



AME

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

District Level Events



No. 204, 100 ft. Ring road, 3rd Phase, Banashankari 2nd Block,
3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 085
Ph: 080-26699512, 26699522 Fax: 91-80-26699410
amebang@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in amefbang@amefound.org Website: amefound.org

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About AME Silver Jubilee Celebrations

AME Foundation is a Non-Governmental resource organization. AME was born out of the concern for Sustainable Agriculture in 1982 in the Netherlands, and relocated in India since 1986. After being a project through several phases, it became an Indian organization, managed by a Board of Trustees, since 2002.

AMEF is engaged in promoting livelihood improvements, of small and marginal farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by enabling them to generate and adopt alternative farming practices, through capacity building activities and by associating local development agencies.

AME, which completes 25 years of service, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee in the year 2007. It is celebrating this occasion with those deeply involved with AME in the past and present. The objective is to enhance sharing, learning, networking and celebrating our bonding.

As a part of these celebrations, a series of activities are being conducted in the three states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, including district level events, state level seminars and a national conference. The central purpose of these activities is to share with other agencies and policy makers the unique experiences, which AMEF has gained in promoting sustainability in dry land farming, and expand our contacts.

Presented in this brief note is a 'look in' to the highlights of the district level events in Bellary, Bijapur and Raichur in Karnataka, Tiruchi and Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu, Madanapalli and Mahabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh, where AMEF is presently operating.

AMEF - AREA UNITS

MADANAPALLI: II-253-D-7, Colony Ring Road,
Chittoor District, Madanapalli – 517 325 Andhra Pradesh
Ph: 08571 222943 / 227137

amef_mpl@yahoo.co.in / amefmpl_7@yahoo.co.in

TIRUCHI: No. 37, EVR Road, K.K. Nagar,
Tiruchirapalli – 620 021, Tamil Nadu
Ph: 0431 2458726 / 2455408

amefoundation@dataone.in / ameftry@yahoo.co.in

RAICHUR: 1-3-309, R.R. Colony, Asapur Road,
Raichur – 584 101 Karnataka
Ph: 08532 228895 / 226917

amefrai@yahoo.co.in / amef_rai@yahoo.co.in

BELLARY: "Brindavana" No.161, Near Sanjay Gandhi
Rural Polytechnic college, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar,
Bellary – 583 103 Karnataka
Ph: 08392 268558 / 268337

amefbellary@yahoo.co.in / amefbly@sancharnet.in

BIJAPUR: 159/2A, Behind Darbar High School,
Asar Mohal Area, Bijapur – 586101 Karnataka
Ph: 08352 258055 / 2462610

amefbjp@sancharnet.in / amefbijapur@yahoo.co.in

MAHABUBNAGAR: Plot No. 68 & 69, H. No. 4 - 88,
Bhutpur Road, Mahabubnagar – 509 001 Andhra Pradesh
Ph: 08542 275126 / 275100



amefmhb@gmail.com / amefmhb@yahoo.co.in

DHARMAPURI: No. 3/11, Erikarai Road, Pidamaneri,
Dharmapuri – 636 701 Tamil Nadu
Ph : 04342 280135 amef_dpi@dataone.in /

amef_dpi@yahoo.co.in

CHINTAMANI: Brindavan Nilaya, Prabhakar Layout,
Chintamani - 563 125, Karnataka Ph: 08154 251220
amefklr@yahoo.co.in

Silver Jubilee celebrations was an opportunity to bring together all those who shared concern for improving livelihoods of dryland farmers, at the district level. Important personalities in the district were invited as Chief Guests to these events. In three districts, Dharmapuri, Mahabubnagar and Madanapalli, the District Collectors were the Chief Guests. In two districts, Bellary and Raichur the Zilla Panchayat President graced the occasion. Scientists from the Agricultural University and Research Institutions were the Chief Guests in Bijapur and Tiruchi.

