



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2004 - March 2005

AME FOUNDATION

No.204, 100 Feet Ring Road, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 2nd Block,
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VISION

AME Foundation subscribes to a global, socio-political and economic system, which affords just and equitable opportunity for all, in the development process. AMEF recognises that in the prevailing circumstances, the worst affected are a large number of disadvantaged families dependent on farming in rain fed areas, with a future rapidly going out of their control. AMEF believes that sustainable livelihoods for all are attainable through a systematic ecological approach to the development process.

MISSION

AME Foundation is committed to realising its vision through a holistic perspective in all its endeavours. AMEF will work towards sustainable livelihoods through innovations in technology, harnessing indigenous and advanced knowledge systems. AMEF will promote sustainable agriculture and natural resource management systems that address issues of ecological degradation. These developments will be disseminated widely for empowering the resource-poor and disadvantaged farm families and communities. In generating these alternatives, AMEF will integrate the needs of social development including mainstreaming of gender and equity issues. These efforts will be complemented with the facilitation of collaborative and participatory processes for both effective dissemination and advocacy.

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We have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year April 2004-March 2005. This presents the work done by AME Foundation during the year in association with farmers, NGOs and NGO networks. The Agricultural Universities and Research Stations, various development departments and input agencies have supported our activities in various ways.

AME Foundation could achieve results in the field due to continued and timely support provided by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, FAO, KAWAD, ILEIA, and DST. We are particularly grateful to the Royal Netherlands Embassy for enabling us to have our own office building.

It is gratifying that the FAO, for the first time, is initiating a “partnership project” with an NGO like AME Foundation, departing from its norm of providing technical assistance to national governments. This FAO venture is part of an “innovative model of development assistance” and we acknowledge this gesture, with gratitude.

We appreciate the enthusiastic participation of farmers in working towards generating alternative farming practices contributing to sustainable agriculture, through field experimentation and demonstrations. We are thankful to all the above partners in promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

We sincerely thank members of Technical Advisory Committee, Building Committee, various institutions, scientists and individuals who supported our work in various aspects of sustainable agriculture.

We acknowledge with respect the close guidance and assistance provided by the Board of Trustees.

Arun Balamatti
Executive Director
AME Foundation

PREFACE

AME Foundation is born out of a concern for ecological agriculture. Embedded in this concern are livelihood improvements and ecological stability. AMEF has chosen to work with resource poor farm families, trapped in a fragile ecosystem of rain fed farming on the Deccan Plateau.

Sustainable Agriculture is a long road. And, today, we are left with depleted farmlands, degraded farm environment and demoralized farm population who have nowhere else to go. Often, it is reckoned that this situation is the product of the outdated “land use practices” of a traditional society, which has multiplied manifold, has taken to modern life styles and has become somewhat uncaring in its ecological relationships. Thus, at the bottom of the whole thing is the strategic need to upgrade the “land use practices”, along with rebuilding appropriate user attitudes and effective development strategies. Evidently, this is a complex task. But, we have to begin somewhere.

We all know 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. Realising that all farmers have needs and aspirations, AMEF interests and motivates them to take note of the prevailing constraints and look for alternatives in farm practices and resource management. Since AMEF believes in “helping people to help themselves”, it adopts the methods of participatory technology development and farmers field schools.

As this initiative makes progress, efforts are made to build networks of NGOs to spread the innovations, and to organise “hands-on” training activities to empower interested stakeholders. As the programme advances, building linkages with research establishments and development agencies follow, along with sharing workshops and stakeholder platforms.

In the last two years, in spite of some teething troubles, AMEF has held itself together as a motivated organisation, and has made tangible achievements. This has added tremendously to the AMEF’s belief in itself, and has enabled it to prepare for a bigger contribution, in the future, to the cause of ecological agriculture.

ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

AESA	Agro Ecosystem Analysis
AMEF	AME Foundation
AP	Andhra Pradesh
APFaMGS	Andhra Pradesh Farmers Managed Groundwater System
APRLP	Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Programme
APCOT	Andhra Pradesh Cotton Network
ARS	Agriculture Research Station
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CEC	Centre for Environment Concerns
CICR	Central Institute for Cotton Research
CIKS	Centre For Indegenous Knowledge Systems
CRIDA	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DDS	Deccan Development Society
DFID	Department For International Development
DLH	Dryland Horticulture
DST	Department of Science and Technology
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FFS	Farmers' Field School
FYM	Farm Yard Manure
HR	Human Resources
ICM	Integrated Crop Management
IEM	International Editorial Meeting
IFS	Integrated Farming Systems
ILEIA	Information Centre for Low External Input Agriculture (The Netherlands)
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRMA	Institute for Rural Management, Anand
KAWAD	Karnataka Watershed Development Project
KVKs	Krishi Vigyan Kendras
LEISA	Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSKE	Neem Seed Kernel Extract
PBND	Peanut Bud Necrosis Diseases
PE	Participatory Evaluation
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
RARS	Regional Agricultural Research Station
RRS	Regional Research Station
SA	Sustainable Agriculture
SHGs	Self Help Groups
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
TNAU	Tamil Nadu Agriculture University
UAS	University of Agricultural Sciences

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

AMEF Foundation seeks to promote sustainable agriculture among resource poor farm families, in dryland farming, on the Deccan Plateau. In the last two years, AMEF has made its presence felt in the field through its programmes and its participatory approaches.

AMEF continues to work in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, through its Area Units, in improving the farming systems, around the major crops in the area. During the year under report, a new Area Unit in Mahbubnagar was started in Andhra Pradesh. Also, during this year, AMEF witnessed a significant change in the donor support, with RNE persuading FAO to assume this role for the future. This enables AMEF to avail the benefit of the enormous global experience FAO has in technical development.

AMEF, during the year, worked in 140 villages, with about 2500 farmers, and 21 partner NGOs, apart from its continued association with APCOT and KAWAD. The **field operations** were concentrated on the major crops like groundnut, cotton, maize, sorghum, tomato, chilly and pomegranate. Different varieties of crops like groundnut, bajra, cotton and chilly were tried out, offering acceptable alternatives to farmers. Promotion of sericulture and dry land horticulture formed other important activities. The focus of these activities was mainly on stabilizing and improving the farm productivity. This process essentially concentrated on generating alternative farming practices by harnessing indigenous and combining modern technologies, through participatory technology development processes. The significant achievement during the year was the formulation of a comprehensive working strategy, aimed at 'on-farm natural resource management', and as a step towards working with partner NGO networks. The following operations are identified for this in view.

On farm rainwater management -- Upgrading soil productivity status -- Alternative cropping practices --Improving environmental support -- Combining income generation activities

Capacity building, a major role of AMEF, received considerable attention during the year, in training the farmers, farmers groups and NGOs. In preparation for this task, internal staff training was attended to, in the beginning. Both the technology aspects that contribute to the progress towards sustainable agriculture, and the methodology aspects of working with rural people were the major planks of the staff training. A point to be mentioned here is that the technology matters prominently emphasized the importance of on-farm natural resource management. Also, gender and equity issues were given due place in the training events. Early in the year, a study was initiated to assess the prevailing strategy within the organization with regard to **gender and social concerns**.

Building linkages is one of the key functions of AMEF. Prominent bio mass players like Agricultural Universities, Research Stations, development departments, input agencies and other stakeholders are identified to build working relationships. This has helped AMEF in securing access to new technologies, varieties and inputs like bio agents. These linkages are also being utilized to share ideas and experience of value.

Documentation and dissemination remains an essential task of the organization. Guidelines on various topics like IPM, PRA, PTD and FFS were brought out during the year. It has been a year of significant achievement for LEISA India magazine. Two backlog issues along with three regular issues were brought out thus bringing the publication up to date. A CD-Rom of LEISA Magazine archives has been produced and distributed. The response to the Reader's survey was tremendous and reflected the high utility of the magazine. A noteworthy initiative was taken up to intensify efforts in building capacities on documentation and dissemination among LEISA India Consortium partners through a series of workshops by the LEISA India team, in collaboration with ILEIA.

Now that AMEF has gone through a transition period, the organization looks forward to bringing in greater vigour into its working. Towards this end, the tasks are being reviewed and reformulated, which includes further investment in staff development, harnessing more useful technologies and stakeholder mobilization.

1. INTRODUCTION

AME Foundation is a non-governmental resource organization, committed to promote ecological agriculture. Betterment of livelihoods of farm families in impoverished dry farming situations is its main concern. Towards this end, it strives to promote improvements in biomass production, crop improvement and natural resource management, by combining the best traditional practices with the modern methods. In the process it seeks to work with farmers, community-based organisations (CBOs), non-government organisations (NGOs), research and development agencies and other bio mass actors.

The key tasks of the organization are detailed below:

1. **Generating alternative farming practices:** Beginning with on farm crop improvements by means of PTD processes, technologies related to IPM, INM, ICM, NRM and IFS get generated through PTD processes 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 process:** AMEF seeks to mitigate and ameliorate the inequality based on gender, caste and economic status. Thus, AMEF addresses these issues while planning and implementing its activities.
3. **Capacity building of stakeholders:** The CBOs, SHGs, Panchayat Raj bodies and local staff of development agencies who can play a facilitative role in making use of this knowledge will be sensitised and trained on the knowledge generated in the sphere of alternative agriculture/land use practices.
4. **Building NGO network:** For replication and multiplication of eco-friendly initiatives, AMEF interacts and strengthens the NGO networks involved in the land-based activities.
5. **Developing institutional linkages:** AMEF seeks to build linkages with state, national, international research and development organizations to harness the technologies and methodologies for accessing information and involve such agencies to move towards participatory research and development approaches.
6. **Information sharing strategies:** Documentation and dissemination on technology and methodology of ecological agriculture form an important responsibility of AMEF. It brings out manuals, guidelines, workshop proceedings, working papers, case studies etc.
7. **LEISA India publication:** AMEF intends to develop LEISA as a preferred platform for promoting eco-farming alternatives and reach more persons and institutions interested in sustainable agriculture. AMEF in collaboration with ILEIA strives to enhance the capacities of NGOs and others in documenting and disseminating experiences on sustainable agriculture.
8. **Preparing professionals in LEISA technologies:** AMEF has plans to make an innovative effort to institute fellowships for fresh graduates in agriculture to be oriented and practically trained in eco friendly farming systems, natural resource management as well as rebuilding environmental support to agriculture.

2. AREAS OF OPERATIONS

AME Foundation is working in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in farming systems development revolving around the major crops of the respective regions. AMEF's central unit is in Bangalore. Currently, Area Units are located at Bellary, Bijapur and Raichur in Karnataka, Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh and Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu. In addition to this, AME Foundation has established a new unit in Mahabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh during September 2004. AME Foundation's Central Unit, located at Bangalore, is responsible for all programmatic, financial and administrative matters of the organization.

The programmes, partners and the districts reached by AMEF are presented in the following table.

State	Partner NGOS/Networks	Districts	Programme/Activity
Andhra Pradesh	ACTS, GVS-T, CHAITANYA, SPANDANA, APRRM and MYRADA	Chittoor, Anantapur	Groundnut based farming systems development.
	SDDPA, WDS, BIRD-K, APFAMGS	Mahabubnagar	ICM & IFS in castor, groundnut and paddy.
	APCOT partner NGOs	Warangal, R.R. Dist., Guntur and Prakasam	IPM in cotton.
Karnataka	INGRID, SEVA, PRERANA, JANAKALYAN	Raichur	IFS and ICM in groundnut, cotton and Dry Land Horticulture.
	KAWAD partner NGOs	Bellary, Chitradurga and Bijapur	ICM and IFS in groundnut, sorghum, vegetables and pomegranate.
Tamil Nadu	REEDS, SRIA, MANUSHI, CAD, PSSS, REACH	Tiruchi, Pudukottai, Karur and Perambalur	IFS and ICM in groundnut, cotton and Dry Land Horticulture.

2.1 Andhra Pradesh

AMEF-Madanapalli Area Unit selected 3 villages during 2004-05 in Chittoor district to work directly along with 19 villages in collaborating NGO areas. AMEF worked on ICM in groundnut with a total of 294 farmers of seven clusters, including 42 farmers in a direct cluster. Some of the activities included varietal trials, *rabi* seed production, intercropping with pigeon pea at the ratio of 8:2, capacity building of farmers and partner NGOs through training and workshops.

In association with APCOT partners, AMEF worked in 4 districts in Prakasam, Warangal, Rangareddy and Guntur on IPM in cotton with 640 farmers. New district Prakasam was included in place of Adilabad, and work in the other three districts namely Warangal, Rangareddy and Guntur continued. Due to the moisture stress, growth of the crop was stunted and flowers and bolls were affected. Damage due to heliothis was minimum while incidence of white fly and spodoptera were above economic threshold level and pheromone traps, sticky traps and bird perches were tried for the same.



A new unit was established in Mahabubnagar during September 2005 and the preparatory work towards establishment of the Area Unit, building rapport with farmers and NGOs was done. Three partner NGOs have been identified that are involved in livelihood improvement, namely, SDDPA (Society for Development of Drought Prone Area at Wanaparty), WDS (Watershed Development Society, Nawabpet), BIRD-K (BAIF Institute for Rural Development – K, Jadcharla). Four villages under each NGO were identified and the process of group formation is initiated. Eleven groups (3 in direct and 8 in NGO villages) are formed so far. Based on the interest shown by the women farmers, a separate women group is also formed in Dharpally village of Nawabpet. It is intended to work on castor, cotton, paddy and groundnut based farming systems as they are the major crops grown in the areas.

2.2 Karnataka

In Karnataka AMEF has three Area Units in Raichur, Bellary and Bijapur. As there were early rains, pre-sowing activities were taken up on time. Effort is being made to promote green manuring in Raichur and Bijapur area. AMEF Raichur has worked with 165 groundnut farmers, 200 cotton farmers

and 112 farmers involved in dry land horticulture in a total of 24 villages out of which in 6 villages it is directly working and in remaining 18 villages, it is working in collaboration with partner NGOs. Some of the activities included soil and water conservation practices, facilitating FFS in groundnut and cotton, promoting dry land horticulture, recycling of crop residues and bajra varietal trial. The incidence of hailstorms during January has led to lodging of jowar crop, which was ready to harvest. This resulted in grain discoloration. Bajra yields were higher by 50kg per acre while groundnut yield was low due to dry spell at pod filling stage. A few farmers tried four varieties of sorghum.

