Annual Report

2021-22

FOUNDATION

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AME FOUNDATION

BELIEVES IN

"HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES"

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

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

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

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Executive Summary

The year 2021-22 has been an year of multiple challenges. AMEF had to face severe fund crunch owing to sudden withdrawal of support to field work from Supraja Foundation. The challenge was to raise resources to retain critical field staff to continue the good work on the field. And this coincided with the time when the country was facing the second wave of Covid involving health/covid issues. However, AMEF could tide over the difficult times in continuing field work with timely support from Philanthropists like Shri. Jogeswar Singhji. Also, the timely support from Mr. Srivatsram helped us in continuing our field work at Dharmapuri. Meanwhile the LEISA India programme continued with MISEREOR support.

Besides financial crunch, the period has been challenging in terms of new protocols laid by the government – for receiving FCRA funds. FCRA funds from MISEREOR, the only funding source for the organization during the beginning of the reporting period, could not be received till May end, owing to bank account opening delays. Additionally, approval from Ministry of Home Affairs had to be obtained for receiving funds. Thanks to our internal auditor, who along with the help of an external consultant, was able to succeed in opening the FCRA account in New Delhi with diligent procedures and constant follow up.

AMEF had considerably got used to new ways of working remotely during Covid times. The team was meeting regularly online to review work and prepare action plans. The field staff devised ways to help farmers, while following Covid protocols. Farmer Field Schools were organized with smaller groups, ensuring proper social distancing and promoting precautionary measures. There has been a great display of AMEF team work and resilience in managing difficult times.

As a means of sharing and also building capacities of staff internally, web sessions on various topics were organised. Besides these training sessions, special sessions were organized for building capacities of staff on the management and functioning of Farmer Producer Organisations. The field staff further conducted trainings to the members of FPOs at Dharwad and Dharmapuri.

Lot of efforts were put in networking, meeting prospective donors, meeting CSR heads and writing proposals. We succeeded in receiving continued support from MISEREOR for LEISA India programme for another three years. TATA Hitachi too offered support to Dharwad Unit in a small way. However, owing to fund limitation, we were forced to close our operations in Chintamani area, by the end of the year.

Further, as advised by the Auditor, AMEF was registered under GST, could procure CSR registration number for the organisation, mandatory for receiving CSR funds. 80G and 12A certificates were renewed for 5 years and FCRA renewal is in progress.

Last but not the least, AMEF had a change in leadership in the beginning of the reporting period. Mr. K V S Prasad, who served for more than a decade as Executive Director, stepped down. Ms. T M Radha was appointed as the Executive Director with effect from 1st April 2021. Thanks to Mr. K V S Prasad for not only leading the organisation for more than a decade but also for providing continued support and guidance to the organization, being associated with it since 1996.

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 (around70%). 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 facilitates wider sharing of national and international experiences on ecological agriculture through LEISA India publication in English and seven language editions. 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:

- LEISA India programme – *supported by MISEREOR*
- Improving small farmer livelihoods in rain fed areas through integrated farming systems – *supported by Wheels India Limited*

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. The current project concluded in September 2021 and a new phase began from October 2021.

The new phase of MISEREOR support for three years, commenced from the month of October 2021. The new components of this project, besides regular production and distribution of 6 language editions (English, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Oriya) of LEISA India are a) Punjabi and Marathi editions will be produced 4 times a year (earlier it was 2 times a year) b) explore potential fields of collaboration with MISEREOR partners in knowledge sharing and dissemination and c) enhance outreach by electronic and social media – for eg., improving the functionalities of the present LEISA India website and wider dissemination through short videos.

A meeting with consultants was organized during the first week of October, particularly to discuss about mobilizing co-finance for the project. All the 4 consultants have agreed to raise upto 30% funding for the programme. Consultant contracts for the new phase were prepared and signed by all the parties concerned. The work on all the editions began during early November 2021.

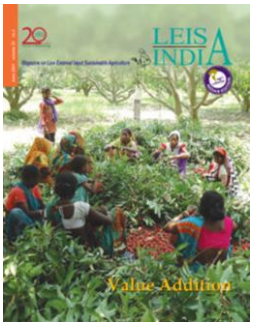
Following activities were implemented during the reporting period.

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

1. English Magazine Production
During this period, magazines on following themes were produced.

V.23, no.2, June 2021 – Value Addition
V.23, no.3, September 2021 – Healthy Horticulture
V.23, no.4, December 2021 – Resilient crop - Livestock system
V.24, no.1, March 2022 – Urban Agriculture

a) Value Addition (V.23, no.2, June 2021)
The issue included 6 full length articles. In response to the call for articles, we received around 15 articles and finally selected 6. In this issue we have included experiences of farmers, farmer producer organisations and institutions that are promoting value addition. The articles reveal that most of the value addition processes are not only simple, but less cost intensive, bringing in enhanced returns to the farm families. The magazine was of 36 pages.

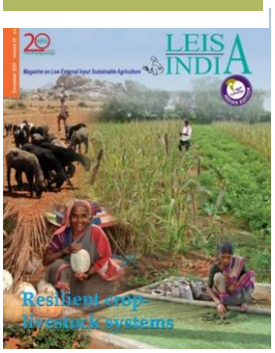


b) Healthy Horticulture (V.23, no.3, September 2021)

The issue included 7 full length articles. The response to the call for articles was poor for this theme. Though we received 6 articles all of them were not relevant and could not be included. We therefore included a couple of articles which were already published in other media, as the content was very good and required wider sharing. In this issue, we have included experiences of farmers and institutions that are practising and promoting agroecological approaches in producing fruits and vegetables that are safe for consumption. Also included are experiences of farmer collectives in value addition and marketing initiatives. The magazine was of 36 pages.

