



NAMMA NELLU - AN EFFORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF INDIGENOUS RICE VARIETIES

The efforts of CIKS in conserving indigenous rice varieties since 1995 took a new full-fledged shape through an initiative called *Namma Nellu* (Our Paddy). It was conceptualized with broader objectives to channelize dedicated efforts towards conservation of rice diversity. With generous contribution and support from adopters, in Samba 2016, 128 indigenous paddy varieties were cultivated at Sukkankolai village in Kancheepuram district and 74 varieties at Agani in Nagapattinam district. During the cultivation process, various features such as number of tillers per hill, number of productive tillers per hill, flowering date, date of harvest, number of grains per panicle, yield per hill, total yield per plot paddy straw yield and 1000 grain weight have been extensively documented for each variety. For the upcoming samba season, preparations are on full swing for the multiplication and conservation of indigenous rice varieties in the next cycle.

Currently, *Mappilai Samba*, *Seeraga Samba* and *Kuzhiadichan* are three rice varieties that are being scaled-up by the farmer Producer Companies.

KUZHIADICHAN குழியடிச்சான்

Ideal for lactating mothers since it increases lactation. It is also called Kulikulichan.

குளிகுளிச்சான் என்றும் அழைக்கப்படும் இந்த அரிசி தாய்மார்களுக்கு தாய்ப்பால் சுரப்பை அதிகரிக்கும்.

Suitable for making dishes like idly and dosa.

இட்லி, தோசை போன்ற உணவு வகைகளை சமைக்க உகந்தது.

Resistant to drought, pests and diseases. Ideal for cultivating organically.

வறட்சி, பூச்சிகள் மற்றும் நோய்களை எதிர்த்து தாக்கு பிடிக்க வல்லது. ஆர்கானிக் முறையில் விளைவிக்க ஏற்றது.

Finds mention in several ancient medical texts.

பழங்காலத்து பாரம்பரிய மருத்துவ நூல்களில் இந்த அரிசி குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

Produced and marketed by:

NEITHAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRODUCER COMPANY LTD.,
No.108, Natham, Kamuthi (Tk), Ramnad(Dt), 623 601

9942796506 / 9942296315

Seeraga Samba Rice

- ◆ Since it resembles the shape of Jeera (Cumin) it is named as Seeraga Samba.
- ◆ The rice is extremely fine and aromatic and hence used for making biriyani.
- ◆ It helps to cure vatha related disorders and easily digestible.
- ◆ It finds mention in Pazhani Copper inscriptions and several traditional medical texts.

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NET WEIGHT : 1 KG
(When packed)
MAX. RETAIL PRICE :
(Inclusive of all taxes)
DATE OF PACKING :

Mappilai Samba Rice

- ◆ This variety increases the stamina. It has high carbohydrate and crude fibre content.
- ◆ Consumption of Mappilai Samba rice washed water helps to cure mouth and stomach ulcers.
- ◆ It increases the digestive power and also helps diabetic patients.
- ◆ This variety can withstand flooding and is a climate smart variety.

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PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

DST Core Support Project

Under this project supported by DST, New Delhi, regular production is in progress in the neem oil soap unit, biofertilizer unit and mushroom production units. Bioassays have been conducted on *Spodoptera litura* and *Aphis craccivora* using oil soaps. Two training programmes on 'Cotton Cultivation Technologies' and 'Production of Biofertilizers' were organized for the beneficiaries on 15th May at Karaikal and on 18th May at Sirkazhi, respectively. One day training programme on "Mushroom Culture Production" was organised for the members of Suyam women SHG from Uluthukuppai village of Nagapattinam district at Sirkazhi on 2nd June.

Strengthening of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) - Phase - I - IV

This project is in progress in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Tiruvarur districts with the support of Tamil Nadu Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (TNSFAC). Orientation programmes, demonstrations, technical trainings and exposure trips were conducted for Board of Directors (BoDs), Chief Executive Officers, FIG members and shareholders.



