

# **CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS**

## **REPORT OF WORK DONE DURING THE PERIOD**

**APRIL 2015 TO MARCH 2016**

### **1. POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHERN INDIA**

This project supported by DFID, UK, under the Global Poverty Action Fund (GPAF) – Impact Window and co-funded by HIVOS, Netherlands was implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts covering 10,072 farmers from 79 panchayats of seven taluks. This was done in partnership with Vrutti Livelihood Resource Centre (VLRC), Bengaluru. This three year project concluded in June 2015. An independent final evaluation of this project was conducted by Access Livelihoods Consulting India Limited in the month of September 2015. During the last phase of this project, strengthening of various project components took place. The evaluation study and our analysis shows that the project has made good progress in bringing about the anticipated changes at the outputs, outcome and impact level. The project has been responsible for catalyzing two Agricultural Producer Companies (APCs) and the impact of APCs can be seen from the fact that it continues to mobilize financial resources for business, meet its operational expenses and is moving towards financial stability. The beneficiaries who were exposed to various trainings and other capacity building programmes have increased their net incomes through improved productivity and reduced cost of production. About 50% of farmers (2671) are adopting SRI technologies leading to reduced cost of production and increased productivity. A total of 439 beneficiaries have accessed Agriculture Machinery Facilitation Centres and have achieved an average of 20% yield increase. About 924 farmers have moved either fully or partially from inorganic cultivation practices. About 3266 farmers have adopted / used soil fertility improvement products. A compendium of good practices arising out of this project has been compiled.

### **2. TOWARDS MAINSTREAMING AND UPSCALING OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN TAMIL NADU**

This project supported by HIVOS was for a period of three years from September 2012 concluded in August 2015. A major portion of this support went towards co-funding the

DFID supported project on Poverty Reduction, which has been mentioned above. The main co-funding components were towards providing training and capacity building support for the beneficiaries who had set up value addition units and backyard poultry units. Besides this, home gardens set up under this project (more than 3000) were strengthened by technical training and handholding. This project has reached out through various dissemination mechanisms such as meetings, workshops, print and e-publications to more than 10,000 stakeholders, which include farmers, government officials, financial institutions and civil society organizations highlighting the experiences from the past. An article highlighting the Farmer Enterprise Facilitation Centre model which the project is implementing has been published in one of the leading journal “LEISA” (Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture). Five institutional capacity building trainings were also conducted as a part of this programme.

### **3. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS FOR UPSCALING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN TAMIL NADU**

This project started from September 2015 and is due to conclude in June 2016. This is a HIVOS funded project and the funds for this mainly come from exchange rate gains, bank interest and an older revolving fund from HIVOS. This project was mainly to strengthen the institutional stability and sustainability and putting in place a proper system for governance. A total of 135 trainings and capacity building programmes covering around 5000 small farmers were conducted during this period. Forty three exposure visits to other Producer Companies to enable cross learning was also organized. Six training modules on various topics including Strategic planning and Good practices were also prepared both in English and Tamil.

### **4. ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD SECURITY OF FARMERS THROUGH THE FORMATION OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCER COMPANY IN DINDIGUL DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU**

This project implemented in the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu with the support of PROCIF – Small Grants Fund, The Netherlands concluded in December 2015. Activities of this project were implemented in three gram panchayats. Under this project, A Producer Company named “Kurinji Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited” was incorporated in April 2015 and is running successfully with a total of 517

shareholders. This company has opened an inputs sales outlet in Sendhurai area of Dindigul district. A total of 30 Sustainable Agriculture Self Help Groups (SASHGs) have been formed. A series of trainings on sustainable agriculture practices, formation and strengthening of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) including Agriculture Producer Company, roles and responsibilities of VABDSPs and Board of Directors (BODs) and CEOs were also conducted. A group of selected beneficiaries were taken to visit the Nachalur Farmers Producer Company Limited in Nachalur village of Karur district. Business Plan for this company was developed and this company has obtained all the licenses including PAN, TIN and CST, Seeds sales, Fertilizers Sales, Pesticides Sales and TAN to run the business in proper manner.

