namely Ragi and Red gram.



Rope marking is becoming popular for maintaining proper distance in transplanted paddy in SRI method

3.2.1. SRI in Paddy

While in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, SRI is promoted in irrigated conditions, in Dharwad area on medium black soils, has been promoting SRI under rainfed conditions also.

Under the SRI promotion, about 2783 farmers have followed SRI principles in both rainfed and Irrigated paddy farming system together under the projects supported by DF (Dharwad) and WWF (in Dharmapuri and Tiruchi, Anantapur, Kolar and Dharwad). (see table below).

2009-10								
		KAR		TN	AP	Total villages	Total farmers	Total acreage
		Dharwad	Kolar	Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Perambalur, Pudukkotai, Tiruchi	Mahbubnagar, Anantapur			
WWF	villages	8	16	19	28	71		
	farmers	316	200	936	319		1771	
	Acres	70	112	645	198			1025
DF	villages	26				26		
	farmers	1012					1012	
	Acres	130						130
						97	2783	1155

AMEF has been promoting SRI in three ways a) working with farmer groups b) partner NGOs c) support to Government programs.

AMEF works directly with groups of farmers. Season-long participatory processes like Farmer Field Schools are organized to empower farmers with the 'why' of the practice. This continuous handholding has helped in farmers taking up SRI with conviction.

AMEF associates itself with like minded NGO networks, provides them training and field guidance, builds working relationships with local development agencies like departments and educational institutions, so as to strengthen the initiative. To have a wider spread, AMEF trains NGO networks. They in turn train the farmers and guide them in the SRI process. AMEF promoted SRI through its partners PSSS, BEST, SPPD in Tamil Nadu and Eco club and AVF in Andhra Pradesh. In 2009-10, SRI was intensified in old villages and new villages identified for promotion. Field based Trainings were given to farmers about SRI. The experienced farmers shared their experience in the new villages during gram sabha and village meetings.

SRI Practices in working areas

- 1.5 to 4 kg of seeds per acre for sowing
- Transplanting 12-22 days young seedlings @ 1-3 per hill.
- Square method of planting with 25cmx25 cm spacing
- seed drill is used with only row to row spacing of 10-12 inches under rainfed conditions,.
- Alternate wetting and drying

Along with SRI practices, farmers adopted certain sustainable agriculture practices for better water management and improving soil fertility like quality seed selection, seed treatment with biofertilizers, application of higher quantity of organic manures, application of bio pesticides and growth promoters. All these practices helped farmers to look at the crop growth in a holistic way and reduce the use of external inputs and chemicals.

AMEF initiated a convergence program in Sakleshpur taluk of Hassan district, Karnataka, with Dept of Agriculture (DoA) in summer 2009. SRI was promoted among 40 farmers spread over 10 villages under ATMA program.

Capacity Building

For promoting sustainable agriculture practices, AMEF organized a number of capacity building programmes like FFS, STOF, TOTs, training events on various topics.

In Dharwad, 97 volunteers were trained on SRI techniques in 3 **ToTs (Training of Trainers)** for guiding farmers in adopting SRI & upscaling it on a large scale. Out of 96 volunteers trained, 58 youth were involved in monitoring sowing operations. Initiated two **FFS (Farmer Field Schools)** in 2 new villages and 2 follow up FFS in old villages of Dharwad, were organized.

Twenty farmers were involved in **follow up FFS** (Farmers Field School) focusing on alternative measures of reducing use of agrochemicals in vegetable cultivation. Five farmers have prepared neem leaf extract & taken up spraying. To reduce the use of agrochemicals in vegetable cultivation, the farmers have adopted technologies such as raised bed nursery of tomato crop, seed treatment, use of botanicals, trap crop, intercrop and border crop.

Participatory Technology Development (PTD) Trials

PTD in SRI Paddy

AMEF initiated PTD trials among a few farmers during the reporting period. Trials were taken up on seed rate, transplanting age, weed management and quantification of water use efficiency. In all, 18 such trials were initiated.

Dharwad farmers are tried out different weeders, like roto weeder, cono weeder and cycle weeder in SRI paddy. The conoweeder-2 (Magnificent Engineers) performed well, which required 12 hours (1.5 (Wo)Man days) to complete weeding of 1 acre of land in comparison with conoweeder-1, which took 16 hours (2 (Wo)Man days) for completing 1 acre of weeding. They were modified based on the need, with the help of local artisans. Now, farmers are able to manage 70% of the weeds. Farmers are also trying out biological weeding using azolla and sunhemp.

PTD on water use efficiency indicated that farmers in Karnataka were able to save water up to 40%, in SRI paddy.

Farmers of Dharwad tried and succeeded in using 2kg seeds by **mixing with fine FYM and sand** to make volume of seeds up to 30 to 35kg. The reduction in cost of cultivation and increased yield brought the confidence on SRI principles among the farming communities.

What farmers prefer

- Row planting over square planting in smaller holdings
- Delayed planting by 5-7 days in rabi where cold conditions impede growth
- Benefits of crop rotation on yield, green manuring before paddy cultivation to improve soil fertility
- Farmers in Andhra Pradesh found that flat bed nurseries resulted in better quality seedlings in comparison to raised bed nursery in saline soils
- Mixture of cow dung and cow urine kept overnight and sprayed next day reduced pest incidence
- Among the various types of weeders used, namely, cono-weeder, roto-weeder and cycle weeder, farmers found cycle weeder more convenient in black soils under rainfed conditions.

SRI Abhiyaan – Upscaling SRI

SRI Abhiyaana: An innovative approach named “**SRI Abhiyaana**” to spread the SRI concept and practices was adopted in Dharwad district by AMEF during the Kharif 2009. The sowing normally starts in May-June and gets completed within a short period of 15-20 days in the district under rain fed conditions. Thus, creating a conducive atmosphere for SRI promotion in the villages during this period was the key component of this approach. *SRI Abhiyaana* was carried out in three phases in the district.

The **first phase** was developing human resources to promote SRI among the farmers. As part of it, over 70 village volunteers from Dharwad, Bellary and Bijapur districts were trained through 3-day training program, Training of Trainers (ToT). Village volunteers were trained to conduct campaign and give hand holding support to farmers during the sowing operations. Out of these, 52 volunteers worked in 25 villages for SRI promotion under both WWF and Deshpande Foundation projects.

The **second** was the campaign phase where volunteers, in pairs, carried out activities such as gram sabhas, farmers’ registration for SRI adoption and, orientation and training for farmers on SRI. Wall paintings, display of banners, distribution of hand outs on SRI and, input and implement mobilization were part of this phase.

The **third phase** included crucial on-field support to farmers from the volunteers to adopt SRI sowing practices, including seed selection and seed treatment. Sowings were facilitated through farmer groups with improved seed drills mobilized with DoA’s assistance.

The approach was later extended to Kolar district as well. **SRI Abhiyana** was successfully completed in 17 villages in Chikkaballapura. Gramasabha, banners, Technical charts and video shows created awareness about the SRI principles among the farmers. 54 farmers have adopted the SRI principles in paddy in 31 acres where as 12 farmers have adopted SRI in Ragi in 14 acres .The lack of rainfall is creating the fear among the farmers to take up Paddy crop. Many farmers have decided to take paddy in smaller area to meet out their food requirement. 26 modular trainings are conducted to farmers on seed selection, seed treatment, nursery bed formation, transplanting, water and weed management.

Adaptations/Innovations in SRI Paddy

- Under rainfed conditions in Dharwad, farmers have mixed fine quality of FYM and sand to seeds (2 - 5kg), to make up the volume of seeds up to 30to 35 kg.
- The metallic drills provided by the Dept. were heavier and prone to damage. With help of local artisans, farmers designed light weight wooden seed drills
- The iron blades in the **cycle weeder** were modified and an additional hoe was attached, which helped in ploughing in wet soil conditions. The size of the weeding wheel in **roto weeder** was increased and the double bar handle was fixed (similar to the cycle weeder), which made the operations much easier and more effective. The cone shape of the **cono weeder** was changed to round shape; size of the wheel was increased from 3 inches to 6 inches diameter. The existing single bar was replaced with a double bar handle, which ensured firmer grip and easy operation.

