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CIKS wins accolades at Salem Agrifest

CIKS participated in an Agrifest fair which was organised in Salem between May 25th - 28th. It gave us an opportunity to meet nearly 4,000 farmers in person and also several others interested in our work. The Mayor of Salem was very impressed and gave a special shield in recognition of our work.



Seminars, Discussions and Presentations

- On 6th May our research associate, Ms. Vena Kapoor, gave a talk on Biodiversity and the relevance of the work of CIKS to a group of teenagers for a programme organised by the Madras Management Association.

- Dr.K.Vijayalakshmi, gave a lecture on the Role of Spiders in the ecosystem on 11th May for a summer workshop held for Corporation School students at the Hindu Senior

Secondary School at Indira Nagar, Chennai.

- On 27th May Mr.A.V. Balasubramaniam, gave a talk on Our Traditional Health systems to the participants of a workshop held at Thakkar Baba Vidhyalaya for school students.

- On 12th June Mr.A.V. Balasubramaniam, gave a talk on the Role of Traditional Indian Metallurgy and its current relevance, applications to a group of

scientists at the headquarters of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Bangalore.

- Mr. E. Damodaran of our centre attended a one month training programme on Herbal Veterinary Medicine conducted in June at the Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu. The programme was organised by the Extension Department of the University in collaboration with SEVA, a Voluntary agency based at Madurai.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

* The meeting of Asian Partners of the project COMPAS is scheduled to take place at Chennai between July 10th and 14th. The participants would include COMPAS partners from five different locations in India besides delegates from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Netherlands. The meeting is being hosted by our Centre and the participants will also spend a part of their time at CIKS farm and field area at the Kanchipuram District.

* CIKS would be participating in an AgriExpo to be held in Coimbatore during August 1st week. We would also be participating in an agriculture fair which would be held in Puliyanudi in September.

Panel Discussion on - "Building on People's Health Traditions"

India abounds in a large variety of indigenous traditions of Health practices prevailing at various levels. How can we build upon these health traditions and strengthen many such traditions which are being weakened and eroded due to a number of reasons? This constituted the subject for a panel discussion on - "Building on People's Health Traditions". This was organised at the centre on 17th June. The participants included - Dr. Uma Krishnaswamy, Surgeon, Dr. Hari John, International Health Consultant, Ayurvedic Physician Dr. P.L.T. Girija, Siddha Physician Dr. T.Thirunarayan, Srimathi Sheela Rani Chungath, Commissioner of Maternal and Child Health Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Harish Narayan Das, Sociologist, R.Kirithika of The Hindu and A.V.Balasubramaniam of our centre.

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PROJECT WATCH

A round-up of our activities this quarter

Participatory workshop for women farmers

Our centre has been involved in a program of conservation of indigenous vegetable varieties with women farmers in the Kattankalattur block. On 10th May and on 17th May we had two workshops with the participants of this programme. The main objective of this programme was to get a feedback from the farmers regarding the programme, to understand their problems and also to discuss with them as to how they want to take this programme forward. The participants expressed the need for more ongoing training programmes in the field on organic cultivation of vegetables. We propose to conduct these programmes for them on a regular basis.

Training workshop at Guruvanmedu

On May 26th a workshop "An Introduction to Organic Farming" was conducted for the farmers of Guruvanmedu. This was done to train our farmers on technologies of organic farming. This was the first of the series of workshops that we propose to hold in our field areas.

Review workshop with field staff

Detailed review workshops

with our field staff was conducted on 6th and 12th April. Detailed presentations regarding our work in the previous year were presented and also our strengths and weaknesses were discussed.

Vrkshayurveda workshop for field staff

With an idea to update the knowledge of our field staff on Vrkshayurveda a workshop for the field staff was conducted on 19th April. A.V. Balasubramanian gave an overview of the science of Vrkshayurveda which was followed by detailed discussions.

