# Annual Report

# 2014-15

FOUNDATION

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

## AME FOUNDATION

### BELIEVES IN
### "HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES"

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

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

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

# CONTENTS

# 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, 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 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, 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 and Chintamani.

## 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. Educational consultancies


***This project also called as Dharmapuri Farm Initiative (DFI) is a collaborative project of AMEF and Shri Srivatsram, 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.***

The farmers included 400 farmers from 5 new villages along with backstopping farmers from 15 villages where AMEF worked in the preceding years under the project. Simultaneously, learnings were shared with 1300 new farmers from neighboring villages of the block through conducting 20 field day events and 12 inter group exposures etc.

The overall activities carried out included the following:

- Promoting Low External input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) approaches and practices in rainfed seasonal cropping systems of Groundnut, Ragi, Cholam (Jowar) and Samai
- Organising FFS learning events in 20 villages.
- Guiding cultivation of diverse cropping systems instead of prevalent monocropping practices - Redgram as major intercrop, lab lab as minor intercrop, cumbu as border crop and castor as trap crop.
- Introducing cultivation of short term sequential crop (horsegram) for leveraging the residual moisture and the nutrients fixed up by the previous crop (groundnut) for additional income.

- Promoting SRI methods of paddy cultivation in 20 villages (5-8 farmers per village)
- Guiding fodder cultivation by farmers to meet feed requirements
- Promoting household kitchen garden activities for nutritional support and additional incomes
- Sharing learnings with new farmers in the villages through field days and intergroup exposures

**Box 1 : Rainfall status (July-Sept.14)**

| Sl no. | Date/Months | Rainfall (mm) |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | 07.05.14 | 4 |
| **2** | 08.05.14 | 10 |
| **3** | 11.05.14 | 10 |
| **4** | 13.05.14 | 18 |
| **5** | 21.05.14 | 15 |
| **6** | 22.05.14 | 20 |
| **7** | 03 06.14 | 43 |
| **8** | 06.06.14 | 16 |

**Preliminary activities**

Preliminary activities included village meetings, group formation in five new villages namely Upiliapuram, Eachanahalli, Konangihalli, Kullanur and Dhasampatti. PRAs were conducted with focus on understanding status of rain fall, access to natural resources, crop productivity, for further action.

There was scanty rainfall during the quarter with uneven distribution. Only one rainfall event (20mm) occurred in the month of May, followed by occasional drizzle. Based on the rainfall situation, group meetings were conducted for contingency crop plans, in all the 20 villages. Accordingly, farmer groups decided to take up groundnut crop if one or two rains were to be received before July 15, otherwise, have planned to take up Ragi or *Same* crops to manage with available moisture. However, the basic land preparation activities such as ploughing across slope, ridge and furrow formation with bunding were taken up in all the villages where FFS was to be organised.

In 13 villages, groundnut sowing was taken up using pre-monsoon showers. In the remaining 7 villages, late sowing of various crops such as Jowar in 3 villages, *Same* in 2 villages and Ragi crop in 2 villages was done during September end.

**Capacity Building**

Twenty FFS events were organised in 20 villages (one in each village). The total number of sessions organised were 300 (15 for each FFS).

The preliminary sessions focussed on in-situ soil and water conservation activities; preparation of Enriched FYM with bio inputs like Rhizobium, Azospirillum, Trichoderma virde, Psudomonas etc; raising sunhemp as green manure crop, seed treatment, germination test, mixed cropping systems including border crop, inter crop, trap crop etc.

Agro eco systems analysis during FFS enabled farmers to assess plant population to take up short term crops like black gram to compensate the yield loss from main crop. Thus, in 13 villages, gap filling with black gram went on.

**Table 1: Number of insects trapped in Yellow sticky traps**

| Sl no. | Villages | Yellow sticky traps | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Jassids | White fly |
| **1** | B.Agraharam | 403 | 514 |
| **2** | Kattunayakanahalli | 345 | 303 |
| **3** | Rangapuram | 318 | 254 |
| **4** | Germalampatti | 309 | 283 |
| **5** | Gundakettukuli | 214 | 248 |
| **6** | Nallampatty | 212 | 212 |
| **7** | Sinnapoompallam | 300 | 324 |
| **8** | Vannathipatti | 240 | 309 |
| **9** | Anumanthapuram | 302 | 380 |
| **10** | Thinnur | 346 | 376 |
| **11** | Bilianur | 320 | 350 |
| **12** | Attapallam | 245 | 341 |
| **13** | Gandhinagar | 368 | 367 |
| | **Total** | **3922** | **4261** |

Leaf cutting experiments helped them to avoid pesticide sprays and do biotic and abiotic assessments in farm ecosystem. During FFS sessions, farmers tried out groundnut as main crop intercropped with Red gram and lablab, sorghum as border and Castor as trap and cowpea as feast crop for sucking pests. In case of *Same*, they tried Sorghum as border crop with red gram as intercrop; in Ragi, tried out sorghum as border crop.

The role of yellow sticky traps in controlling sucking pests was significant. Around 6000 traps (blue, green, yellow, red) have been installed on experimental basis in 20 villages in FFS plots at the rate of 15 traps per plot and 300 per village. Farmers assessed which color attracts more and choose **yellow** sticky trap as the best ecological alternative to address sucking pest problems. The participants counted the number of trapped insects in the sticky traps. The number of insects trapped included Jassids (3922) and whitefly (4261). Aphids and thrips did not appear owing to dry conditions. (see Table 1 ).

A special study was taken up in all the 20 FFS plots, to study the effect of intensified FYM application (5kgs instead of 1 kg) in a small area to enable the farmers to observe and compare water holding capacity of soils, reflected in the better establishment of the crop, though the rainfall received remained the same.

**Outcomes**

LEISA practices helped the standing crops to cope with unexpected rain failures. Farmers got better yields (20-30% higher) compared to yields through their normal practices. (Groundnut in 14 villages, Ragi in 2 villages, Samai in 2 villages, Jowar (Cholam) in 2 villages and Paddy through SRI methods). The comparative yield data assessment on FFS and non-FFS farmer plots in Groundnut, Ragi, Samai and Paddy are given in the Table 2 and 2a.

**Table 2: Comparative yield data assessment**

Groundnut harvest details

| Sl. No. | Villages | Groundnut pod yield-dried(kg/acre) | | Haulms-dried(kg) | Cow pea (kg) | Also harvested |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | FFS plots | Farmer plots | | | |
| **1** | G.kettu kuli | 560 | 520 | 1010 | 4 | Red gram, lab lab, Cholam, Castor (see Table:3) |
| **2** | M.N.halli | 460 | 410 | 950 | 2 | |
| **3** | S.P.Pallam | 480 | 530 | 1000 | 3 | |
| **4** | B.Agraharam | 580 | 540 | 1150 | 4 | |
| **5** | Gettur | 640 | 580 | 1400 | 7 | |
| **6** | Upilapuram | 720 | 650 | 1550 | Damage | |
| **7** | Dasampatti | 360 | 330 | 750 | 35 | |
| **8** | Attapallam | 680 | 640 | 1100 | 7 | |
| **9** | Nallampatti | 525 | 500 | 925 | 4 | |
| **10** | V.Patti | 580 | 540 | 1000 | 9 | |
| **11** | K.N.Halli | 480 | 445 | 1050 | 4 | |
| **12** | Germalampti | 650 | 605 | 1525 | 3 | |
| **13** | Rangapuram | 440 | 395 | 1075 | 2 | |
| **14** | Thinnur | 520 | 485 | 1200 | 5 | |
| | Average | 548 | 512 | | | |

**Table 2a: Comparative yield data assessment**

Ragi harvest details

| Sl no. | Village | FFS farmers | Non-FFS farmers | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Gandhinagar | *760kg | *600kg | Average of 20 FFS and non-FFS plots. |
| **2** | Anumanthapuram | 840kgs | 680kgs | |
| ***lesser yield due to rain failure during grain formation period** | | | | |

Samai harvest details

| Sl no. | Village | FFS farmers | Non-FFS farmers | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Billianur | 760kg | 620kg | Average of 20 FFS and non-FFS plots. |
| **2** | G.Setipatti | 700kgs | 570kgs | |

Paddy harvest details: System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

| FFS farmers | Non-FFS farmers |
|---|---|
| 72,000/acre<br>(Yield 35-45bags, Exp: Rs.11,000) | 45,000/acre<br>(Yield:20-25bags; Exp: Rs.28,000) |

**Other crops**

The month of January coincided with harvest of sequential crop (horsegram) and inter crops such as red gram and avarai. The results of inter crops such as Red gram, lab lab (avarai) were moderate as the flowering phase of crops coincided with dry period.

