

2020-21 Annual Report



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AMEF FOUNDATION

BELIEVES IN

"HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES"

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

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

Does AMEF create something out of nothing? Hardly the case. Adopting the Participatory Technology Development (PTD) and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approaches, AMEF teams up with responsive farmers groups, interested NGOs

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AME Foundation – Genesis and Focus

Agriculture sector, the primary source of livelihoods for nearly 67% of the population in India is displaying a sluggish growth. Smallholders constitute the farming majority (around 70%). More than 60% of them are rain fed farmers. It is reckoned that in future, bulk of the food needs of the nation has to come from rainfed areas, as the irrigated areas have almost neared their peak, while the scope for further increase of irrigation is negligible. Today, we are left with depleted farmlands, degraded farm environment and demotivated farm population who have nowhere else to go.

Farmlands, under cultivation for generations, are getting depleted of their finer soil fractions, fertility and water holding capacity. Further, the degradation of the farm environment is aggravating the situation. Farming in regions like Deccan Plateau of Southern India with low and uncertain rainfall conditions is increasingly becoming unviable with inappropriate land-use practices and depleted vegetation. Challenges to feed and to fulfill the needs of a growing population in a sustainable way require a better and more comprehensive insight into ecologically sound crop production processes, especially in fragile environments of resource poor areas of the Deccan Plateau. While the development programmes focus on a small section of elite, frontline farmers who are able to cope with the changes around them, the majority of small holders who are risk shy have nowhere else to go. AMEF focuses on building capacities of these farming majority to deal with their own situations better.

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

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 farming groups through experiential learning methods:

AMEF has a firm conviction and believes that farming is what a farmer does. Therefore, if durable changes in farming are intended, it is necessary that, the farmers' perception is widened, insights deepened, attitudes modified and managerial abilities are upgraded. Therefore **human resource development** is the key. AMEF specializes in participatory and empowering education processes like Farmer Field Schools to guide farming communities.

4. Focus on building capacities of RuralYouth as Sustainable Agriculture Promoters:

For the large and still growing rural population, agriculture still remains a major means of livelihood. For sustainable rural development, building the capacities of the rural youth to gainfully practice farming as well as guide their own farming communities is crucial. It enables **rural youth** to gain confidence in handling their resources better, get better returns as well as help them to get better social recognition which is so necessary for them to remain in villages.

5. Building NGO network: For scaling up of eco-friendly initiatives, AMEF interacts and strengthens the NGO networks involved in the land-based activities. By using training situations created in the cluster villages, capacity building of partner NGOs forms the major portion of AMEF's work.

6. Developing institutional linkages:

AMEF seeks to build linkages with state, national, international research and development organizations to harness the technologies and methodologies for accessing information and involve such agencies to move towards participatory research and development approaches.

7. Information sharing strategies:

Documentation and dissemination on technology and methodology of ecological agriculture form an important responsibility of AMEF. It brings out manuals, guidelines, workshop proceedings, working papers, case studies etc.

8. 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 also works on enhancing the capacities of NGOs and others in documenting and disseminating experiences on sustainable agriculture.

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

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

AREAS OF OPERATION

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

THE PROGRAMMES

The major projects implemented included:

- Improving small farmer livelihoods in rain fed areas through climate resilient farming practices – *supported by Supraja Foundation*
- LEISA India programme – *supported by MISEREOR.& SWEDBio*

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



FFS participant counting number of tillers for yield estimation

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

The project aims at promoting resilient sustainable farming systems through better natural resources management and enhanced crop biodiversity. The focus is on improved farm incomes through diversity and reduced costs of cultivation; guiding farming communities through empowering educational processes like Farmers Field Schools; organizing farmer collectives for sharing resources, facilities as well as creation of new enterprises. The project is promoting climate resilient agricultural practices in 60 villages, (20 each from 3 regions of Dharwad, Kolar Districts in Karnataka State and Dharmapuri District in Tamil Nadu), since December 2017.

Overall, it was most challenging in terms of doing our work using new protocols owing to COVID pandemic. Truly, it was a great display of AMEF team work and resilience to contribute in difficult times. Our Team Leaders at Field Units have done excellent coordination with Field coordinators, SAPs and trained farmers and potential BOD representatives. The period involved mobilising group requirements for inputs and linking markets, FPO papers preparation for registration, developing new protocols for group learning through use of social distancing, masks and sanitisers. Farmers having smart phones were identified and whatsapp groups were formed. Also, video instructions were done by Team Leaders where they couldn't move. Also, AMEF contributed to building COVID Safety awareness as well as philanthropic support to farmer groups.

a) Farmer Field Schools

Farmer Field schools were initiated in all the project areas during April to June 2020.

Dharmapuri

FFS sessions were initiated in 15 villages, primarily in Groundnut based cropping system. In each village, 2 sessions were completed till May 2020. These sessions concentrated on sub grouping, collaborator finalization, pre ballot exercise, FFS introduction, crop planning, soil and water conservation practices covering the importance of summer Ploughing, ploughing across the slope, land preparation with bunds and trenches for rain water harvesting, summer cropping etc. The sessions were conducted while following new protocols of social distancing and wearing of masks. In the month of June 2020, in all the 15 villages, 2 additional FFS sessions were conducted dealing with AESA in Groundnut cropping systems, soil sampling, erosion studies, use of enriched FYM, collective input and market mechanisms.

South-West monsoon was active during the period of July to September 2020. Most of the farmers have taken up groundnut sowing in time. While the crop performance during reporting period was found to be good across villages, the excess rainfall in some parts resulted in more vegetative growth. Dry spells in certain areas coincided with flowering and peg formation stages but yield parameters were not affected. Due to LEISA practices adopted, the soil moisture retention being higher helped in increased plant vigour and stand. During July to September 2020, 8 sessions were completed. The sessions were on soil and water conservation, soil fertility management, crops and cropping systems, IPM measures, allied farm enterprises etc. By end of September, crop is at maturity phase. Sample harvest, post harvest measures and low key field day sharing event were planned.

During October 2020, FFS included harvest and post harvest measures, the field day preparatory work etc. The final FFS session was conducted in all the 15 villages that covered the topics, such as, post harvest operation for groundnut, samai, and ragi crops; possible value addition option and the importance of cleaning and grading harvested produce for better market price; second crop planning as special topic; Importance of collective marketing opportunities.

FFS during 2020-21

Area Unit	No. of FFS	No. of villages	List of villages	No. of villages	List of villages
Dharmapuri	15	15 (Gnut based cropping system)	Kodiyalli, Poocharampatti, K.Agraharam, Jakkampatti, Nayakanur, Kalapambadi Sinnampalli, Arakasanahalli, Erapatti, RR Alli, Elavathumail, K.Kullathirampati, Koothapadi, Muthukampatti, Karungalmedu		
Dharwad	15	12 (Soybean cropping system)	Amblikoppa, Kalasanakoppa, Kannenayakanakoppa, G.Basavanakoppa Devaragudihal, Parasapur, Rayanal, Thimmasagar, Channapur, Muktinagar, Ramapur and Chavaragudda	3 (Maize cropping system)	Murakatti, Lalagatti, Devagiri
Chintamani	15	9 (Ragi based cropping system)	Devapalli, Musturupatna, Gunturgadde, Guttapalya, Gownicheruvupalli, Kondenakapalli, Thummalahalli, K.Raguttahalli, Y.Kurapalli	6 (Gnut based Cropping system)	Chintapalli, Venkatarayanakote, Yenigadale, Tuluvunuru, Desamvarahalli, Salamakalahalli,

Dharwad

Season long FFS sessions were initiated in 15 villages, namely, Amblikoppa, Kalasanakoppa, Kannenayakanakoppa, G.Basavanakoppa Devaragudihal, Parasapur, Rayanal, Thimmasagar, Channapur, Muktinagar, Ramapur and Chavaragudda villages in Soyabean based cropping system (Border crop Navane/Niger, Intercrop- Cow pea, Black Gram, Green Gram, Navane). In Murakatti, Lalagatti and Devagiri villages, Maize based cropping systems (Border crop – Navane /Niger, Intercrop Cowpea) were initiated. In each village 3 sessions were completed till May 2020, which included preparatory activities like, summer ploughing, soil and water conservation, collaborator farmer and field selection, seed selection, seed germination, seed treatment with bio-fertilizers. In June 2020 alone, in Soyabean based cropping system, additional 2-3 sessions were completed in all the villages. Similarly, in maize based cropping systems, 4 additional sessions were completed primarily dealing with sowing, water holding capacity experimentation, germination comparisons, and weed management.

