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COMPAS International Workshop

Our centre hosted the COMPAS international workshop between September 17th and September 30th at Chennai. The meeting was attended by 46 participants including the COMPAS partners from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. The objective of the meeting was to review and exchange experiences of the work being done in the current phase of the COMPAS project (January 2001 to June 2002), make plans for the next phase of the COMPAS project (July 2002 to December 2006) as well as have interaction and discussions with other agencies and individuals involved in this line of work. Some of the highlights of the meeting are summed up below.

♣ The meeting commenced with four days of conference between September 17th and September 20th which was followed by six days of field trips between September 21st and September 26th and concluded with a conference session in Madras again during the last four days between September 27th and September 30th.

♣ During the tour programme for six days, (September 21st to September 26th), the participants were divided into three different groups which independently toured Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to visit the work of COMPAS partners in those States as well as to interact with other organisations and individuals in those areas.

♣ The participants were drawn from – India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Uganda, Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Guatemala.

♣ The delegation of six members from Latin America could converse only in Spanish and so the entire programme was bilingual. Arrangements were made for translation of every session from English to Spanish and Spanish to English.

♣ A panel discussion was organised on September 19th when we invited a cross section of scientists, academics and others from Madras to interact with the COMPAS delegates on the topic of – “The future of Sustainable Agricultural Technologies”.

♣ A special session was organised on September 28th and 29th for interaction of COMPAS partners with special



Participants of Compas International Workshop

invitees. This was attended by representatives from CAPART, Swiss Development Cooperation, Government of Netherlands, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation voluntary agencies and research institutions such as – A.M.Murugappa Research Centre, Madras Christian College, Gandhigram Rural University, ANTHRA, Hyderabad, SAMPARK, Bangalore, etc.

♣ The meeting constituted of plenary sessions, small group discussions, field trips and local excursions to institutions such as M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation.

♣ The first issue of the newsletter of COMPAS Asian partners (names CLARION) which is being published by CIKS was released during the conference.

♣ Cultural programmes were arranged during the course of the meeting including – A lecture demonstration of Bharatanatayam by Ms.Jyotsna Narayanan and her team as well as a concert in two parts by Kalaimamani Dr. Nandini and Kalaimamani Ms. Lalitha. The first part of the concert was classical carnatic music presentation and the second part was a experiment in – “Trans-global fusion music” which included presentation of a piece that was composed by the team specifically for this occasion.

PROJECT WATCH

A round-up of our activities this quarter

Review workshops on Vrکشayurveda

Workshops were conducted at our centre on 5th July and 30th July to update the knowledge of our research staff on the principles of Ayurveda and also to discuss the ongoing experiments and future experiments on Vrکشayurveda. The workshops were conducted by Vaidya Gowthaman and Vaidya Shyam Sundar. During these workshops we had detailed discussions as to how diseases in plants could be handled from the Vrکشayurveda point of view.

Field review meeting

A detailed one day field review meeting took place on 7th July at our field station in Anjur. All the research workers from the field, Chennai and Sirkazhi attended this meeting. During this meeting we made a detailed work plan for the next six months. Assignment of specific duties and sharing of responsibilities were also worked out.

Meeting for women farmers on herbs

As a part of our DST programme to increase

biomass in the Kattangalathur block training programmes were conducted for women on herbs.

A one day meeting on the use of important medicinal plants was conducted by Vaidya Shyam Sundar, Vaidya Gowthaman and Sudhakar on 26th of July. This meeting was organised for a group of 30 women from the Guruvanmedu village and the meeting took place at our field station in Anjur. During this meeting the women were taught to identify common herbs, their cultivation techniques and their uses for household remedies. As a follow up to this programme CIKS will also provide these plants from their nursery for these women so that they could grow it in their kitchen gardens. We propose to have more workshops of this nature.

Similar programmes were conducted for the women of Ninnakarai village on 17th August and the village women of Thiruvanaikovil and Chelliamman Nagar on 23rd August. In each workshop we had around 30 participants. The resource persons for these workshops were Dr. Gowthaman, Thambidurai and Arumugasamy.

Valedictory of trainers training programme

The last session of the ongoing trainers training programme was conducted on 27th August. Under this programme we had taken 28 participants for intensive training on different aspects of organic farming technologies. The participants took part in a quiz which was conducted by Arumugasamy. This quiz contained questions from all the sessions that were conducted for this group during the period of one year. After this every participant was asked to

make a presentation of their experiences and also how they plan to make use of this training in future. It was heartening to know that some of the participants have very concrete plans in place already. The women of Ninnakarai village have planned to cultivate both vegetables and paddy organically in a collective way through their women's self help groups. Some of the participants have already started making plant based biopesticides and distributing it to the villagers. We also hope to involve the participants as resource persons in our future training programmes.

New Projects at CIKS

CAPART Project for preparation of educational and training material in organic farming

CAPART has sanctioned a project under their rural technology division for preparation of educational material and training in organic farming. Under this programme we would be conducting training programmes for farmers, trainers training programmes and prepare educational material on organic farming.

GTZ project on capacity building and empowerment of farmers on organic farming technologies

The German technology cooperation based in New Delhi has sanctioned a project for conducting training programmes and preparation of educational material under their small project fund. Under this programme we plan to train 25 trainers on organic farming. We would also be preparing training materials.

