
2015-16

Annual

Report



**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 a 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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AME Foundation – Genesis and Focus

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

Today, we are left with depleted farmlands, degraded farm environment and demotivated farm population who have nowhere else to go. Farmlands, under cultivation for generations, are getting depleted of their finer soil fractions, fertility and water holding capacity. Further, the degradation of the farm environment is aggravating the situation. Farming in regions like Deccan Plateau of Southern India with low and uncertain rainfall conditions is increasingly becoming unviable with inappropriate land-use practices and depleted vegetation. Challenges to feed and to fulfill the needs of a growing population in a sustainable way require a better 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, AMEF 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 Rural Youth as Sustainable Agriculture Promoters:** For the large and still growing rural population, agriculture still remains a major means of livelihood. For sustainable rural development, building the capacities of the rural youth to gainfully practice farming as well as guide their own farming communities is crucial. It enables **rural youth** to gain confidence in handling their resources better, get better returns as well as help them to get better social recognition which is so necessary for them to remain in villages.
5. **Building NGO network:** For scaling up of eco-friendly initiatives, AMEF interacts and strengthens the NGO networks involved in the land-based activities. By using training situations created in the cluster villages, capacity building of partner NGOs forms the major portion of AMEF's work.
6. **Developing institutional linkages:** AMEF seeks to build linkages with state, national, international research and development organizations to harness the technologies and methodologies for accessing information and involve such agencies to move towards participatory research and development approaches.
7. **Information sharing strategies:** Documentation and dissemination on 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 in collaboration with ILEIA works to enhance 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 Rice Intensification” principles. Also, the principles of SRI are being tried out in 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.

2. AREAS OF OPERATION

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

3. THE PROGRAMMES

The major projects implemented included

- 3.1. Improving dry farming through ecological agriculture (Dharmapuri Farm Initiative) – *supported by Srivats Ram*
- 3.2 Producing more with less resource use – *supported by Srivats Ram*
- 3.3 S & T based sustainable dry farming approaches –supported by KSTePS
- 3.4. LEISA India programme – *supported by MISEREOR and ILEIA*
- 3.5 Dry land agriculture programme in Telangana– supported by Srivats Ram

Improving dry farming through ecological agriculture



This project also called as Dharmapuri Farm Initiative (DFI) is a project of AMEF supported by Sri Srivats Ram, MD of Wheels India Ltd. The programme focused on improving the livelihoods of resource poor farmers in 20 villages of Pennagaram block through LEISA approaches.

Five new villages were identified for the current year programme followed by village level meetings and formation of FFS groups.

During PRAs, farmer groups analyzed the situation, identified gaps and opportunities. FFS events were initiated. Farmers took up summer ploughing, constructed field bunds cum trenches along the border to harvest runoff water. During the FFS, the focus was on soil and water conservation, seed treatment measures etc. as part of pre sowing activities. **Rain water and fertile top soil was saved** through pits. Mulching was promoted for promoting soil health.

Though the initial rainfall was encouraging for preparatory activities, there have been rainfall delays for sowing, with Pennagaram block's undulating terrain, adding to the challenge.

In the new villages, groundnut was taken up in four villages and ragi in one village based on soils, rainfall receipt and moisture availability. In case of 20 old villages, groundnut was sown in 12 villages, in four villages and ragi in four villages. . Mixed cropping systems included, border crop (sorghum/cumbu), trap crop (castor), major inter crop (red gram), second intercrop cow pea etc.

Table 1: Groundnut yields in FFS plots and non-FFS farmer plots. (sample harvest- average of yield taken from square meter)

Villages	No. of plants	Healthy pods	Immature pods	Infected pods	Haulms Weight (kg.)	No. of plants	Healthy pods	Immature pods	Infected pods	Haulms Weight (kg.)
FFS plots (with LEISA practices)						Control plots (with regular practices)				
Boothinatham	31	475 (664)	64	2	2.4	29	343 (606)	178	14	1.97
M.tharasu	33	493 (760)	70	1	2.5	30	340 (600)	173	12	1.90
Sk.Madai	32	462 (717)	85	2	2.5	28	414 (650)	135	10	1.84
Yettiampatti	32	440 (710)	77	2	2.5	30	380 (603)	142	13	1.90
Average	32	468	74	1.8	2.5	29	369	157	12	1.90

FFS events were organized in five new villages covering 200 farmers (40 farmers per village) with follow up FFS in 20 old villages covering 400 farmers. All the FFS plots had well designed experimental plots consisting of SA plot, leaf cutting experiments, soil and water conservation measures, installation of yellow sticky traps. Farmers used local materials to prepare yellow sticky traps (around 5200 installed) to deal with sucking pests and avoid pesticide sprays. In the five new villages, 3100 low cost yellow stick traps were used. The regular production practices followed by the farmers in their own plots

served as a means for comparison. As 200 new farm families underwent FFS learning processes, they improved their farming skills as well as decision making based on the pre and post assessment of the process. Twenty five young women were trained through FFS learning process.

Ten to fifteen days prior to harvest, while there was insufficient rainfall in some areas, it rained heavily in some other areas affecting the following crops – Groundnut, red gram and cowpea. However, by the adoption of LEISA practices, there was significant difference in observed parameters between FFS plots and control plots as indicated in Table 1 (Groundnut) and Table 2 (Ragi). Two FFS sessions were conducted for horse gram cultivation, of which, one in initial crop growth period and the second during harvest phase.

The intercrops like red gram, cow pea and castor as trap crop were harvested. Horse gram was grown and harvested as second crop cultivated in the groundnut field (on completion of its harvest) using the residual moisture and nitrogen fixed up by the groundnut crop. The yield details are presented in Table 3.

Farmers Innovations in yellow sticky traps



Table 2: The Ragi and Samai yield data – (FFS plots and non FFS farmer plots) (1 acre)

Villages	No. of plant s/sq. m.	Sowing method	Seed rate (kgs)	Total yield (kg/ac)	No. of plants/ sq.m	Sowing method	Seed rate (kgs)	Total yield (kg/ac)
FFS plots (with LEISA practices)					Control plots (regular practices)			
Koonampallam	30	Transplanting/line sowing	16	900	40	Broadcasting	60	760
Average of 4 (old) villages	15	Broadcasting	16	760	50	Broadcasting	25	420

41 and 60%)

Improved yields and incomes

- Improved dry land crop productivity-groundnut, ragi, *samai*, horse gram (ground nut yields improved by 38%; ragi by 67%, *samai* by 36% and horse gram by 41%)
- Ecological methods of cultivation reduced cost of cultivation in the range of 14-29% (groundnut 25%, ragi 29%, *samai* 14%, horse gram 23%) – *horse gram is the crop taken as second crop*
- Improved gross and net incomes respectively were observed in dry land crops – (groundnut – 38 and 75%; ragi – 67 and 115%; *samai* 36 and 63% and horse gram

- Diverse crops** (red gram as intercrop, castor as trap crop, sorghum as border crop, cowpea as inter crop) fetched additional net income of Rs.7,000/- for groundnut farmers. (around 150) and horse gram as second crop fetched around Rs.11,000/- as additional income. Through 5 field days, 2 exposure visits and by participating MYRADA NGO monthly meetings (6 times), sensitized 5600 non FFS members on the eco friendly farm practices.