Thirteen awareness programmes on 'Rain water harvesting' were conducted through Tiruvarur FPC in the beneficiary villages. A community vermicompost unit has been set up in Melapanaiyur village in Perambalur district through the Perambalur District Maize and Small Onion Farmers Producer Company. Rajaraja Chozhan FPC in Thanjavur has purchased a land for setting up a mini dhal mill in Kokkeri village in Ammapettai block. On 13th May, SFAC equity grant assessment was done by Mr. Ammaiappan at CIKS TRC in Sukkankollai. First Annual General Body Meeting of the Veeranarayanan Agricultural Farmer Producer Company in Cuddalore district was held on 18th April. Monthly review meetings of the CEOs were conducted regularly.

Project for the Promotion of Farmer Producer Companies Supported by NABARD

This project is being implemented under the NABARD Producer Organization Development Fund (PODF) scheme in Kancheepuram, Dindigul, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts. Ten FPCs promoted in above districts are operating with 6364 shareholders from 121 villages in 76 gram panchayats. A total of 7775 farmers have been mobilized under this programme and 300 Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) have been formed. Knowledge dissemination activities and consumer services are provided to the beneficiaries through 10 Agri - Information and Service Centres established under this project. A series of orientation and technical trainings

and exposure visits were organized for the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers and the shareholders. On 11th May, Mr. Gaurav Kumar from FWFB coordinated the review meeting of the CEOs and the assessment of the FPCs at CIKS TRC in Sukkankollai. On 13th May, he had a discussion with the Board of Directors on milch animal rearing and various other activities of the FPCs. On 26th May, a capacity building training was organized in Chennai covering topics like basic license for FPOs and compliances, credit and financial linkages. A total of six Producer Companies - Kanchi, Neithal, Seeds, Managiri, Pudupalayam and Thandarampattu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Companies have got the sanction of SFAC Equity Grant.

Value Addition and Marketing of Indigenous Rice Variety - *Seeraga samba*

This project supported by NABARD under its Farm Section Promotion Fund (FSPF) is in progress in Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. Seed farm activities were implemented in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture in Thiruvannamalai district. A total of 30 trainings and four exposure visits were organized for the beneficiaries. Demonstration fields were established in 10 acres. Equipments like mini rice mill and a moisture meter have been purchased to support the value addition activities. Packaging wrappers have been designed for the products and inputs. A documentary video film on project activities has been prepared.

Value Addition and Marketing of Indigenous Rice Variety - Kuzhiadichan

This project supported by NABARD under its FSPF programme is in progress in Ramanathapuram district. Survey on the availability of indigenous paddy varieties was conducted in Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Tuticorin districts. Thirty technical training programmes and four exposure visits were organized for the beneficiaries. Demonstration fields have been set up in five villages in 10 acres. An audio visual on this project has been prepared. Mini rice mill has been purchased for the value addition activities.

Retaining Village Youth in Agriculture through Training Programmes

This pilot project is in progress in Nagapattinam district with the financial support of Rabo Bank Foundation, the Netherlands and co-financed by NABARD, Chennai. Sixty beneficiaries including five women have been selected. Training programmes on agro products manufacturing and marketing, rearing of goat and milch animal, green fodder cultivation, biofertilizer production, seed production technologies – procedures and economics etc., were conducted for the beneficiaries. Apart from technical trainings, a training programme on “Leadership qualities” was conducted by Mr. O. B. Ramasubramanian, Executive Director of Sustainable Livelihood Institute in Pondicherry. As part of the training programme, beneficiaries were taken to visit the Seed processing unit in Mullaiyampattinam and *Discipline Farm* of Auroville in Pondicherry. On 26th May, Mr. D. Ganesh, DDM, NABARD, Nagapattinam reviewed the activities of this programme.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.



