



WORKSHOP ON AGROBIODIVERSITY AND ORGANIC FARMING

Our Centre conducted a workshop on “Agrobiodiversity and Organic Farming” for School teachers from nine schools in Chennai at our Technology Resource Centre at Sukkankollai on 28th November 2009. The visit was facilitated by The School of the Krishnamurthy Foundation of India. A total of 55 teachers participated in this workshop. The participants were trained on basics and principles of organic farming and conservation of agrobiodiversity. They were also visited the organic research farm and exposed to conservation of indigenous paddy varieties, System of Rice Intensification, vermicomposting, bio-gas plant, shade and green houses, cattle rearing, demo herbal and kitchen gardens and agroforestry plot. Each school was provided with copies of educational materials on Organic food and Uses of organically cultivated vegetables in mid day meal.



Participants visiting the SRI nursery

WHY BT BRINJAL IS NOT REQUIRED:

Representation made by CIKS to the Ministry of Environment and Forests

Our Centre has made a submission to the Ministry arguing that indigenous knowledge and resources are available for a satisfactory solution to the problem of fruit and shoot borer in Brinjal. More importantly, these solutions have been tested and field tested repeatedly by the research institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), our Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras as part of a mission mode project on Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) that was taken up by the ICAR itself!

For the full text of the submission and enclosures please click on the link in our website - www.ciks.org/btbrinjal.html

NEW PROJECT

INCREASING THE INCOME LEVEL OF FARMERS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF ORGANIC FARMING TECHNOLOGIES IN CHILLI CULTIVATION

Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) has sanctioned a project to our Centre entitled ‘Increasing the Income Level of Farmers through Implementation of Organic Farming Technologies in Chilli Cultivation’. The programme is for a period of six months from December 2009 onwards in the Ramanathapuram district. Under this project, we propose to conduct training programmes and generate resource material for farmers on organic cultivation techniques for chillies.



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

COMPAS Project

This project, supported by ETC Foundation, Netherlands, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. Under this project, a survey on the status of fodder grass cultivation and usage was conducted in Kancheepuram and Thiruvannamalai districts. A study on gender in agriculture was conducted in Sirkazhi and Mayiladuthurai taluks. Case studies on Community vermicompost and Biopesticide units were done. Our Research Director K. Vijayalakshmi attended the COMPAS International Management Meeting (IMM) at Netherlands between 14th and 18th December 2009. On 19th December, a Farmers - Scientist meet was organised in Kadinelvayal village of Nagapattinam district.

Biodiversity Conservation, Reduction of POPs and Livelihoods for Farmers in Tamil Nadu - A Sustainable Triangle

This project supported by UNDP - GEF is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts from November 2008. Under this project, a training programme on value addition was conducted for the members of women SHG at Allivilagam village. A visit was made to IICPT (Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology), Thanjavur. A total of 14 training programmes on various organic farming technologies have been conducted for the farmers of Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts. In Nagapattinam district two training programmes were conducted for

the farmers of Kadinelvayal and Adhamangalam villages on "Income generation through organic farming methods" and "Role of fodder grass in animal husbandry" respectively. A total of 17 beneficiaries are involved in the conservation of nine traditional paddy varieties in Nagapattinam district. A case study on organic cultivation of traditional paddy varieties in the coastal areas of Nagapattinam district was done. A detailed survey on POP reduction was conducted in the Dindigul district.

Sustainable Livelihoods through Organic Farming in Tamil Nadu

This project supported by Jamsetji Tata Trust (JTT), Mumbai is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts of Tamil Nadu from May 2009. Under this project, 20 farmers' sangams have been formed. A total of 178.38 acres has been selected and crops like different paddy varieties, green gram, sesame, maize and black gram are cultivated for seed production in all the four districts. Inspection was conducted in seed production fields in Kancheepuram and Nagapattinam districts. Under the components of input support and crop loan schemes, about 328.57 acres have been selected. Various crops like paddy, groundnut, chilli, horse gram, black gram, sesame, *Karunkanni* cotton etc., have been cultivated under these schemes. Demonstration fields have been established in Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam districts and organic farming technologies are being implemented. A total of 15 short term trainings and two Trainers' Training Programmes (TTP)

were conducted for the beneficiaries. About 250 farmers benefited through these trainings. Beneficiaries of Nagapattinam district were taken for an exposure visit to the organic farms in Sathiyamangalam, Gopichettyalayam and Mettupalayam. Land has been selected for the construction of a biopesticide unit.

Empowerment of Farmers through Training Programmes on Organic Farming

This project supported by The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Chennai, is being implemented in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu from August 2009. Under this project, a total of five training programmes have been conducted for the beneficiaries on organic paddy cultivation and related technologies. Follow up trainings have also been conducted. Ten farmer trainers were selected and orientation trainings were provided. The practices adopted for the organic cultivation of paddy by selected farmers were documented. On 11th December, a discussion meeting was organized. The NABARD AGM, Mr. Venugopal participated in this meeting and interacted with the beneficiaries regarding the technologies they have learnt and followed in organic farming and the trainings provided by CIKS. Representatives from seven farmer groups participated in this meeting.

Introduction of Organic Farming in Alangadu Village

Our centre is involved in the promotion of organic farming in Alangadu village of Nagapattinam district from January 2009. The second phase of this

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

project has begun from September 2009 onwards. Monthly sangam meetings were conducted and discussion on various topics took place. The Alangadu irrigation channel was desilted for about 3.5 km. A farm pond was dug with the help of the Department of Agriculture Engineering, Mayiladuthurai. On 26th October, a veterinary camp was conducted. Beneficiaries are provided with paddy seeds, CO₃ fodder grass sets and biofertilizers. Implements like trolleys and barrels have been provided to the community vermicompost unit.

