

# ASSEFA

2014-15

*Dedicated to Rural Services since 1968*



## A STEP AHEAD

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

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## 1. Preamble

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### *Pioneering and a step ahead in development sector*

Having started in 1968, ASSEFA has completed forty seven years of services to the poor and vulnerable families in rural India. Though, it was started with the noble mission of developing barren lands distributed under "Bhoodan Movement", ASSEFA gradually changed its approach and diversified its programs to support the entire communities.

ASSEFA is one of the pioneering development organizations in India that has successfully experimented and innovated many programs for replications Viz., gram Sabha introduced in the late 70's, Micro-credit and women self help groups in the early 80's, activity based learning like agriculture, dairy and Goat rearing in schools, rural market yards, Dairy development programmes with milk processing units in 80's and community marriages.

All these development programs have been replicated by other organizations including Government of Tamil nadu on a large scale. The key to this success is working closely with the people, which helps us to understand their problems and design suitable programs based on their concurrence and fullest participation

In the era of globalization, rapid changes are happening including in the villages. Subsequently, the needs of the people are also changing. Hence, there is a necessity to understand their requirements and design programs taking into account opportunities available in the area.

ASSEFA has piloted new initiatives in addition to other development programs during the year. These include the wheel of LIAG (integrating **L**ivestock with soil and water for **A**griculture development) and the center for farmers' renaissance to enhance the income of the farmers as well as to minimize their risks in earnings in the farming sector.

Similarly, ASSEFA has introduced a program to provide Purified drinking water to the local communities, as the drinking water is becoming a major challenge in Tamil Nadu in the recent years. It had also launched the rural toilet program to provide safety and dignity to the rural folks.

Programs such as farmers renaissance scheme, seethanam (heifer calf program) and community marriages were expanded subsequently as the responses from the communities were very positive. Other development initiatives such as dairy based livelihoods, tailoring for unemployed ladies, community health and rural education were continued to serve the poor and downtrodden people in a better manner.

## 2. The Wheel of LIAG (Integrating Livestock with soil, land and water for Agriculture development):

*A Way to help the farmers with A to Z in the farming sector*



Agriculture is the primary occupation in rural Tamil Nadu. The livelihoods of many people are dependent upon farming and livestock activities. In the recent years, farmers are faced with challenges in continuing agriculture on a viable basis. These made the farmers to migrate to the nearby cities for alternative livelihoods leaving the land fallow or sell them.

ASSEFA has been addressing these issues of the farmers through “Farmers Renaissance Scheme” since 2008. Under this programme, progressive farmers are identified and they act as a change agent in capacity building and extension services. They are empowered with knowledge and skills in integrated farming techniques/operations by experts from the govt. department, agricultural university etc. They encouraged the neighboring farmers in their area and bring them into the programme fold.

Initially, this programme was introduced in Sivagangai area on a pilot scale. The positive responses from the farmers made us to expand this scheme to other areas. Recently, it was introduced in one of the backward areas, Cheyyur, in Villupuram district.

At present, the programme is implemented in nineteen areas across five districts in Tamil Nadu benefiting 10,872 enrolled farmers. During this year alone, 2,173 farmers were enrolled and received necessary assistances in respect of agriculture farming.

Increase in human population brings about an increase in demand on natural resources especially more land & water. There was increase in consumption of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides which made the farming somewhat economically unattractive for the majority of the farmers.

As a mitigating measure, ASSEFA advocated the concept of LIAG i.e., integrating livestock with soil, land and water for agriculture production to help the small and marginal farmers. It helps to optimize the benefits of resources available to the farm family viz., land, water, soil fertility etc.



It involves crop-livestock integrated farming with multiple objectives of achieving better utilization of available resources for obtaining maximum returns by integrating crop component with livestock viz., dairy and goat unit, to recycle farm and livestock wastes effectively and providing gainful employment throughout the year and to assure stability in production and return

Accordingly, the farmers were encouraged to take up integrated farming practices. As part of it, the farmers were supported with cattle wealth also. The increase in cattle wealth



means the farmers can practice natural farming. This helps the farmers to cut down the budget for crop inputs.

