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1. AME TRANSFORMS INTO AN ORGANISATION

AME came into existence in The Netherlands in 1982, as an innovative, international training program in ecological agriculture, in response to rising environmental concerns. It was one of the early initiatives to bring about the awareness about the limitations of the modern, high external input agriculture and about the need for alternative approaches. Particularly, it highlighted the critical link between agriculture and environment, and the necessity to maintain a balance between them. Considering the importance of the human dimension in maintaining this balance, this training venture got initiated.

This initiative gained popularity and began attracting participants across the world. The range of participants included articulate farmers, NGOs, researchers to government functionaries. The activity was particularly found meaningful to the developing countries with large populations where second generation problems of green revolution have already started. Hence, it was considered desirable that AME be located in a more appropriate ambience as in South Asia. Consequently AME got relocated in India, at Pondicherry in 1986. Thus, AME came to focus on the Indian subcontinent.

Between 1986 to 1990, AME continued its' training efforts in building awareness, helping the course participants to look at agriculture from ecological viewpoint. This opened up their minds and brought about marked shifts in their thinking. At the same time AME established a unique identity, quality and style of its' own, committed to alternative agriculture movement.

Subsequently, between 1990 and 1994, AME moved towards "hands-on" training to make alternative agriculture work in practice. Thus, the process of "Participatory Technology Development" was put into operation to develop LEISA technologies in different locations. Thus, AME came to enter the farmlands.

In 1993-94, the AME program was reviewed, and a long-term perspective was developed. In accordance with this proposal, AME was shifted to Bangalore in 1994 to focus its attention on dry land agriculture in the Deccan Plateau. Thus, AME's mandate came to be broadened from training to "Enhancing the Linkages between the Bio mass Actors" The rationale was that there was a great need for enhancing the institutional collaboration in promoting sustainable agriculture.

During phase IV, between 1996 - 2002, AME project further diversified its' activities with an in house human resource development effort, the new team in AME trained itself in concepts and practices pertaining to sustainable agriculture and ecology, participatory training approaches, LEISA technologies including IPM, INM, NRM, and ICM as well as gender and equity issues.

It is at the end of the Phase IV of this bilateral project, the Steering Committee, chaired by the Joint Secretary, MoA, proposed that the project be transformed into an organization to provide a better continuity than a project. Accordingly, the AME Foundation managed by a Board of Trustees came into operation in April 2002.

Drought, financial constraints and FCRA procedures had crucial impact during the reporting period. In the initial period of six months-from April to September 2002, much of the Foundations' efforts went in securing staff services, dialoguing with partner NGOs to renew and strengthen the collaborations and mobilizing financial resources for its' immediate needs.

2. PROGRAMME THRUST

AME 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. To this extent, 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, CBOs, 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:** AME seeks to mitigate and ameliorate the inequality based on gender, caste and economic status. Thus, AME 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 sensitized 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, AME interacts and strengthens the NGO networks involved in the land-based activities.
5. **Developing institutional linkages:** AME 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 AME. It brings out manuals, guidelines, workshop proceedings, working papers, case studies etc.
7. **LEISA India publication:** AME intends to develop LEISA as a preferred platform for promoting eco-farming alternatives and reach more persons and

institutions interested in sustainable agriculture. AME in collaboration with ILEA strives to enhance the capacities of NGOs and others in documenting and disseminating experiences on sustainable agriculture.

8. **Preparing professionals in LEISA technologies:** AME 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.

3 GEOGRAPHICAL 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 and Raichur in Karnataka, Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh and Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu and AME Foundation's Central Unit, located at Bangalore, is responsible for all programmatic, financial and administrative matters of the organization.

During this year, south west monsoon-2002, July turned out to be the driest across the country ever since 1875 when IMD started maintaining rainfall records (except on two occasions in the past -1911 & 1918-). There was a deficit rainfall of 30% for the country as a whole during July 2002.