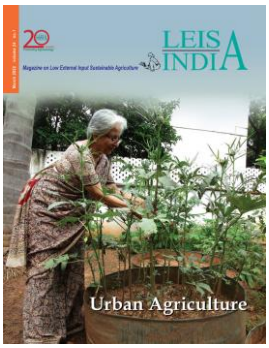
c) Resilient crop-livestock systems (V.23, no.4,December 2021)

This issue included 7 full length articles. The issue includes the diversified systems consist of components such as crop and livestock that co-exist independently from each other. Integrated Farming systems link several components of the farming system. Resource flows are established between components. The outputs from one component serve as inputs for another. IFS approach is the way forward for resource optimization, utilization, sustaining and improving farm productivity and livelihoods, cultivating nutritious, healthy and diverse food and animal feed. The magazine was of 36 pages.



d) Urban Agriculture (V.24, no.1, March 2022)

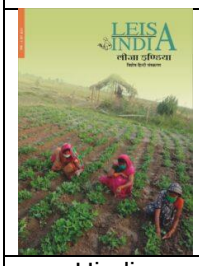
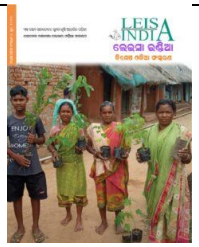
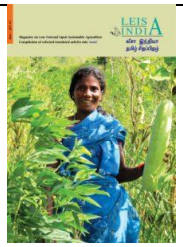
The issue included 6 full length articles. In response to the call for articles, we received around 10 articles and finally selected 6. The issue includes the new initiatives by farmers, use of social media network, initiatives by youth and retired citizens of urban areas involved in terrace and home gardening. Urban agriculture has multiple benefits as seen from the various cases presented in this issue. Central and state governments are involved in initiating a few interventions in urban agriculture. The magazine was of 36 pages.

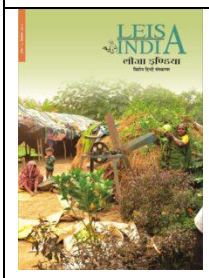
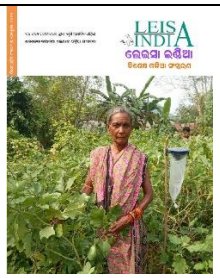
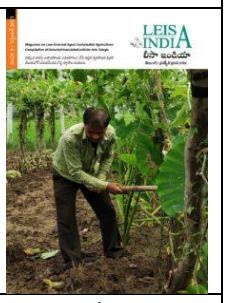


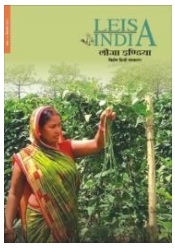
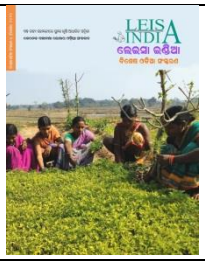
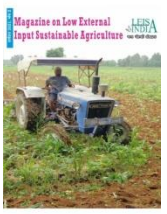
2. Special language editions

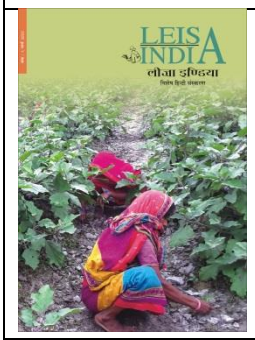
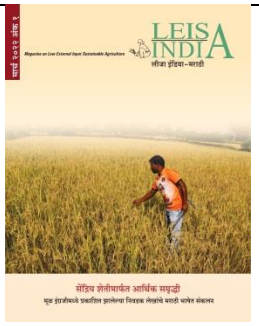
Special language editions are produced in 7 languages – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi and Punjabi. The seven language editions – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi and Marathi are produced four times a year (June, September, December and March). All the language editions include translations of selected articles from the LEISA India English edition.

During the reporting period, June 2021, September 2021, December 2021 and March 2022 issues of 7 language editions were produced (Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Oriya, Telugu, Punjabi and Marathi).

June 2021 Edition						
						
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu	Marathi	Punjabi

September 2021 Edition				
				
Hindi	Kannada	Tamil	Oriya	Telugu

December 2021 Edition						
						
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu	Marathi	Punjabi

March 2022 Edition				
				
Hindi	Kannada	Tamil	Marathi	Punjabi

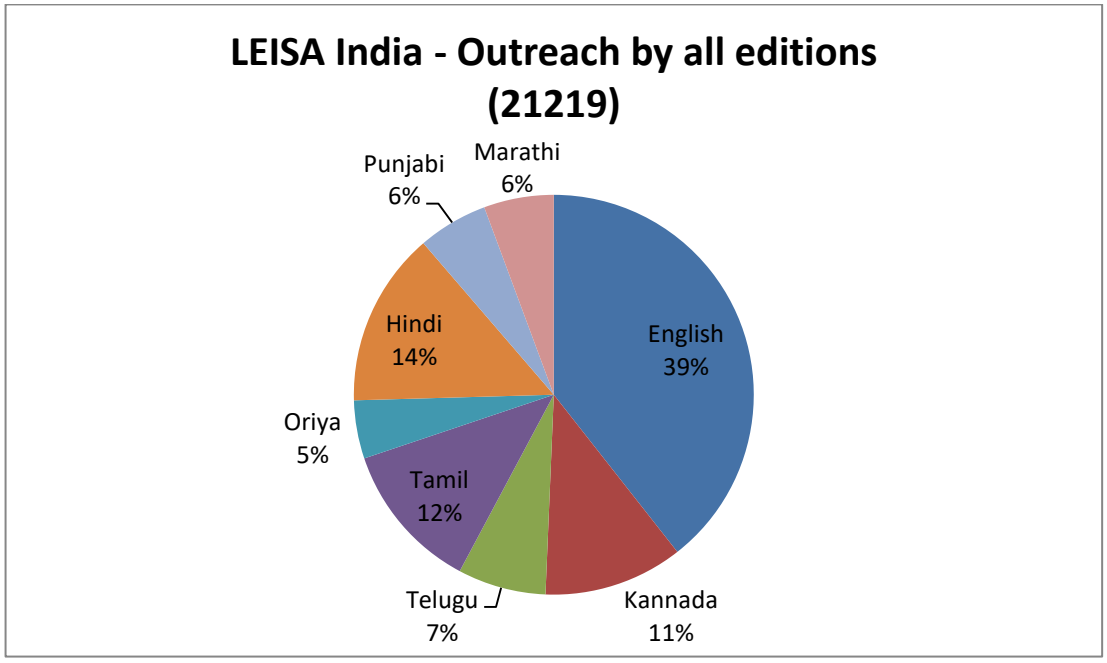
The language editions are distributed primarily to grassroot institutions which depend heavily on the local language. Presently the outreach of language editions is 12864 readers.