In addition to support to production, ASSEFA has demonstrated that the farmers could gain more if their produces are sold as value added products without depending upon the middlemen.



This was piloted in Chithamur area where paddy and groundnut are grown by many farmers. ASSEFA procured 5 tons of paddy and converted into rice. The rice was packed in 25 kgs bag and marketed under the brand name of "SEVA", which is known to the local public due to marketing of milk and by-products.

The intervention has demonstrated that the farmers could gain nearly 30% more profits than by selling paddy. Similarly, 500 kgs of ORGANIC RICE was also marketed on pilot basis, which was well received by the local consumers.

ASSEFA has planned to introduce the same program in two blocks, selecting 100 small and marginal farmers, in each. The farmers will be assisted with the missing links to practice integrated farming and will be supported in marketing the produce, especially paddy and groundnut.

### 3. Centre for Farmers Renaissance

*A platform to build up self confidence of the farmers in Agri. related sector...*



A "Center for Farmers Renaissance" was established across 20 acres of land at Pooriyampakkam village in Villupuram district on a pilot scale. The purpose of this center is to closely work with the farmers to mitigate their problems in respect of integrated farming practices.

Based on the need assessment, the centre provided the following services:

- Assessment of soil and water samples through AGRI CLINIC to recommend cultivation of suitable crops.
- Handholding training in productivity enhancement of major crops.
- Demonstrative center for organic cultivation of paddy and groundnut, the major crops grown in this area.
- Guidance and support to horticulture farming (mango and coconut).
- Demonstrative units for model "Goat Farming", "Heifer calves rearing" and "Country Chicken".

In addition to the above, the farmers were supported with the supply of hybrid goats from its breeding centre, heifer calves and country chickens. Presently, the Centre has about 100 goats, 7 milch animals and 12 heifer calves and nearly 50 country chicken & turkey birds.

Based on the experiences gained, it is proposed to start similar centers at T Kallupatti, Sivakasi, Sethur, Neerpair, Keelavaneri, Mudukankulam and Kalligudi to support small and marginal farmers in taking up integrated farming practices.

#### 4. Watershed Development

*A technique to enrich the sources for groundwater...*



ASSEFA in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency (TNWDA) implementing watershed development programme in semi arid areas. The purpose is to bring the barren land under cultivation by enriching the ground water.

In Tamil Nadu, watershed programmes have been implemented in six locations in two districts – **Sivagangai** and **Madurai** treating **6,101 ha** of lands to benefit **3,324 families**.

The details of the watershed programmes as follows.

Watershed project	District	Villages	Lands in (ha)	Families
• Kanyankulam	Sivagangai	6	862	360
• Kandani	Sivagangai	5	1284	425
• Uruli	Sivagangai	5	886	364
• Peikulam	Madurai	2	962	629
• Chinnapoolampatti	Madurai	6	1267	675
• Chithalai	Madurai	5	840	871
• <b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>6,101</b>	<b>3,324</b>

These programmes were started in different period and with the watershed programmes in Sivagangai already completed. In other areas, full implementation phase is under progress.



The assessment of the tangible benefits in the completed programs reveals the following:

- ✓ Fallow lands brought under use for agricultural purposes.
- ✓ Agricultural activities increased due to improvement of groundwater.
- ✓ Increased practice of tree and Irrigated Dry crops cultivation
- ✓ Reduction in soil erosion
- ✓ Improvement in cattle wealth population
- ✓ Income from both agriculture and cattle wealth and
- ✓ Strong active watershed development Committee to take this initiative forward



Although, tangible benefits are observed in the field, the team also faces the challenges such as farmers selling their lands for other purposes, labour problems due to Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), increase in labour cost, etc. This affects the progress of the on-going programmes, as the implementing cost works out to be more than the budget.

