



WORKSHOP ON NUTRITIONAL AND THERAPEUTIC PROPERTIES OF INDIGENOUS PADDY VARIETIES

Our Centre has conducted a pilot study on “The Nutritional and Therapeutic Properties of Indigenous Varieties of Paddy” with the support of HIVOS and Oxfam - Novib joint knowledge programme on Agricultural Biodiversity, the Netherlands. The pilot study included - Documentation and analysis of modern technical literature, farmers’ knowledge, popular literature and folklore in Tamil, Survey of information in texts of Ayurveda and Pakasastra (traditional science of cooking), Survey of information in the texts of Siddha medicine and Laboratory studies on physico chemical properties and nutrient analysis. On 21st August, a one day workshop was organised in Chennai to share the results of the study and discuss the findings. It was attended by project partners, scientists from the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India, practitioners of Ayurveda and Siddha Systems of Medicine, representatives of farmers groups, civil society organisations and students and faculty from the Departments of Nutrition. The meeting deliberated upon the findings of the



Discussion Session of the Workshop in Progress

project and discussed the possible follow up activities. A few key findings of the lab tests of this study are,

- Varieties like *Karungkuruvai* and *Neelam samba* are rich in iron and calcium.
- *Perungar*, *Karungkuruvai* and *Kullakar* are rich in protein content.
- *Karungkuruvai*, *Kullakar*, *Kouni* and *Kalanamak* have very low glycemic index of 50 - 55.

STATE LEVEL RECOGNITION FOR KADAMBAI FARMERS’ CLUB

The Kadambai Farmers’ Club in Thiruvannamalai district was established under the NABARD Farmers’ Club Programme with the guidance and help of CIKS. Technical and regulatory trainings and support have been provided to this Farmers’ Club by CIKS. As a credit to the efforts, this Farmers’ Club was recognised as the second best Farmers’ Club at the State level.





PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Poverty Reduction in Tamil Nadu through Sustainable Agriculture

This project is in progress in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts covering 9709 farmers with the support of DFID, UK and HIVOS, Netherlands. Beneficiaries are implementing the packages like integrated kitchen gardening, complete organic farming, seed production, enhancing soil fertility, backyard poultry etc. Beneficiaries are grouped into 589 small groups at Village, Panchayat and Cluster levels. Necessary services to the farmers are channelized through the Village Agri Business Development Service Providers (VABDSPs) placed in each panchayat. A total of 665 farmers have established integrated organic kitchen gardens. 1577 farmers are involved in the seed production of paddy varieties. A total of 21 community input production units, 12 community value addition units and a mushroom production unit are in place. Machineries in the 14 Agriculture Machinery Facilitation Centres (AMFCs) are being utilized efficiently. The Marutham and Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited in Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts are functioning well with a total of 5421 shareholders. Twenty nine training programmes on various organic farming and allied technologies were conducted for the beneficiaries. Under this project, a meeting of multi stake holders was held in Nagapattinam district on 1st July. Quarterly Review Meeting of this project was held in CIKS TRC in Sukkankollai between 9th and 10th September. Government schemes have been availed for conducting training on seed production technology, for SRI cultivation and paddy seeds in Nagapattinam and Thiruvannamalai districts.

Improving the Livelihood and Food Security of Small-Holder Tribal Communities through WADI Model and Integrated Sustainable Agricultural Practices

This project supported by NABARD is in progress in the Jawadhu hills of Thiruvannamalai district covering 305 beneficiary households and 150 acres in Kovilur panchayat. For the second year of project implementation, 227 beneficiaries covering 115 acres have been selected. Under WADI (small orchard) component, nearly 16,500 saplings of fruit crops and border crops have been planted in 150 acres of WADI fields in the first year. A total of 17920 saplings of fruit and boarder crops have been planted in the newly selected 109.5 acres of WADI fields and bunds have been formed in 87.50 acres in 20 villages. Under the component on other livelihood activities, 117 first year beneficiaries are involved in the livelihood activities like rearing of cows, goats and pigs, tailoring unit, petti - shops, poultry incubation, fodder cultivation and bee keeping. For four newly selected beneficiaries cattle and tailoring machines have been distributed. Little millet seed sowing machinery has been purchased for the Agriculture Service Facilitation Centre in Seramarathur village. A total of 57 beneficiaries have established organic kitchen gardens. Under this project, an experiment on little millets is in progress in Mel Athipattu village covering 66 cents. Monthly meetings of Participants Groups (PGs), VPC and Farmers' Clubs were conducted. We participated in the District Level Planning Committee Meeting held on 30th July in Collectors' office in Thiruvannamalai, the Forest Extension meeting held in Veerappanur panchayat of Jawadhu hills on 1st August

and in the Block Level Bankers' meet held in BDO office in Jamunamarathur on 5th August. Project Monitoring Committee meeting was held on 23rd September.