Outreach

LEISA India magazines are disseminated through various ways

1. **Print Copy** – English and Language Editions Print copies reach readers at the grassroot level. The English Edition reached around 1663 readers as print copy. Around 12859 readers received printed copies of language editions (all 7 languages).
2. **E-magazine** – English edition is also disseminated through email as an e-copy for those who have access to internet. Around 5090 readers were reached through e-copy.

3. **LEISA India website** – All the editions are being uploaded on the website.

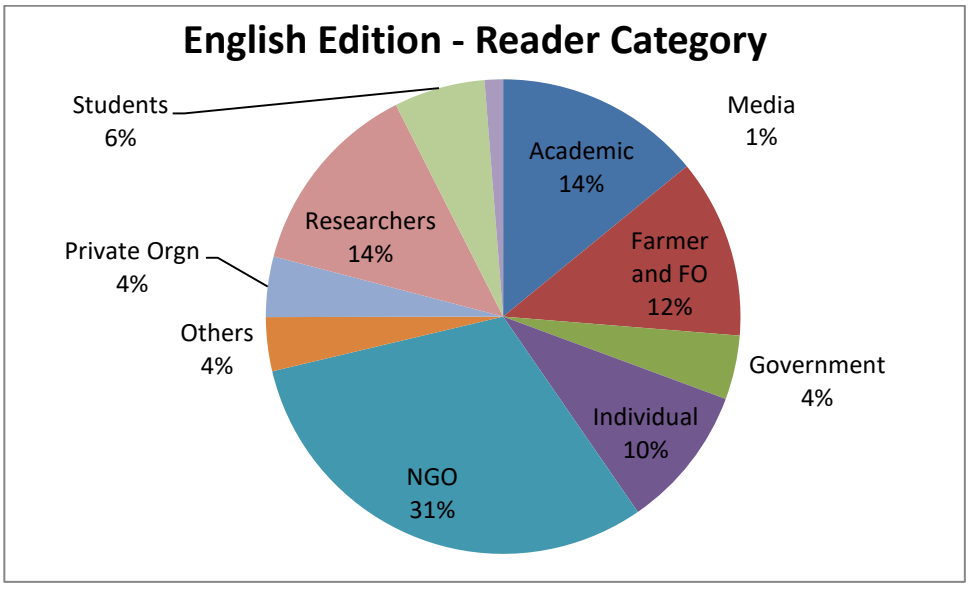


4. Supportive Activities

a) Database management

English Edition

A database is being maintained for English edition. The total number of subscribers for the **English Edition** for the December 2021 issue is **8360.** They are reached by print or E-magazine. Around 1663 readers receive both print and e-magazine.



Across various categories, NGOs formed the major readers with 31%, followed by academics (14%) and researchers (14%). Around 12% of the readers are farmers and farmer organisations. Around 6% of the readers are students. Individual reader category was 10%. Government, private organizations and others 4% of readers and media 1% of the readers.

Language Editions

A separate access database is being maintained for the language editions. At the end of the reporting period (December 2021), the database included **12859** 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. Articles of LEISA India and call for articles are shared on Facebook regularly.

Promotion of Ecological farming in dry lands through Integrated Farming System (IFS) approach

FFS participant counting number of tillers for yield estimation

Supported by Wheels India Ltd., the project on promoting ecological agriculture was initiated in three villages in Pennagaram block, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu. The programme was initiated with an overall goal of improving dry farming livelihoods through promotion of eco-friendly farming practices, through Integrated Farming System (IFS) approach.

AME Dharmapuri implemented the project in 3 villages namely Jakkampatti, Poocharampatti and Kodiyalli in Pennagaram block of Dharmaprui district. All these villages were situated contiguously as a cluster within a range of 2-3 km. A total of 100 farm families with 33 farm households from Kodiyalli, 33 farm households from Jakkampatti and 34 farm households from Poochrampatti village were involved. Members were organised as a group in each of these villages.

The primary objective of the project was to improve livelihoods of small and marginal farmers by enhancing crop production and also income by integrating various farm based enterprises. The focus was on integrating several components on the farm wherein the output from one component served as input for other components, resulting in efficient resource flows within the farm and reducing dependence on external inputs.

The strategy followed to achieve the objectives of the project were as follows.

- Promoting diversified ecological cropping system in the dry land holdings of 100 farm families.
- Use of improved varieties in case of Ragi, Samai in order to improve the yield and returns.
- Promoting backyard poultry with 100 farm families and creating functional linkages within in the farm.
- Establishment of fodder production at farm level to provide fodder to livestock.
- Creating Integrated Farming System model farm in each of the 3 villages to educate farmers to take it up on their own farms.

Each farm holding was assessed based on the available components and their existing status of integration. Accordingly, the possible interventions were made through interactions and conducting training events on integration of components.

Around 100 farmers were trained on ecological cropping practices in drylands covering soil and water conservation, soil fertility management, crops and cropping system by following LEISA principles. All the farmers were trained on better crop management practices, recycling farm wastes and integrating various farm enterprises.

Crop Production adopting ecological options

Groundnut was the main crop sown generally in June-July along with one major intercrop i.e. red gram. Ragi and Samai local varieties were also grown followed by Horse gram as second crop. Multiple cropping systems based on ecological options were promoted. Groundnut was sown as main crop and intercropped with red gram and cow pea. Cumbu was grown as border crop and castor as trap crops. Following are the details on yield, production cost and income of various crops comparing baseline and end line survey data.