Visit of the Expert Committee from DST

CIKS is being supported under the DST Core support programme since the year 2008 and the current five year period of the support ends in the year 2018. DST expert committee visited Tamil Nadu between 7th and 9th May for a review of the programme of CIKS as well as one other core support group in Tamil Nadu. The team consisted of Dr. Sunil Agarwal from DST and four other Scientists. On 7th May, a meeting was held at Chennai wherein a presentation was made to the DST team about the progress of our work by Ms. Subhashini Sridhar, PI of the project. Subsequently, on 8th May, Members of the Committee made a field visit to Sirkazhi. Following this the Committee members came to the CIKS office at Chennai on 9th May for a follow up review and discussion.

DST Workshop at Lucknow

At the invitation of DST, A.V. Balasubramanian and Subhashini Sridhar attended a workshop held at Lucknow on 29th and 30th May hosted by the NBRI (National Botanical Research Institute) at Lucknow. To the expert committee, A.V. Balasubramanian made a presentation about the progress and achievements through the core support programme during the period of about 10 years from the year 2008 onwards. He also provided an outline of the proposed programme for the next five year period 2018 – 2023.

Mission Samruddhi Review Meeting

On 5th May, A.V. Balasubramanian attended a meeting organized by the organization “Mission Samruddhi” at Chennai. During the meeting presentations were made and discussions were held involving several organizations receiving support from Mission Samruddhi in various areas including – Sustainable Agriculture and the strengthening of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Visitor from FWWB, Ahmedabad

FWWB, Ahmedabad has been providing support to a large number of FPCs promoted and supported by CIKS. Mr. Gaurav Kumar of FWWB, Ahmedabad spent a period of about 10 days between 9th and 18th May visiting various field locations and meeting with CEOs and Board members of 13 FPCs promoted by CIKS. He visited the Chennai office on 19th May and had a discussion with A.V. Balasubramanian, K. Vijayalakshmi, K. Subramanian and Divya K.R. to review his findings and discuss the future course of action.



Participation in Chennai Seed Festival

A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the Chennai Seed Festival that was held between 9th and 11th June at the Anna University campus at Guindy in Chennai. On 11th June, he made a presentation about “Nutritional and Therapeutic Properties of Indigenous Varieties of Seeds and their Importance”.

BOOK STORE



1. Good Practices for Producer Companies (in English)
2. Urpathiyalar Companigalukkana Therndha Seyalmuraigal (in Tamil)
3. Duties, Rights and Responsibilities: Manual for Shareholders, Directors & Chief Executive Officers of Producer Companies (in English)
4. Urpathiyalar Companigalin Vettrikkana Thittamidal matrum Aalugai Murai (in Tamil) and

The above publications may be downloaded from the CIKS website.

5. Farmer Producer Companies - Empowerment and Livelihoods of farmers - Case studies from Tamil Nadu. A summary of this report can be found in the website of FWFB (http://www.fwfbindia.org/pdf/Farmers_Producer-Company_Case_Study.pdf)

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

- On 17th April, Mr. S. Swaminathan from ALC (Access Livelihoods Company Limited), Hyderabad visited CIKS for a discussion about possible collaboration with CIKS on various activities.
- On 3rd and 25th May, Dr. B. Sujatha, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Ethiraj College, Chennai visited CIKS to discuss about the placement of student interns.
- On 3rd June, Dr. Merlin Franco of the Department of Environmental Studies in the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam visited CIKS and had a discussion with A.V. Balasubramanian and Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi.
- On 14th June, Dr. Narendra Mehrotra of Jeevaniya Society, Lucknow visited CIKS and had a discussion with A.V. Balasubramanian.
- On 15th June, Mr. Subhash Gupta, Manager of Equitas – Small Finance Bank, Mayiladuthurai visited Veerachozhan FPO and had discussion with Board of Directors about the existing schemes under the bank in detail.
- On 20th June, Ms. Freda Rosaline (Zonal Credit Manager) and Mr. Nagaraj Arumugam of ICICI Bank, Chennai visited CIKS. They had a meeting with A. V. Balasubramanian and K.R. Divya and discussed about possible interaction with Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).

TALK TO US

Send your feed back,
comments and suggestions
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