- Few farmers of Bangarpet in Kolar, Karnataka and Tiruchi district of Tamil Nadu found the PVC pipe marker suitable during transplanting.
- Farmers in Dharwad have sown sun hemp along with paddy to control the weeds under dry land conditions.
- Community nurseries are practiced under tank belt in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In Kunigal taluk of Karnataka, waste cloth was used for easy transfer of the seedlings from bed to main plot.
- Green manuring was taken up on a large scale (400 farmers) in pudukottai district. Biofertilizers like *Azospirillum* and phosphorus solubilising bacteria (PSB) were tried out.
- Sowing of seeds with sieve was tried out for uniform distribution of seed on the nursery beds. Chennaiah, a farmer of Vederepalli village of Thimmagipet mandal, Mahabubnagar district tried this.

Challenges faced in promoting SRI

In AP, upscaling in Chittoor had to be abandoned due to constraints in the abilities of the partner NGO to perform satisfactorily. Extensive up-scaling was initiated in new location, Anantapur, as a result, later in the season. The outreach was slow in TN due to delayed monsoon. Monsoon got delayed in Kolar district also where farmers are dependent on tank water for growing paddy. As a result, many farmers did not go for paddy as it coincides with winter. In some villages of Dharwad district in Karnataka, due to erratic monsoon rains, a large number of rainfed paddy growing farmers switched over to soybean crop, which can withstand longer dry spells and lesser soil moisture compared to paddy crop.

3.2.2 SRI in Other Crops

a) Ragi

For the first time, SRI principles were promoted in Ragi crop in Kolar district, Karnataka. Incidentally, SRI in irrigated paddy is also being promoted in the same villages, which provides opportunities for farmers growing finger millet to learn and adopt the principles in finger millet. In all, 207 farmers adopted SRI principles in finger millet (against the planned 100 farmers) covering 209 acres in 10 villages.

Area coverage under SRI in dry land finger millet

State	District	No. of villages	No. of farmers	Area covered (ac)	By whom
Karnataka	Kolar	10	207	209	AMEF
TOTAL		10	207	209	

In the finger millet, many farmers have followed the transplanting of 20 days old seedlings, by raising the seedlings in the raised beds. To make use of the rainfall, farmers have formed staggered nurseries keeping an interval of 8-10 days and using 2 to 5kg seeds for each bed. Some more farmers used the seed drills with 2 to 5 kg of seeds. Earlier, the seed rate they were using was, 10 to 12 kg per acre. Good plant growth, 2 to 3 more tillers and yield increase by 2 quintals under SRI method of Ragi, was observed.

b) Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative

SSI on pilot basis was undertaken in Dharwad district which is an effort of applying SRI principles to sugarcane cultivation. AMEF field staff and 6 farmers have undergone training on Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI). After the training programme, 5 farmers have established nursery of sugarcane for SSI. 2 farmers have taken up transplanting in the main field. The crop growth in the nursery as well in the main field is good.

In Dharwad district, 10 farmers have transplanted sugarcane, tomato, brinjal, green gram and soyabean as intercrops. This was taken up as part of the **Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative** (SSI). The sugarcane crop is in tillering stage and has produced more number of tillers (15 tillers/plant) as compared to the conventional method (5 tillers/plant).

3.3 Agro-biodiversity project supported by UNDP-GEF

Consistent with AMEF's philosophy of promoting LEISA, AMEF got interested in guiding farming communities to generate and access local seed varieties of major crops grown in Magadi. Supported by UNDP-GEF programme on the theme biodiversity, got involved in reintroducing farmer's preferred, locally suitable crop varieties. The focus was not only on seed conservation but also promotion of sustainable agriculture practices for improved yields and reduced costs and enlarging the basket of farm related livelihood options.



Magadi farmer takes up kitchen gardening for nutrition security

In the year 2009-10, around 65 farmers in two villages in Magadi area in Karnataka have been organized into 3 Farmers Groups. Regular meetings were organized with the farmers groups to build awareness on the biodiversity based farming systems. To effectively do it, a community level organizer was placed in Magadi who is conducting weekly meetings, guiding technical aspects as well as creating linkages with the line departments for the benefit of the groups.

In this area, farmers grew around 9 food crops and among them ragi is the main crop. While there is reasonably fair crop diversity, the varietal diversity is very minimum. In case of ragi and paddy crop the traditional varieties are completely replaced by improved varieties. Farmers are of the view that the traditional varieties are normally drought tolerant and have better nutritional aspects when compared to improved varieties.

Presently, farmers are using the improved varieties of Ragi which they are getting from Dept of Agriculture. Farmers are replacing those seeds once in three years. The traditional varieties which were grown in the past have been totally replaced by the improved varieties. Keeping in mind the aberrations of climate change on crop yield as well as resilience, farmers were sensitized on advantages of trying out traditional varieties. In this regard, seeds of two local varieties (Pichakaddi Ragi, Konnakumbe Ragi) were procured from Shivahalli village of Mandya district.

Working relationship has been established with three NGOs i.e., Green foundation, Sahaja Samurdha and Janodaya. Green foundation and Sahaja Samurdha NGO have influenced the community members in conserving the traditional varietal seeds through seed bank concept. They have also created awareness and potential opportunity to help the farmers in marketing the organically grown produce for better price.

Participatory field trials of traditional and improved varieties were taken up as part of experiential learning process. The traditional varieties were planted in 1 Gunta area of land for comparison with the improved varieties of Ragi crop (L-5.MR-6, MR-1, and GPU-28).

Challenges

Erratic rainfall during the kharif season - After the initial sowings have been done, there was a long dry spell, which caused the seedlings to wither and die. The farmers had to re-sow their fields when the monsoon picked up again. During the time of grain filling stage, there was dry spell for nearly 15 days, which affected the grain yield, and during the time of harvesting there was heavy rainfall which resulted in the loss of grains.

Kitchen Garden activity

The members of the farmers group were trained on kitchen garden activity. The farmers were trained on nursery raising techniques through raised beds. Earlier, farmers were raising the seedlings of tomato, chilli and brinjal through flat methods. They started trying out controlling pests through use of botanicals.

Kitchen gardens were promoted with 18 farmers from 2 villages. The main purpose was to educate the farmers to grow & consume vegetables grown in their back yard as well as other available spaces for cultivation. Seeds of different crops were procured from Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore. Nearly 15 varieties of open pollinated vegetables/greens were distributed to farmers to take up this activity. The harvest is being used by the farmers for their own consumption.

Besides the trials and kitchen garden activity, farmers in the area are practicing sustainable agriculture practices like mixed cropping, vermicompost application and raising azolla. Farmers have sown diverse crops in their Ragi fields including mustard, cowpea, castor, sesame for enhancing income, resilience in the farming system through diversity.

Overall, the initiative has yielded good results. Members of the Farmers Groups have started the savings activity in their respective Group. The total savings from all the 3 farmers group is nearly Rs.16775 which has been deposited in their savings bank account. SHG served as platforms for creating awareness on preserving biodiversity, creating seed banks, as well as eco-friendly sustainable agriculture practices. Nearly 3 lakhs rupees were mobilized as co-finance so far from different sources under the project within a short span.

3.4 LEISA India

LEISA magazine is recognized as the leading magazine for sharing field based experiences in Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture. LEISA India is the regional Indian edition of Agricultures Network of the global LEISA magazines. LEISA India, is being published in English, in collaboration with ILEIA, Netherlands, 4 times in an year. During the year, local special translated editions have been launched in Kannada, Hindi and Tamil. NABARD has supported the production of the second issue of the Kannada edition. Impact of the English magazine was studied using outcome mapping methodology. LEISA India has started receiving voluntary monetary contributions for the first time from the readers. The amount received has crossed Rs.1.43 lakhs.

1. Production of Magazine

During this period, four issues of LEISA India magazine were produced – one of 2008 and three of 2009.

- V.10,no.4, December 2008 - **Dealing with climate change**
- V.11,no.1, March 2009 - **Farming Diversity**
- V.11,no.2, June 2009 - **Rural Entrepreneurship**
- V.11, no.3, Sep 2009 - **Women and food sovereignty**



We also introduced a new section called 'In focus' featuring national issues related to agriculture in focus during that period.

The total number of subscribers as of March 2010 is 10893. Across various categories, NGOs formed the major chunk with 26%, followed by individuals, academic and research institutions with 16%, 17% and 14% respectively. Around 7% of the readers are farmers. Around 3% of the readers are students. The number of subscribers has been growing. Systematic efforts have been made to increase the subscription numbers. A special insert requesting readers to suggest new names, was enclosed in all the four issues produced during the period.

A PR product in the form of a folded wall calendar (A2 size) - 2010 was produced and distributed along with the 'Women and food sovereignty' issue.