The end line data analysis (Table 1) revealed that there was significant yield difference of 26 kgs/acre in case of Groundnut. Cost of cultivation was Rs.21669/ac. This was less by Rs.635/acre compared to what farmers incurred during the previous year - Rs. 22304/acre.

In case of Ragi, farmers gained an increased yield of 155 kgs/ac with a reduced cost of cultivation by Rs.2346/ac., and increase in income by Rs.5819/ac.

In case of Samai, IFS farmers gained an increased yield of 60 kgs/ac in 2021-22 compared to baseline year. Cost of production reduced by Rs.933/ac by following ecological options, with an income increase of Rs.1974/ac.

Table 1: Main Crop yields, production cost and income (per acre):

Villages	Groundnut (per acre)			Samai (per acre)			Ragi (per acre)		
	Yield (kg)	Prodn. Cost (Rs)	Income (Rs)	Yield (kg)	Prodn. Cost (Rs)	Income (Rs)	Yield (kg)	Prodn. Cost (Rs)	Income (Rs)
Kodiyalli (33 farmers)									
Baseline	725	18663	45615	421	7653	12658	1184	11182	23714
End line survey	753	21772	45170	470	6677	14837	1540	15089	30794
Jakkampatti (33 farmers)									
Baseline	725	20481	36183	372.38	6942	11308	1058	11236	21078
End line survey	752	22574	45148	453	6801	13602	1440	14397	28794
Poocharampatti (34 farmers)									
Baseline	687	22301	34352	401	8225	12042	1421	14050	27550
End line survey	710	20662,5	42603	450	6544.8	13494	1148	11223	22960
Avg. Baseline	712	22304	38717	398	7607	12003	1221	12156	24114
Avg. End line	**738**	**21669**	**44307**	**458**	**6674**	**13977**	**1376**	**13569**	**27516**

The multiple cropping system not only enabled farmers to increase production per unit, but also enabled to harvest diverse crops. Besides main crop, the IFS farmer could harvest, on an average, 148 kgs. of redgram, 108kgs of lablab, 22 kgs of Cow pea, 237 kgs of horse gram 237kgs per acre. This enabled them to have year long food security besides income by selling the surplus.

Table 2: Intercrop and Second crop yield, production cost and income

Villages	Red gram (per acre)			Lablab (per acre)			Horsegram (per acre)		
	Yield (kg)	Prodn. Cost (Rs)	Income (Rs)	Yield (kg)	Prodn. Cost (Rs)	Income (Rs)	Yield (kg)	Prodn. Cost (Rs)	Income (Rs)
Kodiyalli (33 farmers)									
Baseline	101	950	6070	79.42	500	3176	195	2250	5837
End line survey	153	1150	9946	109.46	700	5473	240	3233	10778
Jakkampatti (33 farmers)									
Baseline	107	950	3222	77	500	3444	193	3754	5784
End line survey	143	1350	9299	107	700	5835	232	4080	12749
Poocharampatti (34 farmers)									
Baseline	89.7	950	4486	79	500	3176	195	2250	5836
End line survey	149.7	1150	9728	109	700	5473	240	3234	10770
Avg.Baseline	99	950	4593	78	500	3265	194	2751	5819
Avg.Endline	**148**	**1216**	**9658**	**108**	**700**	**5594**	**237**	**3515**	**11432**

Through diverse cropping, farmers could realise returns to the extent of Rs. 26000-28000/acre.

Recycling farm wastes

First and foremost importance was given to streamlining the farm waste disposal system as FYM collected from farm animals was left over the field indiscriminately. This has resulted in loss of nutrients from cow dung owing to sunlight and rainwater.

Hence, two aspects were emphasized in the on-field training - "Creating a proper manure pit" to keep the cow dung safe and "creating a compost pit" to fill the harvest left outs, stubbles and other plant biomass into it. Manure and compost pits of 10x15 ft were prepared, closer to home on every farm and divided into two parts. One part of the pit was filled daily with cow dung and another part was filled with the crop biomass, kitchen waste etc. This helped farmers to conserve and utilise farm animal wastes properly and prepare compost within a short span of 2-3 months.

a) Animal wastes

Each farm family which has one cow, one goat and one poultry bird could recycle a minimum 7630-9240 kgs of animals waste in 10-12 months period. This when recycled could meet the FYM requirement of their cultivated land.

Table 3: Manure management at household level

Farm Animals	Manure yield/day	Quantity stored in manure pit/month (in kgs)	Qty stored from June'21 to March'22
Cow	25-30 kg	750-900	7500-9000
Goat	400-600 gm	12-18	120-180
Poultry	200-250 gm	6-7	10-70
TOTAL			7630-9240

Table 4: Animal waste generated (in tons) by 100 farmers by March 2022

Sl.no.	Village name	Cow	Goat	Poultry
1	Poocharampatti	119.720 (41)	5.214(22)	12.057(165)
2	Jakkampatti	119.720 (41)	16.828(71)	9.563(131)
3	Kodiyalli	137.240 (47)	16.179 (77)	12.191(167)

(figures in brackets indicate the number of animals)

All the 100 farmers in the project area practised recycling animal and crop wastes. In 2021-22, the endline survey revealed that in Poocharampatti, from 41 cows and 22 goats, around 119.7 and 5.2 tons of manure was obtained, respectively. From the 165 poultry birds grown in the backyards, around 12 kgs of poultry waste/droppings could be stored. In Jakkampatti, 119.7 tons and 16.8 tons of animal waste was obtained from 41 cows and 71 goats, respectively,for recycling. The 131 poultry birds reared in the backyards generated 131kgs of droppings. Similarly, in Kodiyalli, 137.24 tons of waste obtained from 47 cows and 16.17 tons from 77 goats, were recycled. The 167 poultry birds generated 12.197tons of droppings.

b) Crop waste/biomass

Having understood the importance of composting, farmers have stored plant biomass, including the weeds removed. Crop waste of Samai, while grain stripping, ranged from 90-110kgs/ac and the Ragi waste ranged from 200-248 kgs/ac. Groundnut leaf wastage after preserving the haulms was around 70-80 kgs per acre. All these were safely stored in the compost pits. Farmers expressed this as a new experience as earlier they were burning them on the field.

