

AIWEFA ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

The Annual General Meeting of the All India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA) took place on August 23, 2012. The minutes of AGM held in 2011 were considered and passed by the General Body at the meeting.

Elections to the Executive Committee of AIWEFA for the term 2012-2015 were supposed to take place at this AGM but due to lack of nominations (only 2 nominations for 10 executive positions) it was decided that the elections be postponed to the next AGM to be held in summer of 2013 and continue with the current executive for one more year.

During the year the Executive Committee functioned with Dr. Sarala Gopalan as the President, Ms. Asha Chandra as the Vice President, Ms Sarla Manchanda as the Secretary, Mr. Riaz Umar as the Treasurer, Ms. Usha Nair as the Jt. Secretary and Dr.S.K.Sharma as the Joint Treasurer.

On behalf of AIWEFA Executive I wish to thank all our members for their support and cooperation during the year 2012 – 2013.

The Executive Committee Meetings:

The executive committee met twice during the year on December 18, 2012 and April 9, 2013.

Membership:

In the year 2012-2013 , ten Life Members joined the Association. We welcome them on behalf of all the AIWEFA members. The total membership now stands at 330 for Life members, and 1 for Institutional member.

PROJECTS IN 2012-2013.

ECOSOC :

During the year Dr. Sarala Gopalan represented the World Farmer's organization at the FAO meeting on Food Security and WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE at Rome in October 2012. She was also invited to the meeting organized by the World Metreological Organization on Climate Change in NIGATA, JAPAN, followed by the World Farmers' General Body Meeting in April (13th to 18th) 2013.

SOLAR FAIRS cum TRAINING WORKSHOPS: 5 Solar Fairs cum Training Workshops and one National Seminar were sponsored by ministry of New & Renewable Energy(MNRE) on reimbursement basis. We planned to hold these Fairs in district Jhajjar of Haryana and data was collected but it was turning out to be inconvenient and more expensive due to being further away from Delhi and a new work-site for us. Finally the Solar Fairs cum Training Workshops were held in 5 villages of Farrukhnagar block of District Gurgaon, namely Mehchana, Alimudinpur, Garhi Natthekhan, Khandewla and Jhtaula on January 28, 29,30 & February 1,2, 2013 respectively. Earlier we had held four Solar Fairs cum Training Workshops in four villages of the same block in April 2012. So far, we have covered 9 villages in Farrukhnagar.

Each fair was a full day programme and about 125 to 150 village beneficiaries participated in each one of these. The fairs as well as the training programmes were a great success. This time the response was overwhelming as villagers already had some awareness about the Solar Energy and Solar Equipments and had many queries about them.

Through these fairs we were able to create awareness about Solar as well as other alternate sources of energy. Solar energy is really a boon in view of the scarce power supply especially in the rural areas and depleting fossil fuels. The resource persons from AIWEFA, AIWC, Lady Irwin College, Block Development Office, Farrukhnagar, Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA), Village Sarpanchs, Village Leaders, and Solar Equipment Manufacturers, all worked together in order to convince villagers to use 'Free Solar Energy' and that to buy Solar Equipments they should make use of the Government subsidies and loan facilities from Grameen Banks. They were also encouraged to use 'Bio-gas' instead of Cow dung cakes for smokeless fuel, nitrogen rich compost and cleaner plus healthier environment.

The fairs were well attended by both men and women. Children took part in training programmes and various competitions and quizzes with great enthusiasm. Manufacturers displayed their equipments and gave live demonstrations of lamps, fans, cookers etc. Villagers found them really attractive. They also expressed great interest in Solar Invertors and Booster Pumps. Most of the gathering tasted the food cooked in different types of solar cookers.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON “ USE OF GREEN & SOLAR ENERY FOR ALL”:

A follow up of the above Fairs and Workshops a National Seminar was organized by AIWEFA under the **sponsorship of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy** on 25th March 2013 at Lady Irwin College, Sikandra Road, New Delhi. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Director MNRE. Besides MNRE, we had speakers from AIWEFA, LIC, AIWC, UPCL, SPA, Manufacturers of Solar Equipments, Solar Project-Managers, all specialists in their own fields related to Green and Solar Energy.

The highlight of the Seminar was the audience comprising of more than 30% village beneficiaries and about 25% postgraduate students of LIC, for whom the Seminar was mainly targeted, besides people from other NGOs and RWAs. It is by creating awareness to use Solar and Green energy that we will be able to advocate a cleaner and healthier life style and save some of the fast depleting conventional sources of energy for our future generations.

Another attraction was the speech of Mr. Satish Upadhyay , Chairman of South Delhi Municipal Council. His speech in apt Hindi was very well received by the village-audience, who were highly motivated to go in for Solar and other energies and improve their living standards. Mr. Satish Upadhyay was highly impressed by the Seminar and extended full support in spreading the message to save traditional energy and use new energies through several RWAs and over 500 schools under him.

Dr. Anupa Siddhu , Director Lady Irwin College , staff and students of RMDA department of the college ,extended full support to make Seminar a success. Dr. Siddhu expressed that Lady Irwin College has always been a pioneer in adopting any new technologies for improving the living standards of the society. The education system of the college always tries to bridge the gaps between knowledge and its applications. At RMDA department of the college efforts are being made to adopt the new solar technologies developed and some of the RMDA department staff and students are working on the solar projects in collaboration with MNRE.

As an outcome of these Fairs, Workshops and National Seminars, certain issues related to awareness, cost of solar equipment, repair of these equipments, formation of SHGs, self employment, possibilities of solar booster pumps water table- wise, need of solar invertors etc. came to the fore and need to be addressed. For this we have applied to MNRE to sponsor for 12 more Solar Fairs cum Training Workshops in rural areas and one follow up National Seminar. We are also planning to apply for sponsorship of 2 Training Programmes for 'Repair & Maintenance of Solar Equipments'. The training is intended for those service providers in the villages who already have repair and maintenance shops for electrical and electronic gadgets.

REC project: Throughout the year our efforts were on to get some projects from Rural Electrification Corporation but our proposals on development of villages with special emphasis on Education & Sports could not be sanctioned for the financial year 2012-13 due to shortage of funds and may be considered this year.

Every year Nina Sibal Memorial Award is given to organizations working in the field of disability. On 2nd August 2012, the 10th Nina Sibal Award was presented by Dr.Karan Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha and Chairperson Nina Sibal Award Committee to Mr. Asok Chakraborty **Secretary, " Shelter" Bhadreshwar, Hooghly, West Bengal**, for his organization on account of their dedicated work towards education and rehabilitation of persons with mental retardation in association with other disabilities.

I thank all the members for their cooperation and support during the past year. We look forward to a very compatible new Aiwefa executives for long and mutually beneficial years together.

(Sarla Manchanda)
Secretary, AIWEFA