The sequential crop performed moderately as second crop sown immediately after the harvest of groundnut that utilized the residual moisture and nutrients fixed up by groundnut crop. Farmers could benefit with an overall yield of 300-350kgs/acre, of which around 100-150kgs were kept for family consumption and remaining 200kgs was sold out fetching an additional income of Rs.5000/acre. They could gather 1000kgs of shells from seeds, some sold it for Rs. 1000 while majority kept it as feed for their livestock. Red gram yields were 60-75kgs and Avarai 40-60kgs which was 50% lesser yield than the normal.

The residual moisture available in the fields (on completion of groundnut crop) was well utilized for raising second crop with short term duration horse gram. While farmer could avoid fertilizers and pesticides to this crop, and by spending an amount Rs.1000-1200/acre, they could gain an economic return of Rs.15,000 to 25,000/acre.

Overall, by practicing LEISA alternatives, these farmers had an estimated income of

**Table 3: Economic returns of FFS farmers in comparison to non-FFS farmers**

| Sl no. | Yield | Income of FFS farmers/ac | Income of Non-FFS farmers/ac |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Groundnut 25-30bags(40kg/bag) | 60,000 | 40,000 to 50,000 |
| 2 | Inter crop 40-45kgs (Lablab) | 6,000 | |
| 3 | Castor 85-100kgs | 6,000 | |
| 4 | Sorghum as border crop 40-45kgs | 600 | |
| 5 | Red gram – inter crop 40-55kgs | 2,200 | |
| 6 | Kitchen gardens | 36,000 | Nil |
| 7 | Fodder bank & Azolla | 12,000 | Nil |
| 8 | Savings by avoiding external inputs (fertilizers & pesticides) | 2,000 | Nil |
| | Total | 1,24,800 | 40,000 to 50,000 |

Rs.1,24,800/- owing to improved yields and diversified income sources from crop combinations while the monocropping groundnut farmers got around Rs. 50000/ per acre.(Table 3)

**Natural resources management**

In terms of natural resource management, rough estimates were made on the water and soil conserved through field trenches and bunds, which was quite significant. On an average, there were 10 pits per member in 0.5acre, totaling to 200 per village in 20 villages. With an average of 75kgs/pit of soil conserved, the total soil conserved was roughly 3 lakh kgs. Similarly around 3.6 lakh litres of water was conserved. These figures were estimated taking into account two rains (Table 4).

**Reducing cost of cultivation through ecofriendly options**

FFS farmers could reduce expenditure while getting higher yields from their crop, in spite of frequent monsoon failure. This is owing to LEISA practices that increased the water holding capacity of soil, drought managing capacity of crop, enhanced yields with the support of beneficial microbes of bacteria, antifungal agents available through enriched FYM application.

Around 7400 farmers learnt how to use low cost yellow sticky traps using local materials. All the 17 field day events conducted primarily focused on Yellow sticky traps preparation involving farmers gathered to make them experts in preparing low cost traps. Besides, promoting 10 traps per plot of FFS members, through field days, approximately 700 traps were prepared by farmers attending field days. Thus, in 20 villages, 6700 traps were installed involving 1700 farm families.

*Field day on yellow sticky traps*

Use of yellow sticky traps resulted in avoiding usage of 300 litres of pesticides and thereby water use too. By not using fertilizers and pesticides, farmers could save to the tune of

**Table 4: Estimates of soil and water conserved**

| No. of Trenches | Qty. of water harvested (lt.) | Qty. of Soil conserved (kg.) |
|---|---|---|
| 4000 (@200 trenches/villagex 20 village) | 360000 | 300000 |
| Trench /pit size: 1x1x3(dxbxl)=3cft; 1cft=30lits;90lts/trench | | |

**Table 5: Savings owing to use of eco friendly practices**

| | |
|---|---|
| Farmers/ area | 400 farmers 200acres |
| No. of Yellow Sticky Traps installed | 6700 traps |
| Fertilizer (kg.) avoided | 10000 (@50kgx 200ac) |
| Savings owing to non use of fertilisers | 200000 (@1000x200ac) |
| Pesticide(lit) avoided | 300 (1.5litx200ac) |
| *Savings owing to non use of pesticides | 200000 (@ 1000x200 ac) |
| | |
| | |

**Rs.1000 taken as lower limit against Rs. 1000-3500 of cost savings in case of both fertilizer and pesticides.*

Rs.2.00 lakhs. (Table 5)

**Azolla and fodder**

The allied activities such as **Azolla** cultivation expanded to 35 new members and Co4 CN fodder grass cultivation to 18 new members. Azolla cultivation helped each family harvest around 1-2kgs of Azolla at 15 days interval as supplementary feed.

In total, around 280 farmers (new and old) realized additional income Rs. 900-1000/- per month, by feeding azolla, growing fodder and substituting use of concentrated feed. This is based on the following estimates: an increased milk yield of 350-600ml/day fetching an income of (@ Rs.15 /day) Rs.400-500 per month; reduced cost on purchased feed with saving around Rs.600/month.

Fodder Grass production (CO4 CN grass) was taken up by 180 farm families, of which, 150 farmers from previous year's guidance with well established plots harvesting about 1-2kgs of fresh green matter while 30 in 5 new villages are new farmers.

The **fodder seed storage** (such as CoFS 29 fodder sorghum) attracted officials from veterinary department who bought 15kgs at Rs.60/perkg from Konangihalli village. Smt. Kayalvili, woman farmer, who kept seed reserve of 45kgs at household level could earn Rs. 900/-. The department officials highly appreciated the efforts of farmers in creating household level seed banks.

*Azolla production*

**Kitchen gardens**

By December 2014, 400 farm women have taken up kitchen gardens in 20 villages. They had wider choice of vegetables for self consumption. They could realize additional income too from sale of vegetables – Rs.1250/- (sale to markets) and Rs.2500/- (in terms of savings by avoiding purchase from markets). To address water scarcity, on a trial basis, low cost local materials (water tank, water bottles) based drip irrigation system was installed in two of the kitchen gardens.

In terms of vegetable **seed collection and storage**,100-150 grams of seeds of Bhendi, Ribbed gourd, Avarai, Chillies, Brinjal and half kg of Bottle gourd and ash gourd was done by each farm family. An awareness program on vegetable

**Table 6: Savings achieved by FFS through eco-friendly LEISA practices**

| Usual practices (before FFS) | Adopted practices (during FFS) | Savings (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|
| 2 rounds of pesticide spray Incurred Rs. 1600/acre (Spray Rs.300+pesticideRs.600x2times ) | 20 nos. of yellow sticky traps incurred only Rs.60/- for 250ml paint as all local materials (considered waste) were used as trap. | Rs.1600/acre |
| Fertilizer application – cost (Urea 25kgs.,complex 25kg) Rs.650 | Bio-fertilizer applied (Azospirillum 1kg, Rhizobium 1kg, Pseudomonas 1kg, Phosphobacteria 1kg.), exp.Rs.320/- as enriched FYM | Rs.330/acre |
| Total expense Rs.2250/acre | Total expenses -380/acre | Rs.1830/acre |

seed production from kitchen gardens was

**Table 7: Kitchen gardens – access to nutritious vegetables and additional income per month**

| Sl. No. | Vegetables | Harvest (kg) | Own use (kg) | Given to neighbor (kg) | Sold out (kg) | Income (Rs.) | Savings (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Radish | 15-20 | 5-6 | 3-5 | 10-15 | 100 | 200 |
| 2 | Beetroot | 5-8 | 5-8 | 1-2 | 5-8 | | 200 |
| 3 | Snake gourd | 8-19 | 8-19 | 1-2 | 4-5 | 250 | 200 |
| 4 | Ribbed gourd | 5-14 | 5-14 | 1-2 | 5 | 200 | 200 |
| 5 | Bitter gourd | 4-10 | 2-3 | 1 | 2-3 | 200 | 200 |
| 6 | Tomato | 5-12 | 10 | 1-2 | 10-15 | 100 | 200 |
| 7 | Bhendi | 5-15 | 5-12 | 1-2 | 10-15 | 100 | 200 |
| 8 | Brinjal | 8-15 | 5-15 | 1-2 | 8-10 | - | 200 |
| 9 | Greens (4types) | 20-30 | 20-30 | 1-2 | 8-15 | 200 | 200 |
| 10 | Pumpkin | 30-60 | 30 | 2kgs | 50 | 300 | 300 |
| 11 | Carrot | 5-10 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 100 | 200 |
| | Total | | | | | 1550 | 2300 |

organised where member farmers brought their seed collections, displayed them as exhibits and shared them with other farmers.

Other activities included initiating a training program on mushroom cultivation with a group of 20 farmer members so as to cultivate 2 beds of mushroom per family for self consumption.