In all 3 villages, total biomass generated from groundnut crop, cultivated on 62.96 acres, was 92.22 tons and from redgram (intercrop) was 12.78 tons. Similarly, in case of Samai (cultivated in 59.49 acres) the biomass generated was 98.71 tons and in Ragi (cultivated in 44.37acres) the total biomass was 62.50 tons.

Table 5: Biomass stored by 100 farmers

Villages	Biomass stock (in tons) (on fresh weight basis)		
	Groundnut	Samai	Ragi
Jakkampatti (33 farmers)	31.31	35.10	19.90
Kodiyalli (33 farmers)	29.30	38.10	19.70
Poocharampatti (34 farmers)	31.60	25.51	22.90
Total	92.22	98.71	62.50

In case of per farmer average, the biomass stock of Groundnut is 1.46 ton and in case of red gram 0.20 ton. Similarly, from samai the biomass stock is 1.70 ton and from Ragi it is 1.41 ton. The increase in biomass from Ragi and Samai is also due to the better varietal characters. This biomass obtained after the harvest was stored as dry fodder to feed the farm animals.

Back yard Poultry

Back yard poultry was taken up by all the 100 farmers. They started selling 2nd batch of grown up birds. Each family could sell around 6- 7 birds and the weight of birds ranged 1.750 to 2.500 kgs. Thus, each family could gain an income of Rs.4000-4500/-. At the same time, one grown up bird maintained by each family (maintained for next generation) started laying eggs, ranging from 11-13 per bird.

The poultry waste/droppings were carefully collected and stored in the manure pit. Around 200gms/bird (during night stay) of poultry waste was collected.

Kitchen garden

Kitchen garden establishment was one of the major allied activities promoted among 100 farm families. The focus was on providing nutritional security besides reducing their day-to-day expenditure on vegetable purchase. Kitchen gardens benefited farmers in terms of meeting the family nutritional requirement. Also, crop biomass (leaves) and daily vegetable waste were properly recycled to the compost pits. This way, each farmer could recycle 400-500 gms of waste (leaves, vegetable waste etc.) besides getting regular produce.

Among the 14 types of vegetables grown, greens of (four types) were harvested @10-13kgs. Other details can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6: Vegetable yield (June 21-March 22)

Sl. no.	Vegetables	Harvest (kg)
1	Radish	15-25
2	Beetroot	10-15
3	Snake gourd	10-15
4	Ridge gourd	8-10
5	Bitter gourd	5-8
6	Tomato	15-20
7	Bhendi	15-25
8	Brinjal	10-15
9	Greens (4 types)	10-13
10	Pumpkin	60-70
11	Chillies	1-1.5
12	Cluster bean	10-12
13	lablab	6-7
14	Bottle gourd	3-7

Creating IFS Models

Three IFS models were created one each in 3 villages. Each model consisted of goat as an additional component. All other components like poultry and backyard gardening were promoted along with diverse cropping systems. Also, Azolla cultivation was promoted. Around 0.5 to 1 kg of azolla was harvested in 3 days interval and fed to farm animals and poultry. Besides the income from multiple cropping system, the added component of goat has proved much more

beneficial to the model farmer. By March 2022, the total average weight of goat was 16-17 kgs, valued around Rs.14,000/goat. Thus IFS models were successful in terms of providing additional income.

Conclusion

The primary objective of the project was to demonstrate integration concept for strengthening resource flows between farm components to get maximum output/income. Farmers were guided for effectively integrating existing farm components, right from project inception. Farm enterprises such as crops, animals, kitchen garden, poultry were effectively integrated. The integration of these primary and secondary components fostered waste recycling system connecting crop, animal, compost and manure pits. This has benefitted significantly the processing of wastes as compost and FYM.

The endline year survey (March 2022) showed that an array of crops such as groundnut along with intercrops such as redgram, cow pea, border crop sorghum/cumbu, trap crop castor yielded well. Along with Ragi crop, on an average, a farmer could earn Rs. 49,000 from main crop alone. Also, they received income from sale of vegetables, poultry, and goats, which approximately together was around Rs. 1,05,000 to 1,20,000/- per annum from an acre of land. The increase in income was possible owing to two factors – farm diversification and integration.

IFS model consisted of:

(i) Fodder Promotion: Co4 cuttings of improved CN grass were given to the model farms. Also, the seeds of other fodders like CoFS 29 and Sweet Sudan were outsourced and given.

(ii) Poultry-desi bird rearing: 5 birds (1 male+4 female) were provided to each model farm to enable to get additional income and recycle poultry manure.

(iv) Kitchen garden: Various vegetable seeds of both creepers such as bitter gourd, snake gourd, ridge gourd and non-creepers such as brinjal, tomato, bhendi, chillies, 3-4 types of greens etc., were provided to establish kitchen garden at backyards.

(v) Azolla production: Azolla production was included in the model farms, to increase the biomass/fodder for livestock animals.

(vi) Two Goats were provided to each model farmer to integrate into the system.

Sharing knowledge on agroecology

Access Agriculture, an international organisation, has been promoting agroecological principles and rural entrepreneurship through capacity development and South-South exchange of quality farmer-to-farmer training videos in local languages.

Access Agriculture has collaborated with AME to translate the agriculture videos produced by them, into local Indian languages. After several rounds of meetings and discussions, MoU was signed to translate 30 videos into Telugu language. Two consultants, one each for translation and audio editing were identified to work on the project. Access Agriculture group organised a web session to AMEF team to share the guidelines on script translation and the process of providing voiceover.

By the end of December, all the 30 videos were translated and audio recorded in Telugu language. All have been uploaded on the Access Agriculture website.

FPO support activities

Dharwad team is constantly guiding and handholding Ulavi Chennabasappa Farmer Producer Company (UCFPC), as it has been just registered. All the compliances were carried out by the Central Unit in consultation with Auditors and consultants.