In the 3 states where AME is working, the situation was no different. The rainfall deficit during the year in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu was 25%, 37% and 45% respectively. Although, there was considerable recovery in the months of August and September, the kharif agricultural operations were adversely affected as the July rains are crucial to the kharif crops. Because of this, there was an overall considerable loss of sown area and consequently there was production loss in all the 3 states as given below.¹

	Normal sown Area(lakh ha)	Sown area during 2002 (lakh ha)	% of unsown area
Andhra Pradesh	65.00	39.20	39.70
Karnataka	47.80	36.60	23.40
Tamil Nadu	19.30	1.80	90.70

Andhra Pradesh

During the year, Chittoor and Ananthpur districts have been identified as areas affected by serious drought. There were no rains in June and few showers were reported in August and September. There was an acute shortage of drinking water which forced farmers to sell even their cattle. . Government established cattle relief camps at mandal head quarters to



¹ Drought management information from Ministry of Agriculture

meet the fodder and water requirement of cattle to some extent

In Andhra Pradesh, AME worked with 702 farmers covering 6 districts on ICM in groundnut and cotton. Besides this, in association with APRLP, initiated promotion of SA in watersheds covering 5 districts. Of these, 192 farmers supported by 16 NGOs on ICM in groundnut, covering Chittoor and Ananthpur districts and 110 farmers have been identified to work towards farming systems approach.



Recycling of agricultural residues, bund planting, composting/vermi composting have been some of the activities taken up. 406 soil and pod samples were collected to be analysed by ICRISAT, as part of mapping of aflatoxin contamination in Chittoor and Anantapur districts. In association with APCOT partners, AME worked with 510 farmers supported by 5 NGOs in Adilabad, Warangal, R. R. District and Guntur district on ICM in cotton.

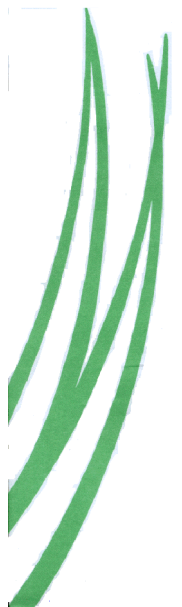
Karnataka

In Karnataka too, many of the interventions were affected by serious drought. Measures were taken up to increase the bio-diversity at the farm level. The progress was inadequate as farmers in the region have lost their crops owing to drought. Fodder was scarce forcing the farmers to sell their livestock, even to slaughter house, never practiced in the past. Though cross breeds are not common, through sale to slaughter houses, the population of indigenous breeds too is vanishing.

Problem of migration became worse during the year. At the labour market at the historic Kandeel Circle in Raichur town, the labourers which include the poor and marginal farmers from the villages wait for the contractors to come for bidding. The men who are willing to prepare themselves to work at the cheapest rate get the job and at critical situations, they work to low wages of Rs. 10-20/day. It is estimated that more than 1.75 lakh persons migrate to Mumbai and Bangalore every year in search of labour from Raichur region alone.

In Karnataka, AME Foundation worked with 639 farmers in Bidar, Bellary, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Koppal and Raichur. Of these, 32 farmers were involved in ICM in groundnut with the support of 2 NGOs in Raichur district. AME Foundation established links with KAWAD and concentrated its effort in Bellary and Chitradurga district covering 420 farmers on ICM in groundnut with a very minimal support from partner NGOs. 91 farmers were assisted by AME in Raichur district with 3 NGOs to develop their lands on farming system approach, wherein the focus was dryland horticulture. ICM in paddy was restricted to one season, covering 24 farmers in association with one NGO. Three FFS programs on ICM in cotton were conducted with the help of one NGO in Raichur district covering 72 farmers supported by FAO. AME also assisted 3 NGO partners of ISPWD-K project supported by SDC-IC

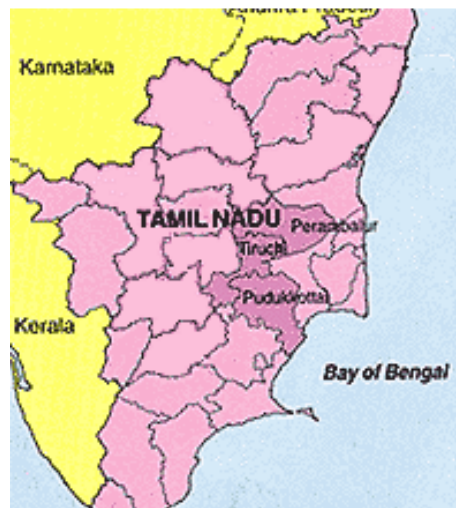
PSMU in conducting FFS on pigeon pea and initiated sustainable agriculture activities in their respective watersheds besides working jointly with an NGO on establishing Grama Gnana Kendras in 2 villages.