During July to September 2020, 2 FFS on soyabean cropping system and 3 FFS on Maize cropping system continued. Eight sessions were conducted in July and August and 2 sessions, during September. The topical diversity was as follows: preparation of Bio-insecticides namely Neem extract and Dhasaparani (10 plant extracts); preparation of solution for control of army worm in maize crop; panchagavya preparation and foliar application to the crops; awareness programme showing

difference between harmful and beneficial practices; income generation through integrating agriculture and allied activities; marketing of farm produce through groups; methods of planting Glyricidia green manure plants on the bunds; motivating farmers to take up horticulture crops viz, mango, cashew and vegetables namely brinjal, chilli and other; Pre BBE –clarification; value assessment and marketability; preparation for conducting field day of maize and soyabean crops; formation of Farmer Producer Company; tips for the harvesting of maize and soya beancrops which are in progress, observing quantity and quality of the produce; marketability of produce through FPC and collection of shares.

While initially, the crop growth was good, however, by end of August, because of heavy rain, soyabean crop was damaged. Farmers have also harvested the intercrops, primarily for own consumption, crops namely cowpea, blackgram and Niger. Glyricidia planting on borders of the field increased the production of green manure crop. In case of Maize, the crop health was good during the period as not much incidence of the pest and disease was seen. Majority of farmers harvested Soybean crop and put up heaps in elevated place for drying.

Chintamani

The unit started working in 15 villages and FFS initiated. Groundnut crop was selected in 6 villages and three sessions were completed which included soil and water conservation practices, Summer Ploughing, ploughing across slope, land preparation with bunds and trenches, seed selection and germination tests, sowing methods, trap crops, importance and use of biofertilisers. Ragi cropping system was selected in 9 villages and one session was completed in 9 villages, primarily on Pre BBE and sub group formation

During July to September 2020, 3 FFS sessions in each of fifteen villages were completed. Topics covered were AESA for Ragi and Groundnut production, preparation of Panchagavya, Jeevamrutham, E-FYM preparation, Weed management with Cycle weeders, Composting Methods, Azolla production, discussion about Fodder varieties, Redgram bud nipping, NSKE preparation, Preparation of Yellow and blue sticky traps with local availability materials, Kitchen gardening and discussion about crop predators and pests. Long Term experiments were conducted on Groundnut varietal trials. Three varieties were grown such as K-6, GKVK 27 and G252 and observations were made by the farmers. GKVK 27 variety indicated better performance than other two with respect to the root growth, typical colour of the leaves and flowers. It was observed that, leaf spot disease is very high in K-6 compared to G252 and GKVK 27.

During October–December 2020, 5 FFS sessions in each village were organized. Thus a total of 16 sessions were completed in each village up to November end. The topics covered were: Follow up of azolla production; Fodder varieties cultivation and transplanting; NSKE preparation and spraying; Kitchen gardening; Harvesting and yield analysis of Groundnut, Ragi, Cowpea and Redgram; Storage techniques, value addition on ragi and groundnut; Strengthening seed initiatives, mushroom cultivation and organization of field days.

b) Modular Training Events

Modular Training Events were initiated during April to June 2020 amid lockdowns and strict covid protocols hampering the progress.

In **Dharmapuri**, Modular training events were conducted with around 300 farmers from 10 villages. The topics covered included, crops and cropping systems, IPM measures, allied enterprises, NSKE and panchagavya preparations. MT participants were encouraged to observe the FFS plots and the progress of various activities covered in their sessions.

While in **Dharwad**, modular trainings were conducted in each of the 10 villages covering two modules and approximately 300 farmers were trained. The main topics covered were: integrated pest and disease management; use of pheromone traps; collection of shares; preparation of bio-insecticides- Neem extract and Dashaparani (10 plant extracts); spray on army worm in maize crop; Panchagavya preparation and foliar application to the crops.

In **Chintamani**, Modular training events were conducted in each of the 10 villages and approximately 400 farmers were trained. The main topics covered were Soil and water conservation, seed treatment with bio fertilisers, mixed cropping systems, Redgram bud nipping, role of Micronutrients, sticky and trap crops and Kitchen gardening. Smart phones and whatasppp groups were used. During October to December 2020, 20 Modular trainings were conducted on the following topics: Kitchen gardens, Azolla cultivation, Post harvest techniques and Mushroomcultivations. Five farmers have started azolla cultivation, post the training and 15 farmers havestarted mushroom cultivation with one bed maintained by each farmer.

c) Input Mobilisation

Dharmapuri Area Unit coordinated input mobilization for project villages as follows: Seed Groundnut, 1330 Kg, Ragi 280 kg; Biofertilizers - Azospirillum 60 kg, Rhizobium 60 kg, Phosphobacteria 60 kg, Trichoderma 60 kg; Manure 20 tons, Panchagavya 2000 litres. In **Dharwad**, Seeds of Soyabean, Maize, Cowpea, Blackgram, Greengram, Same & Navane; Bio fertilizers - Rhizobium, Azospirillum, PSB and Trichoderma, were mobilized. The quantities of seeds mobilized include – Maize -10000kg; Soyabean - 36000 kg; Bio fertilizers - Azospirillum 240 kg, Rhizobium 160 kg, PSB 400 kg and Trichoderma 400 kg. The indent was through participatory meetings with EFG members in project villages. In Chintamani too, input mobilization of seed, biofertilizers required was completed.

d) Specific crop based interventions and yields

Chintamani

Crop and cropping systems: 300 FFS farmers have cultivated mixed cropping system in their respective fields. Out of which 120 farmers are Groundnut based cropping (8-10 rows of groundnut, after that 2 rows of Redgram mixed with cowpea, in between two rows opening of a conservation furrow and as a border crop 2 row of Prosomillet followed by Jowar 4 rows, then 1 row of cowpea). This has given effective mechanism for predators development and prevention of main crop being attacked. In Ragi cropping system, implemented by 180 farmers the practice is cultivating 10-12 rows of ragi , followed by 1 row of field bean and Jowar 4 rows and 1 row of cowpea as border crop. This is enabling suitable ecosystem for building the population of predators and pararsites in the field.

Millets cropping system: Focus was on knowledge sharing and on growing of millets. Importance of nutrition was explained, which resulted in area of millet cultivation increasing. The following millets were cultivated by the farmers after AMEF facilitated farmers to get quality millet seeds; little millet (Same) by 71 farmers in 46 acres, Foxtail millet (Navane) by 43 farmers in 24.5 acres and

Prosomillet (Haraka) by 26 members in 32ac. in the project area.

Ragi Staggered nursery and Guni method: 73 farmers are following this method during this year that is 1.5 kg of ragi in each bed. With timely receipt of rains, the farmers transplanted the nursery seedlings and 9 farmers in 5acs have adopted this method in this season in Yenigadale cluster.

In Chintamani, in each village, farmers have focused on Red gram bud nipping. Observations were done on few tagged plants every 15 days. Farmers got very excited with the positive results. Results will be concluded by end of October.

Dharmapuri

Bud nipping in redgram: Bud nipping i.e. removal of terminal buds to activate lateral buds for more branches was done in red gram plants of FFS plots involving sub groups. The group members used the knife to remove the apical buds of plants. While it was done at 60- 65 days old red gram plants, the lateral buds 4-6 branches started emerging within 6-8 days after the bud nipping operation. It was great learning that the FFS participants expressed during the feedback session. This covered all the FFS plots in all 15 villages during the session and the observation continued.

Conservation furrows: Farmers were guided on the importance of conservation furrows in the FFS in groundnut farming systems. 58 farmers have opened conservation furrows between two lines of Red gram to conserve soil moisture.

e) Crop Yields

The crop yields in Groundnut, Ragi, Redgram are as follows in various areas. The average yields in Chintamani area are presented below.

Average Yields (in Kgs) of Ground Nut per acre - Chintamani

GN variety	FFS plot	Control	Trial plot
K6	458	390	480
K9	-	-	510
G2 52	-	-	430
GKVK 27	-	-	350

Note: FFS and Control plot yields are average of 6 collaborators while varietal trial yields are average of 4 plots

Average yields (in Kgs) of Ragi per acre

Ragi variety	FFS plot	Control plot	Transplanting	Guni method
GPU 28	930	670	1220	
Indof 8	0	0	0	2450

Note: In FFS plot, line sowing and Transplanting from staggered nursery was followed while in control plot it was broadcasting. The average yields in FFS and control plots is from 8 plots while the Guni method was taken from one farmer.

Redgram Bud nipping study (BRG1 variety) (in Chintamani)

Plant parameters (per Plant)	Treated Bud nipping	Non Treated	Difference
Plant Height (Cms)	115.3	162.5	-47.2

Branches	17.1	16	1.1
Sub-branches	33.4	4.1	29.3
Stem (Cms)	8	4.8	3.2
Yields (Grms)	126.6	51.6	75

In Dharmapuri, during October –December 2020, the monsoon (North-East) rainfall occurred all over Tamil Nadu that benefitted field crops of project villages during various stages of its growth and the yields were found to be better than previous years. However, on the other hand the same monsoon rain supposed to end by November extended till December (which is unusual phenomenon) affecting the harvest and post harvest operations of both main and intercrops.