AME Foundation has continued its work in KAWAD project and concentrated its efforts in Bellary, Chitradurga and Bijapur districts. In Bellary and Chitradurga, the major work involved facilitating FFS in groundnuts in 25 villages and 661 farmers, identifying and training the lead farmers, promoting bio-mass generation and in-situ soil and moisture conservation. Results of PTD in groundnut were analysed and shared with the farmers. Farmers are willing to continue to use technologies like application of neem cake, seed treatment with bio agents and strip cropping with ragi / bajra in groundnut. In groundnut varietal trials, VRI-2, DH-86 and K-134 were found promising. Analysis of data shows that the net return is more to the tune of Rs. 500/acre as compared to the non-PTD farmers. AMEF Bellary has also taken up sericulture work on pilot basis mainly concentrating on water and nutrient management in mulberry cultivation, promotion of low-cost rearing houses, and improved silkworm rearing techniques. In Bijapur, AMEF has worked on IPM in pomegranate with 50 farmers, ICM in chilli and tomato with 75 farmers and yield improvement of sorghum with 95 farmers. Important activities included fall ploughing, inter/mixed cropping in jowar, green manuring, crop rotation with pulses and varietal trial in chilli.



Professional staff in Bangalore has also taken up fieldwork and worked with 43 farmers in groundnut in two villages in Kolar and 16 farmers on vegetables in two villages of Hosakote taluk. The major activities taken up include ICM in groundnut, use of bio-inputs, spraying of cow dung-urine extract on vegetables like carrot, chilli, cauliflower and potato.

In Hosakote area, in one of the farmer's field where cow urine + dung extract was sprayed twice during the crop season, along with normal fertiliser application and reduced pesticide spray (three sprays instead of five in control plot), there was 1500 kg (30 bags) additional potato yield per acre compared to the control field.

2.3 Tamil Nadu

The region received good rains during the month of May 04 (more than 200 mm, which is not common in the area). AME Foundation worked with 463 farmers in Perambalur, Tiruchi and Pudukottai districts. Focus was on activities, which are basic to soil and water conservation and soil fertility improvement. Some of the soil and water conservation measures like early ploughing, across the slope sowing, vermicompost production, composting with crop residues, field bunds with trenches, bund stabilisation with *styro haemata*, application of organic matter (5 tons/acre), green manures in dry lands, silt application etc. The programs taken up were mainly on ICM in groundnut and cotton. Twenty farmers have taken up rabi groundnut (starting January 2005) for seed production purpose. Forty-one farmers went in for sowing during October 2004. Four field-days were organised and results were shared particularly the dry land green manure experiences and learning from season long training on groundnut crop management.



Some of the capacity building activities are training of one NGO network on 'FFS methodology and improving the land use pattern with farming systems approach'. As AMEF has been working for a long time, a strategy of training of all the NGOs at a common place (field) adopting FFS methodology is introduced to enable participation of more number of farmers. FFS methodology is followed with groundnut and cotton. In case of other crops, like maize and vegetables, information on package of practices was developed and need-based training were organised. The project supported by DST (Bio farms for livelihood development of small and marginal dry land farmers) was initiated in 2 villages of the Perambalur district, in January 2005.

The identification of other network NGOs for a training project was completed and a preparatory meeting was held with them, resulting in consensus decision to start a long-term collaboration starting with a modular training. Based on the assessment of NGOs done in February, support to 4 partner NGOs (MANUSHI, SRIA, REACH and REEDS) had been withdrawn and two new partners have been inducted (SPPD, Musiri and DMI, Perambalur).

3. LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

For promoting and improving the livelihoods of small and marginal dry land farmers, AMEF has been helping them grow the crops they are primarily growing through bringing down cost of cultivation and stabilizing yields. Towards this objective, AMEF has been focussing on building capacities of NGOs and farmers on integrated management of crops grown in the dry land farming systems in its operational areas.

Field operations

Having built up reasonable enthusiasm in the farmers to adopt to the LEISA methodologies, AMEF is focusing more on promoting techniques and practices towards conservation, management and utilization of natural resources at farm level through Integrated Farming Systems approach. PTD approach remains an integral component in IFS development. Details of crop wise programmes are given below as taken up by each Area Unit.

Capacity building (Training)

AMEF, being primarily a resource organisation, lays emphasis on training. It continued its' efforts in PTD processes with farmers and intends to have a comprehensive training and capacity building of farmers and field staff. Training events include season long training at field level through FFS approach, natural resource management, specific training inputs on gender and social organisation, and Training of Trainers (ToT). Apart from the season long PTD and FFS, short duration trainings were organized with NGOs and others. Training details are given under the respective Area Units.

Gender and Social Concerns

Gender and social organisation are part of all the programmes and were integrated into the PTD and FFS processes. Focused efforts have been made to sensitise Gender in SA through specially designed modular programmes, assignments and exposure visits. A family approach adopted in forming farmers' groups has helped the members to understand women's role in agricultural practices for better co-ordination in integrating the various components and to share the responsibilities.

Consultant, Dr. Usha Kulkarni, visited all the Area Units to assess the gender equity concerns in SA. She has identified a few gaps at different levels of programme implementation and in the capacities of AMEF staff, NGO staff and the community.

Networking and Linkages

Networking and linkages have been an ongoing activity to keep our links with stakeholders. Good rapport has been built up with a wide range of NGOs in the three states, with the common objective of addressing the farming problems of the rural poor. Linkages with public research institutions and progressive farmers enabled AMEF to build knowledge and awareness to the farmers and NGOs. It also helped to implement the programme better by input mobilisation, conducting field workshops/field days.

In view of giving more thrust on importance of Networking of NGOs, every month interaction meetings are organized to sensitise the partner NGOs. These meetings have helped in gaining momentum with the Networks.

Documentation and Dissemination

This helps in building organizational memory, putting material in the suitable forms for wider sharing and assembling information for time line analysis and drawing strategic lessons. The task includes, establishing baseline information, keeping track of progressive changes, developing useful case studies, sharing concepts, practices and experiences with other stakeholders.

Following is the Area Unit-wise progress

3.1 Area Unit, Madanapalli

3.1.1 Field operations: SA activities

Focus was placed on activities, which are basic to soil and water conservation and on soil fertility improvement. Following activities have been completed at the field level.

NGO wise field level activities

Activities/ NGOs	ACTS	APRRM	Chaitanya	Myrada	GVS	Spandana	Direct	TOTAL
Early ploughing across the slope	46	32	40	48	32	44	42	284
Composting	5	0	4	5	3	8	0	25
Vermicomposting	5	0	15	5	12	8	0	45
Dead furrow	1	0	9	10	0	13	1	34
Silt application	3	0	9	2	0	0	7	21
Off farm vegetation	1	0	9	2	2	1	0	15
Crop rotation	3	0	16	12	1	18	0	50
Bund planting (seedlings)	4000	0	8500	10500	10000	10,000	6000	49,000
Vermicompost production	5	0	15	5	12	8	0	45

- *Fall ploughing and sowing across the slope*
Farmer groups were sensitised about the significance of fall ploughing, early ploughing, bunding/bund repair etc. Early *kharif* showers during the year enabled farmers to take up the fall ploughing. About 95 percent of the farmers went for early/fall ploughing.
- *Small section bunds for effective in-situ moisture conservation, mitigating drought situation and strengthening the boundary bunds*
Few farmers in each cluster took up bund strengthening and green manuring with horse gram.
- *Bee-keeping units on demonstration*
Two beehives were set up with *Apis mellifera* in two different villages on demonstration basis in SPANDANA and CHAITANYA area.

Groundnut based farming system

Total of 252 farmers collaborating through six NGOs and 42 direct farmers have harvested the crop during the month of November.

Details of villages, groups and farmers associated with Area Unit, Madanapalli

Groundnut farming system							
SI. No	NGO	Collaborating farmers			Scaling-up farmers		
		Villages	Groups	Farmers	Villages	Groups	Farmers
01	SPANDANA	2	4	45	4	6	80
02	CHAITANYA	4	4	45	4	5	50
03	APRRM	3	3	32	4	4	40
04	ACTS	4	4	40	4	4	60
05	GVS-Tirupati	4	4	40	4	4	40
06	MYRADA-Kadiri	2	4	50	4	8	100
07	AMEF MPL (Direct)	3	3	42			
	Sub-total	22	26	294	24	31	370

In direct villages, farmers were guided to keep the pods of improved groundnut varieties separately for seed purpose. In CHAITANYA area, VRI-2 performed better and in GVS-T area, TCGS-29 was found better with the highest yield of 12 bags/acre, but due to low oil content farmers do not prefer this

variety. Sowing of groundnut is taken up for rabi seed production by farmers in ACTS, GVS-T, MYRADA and APRRM area. The varieties used are VRI-2, TPT-4, TCGS-156 and TCGS-25.

Dry land Horticulture (DLH) and Biomass generation

With the support of International Development Enterprises (IDE), Bangalore, drip irrigation with drum kit arrangement was done to water the existing 125 mango seedlings in 1.5 acre in Valasaguttapalli village in CHAITANYA NGO area. Based on the present year's performance, it is intended to try this watering system in other area also.

Planting of biomass trees on bunds was taken up during Nov-2004 after the receipt of North -East monsoon. Farmers from direct villages were guided to procure the seedlings required for planting on the bunds from the nurseries. GVS-T has mobilised seedlings from forest department. Other NGO partners have mobilised seedlings from different sources and some from their own nurseries. About 15,500 *Cassia siamea* seedlings were planted on bunds in SPANDANA and GVS-T NGO area.

The biomass nurseries were raised by individual farmers as well as by farmers' groups based on the water availability and their convenience for the forthcoming season. 76,500 seedlings were raised in 18 nurseries out of which groups manage 8 nurseries and remaining are centrally managed.

3.1.2 Capacity building: Training events facilitated by Madanapalli Area Unit

Sl. No.	Date(s)	Topic	Participants
01	08.04.04	Post-harvest management of groundnut	8 farmers (7 M +1 W) 6 NGO staff (5 M + 1 W)
02	12.04.04-13.04.04	Participatory Rural Appraisal	19 NGO staff (14 M + 5 W)
03	13.05.04	Plot measurement and harvest measurement	6 NGO staff (5 M + 1 W)
04	31.05.04	Maintenance of books of accounts	10 farmers (10 M) 4 NGO staff (3 M + 1 W)
05	03.06.04 04.06.04 11.06.04	Soil & Water Conservation	16 farmers (12 M + 4 W) NGO staff (1 M) 19 farmers (13 M + 6 W) 8 farmers (8 M) 2 NGO staff (1 M + 1 W)
08	21.06.04 23.06.04 24.06.04	Package of practices for groundnut	8 farmers (8 M) 1 NGO staff (1M) 10 farmers (10 M) 1 NGO staff (1 M) 12 farmers (11 M + 1 W) 1 NGO staff (1M)
12	24.06.04 03.07.04 05.07.04 06.07.04 07.07.04 07.07.04	Cultivation practices for groundnut and in situ soil and moisture conservation	10 farmers (8 M + 2 W) 1 NGO staff (1M) 7(7M) 14(12M+2w) 21(21M) 10(10M)+ 1 NGO Staff 05(4M+1W) + 1NGO Staff
13	23.07.04 26.07.04 13.08.04 17.08.04 18.08.04 21.08.04 21.08.04 24.08.04 24.08.04	Importance of bio-mass	14(11M+3W)+1NGO Staff 22(22M)+ 1NGO Staff 16(10M+6W) 10(6M+4W) 18(18M) 11(11M)+1 NGO staff 9 (9M)+1 NGO staff 12(12M)+1 NGO staff 10(10M)+ 1 NGO staff
14	4 - 5. 08.04	Management of sheep, LRS, Palamner	24(18M+6W) + 6 NGO staff

15	21- 22.09.04	Management of cattle, LRS, Palamner	20 (17M+3W) + 5 NGO staff
16	07.10.04 08.10.04 15.10.04	Group concept and rules and regulation at individual village level	13(11M+2W) 17(17M) 10(10M)
17	24/01/05	SRI cultivation- farm level training	7NGO staff + 8 farmers (M)
18	5/02/05	Pest and disease management in groundnut rabi seed production	8 NGO staff + 26 farmers (20M+6W)
19	10/03/05	Post harvesting technologies, seed bank and bee keeping.	NGO staff - 9M+2W Farmers- 14M+ 3W
20	9/03/05, 14/03/05, 19/03/05, 30/03/05	Composting and vermicomposting at Thuguvaripalli Eguva Chinaware Chinnappareddygaripalli SPANDANA- new groups	18M+2W=20 farmers 13M+4W=17 farmers 7M+5W=12 farmers 21M farmers
21	17/02/05, 1/03/05, 30/03/05, 31/03/05	Revolving fund management w.r.t sustainable agriculture at MYRADA CHAITHANYA SPANDANA ACTS	3NGO staff + 25 farmers (19 W + 6 M) 3NGO staff +19 farmers (M) 2 NGO staff + 21M farmers, 2 NGO staff + 17 farmers (M)

Study Tours

Farmers and NGO staff were taken for four study tours during the months of April and May. A total of 156 farmers (137 men and 19 women) and seven NGO staffs are benefited by these tours.