A special publication '**Inspiring Cases**' was compiled based on the survey results and subsequent interactions with the survey respondents.

All the issues produced till now have been updated on the web immediately after production. The web visits has been in the range of 2726-3849 per month during 2009. (source ILEIA-web statistics)

2. New Initiatives - Special language editions

Several new initiatives were launched with the approval of ILEIA on creative use of one unspent installment of funds. LEISA India consortium partners operationalise **joint collaborative programmes – Special translated editions launched and Alliance Meetings organised.**

There has always been a lot of demand for the regional language editions for LEISA India. Though readers were doing translations of selected articles, sporadically on their own, LEISA India team took up translations as a new initiative during this period. These special editions are primarily targeted to reach grass root organisations like Farmer associations, CBOs and village level resource centers.

Innovative partnerships for production

These were brought out in partnership with LEISA India consortium partners (GEAG and LEISA Network) and LEISA enthusiast, Mr. Poornaprajna. We tried out different type of arrangements with the three editions. In Hindi, our consortium partner GEAG took the responsibility of selection of articles, translations, layout, printing and distribution. In case of Tamil, LEISA Network (Suresh Kanna) took up the responsibility of selection, translation and type setting while layout and production was taken up by LEISA India team. With Kannada edition, it was an agreement with a LEISA enthusiast, who happens to be a farmer and also a farm journalist. As it was an individual located in a remote village in Karnataka, he could shoulder the responsibility of translation only. All other activities were taken up by LEISA India team.

Release of first issue of special editions through video conferencing

Special translated editions were launched through video conferencing linking simultaneously three geographic locations - Bangalore, Gorakhpur and Salem. Special messages were given on the occasion by eminent personalities like Dr. R Dwarakinath, Dr. Nammalwar and Dr. Shiraz Wajih. Ms. Edith van Walsum, Director, ILEIA, gave her message from Netherlands through audio input. The local press covered this unique sharing and celebration event of LEISA family.

Participatory production process

The selection of articles was made primarily by the partners in a workshop mode followed by back home discussions on what they perceived as most relevant. The challenge was the balance between region, technical and social dimensions, practices and processes, choosing what would be interesting for the grassroot level regional audiences, and also the period from which articles were to be selected.

The consortium partners brought a touch of regional flavour and acceptance by the local communities by including the special messages by **Visionaries** in the first issue – **Shri Nammalwar** (Tamil); **Shree Padre** (Kannada); and for Hindi edition by **Dr. Devinder Sharma**.

Two issues of Hindi, Kannada and Tamil special editions were produced – a lot of appreciation received. Hindi edition was printed in Gorakhpur coordinated by GEAG, Tamil in Chennai, coordinated by LEISA India and LEISA Network Tamil Nadu and Kannada edition in Bangalore.

NABARD, a premier agricultural bank in the country funded the production and distribution of second issue of the Kannada edition. *NABARD, Bangalore, has supported publication of Kannada edition of the LEISA India magazine with Rs. 0.90 lakh.*

The language editions were distributed primarily to grassroot institutions which depended heavily on the local language. We received a very good and encouraging feedback for these language editions.

A separate database developed in Access is being maintained for regional language editions. The number of subscribers for each edition is as follows:

Edition	Number of subscribers
Kannada	810
Hindi	585
Tamil	800
Total	2195

We had half yearly **Core group meeting** with the consortium partners. In the meeting, the progress was reviewed and joint plans discussed. Specifically, the agenda included review of joint production of translations and organization of LEISA Enthusiasts meetings.

3. Impact study

LEISA India continues to have a strong influence on minds and thinking of people from several backgrounds.

Impact of the magazine was studied through surveys, field visits and case studies using the *principles of outcome mapping methodology*. Impact was looked in terms of outcomes. Attempt was made to understand and assess the efficiency of our task on hand (dissemination of LEISA practices) - *the sphere of control*. Further, we also tried to find out how best this information shared is being put to use – *the sphere of influence* and to what extent our efforts are able to address the issues of small scale agriculture – *the sphere of interest*. All these were studied using a number of approaches like Readers surveys; Group discussions; Individual interactions; Field visits and Impact workshops.

The response to the survey has been unprecedented in terms of numbers and details of utility. Of the 9000 readers, 1500 responded through postal mail and 70 by electronic means. The survey

Highlights of Impact study

- Farmers have been using LEISA India contents practically, applying them on the field. About 58% of the farmer respondents have used it for field application. Practices like organic manure application, use of compost, vermicompost, azolla, to name a few have gained momentum.
- LEISA India has been one and the only source for many years on the **System of Rice Intensification (SRI)**. About **40 readers** have reported that LEISA India was the **primary source of information on SRI**.
- The survey indicated that around 39% of the NGO respondents promoted practices like **vermicomposting, green manuring, SRI** etc., among the farmers.
- There is a visible shift in the thinking and approach of people who are designing development programmes, at various levels.
- A lot of **training materials** are developed based on the content of LEISA India.
- LEISA India has been source for **developing education material** on topics like Sustainable agriculture, Sustainable development, Organic agricultural practices, Farm business management, Soil health, Water management, Insect ecology etc.
- The mainstream institutions are also basing their project proposals on the ideas/content gathered from the magazine.
- The Academics, researchers and students are **sharing a lot of content during workshops and meetings**
- Readers are also **translating the content** on their own and sharing in different ways – in local papers, magazines etc.

results were analysed online and the results were shared with the readers in the next issue itself. From the survey respondents, 21 were selected for detailed interactions. These cases were subsequently compiled into "**Inspiring Cases**".

4. Voluntary contributions

Mechanisms for receiving voluntary contributions were initiated in the month of October-November 2009. There was a tremendous response from readers to a request for voluntary contributions. So far, we have received an amount of around 1.43 lakhs. Systems were designed and are being maintained for receiving the contributions. All the contributors are being sent official receipts. A separate account has been created for these contributions. We have made the process transparent by sharing the list of contributors with our readers through an insert in every issue.

5. Lessons Learnt

- Involving **consortium partners** in bringing out translated editions has been a very rewarding strategy - in production, selection of content as well as reaching the right readers.
- A lot of goodwill generated over years and the intense interactions with readers through various means has helped in getting an excellent response to the Readers Survey.
- **A lot of systems/automation in communication and analysis of survey forms** made the job easier and faster. With this, it was possible to **get back to readers with their feedback in the immediate issue itself**.
- Regular field visits should become a part of the programme to keep in touch with what is happening on the ground. The field visits done during the impact study showed that farmers are following a lot of alternative agricultural practices on their fields.
- New method tried out for releasing magazines (**video conferencing**) was a big success – both in terms of participation and in economising costs.
- The space and freedom that partners are enjoying in bringing out language editions is reflected in their increasing sense of ownership of the product. Partners are putting all their efforts in keeping up the quality and reputation of LEISA India and also striving to raise resources on their own, in a small way, for its sustenance.

3.5 FAO TGC Programme

The Growing Connection (TGC) - a pilot project on home gardening is being offered by FAO, Washington, which is likely to commence in February 2010 with negotiations being finalised. Preparations for the implementation of the programme have been initiated. The materials for the programme (plastic boxes, growing medium etc) have arrived. Plans are made on the modalities of carrying out the PTD trials.

3.6. Collaborative programmes

AMEF was involved in guiding several Farm Schools of ATMA programme, Government of India, in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In the ATMA programmes, the efforts were primarily in enriching the content as well as participatory methods in the training programmes.

A new project entitled 'Introducing forage innovations to improve farm income of woman diary farmers of Tamil Nadu' was initiated with Department of Science and Technology, GOI.



Farm School in progress in Puduchattram block in Namakkal

3.6.1 ATMA

Tamil Nadu

The success of the Farm School conducted by AMEF in Dharmapuri district in 2008 resulted in AMEF getting recognition as a resource agency for Farm Schools in Tamil Nadu. As a result, AMEF was invited to organize Farm Schools in several districts - Tiruchi, Krishnagiri, Ariyalur, Namakkal and Salem. Dharmapuri team organized **Farm Schools** across various districts in Tamil Nadu - 4 in Tiruchi district, 2 in Dharmapuri district, 2 in Krishnagiri district, 8 in Namakkal district and 5 in Ariyalur district. The farm schools covered wide range of topics including crops like SRI paddy, banana, onion, chillies, green gram, groundnut and farm enterprises like fisheries, dairy and sericulture.