DFI farmers data

	Ground nut	Ragi	Samai	Horse gram
Yield increase (%)	38	67	36	41
Cost redn (%)	25	29	14	23
Gross income increase (Rs)	13200	13200	6000	3900
Gross income (%)	38	67	36	41
Gross income (Rs)	48400	33000	22500	13500
Net income increase (Rs)	16450	15125	6800	4410
Net income (%)	75	115	63	60
Net Income (Rs)	38500	28300	17680	13500
Addl income				
Horsegram (all)	11000	11000	11000	
Gnut as intercrop	7000			
Gross income (Rs)	66400	44000	33500	
Net income (Rs)	56500	39300	28680	

In addition, farmers reported income from kitchen gardens in the range of Rs.4000-15000 (in specific cases).

SRI paddy cultivation was promoted with 20 farmers for enthrusing water savings in irrigated conditions.



Table 3

Crops	Inter crops in FFS plots (0.5acre)				Horse gram in FFS plots (0.5ac) (as 2nd crop)
Villages	Red gram (inter crop)	Castor (trap)	Cow pea (border)	Sorghum (barrier)	
Boothinatham	38kg	75kg	18kg	13kg	175kg
M.tharasu	40kg	80kg	20kg	15kg	205kg
Sk.Madai	70kg	65kg	21kg	14kg	182kg
Yettiampatti	35kg	72kg	17kg	10kg	190kg
Koonampallam	45kg	65kg	22kg	12kg	185kg
Average	45.6kg	71.4kg	19.6kg	12.8kg	187.4kg

Note: Due to heavy rain, Red gram crop got affected and resulted in yield loss of 50-75%.

Farm based supplementary activities

Kitchen gardens were established as part of seasonal activity by 200 farmers in five new villages and 400 farmers in 20 old villages. Each kitchen garden consisted of 13-17 types of vegetables, sown in different periods. Initially three types of greens were sown and harvested within 30 days period followed by snake gourd, ribbed gourd, bitter gourd, tomato, chillies, brinjal and bhendi. So far, each farm family has harvested 70-80 kgs of greens, 3-5 kgs of tomato, brinjal, bhendi and 20-30 kgs of snake gourd, ribbed and bitter gourd. They also shared vegetables with their neighbours, as a good will gesture. As part of kitchen garden activity, after harvest of seasonal vegetables, 12 seed varieties were distributed to 100 farmers in five villages for promotion of kitchen gardens. Moringa trees planted earlier, started yielding drum sticks, around 20-30 numbers/tree. Enhanced food choices for the family through 200 new kitchen gardens maintained by women, besides giving an economic benefit ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs.15000 in specific cases after factoring access to home grown vegetables, not purchased from market. Seed banks of various vegetables were taken up by 15 famers at house hold level.

Kitchen gardens were promoted in school zones - in primary school and higher secondary school. Students are being encouraged to establish kitchen gardens in their homesteads too. Seventy five students from two schools (secondary and higher

secondary) were involved in creating models in their school campus, from which they harvested various vegetables. Fifty students established kitchen garden in their homesteads also.

As part of **fodder promotion** activities, Co4 cuttings of improved CN grass expanded to 25 members in five new villages. Other varieties like CoFS 29 and Sweet Sudan are harvested periodically by five families and fed to milch animals. As part of linkages, for wider spread on request by the donor, 500 cuttings of CN, Co4 were given to another NGO, Bharat Nirman Sangh, Kodaikanal. Scaled up Co4 CN grass to 50 farmers and established 10 fodder banks with new varieties such as CoFS 29 multi cut fodder, sweet sudan etc.. Five hundred cuttings of Co4 CN grass are given to outside NGO namely Bharat Nirman Sangh and planted at Kodaikanal model farm. Azolla production was taken up in all the 5 new villages.

Under the new initiative, ten farm families have taken up backyard poultry for supplementary nutrition and income. A few enthusiastic farmers keen on experimentation have taken up farming with a pair of country chicks provided to them with an understanding to give back two pairs of chicks (upon multiplication) to be shared with other farmers. Each bird hatched out 11-14 chicks. As agreed, each family returned back, one pair totalling 5 pairs which were given to another five families. Also, each family (5 families of 1st generation) got an economic benefit of Rs.2,400-3,500 through poultry keeping.

Farmer groups were motivated to try out household sericulture through raising mulberry nurseries (around 1500 cuttings).

A new initiative of **mushroom cultivation** was taken up in 5 new villages (two beds per two farmers in each of the five villages). However, they were not properly maintained, leading to contamination, which was addressed in the subsequent training organized. However, with mushroom cultivation taken up by 2 families per village (in 5 new villages), which yielded 3 to 4.5kgs of mushroom, for home consumption.

Representatives of 5 villages groups were involved in collectivization by procuring groundnut 80kg; red gram 50kg; ragi 100kgs and 100kgs, and the produce sold at SHG level.

Mr. Jayaraj, Consultant, visited the project villages for photo documentation.

In anticipation of new programme under support from Srivats Ram, five new villages have been identified and Gram Sabhas conducted. PRA sessions are planned in the month of April 2016.



Kitchen Gardens



Fodder bank



Poultry



Azolla



Mushroom Production



Seed bank

Producing more with less resource use



Redgram as border crop in paddy

The AMEF-SRFI collaborative programme was implemented with an objective of strengthening efforts in guiding SRI methods of paddy cultivation and Low external input alternatives in sorghum based cropping systems in select project areas of Dharwad and Kalaghatagi taluks of Dharwad district. Broadly, the focus was on a) Guiding farmers to adopt SRI principles in paddy – in transplanted and rain-fed conditions for improved yields and reduced costs b) Promote scaling of SRI with 500 farmers old and 500 new farmers in select taluks through need based trainings c) Improving and stabilizing yields in Sorghum Based cropping system d) Promoting homestead kitchen gardens. The programme was implemented in Dharwad and Kalghatgi taluks.

Preparatory activities included identification of 5 new villages in Kalaghatagi taluk of Dharwad district, organizing village meetings, Gram sabhas and baseline surveys. Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) were conducted in two villages to understand the existing situation. A TOT was organised for the Field coordinators and volunteers to support the programme.

One village each was identified to organize season long Farmers Field School (FFS) events in Paddy and rabi sorghum based cropping system. Fifty farmers were trained through FFS season long event – 25 in paddy and 25 in sorghum. FFS sessions included BBE (Ballot box exercise), SRI nursery raising technique, plot sowing, seed selection, weed management, enriched FYM, green manuring,

The harvest data analyzed indicates the following results:

Transplanted Rice	SRI	Conventional FP
Yield (q/acre)	28 q/acre – Rs. 36,400/-	22 q/acre – Rs. 28600/-
COC (Rs./acre)	12,500	12,900
Net income (Rs./acre)	23,900	15700
Other income (Rs.)	8000	8000
Total income (Rs.)	31900	23700
Rainfed Rice	SRI	Conventional FP
Yield (q/acre)	11 q/acre – Rs. 16500/-	8 q/acre – Rs. 12000/-
COC (Rs./acre)	9,200	8000
Net income (Rs./acre)	7,300	4000
Other income (Rs.) (Redgram, Field bean, Fodder)	Rs.8600 From Red gram-30kg/acre – Rs.1800 From Field bean-20kg/acre- Rs.800 From Fodder – Rs.6000	Rs.8600 From Red gram-30kg/acre – Rs.1800 From Field bean-20kg/acre- Rs.800 From Fodder – Rs.6000
Total income (Rs.)	17,900	12600

azolla cultivation, botanical preparation etc. Four hundred and fifty farmers, organized into fifteen groups (30 farmers/group) also got trained through modular trainings for adopting SRI methods. The modules covered the following topics: Seed selection and seed treatment (Module 1); Sowing methods/nursery techniques (Module 2); Weed and water management (Module 3); Integrated Pest Management (Module 4).