## 5. Green to Greener

*A reverence to Mother Environment...*



The new concept of distributing tree saplings among the members of the Farmers Renaissance Scheme was introduced on a pilot scale. The purpose of this programme is to

- ✓ Promote kitchen gardening and
- ✓ Make green to greener environment

Saplings having medicinal value were selected for distribution. This included Thuthuvalai, a herbal plant good for cold, gooseberry and lemon. This program was initiated in Kariyapatti area and supported 278 families.

## 6. Livestock Promotion

*An asset for girl children...*



This programme has been implemented for the last couple of years on pilot scale to provide economic security for the girl children. Recently, it has been expanded in other areas due to its impact created among the target families.

The purpose of this programme is to support the poor families having girl child, preferably aged less than 16 years old, with heifer calf. This idea was evolved so as to elevate the value and importance of girls in the eyes of the families and overcome the existing belief that the girl children are financial burden.

By developing a bond between the girl and the calf, the animal could become friend and pet that she learns to care for. This will also help to prevent the families from selling the animal due to sentimental attachment between the girl and the animal. When the animal is ready for milk production, the girl will be grown up.

The girl will keep the animal and takes it with her into adult life. The income from the animals by way of selling milk will be useful for the girls in terms of continuing higher education, savings for her marriage investment, etc.

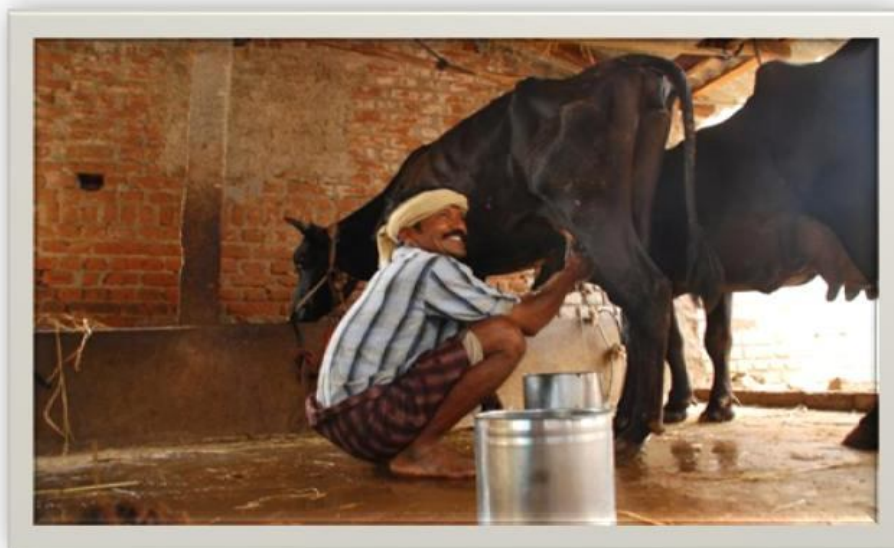
Zonal wise support under Heifer Program		
S. No	Name of Zone	Beneficiaries
1	Melmaruvathur	256
2	Natham	111
3	Thirumangalam	94
4	Thirumangalam	33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>494</b>

Accordingly, each family was provided with Rs 6,000 to buy a heifer calf. The family was also encouraged to invest additionally few thousands to buy a better calf. A good cow will yield upto 2,500 litres per lactation cycle. This helps the families to earn around Rs. 60,000 per cycle as the cost of milk ranges between Rs. 23 and 25 per litre. Moreover, these milk producers are linked with ASSEFA promoted Dairy plants, Bulk Milk Cooling Units in disposing the surplus milk production.

As on 31st March 2015, 494 families having girl children were assisted under this program.