During the initial meeting of UCFPC BODs meeting, the members decided to open input dealership outlet at Nigadi village to enable the members to purchase agri inputs from UCFPC Agri service center. Accordingly with the collaboration of BODs, one building was identified at Nigadi village, on Dharwad to Haliyal main road for UPFPC office cum agri service center. The agri service center was inaugurated on 25th May 2021, started functioning. All the legal formalities were completed to procure mandatory licenses – seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. To begin with, small quantity input sales like Maize seeds, fertilizers, and small quantities of micro nutrients and organic products were planned and completed **.**

Capacity Building

The BoDs and the current staff at the FPCs being totally new to the concept of a Farmer Producer Company, capacity building was necessary. It was decided to provide a deep understanding of the fundamental principles, concepts and other important aspects related to a Farmer Producer Company. After considerable discussions and deliberations, 4 sessions were planned in the ToT mode.

1. Understanding Farmer Producer Company
2. Post Registration Management of the FPC
3. Marketing and Finances
4. Sales and Marketing Plan

UCBFPC Board of Directors meeting

A two tier training was conceived and implemented. Robens who has many years of experience in guiding FPOs, trained all the staff from Dharwad, Dharmapuri and Chintamani. Some of them are also office bearers of FPO. Participants were trained through virtual day long sessions by Robens. The four sessions were conducted on 27th August, 3rd, 14th and 21st September 2021.

Dharmapuri Unit in turn trained its FPO BoDs at FPC office, Poocharampatti. The sessions were conducted on 2nd, 11th, 18th and 28th September on the four topics mentioned above. The topics were dealt through sub group interaction and chart preparation in local language followed by chart presentation and reflection by participants.

Dharwad Unit in turn trained the BoDs of UCBFPC on four topics on 1st, 20th, 22nd and 24th September in UCBFPC office in Nigadi.

Initiating business

The Second Annual General Meeting (AGM) of UCFPC was held on 18th November 2021. More than 600 Shareholders participated. Following the AGM, a BODs meeting was conducted. Issues like obtaining fertilsier indent form DoA; purchase/installation of POS (point of sale) machine for fertilizer business; purchase of basic necessary items/ equipment like, racks, computer, thumb impression device, and net connection etc. were discussed. Dharwad team leader along with FPO Directors and CEO, Mr. Prasanna, contacted ADA, Department of Agriculture, and apprised about UCFPC planning to begin input business activities. ADA approved 15 tons of fertilizer indent and assured to help in installing POS machine through company representatives. Also Co-operative federation was contacted for issuing the required quantities of fertilizers. Presently, the process of applying for a equity grant from SFAC is being pursued with the help of a Consultant.

Input Distribution at UCBPFC outlet at Nigadi village

Business activities of FPC have started. FPC Board has purchased and installed POS (point of sale) machine as well as basic necessary items like computer, thumb impression device, etc. for conducting business.

Sale of fertilizers is in progress. Arrangements for procuring other inputs like seeds and bio-inputs are being made. The entire process is being streamlined in a phased manner by the Board members with guidance from AMEF staff.

Internal capacity building

To facilitate focused learning within the organisation, online internal capacity building sessions were organised, exploring web learning during Covid times. Every staff was requested to indicate the theme they could handle, based on their knowledge and work experience. Not only technical staff, but the administrative/finance staff were also given opportunity to share about their respective themes. Web learning sessions, of one hour duration were organised. All the staff to participated in the ten sessions conducted.
Around 4 staff from AMEF participated in the web session on "Agro ecological Opportunities with System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and System of Crop Intensification (SCI)" on 25th June 2021. The session was conducted by Prof. Emeritus Dr. Norman T. Uphoff from Cornell University, USA, the doyen of SRI and SCI.

Table 1: List of web learning sessions

	Topic	By	Date
1	Living Soil	Kandagal	25/05/2021
2	Digital tools-Intro	Radha	27/05/2021
3	Biological options for soil fertility enhancement	Narendra	01/06/2021
4	G suite tools	Veena	03/06/2021
5	AESA	Kandagal	08/06/2021
6	Knowledge Management	KVS Prasad	10/06/2021
7	Trash management	Suresh	15/06/2021
9	Biological options for pest control	Krishnan	17/06/2021
8	Case study – 1 (theory)	KVS Prasad	22/06/2021
9	AESA	Kandagal	29/06/2021
10	Case study- 2 (writing)	Radha	01/07/2021

Fund raising and Networking

MISEREOR

MISEREOR had invited LEISA India team for a virtual meeting during April 2021, on the possibility of extending the programme, beyond September 2021. Following the discussion and providing clarifications on many issues related to the programme, AMEF was asked to submit a concept note. A Concept note on LEISA India and Knowledge Management was prepared and shared with donors during May 2021. After responding with clarifications to MISEREOR on several issues, the donor suggested us to prepare a full fledged proposal. A three year proposal was prepared and submitted to the donor during mid June 2021. The proposal included continuation of current project along with a process for initiating knowledge exchange activities for MISEREOR partners in India.

By September end, MISEREOR communicated their willingness to support LESIA India programme for another three years (2021-2024). While MISEREOR support is to the extent of 70% of project costs, 30 percent has to be from local contributions in monetary terms and third party contributions. The new components of this project are a) Punjabi and Marathi editions will be produced 4 times a year (earlier it was 2 times a year) b) explore potential fields of collaboration with MISEREOR partners in knowledge sharing and dissemination and c) enhance outreach by electronic and social media – for eg., improving the functionalities of the present LEISA India website and wider dissemination through short videos. The grant agreement was signed during first week of October.

Participated in a virtual meeting with the Agricultures Network members about possible activities that could be supported by SWEDBIO for the next 3 years.