SRI was implemented in 5 new villages and ten earlier implemented old villages of Dharwad and Kalaghatagi taluk of Dharwad district. As Against a target of 500 new farmers under rain fed condition, around 370 farmers have adopted SRI, covering 385 acres using seed drill and furrow sowing. SRI by transplanting method was taken up by 20 farmers in 20 acres by new farmers. In the villages intervened earlier, 858 farmers have continued SRI practices while increasing the area to 1293 acres. Farmers have practiced

decreased seed rate from 40kg/acre to 5 to 10kg /acre in rainfed SRI and in transplanted SRI, a seed rate of 2kg/acre was adopted against 16-18kg/acre.

In rainfed paddy, rainfall aberrations affected yields. Initially, good rains were received. However, owing to shortfall in panicle initiation stage, planking operations could not be taken up which affected the no of tillers. However, the performance is better in SRI



Strip cropping of sorghum with moth bean



Kitchen garden



Mulching in kitchen garden

plots. Local varieties are performing slightly better.

Paddy farmers continued to take up red gram and field beans as **border crops**. Three hundred farmers took up red gram while 100 farmers took up field beans, which enhanced household nutritional access as well as incomes.

After the harvest of Paddy, as **catch crops**, 150 farmers took up moth bean and 50 farmers took up black gram in the residual moisture, in rainfed SRI fields. Farmers realized Moth bean yields of 1.5 q/acre and income of Rs. 12,000/- (from 1.5 q/ acre @ Rs. 8000/- per q). The farmers realized black gram yields of 1 q/acre and income of Rs. 7200/q. Thus, the farmers who took up moth bean as catch crop got an income of Rs.29,900/- while farmers who took up black gram got an income of Rs.29,800/-.

A sharing event was organized which was attended by 250 paddy farmers.

In Sorghum based cropping systems, farmers were guided to adopt LEISA practices. The farmers realized improved yield of 2q by following SA practices and improved net incomes of Rs.4500/-.

Kitchen gardens were established in 37 households, primarily by women. They took up mulching methods to conserve moisture. They have used panchagavya as growth promoter and bio pesticides like neem leaf extract, chilli garlic extract, for plant protection. Group

meetings were organized with two women groups to review the outcomes. Some of the results shared were as follows: Women have harvested the following vegetables for home consumption - Coriander 20 bundles; Bitter gourd – 9kg; Cucumber – 10.5kg; Cluster bean – 11.5kg; Brinjal – 9kg; Tomato – 9.5kg; Ridge gourd – 20kg; Bhendi – 9.5kg and Palak – 25 bundles, with an estimated market value of around Rs. 3520 and cost of cultivation, around Rs. 450.00.



Fodder cultivation in mango orchard

Fodder cultivation was taken up in ten acres with seedlings of Hybrid Napier (30000); Gini grass (40000); Seeds of fodder sorghum (5 kg) and cowpea (5 kg) in the project area with technical support of IGFRD Dharwad. Sample data collection was done with 60 farmers. One farmer who planted CO - SH 29, fodder sorghum in 5 guntas, harvested 30kg seeds which was re purchased by IGFRD at the rate of Rs. 280/-. A sharing event was organized and IGFRD organized a video shoot with two



Local inter cultivator developed by farmers



Use of weeder in SRI paddy

farmers. Eight farmers shared their experience in FM radio of UAS Dharwad.

Farmers have continued with azolla cultivation to provide supplemental feed for milch animals.

After attending a training programme on mushroom cultivation, Field Coordinators guided six groups of farmers, organized in two clusters. They harvested 5 kgs (roughly three times gains) for home consumption.

Training events were organized on Silage preparation in five villages, in which 20 farmers participated.

Mr. Jayaraj, Consultant, visited the project villages for photo documentation.

As part of availing linkages with line departments, ten farmers have procured inter cultivators from agriculture department worth Rs. 5600/-; and 300 kgs of fodder maize from Animal Husbandry Department.

New villages were identified in Dharwad and Hubli taluk for a potential new programme.

S&T based sustainable dry farming approaches



Reviving back millets

AME Foundation along with the support of KSTePS, started working in Chintamani and Bangarpet with the following objectives for the year 2015-16:

- a) Organizing rain-fed farmers into groups to learn and adopt a combination of farm alternatives and crop choices for sustainable dry farming livelihoods;**
- b) Build resilience through farm supportive activities like seed production and access;**
- c) Livestock inclusion, where possible.**

Preparatory activities included selection of 10 new villages in Bangarpet and Chintamani (5 in each area), conducting PRAs and baselines, initiating 10 FFS events, mobilizing good quality seeds and raising staggered nurseries. The villages selected were: Bangarpet Area: Bheemaganahally, Yeragol, Gollahally, Kothur (Krishnapura), and Bathigowdanur and in Chintamani Area Thulavanuru, Dharmavaripalli, Deshamvaripalli, G.Bathalahalli, and Salamakalahalli.

PRAs were conducted in 8 villages in both units. Baselines were conducted in 10 villages

comprising 700 families. The purpose was to jointly assess the situation and identify opportunities for improvement and develop need based curriculum for season long learning through events like FFS in Bangarpet and Chintamani. In ten villages, while groundnut based farming system was taken up in six villages, ragi based farming system was taken up in four villages, the other crops promoted were red gram, *samai*, fodder crop of jowar and *aware*.

Groundnut crop						
Sl. No.	Name of the Village	FFS Plots (G.Nut Var. K-6)			Non-FFS Plots	
		No. of Farmers	no. of pods/ plant	Yield Q/ac	pods per plant	Yield Q/ac
1	Tulavanuru	23	55	9.40	35	6.23
2	Dharmavaripalli	20	53	8.65	32	6.15
3	Salamakanahalli	25	52	8.55	31	6.10
4	Deshamvaripalli	25	47	7.00	26	4.85
5	Bheemaganahalli	24	35	6.40	21	3.65
6	Yeragol	22	32	6.00	19	3.55
	TOTAL	139				

Ragi crop: (Ragi crop was raised by transplanting from staggered nurseries)

Sl. No.	Name of village	FFS Plots (Var. ML-365)					Non-FFS Plots (Other HYV Varieties)			
		No. of farmers	Sowing method	Seed rate per kg/ac	Average No. of tillers per plant	Average total yield per ac.	Method of sowing	Seed rate kg/ac.	Average no. of tillers per plant	Total yield qts/ac
1	G.Bathala halli	23	Trans-planting	3.50	14	10.50	Broad-casting	10	9	7.5
2	Bathigow danuru	24	-do-	3.00	16	11.25	-do-	11	11	8.15
3	Gollahally	22	-do-	3.25	18	11.56	-do-	10.5	9	8.8
4	Kothuru	21	-do-	3.25	15	10.8	-do-	8.5	9	7.55
	TOTAL	90								

Some of the major rainfed agriculture practices promoted were: *Ploughing across the slope; Formation of ridges and furrows; Soil testing; Tank silt application; Spreading silt and FYM; Strengthening of bunds; Application of gypsum to groundnut crop; Formation of compartment bunds.*