Data collection to assess the marketable surplus of eco-friendly produce, especially non-perishables, was initiated involving 400 farmers representing 20 villages.

*Kitchen garden*


***AME Foundation along with the institutional support of KVK, Chintamani under the UAS, Bangalore started working in Chintamani and Bangarpet with the following objectives for the year 2014-15: 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.***

Ten villages were selected - Guttuduru, Doddapura, Dodduru, Chikkapura, Ottigallu in Bangarpet and Kenchepalli, Yenigadale, Chinnapalli, Kadashanahalli, Doddaganjuru in Chintamani.

Baselines were completed with 200 families in five villages in Bangarpet and Chintamani. PRAs were conducted in these villages in Bangarpet and Chintamani. The purpose was, to jointly assess the situation, identify opportunities for improvement, develop need based curriculum for season long learning events like FFS.

**Capacity building**

**Farmer Field Schools**: Farmer Field schools is a season learning process conducted on the farmer's field to enable them to try out options in groups, compare the results with their normal practice, understand through studies the 'principle' behind 'practice'. A total of 198 farmers were organised into 10 Eco Farmer Groups and

10 FFS conducted - 4 in groundnut, 2 in red gram and 4 in Ragi. 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.

**Modular trainings an Sustainable Agriculture practices**: Besides FFS, 300 farmers underwent *Sustainable Agriculture and Modular Trainings for adopting* suitable SA Practices which included, Insitu Moisture conservation, Quality seed selection, seed treatment, application of Gypsum, Micronutrients, Bio fertilizers, live sowing and planting, staggered nursery in Ragi, raising Redgram in pockets, IPM methods and pre-harvest, post-harvest technologies under seed production programme.

**Farming models**

**Integrated Farm/one hectare Models**: Forty farmers (25 in Bangarpet and 15 in Chintamani) tried out crop combinations for food, income and fodder as part of 1 ha model. The crop combinations tried out in Bangarpet included Ragi, Groundnut, Red gram, Field beans and fodder Jowar as border crop. In Chintamani, some of them tried out Maize, instead of groundnut.

The farmers having 5-6 members in their family have harvested 10.5-11 quintals of Ragi in one acre, 4.5 to 5 quintals of Groundnut in one acre and 1 to 1.5 quintals of Redgram from the remaining half an acre. In addition to this, they have grown Jowar and Avare and Bajra as row crops. These crops not only provide food grains but also green fodder of approximately 2 tons. Even during drought conditions, farmers were able to grow sufficient food grains of cereals, pulses and oil seeds and also got income by selling 80-90% of the groundnut, which fetched

**Box 2: Rainfall upto September 2014**

| | Normal | 2013 | 2014 | Deficit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bangarpet** | 487.5 | 415 | 250 | 237 (49%) |
| **Chintamani** | 511 | 249 | 157 | 354 (70%) |

Rs. 8000-9000/-. This happened in spite of deficit rainfall in the areas as indicated in the Box 2.

**Use of Farm equipment**

Improved and Modified Cycle weeders were tried out by farmer groups, to reduce labour cost, improving labour use efficiency and low maintenance cost.

**Promoting livestock into farming models**: Seven animal health camps have been organized to highlight the importance of managing livestock in farming. Five hundred farmers brought 6500 animals and small ruminants to these camps. Treatments for the following aspects were carried out – Allergy, Infertility, de-worming, improving digestion, infections and udder pain (Kechhalu Bavu).

**Improved access to feed for livestock:** Twenty five farmers were guided to try out a new variety of fodder CO-4 brought from Tamil Nadu. Twenty farmers have implemented azolla cultivation pits for feeding the animals and getting better milk yield.

**Kitchen gardens:** Around 105 kitchen gardens were set up by farm women accessing home grown diverse vegetables for household consumption.

**Poultry activity has been** initiated on cost sharing basis to help farmers improve their incomes and nutritional access. About 1060 birds were reared by 106 farm families, while 680 birds were reared by 68 families at Bangarpet unit.

**Field days and Sharing events** were organised to spread awareness on the alternative farming practices as well as benefit of adopting the same, in which around 500 farmers participated,

visited the fields and exchanged their experience.

**Outcomes:**

- Staggered nurseries were raised for ragi whereas redgram seedlings were raised in polythene packets (14000) to deal with rainfall aberrations and choose right aged seedlings for transplantation. (optimize plant production and reduce yield losses);
- Farmer groups conserved seeds of Groundnut (80 quintals), ragi (250 quintals) and red gram (20 quintals). Groundnut variety was K6; ragi varieties –MR 1, MR6, ML365; redgram – BRG1 and BRG2.
- From the 1 ha models, the yields in food crop (ragi) increased from 8.50 q/ac (previous year) to 11 q/ac, thus, potentially supporting cereal needs of a five member family. Improved yields in Groundnut (3.5 q to 5 q) fetched them an additional income of Rs.7500 to Rs.8000/per acre and 1.0 to 1.5 q of redgram (50% retained for family consumption and the 50% for sale, which fetched them Rs.2500 as additional income. With fodder Sorghum as border crop and Field Beans as row crop along with crop residues of Groundnut, around 2 tonnes of green fodder sources were available besides dry fodder from Ragi crop. The crop combinations and SA practices enabled them better access to food, income and fodder needs of the farm family from a 1 hectare land area. Thus, even during drought, farmers got sufficient cereals, pulses and oil seeds required for the family.
- Using cycle weeder for reducing costs and increasing efficiency
- Animal health camps focused on various treatments under one roof. Five hundred farmers brought 6500 animals and small ruminants to these seven camps organised.
- Improved fodder variety and azolla cultivation helped in access to better feed and improved (marginally) milk yields and quality.

# Producing more with less resource use

***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 & 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.***

To begin with, identification of the villages for SRI implementation was taken up. Village meetings, gram sabhas and baselines were organized in the selected villages to identify the interested farmers.

A six day Short Term Training of Facilitators (STOF) was organized to train the SAPs and SRI volunteers on SRI principles, FFS and sustainable agriculture approaches/practices. Two Field coordinators (FC) and 10 rural youth were systematically trained to guide farmers during the sowing/ planting season.

**Table 8: SRI spread in rainfed and transplanted conditions**

| | Rainfed condition | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **No. of villages** | **No. of farmers** | **Area under SRI (ac)** |
| New farmers | 5 | 449 | 450 |
| Old farmers | 5 | 523 | 1070 |
| | **Transplanting condition** | | |
| New farmers | 2 | 65 | 40 |
| Old farmers | 4 | 100 | 150 |

Preparations for one FFS event (rainfed condition) included organizing a Curriculum Development workshop to fine tune curriculum. Inputs such as bio fertilizers and equipment such as seed drills, were organised. With farmer groups who implemented SRI in the previous season (2013-14), a plan for action was organized for wider adoption during the year.

**Training farmers**

A total of 18 FFS sessions were organized in Sorghum & Paddy based cropping system covering AESA (Agro eco system analysis), Organic urea preparation, Botanical preparation, composting, vermicomposting, azolla cultivation. Fifty farmers from 2 villages have undergone the season long FFS.

Meetings were organized with farmers where SRI was taken up earlier for preparing them to expand the area under SRI. Modular training events were organized in the SRI villages to guide the farmers on SRI principles. Four hundred fifty farmers attended the training events.

**SRI Implementation**

SRI was implemented in five new villages of Dharwad and Kalaghatgi taluk of Dharwad district and guiding 500 previously trained farmers. Against a target of 500 new farmers under rain fed conditions, 449 farmers adopted SRI, covering 450 acres, using seed drill and furrow sowing. Under transplanting condition, around 65 farmers in two villages, covering 40 acres, adopted SRI principles. With regard to earlier intervened villages, 523 farmers in 1070 acres have adopted SRI in rain fed condition and 100 farmers covering 150 acres have taken up SRI in transplanted conditions.

Around 350 farmers took up green gram as catch crop on the residual moisture in the paddy fields. Around 400 farmers raised Red gram and Field beans on the bunds.

**Outcomes**

Farmers experienced 30% improved yields in transplanted rice and 47% in rain fed rice cultivation. The improvement in incomes has been 35% in transplanted rice and 42% in rain fed rice.

