



SUPPORT FOR FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAMMES

CIKS has been recognised as a Resource Support Agency (RSA) by NABARD for the Producer Organisation Promoting Institutions (POPIs) supported under the produce fund for the setting up and support for FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) in various parts of Tamil Nadu. As part of this commitment, CIKS had completed a set of three five day training programmes from July to September 2016. In all about 25 POPIs from various parts of Tamil Nadu involved in the promotion of 170 FPOs participated. All the three training programmes were held in Chennai and were the combination of field visits, talks, discussions and practical exercises on various aspects of FPOs. These training programmes provided an exposure to the participants on various topics including,

- Origin of the Producer Companies and their institutional forms – comparisons with Cooperatives, Private Limited Companies etc.
- Process of registration and issues.
- Producer Companies Act, Legal aspects, Compliances with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Strategic planning and good practices.
- Business plan for Producer Companies and generation of proposals for banks
- Field visit to an operating Producer Company and discussions with members of the Board, CEO and staff of the Company.
- Schemes for the support of Producer Companies from various sources, discussions with officials of NABARD, Banks and the State Government.
- Possibilities for networking and linkages.
- Other topics including – Agricultural insurance, Marketing, Food safety and Standards etc.



Ms. Selvi Parasuraman, Director, MSAPCL, interacting with the participants at Desur, Thiruvannamalai

NEW PROJECT

CIKS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (TNSFAC) as a Resource Institute for the support and promotion of six Producer Companies, one each in Kancheepuram, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Cuddalore districts and two in Thiruvannamalai district. This is in addition to the five Producer Companies that TNSFAC had already sanctioned in 2015. This MoU was signed in September 2016 for a period of three years. Field activities have been initiated.



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Improving the Livelihood and Food Security of Small-Holder Tribal Communities

Project activities are being implemented in the Jawadhu hills block of Thiruvannamalai district covering 868 beneficiary households and 373.5 acres with the support of NABARD. Under WADI (small orchards) component, a variety of fruit and tree crops have been cultivated in 343 acres. Under the component on other livelihood activities, 398 beneficiaries have been selected and 213 beneficiaries are involved in the livelihood activities like rearing of cows, goats and pigs, tailoring unit, petti - shops, fodder cultivation and bee keeping. Construction of little millet processing unit, oil expeller unit and storage godown are nearing completion in Seramarathur village. Managiri Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited is operating with a total of 402 shareholders.

DST Core Supported Project

Under this project supported by DST, New Delhi, regularized production is in progress in the neem oil soap unit, biofertilizer unit and mushroom production units. Bioassays have been conducted on *Spodoptera litura* and *Aphis craccivora* using oil soaps. Under institutional building, trainings on maintenance, statutory requirements and regulatory aspects of FPOs were conducted for the farmers at Thiruchitrabalam village of Thanjavur district and Agaraputhur village of Cuddalore district. Capacity building on the activities of insect rearing laboratory was organized for a group of 30 Agriculture students in

Sirkazhi on 6th and 27th August. Three batches of final year B.Sc., Agriculture students from Annamalai University and PAJANCOA, Karaikal visited CIKS Sirkazhi office on 21st, 26th and 29th September. They were given orientation on insect rearing, neem oil soap standardization procedures, preparation of biopesticides and biofertilizers.

Strengthening of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

This project is being implemented in Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Perambalur districts of Tamil Nadu with the support of Tamil Nadu Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (TNSFAC). In all the four districts, village level meetings, orientation trainings, technical trainings, demonstrations and need assessment exercises were organized. Podhigai Farmers Club in Keezhakalpoondi village of Cuddalore district was awarded the second best farmers club in Tamil Nadu and received the award from Honourable Governor K. Rosaiah at Chennai on 12th July. During the month of July, exposure visits were organized for the selected farmers, BoDs and CEOs to Jain Irrigation in Ulundurpet, TNAU Coimbatore, Illuppur Farmers Producer Company in Pudukottai, Millet Processing Center in Jawadhu hills and to Agri Intex 2016 held in Coimbatore. The second Annual General Body Meeting of the FPOs in Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Nagapattinam districts were conducted in the month of August. Farmers and BoDs of Thanjavur and Perambalur FPOs were taken to visit the Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) in