Procurement of good quality seed was done which included HYV Ragi (MR-1,MR-6,ML-365), Redgram (BRG-1, BRG-2) Groundnut (K-6), and seeds of minor millets like Samai, Navane and Araka. Five Staggered nurseries were raised in ragi crop; 14000 redgram seedlings were raised in plastic packets in seven villages. This is to cope with delayed rainfall affecting optimum plant growth by choosing the right aged seedling for transplantation. Seed treatment and germination tests were completed and bio fertilizers organised. In Bangarpet, ragi transplanting was done using second and third stages of staggered nursery seedlings during July, August, upto first week of September,

covering an area of more than 250 acres. The red gram seedlings were raised in pockets, transplanted during August second and third week covering an area of nearly five acres in four villages. In Chintamani, gypsum was applied at the rate of 200 kgs/ac at the time of

The average yields were as follows owing to adoption of sustainable agriculture practices:

CROPS	One Hectare Model Plots Q/ac	Other Farmers' Plots Q/ac
Groundnut K-6	7.45	4.28
Ragi ML-365	10.85	8.8
Redgram	2.5	1.25

sowing during June and July months, covering more than 300 acres.

The above activities were carried out in five villages consisting of 478 farmers in 235 acres in Bangarpet Unit. Similarly, in five villages of Chintamani, 522 farmers in 265 acres took up the activities.



Farmer Field School is a season long learning process organized on farmers' fields to enable them to try out options in groups, compare the results with normal practice, understand through studies, the '**principle**' behind 'practice'. A total of 200 farmers were organized into 10 Eco Farmers Groups (FFS Groups) and 10 FFS events conducted, 4 in ragi, 4 in groundnut and 2 in redgram. In total, 160 sessions were conducted with 200 farmers.

Through FFS, farmers were guided to practice a combination of SA practices for in-situ moisture conservation, soil productivity improvements, combination of resilient cropping systems. Specific practices included seed selection, seed treatment, application of gypsum, use of bio-fertilizers, staggered nurseries, IPM methods, and farm supportive activities like seed management, fodder production, azolla cultivation and kitchen gardens. Sixty two training events were

conducted for 1250 farmers which are season specific, crop specific and location specific. These trainings were conducted on in-situ moisture saving methodologies, cropping systems, contingency cropping program, application of gypsum, micro-nutrients and biofertilizers, seed production technologies and weeding using cycle weeders and bud nipping in redgram crop, post-harvest technologies, azolla cultivation, and Kitchen gardens. Introducing staggered nurseries in ragi and redgram was also done.

In *Bangarpet and Chintamani*, groundnut crop, which was at pod maturity stage, was affected by a dry spell of nearly 30 days during August and September. Initially, In Bangarpet, the pod bearing varied between 6 to 8 in check plots,

Income from one hectare model		
Crop	One Hectare Model Plot	
	Yields	Gross Income (in Rs.)
Ground nut (1 ac.)	750 Kgs.	45000
Ragi (0.5 ac)	560 Kgs.	11250
Hy. Maize (0.5ac)	350 Kgs.	4200
Red gram	125 Kgs.	10625
Avare (Green Pod)	300 Kgs.	7500
Fodder (Dry)	5.5 Tons	25000
Fodder Jowar (Mixed Crop - 0.5ac.) (Green Fodder)	3.5 Tons	17000
Income from Kitchen Gardens		3600
Savings by use of Cycle Weeders and Not using Fertilizers		4500
TOTAL		128675
Less the Cost of Cultivation		55850
Net RETURNS		72825
Some farmers having livestock reported additional income of Rs.29,600 in ten months from sale of milk.		

while it was 18 to 20 in one hectare model plots and SA practice model plots. In Chintamani, it was 10 to 15 in other plots and 25 to 30 in one hectare model plots and SA practice plots. Ultimately, pod rate was 25 to 30 in SA plots against 15 to 20 in other plots (Bangarpet); 45-55 pods in SA plots against 25 to 30 in other plots (Chintamani). Ragi crop suffered lodging due to heavy rainfall during November.

By adoption of LEISA practices and use of improved varieties, significant difference in yields was observed in FFS plots, one hectare model plots and SA plots against control plots/non-FFS plots.

Red gram yields have been at 1.75 q/ac in FFS plots while the reported yields in the control plots have been around 0.5 q/ac. While there was moisture stress before November, heavy rains during the month caused flower drop, resulting in lower yields.

Samai: Minor coarse millets like *samai* (E-360 and CL-203) were promoted with farmers showing interest in them. The crop yields have been around 3-3.5 q/ac.

The above crop yields were achieved in spite of severe drought of 45 days during September and October. Forty five farmers were involved in trying out crop combinations in one hectare (22 in Bangarpet and 23 in Chintamani). SA practices were initiated with them where farmers combine cultivation of crops to meet their food, income, nutrition and fodder requirements. Farmers took up cultivation of ragi, groundnut, redgram with



jowar and bajra as border crops. These plots not only provide food grains but also fodder. Even during drought conditions, farmers were able to grow sufficient food grains like cereals, pulses, oilseeds. This strengthens their household food security, nutrient security, financial security and fodder security.

Re-introducing climate resilient nutrition rich



Animal health camp

millet crops was one of the efforts made. The millets not only offer food security but also are considered nutrition rich and resilient. In order to popularize the minor millets, which are almost in the brink of extinction, farmers were encouraged to try out navane, and haraka.

A simple and affordable cycle weeder was introduced in the project in dryland crops like Ragi, Groundnut and Maize. This is cost-effective, easily transportable, reduces labour cost for weeding.

About 25 vermicompost pits were established to get better quality compost.

Seventy five kitchen gardens were setup by farm women, enabling access to home grown diverse and fresh vegetables for their household consumption.

Animal Health Camps for diverse livestock were organized under a single roof. In Chintamani area, sheep suffering from blue tongue disease were diagnosed and treated with the help of Animal Husbandry Dept. and veterinary Doctors of Chintamani and Bangarpet units for these camps. In addition to the above, 7 camps were organized during this

period in the villages of G.Batlahalli, Bheemaganahalli, Yeragol, Bathigowdanuru, D.P. Halli, M.Gollahalli and Kanamanahalli. Together, the following number of cattle were treated for various diseases: Sheep -1105, Cows -345 (Local and Exotic), Goat -58. In total, around 1508 animals were treated.

Fifty Azolla cultivation models were established for harvesting supplementary feed for livestock.

As part of promoting poultry rearing, on a cost sharing basis, linkage was established with UAS, Hebbal, Bangalore for facilitating procurement of Swarnadhara birds of three weeks age to the farmer groups in the project area. This was done based on farmers' interest who were prepared to share the cost. This is to expand the income and nutrition source for rainfed farmers.

Field days and sharing events were organized to spread awareness on alternative farming practices as well as benefit of adapting Sustainable Agricultural Practices.

New villages were also identified and preliminary meetings conducted in Bangarpet and Chintamani for a potential new programme.



Backyard poultry



Dry land agriculture programme in Telangana

A new dry land agriculture programme has been initiated in the Telangana region supported by Srivatsram Foundation, with AMEF serving as a resource organisation. The programme was conceived initially to be implemented through collaboration with Yuganthar, an NGO, in Warangal District, actively involved in implementing watershed programmes.