Green gram as catch crop and Red gram and Field bean on the bunds fetched farmers additional incomes. Farmers could realize additional income of Rs. 4690/- from 70kg/ acre. On field bunds, Redgram & Field bean/Avare

**Table 9: SRI – Yields and Income**

| Transplanted Rice | SRI | Conventional FP |
|---|---|---|
| Yield (q/acre)/income | 28 q/acre Rs. 36,400/- | 22 q/acre – Rs. 28600/- |
| Cost of Cultivation (Rs./acre) | 12,500 | 12,900 |
| Net income (Rs./acre) | 23,900 | 15700 |
| Other income | 8000 | 8000 |
| **Total income** | **31900** | **23,700** |
| **Rainfed Rice** | **SRI** | **Conventional FP** |
| Yield (q/acre) | 22 q/acre – Rs. 28600/- | 15 q/acre – Rs. 19500/- |
| COC (Rs./acre) | 10,300 | 9000 |
| Net income (Rs./acre) | 18,300 | 10,500 |
| Other income | 8000 | 8000 |
| **Total income** | **26300** | **18500** |

fetched them an additional income of Rs. 3500-3600/- from 100kg /acre. (Field bean/ Avare – 20kg – Rs. 750 – 800/-)

Farmers could also optimally utilize residual moisture as well as vacant spaces around the Paddy fields, thus, getting additional income, nutrition crops for home consumption as well as prevention of soil erosion.

Three sharing events were organized on SRI paddy, where the experienced farmers shared their group learnings gained from FFS and modular trainings, leading to improved yields and incomes. These events were attended by 900 farmers.

**LEISA practices in Sorghum based cropping system**

Though the district is situated in agriculturally advantageous region, crop yields are fast declining. While the amount of rainfall received seems to be adequate for a fairly good cereal, pulse and oil seed crops, the results are not satisfactory. Increased use of chemical inputs and exploitative use of natural resources is seriously affecting the yields and costs of cultivation. These issues are being addressed in Sorghum based cropping system which is one of the major cropping systems in the area. **Sorghum** is the major crop grown in Rabi season in Dharwad district, under dry land farming (rain fed) conditions.

The major LEISA approaches include on farm rain water management, soil fertility improvement and eco-friendly plant protection alternatives in the sorghum based cropping system. Specifically, they include practices like Fall/Early ploughing; Cultivation across the slope; Bund repair & strengthening; Seed hardening; Enriched FYM application; Use of Bio fertilizers; Use of good quality seeds; Wider spacing; Strip cropping; Intercropping with safflower/Bengal gram; Use of improved weeders/ farm implements

Twenty five farmers from one village have undergone season long FFS & 50 farmers from two villages are practicing SA practices in Jowar.

Seventy Sorghum Farmers have taken up Moth Bean as intercrop. Farmers have realized additional income of Rs.7300/- from intercropping with moth bean per acre.

By following LEISA practices in sorghum based cropping systems, farmers got 33% improved yields and 38% improved net incomes.

The yields and incomes from the sorghum based cropping system are presented in Table 10.

**Table 10: Yield and income from the sorghum based cropping system**

| | Yield/ac (Q) | CoC (Rs) | Gross income (Rs) | Net income (Rs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Farmers practice | 6.0 | 8740 | 21000 | 12260 |
| SA practice | 8.0 | 10070 | 27000 | 16930 |

**Kitchen Gardens**

Fifty household kitchen gardens were established in the project villages. Women groups were guided to set up kitchen gardens in the backyard. They could harvest fresh vegetables for home consumption as well as realized additional income. The vegetables included palak, fenugreek, coriandar, tomato, bhendi, brinjal, chilli, bittergourd, beans and amaranthus. Seed treatment with bio agents has been done before sowing the seeds. The groups were trained on different models of kitchen garden. Kitchen gardens fetched additional income of Rs. 34000/ whose details are given in Table 11.

**Linkages:**

- With regard to linkages with line departments**,** SRI farmers could access 40

**Table 11: Income from kitchen gardens**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total income / year** | **Rs. 39485/-** |
| **Cost of cultivation/ year** (Seeds – 2500,Land preparation- 800; Vermicompost – 400; Seed treatment – 200 Harvesting labour cost – 500 Weeding – 600) | Rs.5000/- |
| **Net profit/ year** | Rs.34485/ |

seed drills from DOA on fifty percent subsidy and farmers got vermicompost units sanctioned. This motivated establishment of 200 vermi compost pits (heap method) in project villages.

- Farmer groups were linked with Dept.of Animal Husbandry to access 400 kgs of fodder maize.
- A field day on fodder promotion was organised in collaboration with IGFRI, Dharwad which was attended by 200 farmers. Linkage with IGFRI (Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute) has been established for the supply of 30,000 seedlings of Gini grass and Hydrid Napier and around 10 kgs of Fodder sorghum seeds to farmers in the project villages.
- Three hundred farmers established Azolla units. Farmers obtained increased milk yields by 2 litres by feeding Azolla as supplementary feed to the milch animals for a period of 40 days.
- Based on training in use of organic urea / sand urea, 20 FFS farmers took up construction of the pits
- An orientation programme on *"Producers Organization*" for the SRI farmers group was organized under the guidance of NABARD. Two hundred farmers have come forward to form the SRI producers group and have collected share capital of Rs. 500/- each. The official registration is in process, which comprises around 300 farmers.

These linkages have not only helped farmers to avail support of development agencies but also highlighted to the donor our acceptability in the area as well as efforts towards co-financing.

*An FFS session in progress*

# 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, in collaboration with ILEIA, Netherlands, is the regional Indian edition of Agricultures Network of the global LEISA magazines. LEISA India, the programme continued to strengthen grassroot level knowledge sharing through local language editions (Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Oriya, Telugu, Punjabi and Marathi) 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). Meanwhile, ILEIA also offered to support the programme for a five year term (2012-16), in a small way. 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.

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 English edition, this phase will support production and distribution of two more additional issues per year for 4 language editions (Kannada, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu) currently being produced and two issues per year for two new language editions– Punjabi and Marathi.

**1. English Magazine Production**

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

V.16, no.2, June 2014 - Family farmers breaking out of poverty

V.16, no.3, September 2014 - Family Farmers and Sustainable Landscapes

V.16, no.4, December 2014 - Family farmers and nutrition

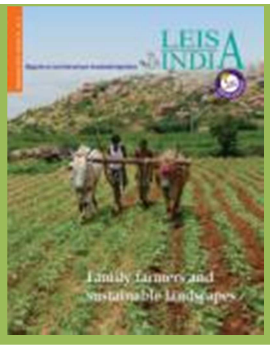
V.17, no.1, March 2015 - Soil for Life

**a) Family farmers breaking out of poverty (Vol 16.2, June 2014)**

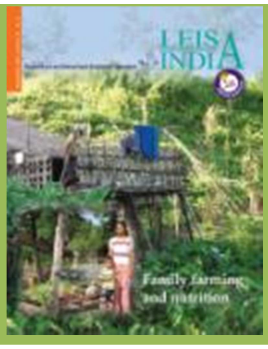
The issue included 11 full length articles covering a range of dimensions like sustainable agriculture, farm enterprises, integrated farming, collective action, women taking lead etc. The issue was of 36 pages.

We received around 10 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. But excepting one, none of the articles were worth including. We proactively sourced and received two articles which we included. We included two articles which were already published in other publications, but very relevant to the theme. We also included one article from the global pool. In all, we included 9 out of 10 articles from the region.

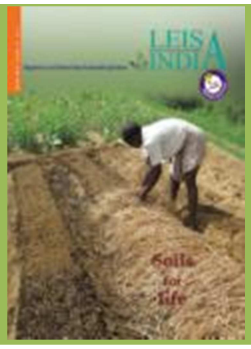
June 2014



September 2014



December 2014



March 2015

**b) Family Farmers and Sustainable Landscapes (Vol 16.3, September 2014)**

The issue included 11 full length articles covering various dimensions of the issue – agro-ecological landscapes, forest landscapes, water landscapes, biodiversity, livelihoods etc. The magazine was of 36 pages.

There was a good response to call for papers. We received 14 articles in response to call for papers to this issue. Out of them only 4 were selected. We proactively contacted individuals and organisations and succeeded in getting another 4 articles. Two articles were selected from the global pool. In all we included 11 articles, 8 from the region.

We shared around 75 copies of this issue in the Global Landscape Forum in Lima during 6-7 December 2014.

**c) Family farmers and nutrition (Vol 16.4, December 2014)**

The issue included 13 full length articles covering various dimensions of the issue – agro-biodiversity, kitchen gardens, homestead gardens etc. The magazine was of 36 pages.

There was a good response to call for papers. We received 13 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 12 articles, 9 from the region.

We also included the recommendations emerging from the FAO organized events on IYFF, prepared by ILEIA. We received additional funding support from FAO for producing and distributing a few copies of this issue in print.

**d) Soils for Life (Vol 17.1, March 2015)**

The issue included 13 full length articles covering various dimensions of the issue – agro-biodiversity, kitchen gardens, homestead gardens etc. 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 8 were selected. We proactively contacted individuals and organisations and succeeded in getting another 4 articles. One article was selected from the global pool. In all, we included 13 articles, 12 from the region.