Tamil Nadu

Drought was one important factor, which affected the PTD process. After the initial rains, there was a rainless period for more than 45 days. Due to this there was a shift in the cropping pattern. Cotton has been largely replaced by maize and sunflower has been introduced in groundnut based farming systems to manage the drought.

In Tamil Nadu, AME Foundation worked with about 186 farmers in Perambalur, Tiruchi and Pudukottai districts. The programs taken up were mainly on ICM in groundnuts, training of one NGO network on FFS methodology in ICM in cotton and improving the land use pattern with farming systems approach. 41 farmers were covered under groundnut program in association with six NGOs. For the first time, AME successfully completed breeder seed production in groundnut in close collaboration with TNAU, Coimbatore and state seed certifying agency, in a farmers' plot. 48 farmers and 20 NGO staff were trained on ICM in cotton by conducting season long FFS. 97 farmers were helped to improve their land use pattern through farming systems approach in association with four NGOs. Linkage was established with NABARD to form VVV clubs in the area and now it has been made mandatory that all the farmer groups with which AME will be working have to be formed as VVV clubs. NGO staff of LEISA network was trained on SA in watershed, which will be continued during coming years too. Links were initiated with German Agro Action supported by NGO, to introduce SA component, as part of their development strategy. Proposals submitted to FAO on integrating medicinal aromatic and natural dye plants, as art of the farming system and season long training on FFS methodology for ICM in cotton are awaiting approval.

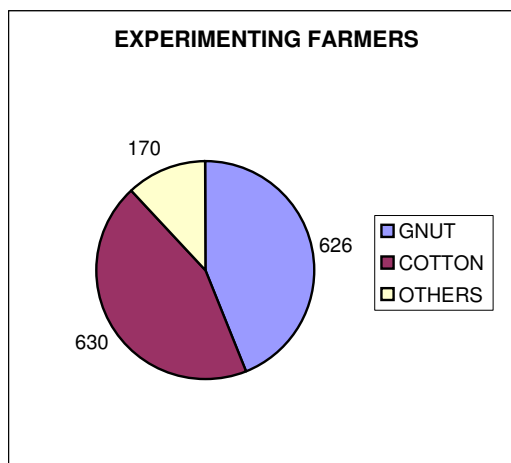


State	Partners/ Networks	Districts	Programme/ Activity
Andhra Pradesh	SAN Network	Chittoor	Groundnut and IFS
	Anantapur Networks (VANA, APPS AND PRADHAN)	Anantapur	Groundnut and IFS
	DPIP	Chittoor	ICM in Groundnut
	APRLP	Mehaboobnagar, Kurnool, Nalgonda, Anantapur and Prakasham	ICM & IFS
	APCOT	Warangal, R.R.Dist, Guntur Adilabad	ICM in Cotton
Karnataka	ISPWD-K	Bidar, Gulbarga	ICM & IFS
	KAWAD	Bellary, Chitradurga	ICM & IFS
	EKATA	Raichur	ICM & IFS
Tamil Nadu	LEISA	Tiruchi	Paddy, Cotton, IFS
	ROOTS	Pudukkottai	Groundnut
	VASANTHAM	Perambalur	Paddy, Cotton, IFS, Groundnut



4. LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

For promoting and improving the livelihoods of small and marginal dry land farmers, AME has been helping them grow the crops they are primarily growing through bringing down cost of cultivation and stabilizing yields. Toward this objective, AME 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 - Groundnuts and Cotton (AP), Cotton, Groundnut and Paddy (TN & Karnataka). Having built up reasonable enthusiasm in the farmers to adopt to these LEISA methodologies, AME is focusing more on promoting techniques and practices towards conservation, management and utilization of natural resources at farm level through Integrated Farming Systems approach, thus shifting its focus from crop based PTD programs towards integrated farming systems, though PTD remains an integral component in IFS development.



AME facilitates networking for wider replication and outreach, Stakeholder Concerted Action for joint action and linkages with various actors to strengthen as well as sustain the process.