Yuganthar guided in preliminary identification of 2 villages with predominantly SC and ST population, located in the dry land areas of Parvathagiri Mandal of Warangal district. With the support of Yuganthar, an orientation programme was organized with select youth from the villages, involving local panchayat leaders, which was to be followed by a TOT. However, TOT could not be done as the NGO was very busy and farmer groups not keen to be involved in typical AMEF knowledge based support. To overcome this, an exposure visit was organized to select farmers to visit Kolar district where AMEF work is in progress. Following the exposure visit, based on new interest generated, as follow up, Mr. Narendra, Field Coordinator from Kolar area trained interested farmers on sustainable agriculture practices such as composting, enriched FYM, kitchen gardens, and azolla cultivation.

Under the guidance of Dr. Vithal Rajan, Trustee, AME Foundation, preliminary meetings were held with Dr. Murali, Director, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty programme of the State Government and Advisor, Telangana Government to share AMEF's work in the last thirty years. The

Advisor was particularly impressed with ecological options and natural resources management in dry lands for improved yields, incomes and nutritional access which is also what he is interested in for improving small dry farmer livelihoods. Ms. Sangeetha met Dr. Dayakar Rao, Principal Scientist, of Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), with further interactions with Dr. Ravi Kumar, Senior Scientist and Agronomist. Discussions focused on potential options available for strengthening sorghum and millet based cropping systems through better resource management, improved seed varieties and value addition efforts undertaken by the institute.

With donor being keen on AMEF directly working with farmer groups, a field programme in Mahboobnagar district was conceptualized. A field consultant based in Shadnagar in Mahboobnagar district was identified. He was earlier trained by AMEF through season long Training of FFS facilitators. Villages and dry land cropping systems have been identified. PRAs, baselines and formation of eco farmer groups are being planned.

LEISA India

LEISA magazine is recognized as the leading magazine for sharing field based experiences in Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture. LEISA India, published in English, is the regional Indian edition of Agricultures Network of the global LEISA magazines, coordinated by ILEIA, Netherlands. LEISA India, the programme continued to strengthen grassroot level knowledge sharing through local language editions (Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Oriya, Telugu, Punjabi and Marathi) and limited print edition of English with MISEREOR's support

LEISA India magazine is being produced from the year 1999. The Indian edition (LEISA India) of the global magazine Farming Matters (earlier called as LEISA Magazine) was supported by ILEIA, The Netherlands, till 2010-11. As the support from ILEIA was coming to an end by December 2011, we approached MISEREOR which supported the initiative for three years from 2011-2014 (Phase I). Being a member of global agricultures network, LEISA India is being supported by ILEIA, for the production of the digital version of the magazine and dissemination through various online means (2012-16).

The support for LEISA India programme from MISEREOR for the year 2011-14 concluded in March 2014. Based on the programme performance during its first phase of support, MISEREOR has extended its support for the next phase of the programme, for three years (2014-17). Besides limited copies of English print edition, this phase will support production and distribution of two more additional issues per year for 4 language editions (Kannada, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu) and two issues per year for two new language editions– Punjabi and Marathi.

1. English Edition

a) Magazine Production

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

V.17, no.2, June 2015- Rural Urban Linkages

V.17, no.3, September 2015 – Water-Lifeline for livelihoods

V.17, no.4, December 2015- Women forging change

V.18, no.1, March 2016 – Co-creation of Knowledge

a) Rural Urban Linkages (Vol. 17.2, June 2015)

The issue included 11 full length articles covering various dimensions of the issue – market linkages, food cycles, urban initiatives, social media etc. The magazine was of 36 pages.

There was a good response to call for papers. We

received 20 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them only 6 were selected. We

proactively

contacted individuals and organisations and succeeded in getting another 2 articles. Three articles were selected from the global pool. In all we included 11 articles, 8 from the region.



b) Water - Lifeline for Livelihoods (Vol. 17.3, September 2015)



The issue included 10 full length articles covering various dimensions of the issue – traditional water harvesting systems, rainwater harvesting, community initiatives, improved

water use efficiency etc. We included an interview and farmers diary. The magazine was of 36 pages.

There was a good response to call for papers. We received 18 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them only 6 were selected. We proactively contacted individuals and organisations and succeeded in getting two articles. Two articles (Indian) were selected from the global pool. In all **we included 10 articles, all 10 from the South Asian region.**

c) Women forging change (Vol. 17.4, December 2015)



The issue included 14 full length articles covering various dimensions of the issue – women taking lead individually and in groups - in ecological ways of production with

nutrition as focus, processing and adding value, organising themselves into groups and strengthening their capacities, adapting resilient farming practices and those that reduce their drudgery etc. The magazine was of 36 pages.

There was a good response to call for papers. We received 20 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them 9 were selected. We proactively contacted individuals and organisations and succeeded in getting

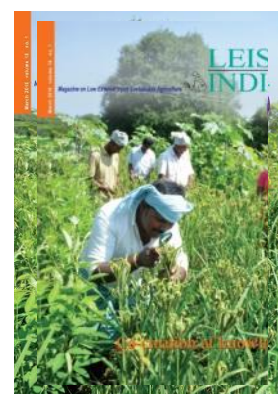
another 5 articles. In all **we included 14 articles, all from the region.**

d) Co-creation of Knowledge (Vol. 18.1, March 2016)

The issue included 8 full length articles. Also included an interview with Dr. Victor M Toledo, a Mexican ethno ecologist and social activist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The magazine was of 40 pages.

There was a good response to call for papers.

We received 20 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them 3 were selected. We proactively contacted individuals and organisations and succeeded in getting one article.



One article was selected from the global pool, sponsored by Oxfam. Another article was produced highlighting the issues arising out of discussions at the FAO regional consultation on Agro ecology, a consultancy assignment to LEISA India team. One article was selected from the global pool and one was proactively sourced. In all **we included 8 articles.**

b) Content and outreach

All the issues were of 36 pages excepting March issue 2016 issue which was 40 pages with 4 pages of additional content sponsored by Development agency, OXFAM.

The content included in the magazine is 80% field experiences. Another 10% of the content is reserved for including strategic content and the remaining 10% is from global sources. In every issue, the interview section is included from the global edition to give the readers in our region a global perspective of an issue. Of the 33 regionally sourced articles, 40% articles focused on women.

The number of articles sourced from the region ranged from 67% (March 2016) to 86% (December 2015). This year the highest number of contributions came from the NGO sector. Of the 33 articles sourced from the region, 55% belonged to the NGO sector, 18% were from the Academic/Research category, 20% were from individuals/farmers, and 1% from the Government. Of the 44 authors for regional articles, 20 were women authors (45% women).

The total number of subscribers for the **English Edition** as of March 2016 is **10254**. They are reached by print (4325) or E-magazine (5929). Of the total, 97% belong to the Indian subcontinent while 3% belong to neighbouring Asian countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan, Bhutan etc. Across various categories, NGOs formed the major chunk with 33%, followed by academics and research institutions with 13% of the total readers. Around 11% of the readers are farmers and farmer organisations. Around 6% of the readers are students.

