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Celebrating a Padmashri



Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala who is one of the Trustees of our centre was honoured with the title PADMASHRI by the Government of India this year. A celebration was organised at our centre on 8th February and a gathering of well wishers and friends were present on the occasion.

Our entire team wishes Dr. Jhunjhunwala many more laurels.

Sri. M.V. Murugappan offers a shawl to Padmashri Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala.

News from our farmers Network

Variety that withstood flooding

Sri Ranganathan belongs to Mangalam village in the Tirukazhukundram block of Kanchipuram district. His land is close to the irrigation lake and is prone to flooding. He had incurred heavy losses by cultivating the high yielding varieties for the last several years. This year he had cultivated an indigenous variety called Samba mosanam obtained from the CIKS seed bank. The rains were very heavy this year and his half an acre plot where Samba mosanam was cultivated was flooded with 4½ feet of water. This did not

affect his crop in any way. However, his neighbours who had cultivated other varieties incurred heavy losses. On seeing the performance of Samba mosanam, farmers in this area are convinced that sambamosanam is an excellent variety to withstand flooding.

Speacial features of this variety

□ This variety is also called Puzhudikal, Eri nel and Maduvu muzungi. It is suitable for growing in the vicinity of lakes. It is said that people travelled by boats and harvested the 'Samba mosanam' in the lakes.

□ The variety is good for preparing aval (flattened rice), idly and dosa.

Control of Panama Wilt Disease

Mr. Narayanasamy belongs to Thimmavaram in the Kattankalathur block of Kancheepuram District. He is a farmer who is undergoing a year long trainers' training programme with CIKS. He has been cultivating banana in one acre land for several years. The young banana plants were affected by a serious disease known as Panama Wilt disease. This is a fungal disease where the leaves of the affected plants

become yellow and dry up. He used the following measures and controlled the wilt disease successfully. He took 200 gms of Vayvidangam (*Embelia ribes*) and powdered it well. A fumigation was done in the field with this powder around 6 O'clock in the evening. Four days after this fumigation he took 500 gms of sweet flag powder and soaked it in 3 litres of water. This was filtered and mixed with 3 litres of cow's urine and 60 litres of water and sprayed on the crop. Before spraying 500 ml of khadi soap solution was also added as an emulsifier. This effectively controlled the Panama wilt disease.

PROJECT WATCH

A round-up of our activities this quarter

UNDP Training Workshops

CIKS conducted six training programmes on organic farming under the UNDP seed conservation programme. These programmes were conducted in the villages of Pathur, Soorai and Malai-vaiyavoor, Annathur, Porpandal and Vinayaganallur. In each of these training programmes we had more than 30 participants. In these training programmes farmers were given training on increasing soil fertility and also control of paddy and vegetable pests in an organic way.

Capacity building for sustainable agriculture

As a part of the capacity building programme under the GTZ project, workshops were conducted on 21st of January, February and March at our field training centre in S.P. Kovil. Our 25 trainee farmers participated in these workshops. Topics covered during these workshops were identification of pests and diseases of paddy, vegetables and their control, preparation of botanical extracts and biological pest control techniques. The workshops consisted of both theory and practical sessions and also participatory sessions by farmers. During one of the workshops a quiz programme was also conducted. On 21st March, a discussion session

with a visitor from Holland Mr. Coen Reijntjes took place. Mr. Coen has been involved with the low external input in agriculture movement in Holland for several years and is also one of the founding editors of a journal ILEA. Issues and problems of agriculture in Holland and India were shared.

These workshops are followed by continuous monitoring and support by our field staff. We plan to provide support to these trainees to carry out specific organic farming technologies. These workshops were conducted by S. Arumugamy, K. Subramanian, N. Jayashankar and K. Vijayalakshmi.

Workshops on Medicinal Plants

On 6th February two workshops were conducted in the schools of Singaperumal Koil and Anjur on the importance of traditional medicine and the uses of certain important medicinal plants. The cultivation techniques of these medicinal plants were also taught to the participants. This workshop was conducted by Ayurvedic physician Dr. Gowtham and coordinated by S. Thambidurai. The audience for this workshop were high school students. Nearly 250 students participated in these workshops. On 21st February and 20th March similar workshops were conducted for

teachers of the Singaperumal Koil school and Anjur school respectively. In each of these workshops 30 teachers participated. These workshops are being conducted as part of our DST programme to enhance biomass in the Kattankalathur block.