#### **5. SUPPORT FOR VSAPCL FROM RABO BANK FOUNDATION**

This project supported by the Rabo Bank Foundation in The Netherlands commenced in January 2015, for providing assistance and support for the Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (VSAPCL), which was promoted by CIKS in Nagapattinam district during 2013. An exposure visit was organized for the BoDs to Mulkanoor Cooperative Rural Bank and Marketing Society in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. They visited the milk collection unit, value addition unit and rice mill and also had a discussion with the Directors. Following this visit, sale of farm fresh milk has been initiated from July 2015. Workshops on “Retail marketing – Opportunities and Challenges” and “Fair Trade” were conducted in Pagasalai village. Participants were Board of Directors, VABDSPs and Progressive farmers. Training programmes on various aspects of FPOs and financial literacy programmes were organized. Exposure visits were also organized to Nadaiyanoor Farmers Producer Company in Karur and to Nachalur Farmers Producer Company in Trichy. This Producer Company also participated in two exhibitions organized in Chennai between 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> September and in Erode between 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016, a programme on sensitization of women on marketing was organized in Sirkazhi. A total of 312 women Self Help Group (SHG) members and 42 men farmers from Nagapattinam district participated in the event.

**6. IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SECURITY OF SMALL-HOLDER TRIBAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH WADI MODEL AND INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

This project funded by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is in progress in Jawadhu hills of Thiruvannamalai district from May 2013 onwards. The project activities are in progress in 39 hamlets covering 702 beneficiary households and 385.5 acres in Kovilur panchayat. Under the component on WADI (small orchard), saplings of fruit crops and border crops have been planted in 335.5 acres and being maintained by 401 beneficiary households. These WADI fields have been fenced and soil bunds have also been formed to conserve the soil from erosion. Production of certified seeds of little millet was done. Necessary organic inputs and seeds for intercropping in the WADI fields have been distributed. Under the component on other livelihood activities of the project, support has been provided to 301 beneficiaries to get involved in the microenterprises like rearing of cows, goats and pigs, tailoring unit, petti – shops, poultry incubation and fodder cultivation. Beneficiaries of both WADI and other livelihood components have raised kitchen gardens using 5 - 10 types of vegetable seeds provided under the project and also conserved the seeds for the next season. Agricultural implements maintained in the Seeramarathur Agricultural Machineries Facilitation Centre are being used by the beneficiary farmers with minimum rental charges. A total of 24 Participants Groups (PGs), a Village Planning Committee and 18 Farmers' Clubs are in place. A total of six vermicompost production units have been established and the farmers maintaining the units are using the vermicompost for their own purpose. Various training programmes comprising of technical trainings, institutional building, health and enterprises related techniques were conducted for the beneficiaries. In collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry in Jawadhu hills block, an eight day long veterinary camp was organized for the control of Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) in Kovilur panchayat.

**7. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE – DST CORE SUPPORT PROGRAMME – PHASE II (2013 - 2018)**

CIKS has been recognized as an institution for Core Support by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India since 2002. In the current phase, two soap making units are functioning in Nagapattinam district. A total of 274 kg of oil soaps

(with biopesticidal property) produced in this reporting period has been utilized in 125 acres by 112 farmers. Twelve women involved in the maintenance of the units get a monthly income of Rs.400 – Rs.600/-. By using oil soaps beneficiaries have on an average reduced by Rs.750 - 1250 /acre/ the amount spent by farmers towards chemical pesticides. A new product ‘Neem and Pongam oil mixed soap’ has been developed and a total of 36 experiments were conducted to standardize this product. Under the component on organic seed production, seed production of CR-1009, ADT - 38, White ponni, ADT - 43 and traditional paddy varieties have been taken up in 19 acres and 53 tonnes of seeds have been produced and distributed to 1400 farmers covering 1750 acres in three districts. Apart from this, seeds of CO4 little millet variety has also been produced in Jawadhu hills of Thiruvannamalai district. Six community vermicompost units, 12 individual units and a biofertiliser unit are in place. Characteristics of 103 traditional paddy varieties have been documented by cultivating the same in Nagapattinam and Kancheepuram districts. Two Producer Companies have been established with 6100 shareholders in Nagapattinam and Thiruvannamalai districts. Timely availability of quality inputs at the door step of the farmers and 10% premium price for organic produce are the highlights of these Producer Companies. Two booklets on the formation of Producer Company have been produced. A total of 107 training programmes and 11 exposure visits covering 1949 farmers were conducted under this project. Apart from this, six financial literacy awareness programmes were also conducted in Nagapattinam district. Twenty three discussion meetings were held with various banks and financial institutions. A sum of Rs. 40,30,000/- (Forty Lakhs and Thirty Thousand only) has been availed from various banking sources for strengthening the community input centres and for the purchase of milch animals.