The main crop yield of groundnut in FFS plot was observed to be better that ranged 300-417 kgs (from 0.5 acre) and in case of control plot it was 270-340. This yield difference was due to the LEISA practices right from soil fertility improvement to diversified cropping system as well as better seed varieties. Similarly, in case of samai the harvest in FFS field was 310-420kgs (from 0.5 acre), the same in control plot was 145-280kgs/0.5acre. This was due to the improved high yielding variety Paiyur-1 arranged through 'seed initiative' from Paiyur research station of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. In case of Ragi, the yield was 480-860kgs in FFS plot and the same in control plot was 295-480kgs. The improved yields were owing to better varieties and ecological farm practices.

Table 1: Average crop yields collected from 300 farmers from 15 villages (kgs/0.5 acre):

Main crops yield (kgs/0.5ac)						Inter crop		2 nd crop	
Groundnut		Samai		Ragi		Redgram		Horse gram	
FFS	Cont.	FFS	Cont.	FFS	Cont.	FFS	Cont.	FFS	Cont.
300-417	270-340	310-420	145-280	480-860	295-480kgs	110	94	255	215

Monsoon being favourable, after the harvest of samai crops, **the second crop of horse gram** was sown by more than 80% farmers. In redgram, bud nipping produced 4-6 branches more from every nipped point. Thus, a plant could produce total braches of 165/plant with yield of 110kgs per 0.5 acre in comparison to unnipped plants which produced 110 branches and 94kgs yield from 0.5 acre under intercrop situation.

f) Linkages

In Dharwad, discussions were held as part of business plans with Shri Shenoy of ADM Company. Subsequently Shri Shenoy of ADM visited AMEF Bangalore before COVIDcrisis happened. Major Points of discussions were regarding ADM's concept note on a PPP mode on a rigorous organic production model with 500 farmers probably with State Government. Subsequently, a concept note prepared by ADM Agro for organic production and marketing was examined by AMEF team with regard to technical feasibility as well as financial viability. Lots of risks were identified and communicated, particularly, the sole dependence on Government support for funding, very low staff costs support to AMEF, complex international standard expectations of organically certified quality of produce, the pre defined curricula for training farmers with fixed input doses. This was in total

contrast to AMEF training methods of empowering farmers – with minimum scope for AMEF intervention coupled with huge farmer contribution expectations (50% of the budget).

In Chintamani, in Yenigadale village, our Chintamani EFG farmers (5 members) have constructed silage tanks (L W D 08*05*06 Feet) with support of KMF. For each silage tank construction, KMF supported Rs 15000 (50% costs of Construction) per tank, totalling Rs.75000/-.

In Chinthamani, ninety three farmers have adopted Trench cum bunding in 234 acres from NREGS programme (estimates 15000/acre). Twenty eight farm ponds were constructed in our project area from NREGS programme (cost estimates RS 24000/acre).

In Chintamani, one hundred thirty trees (Tamarind trees) were planted in 12 acres at Guntturgadde village, mobilised from NREGS program (estimates Rs 24000/acre). However, potential cost estimates of NREGS programme vis a vis water conservation structures in project villages and also the benefits accruing to the ecosystem and farming communities has not been estimated.

g) Sharing Events

In Dharwad, field Days were organized in Hubli & Dharwad taluks. Field days were conducted in the following clusters on the following dates – 25.11.2020 at Dharwad Cluster; on 27.11.2020 at Devarahubbli cluster; On 29.11.2020 in Hubli Cluster and on 30.11.2020 at Parasapur cluster.

In Chintamani, 6 Groundnut and 9 Ragi Field days were organized where trained farmers shared their experience to other farmers. Many farmers were very keen on the knowing about redgram bud nipping results, performance of Ground nut varieties, FFS methods, biological preparations, ragi Guni method, straggled nurseries, cycle weeders, kitchen gardening and seed initiatives.

In Dharmapuri, the field days were conducted on various days depicting the trials, experiments and successful results. The FFS-AESA charts were displayed. The exhibits showcased germination tests, water holding capacity, various seed varieties, fodder crops, allied activities such as poultry, biologicals, azolla etc. A total of 920 participants from 15 villages participated in these events.

h) Seed Initiatives

Dharmapuri

During April to June 2020, collection of seeds was in progress such as better performing seed varieties - Ragi GPU-28, Samai (Paiyur 2) and Redgram (Co6). The chosen seed varieties of Ragi GPU-28, Samai (Paiyur 2) got well established. While the Ragi GPU-28 was given to 113 farmers and covering 56.5 acres, the Samai (Paiyur-2) was given to 65 farmers and covering 32.5 acres in 15 villages for multiplication during the current season. The growth parameters were compared and the observations are presented below.

Plant growth parameters	FFS plots	Control plots
Ragi (Finger millet)	Variety – (GPU-28)	Local variety

Plant height	170-180cm	90-120cm
No. of tillers	9-15 tillers	4-6 tillers
Samai (Little millet)		
Plant height	120-130cm	90-100cm
No. of tillers	7-15 tillers	7-9 tillers

Dharwad

Soyabean seed multiplication did not happen as planned with harvest lost in the rains. With regard to millets, seeds were obtained from UAS Dharwad. Around 150 Kgs of Same and Navane seeds were given to farmers for multiplication. Farmers returned double the quantity back to seed collectives which were established in Muktinagar (Kalpataru Seed collective) @ Hubli cluster and Kannenaykanakoppa (Sanjeevini seed collective) @ Dharwad cluster villages,. Millet seeds were given to 600 farmers as inter & border crop in kharif season for further multiplication.

Chintamani

Three seed committees were formed in 3 clusters. Seed storage bins were mobilised for easy storage by respective seed collectives. (100 kg 3 bins and 50 kg 4 bins in each seed initiatives). 3 initiatives have 9 types of seeds namely Ground nut, Ragi, Lab lab, Jower, Same, Haraka, Navane, Cowpea and Red gram.

Particulars (seed quantities in kgs)	Venktrayanakote seed initiative	Yenigadale seed initiative	Guntturgadde seed initiative
Year of starting	2019	2019	2019
Initial stock	33	20	80
No. of farmers Benefitted	21	14	22
Seed stocks returned -2019	65	34	122
New Seed provided – 2020 by AMEF	100	100	80
Total seed stock	165	134	202
Farmers benefitted in Kharif 2020	61	57	45
Expected returns	330	268	300
Returns till Dec 2020	60	110	120

i) **Collective production of Biologicals/Traps**

In Chintamani, team has facilitated preparation of NSKE, Jeevamrutha and Panchagavya in FFS and MT groups. Initially farmers have used it on their own farms, then observed the results in cluster and village levels. AMEF promoted use of hand sprayers for 5 EFGS in 5 villages. They were given on rent by the EFG who were paid Rs 50 for one day. Till now 37 farmers have used and paid rent to EFG groups. (37*50=1850). Phospobacteria @0.5 lit was sprayed by each of the 300 farmers during peg formation stage of groundnut crop. Farmers learnt Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) bio pesticide preparation at household level which was utilized in groundnut, red gram, avarai (lab lab) etc. to control insect pests. Thus, 300 farmers learnt and benefitted from application of

biologicals. Also, some farmers observed reduced pod damage in redgram and flower cutting. They felt deeply satisfied with the results of use of NSKE. Also, 15 FFS collaborator farmers have prepared E-FYM in 15 villages. Other FFS farmers have observed the preparation and positive effects.

In Dharmapuri, Panchagavya preparation was done at all the four clusters and provided to the FFS and MT farmers and farmers in turn utilized it for the groundnut crop, red gram, and ragi and samai crops. A total 1000 liters of Panchagavya was prepared and provided to 300 families 3-4liters. Liquid forms of *Pseudomonas* and *Phosphobacteria* @0.5 liter was sprayed by each 300 farmers during peg formation stage of groundnut crop. People were taught on Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE), bio pesticides' preparation at household level which was utilized for groundnut, red gram, field bean (lab lab) etc.

In Dharmapuri, Non-chemical way of traps such as Yellow sticky traps were prepared by FFS group members during FFS session utilizing waste materials such as coconut shell, used bottles, broken pots etc.. Each member installed a minimum of 10 traps per 0.5 acre smeared with castor oil as sticking agent. In total, 3000 traps were installed in 300 acres. These traps attracted sucking pests of aphids, whiteflies, thrips etc. Utilization of biologicals and yellow sticky traps helped farmers to save an amount of Rs. 800-1100 by avoiding two rounds of pesticide chemical sprays.

j) Allied activities

Kitchen gardening

In Chintamani, during July to September 2020, discussions were held with women farmers on importance of Kitchen gardens. They agreed to grow fresh vegetables through non chemical methods to meet house hold nutritional requirements. They were interested in growing 9 varieties of vegetables in their back yards. Also they wanted to grow flowers and medicinal plants in gardens. In the project area, traditional vegetable seeds namely Chilli, Brinjal, Polebeans, Ridgegourd, Bittergourd, Ladyfinger, Palak, Amaranthus and Pumpkins were in demand. Thus, farmers have sown 4 types of leafy vegetables and 8 types of vegetables in their back yard. Around 100 Leafy curry, Drumstick and lemon trees were planted as part of kitchen gardens.

