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TRAINER'S TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Participants visiting the herbal nursery at Thandarai

on various topics of organic farming like Vrکشayurveda, - The Traditional Plant Science, Biological Methods of Pest and Disease Management, Importance of Traditional Seed Varieties, Environment and Soil Conservation, Plants in Pest Control, Organic kitchen gardening, Pest and disease management in cotton, Cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants and Organic paddy cultivation. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail of Ecoscience Research Foundation, Dr. Aru. Solaiappan, Agricultural Scientist and Mr. Suresh, Gram Mooligai Company Limited were some external resource persons in addition to the CIKS staff.

Mr. P.N.Srinivasan, Director of CAPART, New Delhi spent a day with the participants. He evaluated the proposals that were prepared by the participants and discussed about the preparation of project proposals. He gave suggestions to the participants in this regard. Demonstrations on the preparation of various biopesticides and seed treatment techniques were done to the participants. Equal importance was given both for theory and practical sessions.

The participants were taken to the experimental farm of CIKS at Sukkankollai where they had an opportunity to learn about different techniques of organic farming. The various composting techniques were explained to the participants practically. The participants also visited the herbal garden at Thandarai and the biopesticide unit at Venpakkam.

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems conducted a Trainer's Training Programme on Sustainable Agriculture between 28th January and 3rd February 2004 at the field office, Singaperumal Koil. The training programme was conducted for the representatives of NGOs in Tamilnadu and was supported by the Regional Centre of CAPART based in Hyderabad. Mr. M.V. Murugappan of the Murugappa Chettiar Research Institute, Chennai and Dr. Aru. Solaiappan, Agricultural Scientist from Chenglepet inaugurated the programme by lighting the 'Kuthuvilakku'.

The main objective of the programme was to train the participants on various aspects of Sustainable Agriculture and help them formulate fundable proposals to CAPART. Twenty three representatives from 22 NGOs participated in this training programme. The participants were trained



Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail during his lecture

PROJECT WATCH

A round-up of our activities this quarter

Mid-term Evaluation and Training

Our centre has been implementing a project on "Enhancing livelihood security of small and marginal farmers", supported by CAPART. The mid-term evaluation of this project was done by Mr. L. Veeraghavan. He visited our office at Kotturpuram and had discussion with our staff on 2nd January. On 3rd, he visited the project site and had an interaction with the beneficiaries and field staff.

Regular training programmes for the beneficiaries form part of this project. A training programme on "Ethno-veterinary practices for cattle care" was conducted by a well known veterinarian Dr. Abdul Razak. Farmers from Anoor, Alavai and Venpakkam participated in the training programmes held on 15th, 16th and 17th of March respectively. The farmers were trained on simple techniques for curing ailments in cattle using locally available plants and other materials.

Training on Organic Cotton Cultivation

As a part of the DST supported project on "Organic Cotton Cultivation", CIKS conducted two training programmes, one each at Sirkazhi and Kancheepuram.

The programme was held on 30th & 31st January in Sirkazhi and 19th & 20th February in Kancheepuram. Nearly 90 farmers were trained in these programmes. The District Collector Mr. Veerashanmugamani, I.A.S., was the guest of honour in the programme held at Sirkazhi. He highlighted the importance of organic farming. In the programme, the farmers were given an orientation to organic cotton cultivation, and the importance of shifting to organic cotton cultivation was stressed. Ten farmers have been identified from each of these groups. These farmers would be provided with technical and material support for organic cotton cultivation during the current season.

Trainer's Training Programme at SRD

In connection with the consultancy provided to FRLHT's project on 'Development of User's Package', K. Subramanian and P. Murugan of CIKS conducted a Trainer's Training Programme on 20th and 21st of February and a follow up workshop on 12th March at Society for Rural Development, Dharmapuri. Nearly 50 farmers participated in the workshop and shared their experience in organic farming.

UNDP Meeting

CIKS had completed a project under the Small grants programme of UNDP GEF-

CCF coordinated by Centre for Environment Education (CEE), New Delhi. On 26th February, a one day workshop was hosted by CEE, Bangalore. About 25 NGOs from 4 southern states participated in this workshop. CIKS made a presentation about the experience of the completed project in the workshop. This was followed by a good discussion.