AMEF added value to the curriculum of Farm Schools. AMEF included some of the basic principles of FFS in the curriculum to make it more participatory. Further, it also included sharing workshops to facilitate scaling up of the technology.

The three farm schools which were completed in Tiruchi had one Front Line Demonstration each. These Front Line Demonstrations on desi bird rearing, tube rose cultivation and black gram cultivation yielded interesting results. For instance, the chick of desi bird which was 35-50 grams weighed 1.5 kgs within two months. Similarly, the yield of black gram was 15% higher than the conventional method (1475 kg/acre). The results of FLDs were shared during the valedictory function held at the end of each farm school. Mr.S.Shivaraj, DDA, Mr.Ponnusami, JDA, Dr.P.I.Ganeshan, Professor & Head, VUTRC, Mr. Rajasekar, ADA and Dr. Kathiresan, Dean, Anbil Tharmalingam Agriculture College and Research Institute were the special guests in the valedictory function held in Tiruchi.

Karnataka

A total of 5 FFS were taken up under the programme in Chikkaballapura in the following crops and villages - 1 FFS on Ragi (Bennerpatti), 1 FFS in Paddy and 1 FFS in Redgram (Balamande); 1 FFS in Redgram (Byadabale). Activities in FFS in Redgram included introducing cowpea as intercrop, The required inputs were procured from RSK and DoA at Bangarpet and distributed to farmers. Launching program of FFS was arranged at Byadabale wherein the resource persons from KVK participated.

3.6.2 Introducing forage innovations to improve farm income of woman diary farmers of Tamil Nadu

A project on fodder promotion, supported by DST, has commenced in Tiruchi and Perambalur districts through the Dharmapuri Area Unit with the receipt of the first installment of Rs. 8 lakh from DST.

3.6.3 Others

The Command Area Development Authority (CADA) was contacted both informally and formally seeking the type of collaboration they are interested in with AMEF. However, there was no formal request made.

3.7 Consultancy assignments

3.7.1 Srivats Ram Farm Initiatives in Thiruvannamalai

The objective of the educational programme was to build the capacity of the partner RSEEDS to focus on improving the livelihood of resource poor farmers in 8 villages (in two clusters) of Pudhupalayam block (25 farmers per village; total 200 farmers). The crops on focus were: Paddy, groundnut, cotton, vegetables and flower crops. Four volunteers were identified for the training. The educational processes focused were: PRAs and FFSs. The activities carried out included: Preparatory work including exposure trips to volunteers from RSEEDS, guiding situational analysis, group mobilization and capacity building of NGOs and farmers on Sustainable Agriculture.

Initially, volunteers were guided on PRAs and baseline data collection. The limiting factors for yield improvements were analysed. Following the delayed and inadequate monsoon, a contingency plan was evolved in discussion with farmers. Meanwhile, the contingency plan consisted of trying out water efficient crops such as coriander, maize, Bengal gram and good animal husbandry activities like – cultivation of good quality fodder grass, preparation of concentrate feeds using locally available materials, deworming, enriching the straw, silage making.

Farmers, organized into groups were oriented on SA and FFS methodology. The FFS curriculum was developed in consultation with the farmer groups and volunteers. Besides the curriculum development, oriented the volunteers on a special tool for impact assessment – the Sustainable Livelihood Analysis. Twelve FFS sessions were organized by AME from June 2009 to November 2009. Illustratively, the practices adopted and results obtained are as follows: 25 farmers adopted paddy cultivation following one or more principles of SRI in an area of 21.6 ac; 14 farmers tried coriander cultivation; 5 farmers cultivated improved fodder grass (Co4) in a total area of 6 cents. Paddy farmers realised average per acre benefit of Rs.3380 as compared with their conventional method of cultivation; Farmers who grew coriander got an income of Rs 2300 from 83 cents.

Farmers gained awareness, knowledge and skill about SRI method, INM and IPM methods; volunteers availed links with Department of Agriculture for mobilizing critical inputs such as conoweeders, markers, gypsum, biofertilizers to the farmers.

3.7.2 Training NGO networks

The Chikkaballapur Area Unit extended capacity building support to AID (Association for India's Development) which are Bangalore based NGOs. The Unit was also involved in training OUTREACH on SRI. The Unit got involved in preparing for a 15-day ToF on community managed biodiversity conservation project being implemented by the GREEN Foundation.

The Anantapur Area Unit got involved in extending capacity building support to various NGOs including RDT, Timbaktu Collective, SEDS, Ambuja Cements Foundation and Dr. Reddy's Foundation.

A Refresher ToT on financial inclusion for livelihood security was organized for staff and volunteers of IDF at Kunigal during 10th to 12th November on FFS and evaluating the FFS.

3.7.3 Supporting Documentation Assignments for MISEREOR

MISEREOR has supported three consultancy assignments- a) Documentation and production of climate change conference proceedings b) Documentation of People Led Approaches (PLA) of its partners in Bangladesh and India c) Production of a document on PLA experiences. The first two are in progress. The third one is yet to start.

Collaborative programmes on documentation with donor organisations like Misereor have taken off initiated by ILEIA. LEISA India team was involved in two consultancy programmes with MISEREOR. LEISA India and ILEIA guided MISEREOR partners in Bangladesh and India on their documentation aspects. Jorge, ILEIA and TM Radha, LEISA India also helped in conducting a 4-day workshop at Dhaka and Bhubaneshwar. Seven partners of Misereor participated. Radha, through follow up visits helped partners in finalising their documents. Misereor requested LEISA India team to include two more partners and bring out a publication on the People-Led Approach experiences of its partners.

LEISA India and ILEIA have jointly helped Misereor in documenting the proceedings of the Climate Change Conference held in New Delhi. LEISA India team is also helping in getting the document printed. The conference helped in building new relationships, especially with organisations like Caritas India, IGSSS and Welthungerhilfe.

3.7.4 Supporting Documentation Assignments for CARITAS

LEISA India team collaborated with Caritas India in producing a document on “South Asia Farmers Conference” held in Bangalore.

4. FOSTERING LEISA INITIATIVES

Promotion of SA is a complex and gradual process. This is so because farmers have to go through a long process of capacity building on the systematics of SA, addressing three critical dimensions of farming - on-farm rainwater management, soil fertility improvement and improved cropping practices. Hence, it is necessary to work with few farmers intensively to develop visible models in the vicinity as learning ground and to develop trained, experienced "lead farmers". This, in turn, will create an opportunity to influence large number of farmers through local SA evidences and lead farmers. The lead farmers are encouraged to enthuse and encourage more farmers by interacting in groups in the village and guide interested farmers.



Farmers sharing their experiences during a field day in Dharwad

While farmers and ENPs are making good progress in SA promotion, there are encouraging evidences of spread of technologies beyond the groups of farmers and villages with whom AMEF is working, either directly or through ENPs. While continuing its efforts in creating eco farming base and scaling it up through ENPs, efforts were directed towards inducing interest among many more farmers and development agencies by spreading proven alternative farming practices. Such developments were observed in all the AUs of AMEF.

4.1 Field days

Thirteen Field days and five study tours were organized by AMEF in all the states to share the experiences of SRI farmers with others and for cross learning. These efforts helped in creating good impact on more number of farmers to follow SRI practice during next season.

A field day on SRI was organized at Amblikoppa village of Dharwad district. Around 150 farmers including farm women participated. Participants shared their learnings on SRI from Farmers Field School (FFS).

Field day was organised at Chinnakalvehalli village of Krishnagiri district on 27 October 2009. Sample harvest was carried out to compare the grain and straw yields between SRI and conventional fields. Farmers observed increased yield in SRI and shared their experience with non-SRI farmers. Dr Budhar, Scientist from Regional Research Station (RRS) Paiyur, facilitated the field day along with AMEF team. Around 25 participants including KVK Scientists participated.

Two **Field days** in 2 new FFS villages in Dharwad were organized. More than 2000 farmers were sensitized about the adoption of SRI as being part of the field day in 2 villages.

Sharing events were organised in the villages to share the experience by the SRI adopted farmers. 18 **sharing events** were organised in the SRI adopted villages (one in each village) in Dharwad to share the experiences of the farmers to the fellow farmers in the village. The farmers shared that they have got more yield in SRI as compared to their traditional method. The farmers shared that initially upto 1 month the crop growth cannot be seen but when it reaches tillering stage, drastic change as been observed.