Andhra Pradesh	
<p>Madanapalli 24 September 2007</p>  <p><i>Mr.S.S Rawat, IAS, District Collector, Chittoor lighting the lamp</i></p> <p>Chief Guest Remarks In the present conditions, farmers depending on Dry land Agriculture are getting very low yields and low net income due to high expenditure on inputs. Under these conditions, Farmers Field School concept is very good as many farmers are benefiting by improving the decision making skills and reducing the cost of cultivation. But, as the implementation of FFS is on a limited scale, I request AME Foundation to collaborate with Department of Agriculture and implement FFS on a large scale. SRI paddy is a very good method which AMEF is promoting on a large scale.</p>	<p>Mahabubnagar 26 September 2007</p>  <p><i>Smt.Usha Rani, IAS, District Collector Mahabubnagar, inaugurating the programme</i></p> <p>Chief Guest Remarks The District Collector praised AMEF's work in the district in improving the livelihoods of the small and marginal farmers by conducting Farmer Field School and giving quality trainings on Sustainable Agriculture. She also urged every farmer to take up simple and easy to adopt methods like Azolla in Paddy fields, seed treatment to avoid the soil borne diseases and Vermicompost which are having a tremendous impact in the field, popularized by the AMEF. She suggested farmers to go for organic agriculture to produce healthy food for our people. The District Collector was very much impressed with the SA Exhibition.</p>

Karnataka		
<p>Bellary 18 October 2007</p>  <p><i>Smt. Pushparekha, President, Zilla Panchayat, Bellary inaugurating the programme</i></p> <p>Chief Guest Remarks I appreciate AMEF's efforts and working nature. I will support AMEF by involving them in possible programmes through ZP. I would like to help the Unit in getting land for starting SA resource and training centre. I also suggest JDA to support AMEF farmers in its programmes.</p>	<p>Bijapur 6 October 2007</p>  <p><i>Dr. M. B. Guled, Associate Director of Research, RARS, inaugurating the programme</i></p> <p>Chief Guest Remarks The empowerment of District NGOs and farmers through MToF is encouraging. Now the farmers are experimenting the technologies in their field. I appreciate the development of farmers in achieving food and income security.</p>	<p>Raichur 3 November 2007</p>  <p><i>Smt Gangamma Venkanagoud, ZP, Vice President, lighting the lamp</i></p> <p>Chief Guest Remarks Congratulations to AME for its Silver Jubilee celebrations. Soil fertility improvement, soil and water conservation and building the capacity of the farmers is the need of the hour. In this regard, AME Foundation and other supporting NGOs are doing a good job to strengthen the community.</p>

Tamil Nadu

Dharmapuri
11 September 2007



Mr. Pankaj Kumar Bansal, IAS- District Collector, Dharmapuri lighting the lamp

Chief Guest Remarks

In Dharmapuri, dryland agriculture is predominant. So, rain water management and cost reduction are two important issues. Ecological agriculture is essential for sustainable development in this district. As a resource organization AMEF should scale up its activities to more areas through linkages with Government schemes, research institutions and Universities. Farmers also should be involved in the process of spreading the message to other farmers.

Tiruchi
19 September 2007



Dr.S.Jebaraj, Dean (Agri),ADAC&RI,Tiruchy inaugurating the programme

Chief Guest Remarks

While appreciating AME's work and the silver jubilee celebration, he mentioned that the farmer should have awareness about the exploitation by private seed companies. Shared the importance of soil & water conservations, selection of good seeds and marketing. He stressed that farmers should approach the Agriculture department for various benefits like subsidies for market infrastructure. Added that, information on weather and crop cultivation aspects needs to reach farmers through various means.