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CIKS TALK

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Meeting with EID Parry Agriline

EID Parry has launched a website for the farming community. In this connection Mr. Ragnandan, Dr. Renu and Mr. Sashikumar had a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi on the 12th of July. During this meeting Mr. Ragnandan gave an outline of their effort. Possibilities of using the educational material prepared by CIKS were discussed. India Agriline (IAL) had also requested if CIKS would participate in the panel for farm advisory services and CIKS has expressed to participate in the same. IAL would approach CIKS at an appropriate time to set up a system for the same. It was also decided that the market assessment for organic produce of the CIKS farmers would be done by IAL with the organised retailers such as food world.

Visit of FAO consultant

On 21st July Mr. Bishan Singh from MINSOC, Malaysia visited us. Mr. Bishan Singh visited us in his capacity as a consultant to FAO. The FAO had requested him to evaluate the on going FAO NGO programme in India. He had a detailed discussion

with K. Vijayalakshmi to find out what our expectations would be from such a programme.

Visit to Delhi – Preparation for COMPAS International

A.V. Balasubramanian made a trip to Delhi on 6th and 7th August in connection with the preparatory work for the COMPAS international meeting. He visited CAPART, Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Rural Development.

Visit of DST Team

A team consisting of Major S. Chatterjee, Director DST, Brig. Koul, Planning Commission and Dr. Pushpangadan, Director NBRI visited us on 9th and 10th August. The team was here to do an evaluation of our proposal to DST for core support. A detailed presentation regarding the activities of CIKS and the focus for the core support proposal was made to the DST team by A.V. Balasubramanian, K. Vijayalakshmi and Subhashini. This was followed by a discussion. On 10th the team visited our field area also and got to see various of our field programmes. The team has made specific suggestions for reformulation of the proposal. A.V. Balasubramanian has been asked to make a

presentation to the expert committee on 28th of November.

Meeting at MIDS on IPR

On 28th August, A.V. Balasubramanian and S. Thambidurai of our centre attended a brain storming session on - "Indigenous Knowledge and its development and conservation" that was convened at the Madras Institute of Development Studies.

Ethnoveterinary meeting at Madurai

E. Damodaran attended a meeting on Ethnoveterinary techniques that was organised at Madurai on 12th -14th August by FRLHT and CCD (Covenant Centre for Development).

NBSAP Meeting

A.V. Balasubramanian attended a review meeting of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that was convened by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Government of Tamil Nadu on 29th August.

Visit to Bangalore

A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi visited Bangalore on 31st August and 1st September. They visited the Southern Regional Office of the Funding agency IGSS (Indo German Social Service Society) and met the regional

coordinator. He has invited us to submit a proposal for trainers training programmes for capacity building in traditional medicine. On 1st September they also attended a meeting of the COMPAS Indian partners that they had convened at Bangalore to discuss and finalise the programme for the COMPAS international workshop to be held at Chennai.

Meeting with Tamilnadu Milk producers Cooperative Federation

On 7th September, A.V. Balasubramanian attended a meeting held at Tamil Nadu Milk Producers Cooperative Federation headquarters at Chennai. The meeting was attended by representatives of National Dairy Development Board, Voluntary agencies such as SEVA and FRLHT and Mr. Balakrishnan, IAS, Managing Director of TNMPCF limited. The objective of the meeting was to draw up a schedule for orientation programmes on traditional veterinary medicine to veterinary officers of the district milk unions of Tamil Nadu. It has been decided to organise two such training programmes in Tamil Nadu in October and CIKS has been invited to participate in the programme.

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

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

Vrkshayurveda



A publication on Vrkshayurveda – A User's Manual was brought out in August. This user's manual begins with an introduction to the scope of the subject, lists certain important farmers' practices and provides rationale for these practices based on the theory of vrkshayurveda. An entire section is devoted to specific recipes based on vrkshayurveda for disease treatment, for increasing general resistance to diseases and

pests and seed treatment for increasing crop growth and yield. Use of specific growth regulators based on vrkshayurveda is also recommended. The recipes that have been recommended are based on field trials carried out by the centre.

Price : Rs.30/- (English & Tamil)

How to Order?

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VISITORS BOOK

A look at who's been dropping in at CIKS

❖ *Mr. Wim Hiemstra, coordinator of the COMPAS programme from Holland visited us on 15th July. He discussed various aspects of the forthcoming COMPAS International meeting and the future of compas programme with A.V. Balasubramanian.*

❖ *Dr. Margarita from Auroville visited us on 18th July. This was in connection with her assignment as an interpreter of Spanish language for the forthcoming Compas workshop.*

❖ *On 19th July Mr. Devamrita Das from ISKCON, Belgaum and Pradeep Tapar from Hubli visited us to discuss their work regarding organic farming.*

❖ *On 30th July Mr. Hariramamurthy and Mr. Kareem from FRLHT*

visited us along with Dr. Hegde of BAIF (Bharatiya Agro Industries Federation), Tiptur. They wanted the involvement of CIKS in a series of training programmes on Ethnoveterinary Medicine).

❖ *Prof. Anil Gupta of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad visited us on 2nd August.*

❖ *On 6th August Ms. Maria and her colleague from COSPA, Italy visited us to request our participation in a project being worked out by them.*

❖ *On 17th August Dr. Sarojeni Rengam of Pesticide Action Network, visited us. K. Vijayalakshmi had a detailed discussion with her on future collaboration with PAN-AP.*



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