4.2 Study Tours

Efforts were made to sensitise farmers about better management of natural resources and their utilization, through study tours.

Dharmapuri Unit organized a study tour to the NGO, RSEEDS and village volunteers of Tiruvannamalai to Veppanatham and Vadugapatti villages. Participants observed bund planting, SRI field, farm pond, composting, fodder production for livestock and other field level activities. They also interacted with group farmers regarding Farmer Field School (FFS). Farmers under NABARD programme are trying raised beds in tomato nurseries.

The staff of Dharwad Unit and few selected farmers visited a seed bank in Chinnikatti village in Byadagi taluk. The objective of the visit was to understand the concept, working mechanism and explore the possibilities of establishing seed banks in AMEF operating villages on similar lines.

Around 22 farmers from Dharmapuri district visited Dinamalar 2nd AGRI EXPO 2010 at Tiruchi on 24 – 25 January 2010. They were exposed to new technologies, agricultural machineries and implements. They also learnt about the agricultural schemes available with Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu.

Around 25 farmers from Tiruvannamalai district and 12 farmers from Dharmapuri district visited RRS, Paiyur and SRI fields in Kaveripattinam area during the month of August 2009. They interacted with farmers on SRI techniques. They also learnt some latest technologies from the Scientists in RRS. Seventeen farmers from Nallampalli block of Dharmapuri district visited a farm maintained by

'Puvudham Trust' on 24th September 2009. They observed plantation for biomass generation and organic farming. Farmers expressed interest in taking up plantations in their own fields.

Dharmapuri Unit organized study tour cum refresher training on SRI. Around 32 farmers from Palacode and Kaveripattinam area visited Chinnakalvehalli village in Krishnagiri district. The programme helped the farmers to understand the importance of SRI principles and facilitated cross learning.

In Magadi taluk, 18 farmers interacted with the members of Gene Bank in Dinnur. They observed the traditional seeds of field crops and vegetables being conserved. Farmers were motivated and decided to set up a Community Seed Bank in their respective villages.

Around 80 farmers from Dharwad district participated in 'Krishi Mela', held on 21 September 2009 at Dharwad. Farmers were exposed to new technologies and crop varieties during the event.

Eighteen Magadi farmers along with 2 AME project team members visited the Dinnur Community seed bank. Dinnur seed bank is situated in Thali block, Hosur District of Tamilnadu. The farmers were oriented on the process of conserving the traditional varieties. They also visited Mr. Jaydevappa field, which is a good example for agro biodiversity model.

Thirteen farmers from Magadi visited Sahaja Samurdha organic outlet in Bangalore. The farmers realized that there is potential for marketing their produce if they grow without any usage of chemical fertilizers & pesticides. Farmers took up LEISA practices as a first step towards transition to organic cultivation.

4.3 Trainings and Workshops

Kolar team organized a Training of Facilitators (ToF) on SRI Paddy cultivation during 18-21 May 2009 at Gouribidanur. Volunteers and staff of OUTREACH participated. They were trained on SRI principles and also on facilitation skills for promoting SRI.

In collaboration with NABARD Bellary, 7 training programmes were organised for SHG group members at Chiratagunda village in Bellary district. Around 300 SHG members from 14 SHGs were trained on group strengthening aspects.

Dharmapuri Unit organised a two-day orientation training during 5-6 May on FFS methodology and facilitation skills to RSEEDS NGO and village volunteers of Srivats Ram Project.

Participants visited ATMA Cotton Farm School at Periyavathalapuram village to get first hand experience on FFS methodology. The volunteers were also oriented on SLA (Sustainable Livelihoods Analysis) methodology through mock SLA study in one of the villages.

AMEF conducted a 15-day Short term Training of Facilitators (SToF) on FFS in Paddy and Ragi for the staff of IDF from 24 April to 8 May 2009. The training was preceded by a 3 day Curriculum Development Workshop, which was held from 15-17 April 2009.

With Kolar team's support, Fireflies NGO started promoting sustainable agriculture activities in ragi crop at HD Kote area. Around 16 farmers have tried L-5 Ragi variety.

About 450 farmers of Timbaktu Collective in Ananthpur district got trained on the nutritional significance of millets and cultivation practices. There is a possibility of millets cultivation being taken up on about 1000 acres.

SEDS, an ENP, is organizing regular FFS sessions by including trained farmer as a facilitator along with its staff in 21 villages. The strategy has been working well. One of the farmer facilitators tried chilli-garlic and imidacloprid, an insecticide, to control thrips, the vector of sunflower necrosis. He has observed that chilli-garlic is better than imidacloprid in controlling thrips population.

Dharmapuri Unit organized two planning workshops on SRI in Kaveripattinam and Tiruchi during July 2009. Farmers, volunteers and NGO staff members were oriented on SRI methods and PTD experiments. Scientists from Regional Research Station (RRS) Paiyur and KVK Sirugamani participated in the workshop.

AMEF facilitated training on 'Ecological Agriculture' organized by NABARD on 3 - 5 August 2009 at Bijapur district. 248 beneficiaries participated in this training programme. They learnt about on-farm rain water management, soil fertility aspects, ill effects of pesticides on human health, Integrated Pest Management and the alternative cropping practices.

Anantapur Unit organized two residential training programmes to 38 staff members of Ambuja Cement Foundation, Guntur. These programmes focused on 'Basics of Farmer Field School' and 'Sustainable Agricultural Practices in Chilli'. Around 35 staff of SKDRDP were trained on SRI through a 3 day ToT during October 2009. SKDRDP organized and AMEF facilitated the training. Participants learnt about SRI principles by conducting short studies.

Chintamani team organized a Short term Training of Facilitators (SToF) on FFS methodology, to the staff and volunteers of Green Foundation, from 21 October to 5 November 2009, at Pyramid Valley, Kanakapura taluk.

Dharmapuri team organized a workshop in Tiruvannamalai district on 22 October 2009 on coping mechanism. The team along with farmers, partner NGO and volunteers evolved a contingency plan to cope with the drought conditions. The options evolved included cultivation of short duration crops, drought resistant varieties, improved fodder species, introduction of new breeds of goat and poultry and better animal husbandry practices.

Dr.J.Diraviam facilitated sessions in the Model Training on Farmers Field School (FFS) for senior officials of development departments of India along with Mr.Nagana Gouda, Mr.B.V.Joshi and Mr.Ravindra at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore during 14 - 15 December 2009.

Mr.Manohar.G.Badiger, a Sustainable Agriculture Promoter (SAP), facilitated a training programme on Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) for 21 staff members of IDF on 21 December 2009 at Kunigal, Tumkur district.

Dharmapuri Unit organised training on 'Fodder Development' at Santhanapatti village of Tiruchi district on 6 January 2010. Dr. Ganesan, Professor and Head, VUTRC, Tiruchi facilitated the training along with AME Foundation staff. The Bajra Napier hybrid (Co 4) fodder slips were distributed to 25 women farmers and planting method was also taken up in the farmers field.

A training programme was organized on 'Animal Husbandry Activities' covering concentrate feeds, silage making, paddy straw enrichment and deworming.

AMEF facilitated training on 'Ecological Agriculture' organized by NABARD on 3 - 5 August 2009 at Bijapur district. Two hundred forty beneficiaries participated in this training programme. They learnt about on- farm rain water management, soil fertility aspects, ill effects of pesticides on human health, Integrated Pest Management and the alternative cropping practices.

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Dr.J.Diraviam oriented the PAs of Collectors on Farm School methodology during the ATMA orientation workshop at Theni on 28 August 2009. He also shared AMEF's experiences in organizing Farm Schools.

Ms. T M Radha visited Dhaka, Bangladesh during 29 Aug – 3 September and Bhubaneswar during November 17-22 as follow up visits to the documentation workshops organised during June 2009. Discussions on the documentation of 'People Led Approaches' was held with the Misereor partners in Bangladesh and Orissa.

Dharmapuri team organized this programme in Sakthinagar village of Tiruvannamalai district on 8 February 2010. Dharmapuri Unit organized a series of trainings on 'Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)' in seven villages of Perambalur district during February – March 2010.