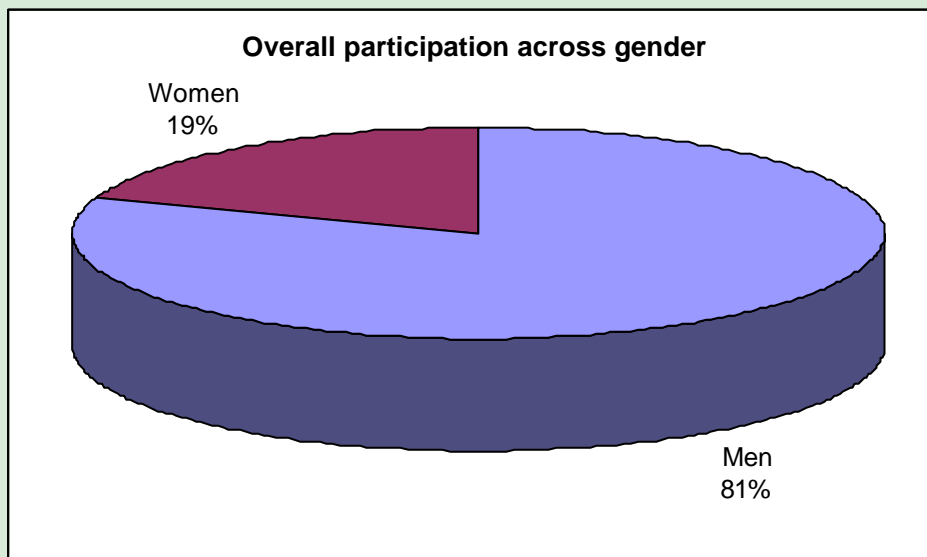
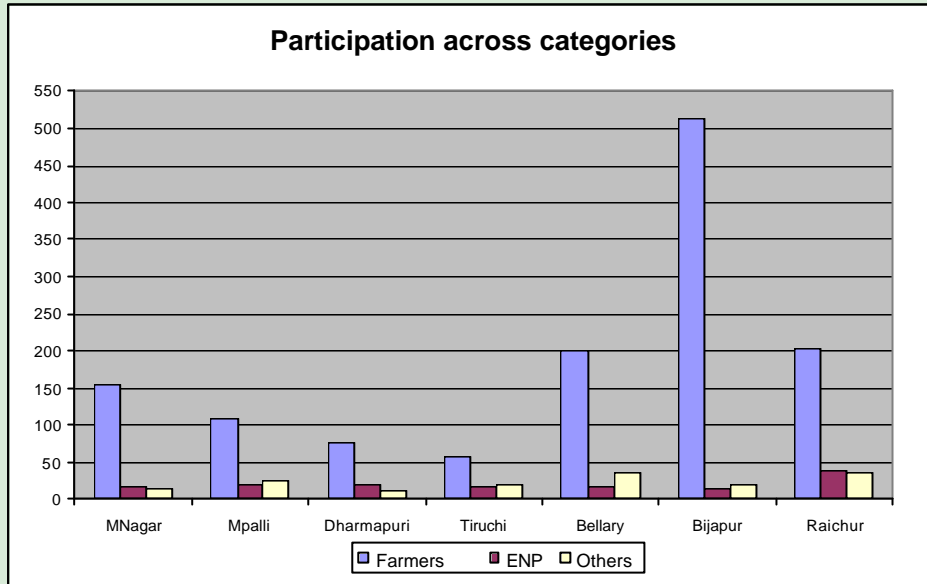


The special invitees included representatives from the State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry; Veterinary and Agriculture Colleges; Research Institutions; KVKs, Media and Credit agencies like NABARD, scheduled banks and grameena banks.