Educational Material on Organic Cotton

In connection with the preparation of educational material on organic cotton, Subhashini Sridhar undertook a trip to Delhi and Nagpur between 8th - 14th of January. She visited the National Centre for Pest Management and Indian Agricultural Research Institute and had discussion with the scientists. She also visited the Vidarba Organic Farmers Association at Vidarba and the Central Cotton Research Institute at Nagpur.

Workshops on Organic Kitchen Gardening

CIKS has been implementing a project on establishing kitchen gardens to improve the nutritional security of households with support from HIVOS. In connection with this, 10 organic farmers sangams have been formed in 10 different villages in the Madhurantakam block of Kancheepuram district. Five one day orientation workshops were conducted for the members of 5 sangams

between 22nd - 26th March in the Sukkankollai farm. Various aspects of integrated organic kitchen garden was explained to the farmers and demonstration of preparation of biopesticides was also done. The farmers visited the demo medicinal plant garden and the composting areas in the farm.

Insect rearing lab at Sirkazhi

CIKS is about to set up an insect rearing lab for its experiments at Sirkazhi. In this connection, Subhashini Sridhar attended a three day training programme on 5th, 6th and 7th of March at the insect rearing lab of Dr. Kumar at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. She was trained on various aspects of insect rearing and its related topics.

COMPAS Team at Egypt

A.V. Balasubramanian was at Egypt between 14th to 27th March to attend the conference on - "Bridging Scales and Epistemologies" that was held as part of the - "Millenium Ecosystem Assessment" that was hosted by Bibliotheca Alexandrina at Alexandria in Egypt. As a part of the panel presentation by the COMPAS team, A.V. Balasubramanian presented a paper on "Traditional and Modern Sciences and Technologies in India : Trading New Paradigms for Old". He also attended the meeting of International coordinators group of the COMPAS programme.

CIKS TALK

**Seminars, Discussions, Presentations,
Workshops, Fairs...**

Zoofest in Stella Maris

K.Vijayalakshmi inaugurated the inter-collegiate festival "Zoofest" organised by the Zoology Department of Stella Maris College on 9th January.

Visit of Friends of Lanka

A group of 17 NGOs from Srilanka visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai on 1st January. They were given a farewell on 9th of January.

CIKS Day

CIKS turned nine on 23rd January. To mark this occasion, the CIKS team visited the field station at Sirkazhi and had discussions on the future of CIKS. This was followed by outings to various historical places and temples in and around Sirkazhi.

At Sarada Ashram

A. V. Balasubramanian conducted a mid-term evaluation of a CAPART project on 11th January. This was a project to demonstrate a package of Rainwater Harvesting techniques at Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Ashram, Ulundurpet.

Science Camp 2004

A. V. Balasubramanian delivered a lecture on "Indigenous Systems of Healthcare - An overview" on 30th January for a group of 25 students and 5 teachers drawn from various parts of Tamilnadu at the "Science Camp 2004" organised by the Science City, Chennai.

National Workshop at Bangalore

As a part of an Action Research Study conducted by Ford Foundation, a National workshop on "Conservation, Livelihood and Enterprise" was organised by ATREE, Bangalore. H. Saraswathy and T.D. Nirmala Devi attended this workshop on 30th & 31st of January. They made presentations on the Natural Resource based enterprise of CIKS - Biopesticide unit, Integrated home garden and the Arogyam scheme.

Symposium at Loyola College

R.Sridevi and Petzy C.Mathuram attended a National symposium on "Green Pesticides for Insect Pest Management" hosted by the Entomology Research Institute of Loyola college on 5th and 6th of February.

Workshop for Team Building

A two day workshop was conducted by Swami Someswarananda on 9th and 10th of February. The workshop was to increase the motivation amongst the staff of CIKS and to help build a good team. He gave valuable suggestions to decrease stress and organise work in a better fashion.

Visit to Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad

A.V. Balasubramanian visited Bangalore on 11th February to

discuss regarding the COMPAS institutionalisation process with Mr. Vijay Padaki of P&P Group. He met Dr. Ganeshan Balachander of Ford Foundation on 12th at New Delhi.

On 13th, he visited National Institute of Rural Development at the invitation of Shri. Lalith Mathur, I.A.S., Director General of NIRD. He also had a meeting with Dr. Geetha Patel, Dy. Gen. Manager and Mr. Gupte, Director of Godrej group of companies to discuss possible collaboration in Organic Farming.