In Dharmapuri, farmers were advised to go in for establishing kitchen garden comprising 14 types of vegetables, namely, tomato, brinjal, 4 types of greens, chilly, cluster bean, bhendi, ridge gourd, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, snake gourd across project villages. In total, 300 farmers have established kitchen gardens in their back yards. During September to December 2020, each family could harvest on an average Pumpkin 50 to 50kgs, bottle gourd 25-50kgs, Chilles 1kg, Brinjal 2kg, Tomato 2kg, Bhendi 3-4kgs, lab lab 3kg, ridge gourd 15kg, cluster beans 8-10kgs. Thus, farm families could avoid purchasing vegetables from outside and fulfilled their nutrition requirements besides avoiding expenses to the tune of Rs.1500-2400/family.

Fodder/azolla cultivation

In Chintamani, Mr. Chandrashekar Reddy, farmer, cultivated 4 types of fodder varieties like Co-4, Stylo hameta, Super Napier and Rhodes in half acre. He shared the produce with 33 other farmers in surrounding villages

In Dharwad, during July to Sept 2020, demo plots for fodder cultivation variety (NB 21) Napier grass, were organized in Devarhubbali and Holikote villages. The activity included raising awareness on Lumpy skin disease (viral disease) infection in livestock, viz, cows and buffalos, as it's incidence was noticed. Farmers were advised appropriate measures.

In Dharmapuri, during July to Sept 2020, azolla cultivation was newly initiated with 30 farmers.

Pisciculture

In Chintamani, as there were good rains, Musturupatna village farmers got interested in Pisciculture in village tanks. After discussions with all EFG farmers, 10000 fingerlings were released in the village tank called Mavina Kere- primarily, two types of fish, namely CC and Cutla with following investments. (CC - $2000 \times \text{Rs } 1.40 = \text{Rs } 2800$) and Cutla ($8000 \times 0.90 = 7200$). Healthy growth was noticed with them weighing around 500 to 750 grams.

Neem seed storage

The Chintamani team has given awareness on Neem seed collection and its uses in Yenigadale cluster. Twenty seven farmers collected 820 kgs of Neem seeds out of which 550 kgs of seeds were sold at Rs. 40 per kg and stored 270 kgs at home for taking up plant protection foliar sprays. Totally they earned $820 \times 40 = \text{Rs } 32800$. Farmers have realised the importance of Neem seeds and farmers have decided to collect and store neem seeds for future season too.

Ragi Malt preparation

In Guntturgadde village, 15 EFG farmers have got trained on ragi malt preparation. They are regularly preparing ragi malt for their own consumption. At present 35 members in Guntturgadde and Yerraihgarahalli village farmers are doing the same for home consumption. Approximately, they have prepared 5kg in three months.

Back Yard Poultry (BYP) program

In Dharmapuri, each family was given @2chicks/family covering 300 families. The poultry birds (60-70%) started yielding eggs of 9-11per bird during the reporting period.

Training on Mushroom production

In Dharmapuri, during September to December 2020, mushroom production training (at low volume scale) was initiated at house hold level. All the 300 farm families in 15 villages were covered. Accordingly, each group was involved in hands on training in paddy straw boiling and disinfectant process, preparing mushroom bags, using mushroom spawn to seed the beds at different layers and keeping them in safe racks with perforations made in poly bags. The training was completed in mid November and the mushroom yield started in mid-December. Each trained family prepared two bags of mushroom beds and could harvest 4-6 kgs of mushroom for their own consumption.

Distribution of Saplings

In Dharwad, 1500 coconut saplings were distributed to 750 farmers. Fifty percent of the seedling cost was contributed by farmers. Glyricidea planting on borders was promoted to increase the production of green manure and biomass.

k) Farmer Institutionalisation processes

After the Institutionalisation process was decided to be fast tracked, the main focus was on fulfilling registration requirements, business plan approaches by groups and potential marketing links. Common formalities like AOA and MOA were pursued with all the areas (Dharwad, Dharmapuri and Chintamani) while area specific processes and formalities were pursued with the guidance of Robens and Chartered Accountant. All the paperwork related to FPOs was followed up and the process was fast tracked in Dharwad and Dharmapuri. With Dharwad as the first experience, common formalities like AOA and MOA were pursued with all the areas while area specific processes and formalities were pursued.

FPO in Dharwad

In Dharwad, during April to June 2020, the team continued to interact with EFGs with regard to process, ownership and share amounts with the groups. Village level meeting of EFG representatives (2 members/group) was conducted in 19 villages. Majority of the farmers agreed to give share amount Rs.500/person. Suspense account was opened in Canara Bank Dharwad to deposit the share amount.

Farmers certificate from respective village accountants and account statements from respective banks were collected and sent to CA. The documents were submitted to the ROC. The collected share amount is Rs. 1,80,000.00 and membership fee is Rs. 36,000.00, collected from 360 farmers.

During July to September 2020, a lot of progress was made. Subsequently, in July 2020, the registration process was completed in Dharwad. **In Dharwad, ULAVI CHANNABASAVESHWAR FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED** was successfully registered on 9th July -2020 and received registration certificate bearing even number CIN:U01110KA2020PTC135754. FPC Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was conducted on 31/08/2020. The agenda included, opening of Bank accounts and authorization given jointly to Mr. Channabasanagouda Patil and Mr. Shivalingayya Hiremath for carrying out transactions.

The First **Annual General body meeting (AGM)** was conducted on 25/09/2020; The following agenda was discussed and decisions taken regarding the following:

- a) *Appointment of auditor* - Mr. Hemant Kumar has been appointed as an auditor for a period of one year
- b) *Incurring expenses for company Registration* - AMEF incurred Rs.109690 towards registration and other expenses
- c) *Appointment of CEO*: Mr. Prasanna was appointed as Company CEO on temporary basis.
- d) *Election of BODs* - Elected 5 numbers of Board of Directors namely Mr. Channabasanagouda V Patil, Ramappa B Ghatn, Shivalingayya C Hiremath, Ramappa Nadur and Malleshappa M Veerapur. Mr. Channabasanagouda V Patil was unanimously elected as Chairman of the company

During October to December 2020, the focus of discussions was on opening office and purchasing furniture, forging linkages with different stakeholders for knowing procedures for obtaining licenses and finalizing strategies for marketing maize and soyabean.

In the first BOD meeting conducted on 29/10/2020, the following decisions were made:

- BODS contributing Rs. 500/- each for purchase of office furniture;
- Directors donating most of the required furniture for the FPC office;

- Formation of sub committees for marketing of different produce, the inputs and managing finances.

The FPO office was inaugurated by his holiness Revansiddeswaraswamiji of Rayanal. Around 70 to 80 people attended the event owing to COVID restrictions. The BoDs of Ulavi FPC actively participated in BoDs meetings. They got involved in discussions related to finances and are taking up responsibilities regarding marketing and related logistics. The BoDs of Ulavi FPC voluntarily donated furniture for the FPC office which is a major decision, especially for a recently registered FPC.

As on 31.12.2020, the financial details of the company are as follows: A total of 1180 farmers (59 EFGs) have contributed share amount of Rs. 500 each, totaling an amount of Rs. 5,90,000.00 and a membership fees of Rs. 100 each per farmer totaling around Rs. 1,18,000.00. The total amount Rs.7,09,000,00.00 has been deposited in Canara Bank Dharwad (Current Account No.1514201007143). The authorized signatories for bank transactions are the two directors and the CEO. It was decided to obtain GST, and licenses for inputs for the FPC.

Several efforts were made to forge **new input and trade linkages** as detailed below.

- Contacted future bio-tech entrepreneur person Mr. Manjunath and institute of organic farming (IOF) UAS Dharwad for Bio-input supply. Both agreed to supply the required quantities for the FPC.
- For market linkages, contacted different Traders/agencies/companies to know their procedures for procurement. Contacted KMF Rayapur Hubli unit for the purpose of Maize procurement. They planned to start procurement process in the month of December 2020 as per the government guidelines & notification.
- On 26/11/2020, visited Siddiriddi /ROQUETTE Gokak along with UCFPC Chairman Mr. C V Patil, met the procurement head. Visited Riddisiddi Roquette procurement Centre at Hubballi. Met Mr. Nagaraj, Procurement Manager and discussed with him about maize trading procedures. He explained regarding quality parameters for the consignment. After understanding the quality assessment procedures, the need for registration and account opening in the company, providing samples and other SOPs involving identification of common and distinguishing characteristics and moisture testing, indent preparation, the fluctuating rates, unloading and weighing charges, the FPC has got a detailed understanding.
- Following this learning, BODS and AME Field staff visited farmers in the different villages for convincing and checking produce quality. The sample of the produce was collected and taken to different buying agencies for checking the quality parameters prior to sending the produce to the market. Coordinated the process of finalizing the list of farmers and quantities of maize available for sale through the FPC.
- In the process, also found out additional buyers, namely, Asha feeds and Ambuja feeds for the sale of Maize. After weighing the pros and cons, FPC decided to trade the first Maize consignment weighing 37.85 qtls at the rate of Rs 1400/- quintal to M/S. Asha feeds company Hubli. *Thus, Ulavi FPC, Dharwad has successfully carried out the first sale of Maize amounting to 37.5 quintals while achieving break-even point.*
- Seed and fertilizer trading licenses - Contacted Regional Manager and Branch Manager of Marketing Co-operative Federation Hubli on 12/11/2020 to enquire about the procedures for

input sales. Contacted also Dept. of Agriculture for knowing the procedures and requirements for getting input license for the FPC.