Thanjavur and got trained on value addition techniques of pulses and maize. Technical trainings and demonstrations were conducted in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Perambalur districts. Dr. C. Anantha Ramakrishnan, Director of IICPT, Thanjavur, Dr. Selvam, from AMIBBC, Trichy visited Perambalur farmers on 2nd September and had discussion on value addition of onion crop. As a part of the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) Programme, a group of 17 B.Sc., Agriculture students visited the Cuddalore FPO on 26th September and learnt various activities of the FPO.

Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations in Tamil Nadu - POPI Programme

This project is being implemented under the NABARD Producer Organization Development Fund (PODF) scheme from January 2015. A total of 5771 beneficiaries from 66 panchayats are part of this project. A total of 256 Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) have also been formed. A total of 10 Farmer Producer Companies (FPOs) with 4076 shareholders have been promoted in Kancheepuram, Dindigul, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts. A series of orientation trainings were organised in the project villages. Training programmes on "Financial Literacy" and "Organic Farming Certification" have been conducted for the beneficiaries of Kurinji, Mullai and Vadamadurai FPOs in Dindigul district. On 7th July, a training programme on "Related Party Transaction of APCs" has been organized for the CEOs of

the Producer Companies under this programme at CIKS Training Centre, Kancheepuram district. A training on compliances for getting loans - charge creation, documentation etc., was conducted for the Directors of the FPOs in Dindigul district on 13th July. For the farmers under Managiri Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (MSAPCL) in Jawadhu hills, a total of three awareness training programmes on organic farming, farm power and machineries, government schemes etc., were conducted in the month of July. CEOs of the Producer Companies under this programme participated in the residential training programmes organised by CIKS under its capacity as a Resource Supporting Agency (RSA).

Value Addition and Marketing of Indigenous Rice Variety - *Seeraga Samba*

This project sanctioned from NABARD under its Farm Section Promotion Fund (FSPF) is in progress in Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. Baseline survey is in progress in Thiruvannamalai district with the specific survey format. A series of orientation programmes have been conducted. Five one day training programmes on the production techniques of indigenous rice varieties and organic farming were conducted. Seed farm activities have been initiated in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture in Thiruvannamalai district.

MEDP Programme on Value Addition of Rice

Under this NABARD supported Micro Enterprises Development Programme (MEDP) on value addition of rice in Nagapattinam district, a training cum exposure visit was organised for a group of 20 women from three villages of Vedharanyam cluster at the community value addition unit under the maintenance of TANWABE SHG in Uluthukuppai village of Nagapattinam district. They were trained on various procedures involved in the preparation of rice based value added products.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

Trip to New Delhi

Between 4th- 5th July, CIKS Director A.V. Balasubramanian visited New Delhi for a series of meetings. On 4th July, he visited the office of ASCI (Agricultural Skills Council of India) in Gurgaon near New Delhi and met Dr. Satendar Arya who shared a presentation about the work of ASCI. Following this he visited the SEED Division of the Department of Science and Technology and met Dr. Anish and Dr. Sunil Agarwal in connection with the ongoing DST projects. He also visited Ms. K. Minu, Specialist, Climate Change Programme at the office of Inter Cooperation in New Delhi. On 5th July, he visited the office of Hans Foundation and made a presentation about CIKS activities and future plans. He also visited the office of NSDC (National Skill Development Council) and met Mr. Jaikant, Head Partnership and State Alliance.

Meeting at SFAC

On 8th July, A.V. Balasubramanian visited the office of SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium) of the Government of Tamil Nadu in Chennai along with Ms. Subhashini Sridhar and Dr. Vijay Subbiah. They met the Executive Director of SFAC Ms. Poongothai as well as the Joint Director and discussed about the progress of the SFAC supported programme of CIKS.