2. Special language editions

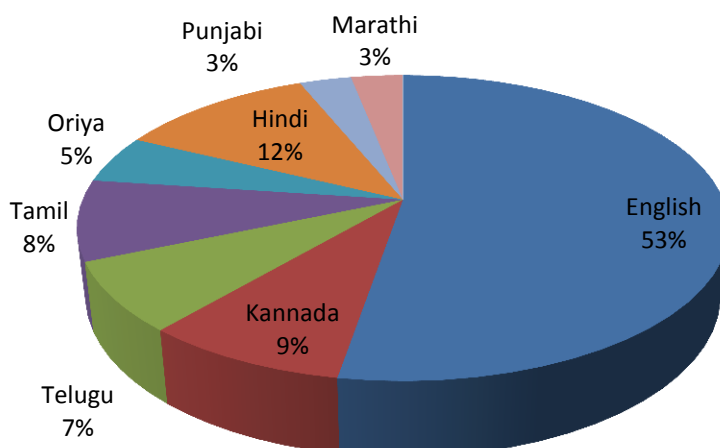
Special language editions are produced in 7 languages – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi and Punjabi. While the first five language editions were being produced during MISEREOR Phase I project (2011-14), two

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

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

During the reporting period, four issues (June 2015, September 2015, December 2015 and March 2016) of the special translated editions in Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Telugu, Oriya, have been produced. During the same time two issues (June 2015 and December 2015) of Punjabi and Marathi language editions were produced.

**LEISA India - All Editions Outreach by print and e-copy
(19053)**


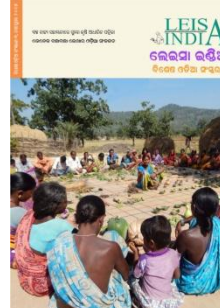



The language editions are distributed primarily to grassroot institutions which depend heavily on the local language. Presently the outreach of language editions is 8799 through the print copies.

June 2015 Edition

						
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu	Marathi	Punjabi

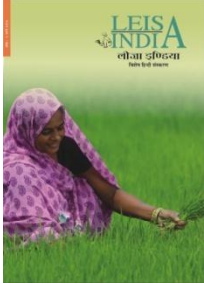
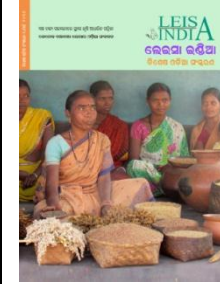


September 2015 Edition

				
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu

December 2015 Edition

						
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu	Marathi	Punjabi

March 2016 Edition

				
Hindi	Kannada	Oriya	Tamil	Telugu

3. Outreach

LEISA India magazines are disseminated through various means.

1. **Print Copy** – Print copies of English and Language Editions reach readers at the grassroots level. Around 4325 copies of English edition (1000 copies sponsored by FAO) and 8799 copies of language editions (all 7 languages) were disseminated as hard copies (Total 13124). The additional funding support received from FAO in 2014, was used for distributing additional copies of all the four issues of English edition in 2015-16.
2. **E-magazine** – English edition is also disseminated through email as an e-copy for those who have access to internet. Around 5929 readers are reached through e-copy. There was around 37% increase in e-copy subscribers as compared to the previous year.
3. **LEISA India website** – Visitors to LEISA India website access the magazines uploaded on the website. All the English language issues have been uploaded on the LEISA India website (www.leisaindia.org) and also on the global website of Agricultures Network (www.theagriculturesnetwork.org). Number of visitors to LEISA India website was 7756 with 53877 page views during the reporting period. Of this, 76% were from India and the remaining 23% from other countries. 45% of those who visited the website were women. Around 60% of the visitors belonged to the age group 18-34. Around 2540 readers have visited English edition page. The language editions (Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya, Punjabi and Marathi) are also uploaded on the LEISA India website. Around 2985 have visited various language edition pages.
4. **Mobile Apps** - Around 1049 have accessed the English edition and 844 have accessed the Language editions through their mobile apps.
5. **Social networking**: LEISA India is on Face book and Twitter. These accounts were started in January 2015. During the reporting period, it has got more than 4881 followers on Face Book and 113 followers on Twitter.
6. **Dissemination in larger forums**: The magazines were presented in various workshops, both nationally and globally. Some of them include:
 - a) Think Tank meeting in Netherlands in July 2015 organised by ILEIA.
 - b) International conference on Science, Technology and Public policy for achieving the Zero hunger challenge: Mr. Prasad participated in the International conference on Science, Technology and Public policy for achieving the Zero hunger challenge, August 7-9, 2015, Chennai, India. The conference panels discussed pathways for zero hunger challenge dwelling on issues like chronic malnutrition and under nutrition status of the Indian population, types of hunger, agricultural remedies for nutritional maladies, obesity etc. Evidences were presented on the above topics by MSSRF, CGIAR and National Research initiatives, which included bio fortification efforts. The meeting concluded with presentations by Central cabinet ministers as well as opposition leader highlighting the relevance of the theme for the Indian situation. Mr. Prasad highlighted examining the zero hunger challenge at various levels – household, nation, region, global; Need for empathetic extension; Incentives for multifunctional small holder farms; Need for holistic research.
 - c) The Agricultures Network annual meeting: Mr. Prasad participated in the Network annual meeting organized in Brazil to review the progress, work plans and strategies for future of Agricultures Network.
 - d) Multi Stakeholder Consultation on Agro ecology in Asia and the Pacific: T M Radha was invited to document the Multi Stakeholder Consultation on Agro ecology in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok during November 24-26, 2015. The event was organized by FAO. ILEIA was assigned the task of preparing the final synthesis report based on the

discussions during FAO supported Conferences on agro ecology in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Ms. Radha contributed inputs from the Asia Conference. A paper in consultation with FAO was prepared and published in the March 2016 issue of LEISA India.

- e) Multistakeholder National meeting of farmer organisations: Mr. Prasad was invited by SEWA for a Multistakeholder National meeting of farmer organisations to support Climate Smart Agriculture practices and policies, 16-18, Nov 2015, Ahmedabad, India. He facilitated the meeting to evolve a consensus on the way forward and preparation of joint recommendations which focused on the following major aspects: climate resilient location specific ecofriendly options for small holders; multifunctionality of family farms; strengthening women and youth role in farming; traditional biodiversity and climate resilience; participatory research and rural extension; role of farmer organizations and civil societies.

4. Income generation

MISEREOR supported production of limited printed copies of English edition and local language editions. ILEIA primarily supported the digital edition and additional copies of print edition, through additional funding support from FAO. Fund received during 2014 was used for additional printing of extra copies in 2015 too. One article of 4 pages was sponsored by OXFAM which helped in printing 40 pages instead of 36 pages. We mobilised Rs.25000 through paid advertisement for March 2016 issue. Around 153 readers have made voluntary contributions to the magazine during the reporting period.

The magazine is very useful to the staff, students and scientists of this college

Librarian, College of Agriculture, Nagpur

I am a regular reader from last two years. The magazine is very informative with regard to modern dynamics of agricultural practices and social innovations.

Manas Ranjan Gahir, NGO

LEISA is an excellent journal in the field of agriculture.

Dr. Kameshwar Das, Barpeta KVK, Assam

Your excellent articles have been very helpful to our farmers in North East India

Dr. Shyam Medhi, NGO, Assam

To me, this magazine has been playing a role in sharing and disseminating the best practices as information bank for policy makers and practitioners...

Tara L Lama, National project Manager, National IPM project, Nepal

*Annexure 1***Reflections on the Asia-Pacific agroecology consultation**

By TM Radha

TM Radha of AME Foundation in India participated in the 'Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Agroecology for Asia and the Pacific' organised by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during 24-26 November 2015, in Bangkok, Thailand. Following are her reflections.