#### **8. WOMEN’S TECHNOLOGY PARK FOR PROMOTING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

This project supported by the Department of Science and Technology is in progress in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Cuddalore and Karaikal Union Territory of Tamil Nadu from July 2013 onwards. A total of 2623 women are the beneficiaries of this project. A total of 16 community vermicompost units, five community organic mushroom cultivation units and 20 *Azolla* cultivation units have been established. The women involved in the maintenance of these units get a monthly income of Rs. 700/- - Rs.1200/-. Nearly 250 women are involved in fodder cultivation at their

backyards. Credit linkages have been established between the women groups involved in the above activities and local banks, NABARD, Ananya Finance in Gujarat and Shri Ram finance in Chennai. A total of 214 training programmes on sustainable agriculture technologies like vermicompost production, mushroom cultivation, fodder grass cultivation, *azolla* cultivation and vegetable seed production were conducted for the beneficiaries. The project beneficiaries were made shareholders of the Producer Companies promoted by CIKS in their respective districts - Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Ltd., in Thiruvannamalai district, Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Ltd., in Nagapattinam district, Neithal Farmers Producer Company in Ramnathapuram district and Cuddalore District Millet Farmers Producer Company Ltd., in Cuddalore district. Ten women beneficiaries of this project are members of the Board of Directors of the above mentioned first three Producer Companies. One of the beneficiary, Mrs. Kanchana Muralidharan, Director of Valanadu Producer Company in Nagapattinam has been given the best women farmer and entrepreneur Award at the Farmers Festival organised by the Dinamalar Tamil magazine during September 2015.

**9. PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC FARMING IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU (NABARD UPNRM–PHASE II)**

The second phase of this project implemented in the Sirkazhi taluk of Nagapattinam district with the support of NABARD concluded in September 2015. Project components like, procurement and sale of organic paddy seeds, procurement and sale of organic paddy, milling and sale of organic rice and enhancement of livelihoods of women through biogas units were successfully completed with the technical support of CIKS and the periodical monitoring of NABARD. A loan for a sum of Rs.24,97,000 /- (Twenty four lakhs and ninety seven thousand only) availed from NABARD has been repaid. Under the component on enhancement of livelihoods of women through biogas units, a total of twelve units have been installed in Allivilagam and Aadhamangalam villages. Each household is saving up to Rs. 780/- towards the expenses of fuel. Under the component on procurement and sale of organic paddy seeds, 61.3 tonnes of four different varieties of paddy seeds have been procured from 1450 farmers in 36 villages. Under the components on procurement and sale of organic paddy and milling and sale of organic rice, a total of 204.17 tonnes of certified organic paddy for a value of Rs. 35,45,302/-

(Thirty five lakhs and forty five thousand three hundred and two only) has been procured from 102 farmers in 30 villages. From this, 109 tonnes of organic rice (White ponni, CR-1009 and traditional paddy varieties) and 278kg of value added products were sold to wholesalers and retailers throughout Tamil Nadu. Under this project, Sirkazhi Organic Farmers' Association (SOFA) participated in 19 exhibitions, four *melas* and 11 consumers' meets in Tamil Nadu.