Sl. No.	Date	Place / Venue	Participants
01	15.04.04– 17.04.04	BAIF-Tiptur Narayana Reddy farm – Doddaballapur	38 farmers (35 M & 3 W) 7 NGO staff (5 M & 2 W)
02	06.05.04	Groups of Kammavaripalli and Pulimivandlapalli Bund plantation and vermicompost	18 farmers (18 M) 1 NGO staff (1 M)
03	15.05.04	TTD Ayurveda Pharmacy	34 farmers (28 M & 6 W) NGO staff (4 M & 1 W)
04	20.05.04 – 21.05.04	Agricultural Research Station – Kadiri Bio-control lab – Anantapur Agricultural Implements Centre – Garlandinne	42 farmers (39 M & 3 W) 7 NGO staff (5 M & 2 W)
05	20.05.04 – 28.05.04	UAS – Bangalore Dry Farming Unit Post Harvest technology scheme Watershed project Indraprastha farm – Mysore Puttegowda farm – K.R. Pet	42 farmers (35 M & 7 W) 7 NGO staff (5 M & 2 W)

Planning meetings with farmer groups

A total of six planning meetings, covering nine groups, have been conducted with the groups of collaborating farmers for planning the program for Kharif 2004 in particular and the whole year in general. Formats were also prepared and discussed with the NGO staff for this purpose. The format contains details of farmer-wise plan of activities. This is applicable for both collaborating and scaling-up farmers. The NGO staff will be doing the planning for all scaling-up farmers.

Review meetings- a total of seven groups have been reviewed on group functioning and revolving fund status in the NGOs CHAITANYA, MYRADA and ACTS during the reporting period.

3.1.3 Networking and Linkages

Linkages were continued with RARS, Tirupati, Livestock research Station, Palamner and Department of Agriculture. Partner NGOs were facilitated to procure new groundnut varieties (ICGV 91114, VRI-2, TCGS-156, and TCGS-29) from various sources. Madanapalli Area Unit interacted with RARS, Tirupati on drought mitigation strategies, price behaviour of agricultural commodities, new groundnut and pigeon pea varieties released etc and the knowledge was shared with the farmers. AMEF

Madanapalli also got involved in the planning meeting for Kharif 2003, jointly organised by RARS-Tirupati and DoA-Chittoor. The Area Unit participated in the Kisan Mela-2003, and sensitised people on the concept of PTD and sustainable agriculture. The mela was organised by RARS, Tirupati at Veterinary College- Tirupati for two days. More than 3000 people visited the stall including farmers, students and scientists. Farmers were specifically interested in the new groundnut varieties exhibited.

3.1.4 Documentation

The workshop document on “Integrated Farming for Sustainability” has been finalized. The content of this document was reviewed along with the chief functionary of GVS-T and necessary modifications were made.

3.2 Area Unit, Tiruchi

Excess rainfall was received in May. Though this enabled farmers to complete their pre-cultivation works, their sowing was delayed by more than two months due to the delayed arrival of rains. Much of the excess rainfall in the period June to September was received in late September, when the season optimal for Groundnut and Cotton sowing were already over. As against the planning done for 548 farmers, the actual sowing was taken up by 458 farmers. But there was a major shift towards Maize (particularly in the Perambalur district) and other millets like Sorghum (in Tiruchi and Pudukottai district), mainly influenced by the delayed monsoon.

Programmes, partners and no. of farmers in Tamil Nadu for 2004-05

Programme focus	Partners	No. of farmers
Groundnut Farming System	CAD, PSSS, REEDS, MANUSHI, SRIA and Direct villages by AMEF	296 (133)
Cotton Farming system	CAD, INDO Trust, REACH, and PSSS,	84 (37)
Vegetable Farming system (mainly chilly)	CAD, INDO Trust and REACH	55 (55)
Other crops including maize	CAD, REACH, PSSS and Direct villages by AMEF	113 (66)
	Total	548 (458)

Note: The figures in parenthesis indicate the actual farmers against planned

3.2.1 Field operations: SA activities

Focus was placed on activities, which are basic to soil and water conservation and for soil fertility improvement. Following activities have been completed at the field level.

NGO wise field level activities

Activities/ NGOs	PSSS	INDO	REEDS	MANUSHI	REACH	CAD	SRIA	Direct villages	TOTAL
Early ploughing across the slope	47	59	57	35	33	78	22	30	361
Composting crop residues	60	50	54	18	52	44	3	0	281
Green manures in dry lands	10	0	20	0	25	27	0	8	90
Silt application	0	36	0	0	3	0	0	0	39
Field bunding	0	1	33	40	24	29	3	23	153
Vermicompost production	0	0	14	30	0	16	2	0	62

Groundnut based farming system

In Tiruchi area, AMEF worked with a total of 241 groundnut farmers. Groundnut sown during July gave good yield and crop sown in early September could not be harvested due to the dryness in the soil. 61 farmers have taken up groundnut sowing in the reporting period for Rabi seed production.

Cotton based farming system

Cotton was the heavy casualty to the shift in cropping pattern. Out of the 84 farmers planned, only 37 (44 %) have sown. Others shifted to Maize sowing. Farmers who have sown cotton crop, it was affected by moisture stress leading to boll shedding. Leaf blast disease, especially in dense sown plots, affected also the maize crop taken up by many of the cotton farmers as an alternate crop. There were nutrient deficiency symptoms in some fields where maize was continuously grown for three seasons.

A cotton case study was documented in Tiruchi based on Kharif 2003 experiences in Cotton, highlighting the efforts of a farmer who experimented with a newly introduced variety SUMANGALA from CICR against the conventional hybrid (RACH 2) used in the area. The cost of cultivation was lower in Sumangala when compared to RCH 2. The difference was mainly in seed cost, pest and fertility management. Farmer was able to get net return of Rs. 3000 more as compared to RCH 2.

Biogas programme

In Tiruchi area, keeping in view the importance of the energy component in farming systems, the team is working towards establishing sustainable energy sources from locally available biomass. Six farmers (from Karatampatty and Manborai villages) were supported with input costs for the installation of bio gas plants in their homesteads. These farmers will experiment on the energy produced vis-à-vis the conservation of biomass used for producing the same amount of energy. The improvement in the quality of farmyard manure and its effect on crop growth will also be studied during this process. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is supporting the process with subsidies to the farmers, which will be useful in the scaling up of the outcomes in the coming years.

Post harvest activities

Important activities were related to the discussions on post harvest management and collective marketing of Maize. The farmers discussed with a trader on the opportunities and constraints in collective marketing of their Maize produce. An agreement was finalised on the price and modalities to initiate pilot scale marketing in the coming season.

Dry land Horticulture (DLH) and Biomass generation

In Tiruchi area, dry land horticulture is promoted with 7 farmers (in a total area of 10 ac) in the Ganesapuram village.

In Tiruchi area, 148 farmers have taken up biomass planting on bunds at the rate of 30 plants per farmer. For bund stabilisation, *styro haemata* was grown on the bunds.

Technologies options tried out in groundnut

- Use of good quality seeds from known sources
- Seed treatment with bio fertilizers and *Trichoderma viridae*
- Use of 500 kg enriched FYM (with 100 kg Rock phosphate, 1 kg PSM and 200 g *T. viridae*)
- Sowing methods (sowing depth, using implements, sowing in ridges and furrows)
- Application of 200 kg Gypsum (100 kg basal and 100 kg at second weeding)
- Increasing the intensity of intercrops and testing various combinations
- Foliar nutrient application
- Integrated pest and disease management
 - Sequential cropping
 - Seed production

Technologies tried out in cotton during the year

- Use of good quality seeds from known sources (SUMANGALA)
- Seed treatment with bio fertilizers and *Trichoderma viridae*
- Use of 500 kg enriched FYM (with 100 kg Rock phosphate, 1 kg PSM and 200 g *T. viridae*)
- Increasing the intensity of intercrops and testing various combinations
- Foliar nutrient application
- Integrated pest and disease management with monitoring tools like Light traps, Pheromone traps and Trap crops

3.2.2 Capacity building: Training facilitated by Tiruchi Area Unit

Sl. No.	Date(s)	Topic	Participants
01	01.04.04	Trainers training on PRA tools to NGO staff	6(5M+1W)
02	21.04.04	Participation in the inauguration of a farmers club at Mandayur (together with stakeholders like NABARD, Banks, SPIC, AIR)	29(25M+4W)
03	14.05.04	Training on Bunding – Manborai	27(7M+20W)
04	20.05.04	Training on Bunding – Karatampatty	26(2M+24W)
05	22.06.04	Training on Enriched FYM preparation, seed	41(25M+16W)

		treatment and soil samples collection at Manborai	
06	14.07.04	Revolving fund and farmer group management training	NGO staff-10 (9M+1W) Farmers-26 (22M+4W)
07	27/28.07.04 and 25/26.08.04	Writeshop for SCINDeA network to evolve field guide on ecological farming principles	4 NGO staff (2M+2W)
08	06.09.04	Training on maize cultivation	25 farmers (17M+8 W)
09	15.09.04	SRI training at Karatampatti in collaboration with DoA	15 women farmers
10	13-15.10.04	Soil Fertility management	21 NGO staff (14M+7W)
11	06.11.2004	Biogas awareness training at Kartampatti	Farmers -12 (9 F+3M)
12	09 & 10.12.2004	Review and Planning workshop with partner NGOs and farmer group representatives.	NGO staff -12 (2F+ 10M) and Farmers-23 (16M+7F)
13	2 to 4-02-05	An assessment of training for SCINDeA network	NGO staff-16
14	28.03.2005	Partner NGO review and planning workshop	6 Eco network partners+ staff
15	28.03.2005	Awareness meeting on biogas in association with KVIC	Farmers-66 (34 M+32W)
16	29.03.2005	Discussion with NGOs regarding long-term collaboration.	NGO staff-9

Study Tours

Five study tours were organized in the period and a total of 253 farmers (98 from the direct villages and 155 from the other 7 clusters) participated and learnt on NRM and biomass regeneration aspects from fellow farmers in Karnataka (BAIF), Andhra Pradesh (AMEF – Madanapalli) and in Tamil Nadu (CHASE TRUST, Madurai). The details are given in table below.

Sl. No.	Date	Study tour details and the important observations	Participants		
			M	F	Total
1	29.04.04 and 30.04.04	AME Foundation – Madanapalli Observed field level activities in two villages with respect to Biomass generation and soil / water conservation works. Also visited the livestock research station at Palamaner and learnt about animal husbandry and silage making	43	10	53
2	07.05.04 and 08.05.04	BAIF – Tiptur Observed the biomass regeneration at field level and NRM aspect like soil and water conservation and farm ponds. Also observed various methods of composting	29	12	41
3	11.05.04	CHASE Trust, Devadhanapatty, Madurai District Observed treatments in dry lands with bunds, trenches conserving soil and moisture, Composting of biomass from trees planted on bunds. Group interaction held with Devadhanapatty farmers	15	32	47
4	27.05.04	CHASE Trust, Devadhanapatty, Madurai District Observed treatments in dry lands with bunds, trenches conserving soil and moisture, Composting of biomass from trees planted on bunds. Group interaction held with Devadhanapatty farmers	14	37	51
5	03.06.04 and 04.06.04	BAIF – Tiptur Observed the biomass regeneration at field level and NRM aspect like soil and water conservation and farm ponds. Also observed various methods of composting	42	13	55
	Total	5 events	143	104	247

3.2.3 Gender and Social organisation

PRA were conducted in all clusters (in 20 villages) with respect to the NRM aspects and the socio economic situation in the villages. Priority was given to know assessing the existing biomass scenario (availability and the use pattern) and the possibilities for increasing the same. The NGO partners were enabled in doing the exercise by hands on training in one village of each cluster. In other villages, the NGO staff completed the PRA.

3.2.4 Networking and linkages

Networking and linkages lead to preparation of proposals for financial support. The project presented to the DST has been approved. With the support of NABARD, four villages have been identified for working directly in Tiruchi District.

3.2.5 Documentation and Dissemination

1. Groundnut case study was documented on red hairy caterpillar management as an outcome of the LEISA India consortium network workshops on 'Sourcing, Documentation and Communication'. The case study was published in LEISA Magazine's international edition - *A new generation of farmers*.
2. Besides the two case studies (one each on Groundnut and Cotton), the team contributed to the preparation of guidelines on Farmer Field Schools.
3. The team contributed a paper to the APCOT – Cotton round table held at Hyderabad (on 08.06.2004 and 09.06.2004), based on the experiences in Kharif 2003.
4. All India Radio Tiruchi broadcasted a talk given by Mr. Ravi Kumar on the topic "*Effective management of Farmer groups*", recorded during a farmer club inauguration programme.
5. CICR (Coimbatore) organized a state level street play competition on the theme "Insecticide resistance management for Cotton pests". Two NGO partners (REEDS and PSSS) participated in the state level competition, with the technical support of the area unit and won the first and second prizes, respectively, competing with TNAU, reputed research institutions and KVKs. Consequently, REEDS was nominated for a national level competition held at CICR, Nagpur and won two awards (one for best acting and the other for the best script, which was technically supported by AME Foundation).
6. Two case studies were completed (titled, Green manures – dimensions beyond soil fertility and Systems approach – A farmer's way), based on farmer experiences from the green manure production and recycling experiments done in Kharif.

3.3 AREA UNIT, RAICHUR

3.3.1 Field operations: SA activities

Programmes, partners and no. of farmers supported by AMEF, Raichur.

Programme focus	Partners	No. of farmers
Groundnut Farming System	SEVA, INGRID, Direct villages	200 (165)
Cotton Farming system	JANAKALYAN, SEVA, Direct villages	200 (187)
Dry Land Horticulture system	PRERANA	125 (112)

- *Small section bunds for effective in-situ moisture conservation and mitigating drought situation and strengthening the boundary bund*
Eight farmers in INGRID and SEVA area have taken up this activity in their field before the onset of monsoon. After the harvest of cotton and sorghum, repeated harrowing is promoted as soil and water conservation measures.
- *Tank silt application for soil improvement*
This activity has been promoted in the villages where Jala Samvardhana Yojana Sangha (JSYS) – tank rehabilitation programme funded by the World Bank is being implemented to make best use of silts removed from the tanks. Ten programme farmers have applied tank silt during the year.