Around 150 representatives from the CSOs, Government, Scientific community, academia, farmers and farmer organisations participated in the consultation, which was preceded by two preparatory meetings. In one, 50 representatives of NGOs and farmer organisations shared Asian experiences on agro ecology and crystallised views and thoughts for final declaration of the Conference. Outcomes of the earlier two regional agroecology conferences held in Latin America and Africa were shared. CSO representatives and farmers from The Phillippines, Timor, Bangladesh, India and China shared their agro ecological experiences. A preparatory meeting for FAO focussed on two themes - Farmer Field Schools and agroecology and FAO Learning Platforms and Knowledge Sharing on agroecology. There were presentations and group discussions.

The consultation that started on the 25th was inaugurated by Theerathe Pacificpat Prayurasiddhi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Thailand. Ubon Yoowah of La Via Campesina in Thailand stressed the need for research by farmers with the support of the scientific community to find solutions to their problems. Several Asian experiences with agroecology were shared which included initiatives from different agro ecosystems – irrigated, dryland agriculture, fisheries, pastoralism etc. This was followed by sessions where participants discussed the need to conserve natural resources in the context of climate change, agroecology learning processes, knowledge sharing and building agroecological movements; investments for agroecology promotion and transition towards agroecology and the policies needed to support it.

Some elements that emerged in the discussion:

- Agroecology has a long history in Asia and is not a new concept. It is rooted in food sovereignty and farmers' rights. Agroecology is not the same as organic agriculture. The role of women and youth is important in agroecology.
- There is a need to create or identify agroecological zones.
- There is a need to build on farmers' knowledge and for participatory documentation. Farmers are capable of monitoring their crops, collecting data, addressing problems through local solutions and adaptation to any situation. All they need is networking and collaboration with other partners.
- Knowledge related to agroecology, across different sectors, is limited. There is a need to build capacities. Higher education institutes, especially Agricultural Universities should modify their curriculum to include agroecology.
- Research should be community oriented. FAO and other international organisations should help in supporting such research. Agroecology is a holistic concept beyond the specialisations that are presently seen in the University. Hence research should be conducted in the field and not on university campuses alone.

- Policy support at global, regional, national and local levels to promote agroecology is necessary. Also, the policies that hinder the promotion of agroecology need to be reconsidered.
- Social movements are important to inform and push for the right policies. Any public policy should be supportive of social movements.
- There is a need to increase investments in agroecological programmes and policies.
- Agroecology needs to be seen as the future, even in high potential areas, rather than limiting it to marginal areas and small scale farmers.

Based on the three day discussions, a set of recommendations (the declaration) was prepared. It is our hope that these will be taken forward during the Regional Meeting of FAO member states in Asia and the Pacific during April/May 2016. Another promising proposal includes setting up a new regional initiative on agroecology, that includes also a monitoring system of all activities of FAO and governments in the region on agroecology.

Read more

- FAO website on multistakeholder consultation for Asia and the Pacific:
<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/events/detail-events/en/c/1262/>
- FAO meets on new approach to agroecological food production:
<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/FAO-meets-on-new-approach-to-agro-ecological-food--30273723.html>

Staff as on 31.03.2016

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

Consultants and Contractual Staff			
1	Murthy N	CU	-
2	Ramachandra K S	CU	-
3	Shamasunder D S	CU	31.08.2015
4	Nagendra Rao V	CU	-
5	Sangeeta R Patil	Dharwad / Telangana	-
6	Mayachari A	Dharwad	-
7	Akkamahadevi M Patil	Dharwad	-
8	Prasath K	Dharmapuri	-
9	Venkatesan K	Dharmapuri	-
10	Munirasu M	Dharmapuri	-
11	Balakrishna Murthy M R	Bangarpet	-
12	Ramesh Kumar B V	Bangarpet	-
13	Ranganna Setty S R	Chintamani	-
14	Narendra P	Chintamani	-

FINANCE MATTERS

BALANCE SHEET

GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

AME FOUNDATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016

31.03.2015 Rs.P.	LIABILITIES	31.03.2015 Rs.P.	31.03.2015 Rs.P.	ASSETS	31.03.2016 Rs.P.
2,84,376	FUNDS As per Schedule I	2,81,85,527.89	99,72,616	FIXED ASSETS As per Schedule III	99,38,670
	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS As per Schedule II		1,03,26,306	LOANS & ADVANCES/ DEPOSITS As per Schedule IV	1,50,75,404
28,000	Sundry Creditors For Expenses	28,621.00	88,113	Fixed Deposits	88,113
6,50,000	Rental Advance	6,50,000.00	68,297	Other Deposits	51,000
13,39,408	Unutilized Grants	4,97,877.10	3,42,319	Advances	5,23,578
21,193	Provisions	2,71,345.00		100% Receivable	
			36,84,972	CASH AND BANK BALANCES As per Schedule V	43,55,509
8,04,62,615		2,96,36,375	3,04,82,616		2,96,36,375

Chinnappa Singh * *B.K. Shree Rao*
CHAIRMAN TREASURER



Place: Bangalore
Dated: 29.07.2016

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FOR GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Firm No. 0069178

Pundarikaksha
PUNDARIKAKSHA
PARTNER
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INCOME & EXPENDITURE

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9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069
Ph : 26636042, 26656104
Fax No : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

31.03.2015 Rs.P.	EXPENDITURE	31.03.2016 Rs.P.	31.03.2015 Rs.P.	INCOME	31.03.2016 Rs.P.
5,624	To Bank Charges	5,718	7,89,250	By Rental Income	8,00,501
3,72,430	To Office expenses	2,79,753	30,000	By Donations- AM/F	-
18,22,851	To Salary to employees	34,09,782	25,180	By Donations- Lila	66,125
22,57,669	To Consultancy Charges	19,85,718	11,702	By Miscellaneous Income	20,000
1,55,108	To Rent, Electricity & Water Charges	2,09,643	5,224	By Terrace Gardening	5,039
1,09,676	To Rates & Taxes	2,39,587	-	By Profit on sale of asset	1,48,418
8,730	To Professional Services	14,000	87,03,691	By Grants Utilized	1,07,44,792
14,42,611	To RRS Coordination & Field guidance	11,50,495	9,13,725	By Institutional costs	10,10,000
3,74,361	To Travel & Conveyance	6,87,150	-	By Sale of Books & Periodicals/Guidelines	4,225
3,83,891	To Capacity Building of Kaduacs	7,11,634	-		
2,14,794	To Clinical inputs & Support Cost	2,23,203	-		
13,340	To Repairs & Maintenance	1,73,641	-		
5,29,164	To Vehicle maintenance & Insurance	2,00,237	-		
71,110	To Printing & Stationery	1,17,114	-		
45,818	To Postage & Courier	51,656	8,48,175	By Interest Income	
1,00,797	To Telephone & Internet	1,54,075	5,95,227	FD Interest	12,67,355
94,595	To Security Charges	80,571	98,441	Accrued Interest	1,06,831
5,000	To Miscellaneous Expenses	14,404	7,552	Bank PGRA Interest	1,05,552
1,12,004	To Board Meeting Expenses	1,13,376	48,794	Interest in IT Refund	-
1,33,643	To Meeting Expenses	2,12,121	-	SA Interest	17,150
12,740	To Audit Fees	28,635	-		
1,55,020	To Insurance	1,76,867	-		
30,090	To Remuneration	31,000	-		
18,21,531	To Magazine Expenses (Production & translation)	20,36,777	-		
2,95,955	To Distribution Expenses	4,31,131	-		
1,00,82,087	TOTAL C/F	1,26,23,837	1,20,16,391	TOTAL C/F	1,42,96,439