#### **10. STRENGTHENING OF FARMERS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN ALANGADU VILLAGE – PHASE VII**

The seventh phase of this project implemented from September 2014 concluded in September 2015. A total of four farmers' groups are functioning in the village. The Alangadu irrigation channel was desilted for 2 kms with the financial support of the Department of Public Works in Mayiladuthurai. A crop loan of Rs. 95,000/- (Ninety five thousand only) availed for 17 farmers covering 19 acres from Shriram Chit Funds in Thiruvarur in November 2014 has been repaid in April 2015. Farmers have used this amount for organic cultivation and were able to save Rs. 500/- per acre by not taking loan from other sources with high interest rates. Change of attitude from grant to loan component is the major impact created under this project. Oil engines being maintained in the Alangadu AMFC (Agricultural Machinery Facilitation Centre) are being used by the beneficiaries. The Seethalakshmi men SHG in Alangadu bought two additional engines through the loan availed from Shriram Chit Fund. An exposure visit was organized to Sittilingi Organic Farmers' Association in Dharmapuri. Forty beneficiaries have raised kitchen gardens using vegetable seeds and inputs provided under the project. This has reduced Rs.300/- to Rs.400/- per month spent towards the purchase of vegetables. Six trainings on organic farming technologies were organized for the beneficiaries. During this phase, land survey has been completed in 84 farmers' fields and VAO (Village Administrative Officer) has provided certificate for the cultivation area. Efforts are on for getting *patta* for the lands. *Arivumaiyam* (evening tuition centre) is functioning well and currently 65 students (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Std) have been enrolled this year. Community enterprises are functioning well – Thendral women SHG involved in running a tailoring unit, Samba women SHG involved in biopesticide production and palm products preparation. The products produced are being marketed through *Thughil*, an outlet in Chennai. Workshop on fine arts was organized for children during May 2015 by “Clay Fingers” in Chennai.

## **11. STRENGTHENING OF FARMERS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN ALANGADU VILLAGE – PHASE VIII**

The eighth phase of the project is being implemented from October 2015 onwards. A loan of Rs.7300/- (Seven thousand three hundred only) per acre was distributed to 24 farmers covering 36.51 acres through Shri Ram Chits and Investments in Chennai. Farmers utilized this amount for the purchase of inputs and seeds for paddy cultivation. Thirteen farmers cultivated cotton in 6.79 acres. Seeds of intercrops were distributed to them. A total of 20 farmers cultivated pulses. The vermicompost produced by the Siva Sakthi Sustainable Agriculture Womens' Group in Alangadu is being sold to the farmers. Thendral womens SHG is involved in running a tailoring unit, Samba women SHG involved in biopesticide production and palm products preparation. The products produced are being marketed through *Thughil*, - an outlet in Chennai. *Arivumaiyam* (evening tuition centre) is functioning well and currently 65 students (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Std) have been enrolled. An exposure trip was organised to Auroville in Pondicherry on 21<sup>st</sup> February. A total of 39 students and three teachers participated in the event.

## **12. DONATION FROM THE ESTATE OF MS. SHASHIREKHA RAJAGOPALAN, HYDERABAD**

In the year 2011, our Centre was informed by the family of (late) Ms. Shashirekha Rajagopalan (Member, Central Board of Reserve Bank and NABARD), Hyderabad that in her Will she had named CIKS as a beneficiary. Between the years 2012 and 2015 our Centre received a total contribution of Rs. 9.77875 lakhs from the family. The last such installment was received in December 2015. This sum has been utilized by CIKS for providing support to various FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) initiated and strengthened by our Centre in the State of Tamil Nadu. At present, there are 17 such FPOs that are being supported which have been promoted by our Centre.

## **13. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGIES (CAT) – SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES IN PADDY CULTIVATION**

This programme supported by NABARD under its Capacity building for Adoption of Technologies scheme was implemented in Ramanathapuram district between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015. In Ramanathapuram district, a total of 26 beneficiaries including five women from 15 villages participated and got trained. The training programme was held at the Community hall in Natham, Kancheepuram district. Beneficiary farmers were trained

on sustainable agriculture technologies related to paddy cultivation like drum seeder method of paddy cultivation, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), transplanting through transplanter and normal method, seed selection, seed treatment, seed germination methods, organic manures in paddy cultivation and its preparation methods, non chemical methods of plant protection measures and storage techniques. These training programmes comprised of powerpoint presentations, group discussions and demonstrations. Demonstration of biopesticide preparation and vermicompost production were also carried out. As a part of the training programme, beneficiaries were taken for an exposure visit to Nachalur Farmers Producer Company Limited in Nachalur village of Karur district to learn the technology of paddy seed production and the procedures involved in the formation of Agriculture Producer Company.

