



Royal Agricultural Society Briefing

The Akshaya Patra Foundation is an India-based non-profit organisation that implements a large scale innovative school feeding programme in schools for underprivileged children. The organisation strives to address two of the most pressing problems for poor children in India today: **hunger and illiteracy**.

TAPF India began operating in July 2000, as a pilot programme, and provided cooked food to 1500 government school children in areas around Bangalore city. The programme championed a unique and innovative centralised model in order to prepare the meals and was duly recognised by the State of Karnataka and the Government of India.

The programme gradually gained momentum and started operating in various locations in and around Bangalore before moving to other locations, cities and rural belts, around the country.

Since its humble inception on the outskirts of Bangalore, the Foundation now feeds a staggering 827,701 children in over 4,100 Government & Corporation Schools in six states across India. The Akshaya Patra Foundation, on recent estimations, has an annual expenditure of over **993,241,200 Indian Rupees** (around £15 million pounds) but it remains one of the most cost-effective programmes in the world, costing just £18 to feed a child for an entire year.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation aims to feed an amazing 2 Million children by the year 2011.

For further information please log on to www.foodforeducation.org.uk or feel free to contact me directly on brarg@parliament.uk