**Content**

The content included in the magazine is 80% field experiences. Another 10% of the content is reserved for including strategic issues 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 32 regionally sourced articles, 9 articles focused on women (28%).

This year, the highest number of contributions came from the NGO sector. One of the primary reasons could be that almost all the themes dealt with development issues rather than technical issues. Of the 52 authors contributing for regional articles, 38 (72%) belonged to the NGO sector, 6 (12% were from the Scientist/Research category, 4 (8%) were individuals/farmers, 2 (4%) from International NGO, and 2 (4%) from the Government.

Of the 52 authors for regional articles, 13 were women authors (21% women).

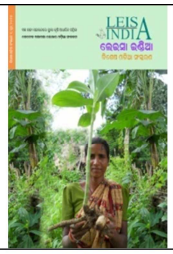
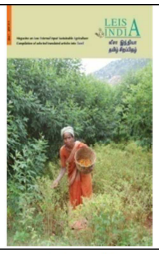
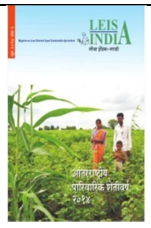
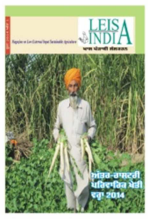
**2. Special language editions**

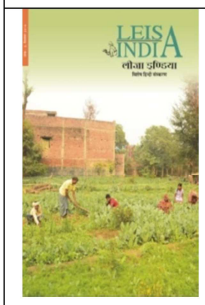
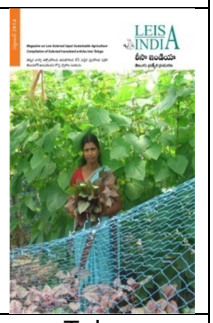
Special language editions are produced in 7 languages – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi and Punjabi. While the first five language editions were being produced during Misereor Phase I project (2011-14), two new editions were added during the second phase – Misereor Phase II (2014-17) – Marathi and Punjabi. The five language editions which were produced in the Phase I two times a year (June and December) were produced four times a year during Phase II (June, September, December and March). The two new editions have been produced two times a year (June and December). All the language editions include translations of selected articles from the LEISA India English edition.

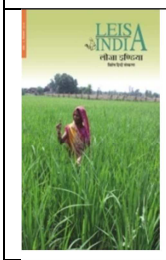
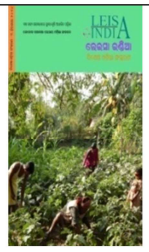
These are brought out in partnership with LEISA India consortium partners, and arrangements are different with each partner based on their ability and experience. For **Hindi edition,** our consortium partner GEAG has the responsibility of selection of articles, translations, layout, printing and distribution. With **Kannada edition**, translation, proof reading, design and layout are done by Mitramadhyama Trust, Bangalore. In case of **Tamil edition**, Kudumbam (Suresh Kanna) is responsible for selection, translation and type setting while layout and production is being taken up by LEISA India team. Oriya edition is being brought out in collaboration with an NGO called ORRISSA based in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa. ORRISSA is a partner of MISEREOR. ORRISSA has taken the responsibility of translation, layout and printing and distribution of the magazine. The **Telugu edition** is being produced in collaboration with a consultant till the designing stage. Printing and distribution are being taken up by AMEF.

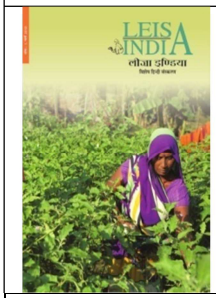
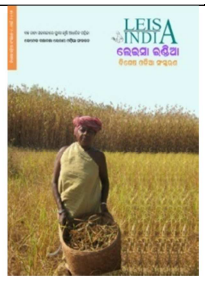
Our new partner, Yuva Rural Association (YRA), located in Nagpur, Maharashtra brings out the **Marathi edition**. YRA has taken the responsibility of translation, layout and printing and distribution of the magazine. Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM) is the partner associated with us in bringing out **Punjabi edition**. KVM located in Ludhiana in Punjab has the responsibility of translation, layout and printing and distribution of the magazine.

During the reporting period, four issues (June 2014, September 2014, December 2014 and March 2015) of the special translated editions in Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Telugu, Oriya, have been produced. During the same time two issues (June 2014 and December 2014) of Punjabi and Marathi language editions were produced.

| June 2014 Edition | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hindi | Kannada | Oriya | Tamil | Telugu | Marathi | Punjabi |

| September 2014 Edition | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Hindi | Kannada | Oriya | Tamil | Telugu |

| December 2014 Edition | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hindi | Kannada | Oriya | Tamil | Telugu | Marathi | Punjabi |

| March 2015 Edition | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Hindi | Kannada | Oriya | Tamil | Telugu |

The language editions are distributed primarily to grassroot institutions which depend heavily on the local language. Presently the outreach of language editions is 11536.

We received a very good and encouraging feedback for all the editions. No specific readers survey was done during 2014. Sample feedback received for the magazine is presented in the box.

**Box: Readers Feedback**

I have been getting improved knowledge from LEISA India magazine. I am extending this knowledge through different means – farmers meet, FFS, trainings etc.

*P. Jeevan Das, NGO, Tamil Nadu, 20 July 2014*

Many articles in the magazine are written effectively. I find this magazine useful to farmers as well as students of agriculture.

*Nirmal Kumar Meena, IARI, Delhi, 18 Oct 2014*

The magazine is very informative for students, academics and farmers.

*Narayan Prasad Pathak, Technical Officer, NARC, Nepal*

LEISA India will be a great source contributing to promote sustainable agriculture in South Asia, particularly in Pakistan.

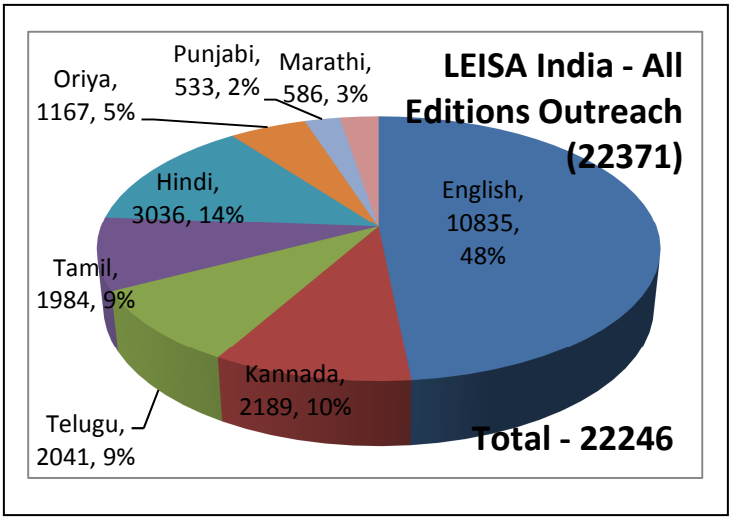
*Rufus Kamran, Society for Peace and Sustainable Development, Pakistan*

## Outreach

LEISA India magazines are disseminated through various means.

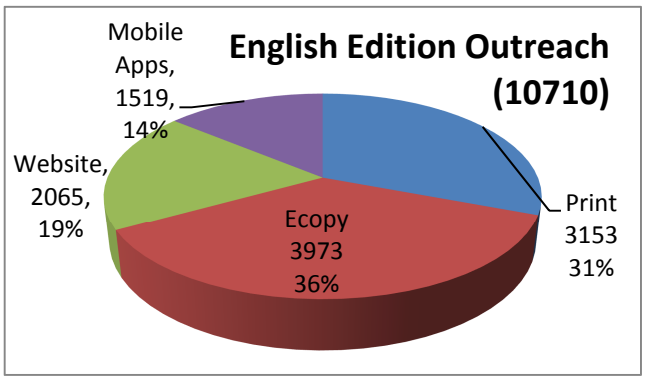
1. **Print Copy** – English and Language Editions
   Print copies reach readers at the grassroot level. Around 3333 copies of English edition and 8676 copies of language editions (all 6 languages) are disseminated as hard copies.

   We were able to continue with the printed copies of English edition owing to the continued support from MISEREOR for printing limited numbers. The increase in readership over previous year is due to more number of requests coming from the website and also due to paid subscriptions. Additionally, we also received funding support from SIDA and FAO for printing and distributing extra copies of the September and December issues of English edition.




2. **E.magazine** – English edition is also disseminated through email as an e-copy for those who have access to internet. Around 3918 readers are reached through e-copy. The number of subscribers is slightly lesser than what we had reported during the last year (4500). We did a lot of cleaning up of the database (emails), hence the number is slightly lesser. We are regularly receiving requests for e-copy, primarily from our website.

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 were 7770 during the year 2014. Around 2065 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 1940 have visited various language edition pages.

