



# CIKS NEWS

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## NAMMA NELLU : FROM CONSERVATION TO MARKETS

**N**amma Nellu (Our Paddy) is an initiative of Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) to conserve traditional rice varieties in Tamil Nadu ([www.nammanellu.com](http://www.nammanellu.com)). The objectives of *Namma Nellu* initiative are planting and replanting the varieties year after year in two locations for conservation purposes, conducting researches to understand the characteristics of traditional varieties, initiating dialogues on the importance of Agrobiodiversity on society and ecology and multiplying seeds to offer for large scale production and rice for consumption. Through this programme, 138 traditional paddy varieties were conserved this year. We had adopters for 67 varieties. During Samba 2017 (August 2017 to February 2018), traditional paddy varieties were conserved in two different locations in Tamil Nadu. The agronomical characteristics of the varieties were also documented in detail during the process of cultivation. *We have conserved an additional 38 varieties this year !!!*



*Nursery of Traditional Paddy Varieties*

During the course of this year, around 50 training programmes were conducted for the farmers throughout Tamil Nadu on the cultivation, conservation and importance of indigenous paddy varieties. Besides this, nearly 2000 farmers visited the conservation sites for the practical exposure to observe the varieties and learn about them. Awareness programmes for general public and schools were also conducted which covered around 1000 participants. A study was commissioned to understand the cooking qualities of identified 20 varieties which would be communicated as information material when these varieties are marketed. To upscale the efforts of preserving these varieties, marketing is an important component. The varieties that have been cultivated on a larger area of land have been procured by one of the Producer Companies promoted by CIKS. Nearly, 40 tonnes of grains have been procured by providing the farmer with a premium price. Efforts are also on to undertake home delivery of some of these varieties to urban consumers. A consumer survey is in progress.



*Conservation field of Traditional Paddy Variety -  
Maapillai Samba*



## PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

### **Strengthening of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) - PHASE - I - IV**

This project supported by Tamil Nadu Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (TNSFAC) is being implemented in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Tiruvarur districts. Agricultural equipments like power tiller, rotavator, hand sprayers etc., have been purchased and distributed in five blocks in Cuddalore district by the Veerannarayan FPC as a follow up to the sanction of customer hiring centre under the Mission on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture (MSDA) scheme. This FPC is also involved in the process of establishing a seed processing unit in Pinnalur village under the scheme on Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material (SMSP). Cuddalore district Mangalore Millet FPC has established a millet processing unit under the Mission on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture (MSDA) scheme. A Dhal mill has been constructed under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in Kokkeri village under the Thanjavur FPC. Representatives from CIKS and Board of Directors of the FPCs participated in the TNSFAC - Equity Grant Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Project staff attended a meeting organised and headed by the District Collector of Thiruvannamalai Mr. Kandasamy, IAS about the supply of processed dhal by Thenpennai FPC to the students' hostels, hospitals etc., in Thiruvannamalai district. Thanjavur FPC has signed an agreement with IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited) under the eBazar scheme for the supply of fertilizers and pesticides to farmers. Peravoorani

FPC is in the marketing tie-up with the Dream Global Exports and started to export the coconuts to Oman from May 2018. The Raja Raja Chozhan FPC has started the marketing efforts in collaboration with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). Kanchi FPC has got the loan sanction under the Credit Guarantee Scheme and the Veerachozhan FPC has got the Equity Grant from SFAC. A one day training programme on GST and accounting procedures was conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> May in Sirkazhi by Mr. Srinivasan Murali from Numeral Consulting in Chennai. On 18<sup>th</sup> June, SFAC Chennai had organised a review meeting for the Resource Institutions and CEOs of the FPCs. Ten FPCs under the guidance of CIKS participated in this review meeting. Monthly review meetings of the CEOs, BoDs and LRP (Local Resource Persons) were conducted.