Follow up workshop on Organic Farming

On 5th March a follow up workshop on organic farming was conducted at our Singaperumal Kovil field office. This is a follow up to a two day workshop conducted in the month of November last year. The participants of the workshop met again to discuss their experiences and problems. This workshop was coordinated by S. Arumugamy, K. Subramanian and N. Jayashankar. Several participants had tried out some of the techniques that they had learnt during last year. It was also interesting to note that some of them had modified certain techniques to suit their requirements. It was a highly interactive programme. It was decided that the participants would meet once again for a follow up in the month of June.

GTZ Project Evaluation

Ms. Nupur Jaipurriyar of GTZ (German Technical Collaboration) visited our centre on 22nd and 23rd March. She was deputed by GTZ to visit us in connection with our ongoing small project on "Capacity Building for Sustainable Agriculture" that is being funded by GTZ. She

visited our office on 22nd March and made a field visit on 23rd March meeting some of the farmers involved with the GTZ project.

UNDP Project Evaluation

On 28th February a team consisting of Mr. Dilip Surkar, National Co-ordinator, UNDP GEF / CCF SGP, Mrs. Archana Dange of CEE, Coimbatore and Prof. Krishnaswamy, NSC Member of the Department of Environment visited our office and field for evaluating our project on conservation of indigenous genetic resources. The team expressed deep appreciation for the ongoing work.

CIKS Team Trip to Kanyakumari

CIKS turned seven on 23rd January. We planned to have a different type of celebration this year. Our entire team undertook a two day trip to Kanyakumari and stayed at Vivekananda Kendra. During this trip to Kanyakumari we had detailed discussions with our team members as to what each of them wanted CIKS to do in the next five years. Every team member made a presentation of their vision for the next five years. We plan to consolidate this and put together a five year plan for CIKS.

CIKS TALK

*Seminars, Discussions, Presentations,
Workshops, Fairs...*

Workshop on Prakruti analysis

On 3rd January our centre conducted a brief programme on traditional medicine for a group of visitors from – “Florida International University” who were on a tour of India on the theme of – “Religion and Healing”.

Lecture at IIT, Chennai

On 17th January, A.V. Balasubramanian delivered a lecture on – “Building on indigenous health traditions” to a group of students attending a course on – “Technology and sustainable development” at I.I.T. Chennai.

Workshop on Gender Sensitization and Transfer of Technology at CLRI

H. Saraswathy attended a two day workshop on 22nd and 23rd January at the Central Leather Research Institute at Chennai. This two day workshop was inaugurated by Mr. A.M. Raman, IAS – Vice Chairman, Science City and Ms. C.K. Garyali, IAS – Secretary, Women’s Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu. Ms. Kussala Wattasangha and Ms. Ramda of ITDG, Sri Lanka were the resource persons for this workshop. The workshop had a partici-

patory approach and the topics included were understanding technology, transfer of technology, aesthetics and ergonomics in technology transfer, understanding cultural barriers, access and control of women to various socio-economic factors. There were about 25 participants from NGO’s all over India.

Agricultural Fair at Arachalur

An agricultural fair and exhibition was conducted on 12th February by the Arachalur Farmers’ Club of the Canara Bank at Arachalur. CIKS participated in this exhibition and exhibited our products and work. There was an excellent reception for our work. K. Subramaniam and S. Krishnan participated in this programme.

COMPAS-UNESCO University Consortium Meeting in Holland

A.V. Balasubramanian travelled to Holland for a week between 14th and 21st February to attend the COMPAS - UNESCO University consortium planning meeting. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and evolve a proposal and plan of work for collaboration between COMPAS partners and Universities in various parts of

the world. The meeting was held at Soesterberg in Holland and it was attended by the COMPAS regional and international coordinators and representatives from Universities in Bolivia, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Srilanka, India and the Netherlands.

Live with Nature – Seminar at QMC

A seminar entitled “Live with Nature” was organised by the Botany department of the Quaide-milleth Arts College for Women on 19th February. K. Vijayalakshmi participated in this meeting and delivered a lecture on “Role of Botanicals and Ecofriendly Pest Management.