- **Composting**
Ninety-nine farmers in the region have started composting and 30 farmers started vermicomposting by using sunflower and cotton crop residues.
- **Green manuring**
By virtue of early, good rains green manure crops like sunnhemp and daincha seeds were sown in the plots reserved for *rabi* crop. In 4 villages 8 farmers were motivated to take up the activity. In these plots all of them have sown Jowar after incorporating green manure in the soil.
- **Animal health camps.**
In association with Agriculture College and Animal Husbandry department, two animal camps were organised. In PRERANA NGO area, 201 farmers got the benefit covering 536 animals in 3 villages in Deodurga taluk. The camp was useful to the farmers to get their animals vaccinated against BQ (Black quarter). The event was organized on payment for the service, which was collected by the farmers' group and the money was spent for meeting the cost of medicine.

The camp at SEVA NGO area in Sindhanur taluk, benefited 35 families to treat 150 animals and 600 sheep against FMD & deworming.

Groundnut based farming system

AMEF Raichur worked with 165 groundnut farmers. PBNB was observed because of high thrips movement wherever there is a gap and spodoptera incidence in case of improper tillage and where crop rotation was not done. Leaf miner incidence also was noticed because of long dry spell. Problem analysis of *rabi* groundnut was done to take up seed multiplication.

Cotton based farming system

AMEF Raichur worked with 187 seven farmers.

20 farmers in Sindhanur have taken up RAHS 14, a harbaceum variety. Farmers are happy with the performance of the crop. Due to its pure genetic character, seed multiplication is being planned for the purpose of distributing the seeds in villages in the coming season to avoid external dependency.

Varietal trials were taken up in Cotton (Banni, Tulasi, NHH 44) and Bajra (*Mara saje*, Gulbarga and Raichur local seeds). This trial was done to help farmers to procure suitable varieties and seeds based on the performance in the next season, which can be grown with LEISA technology.

Field day was organised at Banniganur where farmers have grown RAHS-14 (Pragnay), an improved cotton variety. Collective marketing of RAHS-14 seeds to farmers in the nearby villages is planned as the farmers are convinced about this seed during the exposure visit to the demonstration plots. It was estimated that they would be able to supply 50 q of cotton seeds during this season.

Farmers were sensitised about recycling of uprooted cotton stalks through composting.

Farmers' sharing meetings were conducted and farmers expressed that they could cut down the expenditure on chemical pesticides due to IPM practices. Cost of the FFS plot was low by Rs. 1300 per acre as compared to the farmers' practice.

Different options tried in groundnut

- Seed treatment with P. solubaliser 200 g /ac Azospirillum 200 g /ac, Trichoderma @ 4 g/ kg seeds, Goucho
- Intercropping with cow pea
- Neem cake/ neem powder 100 Kg /ac
- Neem leaf extract NSKE 5%
- Border crop – Bajra / Jowar
- Jowar leaf/ Eucalyptus extract spray
- Mix crop- Caster
- Poison bait- Rice bran Gary + MCP
- Gypsum application

Different IPM practices tried out in cotton

- Neem powder application to soil – 100Kg / ac
- Seed treatment with Bio agents like Trichoderma, PSB, Azospirillum, cow urine and chemicals
- ICM practices like Bhendi as trap crop, Red gram as boarder crop and cow pea as mixed crop
- Spraying of Cow urine and 501 bar soup solution
- Spraying neem leaf extract
- Spraying NSKE 5%
- Setting of Pheromone traps – for monitoring Heliothis and Pink boll worm, release of Trichogramma Egg parasitoid

Dry land Horticulture (DLH) and Biomass generation

Dry land Horticulture Programme (DLH) was taken up in Raichur area with 125 farmers where NGO PRERANA is working. Apart from managing the older plants, 35 farmers did the field layouts, digging of pits and filling pits with green leaves/manure and planted mango, sapota, lemon, guava and tamarind. Aftercare and maintenance of horticulture plants is being properly followed through watering and mulching using farm wastes and stone gravels. Group was sensitised about sip method of watering. Saline bottles were brought from the hospitals and used for watering the fruit trees. To protect from animal grazing, farmers were made to put locally available thorny plants around each horticulture plant.

Farmers are managing tree nurseries in the programme villages individually and in-group. Women are playing active role in raising these plants. Totally 5300 seedlings of different species like Glyricidia, Subabul, *Sesbania sesban*, Grandiflora and *cassia siamia* are planted on the bunds. Apart from this 100-glyricidia stump cuttings have been tried this year.

In addition to this, direct dibbling of seeds of forest species is also done to meet the requirement. To ensure moisture and nutrient availability to the plants the seeds are mixed in dung and fertile soil, made into dung balls, are put in the pit and covered with soil.

Sorghum based farming system

In DLH area, farmers were supported in eco-friendly cultivation practices of sunflower, sorghum and bajra. Four farmers have taken up sorghum varietal trials with four local varieties viz. Maldandi (M-35), Muguti (5-4-1), White milky and Shorapur local. Maldandi and Muguti seeds were procured from ARS, Bijapur while other two varieties were obtained from progressive farmers. Sorghum seeds were treated with bio-agents like PSB and *azospirillum* and also with cow dung + urine and calcium chloride. Because of the moisture stress, crop is wilting in light black soil area.

In cotton growing area, before taking up sorghum in *rabi*, 7 farmers in 3 villages have taken up sowing of green manuring seeds with Daincha and sunnhemp. It is new activity since the Unit has planned to work with *rabi* crop from this year.

3.3.2 Capacity building: Training and study tours

Cluster level training was conducted to sensitise the farmers about the significance of organic matter and methods of raising nurseries and costs involved.

Training events facilitated by Raichur Area Unit

SI	Date	Topic	Participants
1.	10.04.04	Composting & vermicomposting	23 (3M+20W)
2.	13.04.04	Composting & vermicomposting	15 (M)
3.	16 & 27.04.04	Tree nursery	31 (12 M+19 W)
4.	25.05.04/	Demonstration of seed treatment in groundnut.	12 (M)
5	27.05.04	Integrated crop management	20 (5M+15W)
6.	01&02.06.04	Seed treatment demonstration	85 (55M+30W)
7.	02 & 03.06.04	Demonstration of seed treatment in groundnut.	47 (39M+8 W)
8.	05.06.2004	Training on FFS	32 (22M+10W)
9.	08, 13 & 19.06.04	Cotton seed treatment demonstration	125 (M)
10.	21.06.04	Green manuring and problem identification	21 (2M+19W)
11.	22.06.04	Seed treatment demonstration	15 (M)
12.	24.06.04	Botanical preparation	20 (3M+17W)
13	03 & 04.09.04	NADEP Composting and vermicomposting	25 (M)+12 (M)
14	08.07.04 21.07.04 26.07.04 28.08.04	Dry land horticulture – principles and practices	17 (4M+13W) 33 (5M+28W) 12 (M) 16 (4M+12W)
15	17.07.04	Direct seed dibbling of forest species and sunflower disease management	16 (2M+14W)
16	07.09.04	Post harvest management practices in bajra	19 (8M+11 W)
17	27.09.04	Orientation on seed treatment	15 (7M+8W)
18	05.10.04	Training on IPM in cotton and jowar	44 (43 M+1 W)
19	10.11.2004	Account Keeping	14 farmers (10

			M+4W)
20	25.11.2005 & 13.12.2004	Micro planning at Nagalapur & Puchaladinni villages	15 (M) & 13 (M)
21	15.12.2004	Group dynamics	13 (M)
22	24.12.2004	Gender Equity in Sustainable Agriculture	40 (20M+20 W)
23	07.01.2005	Training on biomass generation at Puchaladinni village	23 (22 M+ 1W)
24	12.01.2005	Orientation on water management in DLH at Narabandi	15 (5M+10W)
25	15.01.2005	Vermicomposting	18 (M)
26	11.02.2005	Experience sharing on production practices of cotton at Gadar	25 (M)
27	15.02.2005	Micro planning, Kanyadoddi	33 (21M+12W)
28	16.02.2005	Orientation on local cotton seed production and conservation at Banniganur	15 (M)
29		Arranging farmers visit to RAHS-14 cotton demonstration plot at Banniganur from different villages	
	16.02.2005	Tadakal	9 (M)
	19.02.2005	Appalparvi	11 (M)
	20.02.2005	Muddanguddi	12 (M)
	21.02.2005	Karabinni	9 (M)
	22.02.2005	Potnal	7 (M)
30	17.02.2005	Advantages of fall ploughing, crop rotation and cropping pattern at Narabande	18 (4M+14W)
31	17.02.2005	Organic farming by Dr. Narayan Reddy, Ramatnaal	75 (50M+25W)
32	19.02.2005	Importance of soil and water conservation practices at Channaveera Nagara	11 (8M+3W)
33	03 to 10.03.2005	Training for unemployed rural youth on mass production techniques of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilisers.	10 (M)
34	15.03.2005 & 16.03.2005	Orientation on management of revolving fund.	18 (M) & 35 (20M+15F)

Study tours

Study tours were organized with an objective to build understanding levels of eco friendly farming practices of field staff and farmers. 400 Farmers (97 women + 303 men) from 24 villages, representing 8 clusters in 8 trips visited to all places in 4 days per trip during April and May, 2004. The places visited are Krishi Vignyan Kendra, Hulkoti, BAIF, Dharwad, Vastalya Dhama – self-reliant farm in Mudhol, progressive farmers' fields at Manvi and Mudhol. On the last day of the trip reflection was done to get feedback, opinion and commitment from farmers in implementing the programme in the respective villages by spreading the idea of ecological farming.

Review meetings and quarterly planning

Periodic review meeting are conducted to improve the capacity of field staff to implement the activities.

3.3.3 Gender and Social Organisation

For ensuring and encouraging women farmers' involvement and to take up gender sensitive activities in agriculture *Sthirishakti* SHG groups were consulted through Department of Women and Child Welfare, Raichur. Discussions were held with the *Mahila Samakhya* District team to obtain their support in enhancing women participation. In Groundnut programme, women participation is very high compared to other crops. Under the DLH programme, two women groups were chosen in a new cluster of village. Women group members also have been involved in activity and budget planning in all the villages. Farmers receive the revolving fund for critical inputs and simultaneously start savings. The ICM package in groundnuts promoted by AMEF has convinced them and they do not want to maintain control plots any more.

- 1300 plants are raised by individual families with women participation, each family taking 50 -100 plants and in one-cluster 1200 plants are raised by men groups.
- Farmer groups were trained in micro planning as a precursor for initiation of land based activities and natural resource management. To understand field situation, field mapping and individual family level budgeting was done.

In women headed cluster we are working with 2 existing groups. One more new group is formed in other cluster. In other 2 villages the process is on.

3.3.4 Networking and Linkages

The linkages with various institutes like KVK, ARS, UAS-D, DOA, Animal husbandry, Social forestry, and Raita Samparka Kendras added value to the programme. AMEF partner NGOs have also taken lead role in forming their programme level networking and simultaneously widen their insights into bringing other NRM related programmes.

Sorghum seeds Viz. Maldandi (M-35) and Muguti (5-4-1) were procured from ARS, Bijapur to conduct varietal trials and biofertilisers for enrichment of FYM from Agriculture College, Bijapur. Weather data was collected from RARS, and Department of Agriculture in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Raichur.

For promotion of the programme in the district, established linkages were continued with RARS Raichur for procurement of bio inputs for IPM and ICM in cotton. Department of Horticulture, Raichur and Narayanpur provided grafts and kitchen garden plants. Department of Animal Husbandry, Raichur was contacted for conducting vaccination camp for animals.

3.3.5 Documentation and dissemination

Hand out on FFS on Red gram cultivation is being developed with support from all Area Units as part of ISPWD-K project, which was facilitated by Raichur Unit for promotion of sustainable agriculture interventions in the context of watershed project in Gulbarga District during July 2004.

3.4. AREA UNIT, BELLARY

3.4.1 Field operations: SA activities

Programmes, partners and no. of farmers supported by AMEF, Bellary

Programme focus	Partners	No. of farmers
Groundnut Farming System	Direct	661
Sericulture	Direct	21

Groundnut based farming system

AMEF worked with a total of 661 farmers in groundnut in both the KAWAD watersheds in Chitradurga and Bellary districts. PTD results were analysed and shared with farmers. Farmers are willing to continue technologies like neem cake application, seed treatment and strip cropping with ragi/bajra in groundnut. Foundation seeds of TMV 2 are under trial during the Kharif. In varietal trials, four varieties viz., K-134, TAG-24, DH-86 and TMV 2 (Foundation seeds) were tried; VRI-2, DH-86 and K-134 were found promising.

Technologies promoted in groundnut

- Application of 5 ton of FYM per acre.
- Use of bio-inputs like PSB and Trichoderma.
- Strip cropping with bajra
- Border/mixed/inter cropping with cowpea, pigeon pea, and castor
- Gypsum application

Apart from the good yield of groundnut (4-5q per acre in Chinnahagari and 3.5 to 4 q per acre in Upparahalla), farmers got the additional yield of ragi from strip crop. Discussion with farmers revealed that this technology could be taken up as a suitable dry land technology as it helps in pest and disease management as well as additional grain yield to the family. Ragi/ bajra acts as barrier crop to thrips movement that transmits PBNB. This practice is one of the important soil and water conservation technologies as it reduces the velocity of runoff water.

Sericulture Programme

In Upparahalla and Chinnahagari watersheds of KAWAD, sericulture is one of the economical agricultural ventures taken under irrigated condition. But depleting groundwater table and irregular power supply drastically affected the mulberry crop and cocoon production in this area. Along with these, increasing production cost of cocoons also affected the economic conditions of these farmers. By looking at all these constraints AME Foundation initiated sericulture activity on pilot basis during September 2003 and planned 3 major activities in sericulture viz. 1) Water management activity in already existing mulberry crop 2) Reducing the cost of cultivation and stabilizing cocoon productivity, and 3) Promotion of dry land sericulture on pilot basis. These activities were taken up with 21 farmers. Due to the intervention, water usage in mulberry cultivation is reduced by 30-50 per cent and now irrigation is given in alternate rows instead of every row. Improvement in the leaf qualities like thickness of the leaves, succulence was observed and leaf senescence is reduced (Early maturing of leaves). Promoted vermicompost, green manuring and bio fertilizers in mulberry cultivation and two farmers have completely stopped the usage of chemical fertilisers.