## 7. Dairy

*For sustainable livelihoods...*



Dairying is an integral and interwoven part of the diversified system of agriculture practiced by small and marginal farmers. Besides its highly labour intensity, it provides tremendous energy for agricultural operations, fertilizer value to land, fuel value to the rural masses, and essential value in the form of milk and milk products.

ASSEFA continued to support the small, marginal farmers and landless class with the dairy enterprise with the objective of increasing their income. Accordingly, the interested farmers, particularly women, are brought under dairy groups. Depending upon the needs, the following assistances were provided through these groups.

- ✓ Handholding training on animal husbandry and clean milk production.
- ✓ Arrange financial supports to buy animals as well as maintenance of existing animals.
- ✓ Extension services – veterinary care, Artificial insemination...
- ✓ Linkages to dispose the surplus milk at competitive price.

During the reporting period, Rs. 42.4 million worth of financial support were provided to 2081 farmers in purchase of cross-bred milch animals and for maintaining the existing cows. Further, 24 veterinary camps were organized with professionally qualified team in the deserving areas to benefit 5078 animals. For disposing the surplus milk, over 20,000 milk producers were linked to ASSEFA promoted Milk processing plant and bulk cooling units.



## 8. Life Skills for Adult Girls

*A confidence building initiative for adult girls...*



Tailoring programme was initiated to support the adult girls and women on a pilot scale in the mid 2000. The girls who cannot continue higher education and ladies interested in stitching were identified and given three months training, in stitching garments for children and women, under the guidance of the trained masters.

At the end of the training, these trainees were given upgraded sewing machines at competitive price by linking them with, "USHA International", a reputed manufacturing company for home appliances via Sarva Seva Gramodhyog Samithi.

These people after the training, engage themselves in stitching dresses for others and themselves. During festival session, they get more work, as the demand for stitching is high. The people also, after the training, get employed in garment companies, especially in Virudhunagar and Thirupur areas.

Though, it was started on a pilot scale, due to overwhelming responses from the people, the program was expanded. Presently, the programme was implemented in forty two blocks in Tamil Nadu benefiting 1,226 persons.

Zonal wise support under Tailoring Program		
S. No	Name of Zone	Beneficiaries
1	Melmaruvathur	282
2	Natham	269
3	Thirumangalam	151
4	Sivagangai	150
5	Pondicherry	109
6	Tindivanam	106
7	Sankarapuram	78
8	Arni	65
9	Kallakuruchi	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,226</b>



## 9. Safe Drinking Water

*To eradicate water borne diseases...*



Clean and safe drinking water is one of the essential elements needed for human beings to lead a normal healthy life. In India, according to the National Sample Survey report, more than 50 households do not have access to safe drinking water. People, especially women and children spend most of their time in collecting water for drinking purposes.

Some of the water sources are extremely hard due presence of excess Magnesium and calcium which makes them not palatable.

The lack of access to clean water results in water-borne diseases such as typhoid, diarrhea, worm infestations, cholera, gastroenteritis and hepatitis. Many diseases arise due to contaminations of water for daily use.

Some studies in India show that

- ✓ About 3.7million Indians are affected by water-borne diseases annually, of which over 80% are due to diarrhea.
- ✓ 1.5 million children are estimated to die due to diarrhea alone every year and
- ✓ 73 million workers day are lost due to waterborne diseases each year.

ASSEFA in collaboration with TATA, the technology provider has planned set up Reverse Osmosis water enterprise system in 100 locations to provide processed drinking water to nearly 50,000 families in Tamil Nadu within a span of three years period.

On a pilot phase, this RO Water enterprises system was initiated in ten locations. TATA, the technology provider assisted in training the local youth identified by ASSEFA for running the RO water plant. This type of an initiative not only solves the problem of providing safe drinking water but is also a source of employment for the village youth.

The operation and maintenance of water purification system and delivery was given to the Women Mutual Benefit Trusts and ASSEFA promoted Schools.