Visit to Compas Partners

Mr.A.V.Balasubramanian visited IDEA at Vishakapatanam between May 14th-17th. He visited their field area in the Vizag district of Andhra Pradesh and the Korapet district of Orissa and had an opportunity for exchange of ideas and information. On 14th June Mr.A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi visited the field area of the COMPAS partner GREEN foundation at Thally. They had useful interactions with the field workers of GREEN foundation.

Evaluation of the COMPAS project

Our centre had carried out an internal evaluation of our

project COMPAS - (*Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development*). The evaluation was carried out involving our staff implementing the project, our partners and farmers in the field area. At our invitation three external experts joined the review, namely Dr. Daisy Dharmaraj of PREPARE, Dr. K.M. Shyam Sundar, Ayurvedic Physician and Mr. Saravana Kumar, Wildlife Biologist and photographer. The results of the evaluation will be shared with the other partners of the COMPAS project in the Asian Regional Meeting that is being held in July at Chennai.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - Inaugural workshop

The Ministry of Environment and Forest of the Government of India has launched a major nation wide effort for coming up with a comprehensive - "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)". An inaugural national workshop for the project was held at New Delhi on June 23rd and 24th. A.V.Balasubramanian of our centre participated in the workshop - he has assumed the responsibility of coordinating the thematic group on - "Health and Biodiversity" for the preparation of the action plan.

NEW - LIST OF PROCESSED ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE THROUGH AROGYAM.

Get in touch with our centre if you would like to order any of these items. (Prices are given within brackets.)

1. Onion Vaththal - (Rs. 100 / Kg.)

Made from the indigenous organically grown rice variety Samba. The onion, ginger and garlic used are not organic.

2. Neela Vaththal - (Rs.70 / Kg.)

Made from the indigenous organically grown rice variety Samba.

3. Omapodi Vaththal (Rs.80 / Kg.)

Made from the indigenous organically grown rice variety Samba.

4. Instant Sevai (Rs.60 / Kg.)

Made from the indigenous organically grown rice variety Samba. (available shortly)

5. Instant Sevai (Rs.60 / Kg.)

Made from the organically grown rice variety ADT - 36.

6. Omapodi Vaththal (Rs. 80 / Kg.)

Made from the organically grown rice variety ADT.

7. Ilai Vadam (Rs. 80 / 100 Pcs.)

Made from the indigenous organically grown rice variety Kullakar and ADT.

Note : We could also use Induppu salt for you instead of regular salt of you wish. The Induppu salt has medicinal properties.

LAUNCH PAD

New Projects at CIKS

A survey of traditional medicine content from the Internet

Our centre has signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Anna University, K.B.Chandrasekar Centre for Internet and telecom technologies to undertake a preliminary survey of the contents of Indian Systems of medicines currently available on the Internet. This is a short term project of an exploratory nature. Our objective is to use this survey to launch a major initiative for the development of a full scale portal for Indian Systems of medicine.

Capacity Building for Sustainable Agriculture

CIKS has launched a project approach in collaboration with Pesticides Action Network- Asia Pacific (PAN-AP) Malaysia for a period of 18 months on capacity building of women in sustainable agriculture. This project is being funded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Washington. Under this programme we propose to achieve the following objectives :

(a) To empower small farmers especially women by providing ongoing training on various aspects of Organic farming.

(b) To equip them to take on Organic farming in their

area of work and also to enable them to train others in their villages on Organic farming.

(c) To produce Educational materials in the form of posters, booklets etc.

Development of Natural products as Bio-pesticides at the Village Level

The Department of Science and Technology has awarded us a grant to work on the development of plant based Bio-pesticides at the village level. Under this project we propose to conduct experiments to establish conditions under which the shelf life of plant products can be increased (extract form, powder form, etc.) Experiments would also be conducted to understand the efficacy of these plant products in storage form, the concentration in which these have to be used for efficient pest control etc. Research will be undertaken to standardise these factors. After suitable experimentation, the products to be standardised will be shortlisted. After standardising, production of these products will be undertaken. Women will be trained to produce these plant products. Marketing opportunities will also be explored.