4.1 Groundnut based Farming Systems

Groundnuts constitute a major part of the cropped area in the drought prone districts of the Deccan Plateau. Moreover, it is the crop of the under-privileged

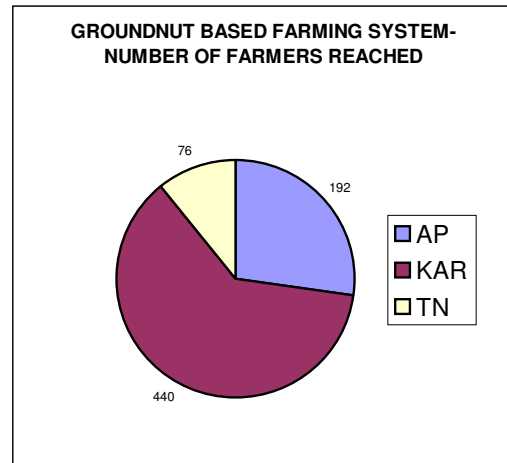
State	Focus of the programme	No. of villages	No. of farmers	No. of NGOs
Andhra Pradesh	OFD on aflatoxin management	6	42	6
	Pods and Soil sample collection	406	455	0
	Integrated Crop Management	6	40	4
Karnataka	Management of leaf-spot and PBND diseases and white-grub pest	2	20	2
Tamilnadu	Breeder seed production in farmers' plot	1	1	1
	Seed multiplication during rabi season	1	1	1
	Integrated crop management	4	41	4
Total		426	600	18

communities.

AME initiated an Orientation workshop to staff of NGOs in Chittoor, Ananthapur region of Andhra Pradesh and Chitradurga & Bellary of Karnataka in Groundnut based farming systems, highlighting LEISA principles, stabilised a package of practices and also emphasised the role of a facilitator. For the first time, breeder's

seed from farmers' field was certified in Tamil Nadu. A case study on the experiences and strategies for participatory breeder seed production was documented. The focus of the programme in three states has been -

- Integrated Crop Management,
- Management of leaf-spot and PBNB diseases and white-grub pest,
- Breeder seed production in farmers' plot,
- Seed multiplication during rabi season,
- OFD on aflatoxin management and pods and soil sample collection for mapping of aflatoxin affected areas,
- Drought management strategies like 2% urea spray, gypsum application and rice gruel spray



The details are given below-

OFD on aflatoxin management- In association with ICRISAT, Patancheru, on farm demonstrations for reducing the aflatoxin contamination were initiated by adopting alternative technologies. A total of 455 pod and soil samples were collected for analysis and mapping of aflatoxin prone areas in Chittoor and Ananthapur districts of Andhra Pradesh.

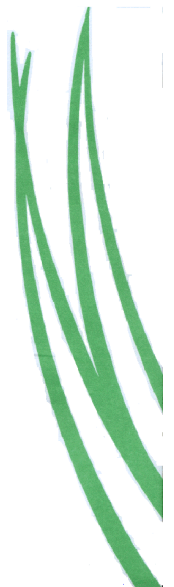
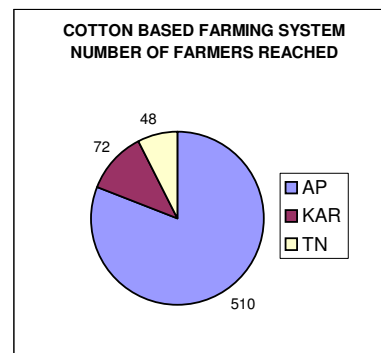
The sixth Annual Groundnut Consultative Workshop was held in collaboration with TNAU, Coimbatore during February 22-23, 2003. The focus of the workshop had been on the varietal trials, breeder seed production, and aflatoxin in groundnut and groundnut based farming system as a whole.

Breeders' Seed Production- For the first time, breeder's seed from a farmers' field was certified. A case study on the experiences and strategies for participatory breeder seed production at farmer level was documented. The sharing of this was done at the National Workshop on Groundnut seed technology organised by UAS, Dharwad at Raichur during February 6-7, 2003.

- Technologies disseminated by AME in groundnut. (Per acre)**
- Seed treatment with Rhizobium (1 kg) and Trichoderma (1/2 kg)
 - Seed treatment with chlorophyriphos (6ml/kg seed) for root grub.
 - Application of 10 cartloads of FYM+ 100 kg of Magnacite+ 1 kg of Phospobacteria + 100 kg of SSP
 - Application of 100 kg of gypsum
 - Border cropping with castor/& bajra.
 - Intercrop with cowpea and pigeon pea. (7:1:7:1)
 - Spraying 5% neem seed kernel extract to control leaf minor.
 - Spraying of 10% cowurine.