However, maize trading received a setback in January 2021 due to cyclonic weather and alternative arrangements were made.

Meanwhile, in the project area, the 100 EFGs formed have their own savings of around 41 lakhs out of which 34 lakhs have been expended for agricultural purposes. It is anticipated that FPO would get stronger with increased number of members. They are keen to pursue ecological agriculture as well as inclined gradually join the FPO. On a cost sharing basis, they contributed to purchase 20 Sieving equipment (Spiral separator) – for grading soyabean as detailed below - 20 equipment for 20 villages @8200 each with farmers contributing Rs. 49,000.00.

The overall progress was significant in a very short time. This was possible with overall expert guidance provided by Robins, with active leadership of Mr. Suresh and Prasanna of AMEF and the field coordinators who actively mobilized support from farming communities.

Team Leader, AMEF and CEO of FPO contacted AGM, NABARD Mr. Mayur Kamble to introduce AMEF, FPO and seeking potential support. The NABARD official apprised them of the possibilities of credit support and advised them to meet SFAC for support.

FPO process in Dharmapuri

In Dharmapuri, during April- June 2020, after exposure visit to FPOs reported earlier, the unit obtained farmer certificates in English on behalf of BODs. Suspense account was opened. All the 10 BoDs' digital signature processes were completed. The original authorization letters and farmer certificates were submitted. The AOA and MOA were finalized. However, due to lockdown in Pennagaram block in Dharmapuri, progress was affected.

After verifying and evaluating various quotes from Chartered Accountants and Company Secretary finalised and contracted Mr. Hemanth to carry out the registration as well as post-incorporation activities of Dharmapuri FPC. All the legally required papers were signed with the guidance of CA.

Dharmapuri FPO was registered as “**Dharmapuri Iyarkai Vivasaya Urpathiyarlar Producer Company Ltd.**”. Subsequently, the current account for Dharmapuri FPC was opened. 195 shareholders have shared their share amount of Rs.1,17,000. This has been deposited in the account. The **first AGM** was successfully conducted on 19th December 2020.

FPO process in Chintamani

Ten BoD's were selected, mandatory documents required for FPC registration were collected. BODs meeting was organised during 26th February, 2020. Farmer certificates collection was delayed and meeting of officers was restricted owing to unprecedented developments and fears around covid crisis.

Finally, it was decided to open Dharwad FPC branch in Chintamani Area. Sixty farmers have given share amounts and membership fee which includes Rs.30000 share amount and Rs. 6000 membership fee (60*500=30000 share amount and a Membership fees of 60*100=6000).

I) Internal reviews and programme management

At Bangalore, we had regular meetings with full team across units - once, twice, thrice a week through google meets using Gsuite meeting platform; supplemented this by using mails and whatsapps to share as well as implement decisions; prepared and uploaded annual and financial reports for statutory compliances; used 'Denzo' services to collect and exchange documents and cheques. Bangalore office premises was sanitised for two days through hiring professional services, opened occasionally and in areas on possible days when restrictions were lifted. Post sanction of rainfed agriculture database project, AMEF responded with work plan as well as clarifications sought on roles of AMEF staff and external specialist support. Partners were contacted for a potential webinar on case study preparation. AMEF itself internally discussed about how cases need to be developed and worked out for wider sharing.

M) Response to COVID crisis

AMEF's COVID response was updated on the website of Ministry with its unique ecological approaches and strategies like LEISA and FFS; Specific efforts included, Promoting Government's COVID Awareness and guidelines to farmers; Guiding farmers to pursue ecological farming for food and income security; Guiding them to for input mobilisation and market linkages while strictly following COVID guidelines; Field guides promoting social distancing circles at shops, masks prepared by rural women, washing, soap use, distribution of sanitizer to farm families, washing hands, in project villages (Govt. guidelines only); Printing and displaying local language awareness material (Government awareness material ONLY) by downloading from Web, color Xeroxing it; Identifying and providing groceries (very limited extent) and items not covered under PDS (Public distribution system); coordinating transport of essential commodities in bulk which are required for our farmer groups by obtaining Government pass for vehicle; Linking marketing of perishable produce with Department of Horticulture; consolidating requirements of the farmers through FPO representatives through telephonic and whatasapp messages while following social distancing; Planning, assessing and organizing seeds and biofertilisers for specific crops for farmer groups in select villages from public and private agencies; farmer managed seed collectives and enterprises.

n) Programme management: CU guided through virtual meetings the strategies, the systems and tools for programme management as well as technical guidance.

Mr. Kandagal, the consultant intensively guided the area units in planning and conducting suitable interventions, coordinated data collection across areas and started analyzing the same. In guiding ecological options and FFS curricula, Kandagal advised Area Units and also in identifying relevant data sets for yield data compilation for various crops; directly guiding and reviewing Chintamani team of Narendra and Ramesh on FFS and MT processes, Input supply (Top dressing etc.); preparing impact indicators in consultation with Radha and ED based on the project; assessing financial requirement vis a vis technical options for programmes; assisting in compilation of project reports and preparation for Supraja review meetings; participating in programme and finance review meetings.

FPO processes were guided primarily by Mr. Robens. AMEF Consultant, in consultation with ED, Radha and Kandagal. Also, on his own, Robens guided the following processes. For Dharwad FPO, guiding FPO registration process by Chartered Accountant (CA); guiding share and financial capital

mobilization; planning and coordinating post registration processes with CA; Preparing guidelines for conducting the first AGM of Dharwad FPO, assisting through online support; Training Prasanna, Akkamma Devi and Mayachari for conducting the first AGM of Dharwad FPC; Discussing with the Dharwad team as well at Bangalore the possible business verticals of Dharwad FPC. For Dharmapuri FPO, coordinated the collection of the required for the registration of the FPC at Dharmapuri; providing guidance to Team Leader in the requisite documentation for the BOD's; checking the documents along with CA; prepared the TOR for CAs; guiding account opening processes, paid up capital, finalising the AOA and MOA.

The Central unit under the guidance of ED and Radha prepared the rationale, the content and presentation during review meetings, the agendas for the internal reviews, speedy implementation of various strategies, with Radha playing the key role in designing relevant and easy to use information systems and apps for data collection and speedy implementation of data management, monitoring and evaluation and cash flow coordination.

o) Donor reviews

Supraja Review Meeting: During the Supraja review meeting on 03.09.2020 at 2 PM through cyber meeting, AMEF presented the following: Building on the review done by Kedarji in Feb 2020, Identifying recruitment of domain specialists (2) with vast experience (25 years)(AMEF and other prestigious organisations); fast tracking FPO process in Dharwad; Implementing planned capacity building activities (FFS and MT despite covid challenges); new work practices through use of digital technologies (whatsapp, videos besides extensive smaller group learning processes); processes and enthusiasm was showcased through photogallery of field activities; field staff explained (FFS, biological preparations); FPO processes, strategies for registration of Dharwad FPO –challenges faced due to covid restrictions; input coordination in villages – seeds, biological etc.; Deliverables status – in terms of no. of groups formed, FFS and MTs completed, collectivization efforts; detailed list of LEISA and NRM practices adopted by hundreds of farmers; promotion of resilient millet crops; improved yields and incomes; linkages with line departments etc.; celebrating efforts of FPCs and farmer warriors; handling FFS training for WOTR; Future strategies like recognizing the special requirements, abilities, limitations of Ecologically trained small and marginal rain fed farmers; recognising niche produce and aggregating conventional produce; building eco farming production systems with forward backward linkages for inputs promoting self reliance; explore diverse verticals for FPO; building on the unique empowering learning processes (strength of AMEF) in enabling FPOs and other partners to enable farming communities to learn and adopt farming alternatives.

The efforts were appreciated – thanks to dedicated farmers, field staff, SAPs, who are the unrecognised 'farming warriors'. Suggestions included need for studies of assessment of quantities required for scaling up public support, maintaining and showcasing benefits for farming communities with concrete data support.