STATUS REPORT OF THE RO PLANT					
S. No	Name of the Place	Operated by	Under operation since	Process per month - liters	Regular Users - families
1	Thonugal	Education Trust	Mar-15	48,500	162
2	Kalligudi	Women Mutual Benefit Trust	Mar-15	15,850	53
3	Kottampatti	Women Mutual Benefit Trust	Mar-15	68,600	229
4	Nathampatti	Women Mutual Benefit Trust	Mar-15	48,400	161
5	Poosaripatti	Education Trust	Mar-15	13,050	44
6	Sethur	Women Mutual Benefit Trust	Mar-15	Test Running	
7	Idayapatti	Dairy Company	Feb-15	Test Running	
8	Avarampatti	Women Mutual Benefit Trust	Mar-15	Test Running	
9	Pooriyampakkam	Education Trust	Mar-15	36,388	121
10	Gingee	Education Trust	Jun-15	42,500	146

The experiences so far indicate that

- ✓ The local people made aware on the importance of purified drinking water.
- ✓ The water taken by the local is used judiciously.
- ✓ Local community takes drinking water at the cheapest rate
- ✓ No need to store for days together as they can come and take on daily basis
- ✓ Some needed delivery at their door steps and
- ✓ Disturbances are being created temporarily by the vested interest in few places.

It is proposed to erect and commission another RO plants in twenty five locations.

## 10. Toilet for Rural Population

*To ensure safety & dignity of the women...*



Lack of toilet facilities in the villages is a major setback, especially for women. They need to fulfill the nature call before dawn. However, it has the danger of women being bitten up by the poisonous snakes or insects as well as sexual exploitation by bad elements.

As part of addressing this problem, ASSEFA initiated "Rural Toilet Program". Initially, awareness is created among the local communities on the importance of having toilet. Subsequently, the interested families are assisted in constructing low cost toilets.

This program was implemented in Thirunavallur and Pannikadu areas on pilot basis. During the reporting period, seventy three families were assisted in toilet program. Next year, we propose to support 1,000 families in constructing the toilets directly as well as through our associated organizations.

In addition, supports were arranged with Seva Habitat Company to help 2,630 families in improvement of their dwelling places such as replacement of roofing, flooring, electric wiring, plastering, kitchen slabs, etc.

## 11. Community Health

*To enable disease free life...*



The various reports on health status in India reveals that the health conditions of the women and children are vulnerable, especially in rural India. Though, various reasons are cited, the foremost cause is the lack of awareness and negligence

In the integrated development approach, ASSEFA has been giving much importance to the community health care services especially to the women and children directly as well as in collaboration with likeminded organizations.

**A) Maternal Child Health Services:** ASSEFA has been involved in providing health care services especially MCH, in the coastal areas of Marakkanam, Cuddalore, Pondicherry and Karaikal since the tragedy of Tsunami in 2004. Presently, a team of 77 members including volunteers headed by an experienced lady physician has been providing these services including in Gingee, a backward area located in Villupuram district.

The target families are mostly from fishing communities, Agricultural families & daily wage earners and the status of the health among women and children was not satisfactory. Many of them suffer from anemia especially Adolescent girls, Pregnant women and Post-natal mothers. Hence, these communities were offered the following services under comprehensive Maternal Child Health (MCH) during the reporting period.

- Training to 724 women of SHGs on reproductive sex
- ANC services were offered to 256 pregnant ladies and PNC services to 472 young mothers.
- To ensure maintenance of hygiene among new born, baby kits were given to 472 young mothers..

- Supplied nutritive mix to 3,526 pregnant ladies, young mother & school children and their parents.
- Blood and urine tests were conducted for 678 diabetic prone ladies, of which 42 persons were referred to the nearby hospitals.
- Awareness camps conducted to benefit 226 adolescent girls about personal hygiene, Human anatomy, Anemia, food and nutrition, child rights and physiology
- Supported 6,821 families to promote kitchen gardening as supplementary nutrition.