4.2 Cotton based Farming Systems

Cotton is another important crop on the Deccan Plateau grown both under rainfed and irrigated conditions. Use of pesticides by farmers to protect this crop is much higher than any other crop.



Emphasis has been laid on reducing the pesticide application and training of NGO staff and farmers on NPM and FFS. The FFS concluded in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh has evoked good response, both in the villages where FFS was conducted and also in the neighbouring villages.

- AME was able to work with as many as 695 cotton farmers during the year through 23 NGOs. About 682 from these (AP-510, KA-75, & TN-97) took part in Integrated Crop Management through FFS.

- Nine case studies have been consolidated in Tamil Nadu and it was found that on an average, farmers were able to get the net returns of Rs. 5400/- per acre per annum. Emphasis was laid on intercropping and trap crops in the cotton based farming system.

- Another initiative taken by one of the farmers' group was 'collective marketing of Cotton' in Tamil Nadu. Collective sale of 20 quintals of cotton gave an additional income of Rs. 100/- per quintal.

Technologies popularised by AME in Cotton (per acre)

- Application of 10 cartloads of FYM+ 1kg of Phosphobacteria
- -Application of well decomposed poultry manure(600-700 kg/acre)
- -Seed treatment with Azetobactor (1 kg) + Trichoderma(1/2 kg)
- -Border cropping with bhendi/marigold
- -Intercropping with blackgram
- -Spraying of 10% neem seed kernel extract or Neem oil
- -Spraying of Chilly+Garlic extract
- -Spraying of custard apple seed extract
- -Spraying of 10% of cow urine
- -Use of NPV,

- Rabi seed production has been initiated on a small scale with five farmers.

State	Focus of the programme	No. of villages	No. of farmers	No. of NGOs
Andhra Pradesh	Integrated crop management thru FFS	17	510	5
Karnataka	Integrated crop management through FFS	3	75	1
Tamil Nadu	Training of Vasantham NGO network	1	10	10
	Seed multiplication during rabi season	1	3	3
	Integrated crop management through FFS	6	97	4

Five proven varieties (Sumangala, Anjali, Surabhi, RACH 11 and MCU 12) have been taken up for seed multiplication in Tamil Nadu.

- Five cotton PTDF farmer groups have been registered under VVV club scheme of NABARD with active facilitation from AME Foundation and VASANTHAM network to obtain the benefits in the coming seasons.

4.3 Paddy based Farming System

Of late, pesticide usage and excessive dosages of chemical fertilisers in paddy has increased considerably. Awareness created by DoA and non-acceptance of rice with higher pesticide

Technologies popularised in Paddy (per acre)

- Application of FYM (10-15 cartloads)
- -Use of green leaf manuring
- -In situ green manuring Sunhemp, Dhaicha, *Pili pesaru*(wild species of green gram)
- -Use of azospirillum (1 kg)
- -Spray of cow urine



residue, the farmers are trying out alternative ways.

- AME Foundation strengthened further the work that was initiated during the earlier phase and planned to take up Integrated Crop Management in Paddy in the TBP Canal Command area in Raichur district of Karnataka.
- Trials on System on Rice Intensification (SRI) have been initiated with 2 farmers in Tiruchi area focussing on water and nutrient management and direct sowing technique. Since this is a new initiative, farmers and NGO staff need to be oriented.

4.4 Dry land Horticulture Based Farming System

Dry land Horticulture Programme (DLH) was taken up with 2NGOs namely Grameena Sadhana and Pavitra Hridaya Samaj in 4 villages of Raichur. Orientation training was conducted to the NGO staff as well as farmers. The field layouts, digging of pits and filling pits with green leaves/manure were done much before the monsoon. The horticulture trees selected are mango, sapota, lemon, guava and tamarind. The programme in the first year was successful to a limited extent, as the region did not receive adequate rainfall.

4.5 Integrated Farming System

- IFS programme initiatives were taken up to increase the bio-diversity at the farm level through the promotion of bund planting.
- Trainings were conducted on composting, vermi-composting and nursery raising. Saplings from local forest nurseries and horticulture nurseries were mobilised on a small scale.

