



Magazine on Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture



Inspiring Voices

views on LEISA India Magazine

Inspiring Voices represents views of some of those readers who are translating ideas into action.

LEISA India is a quarterly magazine aimed towards promoting ecological agriculture through encouraging the adoption of LEISA concepts, approaches and technologies. A reader's survey was conducted during the month of July 2004. Of the 5000 subscribers, more than 1000 subscribers responded and shared their views. Of these 11% were farmers, 34% were NGOs, 42% were academicians and the rest constituted individuals, donors, media and credit institutions.

Highlights of the survey

- More than two-thirds of the respondents found LEISA India interesting, especially, for including practical information and offering a mix of global and local experiences
- 96% of the respondents have been using LEISA India content in various ways
- More than three-fourths of the respondents were using it as a resource for teaching and training
- About half of the respondents have used it for field application
- Content is also being shared in workshops, trainings and meetings
- More than 70% share the content with their friends and colleagues

Farmers views

I have adopted SRI method of rice cultivation. Neighbouring farmers have also shown interest.

Mr. G.V. Gopinath, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu;
Mr. Channamallappa Patil, Surapura, Karnataka;
Mr. Vinit Bharagava, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh

I have improved the soil condition in my fields by adapting the techniques described in the LEISA India magazine.

Mr. R. Ravi, Palakkad, Kerala

I have started using organic matter continuously for improving soil fertility, inspired by Narayana Reddy column.

Mr. B. Gunashekhara Bhat, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka

The articles on dryland agriculture are very useful to me to practice on the field.

Mr. S. Arun Kumar, Sembanaricoil, Tamil Nadu

I am preserving organic matter in my farm inspired by Narayana Reddy column in Dec 2003 issue.

Mr. Prahlad Vaman Devarhubli, Belgaum, Karnataka

Have practiced many ideas like conservation agriculture, growing paddy on raised beds and water harvesting measures.

Mr. B.N. Nandish, Shimoga, Karnataka



Farmers have been using the contents of LEISA India, practically. About 65% of the farmer respondents have used for field application, like adopting different methods of water harvesting, practicing SRI method of paddy cultivation etc.

NGOs views

Material from 'Women and agriculture' issue was used, while conducting training on gender and development.

Ms. Elsamma Joseph, Development professional, Rayagada, Orissa

I have used FFS as one of the basic texts for developing and delivering FFS in my area.

Mr. T. Siva Kumar, Development professional, Kollam, Kerala

Used in AFPRO sponsored trainings in agriculture related subjects.

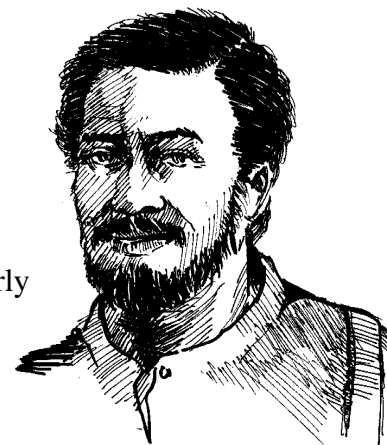
AFPRO Field Unit, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

We used the 'Farmers Field School' issue in field application and simultaneously trained our staff.

Mr. Rajendra Meher, Development professional, Boudh, Orissa

Points from LEISA India are used for training our SHG members, particularly on organic farming and related topics. We deal with 800 SHGs.

Mr. E.G. Sylvester, Development professional, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu



Development professionals have been using the concepts, ideas and experiences from LEISA India as a teaching/ training resource material in promoting eco friendly practices among farmers. 55% said that they were using it for training farmers and NGOs. More than 43% of the NGOs were using it as a resource for developing training materials.

Academicians views

I have used the contents of LEISA India to teach my students especially the concepts like FFS and organic farming.

Mr. R. Sendil Kumar, Kasargod, Kerala Agrl. University

Contents on Participatory Technology Development were dealt in PG classes.

Dr. J.K. Sharma, Jorhat, Assam Agrl. University

The articles on water harvesting and subsurface dyke were very useful for taking classes to farmers and extension personnel.

Ms. G.S. Jayashree, FSRS, Kollam, Kerala

Water harvesting technology is being advocated to the tea growers of North East India.

Dr. B.K. Laskar, Tea Research Association, Thakurbari, Assam

Practical tips on rabbit growing and Narayana Reddy column on SRI have been used in a practical way.

Dr. M.C. Nandeeshia, College of Fisheries, Agartala, Tripura

We have used the material on SRI cultivation of paddy for training farmers.

Dr. Sukanta Kumar Sarangi, ICAR Research Complex, West Siang, Arunachal Pradesh



Academicians have been widely using LEISA India contents for training and also as reference material. More than 60% used it for reference purposes and 40% for training. LEISA India has been used as a source of ideas for formulating new projects by some of the respondents.

Media views

Abstracts of articles are translated into local language and used for broadcast as “Farm News”.

*Mr. K. Gunashekhara, Deputy Director,
All India Radio, Bangalore*

I used to highlight the content of the magazine in the Gram Mangala Programme, specially targeted to farmers. Views of Narayana Reddy have been some of the discussion points in this programme.

Mr. Shreekanth Shinge, Prasara Bharathi, Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore

The concept of biodynamic agriculture and organic farming were used for broadcast.

*Mr. T. Shyama Prasad,
All India Radio, Madikeri, Karnataka*

Broadcast on Conservation Agriculture included a lot of material from LEISA India.

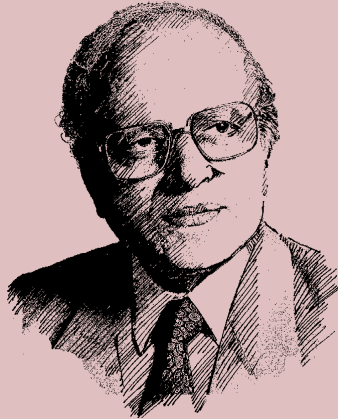
*Mr. Venugopal
All India Radio, Kerala*



Media like All India Radio and the Doordarshan have been using LEISA India contents in developing their farm related programmes. Agricultural credit institutions like NABARD and Rural Banks have been using the content in creating awareness among farmers and also for developing their programmes.

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

Shri. Chiranjiv Singh IAS,
*Addnl. Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner,
Government of Karnataka*



I congratulate you and your colleagues on the outstanding get up and contents of this important journal. I wish you great success in making LEISA India an instrument for the promotion of sustainable agriculture in our country.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, *Chairman,
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation,
Chennai*

We earnestly hope all these voices would inspire many more to practice LEISA – Editors

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