Chinnayya Singh
CHAIRMAN
AME FOUNDATION
Bangalore

Pundarikaksha
CA PUNDARIKAKSHA
PARTNER
MEMBERSHIP NO. 214253

GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

23/57, 41st Cross, East End 'C' Main Road
9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 069
Telephone : 26636042, 26656104
Telefax : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

31.03.2015 Rs.P.	EXPENDITURE	31.03.2016 Rs.P.	31.03.2015 Rs.P.	INCOME	31.03.2016 Rs.P.
1,00,82,087	TOTAL E/F	1,26,23,837	1,20,16,391	TOTAL E/F	1,42,96,439
17,337	To Web Updation	16,302	-		
9,10,265	To Institutional Costs	10,10,000	-		
4,61,722	To Depreciation	3,96,001	-		
3,11,970	To Excess of Income over Expenditure	2,30,239	-		
1,20,16,391		1,42,96,439	1,20,16,391		1,42,96,439

Place: Bangalore
Date: 29.07.2016

Chinnayya Singh
CHAIRMAN
AME FOUNDATION
Bangalore

EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT
FOR GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Firm No. 0059178

Pundarikaksha
CA PUNDARIKAKSHA
PARTNER
MEMBERSHIP NO. 214253

AMEF OPERATIONAL AREAS

Central Unit

No. 204, 100 Feet Ring Road, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 2nd Block, 3rd stage, Bangalore – 560 085

Ph: 080-26699512, 26699522, 26794922, Fax: 080-26699410

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

leisaindia@yahoo.co.in

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

Area Units

DHARMAPURI

5/1445, VP Singh Street,

Elakkiyampatti, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu

Ph: 09842963832

Josephkrish6383@rediffmail.com

DHARWAD

No.39, 1st Main, 2nd Cross

Behind Shri Ramakrishna Ashram

Channabasaveswar Nagar (C.B.Nagar)

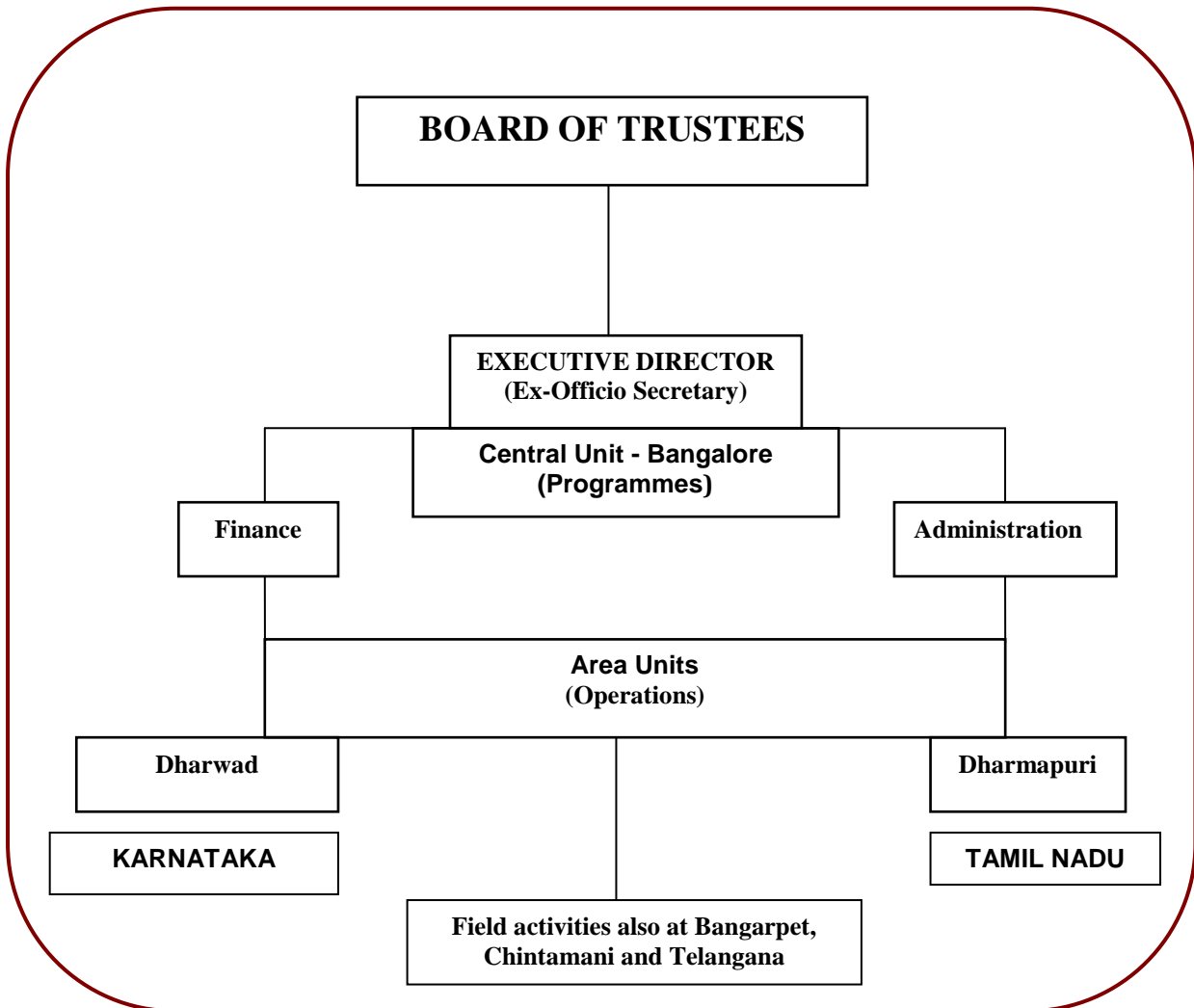
Dharwad 580 007

Ph: 0836 –2472822

ame_foundation@yahoo.com

Other operational areas: **Bangarpet, Chintamani and Telangana**

ORGANOGRAM OF AME FOUNDATION



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sri Chiranjiv Singh, *Chairman*

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

Dr. Vithal Rajan, *Vice Chairman*

Chairman, Governing Body, Confederation of Voluntary Associations, Hyderabad

Dr. R. Dwarakinath *until 20.09.2015*

Former Chairman, Karnataka Agriculture Commission,
Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore

Padma Bhushan Dr. M. Mahadevappa

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

Dr. N. G. Hegde

Trustee and Principal Adviser
BAIF Development Research Foundation

Dr. T. M. Thiagarajan

Former Director / Dean, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Prof. V. Veerabhadraiah

Former Director of Extension
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore

Sri B. K. Shiva Ram, *Treasurer*

Former Administrative Officer, LIC of India and Practicing Advocate

Dr. A. Rajanna

Former Director of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka

Dr. Venkatesh Tagat – *w.e.f. 09.06.2015*

Former Chief General Manager, NABARD

Dr. Smita Premchander – *w.e.f. 08.07.2015*

Founder Member & Hon. Chief Executive - Sampark

Sri K. V. S. Prasad, *Secretary*

Executive Director