Technologies spread under integrated farming system

- Bunding and bund planting with Glyricidea, Cassia sps
- -Methods of composting and vermi-composting
- -Farm ponds
- -Summer ploughing across the slope

- In situ production of biomass and processing was done in few cases, where the rainfall was comparatively better. The field level planning for biomass production and recycling of the crop residues is being implemented.

4.6 Gender and Social Concerns

Gender and social organisation are integral to all the programmes and are 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. Training was conducted for SAN Network NGOs especially on gender field mapping and workload analysis in a model farm belonging to an innovative farmer, Mr. Narayan Reddy of Doddaballapur. The participants were oriented to understand the importance of human and agriculture cycle in analysing the workload of farm families.

Training on social mobilisation was conducted during August & September with 5 NGOs in AME-M area. Some farmer groups were exposed to SHG concept. Formats were prepared to collect the present status of new SHGs as well as to



evaluate the performance of old SHGs. One performance evaluation was conducted, later audited by a Chartered Accountant.

5. TRAINING

AME being primarily a resource organisation, lays lot of 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. Such training includes season long training at field level through FFS approach, specific training inputs on gender and social organisation, and Training of Trainers (ToT).

During the reporting period, apart from the season long PTD and FFS, short duration trainings were organized with NGOs and others which have been listed below. The participants included farmers, NGO staff and Government Officials.

Livestock Research Station at Palamaner, Chittoor District has offered to work with AME Foundation especially to integrate livestock component into IFS program. Training of farmers and NGO staff and collaborative on farm research for fodder production are some of the areas. They would associate with AME Foundation from the ensuing season.

Sl. No	Topics covered	No. of Trainings	No. Of Participants
1.	FFS (which included TOT on advanced FFS, concept & skills etc)	16	382
2.	Gender in Agriculture	4	54
3.	Social mobilisation(Training on SHG, Community organisation etc)	7	156
4.	Miscellaneous(Data entry Trg,organic farming & sustainable agriculture, project planning etc)	19	456

6 NETWORKING AND LINKAGES

Good rapport has been built up with a wide range of NGOs in the three states, with the common objective of addressing the farm problems of the rural poor. The NGO networks, namely VANA, APPS and PRADAN networks in Anantapur, SA network in Chittoor, VASANTAM, IVI, LEISA and ROOTS networks in Tamil Nadu, and EKATA network in Raichur, were strengthened further through regular meetings. AME is intending to expand this networking activity to areas contiguous to its present operational areas.

During the reporting period, the linkages with DDS, Hyderabad, TNAU, Coimbatore, UAS, Dharwad, ETC Foundation-NL, NRI-UK, resulted in organising the following workshops.

On behalf of DDS, Hyderabad, along with Green Foundation, Bangalore, Hithalagida, Bangalore, ICRA, Bangalore and others, AME Foundation co-hosted a dialogue on organic farming experiences between Canadian farmers and Indian

farmers, policy makers, researchers (on February 15, 2003 in Bangalore). There was a good response to the day long consultation and certain resolutions were passed to strengthen organic farming initiatives in India. This was one of the consultative dialogues held by Canadian farmers in India, hosted by DDS, Hyderabad.

In association with TNAU, Coimbatore a two day consultative workshop on groundnuts was organised during February 22-23, 2003 and on organic farming on 24.2.2003. Successful production of breeder seed in groundnuts at farmer's level was appreciated. Aflatoxin in groundnuts, varietal trials, seed production were discussed. Horticultural crops and medicinal plants for dry lands were discussed as an alternative to be tried in some parts. The importance of inter-crops like cowpea, various scientists under groundnut based cropping system brought out pigeon pea. One woman farmer shared her experience about use of organic matter, bio-fertilisers and inter crops and their importance in groundnut cropping system. One male farmer shared his experience of breeder seed production and the interest generated among the neighbouring farmers. TNAU has agreed in principle to associate with AME Foundation to validate their new eco-friendly technologies and new varieties of dry land crops in farmers' field conditions.