Orientation work shop of UNDP-GEF/ CCF SGP

An orientation workshop was conducted by the Centre for Environment Education, Coimbatore for the prospective applicants of the UNDP-GEF / CCF Small Grants Programme. This workshop was mainly to help NGO’s prepare concept papers, and also provide guidelines to develop a full proposal. CIKS is already implementing a biodiversity conservation programme under this scheme. Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi was invited as a resource person for this workshop where she was asked to present the experiences of CIKS. This workshop was conducted on 26th February.

Traditional Knowledge Workshop In Delhi

A workshop on – “Traditional knowledge appreciation for policy making” was held at New Delhi on 25th and 26th March organised by Professor Nirmal Sengupta of the Madras Institute of Development Studies. A.V. Bala subramanian participated in the workshop and made a presentation on traditional knowledge regarding indigenous systems of health.

Puliangudi Farmers honour CIKS

The Vivasaya Seva Sangam of Puliangudi, Tirunelveli District had organised a felicitation meeting on Mattu Pongal at Puliangudi to honour achievers in different fields. This year they had decided to honour CIKS for its achievement in propagating indigenous agriculture. A.V. Balasubramanian and K.Vijayalakshmi attended this meeting and accepted the honour on behalf of CIKS. They delivered lectures on “Agriculture – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” and “the importance of biodiversity conservation in the context of globalisation”.

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

Educational and Training Material on Indigenous Health and Agriculture : Books - Posters - Stickers - Directories - Video Films

Soil Conservation in Organic Farming : Handbook - 1 - Green Manure, Green Leaf manure and Biofertilisers



This book provides practical information about the usage of green manure, green leaf manure and biofertilisers. The important species of green manure plants and green leaf manure plants are listed. Details regarding their method of cultivation, seed rate etc. are also provided. This book also discusses in detail the different types of biofertilisers, their method of application, suitability for various crops etc. This book also lists out the organisations in Tamilnadu which supply these biofertilisers.

Price : Rs.20/- (English) Rs. 20/- (Tamil)

How to Order?

To obtain copies please send a Money Order or Demand Draft favouring "Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems" payable at Chennai. Cheques are NOT acceptable. We also do not send books by VPP.

VISITORS BOOK

A look at who's been dropping in at CIKS

□ On 8th January a group of 16 NGOs funded by the Swiss Development Corporation visited our centre along with their team leaders Mr. Jangal and Ms. Annette Kolf.

□ On 22nd January, Prof. A.Raman who is a faculty member in the Orange Community College in Australia visited us and addressed our staff.

□ Dr. Philip Darby, Director Institute of Post Colonial Studies (IPCS), Melbourne, Australia visited our centre on 12th February.

□ Prof. T.T. Renganathan, Dean of Gandhigram Rural University visited our field on 13th February.

□ Mr. Martin Bode of University of Amsterdam in Holland visited our centre on 26th March in connection with his research study on the modernisation of traditional medicine practice and industry in India.

□ On 5th March, Mr. C.K.Sridharan and Mr. Bhagwan

Singh Chief Conservators of Forests of the Government of Tamil Nadu visited our centre to acquaint themselves regarding the field activities and to explore possible collaboration between the Forest Department and CIKS. This was followed by a visit of 18 forest department officials headed by Mr. Gunasekaran, Conservator of Forests. They visited our field office and experimental farm. They have expressed keen interest to collaborate on specific programmes.

□ Dr. Gita Dharampal of the Goetingen University at Germany visited us on 11th March.

□ On 18th March, Mr. Michel Danino of IFIH (International Foundation for Indian Heritage) visited our centre.

□ Mr. Coen Reijntjes from ILEA, Holland visited us on 21st and 22nd of March. Mr. Coen has been requested by the COMPAS Head Quarters to put together a book on the experiences of COMPAS Partners. It is in this context that Mr. Coen made a visit to our centre.

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30 (Old No. 47C) Ganchi Mandapam Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085, INDIA.

Phone : 91-044-4471067 / 4475862 Fax : 4471114

e-mail : info@ciks.org http://www.ciks.org