4. **Mobile Apps** – Around 1619 have accessed the English edition and 920 have accessed the Language editions through their mobile apps.

5. **Social networking**: LEISA India is now on Facebook and Twitter. These accounts were started in January 2015. In the last three months, it has got more than 100 followers on facebook and 47 followers on Twitter

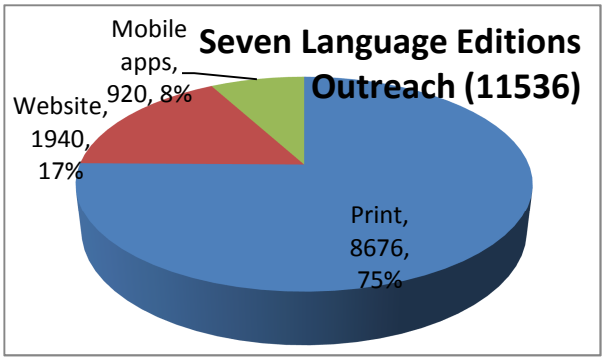
6. **Dissemination in larger forums:** The magazines were presented in various workshops, both nationally and globally. Some of them include: a) Launch of biodiversity issue of LEISA India, held in New Delhi during April 2014 b) Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming in Budapest, Hungary during 4-6th March 2014 c) International encounters on Family Farming and Research, Montepellier, France, 1-3 June 2014 c) Asia Pacific Regional Consultation - Role of Family Farming in the 21stCentury: Achieving the Zero Hunger Challenge by 2025, held during August 7-10, 2014 in Chennai, India.

a) To celebrate IYFF, launch of biodiversity issue of LEISA India was organised in New Delhi during April 2014. The issue was released by FAO representative in India. (Details in Others section of Annual report)

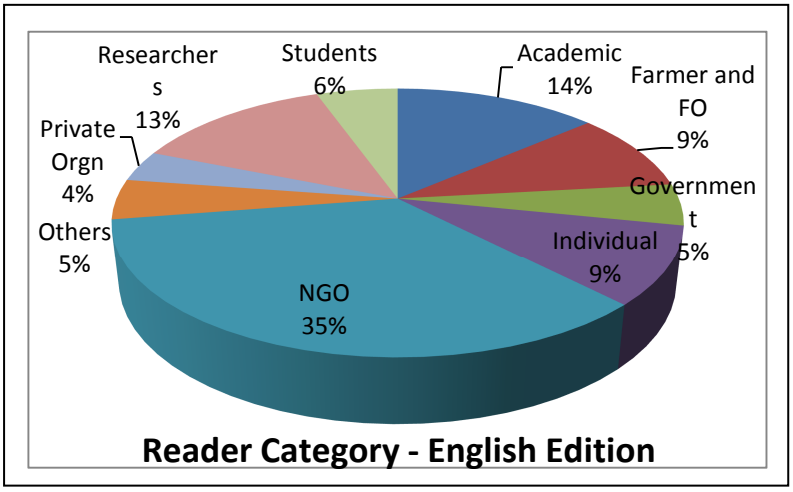
b) AMEF made a poster presentation on multifunctionality of family farming which was presented in the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming in Budapest, Hungary during 4-6th March 2014, along with the magazines. (Details in Section 5 of Annual report, P.26).

c) International encounters on Family Farming and Research, Montepellier, France, 1-3 June 2014 (Details in Others section of Annual report)

d) Asia Pacific Regional Consultation - Role of Family Farming in the 21stCentury: Achieving the Zero Hunger Challenge by 2025, organized by MSSRF with FAO, IFAD, IDRC during August 7-10, 2014 in Chennai, India (Details in Section 5 of Annual report, P.26).



## 4. Readers mix




The readers mix of English edition has been as follows. Of the total, 97% belong to the Indian subcontinent while 3% belong to neighboring Asian countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan, Bhutan etc. Across various categories, NGOs formed the major chunk with 36%, followed by academics with 14% and research institutions with 13% of the total number of readers. Around 9% of the readers are farmers and farmer organisations. Around 5% of the readers are students.

### Review and sharing meetings

**Agricultures International network meeting**: Mr. Prasad and Ms. Radha were invited to the Agricultures International Network meeting (an internal partners meeting) in The Netherlands during first week of November 2014. Ms. T M Radha presented the context, AMEF's role and strategies in promoting LEISA in the field, and production of LEISA India English edition and 7 language editions (totaling 28 issues per year). The sheer volume and diversity was highly appreciated by everyone including Mr. Bram, Chairperson, ILEIA Board, as it contrasted significantly with other country partners producing only 3-4 issues per year, only with ILEIA support while we are producing diverse editions with additional support mobilised from Misereor.

*This magazine (Kannada) is sharing very useful experience on sustainable agriculture and better livelihoods*

*Mr.Sangannagowda, Farmer, Dindigal, Karnataka*

*By reading about ecological practices, we are able to save our crops from pests and diseases (Telugu edition)*

*Mr. Kumana tavipayya, Farmer, Amudalavalasa, Andhra Pradesh*

*Integration with food processing related articles benefited especially rural women and women farmers (Hindi edition)*

*Ms. Prabiti Das, Farmer, Boulpara, Odisha*

*Farmer Field School, crop diversification and Youth involvement related articles benefited us to improve our farming practice. (Tamil edition)*

*Mr. Kudalingam.S, Farmer, Madurai, Tamil Nadu*

# 4. Educational consultancies - ADATS

The purpose of this consultancy is to guide partner NGOs of Fair Climate Network pursuing ecological agriculture for more than a decade in primarily rainfed areas. They include, RDT, Timbaktu collective and others. However, they were keen to get support from AMEF on FFS methods for promoting SA practices, documenting and communicating field experience – skills and processes.

An orientation meeting with the network was organised in which AMEF showcased its experience as well as professional strength with a strategic plan for providing support.

Meetings were held with Mr. Pradeep Esteeves, the Project Leader of the programme, and also other team members of the Network. The meeting was to initiate TOTs to the network partner staff. Ms. Sangeetha, Mr. Krishnan, and Mr. Balakrishna Murthy were involved in the discussion. It was decided that as the participants of partners (primarily NGO staff) belong to various language backgrounds, (Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi), the TOTs would be organised in English with limited support in local languages, where possible.

The first **Training of trainers** (TOT) for the partners of EED was organized in Dharwad, between 22.07.2014 to 26.07.2014 by AMEF resource persons. The participants were primarily NGO staff from six different states and eight different organizations. They were primarily trained on how to conduct FFS sessions to guide promotion of sustainable agriculture practices. Though, initially they were a bit uncomfortable with the rural training venue, gradually, they were very impressed with the quality of learning which was imparted by AMEF.

As the partners were very busy with the establishment of models for measurement, identification of third parties for compensation, some more TOTs could not be organized.

# 5. International Year of Family Farming and other events

***The year 2014 has been declared as The International Year of Family Farming 2014 after prolonged efforts worldwide. Promoted by World Rural Forum, Spain, with the support of hundreds of civil society organizations from 130 countries across five continents, United Nations General Assembly has declared the year to serve as a tool to stimulate active policies for sustainable development of agricultural systems with small holders and family farmers as focus (as against industrial farm models). It is based on the firm belief that Strengthening Family Farming is the most efficient means to combat global hunger and poverty.***

As a part of celebrating IYFF, AMEF organized release of magazines, AMEF was invited to make presentations in global and national meets, some of which are highlighted below.

**1. Release of Magazine on Launch of Biodiversity Issue of LEISA India**

LEISA India team organized a launch event for the release of biodiversity Issue (March 2014) at New Delhi on the 8th of April 2014. There were about 20 participants representing various organizations (Gene Campaign, SPWD, Dhan Foundation, SEWA, Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM), GEAG, YRA, ORRISSA, etc..) from different parts of the country. The Chief Guest was Dr. Peter Kenmore, FAO India. Dr. Suman Sahai, Gene Campaign, was the special guest for the event. In her opening remarks, emphasized that the wealth of knowledge on biodiversity was with the family farmers and it was important to respect and nurture it. In the open forum, other participants too shared their views on biodiversity. Following this Dr. Peter Kenmore released the issue. In his remarks he said that we need to go beyond where we are now. He said that thousands of cases on biodiversity have been published, but still we have not been able to focus on this issue and push this forward. He said that it is important to recognize that biodiversity is not just about crop diversity, but a whole of lot organisms in the ecosystem and the relationships among them. While science is important it is also important to build mutual trust among farmers. He was referring to an IPM FFS in India where farmers having learnt about pests/predators did not see the need for pesticides. Responding to Dr. Kenmore's remarks, Prasad said that this year being an International Year of Family Farming, it is important that all the organizations do something concrete in promoting biodiversity and requested FAO-India to play a lead role by supporting the movement. Dr. VB Eswaran, Chairman, SPWD gave his concluding remarks. He said that issue of biodiversity is being nurtured by several organizations. He appreciated LEISA India team for bringing various organizations across the country onto a common platform.