Science and Technology for Sustainable Agriculture - DST Core Supported Project

This project is in progress in the Nagapattinam district. In our insect rearing laboratory in Sirkazhi, 18 bioassays have been conducted on *Spodoptera litura* and *Aphids* using Pongam oil soap, Neem and Pongam oil mixed soap. Field experiment on "Management of sucking pests using mixed oil soap in bhendi" was conducted in Ilaiyamadhukoodam village. Production and sale is in progress in the neem soap production unit in Ilaiyamadhukoodam village. Three training programmes on Neem oil soap preparation and usage against mealy bugs was conducted for the beneficiaries and farmers from Karaikal and for the farmers of Sittilingi Organic farmers' Association in Dharmapuri. Two groups of students from the Anbil Dharmalingam Agriculture College, Trichy and Annamalai University in Chidambaram visited the insect rearing laboratory and mushroom spawn production lab in Sirkazhi and learnt the procedures and technologies being followed. On 13th August, Dr. Elaiyabharathi, Entomologist from KVK Sikkal visited the insect rearing laboratory.

Women's Technology Park for Promoting Organic Agriculture

This project supported by DST is in progress in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more

Nadu covering 1400 women beneficiaries. Twelve community vermicompost units and a mushroom production unit are in place in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts. A new vermicompost unit has been established in Nallathoor village in Karaikal by the members of Roja womens' group. Demonstrations of *azolla* production and fodder cultivation are in progress in the Sukkankollai farm. *Azolla* production is in progress in the three units established in the Kancheepuram district. Two womens' groups have been identified and being trained on mushroom production in Nagapattinam. Training programmes on vermicompost and biopesticides production and organic certification procedures have been conducted for the beneficiaries. Under this project, we have selected the Pondicherry Multipurpose Service Society (PMSS), an NGO in Pondicherry and trained the members of 15 womens' groups working with them. As a training follow up, a community vermicompost unit and a community biopesticide unit has been established in Chinna nellikollai panchayat.

Introducing Organic Farming in Alangadu Village

Our Centre is involved in this project from January 2009. Under this sixth phase of the project, the Alangadu irrigation channel was cleaned and desilted for about two kilometers with the support of the Department of Public Works in Mayiladuthurai. Preparations are on for the cultivation of paddy in 13 acres. Production and sale is in progress in the community vermicompost unit in Alangadu. Seeds and inputs have been distributed to the beneficiaries for establishing kitchen gardens. A petition has been submitted in the Commissioner Office, Land Reforms at Chennai to get the land patta for the farmers' fields in Alangadu. Efforts are in progress to establish an integrated farm in Alangadu village. The evening school programme - *Ariou maiyam* is running successfully. Project staff visited the Kaikal Trust in Kuppam block of Andhra Pradesh to get to know about their activities pertaining to community enterprises and tribal school programme.

Visit to the Central Food Technological Research Institute

On 25th July, A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi visited the CFTRI in Mysore. During the visit, A.V. Balasubramanian made a presentation on "Nutritional and Therapeutic Properties of Indigenous Varieties of Paddy and Vegetables". It was attended by the Scientists from the Grain Science and Technology (GST) and several other divisions of CFTRI. Following this, they also visited the workshop of GST division and the exhibition relating to the technologies and products developed by CFTRI.

Talk at the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai

At the invitation of MDRF, Chennai, A.V. Balasubramanian and Dr. Vijay Subbiah from CIKS visited MDRF on 4th August and made a presentation on "Nutritional and Therapeutic Properties of Indigenous Paddy and Vegetable Varieties : the Need for a Study" to a group of scientists from MDRF.

Workshop on Communication

On 7th August, Ms. Sreela Koushik, facilitated and conducted a one day workshop on communication for CIKS team members at Chennai. The meeting was attended by CIKS staff at Chennai and senior technical staff from all the field areas.