Anantapur Unit organized the following training events. A training on SA to Ambuja Cement Foundation staff at Guntur during 10-14 May 2009. Practices on Chilli and paddy were explained. Trainings (8 events) on 'Importance of millets' to the farmers of TIMBAKTU were conducted during 20-28 May 09. The training events have generated lot of interest among the farmers. A training programme on 'Basics of Farmer Field School' to the field level workers of Ambuja Cement Foundation and Dr Reddy's Foundation, during 27-31 August made lot of positive impact among 15 participants. Also, conducted a field training on pests and diseases of paddy to IDF staff members on 21st Oct 2009 at Jinnagara village; STof programme for IDF staff at Solur for 15 days.(April 24th to May-9th); 5 days ToT on SRI paddy to the staff and farmers of OUTREACH at Gouribidanur.

5. BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS

Linkages with public research institutions and progressive farmers enabled AMEF to access technologies and resources to build knowledge and awareness among farmers and ENPs. AMEF is gaining visibility and is being approached by many such agencies for support in promoting sustainable agriculture.

Scientists and officials of Agricultural Universities and State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest, Animal Husbandry, KVKs in all the three states, were constantly contacted for information and resources. With enhanced linkages with the mainstream agencies, the farmers and farmer groups are leveraging the various schemes/benefits that are available for them.

In Dharwad district, members of farmers groups mobilized bio-agents, mainly compost culture from UAS Dharwad. They also constructed vermicompost unit by getting financial support from Department of Agriculture, Dharwad.

In Magadi taluk, 17 farmers from Ukkada and Guddahalli villages have constructed vermicompost units with the financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Magadi. Composting process has been initiated and other farmers are also motivated to take up this activity in the future.

In Dharwad district, eight farmer groups were identified as NABARD Farmers Clubs. These clubs will benefit by getting credit assistance to adopt SA practices on a large scale.

In CB Pura, linkage was made with DoH under NHM scheme. Four Vermicompost units are under progress. In Bangarpet cluster village, farmers have been trained about SA. Further follow up with respect strengthen the groups is planned.

In Magadi, good linkages has been established with the Department of Agriculture as well as Animal Husbandry. Open pollinated varieties of vegetable seeds from the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research station, Bangalore were distributed to 18 members of the Group who were interested in establishing the kitchen gardens in their backyards. The harvested vegetables are being used for their home consumption. Nearly 3 lakhs can be seen as co-finance so far from different sources under the project with a short span..

6. DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

Documentation and Dissemination (D & D) is recognized as one of the five key tasks of AMEF. D & D activity is aimed at building knowledge processes, which ultimately result in enhanced sharing of knowledge on alternatives for practitioners, enhanced pool of experiences and learnings for enabling agencies to guide practitioners, get the attention of policy makers to alternatives, which are working. While Documentation and Dissemination enables wider sharing of these experiences in public domain, the activity is crucial for strengthening organization's own learning processes.



The documentation and dissemination initiatives during this period were:

AME Info: The quarterly newsletter was produced which was distributed to selected people interested in AMEF's activities. During the year 2009-10, three issues of AME Info (April – June 2009, July – December 2010 and Jan – March 2010) were produced.

Guidelines in Kannada language on SRI was prepared, SRI training charts and handouts in Kannada and SRI news letter in Tamil were brought out. A **Press meet**, a **Radio talk** on SRI promotion were done at Dharwad. Many daily News papers covered the field events and highlighted the benefits as shared by farmers by adopting SRI. The SRI farmers Mr.Papanna and Mr.Narayanswamy of Chintamani taluk of Karnataka were interviewed by **E-TV** faculty and the program was telecasted.

Calendar: A Calendar for the year 2010 focusing on the theme --- was produced with the support of ILEIA.

Inspiring Cases: It is a collection of cases of LEISA India readers who have used the contents of the magazine. This is an outcome of a readers survey followed by an in-depth interaction with selected readers.

7. STAFF PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS

Mr. Ravindranath Reddy and Ms.Sangeeta Patil participated in a training course on Livestock, Indigenous Breeds, People's Livelihoods. The course was organised by ANTHRA with the support of CBM Network South Asia & CBM Network – India during 23-25 June 2009 at Hyderabad. CBM Network partners from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Gujarat, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka were the other participants.

Dr. J. Diraviam participated in ATMA orientation workshop for 14 districts on 9 June at Dharmapuri. He oriented the participants on ATMA Farm School methodology.

Dr. J. Diraviam shared AMEF Farm School experiences in the IV Inter Departmental Working Group Meeting for ATMA on 26 June 2009 at Chennai. The meeting was chaired by the Agricultural Production Commissioner and officials from other line departments participated in the meeting.

Mr. Srikanth, participated as a resource person in the Training on Organic Agriculture organized by ICCOA and Green Foundation at Harohalli, Bangalore on 5 June 2009.

Dr. Arun Balamatti was invited to the SERP Annual Review Meeting of Resource Agencies held at Hyderabad on 11 June 2009.

Dr. Arun Balamatti participated in the brainstorming workshop on Rethinking Rainfed Farming - Crafting an Agriculture Policy appropriate to the rainfed Areas organized by MANAGE at Hyderabad on 22-23 June 2009.

Dr. Arun Balamatti participated in the Workshop on Contract Farming, Corporate Farming or Cooperative Farming held at IAT on 27 June 2009.

Mr. KVS Prasad and Ms. TM Radha had discussions with Anja Mertinet, Rural Development Desk, Asia Department, MISEREOR, on possible collaborative activities with AME Foundation. The meeting was held at MISEREOR Office in Aachen, Germany.

Ms. TM Radha was invited as a resource person for the documentation workshop organised for the Bangladesh and Indian partners of MISEREOR. The three day workshops (4 days each) were held during 16-25 June 2009 at Mymensingh, Bangladesh and Bhubaneshwar.

Ms.Sangeeta Patil participated in the training programme on Introducing Google Notice Board in the villages. It was organized by Deshpande Foundation on 6 July 2009 at Hubli. The notice board enables farmers to share widely.

Dr.J.Diraviam, participated in the Curriculum Development Workshop for ATMA Farm School programme of Perambalur district on 14 July 2009. Farmers, DoA officials and KVK Scientists participated in the workshop.

Dr. Arun Balamatti and Ms. T M Radha were invited to a meeting organized by NABARD in Mysore on 28 July 2009. A number of NGOs participated and discussed about the possibility of partnering with NABARD in the implementation of NABARD's Natural Resource Management Programme.

Mr.M.Nagana Gouda participated in the workshop on Regenerative Agriculture, held on 22 August 2009 at BIRD-K farm, Lakkihalli. He presented a paper on 'Pests-Predators relationship'. Representatives from 8 NGOs from India and 8 from Germany also participated.

Dr.J.Diraviam presented AMEF's experiences in dryland agriculture in the Seminar on Advancing Rainfed Farming Development for achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The seminar was organized on 17 September 2009, as part of the Madurai Symposium organized by Dhan Foundation.

Ms. T M Radha was invited as a resource person for documenting the proceedings of the conference on Climate Crisis-People's Potential and Needs for adaptation and mitigation. The conference was organized by Misereor and Welthungerhilfe during 6-9 October, 2009 in New Delhi.

Mr.Mallikarjun Patil participated in a Short term Training of Facilitators (SToF) on Farmers Field School (FFS) methodology on Paddy, Ragi and Biodiversity. This event was organized by Green Foundation on 22 October - 5 December 2009 at Pyramid valley, Kanagapura Taluk.

Ms.Sangeeta Patil facilitated a Workshop on Farmers Field School (FFS) on Goat Farming which was held on 23 – 26 November 2009 at KVK Jaloor, Rajasthan.

Mr. KVS Prasad and Ms. T M Radha were invited to the ILEIA Jubilee Celebrations in The Hague on 15 December 2009. This was followed by an International Editors Meeting in Amersfoort, The Netherlands.

Mr. KVS Prasad was invited as a special witness and Dr. Dwarakinath as one of the observers in the **Farmers Jury** organised by IIED and Adarsa in Bangalore. Mr. Prasad shared about the importance of participatory technology development and including farmers as stakeholders in research.

Mr. Prasad and Ms. Sangeeta Patil were invited to a workshop on *Development Dialogue 2010*, organized by Deshpande Foundation at Hubli on 27 - 29 January 2010. Delegates included representatives of the development sector from all over the world and other partner NGOs of Deshpande Foundation.

Ms. T M Radha was invited to guide the documentation process of the *South Asia Farmers Conference – 2010*, organized by **Caritas India** at Bangalore during 9-13 February 2010.

Mr. G. Samson participated in *ATMA district level workshop* on 12 March 2010 in Tiruchi and shared the ATMA Tiruchi Farm School programme process and outcomes. Scientists from KVK and Officials from line departments participated.