Fellowship to study Traditional medicine

Ayurvedic physician, Vaidya Samata Potu has taken

up a preliminary study of traditional practices relating to Mother and Children in Ayurveda particularly the role of Dais (Traditional Birth Attendance). She has been given a fellowship by our centre through a grant from the Motilal Bhimraj Charity Trust for this work.

The online version of CIKS news is available at

www.ciks.org

Read it, download it, mail it to your friends.

VISITORS BOOK

A look at who's been dropping in at CIKS

■ Mr. Bert Van Asselt of the University of Wageningen at Netherlands who is doing research on the impact of new technologies on agriculture had visited us on 14th April. He was particularly interested in our work relating to Vrکشayurveda.

■ Mr. Sanjay Bansal of the Biodynamic Association of India visited us on May 6th. Mr.Sanjay Bansal practices Bio-dynamic gardening in a tea estate in Darjeeling.

■ On May 12th Mr.Wim Hiemstra Co-ordinator of the COMPAS programme visited us from Netherlands.

■ On 20th May Dr.Usha Kattaria of the U.S. Library of Congress acquisition department visited us. We agreed on a scheme to exchange some of the centre's publications with theirs.

■ Dr.V.V.Bhatt, IAS Joint Secretary Department of Space and Sri.S. Krishnamoorthy, Director Publications and Public relations unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) visited us on 31st May. They wanted our participation in a project of ISRO to study the Science and Technology content in traditional Indian texts. They also invited A.V. Balasubramanian to make a presentation to ISRO on traditional metallurgy.

■ Mr. Basabjit Deshmukh, Managing Director of Prantik International visited us on 28th June. He discussed in detail regarding the natural organic biofertilisers that are being manufactured by him and if CIKS would be interested in experimenting with the same.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION FROM CIKS

Keep your home Pesticide Free - Safer ways to keep pests at bay.

Price : Rs.10/-

Over the last few years there has been a growing world wide concern on the adverse effects of many pesticides. Everyday we consume food that is highly contaminated with pesticides. Besides this in our household we use a large number of pesticides to get rid of common household pests such as houseflies, mosquitoes, cockroaches etc. This booklet provides certain guidelines for making your home free of pesticides. Information on avoiding pest attack during storage is also provided. This book will be available from late July.

HOW TO ORDER.

To order copies of this or any other publications of ours, send us a letter informing us of your name, postal address and telephone numbers, accompanied by a money order or demand draft favouring "Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems", payable at Chennai.

We regret that we cannot accept cheques, and we cannot send books by V.P.P.

BOOK EXTRACT

Here is an extract from our latest publication - 'Keep your home pesticide free - safer ways to keep pests at bay'

Plant Products Used in Storage Pest Control

1. Neem seed powder can be mixed at the rate of 1% to the volume of the grain. For 1kg of any grain, we have to use 10 gms of neem seed pow-

der. We can take the powder in a cloth pouch and put it inside the containers.

2. Sweet flag rhizomes can be dried and powdered. This can be mixed at the rate of 1 kg /50 kg of grains. For storing rice, the recommendation is 1 kg / 100 kg of grains.

3. Turmeric powder can be mixed at the rate of 40 gms / kg of grains. This gives

effective control over a period of 9 months. It can be used in solvent form. 80 gms of turmeric should be dissolved in 200 ml of water. This can be used for treating 2 kg of grains. The grain should be shade dried for half an hour before storage.

4. 50 grams of custard apple seed powder can be mixed with 1 kg of any pulses such as soyabean, cowpea, red

gram, pigeonpea etc. This mixture can be put in small cloth pouches and placed in the container in which grains are stored.

5. While storing rice and pulses in metal containers, addition of red chillies (2 nos), dried neem leaves and vitex leaves (handful) gives protection against storage pest.

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

Phone : 91-044-4471087 / 4475862 Fax : 4471114

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