Farmers festival at Annamalai University

Subhashini Sridhar participated in the farmers festival conducted by Annamalai University on 12th February.

Symposium on Herbal Products

On 19th & 20th February, the Botany Department of Stella Maris College conducted a symposium and an exhibition on Herbal products. A.V. Balasubramanian made a presentation on "Vrkshayurveda - An Introduction to Traditional Indian Plant Science". R. Sridevi and J.C.Priya attended the programmes on both days. A stall was also put up in the exhibition by CIKS with the publications to display our activities.

Visit to CAST

On 2nd March, K. Vijayalakshmi visited Cheranmahadevi to conduct a prefunding evaluation of the

project submitted to CAPART by the NGO, CAST.

Visit to SARI, Melur

On 3rd March, K. Vijayalakshmi and Anand Ramachandran, our web and design consultant visited the SARI project of N-logue communications at Melur. They visited the internet Kiosks in about 4 villages and had discussions with the operators and the users.

Workshop at Thanjavur

On 26th March, Thanjavur Multipurpose Social Service Society, an NGO at Tanjore conducted a workshop on organic farming. Subhashini Sridhar served as a resource person for this workshop and highlighted the importance of indigenous varieties and the organic methods of pest control to the farmers.

WTO and Indian Agriculture

K.Vijayalakshmi participated in a one day workshop entitled "WTO and its impact on Indian Agriculture and Agro based Industries" held by the Indian Institute of Directors, Chennai on 27th March. She made a presentation in the session "Biodiversity Conservation - need of the hour".

Herbal Cultivation and Marketing

Arogya Jaya from our biopesticide unit at Sirkazhi attended a one month training programme on "Herbal Cultivation, Processing and Marketing" in Nagapattinam.



BOOKS, VIDEOS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

THE SEED KEEPERS A Multimedia Presentation

The Seed keepers is a self running multimedia presentation made with still photographs and complete with commentary and sound track. This 23 minutes presentation summarises the effort of a eight year project of CIKS on biodiversity conservation. This would be a starting point for organisations involved in biodiversity conservation work. The CD is available both in English and Tamil.

Price : Rs. 250/-



ORGANIC METHODS OF PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT



Organic methods of Pest and Disease Management is a set of posters designed in the form of a booklet, released in English, Tamil and Hindi. The first section consists of 3 posters discussing about the various pests attacking vegetables, highlighting identification of important pests of vegetables and their control measures. The second section of 3 posters deals with the various diseases attacking vegetables, their identification and control measures. The third section of four posters give general information on various non-chemical pest control methods and methodology of preparing various plant extracts.

---- Please contact our Centre for copies ----

VISITORS BOOK

A look at who's been dropping in at CIKS

† On 8th January, Mr. Rangasri, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, CLRI visited CIKS to carry out an assessment of our Institutional capability as part of a prefunding assessment being carried out by the Ministry of Human Resources Department.

† On 19th January, Mr. P. Sudhakar, Assistant Director, CPR Environment Education Centre visited us to seek our involvement in their seminar.

† On 27th January, Ms. Edith van Walsum from the COMPAS International Office, Netherlands visited us to discuss about the Institutional development of the COMPAS programme.

† On 29th January, Mr. S. Viswanathan, Chennai of Precision Rubber Mouldings Ltd., visited us to seek our help on cultivation of medicinal plants.

† On 30th January, Mr. Abdul Kareem of FRLHT visited us to discuss regarding the Development of User's Package Project.

† On 19th February, Mr. D. K. Hari of Bharat Gyan visited us to get materials for a series of Multimedia presentations on Indian Heritage.

† On 24th February, Dr. Ramanjaneyalu and Mrs. Raji from Centre for World Solidarity visited us.

† On 1st March, Mr. Balaji and Mr. Rajangam of Gandhigram Trust visited our biopesticide unit at Sirkazhi

† On 1st March, Mr. S. Raghavan of Govardhan Goshala, Chennai visited us in connection with his project.

† On 9th March, Ms. Naoko Yakati, a Ph.D. Student from school of social sciences, JNU visited us.

† On 12th March, Dr. Channa Raju of Brahmi School, Bangalore visited us in connection with his plan for efforts of integrating gardening and traditional agriculture with his educational efforts.

† On 22nd March, Mr. Kumaraswamy an organic farmer from Tirunelveli visited us.

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