#### **14. DISSEMINATION OF YIELD INCREASING TECHNIQUES IN GROUNDNUT CULTIVATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES IN KANCHEEPURAM - SUPPORT UNDER FARMERS' TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FUND (FTTF)**

This programme supported by NABARD under its Farmers' Technology Transfer Fund scheme was implemented in Kancheepuram district between October 2014 – May 2015. A total of 60 beneficiaries including 33 women from 11 villages of Kancheepuram district were selected and trained. Three training programmes on sustainable agriculture technologies related to increasing the yield in groundnut cultivation were conducted for the beneficiaries at CIKS Technology Resource Centre in Sukkankollai village of Kancheepuram district. A total of 60 demonstration fields were set up by the beneficiaries using the quality seeds of VRI 2 and TMV 7 groundnut varieties provided under the project. Organic inputs like neem seed powder, biofertilizers and non chemical pest control materials have also been distributed. These training programmes are comprised of powerpoint presentations, group discussions and demonstrations. Demonstration of biopesticide preparation, vermicompost production and groundnut harvester operation were done as part of the training programme. Following the training programmes, a one day Field day function was also conducted. During this occasion, farmers shared their experiences on Sustainable Agriculture method of Groundnut Cultivation. Due to this project, farmers realized the impacts of reduced cost of cultivation and increased yield in groundnut cultivation.

**15. EMPOWERMENT OF FARMERS THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES IN DINDIGUL DISTRICT - SUPPORT UNDER FARMERS' TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FUND (FTTF)**

This programme supported by NABARD under its Farmers' Technology Transfer Fund scheme was implemented in Dindigul district since October 2014. A total of ten two day training programmes on sustainable agriculture practices, integrated farming and formation and strengthening of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were conducted for the farmers in Sendhurai area of Dindigul district. These training programmes were a combination of class room sessions, onfarm practical sessions and exposure visits. A total of 332 farmers including 178 women farmers of Dindigul district participated in these training programmes. As part of this project, an exposure visit was organized for the selected beneficiaries to CIKS Organic Research Farm in Sukkankollai village of Kancheepuram district and to the Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Desur village of Thiruvannamalai district. They learnt about the sustainable agriculture practices and formation of CBOs including Agriculture Producer Company. As part of the project one Sustainable Agriculture Self Help Group (SASHG), eight Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and 10 Farmers' Clubs were formed. Apart from these training programmes, 10 one-day follow up sessions were also conducted. The major impact of this project is that, farmers were organized to form two Agriculture Producer Companies in this area.

**16. PROMOTION OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS IN TAMIL NADU – PHASE I**

This programme supported by NABARD under its PRODUCE Fund through Producer Organizations Promoting Institutions (POPI) has been initiated in January 2015. Under this project, six Farmer Producer Companies have been incorporated in Dindigul (2), Thiruvannamalai (2), Ramanathapuram (1) and Kancheepuram (1) districts. These are Kurinji and Mullai Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Dindigul district, Seeds and Managiri Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Thiruvannamalai district, Neithal Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Ramanathapuram district and Kanchi Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Kancheepuram district. Shareholders were trained on various technologies related to sustainable agriculture and Board of Directors (BoDs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) were trained on regulatory procedures of Producer Company, business plan,

marketing strategies etc. Three inputs sales outlets were also established in Dindigul, Ramanathapuram and Kancheepuram districts.

#### **17. PROMOTION OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS IN TAMIL NADU – PHASE II**

The second phase of this programme supported by NABARD under its PRODUCE Fund through Producer Organizations Promoting Institutions (POPI) was started in August 2015. Under this project, a total of three Farmer Producer Companies have been incorporated - Vadamadurai Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Dindigul district and Thandarampattu and Pudupalayam Sustainable Agriculture Producer Companies in Thiruvannamalai district. Apart from this, name approval has been obtained for one more Producer Company - Chengam Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Thiruvannamalai district. Shareholders were trained on various technologies related to sustainable agriculture and BoDs and CEOs were trained on regulatory procedures of Producer Company, business plan, marketing strategies etc.