**B) School Health Services:** ASSEFA runs regular schools benefiting more than 15,000 children. As part of protecting the children health, the following services were offered during the reporting period. The services include

- **Personal Hygiene:** The concept of Kutty doctor is introduced to create awareness on personal hygiene among their colleagues. The selected children are trained in personal hygiene and basic health care. They are honored with title, “Kutty doctor, after the training, and assigned the task to maintain personal hygiene among their classmates. As on March 31, 2015, 381 students were trained as Kutty doctors.
- **Supplementary Nutrition:** As part of addressing malnourishment, mid-day meals are being supplied to the students. This is offered in schools, especially approved by the govt for the supply of free meals. About 4,160 students were covered under supplementary nutrition.



- **Health Checkup:** This is carried out every year with the support of qualified and experienced physicians. In case of minor problem, the children are treated directly and the parents are advised to take care of their wards accordingly. They were referred to nearby hospitals for specific problems. 6,819 students were covered under this check up.

- C) Wage Loss Compensation:** This is provided to the pregnant ladies during their last trimester of delivery. The doctors also advise them to take healthy foods during these periods.

In addition, they are advised to take regular Ante Natal Care services and delivery at the hospitals. This helps to reduce morbidity and mortality of both mother and young ones.

Zonal wise support under Wage loss compensation		
S. No	Name of Zone	Beneficiaries
1	Melmaruvathur	119
2	Tindivanam	99
3	Arni	60
4	Sankarapuram	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>

As on March 31, 2015, 293 members were provided with wage loss compensation.

- D) Health Camps:** The Mutual Benefit Trusts are encouraged to organise health camps in collaboration with nearby govt / charitable hospitals to benefit the families of SHG members. They are mostly conducted at free of cost. During the reporting period, two kinds of health camps were conducted. .

S. No	Name of Zone	General	Eye
		Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
1	Sankarapuram	2691	-
2	Thirumangalam	1096	920
3	Arni	890	235
4	Pondicherry	785	-
5	Melmaruvathur	75	956
6	Tindivanam	-	446
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,537</b>	<b>2,557</b>

- **General Health Camps** are conducted with general physicians to check for any specific health problem. In case of minor problems, treatment is provided and other cases were referred to the nearby hospital. During the reporting period, 5,537 persons were benefited under general health camps.
- **Eye Camps** are conducted in collaboration with Aravind, Sankaranithralaya, Agarwal Eye hospitals at free of cost. The members with eye defects and eye related problems were brought to the camps and test conducted by ophthalmologists. Cataract persons were provided with intraocular lens to correct the defective vision. During the reporting period, 2,557 persons were covered under eye camps, of which 237 patients were treated for cataract problems at free of cost.

## 12. Community Mass Wedding

*For a social change...*



Community marriage is introduced to address the social problems of dowry and lavish spending, which put them life-long loan burden. The simple and inexpensive, but a dignified marriage brings the blessings and goodwill of the whole community.

Zonal wise support under Community Marriages (2014-15)		
S. No	Name of Zone	Beneficiaries
1	Sankarapuram	166
2	Melmaruvathur	21
3	Tindivanam	21
4	Kallakuruchi	16
5	Pondicherry	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>

Thus, ASSEFA encourages women self help groups to organize Community Marriages to promote communal harmony and inter-religious amity in rural areas. Community marriages are organized in such a manner that the marriages of different religious faiths take place simultaneously – embodies mutual respect for other religion and to ensure inter-religious amity and communal harmony.

In areas, where communal violence is prevalent, the community marriages help to bring people closer to each other for a better understanding of various issues.

This year also, community marriages were received special significance with women groups in various projects which had successfully conducted community marriages earlier. As on March 31, 2015, a total 1933 couples from Hindus, Muslims and Christians, from economically weaker sections of the community had been benefited. During the reporting period alone, 235 couples were benefited.