Strengthening Sustainable Agriculture for Improving Rural Livelihoods: A Project with Focus on Dryland Agriculture

Under this Ford Foundation and HIVOS supported project a detailed survey has been conducted in Thiruvannamalai and Dindigul districts. In Thiruvannamalai district about 343 acres has been selected involving 116 farmers of six villages of Javadhi hills of Polur taluk. In Dindigul district, a total of 435 acres has been selected which includes 88 farmers of three villages of Natham taluk. Programme Director S. Arumugasamy visited Thiruvannamalai and Dindigul districts on 13th and 24th October respectively to finalize the project areas. On 5th and 6th December, orientation trainings were conducted for the beneficiaries of Dindigul district. Support has been provided for three farmers of Kalathupatty village of Dindigul district for vermicompost production and apiculture.

Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, 83 traditional paddy varieties have been cultivated for seed multiplication. ADT 43 paddy variety is cultivated in two acres following SRI method. Vegetables like tomato, cluster beans, bhendi have been cultivated. Coriander, mint, cow pea, cluster beans etc. have been raised under the shade house. Saplings of pomegranate and sapota have been planted in 20 cents. Compost and vermicompost production is in progress.

CAPART Meeting

On 12th October, A. V. Balasubramanian participated in a meeting of the CAPART Sub committee on "Nature based livelihoods and appropriate technologies". The objective of the meeting was to make recommendations to CAPART on possible programmes particularly with respect to NREGA and natural resources livelihood management.

Participation in Organic Trade Fair

An International organic trade fair "Bio Fach India" was held in Bombay between 18th to 20th November. There were stalls which displayed organic products and organic inputs. The Department of Agriculture of Sikkim, Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Mizoram etc., participated in the exhibition. A total of 13 farmers along with three staff members visited stalls. The farmers were also taken to visit organic farms in Pune. They had a detailed discussion with the farmers.

COMPAS International Healers Exchange

An International Healers Exchange was organised by FRLHT Bangalore on 19th and 20th November 2009 in which there were thirty healers participating from Asia, Africa and Latin America. On behalf of CIKS, K. Vijayalakshmi, COMPAS Asian Coordinator, A. V. Balasubramanian and M. Suresh participated in the meeting. On 19th afternoon, A. V. Balasubramanian chaired a discussion forum on "Food, Nutrition and Life style in relation to healing traditions".

COMPAS Policy Workshop On Agriculture

Our Centre hosted a COMPAS Regional Policy workshop and

writeshop on "Indigenous Knowledge and Agriculture" on 25th and 26th November 2009. The meeting was attended by COMPAS partners from India and Sri Lanka, representatives from the COMPAS International Unit and a technical consultant for the programme. The objective of the workshop was to learn about drafting a policy and come up with a draft policy document on Indigenous Knowledge and Agriculture. There were detailed presentations about Agriculture policies of the National Government as well as the State Governments followed by group discussions and exercises.

Organic Farming Festival

A series of ten organic farming festivals were conducted in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Dindigul districts. The main objectives of these festivals were to encourage organic farmers and to create more awareness about organic farming in villages. A total of 768 farmers participated in these functions. The chief guests of these functions were Agriculture Officers, Horticulture Officers, Bank Managers and Village Presidents.

SALE OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS IN FULL SWING

Range of Certified Organic Products like cereals, pulses, oils, spices, rice varieties etc., are available with Arogyam Organics (P) Ltd. Those interested in purchasing may contact 044-2743 0625 / 2743 1971. You can also place your orders by e-mail : arogyamorganics@gmail.com

For more details log on to www.arogyamorganics.com

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PESTICIDES

Basic Facts (Tamil)



This publication provides basic information on chemical pesticides. It also provides information on status of pesticide usage in India, harmful effects and health hazards caused to human beings and animals, environmental pollution etc. It also

discusses about the alternative practices to avoid the use of chemical pesticides.

For copies, contact

**"CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS"
at the address given below**

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

- On 20th October, Dr. T. T. Ranganathan, Professor, the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Gandhigram Rural Institute visited us.
- On 21st October, Dr. Natesan Punniamurthy, Organising Secretary, ICEVP – 10, Centre for Ethnoveterinary Herbal Training and Research, Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Thanjavur visited us.
- On 27th October, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Panda, Joint Secretary, Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Ministry of Health and F.W, Government of India. Ms. Anita Das, IAS (Retd), Secretary Ayush, Dr. G. N. Sreekantaiah, IFS, Director, Department of AYUSH, Government of Karnataka and Dr. D. Aravind, Government Siddha Medical College, Chennai along with Vaidya M. Radhika of Childrens Hospital, Chennai visited us.
- On 22nd November, Advocates, Mr. D. Ramalingam, Ms. Sudha Ramalingam and Ms. Akila visited our farm to get to know about various organic farming technologies.
- On 24th November, Mr. Marc Lammerink and Ms. Marijke Kreikamp from COMPAS International Coordination visited us. They made a trip to the farm and TRC at Sukkankollai, Neem seed processing unit in Vedanthangal village and the field office at Chengalpet.
- On 8th December, Dr. Haripriya Narasimhan, London School of Economics, London visited us.

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