However in the month of February 2021, Supraja communicated that they cannot support AMEF. The project was considered as closed w.e.f. from Jan 31st 2021.

LEISA India

LEISA magazine is recognized as the leading magazine for sharing field based experiences in Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture. With continued support from MISEREOR from 2017, LEISA India programme continued to strengthen grass root level knowledge sharing through local language editions (Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Oriya, Telugu, Punjabi and Marathi) and limited copies of print edition of English. Besides print editions, magazine is widely distributed as e-copy, downloadable on the website and shared in social media. LEISA India, published in English, also, is the regional Indian edition of Agricultures Network of the global LEISA magazines, presently coordinated by IED Afrique, Senegal. The project was sanctioned during the month of June, hence the activities got delayed by three months time. However, with efficient ways of working, we managed the delay and became up to date.

Following activities were implemented during the reporting period.

- **English Magazine Production**
- **Special language editions**
- **Outreach**
- **Supportive activities**

1. English Magazine Production

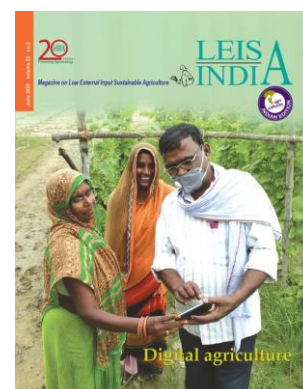
During this period, June issue of LEISA India magazine was produced and September issue was in progress.

V.22, no.2, June 2020 – Digital agriculture

V.22, no.3, September 2020 – Small farmers and safe vegetable production

V.22, no.4, December 2020 – Agroecology and going local

V.23, no.1, March 2021 – Bio inputs for agroecology



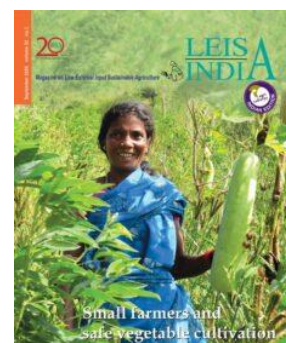
a) **Digital agriculture (V.22, no.2, June 2020)**

This issue included 7 full length articles. We received very good response to this theme. We received 12 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them 7 were selected.

The issue included ground experiences on how digital tools are being used by farmers for various farming activities like availing farm advisory, for buying inputs and marketing produce. The magazine was of 36 pages.

b) Small farmers and safe vegetable production (V.22, no.3, September 2020)

The issue included 9 full length articles. In response to the call for articles, we received around 14 articles and finally selected 9. **This issue included experiences of farmers across Various dimensions like family gardens, eco-alternatives, processing of vegetables, urban farming initiatives and use of digital tools in vegetable production.**



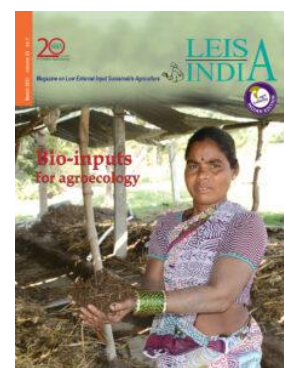
c) Agroecology and going local (V.22, no.4, December 2020)

This issue included 6 full length articles. The response to this issue was not very encouraging. We received only 6 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. As all the 6 were not relevant, we also had to proactively source for this issue. The issue included experiences on how farmers survived even the pandemic, by making appropriate adaptations while urban consumers moved towards 'growing own food' and 'buying local'. Also included are some views and opinions from the global context. The magazine was of 36 pages.



d) Bio inputs for agroecology (V.23, no.1, March 2021)

The issue included 6 full length articles. In response to the call for articles, we received around 9 articles and finally selected 6. **This issue included experiences of farmers** and organic farming promoters who have been constantly preparing and using biological alternatives with positive results. The mainstream institutions too have recognised the multiple benefits they offer and have shared their experiences. The magazine of 36 pages.



2. Special language editions

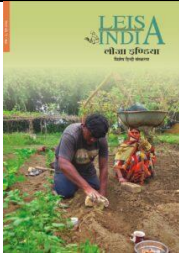

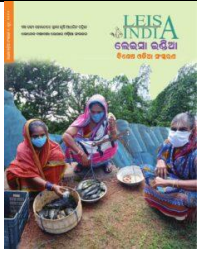
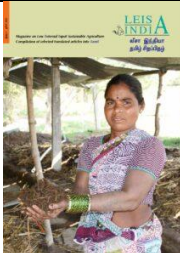

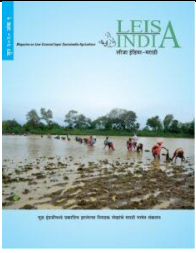
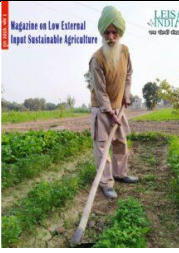
Special language editions are produced in 7 languages – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi and Punjabi. While the first five language editions were being produced from the Phase I of the project (from 2011), two editions, Marathi and Punjabi, were added during phase II.

The five language editions – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya are produced four times a year (June, September, December and March). The two editions – Marathi and Punjabi are produced two times a year (June and December). All the language editions include translations of selected articles from the LEISA India English edition.

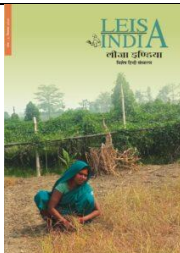
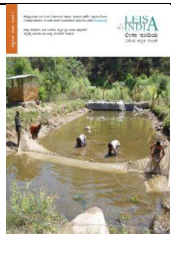
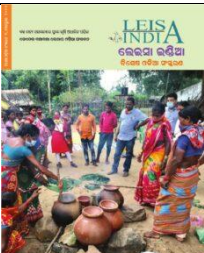
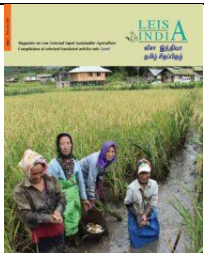
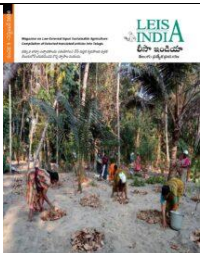
During the reporting period, June 2020 issue of 5 language editions (Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Oriya) was produced. Punjabi and Marathi language editions are in progress. As the

project sanction was done during June 2020, partners could start working only in the month of July after completing some formalities like contract signing. Also, owing to Covid, all the organisations involved, including AME Foundation had to adapt to new ways of working (from home) which took quite sometime.

The **June 2020** issue of the special translated editions in Hindi, Kannada, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Punjabi

June 2020 Edition						
						
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu	Marathi	Punjabi

The **September 2020** issue of the special translated editions in Hindi, Kannada, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu.

September 2020 Edition				
				
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu

The **December 2020** issue of the special translated editions in Hindi, Kannada, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Punjabi

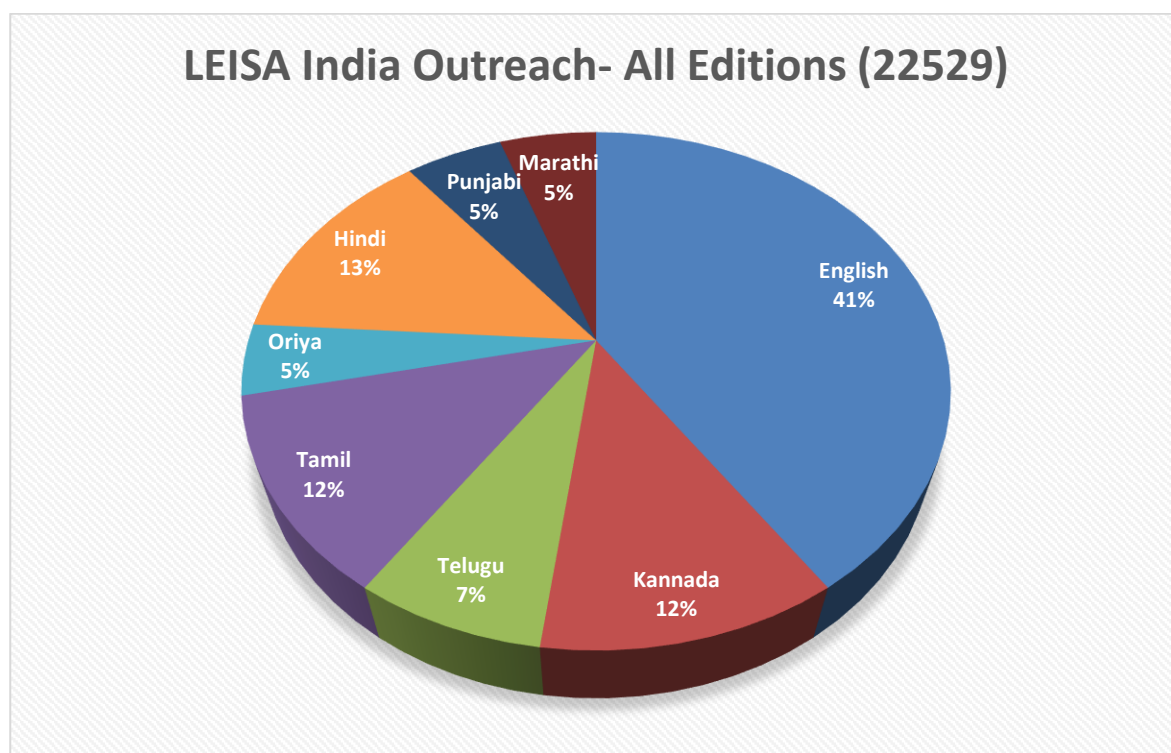
December 2020 Edition						
						
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu	Marathi	Punjabi

The language editions are distributed primarily to grassroot institutions which depend heavily on the local language. The outreach of language editions during the reporting period is 13383.