Biomass generation

Chinnahagari watershed

- 111 farmers have sown 151 kg Pongemia seeds and planted 4594 seedlings,
- 2 farmers have planted 460 glyricidia seedlings,
- 53 farmers have sown 16.5 kg *Cassia siamia* seeds,
- 2 farmers have planted 295 *Shivani* seedlings,
- 1 farmer has planted 25 tamarind seedlings,

Upparahalla watershed

- 122 farmers have planted *Cassia siamia* seedlings (The number of seedlings planted by each farmer ranges between 25 and 100),
- 20 farmers have sown 250 g seeds of Pongemia seeds apart from *Cassia siamia*

3.4.2 Capacity building: Trainings and study tours

Sl. No.	Date	Topic	Participants
1	27 to 29-04-2004 13 to 15-05-2004 27 to 29-05-2004 4 to 6-06-2004 8 to 10-06-2004	Modular training on SA practices and Groundnut cultivation to master farmers of Chinnahagari and Upparahalla watersheds	27(24M+3W) 20(M) 18(16M+2W) 20(M) 21(M)
2	13.10.2004	Soil fertility management in mulberry cultivation	10 (M)
3	9 - 11, Dec, 2004 & 16 -18, Dec. 2004	SA practices, PTD and FFS methodologies for master farmers of Upparahalla and Chinnahagari watershed	23 (M)
4	3-4, & 27-28 Dec. 2004	ICM in Mulberry and crop cultivation practices in Upparahalla watershed area. Chinnahagari	24 12
5	21 & 22 Jan. & 8-11 Feb. 2005	Refresher training to master farmers of Upparahalla and Chinnahagari watershed on IFS	19 (16 M+3W) 14
6	19 to 22-02-2005	Modular training to master farmers of Upparahalla watershed on IFS	21 (18M+3W)
7	7 to 16-03-05	Training on Chawki rearing technology by CSR & TI, at Mysore	7
8	1 to 7 Mar. 2005	Training on production of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilisers by UAS, Dharwad	11
9	12 to 13-01-2005	Training on improved silkworm rearing technologies	24

Street Play

Lead farmers in Upparahalla conducted nine street plays to popularise groundnut production and other sustainable agriculture practices. It is a unique experience in AME Foundation where street plays are used as medium for communication of SA practices.

Study Tours

Two study tours, again one for the lead farmers of each watershed, were planned and conducted. The farmers were taken to BAIF, Tiptur and ARS, Bhavikere (Rudraradhya IFS model) along with some other sites to study and implement IFS activities. Five farmers, including 3 lead farmers, are adopting Rudraradhya model.

Another study tour for selected farmers of Upparahalla and Chinnahagari was completed between 28 and 31 October in two batches. 36 farmers and 3 NGO staff from Upparahalla and 24 farmers from Chinnahagari were part of this. Places of visit were ARS Bhavikere, Dr. Rudraradhya IFS model farm, vermicompost at Dummahalli managed by Mrs. Shivamma, Mylenahalli watershed, BAIF, Tiptur and Indraprastha organic farm of A.P.Chandrashekar, Mysore.

3.4.4 Documentation

The video documentation of dry land groundnut production technologies is at the completion stage. Details on the documentation of case studies are given below.

Sl. No	Title	Author (s)
1.	A case study on 'PTD men's SHG of Ranganathanahalli	Shyam Kulkarni & BP Gangadhar Swamy
2.	A case study- 'Agriculture and social service give contentment to a hard worker, Tippeswamy'	BP Gangadhar Swamy
3.	An article on 'Role of Rhizobium'	Shyam Kulkarni
4.	An article on 'Role of Trichoderma'	Gurudatt M. Hegde
5.	Success story of farmer in Sericulture'	B. Girish

3.5 AREA UNIT, BIJAPUR

3.5.1 Field operations: SA activities

Programmes, partners and no. of farmers supported by AMEF, Bijapur

Programme focus	Partners	No. of farmers
Vegetables	Direct	75
Sorghum	Direct	103
Minor millets	Direct	35

Compartmental bunding-Three farmers have taken up this activity.

For bund plantation, Glyricidia, Jatropha seeds were distributed to 32 farmers @150g/farmer.

In situ green manuring-Sowing of in situ green manuring crops like sunnhemp, green gram, red gram, bengal gram and linseed was undertaken with three farmers. All these seeds are mixed and sown with an intention that each crop is able to draw different nutrients from different depths and thereby there would be good vegetative growth. This was done before the sorghum season.

Bio fertiliser shop- Master farmers at Devarnimbargi have mobilised bio inputs and opened a shop. They oriented new farmers on sorghum seed treatment and distributed bio-fertilisers to 46 new farmers.

Rootgrub and termite problem- As rootgrub and termites are major problems in most of the crops in the region, mass campaign in two villages on their life cycle, sources and management were organised. Following control measures were designed with farmers:

For controlling termites:

- As the queen lays 1000-1500 eggs/day, queen termite should be killed by destroying the mound.
- Attracting the winged ones by using light traps and killing them.
- Applying neem cake to the soil.
- One farmer has tried pouring kerosene, drop by drop, at the water inlet to the field and this has effectively managed the termites.
- Drenching the plants with neem leaf extract can also effectively manage the termites as experienced in Inchigeri.

For controlling rootgrubs:

- Attracting and killing the adult beetles by using light traps.
- Applying neem cake.
- Applying well decomposed organic manures.
- Deep ploughing immediately after harvest if the crop to expose pupae sunlight.
- Attracting the beetles by making slurry of cow dung and placing in the fields.
- Slurry of castor cake is placed in the fields in earthen pots.
- Better to have manure pits away from fields.

Chilli programme

AMEF Bijapur has taken up chilli crop management along with varietal trials with 20 farmers in Devaranimbaragi village. The trials have enabled identification of disease resistant variety in nursery stage itself. The following results were seen against different options tried.

- In managing rootgrub, the neem leaf extract was drenched at the root zone. The repellent property of raw neem leaf extract completely prevented damage of the seedlings by rootgrubs.
- Raised beds succeeded in reducing soil borne disease, damping off.
- Guntur-4 variety has shown maximum resistance to chilli murda with 1.25 per cent followed by Byadagi Kaddi with 4.62 per cent and the variety Byadagi dabbi has shown high susceptibility.
- The observations showed that the variety Hanjagi local has recorded maximum number of branches and higher number of fruits followed by Devaranimbaragi local. But keeping-quality is inferior to other varieties. Also, Hanjagi local does not have attractive red colour as Byadagi kaddi or Byadagi dabbi. Therefore Hanjagi local is suited only for green chilli purpose.
- It is concluded that, for green chilli Hanjagi local is best variety and for commercial purpose Byadagi kaddi and Byadagi dabbi are best suited.

Technologies tried in Chilli

- Raised nursery bed
- Drenching in the slurry of 250g cow dung+ 1 liter cow urine + 200gm Azospirillum + 100 gm Trichoderma + 100gm PSB + 100gm Pseudomonas fluorescens
- Trap crops like bhendi, field bean (1:16), marigold (1:8) and castor against heliothis
- Spraying cow urine + neem leaf extract or chilli-garlic extract OR Vitex extract OR Cow dung, urine extract to control chilli murda disease.

Tomato Programme

Along with 50 farmers in 2 groups at Inchageri village the Area Unit worked for one season. Each group has undergone 11 cycles of season long training. Concentration was more on reducing the input costs.

Technology options tried out in Tomato

- Raised bed nursery
- Use of bio fertilizers and fungicides
- Spraying of Neem leaf extracts
- Installation of yellow sticky trap at nursery
- Root dipping in cow dung and cow urine + bio inoculants, asafoetida,
- Growing of bhendi and marigold trap crop at the time of transplanting
- Spraying of 10 % NSKE and garlic extracts for heliothis management
- Spraying of lantana/ vitex + aloe vera extracts against karapa / bacterial and fungal diseases
- Spraying of Bordeaux mixture for disease management
- Spraying of CaCl₂ for bloom end rot management

Pomegranate programme

In Doddahalla watershed area of Bijapur, farmers are growing pomegranate since 20 years as a commercial crop. But recently, there is a severe attack of bacterial blight caused by *Xanthomonas oxanopodis* pv *punicae*. Because of this, farmers are spraying heavy pesticide, even to the tune of 2-3 sprays in a fortnight when there is an outbreak of diseases. They have even gone to the extent of uprooting the plantations. In this context, it was decided to experiment with low-cost technologies and to cut down the costs, conserve environment and thereby leading to improvement of livelihoods of farmers.

As per the discussion with the farmers 50 plants were selected for experimentation for PTD and 50 plants in non-PTD.

AESA revealed that the option involving Bordeaux mixture (1%) + streptocycline (0.5%) had given better and convincing result followed by Blitox (0.3%) + streptocycline (0.5%). However, other options did not give convincing results.

During AESA it was clearly observed that the options involving Vitex leaf extract, Male Vitex extract, Lantana leaf extract, Curry leaf extract, Coriander leaf extract had given sporadic results.

Sorghum based farming system

Sorghum is an important dry land crop and major source of food and fodder in Bijapur area. As the rainfall is ranging from 546 to 630 mm in the region, moisture availability during the crop growth period is a limiting factor. In order to improve the productivity in the limited available moisture, AMEF Bijapur concentrated has undertaken work with 103 farmers who grow sorghum during *rabi* season. Inputs like sorghum seeds, inter crop seeds, bio-agents are supplied to all 103 farmers.

Technology options tried in Pomegranate to control Bacterial Blight

- Serilizing the pruning equipments with 0.1% sodium hypochloride before and after pruning.
- Rouging of the diseased plants
- Before and after pruning one spray of 1% Bordeaux mixture + 0.05% streptocycline OR Blitox (0.3%) + streptocycline (0.5%) OR Only Bordeaux mixture OR Only Blitox (0.3%) OR Only streptocycline (0.5%) OR Vitex leaf extract
- Various botanical options tried to control blight are -Lantana extract, Curry leaf extract, and Coriander leaf extract.

Technologies tried in Sorghum

- Introduction of variety Muguti along with M35-1
- Seed treatment with Cow dung (250 grams) + cow urine (250 ml) slurry for 30 minutes.
- Seed hardening with CaCl₂
- Spacing of 18-24"
- Seed treatment with Azospirillum @ 200 grams / acre and Trichoderma @ 50 grams / acre
- Soil application of PSB @ 5 kg/ acre mixed with 200 Kgs FYM.
- Bengalgram as intercrop in Kanakanal and Devarnimbargi.
- Safflower as intercrop in Jigjeevani and Jeerankalgi.

A field day was arranged on 1st February. About 250 farmers (including PTD and non-PTD farmers, representatives of various CBOs, *grama panchayat* members and scientists attended the programme. PTD farmers shared the following observations.

- By treating seeds with cow dung and cow urine slurry, there was early germination by 1-2 days and seedling vigour is good.
- By applying 50 kg neem cake/acre, there was a reduction of termite and root grub problem.
- Expressed that strip cropping with bengal gram is more beneficial as compare to inter crop.

Legume Promotion

Legume cultivation with green gram and black gram is promoted with total of 103 farmers in Kanakanala, Jigjeevanagi, Devaranimbaragi and Jeerankalagi. As part of crop rotation 74 farmers out of 92 from old sorghum group have taken up legumes.

Minor millet: Out of the 35 farmers, 29 farmers have sown the crop, *Save (Little millet)*. Six farmers did not sow because of the delayed rain.

Technologies promoted

- ◆ Improved varieties i.e., growing of selection-4 and Pusa Baisaki variety of green gram, TAU-1 black gram
- ◆ Recycling of excess crop residues after using them as fodder

3.5.2 Capacity building: Trainings and study tours

Sl. No.	Date(s)	Topic	Participants
1	14.07.2004 21.07.2004 21.07.04 27.07.04 29.07.04	IPM, NRM, Legume crop management	24 farmers (22M, 2W) 25 farmers (25M) 22 farmers (22M) 22 farmers (22M) 37 farmers (22M)
2		Importance of Community organization and gender in sustainable agriculture	Farmers-32
3		Importance of PTD and FFS in SA	Farmers-32
4	24-26.08.04	Societal Analysis, introduction to different farming systems and need for Master Farmers	Farmers-34

Study Tours

An exposure trip was conducted for 32 pomegranate farmers to Mahathma Phule Krishi Vidhyapeeta, Rahuri, Maharashtra and KVK Nasik, Maharashtra. Farmers were very keen to know how the farmers in these areas are managing the bacterial blight (*Kyar roga*) problem.

Exposure for master farmers was conducted to Mr. Narayanareddy's farm in Doddaballapur, Mr. S. Ramesh's farm in Devanahalli, Green Foundation at Thaly, and MYRADA KVK in Talavadi. Totally 26 master farmers participated from 6 villages.

An exposure trip was organized to mainly expose the tomato farmers to various new technologies on tomato cultivation being adopted by farmers of Jaisinghpur, Maharashtra, activities of Tukkanatti KVK, organic farmer of Velkanmadi, Belgaum district. 24 farmers participated in it.

3.5.3 Documentation

Visibility of AMEF's programme was addressed by press news on 6th Feb. in *Prajavani* about Kankanala Sorghum Field day, on 19th and 24th February in *Prajavani* and *Vijaya Karanataka*, respectively about Devaranimbaragi Sorghum Field Day.

3.6. Area Unit, Mahabubnagar

The new Area Unit, in Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, is established in Mahabubnagar during September 2005 and a preparatory work to establish rapport with farmers, NGOs and various line departments was done. Three partner NGOs have been identified that are involved in livelihood improvement. They are namely SDDPA (Society for Development of Drought Prone area at Wanaparty), WDS (Watershed Development Society, Nawabpet), BIRD-K (BAIF Institute for Rural Development – K, Jadcharla). Four villages, under each PNGO, were selected and the process of group formation initiated.