### 13. Rural Education

*Holistic development of a child...*



ASSEFA has been into education sector for the last thirty seven years. Education, one of the priority programmes of ASSEFA, is offered to the rural children by establishing schools in the safe and learning environment with necessary teaching and learning facilities.

Unlike other schools, importance is given for holistic development of the children. The students are trained not only in upgrading their knowledge, skills and healthy body, but also to respect, love and share with the fellow beings.

The regular syllabus, as prescribed by the Tamil Nadu Government is followed in this holistic approach. This enables the students to continue higher education in other institutions after completing their studies in ASSEFA schools.

In addition, other areas covered under the holistic approach includes

- Life skill education: Rural based income generation activities such as agriculture, goatery, dairying, tailoring..
- Yoga and meditation to sharpen concentration
- Learning non-violence to practice love, caring and sharing with fellow-beings.
- Arts and crafts
- Kutty doctors to train in basic health care including first aid
- Extracurricular activities such as dance, singing, acting, drawing, painting, etc and
- Sports and games

Bright and talented teachers are recruited from the local areas and trained regularly to provide quality services. In addition, these teachers stay in the school campus, which help them to dedicate their time, mind and heart for this noble cause.

At present, education is offered to the children of all age groups irrespective of caste, religion and gender. The services include primary education, middle school education, high school education and higher secondary education. English medium is also offered in some schools based on the demand from the locals.

As on March 31, 2015, 15, 13,337 children are benefited with the support of 574 teachers. There has been decrease in the strength on comparison with last year. This is due to the stringent norms brought out by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the renewal of the recognition of the existing schools

There are ASSEFA's schools which are more than 20 years old. These Schools might find it difficult to fulfill the norms of the government to get the renewal. Hence continuity of these schools will be difficult. Such schools are classified and being handed over to the Government to manage the schools. This year alone, the process of handing over fifteen schools were undertaken.



ASSEFA senior operational team for Education from the respective zone has decided to provide quality education to the optimum level of children by strengthening the schools that qualify for renewal from the government.

Zonal wise present strength as well as target coverage of students in short term

<b>Zonal wise coverage of Students</b>				
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of Zone</b>	<b>Students Strength</b>		
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Optimum enrolment level</b>	<b>in %</b>
1	Natham	5737	7000	82%
2	Kariyapatti	1116	1500	74%
3	Sivakasi	506	750	67%
4	Uthiramerur	3130	4000	78%
5	Coastal Area	1270	2000	64%
6	Madurantagam	912	1250	73%
7	Gingee	666	1000	67%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,337</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>76%</b>

**Note:** Refer students studying in schools managed directly by ASSEFA.

The teachers require special skills to offer teaching in the ASSEFA schools, as they need to teach comprehensive education. The new recruits, generally, need lots of training to deliver these services. Some teachers stay on and a few others tend to leave the job.

In order to overcome these challenges, ASSEFA promoted College of Education at Silarpatti to train new cadres of teachers. The College is recognized by the National Council of Teacher Education, Bangalore, and is part of mainstream institutions.

Each year, the college trains 100 students. On successful completion, the students are honoured with Bachelor of Education degree from Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University. This year, bright teachers qualified from the college were recruited for schools at Thandikudi as well as at Pooriyampakkam villages.

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of Zone</b>	<b>Students</b>
1	College of Education	100
2	Teachers Training Institute	30
3	Diploma in Gandhian Studies	110
	<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

Similarly, ASSEFA Sarva Seva Teacher Education Institute has been functional at Pooriyampakkam in Chitamur block. The Institute offered two years training program. On successful completion, the students are honoured with Diploma. This year, the institute has enrolled 30 students.



## 14. Upgradation of Skills

*Towards Human Resource Development...*



Capacity building is one of the continuous activities in ASSEFA to enable the development of human resources. Depending upon the needs, training is organized among the stakeholders including workers, volunteers and the beneficiaries with participatory approach.