Outreach

LEISA India magazines are disseminated through various ways

1. **Print Copy** – English and Language Editions Print copies reach readers at the grassroot level. Around 3251 readers received the print copy of English edition and around 13383 readers received printed copies of language editions (all 7 languages). **(total 16634)**
2. **E-magazine** – English edition is also disseminated through email as an e-copy for those who have access to internet. Around 7482 readers are reached through e-copy
3. **LEISA India website** – All the editions are being uploaded on the website.

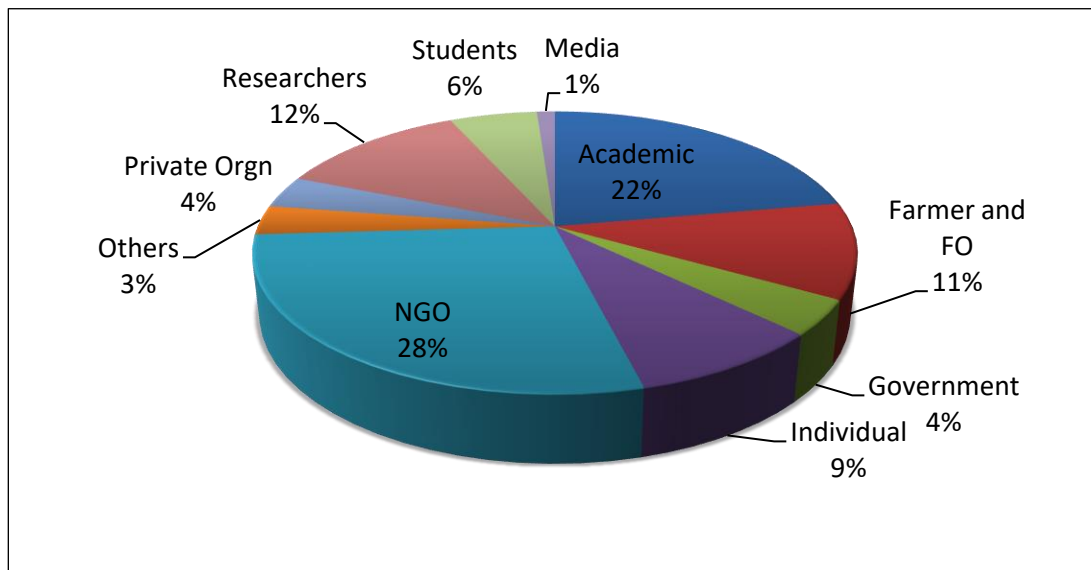


4. Supportive Activities

a) Database management

English Edition

A database is being maintained for English edition. The total number of subscribers for the **English Edition** is **9146**. They are reached by print or E-magazine.



Across various categories, NGOs formed the major chunk with 28%, followed by academics (22%) and researchers (12%). Around 11% of the readers are farmers and farmer organisations. Around 5% of the readers are students.

Language Editions

A separate access database is being maintained for the language editions. At the end of the reporting period, the database included **13383** number of readers across seven language editions who receive print copy of the magazine.

B) WEBSITE

All the editions (English and 7 Language editions) are uploaded regularly on the website. (www.leisaindia.org).

c) Social Networking

LEISA India is on Facebook and Twitter. Presently, it has got 5316 likes on Face Book. Articles of LEISA India and write-ups on agroecology are shared on Facebook regularly.

Fund raising and Networking

During the 1st quarter, the sanction letter for the new project on **Knowledge base on Sustainable Agriculture** was handed over to Mr. Prasad by Supraja representative. On being asked, Mr. Prasad described the vision, the objectives, and the activities of the proposed project. The details of the action plan, the manpower involved the specialized assistance being taken for the project were explained. An advertisement was placed for recruiting Information specialist for the sanctioned supraja project with no responses received yet and institutions like DRTC not active in the office to explore potential candidates. However, after mails sent for initiating the project with an external consultant and internal competencies, the donor withdrew the offer for reasons not clearly explained.

In case of LEISA India programme, it was focused on fulfilling compliances for Misereor, and exploring co-finance from IED, coordinator of Agricultures Network. New procedures were put in place like opening of dedicated bank account in Delhi for FCRA accounts. Meanwhile, LEISA India team coordinated and finalized the evaluation process with the report submitted to MISEREOR prepared by an external evaluator of their choice. Also, quickly reworked on the next phase project proposal and budget based on the suggestions from MISEREOR. We understood that the proposal for the next phase was not considered though submitted six months back and acceptable then. We were advised to reduce the scope and scale. The reason they cited was the statutory requirement of their consultant to travel and have face to face interaction mandatory after supporting earlier continuously for three consecutive phases. This was not possible due to covid restrictions. Meanwhile, to ensure continuity, Misereor asked us to prepare an interim proposal for a one and half year period with revised scope and budgets within three days deadline before April 15 2021. This was done and submitted quickly. It was very challenging to locate files from mails, and pen drives as files are all available in office which was in lockdown.

Subsequently, in July 2020, Misereor confirmed support to LEISA India programme for another 18 months beginning April 2020. MISEREOR sanctioned 18 month project (April 2020-Sep 2021) during July 1st week. As the project sanction came a little late than the project commencement date, the LEISA India team had to work on June issue at a faster pace. During the reporting period, contracts were prepared for producing the Language editions. A new auditor was appointed for MISEREOR project (from those suggested by them) as the donor insists on appointing auditors on rotation basis.

Also, before conclusion of the phase, LEISA India team made intensive preparations to explain, submit documents, arrange field visits, provide contacts of subscribers to support Misereor commissioned project feasibility study conducted by IGSSS, New Delhi. The feasibility study further established the credibility of the programme and the organisation, AMEF, implementing it.

LEISA India team collaborated with Agricultures Network and was the only programme among all the international editions to leverage funds. As part of collaboration, it included few articles from global issue. Because of wider outreach of the LEISA India magazine through English and local language editions, the programme ensured wider circulation, potentially more than 20000 readers for key articles selected from global farming matters as part of the agreement with IED, Senegal as well as generating co-finance for production and translation costs in December English edition

as well as local language editions to an extent of 2382 Euros. Also, to explore further support, participated extensively in the evaluation of functioning of Agricultures Network to mobilise funds from Swedbio and other sources which would enable co-financing for the Misereor supported LEISA India edition.

Staff as on 31.03.2021

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
Bengaluru		
1	Prasad K V S	Executive Director & Chief Editor
2	Radha T M	Managing Editor - LEISA India
3	Supriya S Rao	Internal Auditor
4	Shivappa	Driver
5	Chikkanna	Attendant
6	Murthy N	Attendant
Dharwad		
1	Prasanna V	Secretary cum Accountant
Dharmapuri		
1	Krishnan J	Team Leader

Consultants and Contractual Staff		
Sl. No.	Name	Area
1	Veena Markande	Bengaluru
2	Ramachandra K S	Bengaluru
3	Rukmini G G	Bengaluru
4	Robens C J	Bengaluru
5	S S Kandagal	Bengaluru
6	K M Sowmyashree	Bengaluru
7	Suresh PB	Dharwad
8	Mayachari A	Dharwad
9	Akkamahadevi M Patil	Dharwad
10	Venkatesan K	Dharmapuri
11	Narendra P	Chintamani

FINANCE MATTERS

GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

23/57, 41st Cross, East End C Main Road,
9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069
Ph : 26636042, 26656194
Fax No : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

31.03.2020 Rs.P.	LIABILITIES	31.03.2021 Rs.P.	31.03.2020 Rs.P.	ASSETS	31.03.2021 Rs.P.
2,32,94,635	FUNDS As per Schedule I	2,24,40,285	86,53,073	FIXED ASSETS As per Schedule III	84,00,493
6,50,000	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS As per Schedule II	7,36,000	1,27,94,184	LOANS & ADVANCES/ DEPOSITS As per Schedule IV	1,30,57,654
55,00,133	Rental Advance	12,09,354	88,115	Fixed Deposits	88,115
83,407	Unutilized Grants	65,246	38,281	Other Deposits	60,335
	Provisions		3,63,303	Advances	3,46,340
			75,91,219	TDS Receivable	
				CASH AND BANK BALANCES As per Schedule V	24,97,948
2,95,28,175		2,44,50,885	2,95,28,175		2,44,50,885