### **Project for the Promotion of Farmer Producer Companies Supported by NABARD**

Activities of this project supported by NABARD's Producer Organization Development Fund (PODF) are in progress in Kancheepuram, Dindigul, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts. Ten FPCs covering 7219 shareholders and 348 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) have been promoted and operating successfully. All the 10 FPCs promoted under this programme were visited by the officials from FWFB, Ahmedabad for the assessment of loan applications between 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April. Following this, principle sanction for the loans has been received from FWFB. On 28<sup>th</sup> April, a discussion meeting on strengthening of FPCs and future plans

was organised involving CEOs and BoDs of 10 FPCs in the presence of Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das, CEO of FWFB. Ten FPCs promoted under this programme in Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Kancheepuram and Thiruvannamalai districts have got the loan support of Rs.515 lakhs from FWFB. Monthly meetings and review meetings of the BoDs, CEOs, shareholders, FIG leaders and members were conducted regularly and activities done and future business plans were discussed in detail.

### **Adoption of Solar Dryer Technology for Value Addition to Enhance Marketability of Produce - NABARD CAT Programme**



Under this NABARD supported programme, two trainings were organised on usage of solar dryer and value addition of banana and vegetables for Thottiyam Banana FPC in Trichy on 11<sup>th</sup> April and on usage of solar dryer and value addition of coconut for Pasumai Coconut FPC in Pollachi on 12<sup>th</sup> April. These trainings are the combination of both practical and theoretical sessions. On 25<sup>th</sup> April, a training feedback session was organised at Chettipulam village of Nagapattinam in the presence of NABARD DDM Mr. D. Ganesh.

### **Capacity Building of Farmer Producer Companies through Training Programmes**

CIKS has been granted a project by

# NEWSROOM

*Happenings and more.*

Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB), Ahmedabad for providing a series of training programmes for Farmer Producer Collectives and building their capacities during January - December 2018. The third session of the Trainers' Training Programme (TTP) was organised at the Utopia World, Abiramapuram in Chennai between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. The programme had a total of 17 master trainers who got trained on various topics during this three day programme. The topics for the third TTP was decided based on the felt need on building capacities of the master trainers in terms of emerging their independent entities / FPCs as a self sustaining business. The sessions were laid down under the following topics, handled by experts in the respective fields - Compliance requirements for FPCs, Agricultural insurance, Business planning, Assessment of performance and grading of FPCs and Sale of produce by FPCs - issues relating to pricing. There were workshop sessions under specific topics where the trainers could plug in actual values for pricing their products. The Master trainers were requested to evaluate the sessions on a circulated form. Apart from this, 10 one day training programmes on Business plan preparation were conducted for the beneficiaries during May and June 2018. The participants prepared the draft business plans for their anticipated enterprises.

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

Under NABARD TDF supported project on Improving the Livelihood and Food Security of Small-Holder Tribal Communities in Jawadhu hills, monitoring visit and review of activities was conducted by NABCONS (NABARD Consultancy Services) Team. In the oil extraction unit in Jawadhu hills regular processing is on. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, project staff participated in the NABARD Honey Bee Day Celebration and quarterly review meeting of the project at the NABARD office in Chennai. Video documentation of the project activities was done.

## Meeting on FPOs

On 10<sup>th</sup> April, there was a one day meeting convened on the topic "Interventions Facilitating Smallholder Access to Markets in India : A Literature Review of FPOs". The meeting was organised by CMS - Vrutti Livelihoods Resources Centre, Bengaluru in coordination with IRMA (Institute of Rural Management, Anand) and held at Anand, Gujarat. At the invitation of the organisers, A.V. Balasubramanian attended the meeting.

## Visit to Ahmedabad

On 11<sup>th</sup> April, A.V. Balasubramanian visited Ahmedabad. He had a meeting with Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das, CEO and various team members of FWWB and discussed about the status of CIKS supported FPCs in Tamil Nadu and the collaborative work with FWWB. Later, he also had a meeting with Mr. Bhatt, CEO of Ananya Finance and Mr. Gaurav Gupta about CIKS supported FPCs.