In July 2014, the top management organized a five days get together at Pooriyampakkam. Each day, nearly 100 persons of the senior and middle level management teams of a particular development program participated and shared their experiences in respect of challenges and responses in implementing the program. Based on the sharing, plan of actions for short-term basis were developed.

The themes covered during these five days were:

- Challenges and responses of the rural women
- Developing rural entrepreneurs for livelihood promotion
- Formation and promotion of Producer Companies.
- Habitat promotion and savings for asset creation and
- Quality education for the rural children

In one of these meets, a team consisting of three senior members from TATA Trust participated and presented their experience in providing reverse osmosis purified drinking water to the communities. Subsequent to this meeting, ASSEFA and TATA had drawn a plan of action to erect and commission RO water plants in 100 deserving areas.

The senior team managing the respective programmes organized induction training for the new recruits. In addition, programme specific training cum exposure visit in agriculture farming, dairying, tailoring, micro credit, community health and education, were arranged to not only workers but also to the target families.

Some of the salient features of this training are as follows:

- A team of eighteen farmers were organized an exposure visit to “Agri Exhibition” held at Coimbatore to learn the new techniques / update in agriculture and livestock.
- Exposure visit organized for about 40 watershed development farmers to Sivagangai to study the impacts of watershed development and organic farming as well as new cultivation practices adopted by the progressive farmers.



- Team consisting of 60 members in dairy sector organized one day educational visit to Government’s Mattupatti Research Center to study the rearing of hybrid heifers.
- An eight members’ team visited Tanjavor to study the model livestock farms for goat, heifer, chicken, etc.
- A seven members’ core team visited Coimbatore to study the operations of RO water plant installed by TATA Trust.
- Nearly 170 women, two from each MBT in Tamil Nadu given one day training in handling hardware related problems in sewing machines with the support of Usha International Company.
- The core team members of the Mutual Benefit Trusts, who newly proposed to organize community marriages were invited and hand on experiences given in the on-going community marriages in other areas.

## 15. Major Events

*Stepping stones of ASSEFA..*



- **Children Fair Meet:**

Organized a three days children fair at Pooriyampakkam. Thousand of students from ASSEFA schools in all the zones participated. The purpose was to make the children feel happy and a memorable event. Exhibitions were displayed by the children and Joyful competitions in sports, games and cultural programmes were organized. The winners were honoured with attractive prizes.

For many children, this was the first time to be away from home. With the support of teachers, these students were able to take care of themselves and more importantly, the teachers played a perfect mentor role. Mr. Jose Boff of PARTAGE was the chief guest of the valedictory function.

- **Action Village India Forum Meet:**

Action Village India (AVI), one of the partners of ASSEFA, had organized its partners meet at Pooriyampakkam for a week. The theme was on "Promoting sustainable livelihoods". Twenty delegates including participants from United Kingdom had participated and shared their experiences in respect of challenges and responses in the sectors like agriculture development, livestock promotion, dairy enterprises and community health.

- **Farmers Conference at Thandikudi:**

Organized a farmers' conference at ASSEFA Vidhyalaya Campus. Over 300 farmers from Pannaikadu, Thandikudi and Adalur hilly areas participated. The progressive farmers as well as resource persons from Coffee Board and Animal Husbandry Department participated and shared their experiences in respect of challenges and responses in hill plantation and livestock rearing. At the end of the conference, the farmers' drew a broad guideline to overcome their problems in both these sectors.

- **Workshop in Thailand:**

PARTAGE of France, one of the partners of ASSEFA in child sponsorship, organized a workshop for its ASIAN Partners (Everest Range) at Chonpuri, Thailand. The workshop was on, "Planning, monitoring and evaluation" by using Theory of Changes. The resource persons for the workshop were from Belgium. On behalf of ASSEFA, two senior workers had participated and learnt this new technique.





# ASSEFA

## SERVICES IN TAMILNADU