Madanapalli	Raichur
<p>Dr.G.V.Narasa Reddy Dean of Student Affairs, Sri Venkateswera Veterinary University, Tirupati.</p> <p>Dr.K.Raja Reddy Associate Director of Research, RARS, Chittoor</p> <p>Mr.K.Ramachandram JDA, Department of Agriculture, Chittoor</p> <p>Dr.R.Srinath Reddy Assistant General Manager (AGM), NABARD, Chittoor</p> <p>Mr.Balarajeswara Reddy ADAH, Department of Animal Husbandry, Chittoor</p> <p>Dr.K.Sampath Kumar Senior Scientist, Agriculture Research Station, Kadiri</p> <p>A.Ramakrishna Coordinator, DAAT Center, Chittoor</p> <p>Mr.Koteswera Rao HO, Department of Horticulture, Chittoor</p>	<p>Smt. Gangamma Venkanagoudar, Vice President, ZP, Raichur</p> <p>Shri K.A.Khatib Head Quarter Assistant for DC, Raichur</p> <p>Dr.B.V.Patil DI(Agri), College of Agri., Raichur</p> <p>Dr.B.T.Pujari ADR, RARS, Raichur</p> <p>Shri A.Hanumanthaih Joint Director of Agriculture, Raichur</p> <p>Dr.K.V.Halagappa Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry ,Raichur</p> <p>Sri. A.R.Kurbar Training Associate, KVK, Raichur</p> <p>Shri Siddappa District Project Coordinator, JSYS, Raichur</p> <p>Shri Sharanabasapp Patted Deputy Director, Jananiml Project, Raichur</p> <p>Shri. Pampanna Narvi Progressive Farmer, Raichur</p> <p>Shri. Mukunda Mudegouda Progressive Farmer, Raichur</p>
Mahabubnagar	Bellary
<p>Sri. P. Ravinder Project Director, DWAMA, Mahbubnagar</p> <p>Dr. T.Nageshwar Rao Associate Director of Research RARS, Palem</p> <p>Sri. V. Suresh Assistant General Manager NABARD, Mahbubnagar</p> <p>Dr. Balaji Rao Coordinator, DAATTC, Mahbubnagar</p> <p>Sri. Krishnaiah Agriculture Officer in JDA Office, Mahabubnagar</p>	<p>Smt. Savitha Bai Vice President, Zilla Panchayat</p> <p>Sri Vijay Kumar Gogi Conservator of Forest</p> <p>Sri. B.Y Srinivas Joint Director of Agriculture</p> <p>Dr. P.K Mishra Head, CSWCR&TI, Bellary</p> <p>Sri. Ramanrao AGM, NABARD, Bellary</p> <p>Sri. Siddaraj DWDO, Bellary</p> <p>Sri. Ramachandrappa Deputy Director-Horticulture</p> <p>Dr. P.L Gadilingappa Deputy Director, Veterinary Department.</p> <p>Sri. Subhash Manager, Pragathi Grameena Bank, Bellary</p>
Tiruchi	Bijapur
<p>Dr.M.Babu Professor & Head, VUTRC,Tiruchy.</p> <p>Mr.A.Balachandran Senior Manager, Indian Bank, Tiruchy.</p> <p>Dr.M.Marimuthu KVK,Sirugamani.</p> <p>Dr.G.Kathiresan Professor & Head, Cotton Research Stn, Perambalur.</p> <p>Dr.K. A.Jeyakumar Professor & Head, KVK, Vamban, Pudukottai.</p> <p>Mr.K.P. Srinivasan Station Director, All India Radio, Tiruchy</p> <p>Mr.C.Sam Devadoss Assistant Director of Sericulture,Tiruchy.</p> <p>Dr.N.Ramamoorthi Professor & Head, NPRC, Vamban, Pudukottai.</p>	<p>Dr. S. B. Diddimani District Watershed Development Officer, Bijapur</p> <p>Sri. Gururaj Hosur District Lead Bank Manager, Bijapur</p> <p>Dr. S.G. Konapur Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Bijapur</p> <p>Dr. H. M. Hemalatha Professor, Karnataka Mahila University, Bijapur.</p>
Dharmapuri	
<p>Dr. A. K. Mani Professor and Head, RRS, Paiyur</p> <p>Mr. C. Ganesan Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Dharmapuri</p> <p>Dr. S. Venkatesan Professor and Head, TCRS, TNAU, Yethapur</p> <p>Dr. M. Murugan Professor and Head, VUTRC, Gundalpatti</p> <p>Dr. Budhar RRS, Paiyur</p> <p>Dr. Parasuram RRS, Paiyur</p> <p>Dr. Sivakumar KVK, TNAU, Paaparapatti</p>	

Participation in district level events

Besides representatives from formal institutions, the participants included the Eco Network Partners of AMEF, other NGOs and development agencies in the district, representatives of eco farmer groups of AMEF's cluster villages and farmers from other villages and partner NGO villages. Overall, there were about 1616 participants across various events. Women represented 19% of the total participants.



Eco Farmers

After AMEF interventions in our village we are getting sustainable income by adopting SA practices through farmer field school from the last three years.

Mr.Surendra, Mittamalaplli, Madanapalli

I came to know about Azolla from AMEF. AMEF is really helping farmers to help themselves and is standing by the poor farmers always.

Sri.Veerabhadrappa, B.G.Kere, Chitradurga

Today we are doing farming with confidence. This was made possible only by attending the FFS. Now we are in a position to guide other farmers.

Mr.Thirupathi Reddy, Mahabubnagar

In groundnut crop, we are getting better yield due the use of bio-agents, improved cropping systems and this crop diversity is serving both income and food security.

Ms.Rajashri Salotagi, Devaranimbaragi village, Bijapur

I am a proud farmer of the district having received the best Eco farmers award from the UAS, Dharwad by adopting the key tasks of SA promoted by AMEF

Mr.Venkatesh, Raichur

Government Agencies

AMEF should join with the Government, programmes, Institutions, University etc., for covering more areas for sustainable development in dryland agriculture.

Mr.Pankaj Kumar Bansal, IAS- District Collector, Dharmapuri

Scientists are getting the opportunity to meet farmers directly through this kind of meetings organized by AMEF.