## Meeting with Dr. Arjun Rajagopalan and Dr. Geetha Arjun

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, A.V. Balasubramanian had a meeting with Dr. Arjun Rajagopalan and Dr. Geetha Arjun who are well known medical experts with active involvement in public health issues. He shared with them information and reports about CIKS activities with respect to the conservation of Indigenous Paddy Varieties (IPVs) and studies on their nutritional properties. He also shared samples of IPVs produced as part of the *Namma Nellu* Programme.

## Trip to New Delhi

A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi travelled to New Delhi between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

- On 6<sup>th</sup> May, they attended a meeting held at the faculty club of IIT, New Delhi in memory of Prof. Navjyothi Singh, Head, Department of Exact Humanities at IIIT, Hyderabad.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> May, they had a meeting with Ms. Adele Newman, Asst. Vice

President of Yes Bank about the possibility of CSR support for CIKS. They also visited the office of Crop Connect and met Mr. Punit Jhajharia and Ms. Ishira Metha.

- On 8<sup>th</sup> May, they visited the office of Rabo Bank Foundation and had a meeting with Mr. Hari Rajagopal and Mr. Rishab Sood of the Foundation. In the afternoon they had a meeting with Mr. Vikram Hegde, Advocate, Supreme Court, New Delhi.

## NABARD Sensitization Workshop

On 7<sup>th</sup> June, the Chennai office of NABARD had organised a one day sensitization workshop for various organisations in Tamil Nadu which are promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). At the invitation of NABARD, A.V. Balasubramanian participated and made a presentation on "Opportunities and Challenges for FPOs in Tamil Nadu".

## FWWB Partners Meeting in Ahmedabad

FWWB had organised a meeting of selected partners working with them and invited them for a consultation with their Board of Trustees. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, A.V. Balasubramanian participated and made a presentation about the CIKS work with FPCs, problems and challenges in this sector as well as the efforts taken up with the support of FWWB.

## Social Venture Partners (SVPs) Meeting at Bengaluru

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June, SVP had organised a meeting under the theme of "Agri Connect" at Bengaluru. A group of about 20 non-profits working in the area of agriculture participated in this meeting along with a group of donors and organisations interested in supporting social ventures. At the invitation of SVP, A.V. Balasubramanian participated in this meeting and made a presentation on the theme of "FPCs : New Age Cooperatives - Problems and Prospects".

## MEETING OF FPC CEOs WITH CIKS AND FWWB



Ten of the FPCs promoted and supported by CIKS have been receiving support for sometime from FWWB, Ahmedabad and recently they have approached them for a fresh round of support. On 28<sup>th</sup> April, the CEOs and some Board members of all these 10 FPCs had a meeting with Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das, CEO of FWWB as well as CIKS team members including A.V. Balasubramanian, K. Vijayalakshmi, Archana Prasad and M. Sivamathi. They had discussions about the ongoing programmes and future plans. Later in the afternoon, the CEO, Staff and Board members of Marutham FPC had a meeting with Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das as well as the CIKS team for a discussion about their current work and programmes.

## VISITOR'S BOOK Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Prof. Sashidharan from the Department of Philosophy, Sankara University, Kalady, Kerala.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> April, Ms. Girija Srinivasan, Expert on Livelihoods and FPCs from Pune.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> April, Mr. Michel Danino from IIT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> April, Mr. N. Srinivasan from Supraja Foundation.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Mr. Arun Kumar (Asst. Vice President) and Mr. Tamilarasan of the Agri Business Programme of Yes Bank, Chennai visited CIKS for a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian.

### REDESIGNED WEBSITE

We are happy to inform you all that our CIKS website ([www.ciks.org](http://www.ciks.org)) has been redesigned and we welcome all of you to visit the website and share your comments and suggestions.

### TALK TO US

Send your feed back, comments and suggestions to [info@ciks.org](mailto:info@ciks.org)

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