3.6.1 Field operations

So far 11 groups (3 in direct and 8 in NGO area) are formed and group norms were discussed in the review meetings. Based on the interest shown by the women farmers a separate women group is also formed in Dharpally village of Nawabpet. Depending on the major crop grown in the respective areas, it is intended to work on castor, cotton, paddy and groundnut based farming systems.

3.6.2 Capacity building: Trainings

Sl. No.	Date(s)	Topic	Participants
1	08.03.2005	Soil sampling and its importance	Farmers -16 + SDDPA staff
2	18.03.005	Soil sampling and its importance	Farmers-22

3.6.3 Networking and linkages

Several visits were made to institutions like RARS Palem (ANGRAU), CRIDA and DAATTC and different scientists were met to find out the possibility of linking the farmer groups. RARS Palem has agreed to supply good quality foundation seeds of castor to our farmer groups for multiplication purpose. A study tour to KVK-Deccan Development Society, Zaheerabad was organized. The team also met AP Mahila Samata Society to understand their activities in Mahabubnagar district and discussed about their area of operation and activities. They are working in 7 Mandals of Mahabubnagar district with women groups concentrating on health, nutrition, and linkage with other institutions for livelihood improvement.

3.6.4 Documentation

The secondary data of Mahabubnagar district was analysed and two reports were prepared. One on "Brief profile of Mahabubnagar" which contains information on resources, institutions, crops, rainfall and other biomass actors and other on the statistics of Mahabubnagar district giving all the details of socio-economic status, migration, yields, rainfall etc., of all the mandals of Mahabubnagar.

4. OTHER PROGRAMMES

4.1 APCOT Programme

The APCOT programme on IPM in cotton is in its concluding year and the year 2004-05 was largely a drought year coupled with poor price, which meant that the farmers in all the villages have suffered losses. The average yields under irrigation and dry land conditions were 9 and 3 quintals, respectively. The pest and disease incidence was rather less. The crop recovered with late rains and that the return from IPM plots were about Rs. 1200-1800 per acre. Despite drought the net returns from IPM plots were double compared to farmers plots (with conventional methods of cultivation). A few important gains from APCOT initiative are,

- The institutional collaboration in APCOT made it possible to offer the best possible basket of options,
- For the farmers, the returns were more from the experimental plots and that the number of pesticide sprays have gone down and the cost of cultivation has reduced,
- The capacities of farmers and NGOs have improved in using IPM practices, which gives hopes that they would continue to practice them. It is suggested to keep the archives with AMEF. One has to consolidate the whole programme including the details of who has what information. The addresses of all the people involved, links and other relevant information could be made available at one place, thus proposing AMEF to be the repository of APCOT experiences.

4.2 Fellowship programme

A Fellowship programme on 'Operationalising Sustainable Agriculture' for the fresh graduates of Agricultural Universities is being initiated during the year 2005. Interviews to select candidates for the programme were held and six candidates are selected. The programme commences in May 2005. The Editorial Committee has met and finalized the pre-final draft of the 'Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture', which would be an important reference material for the participants of Fellowship programme.

5. LEISA INDIA

AME Foundation and ILEIA have entered into a collaborative programme for the production of LEISA India for the years 2003-2006. An agreement was signed between ILEIA Foundation and AME Foundation. Thus, the programme got the necessary strength both in terms of long-term financial and programmatic collaboration.

LEISA India is striving to be online with the global edition, clearing all its backlogs. This has been made possible by the untiring efforts of the team adhering to strict deadlines.

AME Foundation had a task of producing one issue of 2003 during this period. With adequate planning and strict deadlines, the last issue of 2003 (*Reversing degradation*) and three issues of 2004

(*Valuing diversity, Next generation farmers and Post harvest management*) are produced during this period.

There was however one more issue of 2002 (*Women in agriculture*), which did not have prior funding support. Efforts were made to solicit funds for the production of this issue from IDRC and ILEIA. IDRC has complemented our efforts and mobilised funds to support the production of *Women in agriculture* issue. The funds saved from distribution of an earlier magazine for which ILEIA provided funds (the *Bio technology* issue) have been utilised for CD ROM development and multiplication as well as readers survey.

Formal agreements were signed with the consortium partners of LEISA India and the programme for supporting and strengthening the documentation and communication processes was initiated. Necessary efforts were made to improve the documentation and communication processes among the partner organisations through workshops.

Dr. Stein Bie, Chairman, ILEIA Foundation visited AMEF. The Chairman of AMEF, Dr. R. Dwarakinath and the staff had discussions with Dr. Stein Bie. Dr. Stein Bie shared his valuable insights into the relevance of LEISA as well as institutional development aspects. He further highlighted the need for regionalisation efforts and regions taking active interest in popularising LEISA. A presentation on LEISA India progress was made. Dr. Stein Bie commended the LEISA India team for achieving 'unprecedented productivity'.

LEISA India Issues produced during this period are:

<i>Women in agriculture</i>	2002
<i>Reversing Degradation</i>	2003
<i>Valuing Diversity</i>	2004
<i>Next Generation Farmers</i>	2004
<i>Post harvest management</i>	2004

Efforts to strengthen the contributors' base were initiated. Individuals and institutions working with farmers and innovative farmers were approached with a request to share their experiences. Responses are trickling in.

There is a growing demand within India for information on practical experiences with LEISA as the steadily increasing number of subscribers to *LEISA India* has shown.

The maintenance of the LEISA India database is an ongoing activity. The addresses of returned mail are deleted, changed addresses were modified and new subscribers were added.

5.1 Readers

The total number of subscribers as of February 2005 is 4896, registering a **growth of 10 per cent** over the last year. Of the total, 98 per cent belong to the Indian subcontinent while 2 per cent of the subscriptions reach outside India mainly to countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan, and Bhutan. Across various categories, NGOs form the major chunk with 40 per cent of the total subscriptions, followed by individuals, academic and research institutions with 24 per cent, 17 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. At the fag end of the year, fresh efforts were made to identify potential subscribers. A special insert was sent with the magazine.

The growing popularity of LEISA India magazine is reflected from the feedback, which we have been receiving and is growing day by day. Readers are finding it extremely useful both for field application as well as a source material for training activities. This is in conformity with the results of the readers' survey.

A special request has been made by the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS), Chennai, India, to

Readers Feedback

The articles on dry land agriculture are very useful to me for practicing on the field

S. Arun Kumar, Farmer, Tamil Nadu

The magazine is well brought out and the contents are interesting and have useful information. I hope it will have wider circulation in our country

Chiranjeevi Singh, Addnl. Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Govt. of Karnataka.

Working in the field of agricultural finance concerned over sustainable agricultural development, I found your magazine very interesting and highly relevant

P. Mohanaiah, General Manager, NABARD, Mumbai

permit them to include selected articles from LEISA India in their forthcoming publication. CIKS was informed to include them after acknowledging the source as well as making their publication available to the authors as a complimentary copy. They have readily agreed to do so.

The appreciative feedback has been from a variety of backgrounds. While the farmers use the magazine for field practices, NGOs and Academic Institutions are increasingly using it in their trainings. Occasionally, we also receive requests from people from other sectors like the banking sectors who also find the contents useful and relevant. Media like the ones from the All India Radio has expressed its interest to highlight LEISA concepts through its medium. Lastly, even the policy makers are looking at the magazine seriously.

This was reflected during discussions in policy workshops at the national level. A sample feedback is presented in the Box.

Impact Survey

Readers Survey was carried out during July 2004 to get readers feedback on utility of the magazine. A two-page questionnaire, simply structured as well as reasonably open ended, was sent. The response was unprecedented. More than 1000 subscribers responded within a very short span of time and shared their views.

5.2 LEISA India Consortium

A pilot Documentation and Communication project is initiated with LEISA India Consortium in the period 2003-2005. This documentation cycle consists of three workshops and two consolidation and review meetings. The partner organizations will be involved for a total of 200 days and ILEIA and AMEF will provide backstopping and financial support. The first phase of the programme was started in November 2003 and will continue over a period of 100 days ending in November 2004.

The first workshop on sourcing information was conducted during 17-22 November 2003. The second workshop of the Documentation and Communication Programme was conducted during 23-26 February 2004, wherein the participants were exposed to ways of documenting the base material they had collected. Participants had collected base information on the topics planned during the first workshop. Every manuscript was reviewed by other participants and suggestions were given for improvement. At the end of the workshop, the participants drew an action plan for converting their manuscripts into simple products.

The impact of the programme could be seen in terms of participants making efforts to write experiences and publish. The LEISA India consortium partners, after participating in the Documentation workshop, have contributed articles to the global magazine issue – *A new generation of farmers* - Mr. Suresh Kanna (LEISA Network) and Ravi Kumar (AMEF, Tiruchi), "*Children and the Red Hairy Caterpillar offensive*" and John Anthony, "*Namma Dhwani: our voices*". Efforts to institutionalise the programme through internal workshops are also being attempted by some partners. For instance, MYRADA conducted a communication workshop for its staff during this period.

The third workshop focusing on communication was held during 13-17 September 2004. Participants were exposed to various media concepts and some basic skills involved in using the media.

The second year of the programme commenced from November 2004. Participants would be taking up another study/preparation of base text based on organisational needs and also share their communication products produced during this period. The yearlong programme would also involve review of the progress made and thrust for the future.

5.3 LEISA magazines on CD

A CD was designed and developed integrating LEISA India edition with the one brought out by ILEIA with added features such as a simple user interface. The CD was distributed as an incentive to those who responded to the Readers Survey within a stipulated time. For others it is being made available at a nominal price. Requests are coming in regularly.

All the past issues of LEISA India have also been made available as PDF files on AME Foundation's website.

Others

A PR product in the form of a calendar indicating forthcoming themes was produced.

Mr. Prasad, Managing Editor, has met donors in Delhi, shared progress with IDRC and met representatives of EU, RNE, FAO to apprise them of interesting developments happening in the LEISA initiative. He also participated in the International Editorial Meeting (IEM) in Senegal during October 2004.

Mr. Prasad and Mrs. Radha, Asst. Editor, participated in the International Editorial Meeting, Netherlands during February 2005. Business plans for the next ten years and LEISA India survey results were presented, which were well appreciated. Participants discussed issues related to quality of articles, forthcoming themes, sourcing articles, production etc. during the meeting and made some broad plans for the future.

Documentation and Dissemination

Several products were brought out during this period.

- 5 Guidelines
 - Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Rainfed Farming
 - Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)
 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - Participatory Technology Development (PTD)
 - Farmer Field Schools (FFS)
- Leaflet on AME Foundation
- Project Document - Promoting Livelihood Improvements In Dryland Farming On The Deccan Plateau
- Selected Readings 2 - PTD for sustainable dryland agriculture in South India: balancing our way to scale
- AME Info – Four issues of Quarterly newsletter
- Calendar 2005 depicting the major activities of AMEF

Web site

AME web site has been launched (www.amefound.org) with the support of IDRC.

6. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

AMEF operates at two levels, the Area Units in the field and the Central Unit at Bangalore to support the programmes. AMEF provides services to NGOs and other organizations on aspects like sustainable agriculture, IPM and INM. The Staff Position as on 31.03.2005 is provided in Annexure 1. Also, consultant's services were hired for various capacity building programmes of the staff.

AMEF considers it critically important that the professionals keep continuously abreast of the developments in their specialization, as well as in social methods and management. For this purpose, in house knowledge updating opportunities are provided by way of workshops. Also staffs are deputed to renowned institutions, in country as well as abroad, for training and workshops.

Training/Workshops attended by the staff

- Mr. B. M. Badiger attended the training course on 'Management of NGOs' at NIRD, Hyderabad during 12-17, April 2004.
- Mr. G. Ravikumar, Area Unit Coordinator of Tiruchi Area Unit, participated in a planning workshop organised by the Department of Science and Technology for the project leaders of the AICRP on bio farms at Dehradun during 21-23 May, 2004. Mr. Ravi Kumar contributed to the discussions held on resource flow pattern in farming systems. It was decided that AME Foundation would work in coordination with five southern Indian partners (ICRA, CERD, DDS, MITHRANIKETHAN, VK), when the project cycle starts in July 2004.
- Mr. M.S. Raviprakash and Dr. Arun Balamatti participated in the 'Workshop on degraded lands' at FAO-Rome. They met different department Heads during 24–28 May 2004. They shared the

focus of AMEF's work and interacted with FAO's departmental staff. They discussed with the Land and Water Development division, which is working out FFS training modules on soil moisture conservation and soil fertility improvement. There seems to be a commonality of approach and focus of AMEF and FAO's activities.