#### **18. FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE PRODUCER COMPANIES FROM SFAC, TAMIL NADU (SFAC I)**

This project supported by Tamil Nadu office of SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium) for the formation of the Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu is in progress from January 2015. Mangalore Millets Farmer Producer Company Limited in Cuddalore district was already incorporated by the District Agri Marketing and Agri Business Department in August 2014. CIKS is closely working with the District Agriculture Department (Agri-Marketing), the Board Members of the Producer Companies, stakeholders and the community for taking forward the project as per the SFAC guidelines. CIKS is now in the process of streamlining the activities and completing the formalities of meeting the statutory requirements of the incorporated companies, creating awareness and mobilizing farmers for joining the company as shareholders. A total of 766 shareholders have been enrolled in the Company and 34 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) have been formed. So far, 43 village level awareness trainings were conducted. Twenty three training programmes and seven exposure visits were also conducted for the Board of Directors and shareholders of the Company. Apart from the above activities, four demonstrations were conducted to increase the yield of maize. Annual General Body Meeting of the Company was held on

19<sup>th</sup> August 2015. An input shop has been opened in Keezhakalpoondi village on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015. A total of 158 tonnes of fertilizers, 5.5 tonnes of seeds (Cotton, Maize, Paddy) and 300 kg of pesticides have been sold to shareholders through this outlet. Business plan for the company has been prepared. After a field appraisal, a loan of Rs.30 lakhs has been sanctioned from NABKISAN, Chennai. The company has procured 150 tonnes of maize and 56 tonnes of paddy from shareholders and sold to wholesalers.

#### **19. FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE PRODUCER COMPANIES FROM SFAC, TAMIL NADU (SFAC II & III)**

This second phase of the project supported by Tamil Nadu office of SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium) under its NADP Programme (National Agriculture Development Programme) for the formation of three Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Thiruvannamalai districts of Tamil Nadu is in progress from April 2015. In Thanjavur district Raja Raja Chozhan Farmers' Producer Company has been promoted with a total of 595 shareholders. A total of 50 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) have been formed. A total of 14 technical trainings, three exposure visits and five demonstrations on paddy and pulses crop were conducted for the beneficiaries. Three input outlets are functioning through the Company. Annual General Body Meeting of the Company was held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Following a detailed field appraisal, a loan of Rs. 35 lakhs of working capital has been sanctioned by Ananya Finance in Gujarat. In Nagapattinam district, Veerachozhan Farmers Producer Company has been incorporated in October 2015. This FPO is running with a total of 530 shareholders. A total of 23 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) have been formed in 30 villages. A total of 45 village level awareness programmes, 16 technical trainings, five exposure visits and four demonstrations of seed treatment of pulses, pest and disease management and storage practices were conducted for the beneficiaries. The Annual General Body Meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> January. In Thiruvannamalai district, Thenpennai Farmers Producer Company was incorporated in September 2015. A total of 614 shareholders are in place. A total of 43 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) and seven Farmers clubs have been formed in 35 villages. A total of 19 Technical trainings and seven exposure visits were conducted for the beneficiaries. The Annual General Body Meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Third phase of this project has been sanctioned by Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium under its National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) programme in

January 2016, for the formation of a Farmers' Producer Organization in Perambalur district. Efforts are in progress to incorporate a FPO named Maize and Onion Farmers Producer Company. A total of 306 farmers have become shareholders. A total of 16 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) have been formed. A total of 11 village level awareness programmes and six technical training programmes for BoDs and an exposure visit were organized.

**20. INCREASING THE INCOME LEVEL THROUGH EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN ON MUSHROOM PRODUCTION IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT**

This project supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under its Micro Enterprises Development Programme (MEDP) for matured SHG's was implemented in Sirkazhi and Vedharanyam taluks of Nagapattinam district during the period October 2015 - January 2016. Training programme on Mushroom production was conducted at Sirkazhi and Vedharanyam for a period of 24 days and a total of 60 women participated. An exposure visit was also organized to Priyam Biotech Centre at Velakudi village in Thiruvarur district on 19<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. As a follow up, two community Mushroom cultivation units were established in Nemmeli and Othavanthankudi villages. A total of 12 women are involved in the maintenance of these units.

**21. INCREASING THE INCOME LEVEL OF FARMERS FOR THE ADOPTION OF DAIRY BASED MICROENTERPRISES IN THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT**

This project supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under their Micro Enterprises Development Programme (MEDP) for matured SHG's was implemented in two villages of Thiruvannamalai district during the January – March 2016 period. Under this programme, a total of 26 one-day training programmes on diary based microenterprises were conducted. The topics covered were importance of rearing of milch animal, animal selection, space requirements, shed construction, feeding, protection, milking, value addition like vermicompost and biopesticide production, ice cream preparation etc. As part of the training programme, beneficiaries were taken for an exposure visit to Vedapuri KVK in Thiruvannamalai. Training sessions includes powerpoint presentations and group discussions.