Interactive workshop on Integrated Farming System in Deccan Plateau was organised during March 5th to 6th 2003 in association with, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Discussions on resource management, importance of organic matter, fodder and livestock production, drought mitigation strategies, gender concerns in farming systems, marketing and credit in IFS were held. A few farmers shared their experiences especially on building up organic matter and recycling crop residues and biodegradable wastes and their role in nutrient and water management. UAS, Dharwad re-iterated its support for collaborative activities in Bellary, Raichur and Gulbarga districts for dry land

Workshops conducted/ facilitated by AME

Sl. No	Event / Training	In Association with	date
1.	Input Supply Workshop	AME-T	July 17, 2002
2	Integrated Farming for sustainability	SAN Network	February 7-8, 2002
3.	Hosting dialogue between Canadian Farmers and Indian Farmers and Policy makers	DDS-Hyderabad, Hittalagida, ICRA & Green Foundation .	February 15 2003
4	Consultative workshop on Ground nut	TNAU, Coimbatore	February 22-23, 2003
5.	Workshop on Organic Farming	TNAU, Coimbatore	February 24, 2003
6.	Interactive Workshop on IFS in Deccan Plateau	UAS, Dharwad	March 5 -6, 2003
7	Intersard Asia Consultative workshop	ETC Foundation	March 18-22, 2003
8.	Best practices for sustainable NGO/CBO agricultural marketing initiatives	NRI-UK, Cirrus Management Services Ltd, Bangalore	March 27-28, 2003

improvement programmes.

An international workshop - Intersard Asia consultative workshop was organized during March 18-25, 2003 on web based information sharing on best practices of farmers. AME Foundation has been identified as one of the regional hubs for South Asia. Participating institutions included PROSHIKA, Bangladesh, Nepal Permaculture Group, BAIF, MYRADA, LEISA Network and international partners of INTERSARD Consortium. The workshop explored the possibilities for using a common web-based platform for sharing experiences on best practices in sustainable agriculture, NRM and rural development.

A workshop on "Best practices for Sustainable NGO/CBO agricultural marketing initiatives" was held at Bangalore in association with Natural Resources Institute (NRI), UK and Cirrus Management Services Ltd., (CMS) Bangalore during March 27-28, 2003. The outcome of a similar workshop held in Uganda recently was shared at the outset. Indian economic and marketing scenario was presented later. CMS and AME Foundation presented case studies on the marketing initiatives practiced by some of the NGOs and CBOs in southern India. Potentials for marketing of organic products, organic certification, skill development of farmers for value addition, collective marketing, scaling up the present initiatives etc. were also discussed. NGOs were inclined to promote marketing of organic products locally and internationally. This helped AME Foundation to gain insights on issues and interventions related to agricultural marketing by NGOs and also to integrate the marketing intervention options in farming system development.

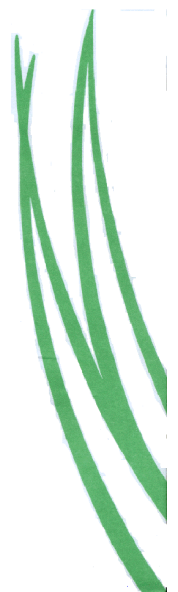
7. LEISA-INDIA

AME has been producing a quarterly magazine LEISA INDIA in collaboration with ILEIA-Netherlands. Because of the paucity of funds, production schedule of these magazines was seriously hampered. However, with opening up of new avenues of funding, the following 2 issues (June & Sept, 2001) were published during the reporting time.

- 'Go global or stay local' - The articles herein covered that how the small farmers have great difficulties in being competitive in global market and in what way endogenous development of local economies can be beneficial for farming communities as well as for the local environment. The cost of printing and distribution were supported by NOVIB through MYRADA.
- 'Lessons in scaling up' -. This issue of LEISA Magazine is on 'lessons in scaling up of LEISA research and development programmes, to bring more benefits to more people, more quickly, more equitably and more lastingly'. This includes successful case studies and articles by renowned persons. The issue would be of special interest to planners, managers and trainers of research and development programmes. The production and distribution of this Indian edition was supported by IDRC, Canada

8. HUMAN RESOURCES

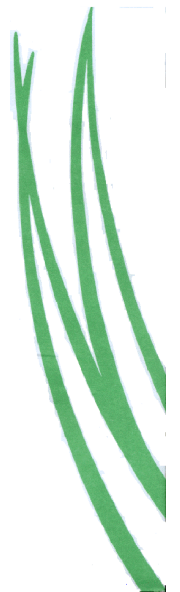
AME Foundation operates at two levels,- the Area Units in the field and a Central Unit to support the programmes. AME provides services to NGOs and other



organisations on aspects like sustainable agriculture, IPM and INM. The staff position as on 31.03.2003 is provided in annexure II. Besides, Consultants' services were hired for organising groundnut consultative workshop, IFS workshop, and selection of candidates for AME Foundation, developing ICRA field study proposal and IFS gender field study.