Mr. Mallikarjun Patil participated in the workshop on *Chilli Export* organized by NABARD on 23 March 2010 at Chamber of Commerce, Hubli.

8. VISITORS



ICRISAT-WWF team visiting SRI plots in Savalur

Students from Latrobe University, Victoria of Australia, along with UAS faculty, visited the DBT project in Chikkaballapur on 10 April 2009 to observe the simple bio technology options and sericulture activities practiced by the farmers.

Mr. Nishith Acharya, Executive Director, Deshpande Foundation visited AMEF Bangalore on 13 May 2009 to get an understanding of AMEF's activities.

Ms. Visalakshi Natarajan, Regional Home Economist, Directorate of Extension, Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi along with the Department officials visited Farm School on SRI in Sungarahalli village on 28 June 2009. The team was impressed by the confidence of women farmers in their learning on SRI principles.

Mrs. Sabita, Deshpande Foundation, Hubli, visited Ramapur, Veerapur, Madikoppa, Kallapur, Karadikoppa, Kuradikeri, Solargoppa, Bhogenagarkoppa villages. She appreciated the processes like SRI Abhiyan and FFS for upscaling SRI.

Staff members of SRIJAN, an NGO, visited Nigadi and Murakatti village to get to know about promotion of SRI in rainfed situation. They also participated in the sowing operations to familiarize themselves on promoting SRI in their working areas.

Mr. Sudam Pawar, Programme Officer, Deshpande Foundation visited the SRI plots in Dharwad and interacted with farmers and volunteers. He appreciated the efforts put in by AMEF in the district.

Mr. T. Soundiah, IAS, District Collector, Tiruchi, visited ATMA Farm School on Sericulture at Thottium Block on 8 September 2009.

Mr. Naveen Jha, Programme Director, Deshpande Foundation visited Inamveerapur, Kardikoppa and Kurdikeri villages of Hubli and Kalaghatagi taluk. He observed NADEP method of composting, vermicomposting, azolla cultivation, home-made fertilizers, vegetable FFS plot, SRI paddy field and interacted with FFS groups members.

Ms. Lucy Maarse visited AMEF during July 28 – August 3 2009. She discussed with LEISA India team about strategic planning of the LEISA India programme.

Dr. Venkatesh Tagat, CGM, NABARD and Mr. Venkat Reddy, AGM, NABARD visited the Central Unit and discussed about possible collaborative efforts.

Mr. Narendra, Pradan visited Central Unit on September 10, 2009. He discussed with LEISA India team on the various aspects related to Knowledge Management and documentation, to be tried out in Pradan.

Auditors from ILEIA, The Netherlands, visited AMEF during 2-8 November, 2009. They appreciated the administrative and financial arrangements being followed in the LEISA India programme. They have also made useful suggestions.

Ms. Joan Mencher, Director, The Second Chance Foundation, USA visited the Central Unit on 20-22 November 2009 and discussed about potential areas of common interest.

Mr. Paul ter Weel, former RNE Head and Ms Tati gracefully extended a courtesy visit on 7 December 2009 to the Central Unit. They were invited as special guests for the Farmers Jury organized by IIED and Adarsa in Bangalore.

Ms. Shalini Kala, IDRC and Mr. Pankaj Gupta, Programme Manager, IFAD visited the Central Unit on 10-11 December 2009. They discussed with LEISA India team on issues related to Knowledge Management.

Dr TM Thiyagarajan, from WWF visited SRI fields on 9 March 2010. He interacted with the farmers of Kaveripattinam area and discussed with staff, volunteers and farmers of Ecofarming Network Partners (ENPs) from Tiruchi. He also visited Ganjigatti, Malakinakoppa, Beruvalli, Hulukoppa, Kallapura and Ramapur villages of Dharwad district on 10 – 11 March 2010. He observed the ongoing SRI activities and interacted with the farmers.

Ms Edith van Walsum, Director, ILEIA visited AMEF on 13 January 2010. LEISA India team along with Edith discussed about the opportunities, challenges and the probable strategies in strengthening and sustaining LEISA India programme.

Dr.B.D.Pawar, Director; Mr.Pradip Patil, CEO; Mr.M.K.Venugopal, Editor; Mr.Gundappa, Guest Advisor and Mr.G.Kempegowda, Assistant Marketing Manager from Centre for International Trade in Agriculture and Agro based Industries(CITA) visited the Central Unit on 4 February 2010.

Dr Prabhjot Sodhi, National Coordinator, UNDP GEF Small Grants Program, New Delhi visited AMEF on 6 February 2010. He interacted with the farmers in Magadi and discussed with AMEF team on ways of moving forward in improving the livelihoods of Magadi farmers.

Mr. Cameron, from Deshpande Foundation visited Kallapur and Inam Veerapur villages of Dharwad district. He observed the FFS conducted by farmers for preparing a case study.

Mr. Emil Kuruvilla from Deshpande Foundation visited Ramapur and Amblikoppa villages in Dharwad district. He observed SRI adoption and appreciated the innovative methods adopted by the farmers.

Dr. Nadagouda from Digital Green visited Dharwad Unit and discussed about the success of the SRI documentation and dissemination.

Dr. Mohammed Osman, Principal Scientist and Ravindrachari, Scientist, CRIDA, Dr.Balakrishna Reddy, UAS Bangalore and Dr. L G K Naidu, NBSS, UAS, Bangalore visited Bangarpet taluk on 30 March 2010. They discussed with farmers about the benefits of tank silt application.

1. STAFF

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Relief
Bangalore			
1	Arun Balamatti	Executive Director	14.11.2009
2	Prasad K V S	Chief Editor & Executive Director	-
3	Radha T M	Managing Editor-LEISA India	-
4	Joshi B V	CPO-Program Coordn	-
5	Asha R	Secretary - General	-
6	Dr. Pattanashetti M B	CPO	14.11.2009
7	Ravindranath Reddy	CPO	31.12.2009
8	Srikanth S P	CPO-Program Coordination	30.11.2009
9	Nivedita Mani	Associate CPO – Info. Specialist	21.08.2009
10	Shobha Maiya	Secretary - Information & Doc.	-
11	Vijayalakshmi S	Secretary - Accounts	-
12	Hemalatha	Secretary - Training	27.09.2009
13	Ramu K	Driver	-
14	Gopalakrishnan R	Driver	-
15	Chikkanna	Attendant	-
16	Nayarana N	Attendant	05.04.2009
17	Lalitha	Cook-cum-Cleaner	25.02.2010
18	Kantha A	Cook-cum-Cleaner	Retired on 30.11.2009

Anantapur			
19	Nagana Gowda M	Area Unit Coordinator	31.12.2009
20	Malleswara Rao S S N	APO-IFS/NRM	30.04.2009
21	Sivaramakrishnan	APO-IFS/NRM	31.12.2009
22	Raghavendra J B	Secretary-cum-Accountant	30.04.2009
23	Ramdas Reddy	Driver	31.12.2009
24	Kullayappa D C	Attendant	15.03.2010

Chintamani			
25	Joshi S N	APO-IFS/NRM	14.09.2009
26	Basavaraj B Awati	Driver	31.12.2009
27	Manjunath P Y	Attendant	31.12.2009

Dharmapuri			
28	Diraviam J	Area Unit Co-ordinator	-
29	Kuttimani R	APO-GEC	31.08.2009
30	Lalitha N	APO-IFS/NRM	29.06.2009
31	B.Kandasamy	Driver	-

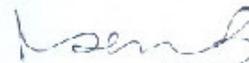
Dharwad			
32	Doni S N	Area Unit Co-ordinator	31.10.2009
33	Sangeeta R Patil	S A Team Leader	-
34	Sheshagiri L Desai	APO-IFS	24.08.2009
35	Mallikarjun R Patil	APO-IFS/NRM	-
36	Prasanna V	Secretary cum Accountant	-
37	Virupaksha Kelur	Driver	-
	Dyapur	Attendant	-