TATA Hitachi - CSR

A note on AME was shared with Mr. Sandeep Singh, MD of TATA Hitachi, to seek funds from TATA Hitachi. The CSR Head of Tata Hitachi, Mr. Vijaya Kumar contacted AME. Initially had a web meeting with Mr. Vijay Kumar and his team during first week of October 2021. A presentation on AMEF was made. Later, Dharwad team met Mr. Prashanth of Tata Hitachi, at the company's Dharwad Unit and had a discussion. Prashanth suggested that we prepare a proposal. A detailed 3 year proposal (with a budget of around 30 lakhs per year) for working in 10 villages, which are located in 25 kms radius of the company in Dharwad, was prepared and submitted to TATA Hitachi. However, owing to funding limitations, TATA Hitachi could only support a very small initiative on kitchen gardening. The support was released at the end of March 2021.

NABARD

Dharwad Unit approached Mr. Mayur Kamble, DDM- NABARD Dharwad to explore funding opportunities. The DDM was keen on visiting the Dharwad office before committing himself. However, his visit planned several times during April 2021 could not materialize owing to covid situation. On 4th June, a virtual meeting was organized, wherein the DDM, NABARD, Dharwad and staff of AMEF interacted. Mr, Kamble, the DDM requested AMEF to submit a concept note based on the discussions held.

Three proposals were prepared and submitted to NABARD for Dharwad region. These included 1) IFS; 2) Fodder management; and 3) Intercropping in Soyabean farming system. Among the 3 proposals, the proposal on fodder management was dropped and the one on intercropping in Soyabean was modified, based on the DDM's suggestion and the revised version was submitted. The 2 proposals have been submitted to NABARD Bangalore office, for further processing.

Several meetings were held internally and also with the NABARD DGM in preparation of proposals. Baseline reports were prepared for 10 proposed villages, based on the data collected earlier. Also NABARD DDM - Shri. Mayur Kamble –visited to AMEF area unit office at Dharwad on 22/07/2021. However, later on, based

on NABARDs current priorities, AMEF was requested to submit a proposal on Millet promotion. A proposal has been submitted based on a preliminary survey in proposed project villages.

WALMI (Water And Land Management Institute) DHARWAD

WALMI Director Dr. Rajendra Poddar was approached in his office at Dharwad for any possible support. Based on their suggestion, an introductory note was shared, which was approved in their governing council meeting for a joint venture project. AMEF-WALMI proposed collaboration framework has also been shared with WALMI. Several followups were made with WALMI after MOU preparation, by Suresh, Prasad and Chairman. WALMI wanted the MOU to be signed without any financial arrangements.

Mahindra CSR

After several rounds of communication, AMEF was asked to meet the CSR Unit. A convincing presentation was made by AMEF and a proposal on women empowerment was submitted. However, they could not extend support as AMEF working area was not within the radius of their Mahindra's Plants.

AGCO Foundation

Two proposals were submitted online to AGCO Foundation, based on their call. However, AMEF was not shortlisted for fund support.

Edelgive Foundation

Submitted a proposal to GROW Funds of Edelgive Foundation. The call was focussed particularly to support the institutions sustainability. EdelGive Foundation is a grant-making organization, helping build and expand philanthropy in India by funding and supporting the growth of grassroots organisations working with vulnerable communities across India. **GROW Fund** is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at building the capabilities, resilience and future readiness of grassroots organisations, in turn facilitating their efforts to effect change at the grassroots.

Small Action Fund

Submitted two proposals for Small Action Fund of Swiss Embassy, which did not materialise into funding support.

Staff as on 31.03.2022

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
Bengaluru		
1	Prasad K V S	Executive Director & Chief Editor
2	Radha T M	Managing Editor - LEISA India
3	Sanjana B M	Assistant Editor – LEISA India
4	Supriya S Rao	Internal Auditor
5	Shivappa	Driver (left during Dec 2021)
6	Chikkanna	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 (left in Jan 2022)
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

AME FOUNDATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

31.03.2021 Rs.P.	LIABILITIES	31.03.2022 Rs.P.	31.03.2021 Rs.P.	ASSETS	31.03.2022 Rs.P.
	FUNDS			**FIXED ASSETS**	
22,440,284.71	As per Schedule I	21,012,207.91	8,400,493.04	As per Schedule III	8,195,666.98
	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS			**LOANS & ADVANCES/ DEPOSITS**	
	As per Schedule II		13,057,654.00	As per Schedule IV Fixed Deposits	12,407,654.00
736,000.00	Rental Advance	736,000.00	88,115.00	Other Deposits	58,115.00
1,209,353.94	Unutilized Grants	475,465.00	60,335.00	Advances	35,812.00
65,246.00	Provisions	51,004.00	346,340.00	TDS Receivable	376,057.00
				CASH AND BANK BALANCES	
			2,497,947.61	As per Schedule V	1,201,371.93
24,450,884.65		22,274,676.91	24,450,884.65		22,274,676.91

For AME FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN & **TREASURER**

Place: BANGALORE
Date: 17.09.2022

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

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, 26656194

AME FOUNDATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

31.03.2021 Rs.P.	EXPENDITURE	31.03.2022 Rs.P.	31.03.2021 Rs.P.	INCOME	31.03.2022 Rs.P.
9,593.23	To Bank Charges	12,025.17	1,044,710.00	By Rental Income	1,376,575.00
55,687.53	To Office expenses	181,523.00	620,555.00	By Donations- Leisa & Others	74,637.00
3,264,079.75	To Salary to employees	2,325,159.55			
4,052,281.00	To Consultancy Charges	3,452,623.00		By Interest Income	
111,441.00	To Rent, Electricity & Water Charges	251,161.00	852,956.84	Interest - FD & SB	709,394.00
175,102.00	To Rates & Taxes	83,121.00	9,482.00	FCRA Bank Interest	2,203.00
-	To Kitchen Gardens	10,000.00	9,329.00	Interest in IT Refund	11,045.00
988,737.00	To FFS Coordination & Field guidance	42,131.00	-	Interest charged to Project	
109,212.00	To Travel & Conveyance	43,076.00			
1,754,396.00	To Capacity Building of Farmers	671,000.00	11,445,628.02	By Grants Received	7,238,905.92
842,196.00	To Critical Inputs & Support Cost	61,884.00			
209,111.00	To Repairs & Maintenance	65,849.00			
48,843.00	To Vehicle maintenance & Insurance	45,628.00			
36,156.00	To Printing & Stationery	9,289.00			
25,812.00	To Postage & Courier	8,452.00			
15,540.00	To Telephone & Internet	61,983.00			
80,464.00	To Security Charges	7,300.00			
214,870.00	To Meeting Expenses	-	601,770.65	By Excess of Expenditure over Income	1,218,250.80
29,500.00	To Audit Fees	64,900.00			
250,862.00	To Insurance & Gratuity	111,035.00			
1,683,704.00	To Magazine Expenses (Production, Translation, Editing & Layout)	2,637,219.00			
545,906.00	To Distribution Expenses	430,742.00			
9,440.00	To Web Updating	54,910.00			
71,498.00	To Seed production & distribution	-			
14,584,431.51		**10,631,010.72**	**14,584,431.51**		**10,631,010.72**
601,770.65	To bal b/d	1,218,250.80			
252,580.00	To Depreciation	209,826.00	854,350.65	By Excess of Expenditure over Income	1,428,076.80
854,350.65		**1,428,076.80**	**854,350.65**		**1,428,076.80**