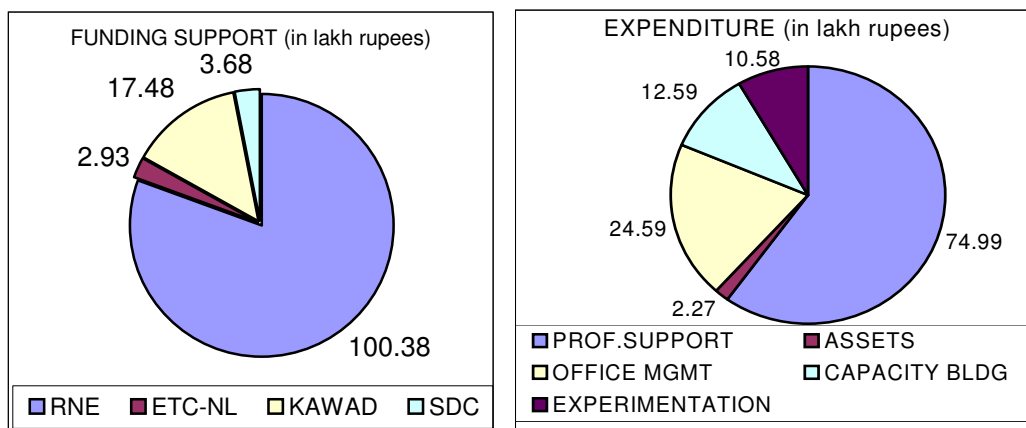
AME considers it critically important that the professionals keep continuously abreast of the developments in their specialisation, as well as in social methods and management. For this purpose, in-house updating opportunities are provided by way of workshops and retreats. Also in country / foreign deputation are made to renowned institutions.

- An internal workshop was held during November 26-28, 2002 to refresh the understanding of the concepts like IFS, ICM and approaches like PTD, FFS, and GISA. Attention was also paid to different participatory training techniques and reporting also.
- Mr. M.A. Ashwin has attended ICRA's Anglophone programme – Jan to July 2003 on "Agricultural Research for Development" at Wageningen, the Netherlands. A field study on "Bio-mass production and rural livelihoods improvement", proposed to ICRA has been accepted.
- Mr. Daniel Anand Raj was deputed to FAO, Rome, Italy for six weeks as visiting expert to prepare an overview on "Good agricultural practices for cotton production"



9. SOURCES OF FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

Royal Netherlands Embassy offered major support to ensure continuity to the programmes of AME. ETC-Netherlands, KAWAD and SDC also offered support to AME Foundation. The contributions received from different donors and the expenditure incurred during the reporting period is depicted below.



During this period, AME Foundation ensured additional financing support for some of its programmes from other donors. This effort resulted in the following projects.

LEISA India: AME Foundation and ILEIA Foundation, The Netherlands have entered into a four years collaboration to produce and distribute the Indian edition of the LEISA magazine on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture on a quarterly basis. The project will be in force from January 2003 till December 2006. The activities include planning and implementing LEISA India programme, production of current issues of the magazine.

AME has entered into a collaboration with IDRC, New Delhi for strengthening information sharing on sustainable agriculture. The activities include bringing out

Four pending issues of LEISA India and supporting the development of website of AME Foundation.

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 Nation 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 has been associated with KAWAD Project in its' endeavour in strengthening of sustainable agriculture component in two of their watersheds namely Chinnahagari and Upparahala in Chitradurga and Bellary districts respectively.

SDC-IC Project: Activities with three ISPWD-K partners in Bidar, Gulbarga and Koppal districts on integrating sustainable agriculture activities in the watersheds during the reporting period. The support to NGO partners included facilitating them to conduct FFS in pigeon pea and initiate IFS activities.

APRLP: AME Foundation is involved in the Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (APRLP), Hyderabad to strengthen agriculture related rural livelihood options among farmers, so as to improve the income and food security of the households, with due emphasis on poorer sections in Ananthpur, Kurnool, Mehaboobnagar, Nalagonda and Prakasham districts.