**2. 'International encounters on Family Farming and Research, Montepellier, France, 1-3 June 2014.**

In the context of the IYFF, the research institutions of Montpellier's Agropolis International took the initiative to organize the event '**International encounters on Family Farming and Research, Montepellier, France, 1-3 June 2014.**

This was done with the support of the French Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research, CIRAD, CGIAR Consortium and World Rural Forum.

In their own words, the organizing committee said, "The meeting is aimed to i) foster exchanges between representatives of family farming, decision makers from the political and private sectors, representatives of civil society, trainers and researchers throughout the world and ii) to question and enhance research agendas dealing with family farming issues and the challenges of global change (society, economics, food security, urbanization, human mobility and migrations, nutrition and health, climate change etc.)."

Mr. K V S Prasad, ED, AME Foundation and Chief Editor, LEISA India was invited by CIRAD, France, CGIAR consortium and GFAR to chair a workshop theme during the conference. The theme identified was 'In house issues in Family farming' which primarily dealt with how research agendas be suitably modified to meet the needs of youth and women while appreciating the various contextual and social dimensions. A discussion note was prepared including chairing the subtheme discussions, summarizing the multicontextual, multilingual perspectives and priorities for the plenaries.

The meeting was unique in three ways: 1) It was an opportunity when global research organizations 'heard' the contextual perspectives and realities 2) Plenaries had well known authors of global studies (eg. IASSTD report) sharing their perspectives and findings convincingly on relevance of small holder ecological agriculture 3) Unlike several other mainstream conferences, the conference focused on collecting perspectives from the subgroups through FGDs. The workshop participants included a mix of farmer organisations, networks, civil societies and scientists from different contexts. The group on 'In- house issues in Family Farming' articulated the following priority areas for research/ research methods, especially with small holders and agroecological approaches.

Recognising the importance of context and constituency specific research; Understanding the differential needs and abilities of the communities; Recognising complex social issues including resource access, entitlement and knowledge; Need for farmer centric participatory research based on mutual respect towards alternative knowledge systems; Research 'validating' field phenomena (eg. SRI), focusing on cyclical and systemic research rather than linear models alone; and, governance issues where research needs to closely work with Farmer organizations and civil societies.

**3. Other events**

As a concluding event of NABARD supported programme on SRI, a Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) meeting was organized on 15th May 2014 at Hulukoppa village. While appreciating the progress made on adoption of SRI in the field and efforts made towards collectivization, the committee highlighted the opportunities available for organised groups. Some of them have been, exposure visits to functioning Federations (*Okkutas*) and the loan schemes available for such, *Okkutas*.

# Staff as on 31.03.2015

| 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 | Chikkanna | Attendant | - |
| **Dharwad** | | | |
| 4 | Sangeeta R Patil | Team Leader | - |
| 5 | Prasanna V | Secretary cum Accountant | - |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Consultants and Contractual Staff** | | | |
| 1 | Murthy N | CU | - |
| 2 | Poornima | CU | - |
| 3 | Arunkumar V | CU | - |
| 4 | Shivappa, | CU | - |
| 5 | Rukmini G G | CU | - |
| 6 | Ramachandra K S | CU | - |
| 7 | Sanath M N | CU | - |
| 8 | Shamasunder D S | CU | - |
| 9 | Mayachari A | Dharwad | - |
| 10 | Akkamahadevi M Patil | Dharwad | - |
| 11 | Krishnan J | Dharmapuri | - |
| 12 | Prasath K | Dharmapuri | - |
| 13 | Venkatesan K | Dharmapuri | - |
| 14 | Munirasu M | Dharmapuri | - |
| 15 | Narendra P | Chintamani | - |
| 16 | Ramesh Kumar B V | Bangarpet | - |
| 17 | Ranganna Setty S R | Chintamani | - |
| 18 | Balakrishna Murthy M R | Bangarpet | - |

# 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 2015**

| 31.03.2014 Rs.P. | LIABILITIES | 31.03.2015 Rs.P. | 31.03.2014 Rs.P. | ASSETS | 31.03.2015 Rs.P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **FUNDS** | | | **FIXED ASSETS** | |
| 27,901,795 | As per Schedule I | 28,443,765 | 9,813,507 | As per Schedule III | 9,972,616 |
| | **CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS** | | | **LOANS & ADVANCES/ DEPOSITS** | |
| | As per Schedule II | | | As per Schedule IV | |
| | | | 15,595,057 | Fixed Deposits | 16,326,306 |
| | | | 78,115 | Other Deposits | 88,115 |
| 60,538 | Sundry Creditors For Expenses | 28,090 | 166,853 | Advances | 68,287 |
| 650,000 | Rental Advance | 650,000 | 568,005 | Grants Receivable | |
| 1,111,484 | Unutilized Grants | 1,339,468 | 298,017 | TDS Receivable | 342,319 |
| 275,621 | Provisions | 21,293 | | | |
| | | | | **CASH AND BANK BALANCES** | |
| | | | 3,479,864 | As per Schedule V | 3,684,972 |
| 29,999,438 | | 30,482,615 | 29,999,438 | | 30,482,615 |

CHAIRMAN

TREASURER

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

PUNDARIKAKSHA
PARTNER
Membership No. 214283

Place: Bangalore
Dated: 23.07.2015

2

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE

GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

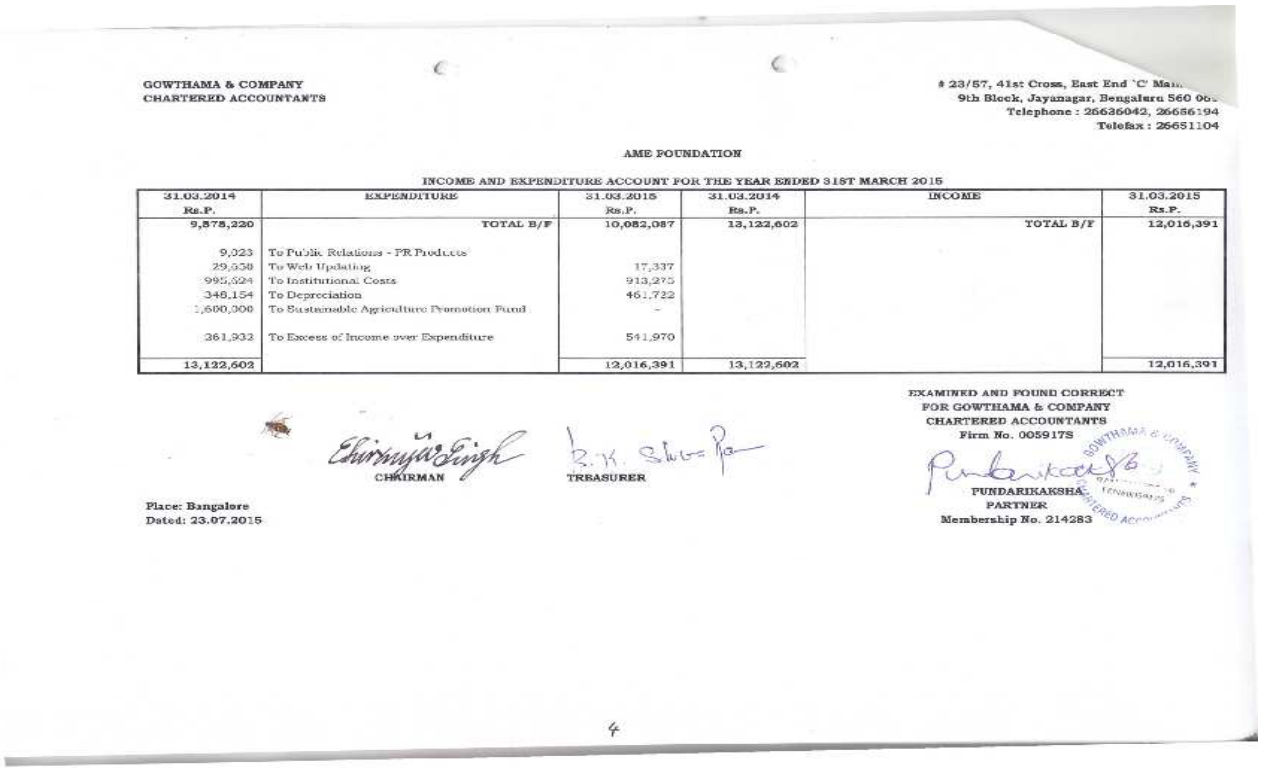
23/57, 41st Cross, East End C Main Road,
9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560069
Ph : 26636042, 26636194
Fax No : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