- Mr. N. R. Adishesha Balaji and Mr. A. R. Nanda Kishore attended a workshop on ' Tally Accounting Package' on 18th May 2004. This was organised by IL Infomatrix Ltd.
- Dr. Arun Balamatti participated in an International Conference on Renewables, Bonn, Germany (24-30 May); International Summer School, Flensburg, Germany (1-12 June); and Workshop on promoting local innovation in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, the Netherlands (14-15 June 2004). He presented a paper on farmer innovation in Wave energy at the Summer School and shared ITK documentation experiences.
- Mr. Raviprakash and Mr. B. M. Badiger attended 6th Cotton Round Table workshop organised by APCOT at CRIDA, Hyderabad during 9-10, June 2004.
- Dr. S. S. Madiwalar, AMEF Bijapur participated in a weeklong training on 'Project management for developing organisations' organised by IRMA, Anand, Gujarat
- Mr. B. Girish, AMEF-Bellary participated in ' Training on Gender issues' organised by KAWAD at Bangalore during 5-8, July, 2004
- Mr. Shyam S. Kulkarni, AMEF, Bellary participated in the 'Training on Communication and Personality Development in Watershed areas' organised by MYRADA, Molakalmuru.
- Dr. Gurudatt Hegde participated in 'Technical aspects in Watershed Development' organised by MYRADA
- Mr. Ashwin participated in the 2nd National Conference on Organic Agriculture, Bidkin, Aurangabad. A paper on "Promoting Sustainable Agriculture practices amongst marginal and small farmers in dry land agricultural areas – Ideas and experiences of AME Foundation" was prepared for the Conference.
- As a part of internal capacity building, staff of Mahabubnagar unit visited SRI paddy field day and progressive farmer's field near Manvi of Raichur district in Karnataka.
- Ms. Surekha participated in the three-day National Seminar –2005 on Extension Methodologies at UAS, Bangalore.
- Mr.Gangadharswamy (Bellary) and Mr.Rudragouda (Bijapur) participated in the Management Development Programme, "Promoting Participation and Empowerment in Development / NRM" organised by IRMA, Anand during the first week of March. 12 senior and middle level development staff from NGOs and departments also participated.
- Ms. Sudha Bhat attended 2-day Interstate workshop on Farm Women Training and Extension organised by DANIDA at Eagleton Resort, Bidadi during 10-11, February 2005.
- Mr. G. Ravi Kumar attended a workshop on sustainable development at Madras University, Chennai during 18-19, February 2005.
- Ms. B. Vijayalakshmi, attended a National Seminar on Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture, at Annamalai University during 17-18, March, 2005
- Mr. Sarvajna Salimath participated in the regular meetings of APCOT (Andhra Pradesh Consultative Committee on Cotton). During February 2005, Mr. Sarvajna participated in the field visits of APCOT programme along with CRIDA staff, Syngenta and CEC Hyderabad The discussion with farmers revealed that the farmers are able to adopt the IPM components in the cotton based systems and has helped in reducing their cost of cultivation and they have scaled up the same technology to chilly crop also.

In-House workshops/meetings

- During May 2004, a series of one-day workshops were organised at each Area Unit with the NGO partners and farmers. Area Unit staff and professional staff from Central Unit participated. The focus was on analysing and understanding how NGOs have operationalized the concepts of sustainable agriculture. This was done so as to address the gaps for better understanding and implementation.
- A management workshop was conducted at Fireflies during 19-21, May, 2004 with the following three objectives viz: 1) Enable AMEF staff to understand the aims, objectives, strategies and activities of the proposal sent to FAO 2) Enable AMEF staff to prepare themselves to perform the functions required 3) Enable better understanding in AMEF on core issues like Vision and Mission, Team building, Gender, Project development and HR aspects for improved performance
- In association with UAS, Bangalore AMEF has organised a three-day workshop on Integrated Farming System for NGOs during October 25-27, 2004. Newly recruited professional staff of the Area Units and professional staff of the Central Unit also participated in the workshop.
- Three-day Induction training was conducted at UAS-Hebbal from 16-18, December 2004 for all the programme staff who joined AMEF after October 2003. The purpose of this induction was to familiarise new staff about AMEF, its mission and vision and also to gain clarity on certain aspects, which helps to improve work efficiency.
- A performance appraisal format was developed and performance appraisal was done both by individuals and the respective superiors during December 2005. It is envisaged that it would help in enhancing the understanding of the attributes required for better performance.
- Two-day symposium on Sustainable Agriculture was organised by AMEF at UAS, Hebbal campus, Bangalore on 'Integrating various aspects of SA as applicable to Southern Indian conditions by relating research to extension' during December 22-24, 2004.
- Technical Advisory Committee has met six times during Jan-March, 2005 to develop technology options to promote Sustainable Agriculture.
- On 16 February 2005, Area Unit Co-ordinators and a senior programme staff of all the area units participated in a one-day workshop on Tasks, Operations and Activities to be taken up during this year towards operationalising Sustainable Agriculture.
- The ' Training on Technologies' organized at UAS Bangalore from 21–23 March 2005 with the main objectives of reviewing and refining the action plans of area units, supporting area units in preparing the implementation plan and visiting the watershed area where some of the activities were taken up. 34 professional staff from various Area Units as well as Central Unit participated in the workshop. During the workshop, activity plans with respect to tasks, operations and activities were discussed and calendar of events for the year 2005-06 were prepared.
- The staff at the Central Unit had a discussion on gender aspects following the presentation of the study conducted by Dr. Usha Kulkarni, Consultant, on Gender and Equity Concerns in Sustainable Agriculture-Past Efforts and Future Road Map.
- Every month, specific topics are being discussed during Study Circle meetings. The discussions were to evolve common understanding as well as prepare brief guidelines on how we operationalise the concepts in the field.
- As the Netherlands bilateral programme in India was coming to an end, RNE chose to offer an opportunity to learn and practice 'Participatory Evaluation' with the main objective of enhancing the capacity of the staff in conducting evaluation by themselves in a participatory manner. As an evaluation process, four staff members from AMEF along with other project staff namely APFAGMS, APWAM have undergone orientation cum training workshop during October 27 – November 1 2004. Ms. Edith van Walsum and Mr. Gopal conducted this training at MYRADA Kadiri. Participatory Evaluation studies on 'Adoption of alternative farming practices by farmers '

were conducted in AMEF Madanapalli and Bellary area and reports based on the field works were submitted. Wrap up meeting was organised as a part of Participatory Evaluation for participants of all the three projects involved in PE at Fireflies during 19-21, January 2005. Along with the participants, programme directors and representatives from RNE and FAO also attended the workshop. Objectives of the workshop were as follows.

- o To provide project teams a platform to share their learning on PE process, methodology and outcomes; and to take stock of emerging issues and patterns
- o To jointly assess the relevance of PE for RNE/FAO supported projects and explore how it can be incorporated in ongoing programmes.

Major Events

Visit by FAO official: Dr. Ajay Rastogi from FAO, New Delhi visited AME Foundation during third week of July 2004. Discussions were held with Central Unit staff to develop package of practices for a few important crops based on organic farming principles and reworking on Medicinal, Aromatic and natural Dye Plants (MADP). He visited Madanapalli and Tiruchi Area Units to explore the possibility of integrating MADP as part of farming systems development. A proposal will be developed in due course of time. Initial ideas on concept, design and probable content for Organic farming source book has been shared with FAO, and that needs to be finalized soon.

DFID Team Visit: On 5 October Mr. John Sanchez, DFID, Mr. Manohar Rao NRM specialist KAWAD and Ms. Muktha Banerjee, Member, KAWAD Governing council, visited strip cropped plots in Myasarahatti of Molakalmuru taluk and interacted with PTD farmers in Chinnahagari watershed. They appreciated the work done by the area unit.

World Food Day: World Food Day was celebrated on 16 October in all the Area Units. The theme for the year was 'Bio-diversity for Food Security'. Raichur, Tiruchi, Mahabubnagar and Bellary Units have organised at the field level involving local leaders, officials from the line departments, scientists, farmers group and partner NGOs. Bijapur Unit organised in collaboration with Agriculture College and IAT, Bijapur. Madanapalli unit has organised the event in collaboration with APFAMGS. Central unit organised the event jointly with Department of Agriculture and IAT, Bangalore

Several activities were taken up as part of World Food Day celebrations which included making and distributing pamphlets on 'Achieving food security through bio-diversity', conducting essay competition to high school students, conducting essay competition on sustainable agriculture to master farmers, conducting competition on 'Harvest songs' etc. There was a wide coverage of these events in the local newspapers.

Inauguration of AMEF- FAO partnership project: Inaugural function of AMEF-FAO partnership project, "Promoting Livelihood improvements in Dry land Farming on the Deccan Plateau" was organised on 28 October 2004, at Capitol Hotel, Bangalore. Shri. M.V. Rajashekar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Planning, Shri. Srinivas Gowda, Hon'ble Agricultural Minister, Government of Karnataka, representatives from RNE, New Delhi and FAO, Trustees of the AME Foundation, Area Unit Coordinators, farmers and NGO representatives from all the units attended the programme.

FAO and RNE delegates' visit: During October 28 to November 3, 2004 Mr. Paul ter Weel, First Secretary, RNE, New Delhi and Dr. Somashekar Rao, National Programme Officer, FAO, New Delhi visited three Area Units namely, Raichur, Bellary and Tiruchi. They visited various fields, and had discussion with farmers, field staff as well as partner NGOs.

Building on the Past

This year has been one of the most significant years in AME Foundation's pursuit in operationalising its mission in terms of activities and arriving at common understanding. AME entered into a 4 year collaborative project with FAO, intensified efforts on common understanding on SA among the staff, developed necessary operational guidelines, intensified working directly with groups of farmers in select cluster of villages, initiated the fellowship programme. Lastly, AME has

moved into its own premises. The staff displayed tremendous teamwork and commitment in achieving these objectives under the able guidance of the trustees.

After the AMEF - FAO collaborative agreement was signed, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Planning, Shri M V Rajasekharan inaugurated the launch of AME - FAO collaborative project in the month of October 2004. Shri K Srinivasa Gowda, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Daniel Gustafson, FAO Representative for India and Bhutan, FAO and Dr. P S Rao, National Programme Coordinator, Land and Water programme, FAO and Mr. Paul ter Weel, Advisor, Rural Development, RNE were the special guests. Dr. Dwarakinath, Chairman, AME Foundation, presided over the function. Invitees included, AMEF Board of Trustees, members of Advisory council, senior bureaucrats from State Govt and heads from University, AME, NGO and farmer representatives from each area unit, team leaders of other FAO projects and former team leaders of AME, few consultants associated with AME and the media.

During this year, efforts were intensified for improved clarity among staff on what AME needs to do on the field to translate its mission into action. Internal workshops, study circle meetings were helpful in evolving guidelines on concepts, technologies and methodologies. These guidelines though primarily prepared for internal use, were also shared with those interested in knowing how AME works in the field.

After evolving a common understanding on what Sustainable Agriculture is in terms of integrating several related practices of NRM, the focus was on highlighting that SA can only be realized when farmers adopt these practices on their field. Through people centred approaches, AME laid emphasis on enabling farmers to identify these relationships and try out affordable options of alternative farming systems.

While doing so, AME choose to work more intensively in clusters of select villages with groups of farmers for giving increased attention, visibility of action as well as to create learning situations for wider propagation and adoption.

Building on the role of a resource organization in the project phases, AMEF intensified its efforts towards networking with like minded partners who are interested in propagating and adopting these alternatives in their operational areas. Necessary collaborative agreements including the MOUs have been finalized.

Recognising the need for preparing suitable SA specialists, AMEF identified graduates in agriculture for its 9 month fellowship programme. As a preparatory process, efforts were made to create a body of knowledge acquired from experts dealing with dryland situations in the southern states. This compendium of papers will help in developing field oriented reading material for the programme in the future.

This period was also marked by increased recognition of LEISA India magazine as a valuable tool for information exchange. The response to the survey was highly encouraging and many reported that the magazine is being used for training, field application, and awareness on practical alternatives.

After intensive searching for acquiring a suitable office premises, AMEF has acquired a site and started constructing its own premises. AMEF is grateful to RNE for its generous contribution, to the staff and trustees for contributing time and finances and lastly to the builders for shaping it up

7. SOURCES OF FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

Royal Netherlands Embassy offered major support to ensure continuity to the programmes of AMEF. During this period, AME Foundation ensured additional financing support for specific programmes as given below.

FAO: The AMEF-FAO partnership project on "Promoting Livelihood Improvements in Dry land Farming on the Deccan Plateau" formally commenced from January 2005. The FAO assistance is available till August 2008.

LEISA India: AME Foundation and ILEIA Foundation, The Netherlands have entered into a four-year collaborative project to produce and distribute the Indian edition of the LEISA magazine on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture on a quarterly basis.

Intersard Asia project: AME Foundation has been identified as regional hub in South Asia to implement EU, Intersard Asia, IT & C project. As part of the Intersard International Consortium consisting of European National partners, AME Foundation intends to contribute and co-ordinate information sharing on best practices and technologies for rural and peri-urban development, and sustainable management of natural resources through a web based information system.

KAWAD: AME Foundation continued its collaboration with KAWAD – a DFID supported watershed project on promoting sustainable agriculture in Bellary, Bijapur and Chitradurga districts of Karnataka. The project is extended till 30 June 20 05, which was to conclude in April and May in Bellary and Bijapur, respectively.

DST: The project supported by DST (Bio farms for livelihood development of small and marginal dry land farmers) was initiated in two villages of the Perambalur district, Tamil Nadu, in January.

The Foundation has completed third year of accounting. This year's audit has been smoother and less time consuming than what was experienced last year. It is expected that the auditors share the same view.

The Treasurer reviewed the Systems and Procedure in place till December 2003 and it was felt that a number of changes were needed. The changes were meant to ensure clarity, transparency, easier accounting and faster retrieval/ review of periodic financial data. Many changes were introduced accordingly.

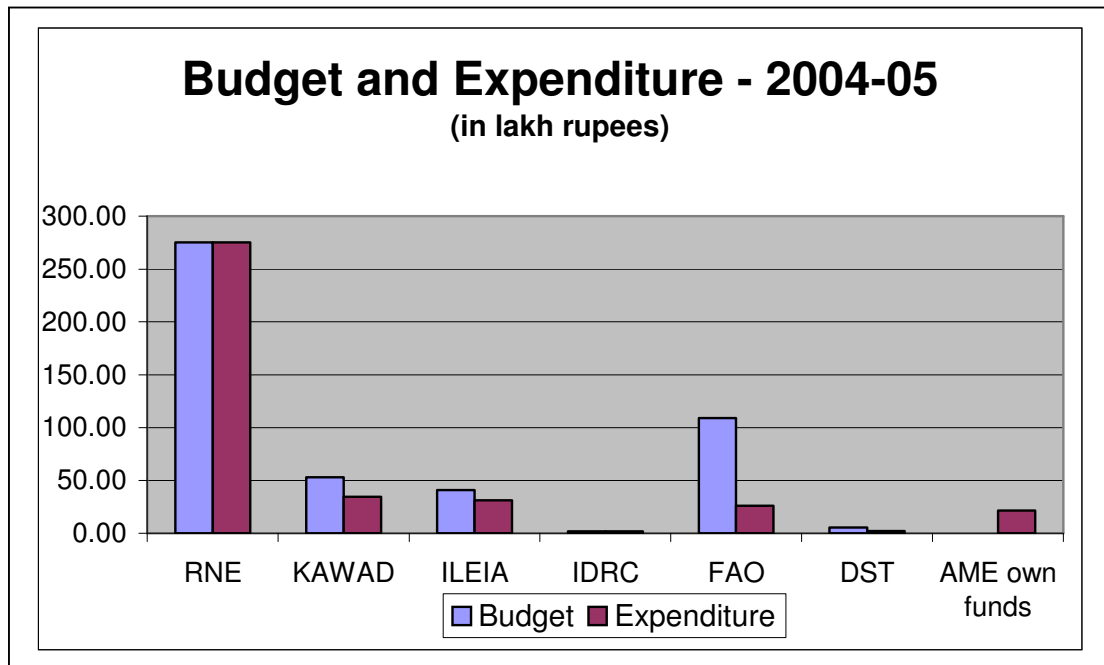
The Financial Transactions during the year:

- RNE: During the quarter, the donor funds were fully utilised and the accounts are being audited. The total expenses reported was Rs. 35,000,000.00 + 575,000.00 representing interest earned.
- FAO: This project got off to a start with effect from January 01, 2005.