**22. PROMOTION OF JOINT LIABILITY GROUPS AND CREATING CREDIT LINKAGES IN KANCHEEPURAM, THIRUVANNAMALAI AND RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICTS**

This project supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to promote Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts has been initiated in March 2015. Under this project it has been proposed to promote 600 JLGs, namely - 200 each in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts. In Kancheepuram district, Uthiramerur, Achirapakkam, Madhuranthakam and Thirukazhukundram taluks have been selected and a total of 16 JLGs have been formed. In Thiruvannamalai district, Vandavasi, Thellar, Peranamallur and Chetpet taluks have been selected and 17 JLGs have been promoted. In Ramanathapuram district, Kamudhi and Paramakudi taluks 11 JLGs have been promoted. Savings bank accounts have also been opened for all these JLGs. Efforts are in full swing to promote remaining number of JLGs and to create credit linkages with banks.

**23. DISSEMINATION OF YIELD INCREASING TECHNIQUES IN GROUNDNUT CULTIVATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN THIRUVANNAMALAI**

This project supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under its Farm Sector Promotion Fund (FSPF) is being implemented in Thiruvannamalai district since February 2016 onwards. Selection of beneficiaries and Village Agri Business Development Service Providers (VABDSPs) are in progress. Meetings of the Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee were held in the month of March 2016.

**24. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGIES (CAT) – TRAINING PROGRAMME ON VALUE ADDITION TECHNOLOGIES**

This programme supported by NABARD under its Capacity building for Adoption of Technologies (CAT) scheme is being implemented in Nagapattinam district from December 2015 onwards. To learn technology of value addition, two exposure visits were organized for the beneficiaries to CFTRI in Mysore and IICPT in Thanjavur on 29<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 respectively. A total of 20 farmers including women participated and learnt about the machineries used for value addition process such as mini

versatile dhal mill, flaking system, tiny rice mill, maize dry milling plant etc. The team also visited the various technologies developed by CFTRI and interacted with the resource person. The participants also visited the Incubation Centre and Mini Modern Rice mill in IICPT, Thanjavur. They also visited the Sahaja Samrudha Organic Producer Company Ltd., (SSOPCL) in Bangalore on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and had a discussion on various business activities taken up by the company.

**25. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGIES (CAT) - TRAINING PROGRAMME ON HONEY BEE REARING TECHNOLOGIES**

This programme supported by NABARD under its Capacity building for Adoption of Technologies (CAT) scheme is in progress in the Nagapattinam district from February 2016 onwards. Beneficiaries have been selected for the programme and orientation of the programme was conducted. Plans are on to conduct trainings and exposure visits to learn the technology of Honey bee rearing and value addition of the honey. The training spot selected for this purpose is Vibis Nature Honey Bee Farm in Madurai.

**26. CIKS AS RESOURCE SUPPORT AGENCY (RSA) FOR THE PROMOTION OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS (FPOs) IN TAMIL NADU**

In February 2016, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Tamil Nadu Regional office informed us that CIKS has been empanelled as RSA for imparting trainings to resource persons of Producer Organisation Promoting Institutions (POPIs) dealing with the promotion of FPOs under the NABARD PRODUCE FUND. Under this programme, CIKS will be conducting three training programmes during the year 2016 – 17. An MoU was signed between CIKS and NABARD by A.V. Balasubramanian, Director, CIKS and Mr. Chelladurai, General Manager, NABARD at a meeting at the NABARD Tamil Nadu Regional office on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**27. WOMENS' FESTIVAL – MAGALIR MELA ORGANIZED IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, a *MagalirMela* on theme of “Capturing the Market” was organized by CIKS Sirkazhi field office in Nagapattinam district with the financial support of NABARD, Chennai and HIVOS, Netherlands and also with the contribution of Sirkazhi Organic Farmers' Association (SOFA). The prime objective of this event was to create awareness among women groups about the enterprise activities and scaling up of current

women led activities. A total of 354 members including the members of 80 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) from eight blocks of Nagapattinam (6) and Cuddalore (2) districts participated in the event. Officials from NABARD, students and representatives from other organizations participated. SHGs excelling in different activities were given awards in the function.