Consultants and Contractual Staff			
1	Poornima K M	CU	-
2	Ranganatha Babu	CU	-
3	Karibasappa A K	CU	-
4	Poornima	CU	-
5	Dr Krishne Gowda K T	CU	-
6	Prabhakar U S	CU	01.06.2009
7	Kumar S S	CU	07.03.2010
8	Nalini M	CU	-
9	Murthy N	CU	-
10	Manohar Badigar	Dharwad	-
11	Mayachari A	Dharwad	-
12	Nagaraj G H	Dharwad	-
13	Dr. S Y Honnannavar	Dharwad	31.03.2010
14	Prasath K	Dharmapuri	-
15	Charles V A	Dharmapuri	-
16	Samson G	Dharmapuri	-
17	Mathumalar G	Dharmapuri	-
18	Nageshwara Reddy	Anantapur	14.11.2009
19	Ramesh Kumar	Chintamani	-
20	Priyadarshini	Chintamani	31.12.2009

2. FINANCIAL MATTERS

AME FOUNDATION : BANGALORE						
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2010						
LIABILITIES	SCHE DULE	Rs.	P.	ASSETS	SCHE DULE	Rs. P.
FUNDS	1	20,921,693.37		FIXED ASSETS	3	12,221,481.84
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	2			CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	4	
Sundry Creditors				Cash on Hand		10,000.00
- For Expenses		91,686.00		Cash at Banks		15,493,033.08
- For Others		260,000.00		Deposits		94,930.00
- Unutilised Grants		7,577,987.57		Advances		1,297,821.02
Provisions		265,899.00				
		<u>29,117,265.94</u>				<u>29,117,265.94</u>


CHAIRMAN


TREASURER

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

PLACE : Bangalore
DATE : 21.04.2010




M.S. Rajagopal
Partner
M.No.020244
Firm No.003024S

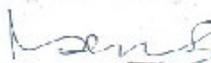
AME FOUNDATION : BANGALORE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

EXPENDITURE	Rs.	P.	INCOME	Rs.	P.
To Support to NGO & Network for SA	503,308.00		By Grants Utilised	10,648,775.47	
* Capacity Building of NGO	1,675,982.00		" Donations	145,806.00	
* Input for SA Promotion	947,552.00		" Sale of Books	15,116.00	
* Capacity Building of Farmers	63,883.00		" Educational Training / Resource Fee	3,157,416.57	
* Internal Capacity Building	279,676.00		" Reimbursement		
* Workshop/Training Others	37,457.00		- Programme Expenses	43,857.00	
* Training Leisa Specialist	100,633.00		" Rent Received	369,369.00	
* Printing of Journals	177,858.00		" Miscellaneous Income	27,882.00	
* Magazine Expenses (Leisa)	1,574,773.00		" Interest from Bank	393,641.66	
* Salaries & Provident Fund	6,408,598.00		" Depreciation / Sale of Asset - withdrawn from Capital Fund	862,659.20	
* Travelling Expenses	987,253.53		" Excess of Expenditure Over Income for the year	1,020,725.89	
* Communication Expenses	177,188.00				
* Postage & Courier	87,412.00				
* Rent, Electricity, Insurance & Water Charges	325,524.00				
* Publication / Manuals / Video	72,472.00				
* Consultancy Fee	1,234,675.00				
* Meeting Expenses	74,371.00				
* Payment to Auditors	91,150.00				
* Security Charges	165,545.00				
To Repairs & Maintenance					
- Vehicles	351,042.00				
- Equipment, Computer & other Asse	147,885.00				
* Office Expenses	211,195.99				
* Property Tax	111,259.00				
* Bank Charges	10,046.07				
* Rates & Taxes	5,851.00				
* Depreciation	862,659.20				
	<u>16,685,248.79</u>			<u>16,685,248.79</u>	

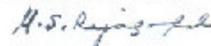


CHAIRMAN



TREASURER

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



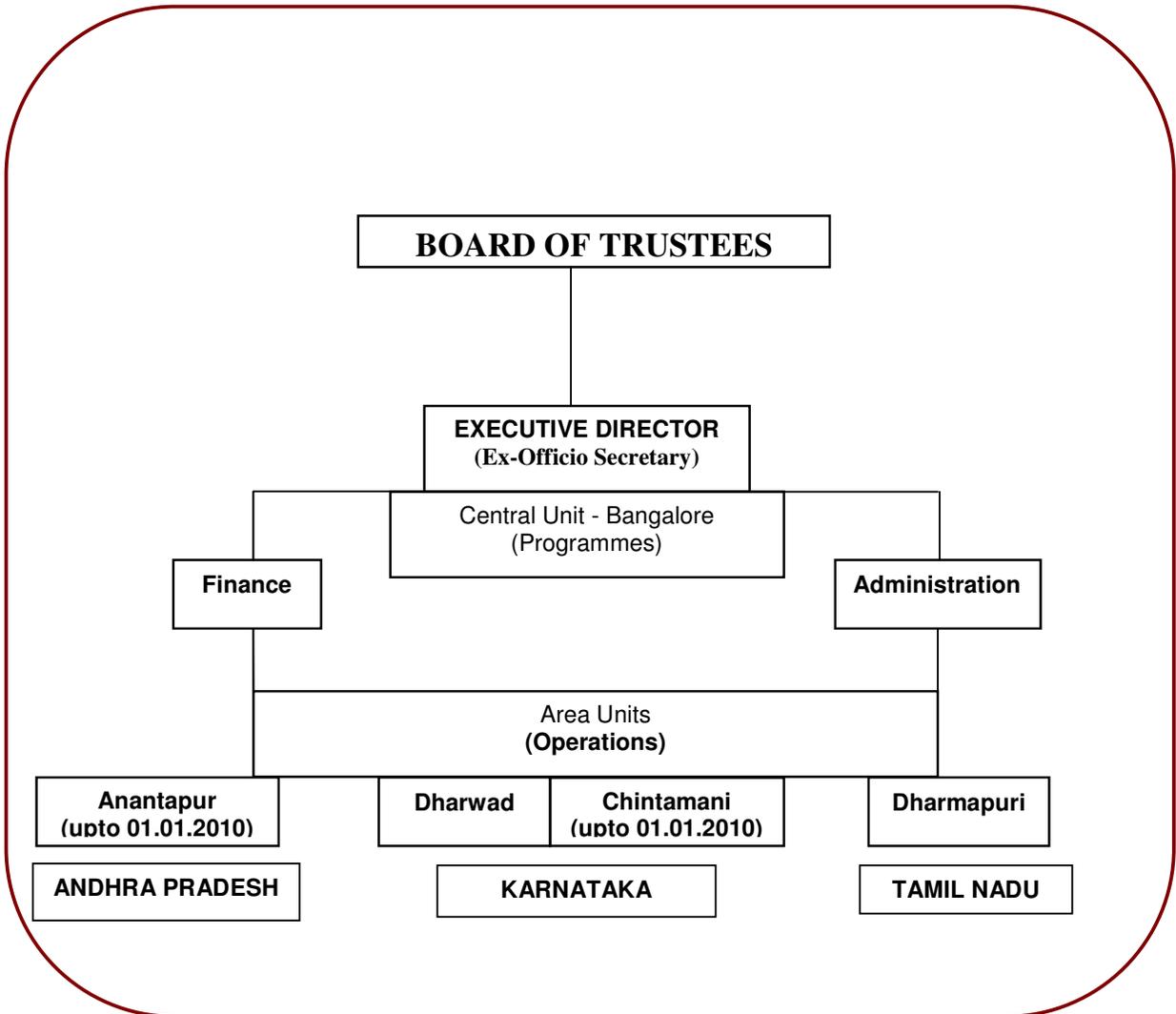
M.S. Rajagopal
Partner

M.No.020244
Firm No.003024S

PLACE : Bangalore
DATE : 21.04.2010



3. ORGANOGRAM OF AME FOUNDATION



4. 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@viasbg01.vsnl.net.in; amefbang@amefound.org / amefbang@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.amefound.org

Area Units

ANANTAPUR (upto 01.01.2010)

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

CHINTAMANI (upto 01.01.2010)

Brindavan Nilaya
Prabhakar Layout
Chintamani 563 125
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

DHARWAD

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

5. 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 – Until 14.11.2009
Executive Director, MYRADA, Bangalore

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 – Until 24.08.2009
Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore

Dr. N. K. Sanghi
Adviser - Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN)

Dr. Lalitha Iyer – Until 29.03.2011
Senior Consultant
M/s Thinksoft Consultants Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad

Dr. N. G. Hegde
Trustee and Principal Adviser
BAIF Development Research Foundation

Dr. V. N. Salimath
Managing Trustee
Initiatives for Development Foundation (IDF), Bangalore

Dr. Arun Balamatti, Secretary – Until 14.11.2009
Executive Director

Shri Prasad K V S, Secretary – 14.11.2009 onwards
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.