Orientation Programme On Credit Guarantee Fund at NABARD Chennai

On 25th August, a State Level Meeting of the Producer Companies was organized by NABARD in Chennai. More than 30 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Nationalized Banks participated. In this meeting, the available financial support for FPOs in Tamil Nadu and statutory requirements for FPOs were dealt in detail. Our staff Subhashini Sridhar and R. Manikandan represented

the CIKS group of Producer Companies in this meeting.

Quarterly Review Meeting of the DFID Supported Project

On 9th and 10th September, the Quarterly Review Meeting and the Steering Committee Meeting of the project on "Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Agriculture in Southern India" funded by DFID and co-funded by HIVOS were held at the CIKS TRC at Sukkankollai. The meeting was attended by the project team from CIKS and Vrutti. The representatives of Marutham and Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited also participated in the Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting reviewed the progress of the project and updates were obtained about the two Producer Companies.

Participation in DST Group Monitoring Workshop

Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar participated in a two day workshop on "Women Technology Parks" at West Bengal between 23rd - 24th September. It was organized by the SEED Division of the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. She also presented about the activities taken up in five districts of Tamil Nadu under the project on "Women's Technology Park for Promoting Organic Agriculture".

Technical Training by Idhayam Group

A technical training session was organized on 30th September to strengthen the groundnut growers in Vedharanyam block by Idhayam group. Dr. Muralidharan, Technical expert and Mr. Manohar, Quality Control Manager of Idhayam group served as resource persons. A total of 27 farmers from 12 villages of Vedharanyam block were trained on Pest and disease identification, Cultivation and Post harvest technology.

ORGANIC FARMING TECHNOLOGIES - TESTIMONIES FROM NAGAPATTINAM PROJECT AREA

- Beneficiaries following complete package of organic farming are saving Rs. 800 - 1750/- per acre towards inputs.
- In Sirkazhi region, beneficiaries have reduced 15 - 20 kgs of the paddy seeds per acre by following mat nursery technology.
- Through mat nursery technology they saved, Rs. 450 - 600/- per acre towards seed cost and Rs. 1000 - 2000/- per acre towards nursery raising, labour charges etc.
- Farmers following non-chemical pest and disease management techniques are saving Rs. 400 - 650/- per acre towards input cost.
- Self reliant farmers have significantly reduced the cost towards inputs and pest management materials through the production and use of organic fertilizers, biopesticides and growth promoters by their own using locally available resources.

TALK TO US

Send your feed back, comments and suggestions
to info@ciks.org / ciksorg@gmail.com

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

- On 4th July, a team of five persons from Rural Technology Business Incubators (RTBI), IIT, Chennai visited us.
- On 18th July, Dr. Sobhana and her colleague from Madras Diabetes Research Foundation visited us.
- On 24th July, Mr. Manjunath, Marketing Incharge from Sittilingi Organic Farmers' Association in Dharmapuri visited CIKS Sirkazhi field office.
- On 25th July, Mr. Sathish Kumar from NABFINS, Nagapattinam visited CIKS Sirkazhi field office.
- On 13th August, Mr. Sathish Rao and Mr. Mansur Ali from NABFINS visited Thiruvannamalai field office.
- On 22nd August, Dr. Rajendiran, Professor & Head, Dr. Anuradha and Dr. Gnanabharathy, Assistant Professors from KVK, Sikkal visited CIKS Sirkazhi field office.
- On 27th August, Mr. Subramanian, Manager, Agri Schemes, Mr. Rajavel, Area Manager and team members from ICICI Bank visited CIKS Sirkazhi office.
- On 6th September, Ms. Ingrid Srinath, CEO from HIVOS, Mumbai visited CIKS.
- On 16th September, Mr. Sathya of NTT DATA visited CIKS Chennai office.
- Between 18th and 19th September, Mr. Robens from IFHD, Bengaluru visited the CIKS project area in Dindigul district.
- On 30th September, Mr. Rajeev Vignesh, Managing Director from Idhayam Company visited CIKS Sirkazhi field office.

Editorial Team : Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi & R. Abarna

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Book-Post

To



CIKS

30, Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kotturpuram

Chennai - 600 085. INDIA

Phone : 91-044-2447 1087 / 5862

E-mail : info@ciks.org / ciksorg@gmail.com

Website : www.ciks.org