Statement of budget, tentative expenditure and funds received - 2004-05 (in lakh rupees)

Donors	Budget	Expenditure (tentative)	Funds received
RNE	275.36	275.36	275.36
KAWAD	52.96	34.50	36.84
ILEIA	40.89	31.27	37.64
IDRC	1.71	1.71	1.71
FAO	109.09	26.06	135.90
DST	5.50	2.30	5.50
AME own funds		21.56	29.43
Total	485.50	392.76	522.37

- DST: This project got off to a start with effect from January 01, 2005.
- AMEF' s own funds: Out of the funds accrued to AME Foundation by way of overhead costs, donations etc., Rs. 19 lakhs was paid towards construction cost of the building. The balance as on March 31, 2005 is around Rs. 11 lakhs.



Expression of Interest (EoI) is submitted to APRLP, wherein four trainings to staff of NGOs is proposed. The proposal is accepted.

A proposal is submitted to Dr. Vithal Rajan, on 'Comprehensive Cotton Farming Solutions', to be implemented in Jammigunta, Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

A proposal to promote Ericulture on pilot basis in KAWAD watersheds is submitted to KAWAD, which is likely to be funded by Central Silk Board.

8. STAFF POSITION

Staff position as on 31.03.2005 is given below:

1.	Dr. Arun Balamatti	Executive Director
2.	Mr. K V S Prasad	CPO – Documentation & Dissemination cum ME
3.	Mr. Ashwin M A	CPO-IFS/NRM (Tree crop)
4.	Mr. G.Chandrasekhar	CPO-IFS/IPM
5.	Ms. Sudha Bhat	Assistant Editor- Data Management
6.	Ms. T.M.Radha	Assistant Editor-LEISA India
7.	Dr. Surekha Sankanagouder	APO-Training
8.	Mr. S K Biradar	Documentalist (w.e.f 01.03.2005)
9.	Ms. Devi K A	Secretary-Programmes
10.	Ms. Asha R	Secretary -General
11.	Ms. Shobha Maiya	Secretary-INFODOC
12.	Mr. L. Annoes Simon	Secretary-Accounts
13.	Mr. Adishesha Balaji	Secretary-Admin & Fin
14.	Mr. Ramu K	Driver
15.	Mr. Gopalakrishnan R	Driver
16.	Mr. Chikkanna	Attendant
17.	Mr. B T Govindaraju	Attendant
18.	Ms. Lalitha N	Cook
19.	Ms. Kantha A	Cleaner-cum-Cook

Madanapalli Area Unit:

20.	Mr. G M Chandra Mohan	Area Unit Coordinator
21.	Ms. K.Shobha Rani	Area Project Officer - GEC
22.	Mr. Maheshwar Reddy	Area Project Officer- IFS/NRM(w.e.f 03.01.2005)
23.	Ms. S Kavitha	Secretary-cum-Accountant
24.	Mr. N Ravindranath	Driver
25.	Mr. V Rangaraju	Attendant

Raichur Area Unit:

26.	Mr. B M Badiger	Area Unit Coordinator
27.	Mr. B. K. Suresh	Area Project Officer – IFS/IPM
28.	Mr. B. C. Kolhar	Area Project Officer – IFS/NRM
29.	Ms. K. Vidyavathi	Area Project Officer – IFS/NRM(w.e.f 03.01.2005)
30.	Mr. D. Manjunatha	Area Project Officer - IFS/NRM (w.e.f 03.01.2005)
31.	Ms. M. Srividya	Secretary-cum-Accountant
32.	Mr. Virupakshappa S. Kelur	Driver
33.	Mr. Sharanappa Gulgi	Attendant

Tiruchi Area Unit:

34.	Mr. G Ravikumar	Area Unit Co-ordinator
35.	Ms. B Vijayalakshmi	Area Project Officer – IFS/IPM
36.	Mr. J. Krishnan	Area Project Officer – IFS/NRM
37.	Ms. G. Hemalatha	Secretary –cum-accountant
36.	Mr. G. Balaraman	Driver
39.	Ms. RL Pouline R Selvi	Attendant

Bellary Area Unit:

40.	Dr. Gurudatt Hegde	Area Unit Co-ordinator
41.	B.P.Gangadharswamy	Area Project Officer – IFS/IPM
42.	Mr. B.Girish	Area Project Officer - IFS/Sericulture
43.	Mr. Ravindranath Reddy	Area Project Officer - IFS/NRM
45.	Mr. Shyamarao S. Kulkarni	Area Project Officer-IFS/NRM

46. Mr. V Prasanna Secretary-cum-Accountant
 47. Mr. B. Manjunath Driver
 48. Mr. Babu Attendant

Bijapur Area Unit:

- 49 Dr. S. S. Madiwalar Area Unit Coordinator
 50. Mr. Rudragouda Area Project Officer-IFS/NRM
 51. Mr. Yogesh G. Area Project Officer - IFS/NRM
 52. Mr. Nandakishore AR Secretary-cum-Accountant
 53. Mr. B. S. Dyapur Attendant

Mahabubnagar Area Unit:

54. Dr. Sarvajna Salimath Area Unit Co-ordinator
 55. Mr. Ranganath Babu Area Project Officer-GEC
 56. Mr. Nagana Gouda Area Project Officer-IFS/NRM
 58. Mr. J. B. Raghavendra Secretary-cum-Accountant
 59. Mr. Sankar V.G Attendant
 60. Mr. N. Ramadas Reddy Driver

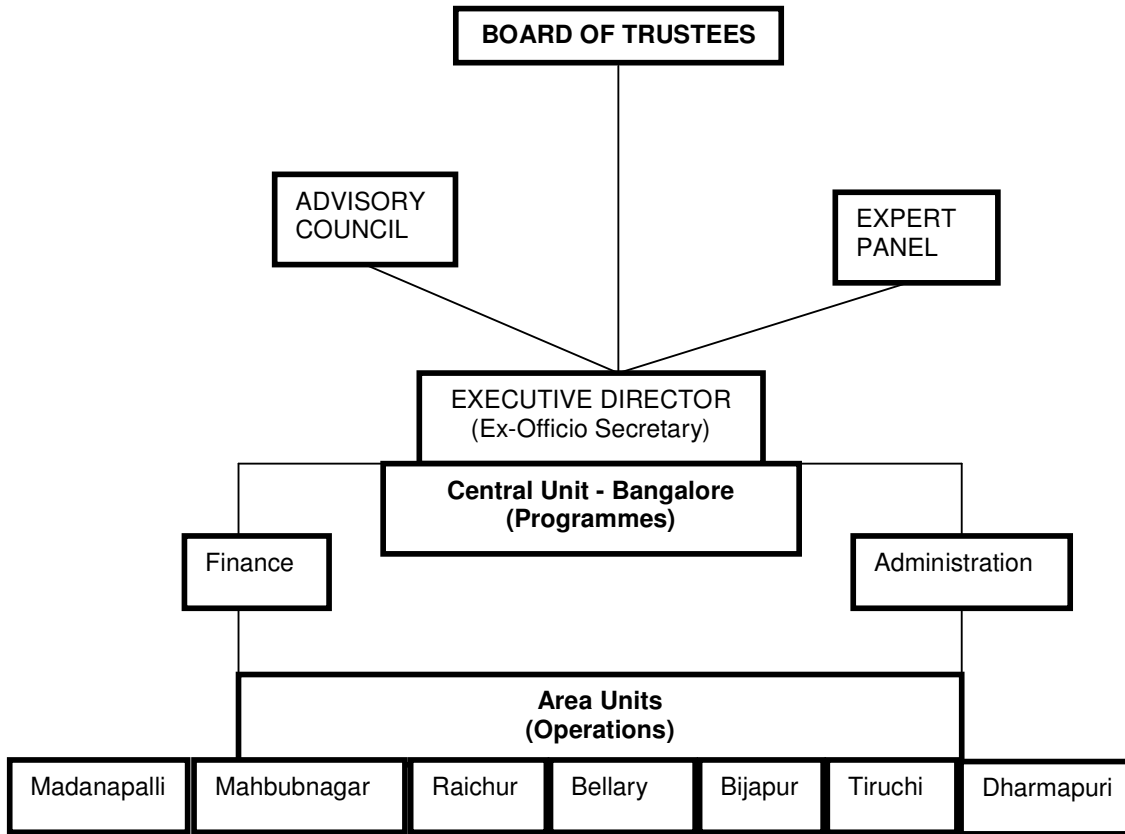
The following staff joined AME Foundation during the reporting period:

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Joining date	Unit
1.	Mr. L. Annoes Simon	Secretary-Accounts	1.07.2004	Bangalore
2.	Mr. Ravi Vallur	APO-IFS/NRM	09.08.2004	Madanapalli
3.	Mr. B. C. Kolhar	APO-IFS/NRM	09.08.2004	Raichur
4.	Dr. Sarvajna Salimath	Area Unit Co-ordinator	02.08.2004	Mahabubnagar
5.	Mr. Ranganath Babu	APO_GEC	01.10.2004	Mahabubnagar
6.	Mr. J. B. Raghavendra	Secretary-cum-Accountant	11.10.2004	Mahabubnagar
7.	Mr. Sankar V.G	Attendant	02.08.2004	Mahabubnagar
8.	Mr. N. Ramadas Reddy	Driver	09.08.2004	Mahabubnagar
9.	Mr. S. K. Biradar	Documentalist	01.03.2005	Bangalore
10.	Mr. Maheshwar Reddy	APO-IFS/NRM	03.01.2005	Madanapalli
11.	Ms. K. Vidyavathi	APO-IFS/GEC	03.01.2005	Raichur
12.	Mr. D. Manjunatha	APO-IFS/NRM	03.01.2005	Raichur
13.	Mr. Yogesh G.	APO-IFS/NRM	03.01.2005	Bijapur
14.	Mr. Naganagowda	APO-IFS/NRM	03.01.2005	Mahabubnagar
15.	Mr. R. Augustine	APO-IFS/NRM	03.01.2005	Tiruchi

The following staff left AME Foundation during the reporting period:

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Leaving date	Unit
1	Ms. Geetha P R	Administrative Officer	18.08.2004	Bangalore
2	Mr. Ravi Vallur	APO-IFS/NRM	10.12.2004	Madanapalli
3	Mr. M.S. Ravi Prakash	Executive Director	31.12.2004	Bangalore
4	Mr. Rajkumar Teggi	Project Associate	31.12.2004	Bijapur
5	Mr. L. Annoes Simon	Secretary-Accounts	31.03.2005	Bangalore

ORGANOGRAM OF AME FOUNDATION



AMEF Operational Areas

Central Unit

Post Box No. 7836, No. 204, 100 Feet Ring Road, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Bangalore – 560085
Ph: 080 26699512, 26699522, Fax: 26699410
amebang@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in, www.amefound.org

Area Units

Madanapalli: II-253-D-7, Colony Ring Road, Madanapalli - 517325, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, Ph: 08571-222943 & 227137, Fax (pp) 08571 227070
amef_mpl@yahoo.co.in / amefmpl@amefound.org

Mahabubnagar: Plot # 68&69, Next to H. No 4-88, Near Water Tank, Bhagirath colony, Kirishthanapalli Gram Panchayat, Adjacent to Bhutpur Road, Mahabubnagar - 509 001, Andhra Pradesh; amefmhb@rediffmail.com

Raichur: 1-3-309, RR Colony, Asapur Road, Raichur - 584101, Karnataka.
Ph: 08532-226917 & 228895, Fax (pp):08532 233968
amefrai@yahoo.co.in / amefrai@amefound.org

Bellary: Brindavana No. 161, Near Sanjay Gabdhi Rural Polytechnic College, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Bellary - 583103 Karnataka.
Ph: 08392 268558, 268337, Fax (pp): 08392 244116
amef_bellary@yahoo.co.in / amefbly@sancharnet.in/ amefbellary@amefound.org

Bijapur: 159/2A, # 7C, Ward # 74, Near BDO Quarters, Behind Darbar High School, Asar Moholla Lane, Bijapur - 586101, Karnataka; Ph: 08352 258055 amefbjp@sancharnet.in

Tiruchi: No.37, E.V.R.Road, K.K. Nagar, Tiruchirapalli - 620 021, Tamil Nadu.
Ph: 0431 2458726 & 2455408, Fax (pp): 0431 2450725
try_ametry@sancharnet.in/ ameftry@amefound.org

Dharmapuri: No.3/11, Erikarai Road, Pidamaneri, Dharmapuri – 620 021
Tamil Nadu; Phone: 04342 280135, 281 305 amefdpi@sancharnet.in

**AMEF BELIEVES
IN
“HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES”**

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

AMEF is motivated by a deep-going concern. Transformation in Indian agriculture became possible through 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 environment-depleted soils eroded and ground water sinking rapidly. Working with these families, searching for alternative farming options is a matter of great socio-economic and strategic necessity.

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