Meeting with Teachers of Abacus School

On 16th July, a team of teachers from the Abacus Montessori School at Chennai along with the Director Ms. Kamini Sundaram visited the CIKS farm at Sukkankollai. A.V. Balasubramanian made an introductory presentation about sustainable agriculture and the work of CIKS as well as the activities in the farm. Following this, on 6th August, a group of teachers visited the CIKS farm and they had an orientation about all the organic farming technologies practiced there.

Seminar and Training Attended by CIKS Members

- On 9th July, A.V. Balasubramanian participated in a seminar organized

by the Sanskrit College of Madras on "Environmental and Ecological Awareness in Ancient India". He gave a talk on - "Some aspects of Traditional Indian Knowledge of Sciences and Technologies".

- CIKS staff members Subhashini Sridhar and S. Prabhu participated in a training programme on "Livelihood initiatives - Success models" organised by Sustainable Livelihood Institute in Pondicherry on 27th September 2016.

Visitor from Rabo Bank Foundation

The Rabo Bank Foundation has been offering support to CIKS for strengthening the governance, management and various activities of the Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (VSAPCL) which has been promoted by CIKS and operating in the Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. On 16th August, Mr. Hari Rajagopal (Asst. Vice President, Rabo Bank) visited the field area of operation of VSAPCL in Nagapattinam district and had meetings with Ms. Subhashini Sridhar, CEO and the Board members and office bearers of VSAPCL reviewing the progress of the project. As a follow up, on 22nd August, Mr. Hari Rajagopal, Asst. Vice President of Rabo Bank Foundation along with his colleague Mr. Navtej visited the Chennai office of CIKS and had a discussion with A.V. Balasubramanian and Subhashini Sridhar.

Meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority Sub-Committee on Agro Biodiversity

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has constituted an expert committee on Agro biodiversity and invited A.V. Balasubramanian of CIKS to be a member of this Sub-Committee. On 28th September, a meeting of the Sub-Committee was held at the NBA Office at Chennai and was attended by various members including A.V. Balasubramanian.

REVIEW MEETING OF CEOs OF PRODUCER COMPANIES

- On 7th July, a review meeting with all the CEOs of the 10 NABARD supported FPOs was held in CIKS Technology Resource Centre (TRC) in Sukkankollai village of Kancheepuram district. A detailed discussion took place about the progress of the FPOs in various fronts and ways to hasten certain processes.
- On 14th July, a detailed review meeting with all the CEOs and staff of CIKS working for the SFAC promoted FPOs took place in Sukkankollai.
- On 19th July, a detailed training and discussion of the Board of Directors of Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (MSAPCL) was held at the CIKS TRC at Sukkankollai. During the forenoon there was a presentation and refresher training about business planning was facilitated by Mr. Swaminathan of ALC (Access Livelihood Company Ltd).

TALK TO US

Send your feed back,
comments and suggestions
to info@ciks.org

VISITOR'S BOOK

Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 2nd August, Mr. Naresh Bandaru from Visakhapatnam who is involved in the marketing of organic produce visited us for a discussion about agricultural produce on sale by Producer Companies and farmers groups promoted by CIKS.
- On 12th August, Ms. Akila Balasubramanian and Ms. Sowmya Karthick visited CIKS for a discussion regarding the setting up of a library and training centre in the Alangadu village in Nagapattinam district where they have been supporting various activities of CIKS.
- On 9th September, Dr. Ponnappa, inspector from IMO visited CIKS Sirkazhi field office and had discussion about procurement standards.
- On 15th September, Mr. Arun Kumar, Asst. Manager from RBI, Chennai visited CIKS Sirkazhi field office and had discussion on the activities of Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company.
- On 17th September, Mr. Sripad Sridhar of Ecotone visited us for a discussion about the making of a film on Farmer Producer Organisations.
- On 20th September, Ms. Kamini Sundaram and Ms. Meena of Abacus School visited us for a discussion about collaboration with CIKS.

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