For AME FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN

TREASURER

Place: BANGALORE
Date: 17.09.2022

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

PUNDARIKAKSHA
PARTNER
Membership No. 214283

AMEF OPERATIONAL AREAS

Central Unit

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

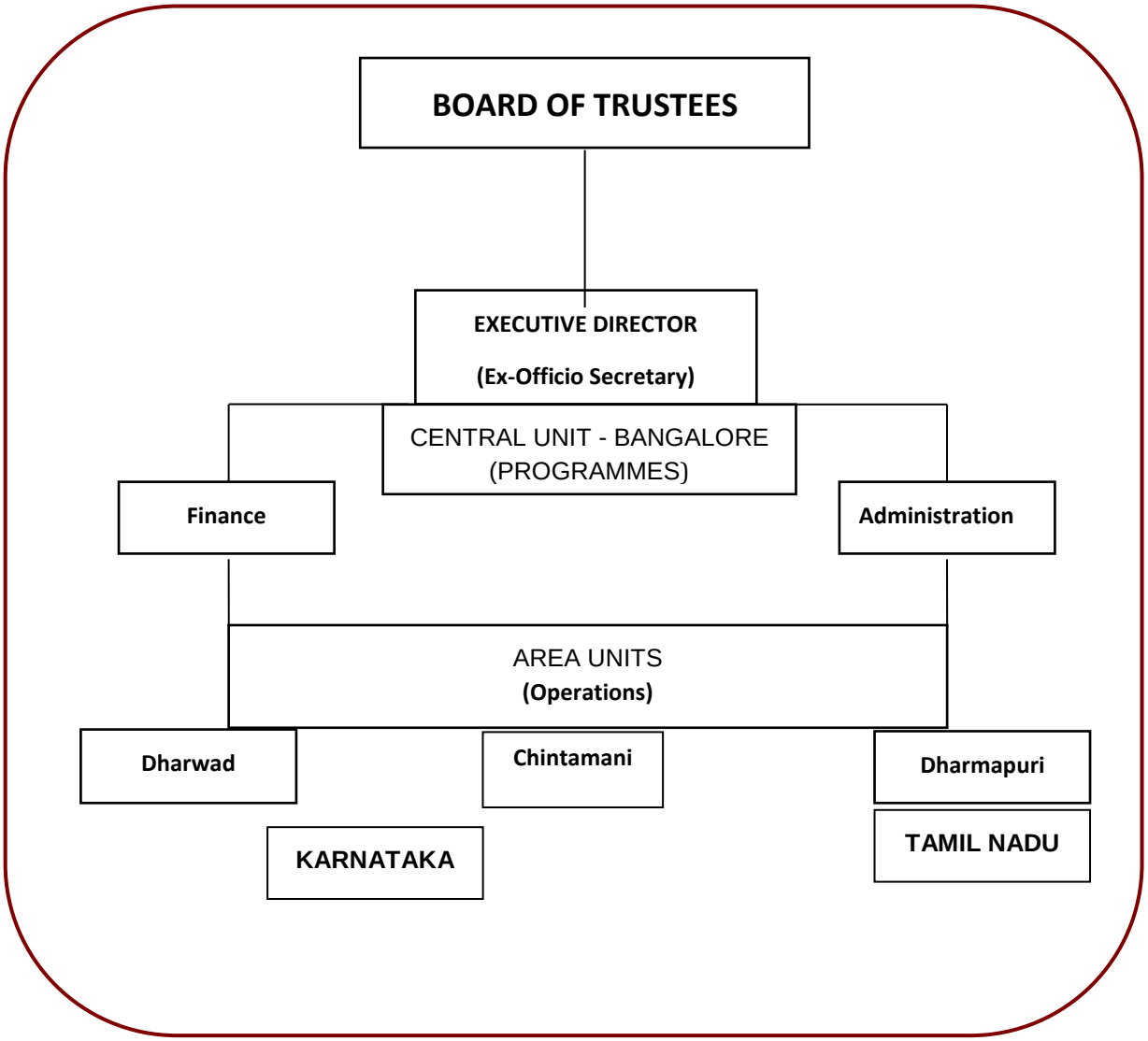
DHARWAD

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

CHINTAMANI

M.V. Ranganathan House (Rtd HM)
Opp: Pragathi Krishna Grameena Bank
Chintamani Main Road, Yeguvakote
Chintamani - 563146
Chikkaballapura District

ORGANOGRAM OF AME FOUNDATION



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(as on 31/03/2022)

Sri Chiranjiv Singh, *Chairman*
Former Development Commissioner of Karnataka and Additional Chief Secretary
Government of Karnataka

Dr. Smita Premchander, *Vice Chairperson*
Founder Member & Hon. Chief Executive – Sampark

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

Dr. A. Rajanna
Former Director of Agriculture
Government of Karnataka

Prof. Ashoke Chatterjee
Former Director of National Institute of Design

Smt Renuka Chidambaram
Retd. IAS Officer

Smt T M Radha, Secretary
Executive Director