For AME FOUNDATION

Chinnappa Singh
CHAIRMAN

Neelgadh
TREASURER

Place: BANGALORE
Date : 12.11.2021

EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT
FOR GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Firm No. 005917S

Pundarikaksha
PUNDARIKAKSHA
PARTNER
Membership No. 214283



GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

23/57, 41st Cross, East End C Main Road,
9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069
Ph : 26636042, 26636194
Fax No : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

31.03.2020 Rs.P.	EXPENDITURE	31.03.2021 Rs.P.	31.03.2020 Rs.P.	INCOME	31.03.2021 Rs.P.
7,868	To Bank Charges	9,593	8,92,308	By Rental Income	10,41,710
81,038	To Office expenses	55,688	42,612	By Donations- Leisa & Others	6,20,555
34,76,445	To Salary to employees	32,64,080	24,000	By Terrace Gardening	-
39,69,239	To Consultancy Charges	40,52,281	-	By Interest Income	-
1,17,952	To Rent, Electricity & Water Charges	1,11,441	-	FD Interest	8,49,356
1,62,673	To Rates & Taxes	1,75,102	8,66,965	FCRA Bank Interest	9,482
19,169	To Homestead Gardens	-	1,58,778	Interest in IT Refund	9,329
9,65,430	To PPS Coordination & Field guidance	9,88,737	38,294	SB Interest	3,601
3,46,060	To Travel & Conveyance	1,09,212	62,355	Interest charged to Project	-
24,76,044	To Capacity Building of Farmers	17,54,596	-	By Grants Received	1,14,45,628
5,66,584	To Critical Inputs & Support Cost	8,42,196	-	By Excess of Expenditure over Income	6,01,771
1,54,505	To Repairs & Maintenance	2,09,111	-		
98,781	To Vehicle maintenance & Insurance	48,843	1,33,79,939		
1,97,805	To Printing & Stationery	36,156	-		
13,016	To Postage & Courier	25,812	-		
52,732	To Telephone & Internet	15,540	-		
81,201	To Security Charges	80,464	-		
1,34,299	To Board Meeting Expenses	-	1,57,518		
3,06,015	To Meeting Expenses	2,14,870	-		
29,500	To Audit Fees	29,500	-		
31,742	To Insurance & Gratuity	2,50,862	-		
16,14,265	To Magazine Expenses (Production, Translation, Editing & Layout)	16,83,704	-		
5,35,091	To Distribution Expenses	5,45,906	-		
5,000	To Membership & Subscription	-	-		
29,500	To Web Updating	9,440	-		
1,27,915	To Seed production & distribution	71,498	-		
1,56,22,789		1,48,84,432	1,56,22,789		1,45,84,432
1,57,518	To bal b/d	6,01,771	-		8,54,351
3,11,818	To Depreciation	2,32,580	4,69,336	By Excess of Expenditure over Income	8,54,351
4,69,336		8,54,351	4,69,336		

For AME FOUNDATION

Chiranjeev Singh
CHAIRMAN

Neelgopal
TREASURER

EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT
FOR GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Firm No. 0039175

Pundariksha
CA PUNDARIKSHA
PARTNER
Membership No. 214283



Place: BANGALORE
Date: 12.11.2021

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: amefbang@yahoo.co.in;

leisaindia@yahoo.co.in;

admin@amefound.org

Website: www.amefound.org;

www.leisaindia.org

Area Units

DHARMAPURI

5/1445, VP Singh Street,

Elakkiyampatti, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu

Ph: 09842963832

Krishnan.j@amefound.org

DHARWAD

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Behind Shri Ramakrishna Ashram

Channabasaveswar Nagar (C.B.Nagar)

Dharwad 580 007

Ph: 0836 –2472822

mallikarjun@amefound.org

CHINTAMANI

M.V. Ranganathan House (Rtd HM)

Opp: Pragathi Krishna Grameena Bank

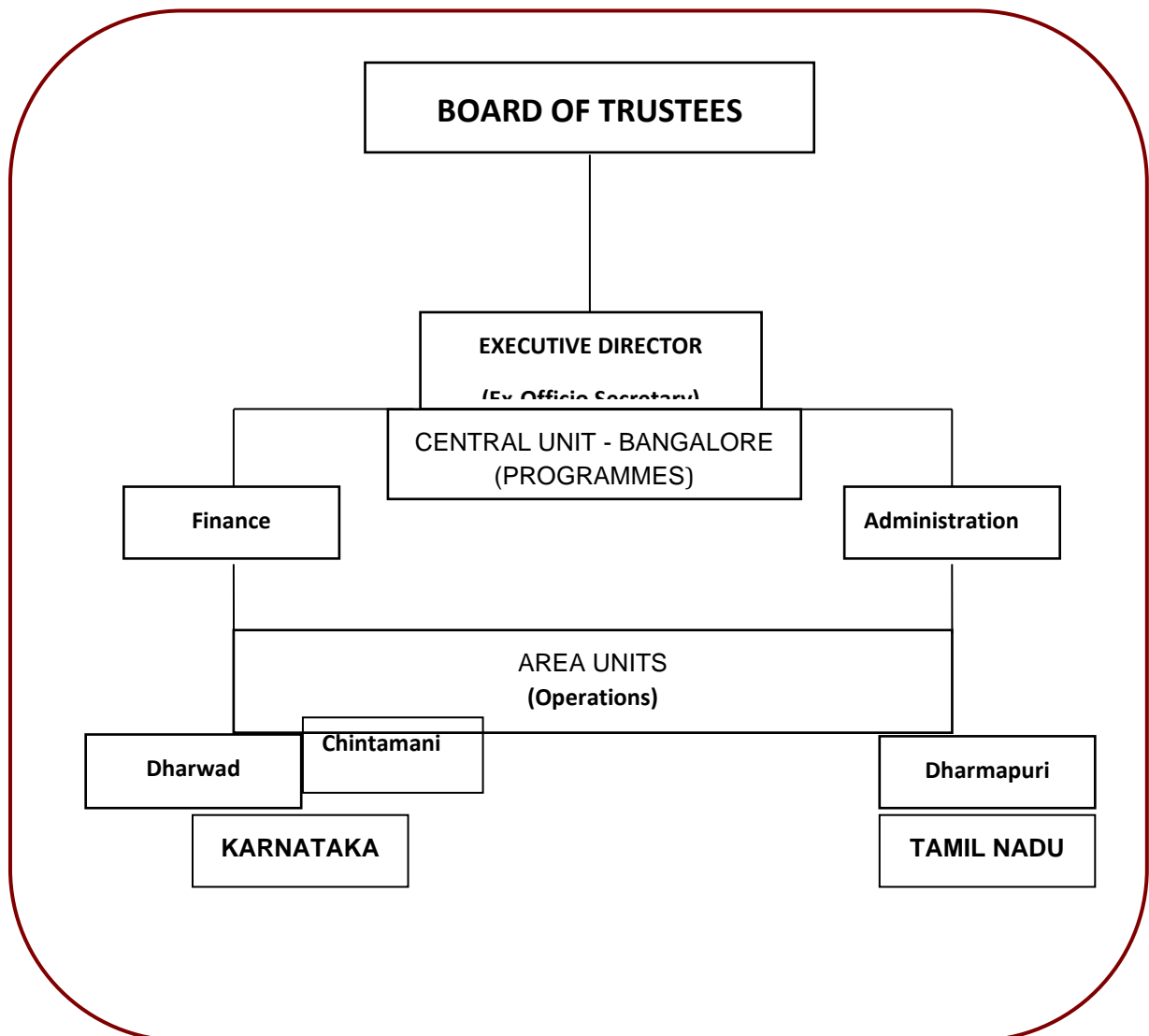
Chintamani Main Road, Yeguvakote

Chintamani - 563146

Chikkaballapura District

Tel: 09959009561, **Email:** rudrappa@amefound.org

ORGANOGRAM OF AME FOUNDATION



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(as on 31/03/2021)

Sri Chiranjiv Singh, *Chairman*

Former Development Commissioner of Karnataka and Additional Chief Secretary
Government of Karnataka

Dr. N. G. Hegde

Trustee and Principal Adviser
BAIF Development Research Foundation

Dr. T. M. Thiyagarajan

Former Director / Dean, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Dr. A. Rajanna

Former Director of Agriculture
Government of Karnataka

Dr. Smita Premchander

Founder Member & Hon. Chief Executive – Sampark

Prof. Ashoke Chatterjee

Former Director of National Institute of Design

Smt Renuka Chidambaram

Retd. IAS Officer

Appointed on 16.03.2021

Sri K. V. S. Prasad, Secretary

Executive Director