| 31.03.2014 Rs.P. | EXPENDITURE | 31.03.2015 Rs.P. | 31.03.2014 Rs.P. | INCOME | 31.03.2015 Rs.P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6,753 | To Bank Charges | 5,624 | 562,769 | By Rental Income | 789,250 |
| 49,968 | To Office expenses | 270,430 | 14 725 | By Donations- AMEF | 35,000 |
| 2,115,084 | To Salary to employees | 1,820,861 | 34 422 | By Donations- Lesa | 25,180 |
| 1,893,138 | To Consultancy Charges | 4,257,669 | - | By Miscellaneous Income | 35,702 |
| 166,614 | To Rent, Electricity & Water Charges | 186,408 | 17 231 | By Forex Gain/ Loss | - |
| 113,611 | To Rates & Taxes | 109,676 | 16 275 | By Terrace Gardening | 5,224 |
| - | To Homestead Gardens | 8,750 | 841 | By Profit on sale of asset | - |
| 1,899,475 | To PFS Coordination & Field guidance | 1,642,611 | 9,901,013 | By Grants Utilized | 8,703,691 |
| 438,174 | To Travel & Conveyance | 374,361 | 993,624 | By Institutional costs | 913,275 |
| 1,114,894 | To Capacity Building of Farmers | 385,861 | | | |
| 464,968 | To Critical Inputs & Support Cost | 214,786 | | By Interest Income | |
| 99,371 | To Repairs & Maintenance | 18,340 | 1,579,703 | Bank & FD Interest | 806,879 |
| 141,375 | To Vehicle maintenance & Insurance | 120,163 | | Accrued Interest | 505,227 |
| 60,973 | To Printing & Stationery | 71,110 | | Bank FCRA Interest | 98,401 |
| 11,689 | To Postage & Courier | 45,818 | | Interest in IT Refund | 7,562 |
| 39,554 | To Telephone & Internet | 106,727 | | | |
| 62,891 | To Security Charges | 94,555 | | | |
| 9,969 | To Miscellaneous Expenses | 5,000 | | | |
| - | To Board Meeting Expenses | 110,003 | | | |
| 58,087 | To Meeting Expenses | 135,643 | | | |
| 29,444 | To Audit Fees | 15,720 | | | |
| 50,500 | To Insurance | 55,320 | | | |
| 28,000 | To Honorarium | 30,000 | | | |
| 853,693 | To Magazine Expenses (Production & translation) | 1,821,593 | | | |
| 210,296 | To Distribution Expenses | 295,969 | | | |
| 9,878,220 | TOTAL C/F | 10,082,087 | 13,122,502 | TOTAL C/F | 12,016,391 |

GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

3



GOWTHAMA & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

# 23/57, 41st Cross, East End 'C' Main
9th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560 06
Telephone : 26636042, 26656194
Telefax : 26651104

AME FOUNDATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

| 31.03.2014 Rs.P. | EXPENDITURE | 31.03.2015 Rs.P. | 31.03.2014 Rs.P. | INCOME | 31.03.2015 Rs.P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9,875,220 | TOTAL B/F | 10,082,087 | 13,122,602 | TOTAL B/F | 12,016,391 |
| 9,023 | To Public Relations - PR Products | | | | |
| 29,658 | To Web Updating | 17,337 | | | |
| 995,524 | To Institutional Costs | 913,275 | | | |
| 348,154 | To Depreciation | 461,722 | | | |
| 1,600,000 | To Sustainable Agriculture Promotion Fund | - | | | |
| 361,932 | To Excess of Income over Expenditure | 541,970 | | | |
| 13,122,602 | | 12,016,391 | 13,122,602 | | 12,016,391 |

CHAIRMAN

TREASURER

Place: Bangalore
Dated: 23.07.2015

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

PUNDARIKAKSHA
PARTNER
Membership No. 214283

4

# AMEF OPERATIONAL AREAS

### Central Unit

No. 204, 100 Feet Ring Road, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 2nd Block, 3rd stage, Bangalore – 560 085
Ph: 080-26699512, 26699522, 26794922, Fax: 080-26699410
Email: amebang@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in; amefbang@amefound.org / amefbang@yahoo.co.in; leisaindia@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.amefound.org; www.leisaindia.org

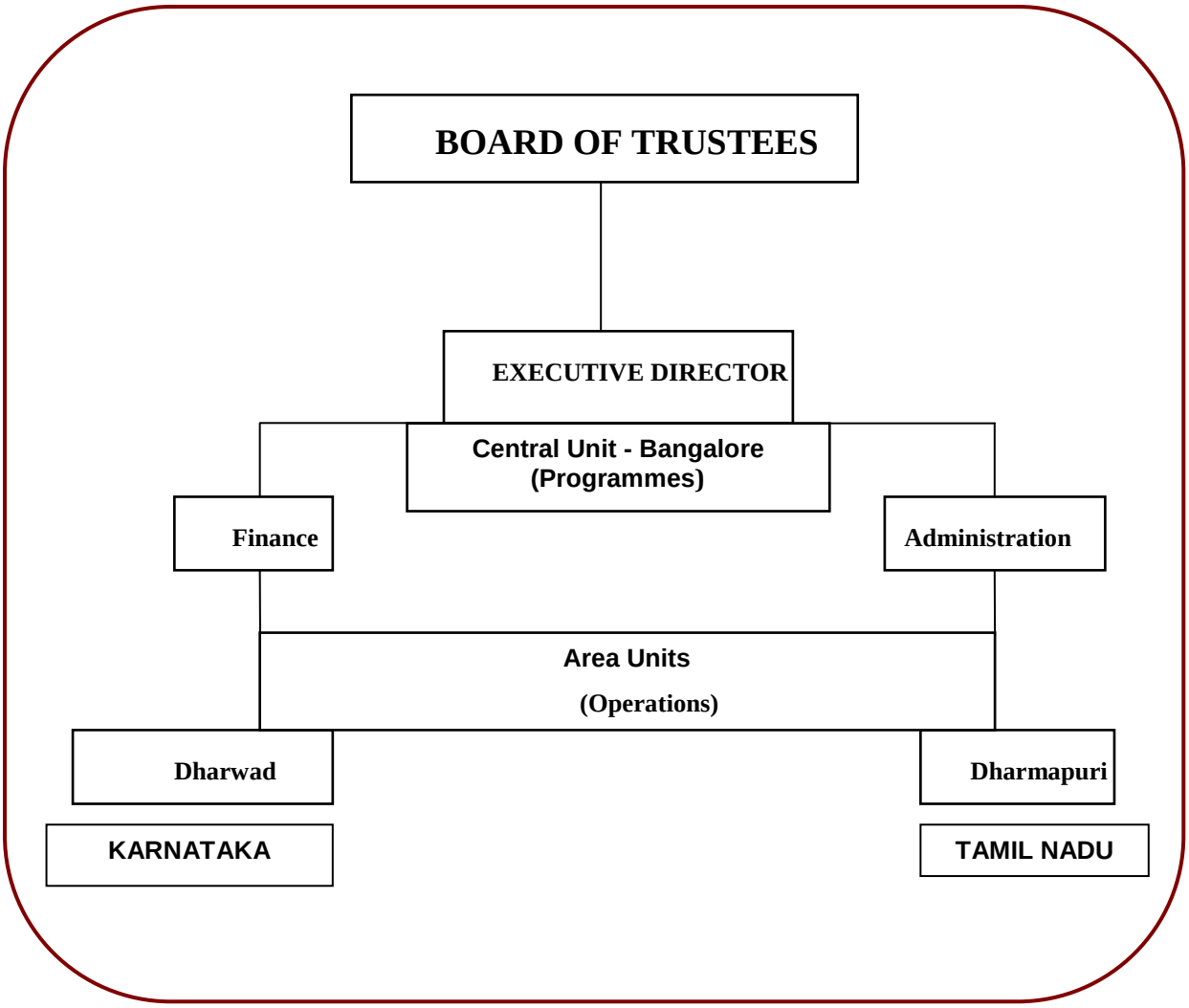
## Area Units

**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**

# ORGANOGRAM OF AME FOUNDATION



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES - Year 2014-15

**Sri Chiranjiv Singh,** *Chairman – w.e.f. 28.10.2014*
Former Development Commissioner of Karnataka and
Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka

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

**Dr. Vithal Rajan,** *Vice Chairman – w.e.f. 28.10.2014*
Chairman, Governing Body, Confederation of Voluntary Associations, Hyderabad

**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. K. Sanghi** – **Until 29.04.2014**
Adviser - Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN)

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

**Dr. T. M. Thiyagarajan**
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

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