Dr.S.Venkatesan, Professor and Head, TCRS, TNAU, Yethapur

AMEF is doing very good work for improving the livelihoods of resource poor farmers. I request AME foundation to collaborate with Veterinary University and Department of Animal Husbandry to promote sustainable livestock production in the entire district.

Dr.G.V.Narasa Reddy, Dean of Student Affairs, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati.

AMEF Foundation is already doing good work on promoting improved varieties. I request you to take it on a large scale. We are also interested to collaborate with AME foundation on Seed production on a large scale through seed village concept.

Dr.K.Sampath Kumar, Senior Scientist, Agriculture Research Station, Kadiri

AMEF is putting in efforts in promoting agriculture sustainability on dry land concentrating on women, small and marginal farmers. Livestock components should be integrated with natural resources management especially in dry land.

Dr.M.Babu, Professor & Head, VUTRC, Tiruchy

I visited AMEF cluster village and found certain practices very relevant to the district like strip cropping, biomass raising on bunds, vemicomposting, Azolla production and seed production.

Mr.A.Hanumanthayya, Joint Director of Agriculture, Raichur

AMEF has so many achievements over 25 years of its good work. This could have been possible only by AMEF and not by any other institution.

Mr.C.Sam Devadoss, Assistant Director of Sericulture, Tiruchy

AMEF is doing service to the farming community based on changing agricultural situations. We look forward to AMEF's support in our future agricultural programme.

Mr.K.P.Srinivasan, Station Director, All India Radio, Tiruchy

I was really surprised by seeing the FFS participants - every one speaks like a young scientist. Another important observation is the confidence level of the participants and their enthusiasm on farming. It really seems to be a miracle.

Sri.P.Ravinder, Project Director, DWMA, Mahabubnagar

AMEF is a link between formal institutions and farmers. I request the support of AMEF and ENPs in the capacity building part in district watershed development.

Dr.S.B.Diddimani, District Watershed Development Officer, Bijapur

Working for the benefit of farmers since 25 years is not an easy task but AMEF has done it. I wish golden jubilee and platinum jubilee for AMEF.

Sri.Balaji Rao, Coordinator, DAATTC, Mahabubnagar

AMEF is doing very good work. Even though we are also doing the same extension work which was difficult but AMEF has gone very close to the farmers life and is successful.

Sri.C.M.Rafi, Training Coordinator, KVK, Hagari, Bellary

Include Animal Husbandry sector in AMEF and there is huge scope for building capacities of farmers and develop Diary based farming system.

Dr.S.G.Konapur, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Bijapur

NGOs and NGO Partners

Through FFS, CRPs capacity was built like agriculture graduates and they are receiving positive feed back regarding their technical content as well as the facilitation skills from the other state visitors.

Ms.G.Sheela, RC Manager, MYRADA, Dharmapuri

I became a master facilitator after attending the season long training by AMEF on FFS and got clear identity in society by serving the poor farmers.

Mr.D.C.Naidu, GVS-T, Tirupati

In only one year of our association, we were able to do better work, learnt a lot about FFS.

Mr.Jadhav, OUTREACH, Bellary

With AMEF collaboration, our staff built competencies to spread the SA practices across our operational areas.

Dr.M.B.Pattanshetty, ISEER, Bijapur

Collaborating with AMEF, I have developed special learning in the field of Agriculture, particularly through FFS.

Mr.Sharane Gouda, Supervisor, PRERANA, Raichur

Financial Institutions

We should be proud to have AMEF in Dharmapuri for its wider approach and experience in dryland agriculture. The LEISA articles are delivering more experiences world wide. As a resource organization, AMEF is having lot of scope in this district.

Mr.C.Ganesan, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Dharmapuri

We are ready to give support to AMEF and requesting them to come with proposals with different mentioned schemes.

Dr.R.Srinath Reddy, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Chittoor

AMEF should be appreciated for carrying on with ecological agriculture, while many of the government schemes could not last for more than five years.

Mr.A.Balachandran, Senior Manager, Indian Bank, Tiruchy.

I visited AMEFs cluster village Minugonapalli and interacted with group members. I felt very happy because they were speaking like technically trained persons

Sri.V.Suresh, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Mahabubnagar

The Unit is doing good work in reaching poor and resource poor farmers of the district.

Sri.Ramanrao, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Mahabubnagar