



MEMORIAL LECTURE ON VRKSHAYURVEDA AND IT'S RELEVANCE

In January 2019, a Farmers Convention on Vrکشayurveda was organised by the Kerala Chapter of Asian Agri History Foundation (AAHF) at Kannur in Kerala. A.V. Balasubramanian was invited to deliver the Dr. Y.L. Nene memorial lecture and he spoke about Vrکشayurveda. It was attended by a large number of farmers as well as officials of the Kerala Government Agriculture Department who are active in this area. Also in attendance were officials and scientists from the Biodiversity Board and from the agencies dealing with spices, rubber and plantation crops as well as TBGRI (Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute) in Thiruvananthapuram. As a follow up to this meeting, at the invitation of the AAHF, the talk was published as a paper entitled "Vrکشayurveda : An Overview and its Relevance for Agriculture Today". This appeared in the current issue of the journal Asian Agri History, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2019 (77-98).



Inauguration of the Farmers Convention

K. Vijayalakshmi Interviewed By WIN TV

WIN TV interviewed Dr. K Vijayalakshmi and broadcast the interview as two episodes of their Programme "Iniya Thozhi" in March 2019. They can be currently viewed on YouTube using the below links - <https://youtu.be/tKaooZ6wcTY>
https://youtu.be/oU_8pM8OaHY

EQUITY GRANT FOR THE FPCs

Three Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) in Dindigul district - Kurinji, Mullai and Vadamadurai Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited promoted by CIKS under the programme supported by NABARD's Producer Organization Development Fund (PODF) have got sanctions for a second installment of - "Matching Equity Grant" from the Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi. With this each of these companies has received a total of Rs. 10.0 lakhs as Matching Equity Grant from SFAC.



A.V. Balasubramanian during his talk on Vrکشayurveda



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Strengthening of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) – Phase – III & IV

This project supported by Tamil Nadu Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (TNSFAC) is being implemented in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Kancheepuram and Thiruvannamalai districts. Equity grant of Rs. 5 lakhs has been received by the Cheyyar and Groundnut FPCs and Rs. 10 lakhs has been received by Peravoorani FPC from TNSFAC. Training programmes on “Accounting Procedures” were conducted for the CEOs of Kanchi, Groundnut and Cheyyar FPCs between 10th – 13th January. Business activities of the Perambalur FPC and Veeranarayanan FPC in Cuddalore district were reviewed on 21st and 22nd January. As part of the restoration work in the Gaja cyclone hit areas, training programme on alternate housing models for coastal areas was conducted in Vedharanyam block of Nagapattinam district on 9th January and on production and selection of healthy coconut saplings and intercropping was conducted in Peravoorani block of Thanjavur district on 24th January. An MoU has been signed between the Veeranarayanan FPC in Cuddalore district and the Department of Agri-marketing in Cuddalore for establishing a seed processing unit in Pinnalur village. Following this, two planning meetings to establish a seed processing unit in Pinnalur village were organised on 11th and 22nd March. An exposure visit was organised for the shareholders

of the Veeranarayanan FPC to Vibis Natural Bee Farm in Madurai on 28th February. Following the sanction of the equity grant of Rs. 10 lakhs, an MoU has been signed between the Peravoorani FPC and SFAC Delhi on 15th March. An exposure visit was organised for the BoDs, CEOs and LRPs of the Cheyyar, Groundnut and Kanchi FPCs to the Valvil Ori Farmer Producer Company Limited in Namakkal on 28th March. A total of 37 members participated and discussions on business opportunities and revenue sources took place. Monthly review meetings of the CEOs, BoDs and LRPs were conducted regularly.

Capacity Building of Farmer Producer Companies through Training Programmes

This programme granted by Friends of Women’s World Banking (FWWB), Ahmedabad for providing a series of training programmes for Farmer Producer Collectives and building their capacities was implemented during January – December 2018. On 13th March, Ms. Neha Kansara and Ms. Millee Pharmar from FWWB came from Ahmedabad and attended a meeting for the evaluation of the project. The meeting was attended by the CIKS project team, various farmers and master trainers who had been trained as well as Mr. Srinivasan from Numeral Consulting, Tamil Nadu who had carried out an external evaluation of the programme. There was a detailed discussion about

various aspects of the programme. A set of eight publications have also been brought out as part of this programme in English and Tamil (details can be found under the book store column in page 4). We are planning to make these publications available as free downloads from our website.

Improving the Livelihood and Food Security of Small-Holder Tribal Communities

This programme supported by NABARD Tribal Development Fund is in progress in the Jawadhu hills block of Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu from May 2013 onwards. Activities of the project are spread over 39 hamlets covering 1051 beneficiary households with 400 acres in Kovilur panchayat. Four hundred acres of WADI fields (small orchard) with fruit crops and border crops have been raised by 511 beneficiary households. A total of 551 landless beneficiaries are involved in the other livelihood activities such as, rearing of cows, goats and pigs, maintaining tailoring unit, pettishops, poultry incubation unit and fodder cultivation. Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC) meeting was conducted on 24th January at Thiruvannamalai. Monitoring of project activities was done by Dr. Uma Maheswara Rao, State Coordinator of NABCONS on 5th – 6th February. Project staff participated in the half yearly review meeting

of the project on 28th February at the NABARD Regional Office in Chennai. An exposure visit was organised for a group of nine Village Planning Committee members to the Exotic Fruits Private Limited in Krishnagiri on 31st March. A video documentation of the activities of this project was done.

Namma Nello - Conserving Indigenous Rice Varieties in Tamil Nadu

Namma Nello is an initiative of Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) to conserve traditional rice varieties in Tamil Nadu. A total of 42 different indigenous paddy varieties have been cultivated by 30 farmers. So far, 12 farmers have completed the harvest and 4.2 tonnes of paddy grains have been procured from them. Processing, packaging and marketing of indigenous rice varieties are in progress.

Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP)

Under the Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP), a series of training programmes on "Eco-friendly Handicrafts Production" was conducted at Alangadu village of Nagapattinam district. This programme was concluded on 3rd January. Chief guests and resource persons of the programme were Mr. B. Prabhakaran, DDM, NABARD, Nagapattinam, Mrs. Kavitha, Assistant Manager of Kumbakonam Central Cooperative Bank, Kollidam, Mr. V. G. Shankaran, LDM, IOB Nagapattinam, Mr. K. Selvamani, Director, IOB RSETI, Nagapattinam and Mrs. Vinothini, Legal consultant, Nagapattinam.

TALK TO US

Send your feed back, comments and suggestions to info@ciks.org

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more

Samunnati Workshop

Samunnati Financial Services, Chennai conducted a stakeholder consultation on 'Making Markets Work for Small-Holder Farmers' on 18th January 2019 at Chennai. It was attended by representatives of Bankers, Financial institutions and various supporting and promoting agencies involved in the creation and support of Farmer Producer Organisations. A.V. Balasubramanian attended the consultation. The meeting was held at IIT Madras Research Park at Chennai.

UGC - SAP Programme at Annamalai University

On 30th January, Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar participated in the UGC Special Assistance Programme (SAP) organised by the Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University in Chidambaram and made a presentation on "Sustainable Management Strategies for Coastal Agriculture - Traditional Paddy Varieties a Boon to Climate Change". We also made a display of traditional rice varieties. A total of 60 lecturers and 150 Post Graduate Agriculture students participated in the programme.

Kisan Radio Divas

On 14th February, Kisan Vani Karaikal had organised the Kisan Radio Divas at the conference hall of KVK in Mathur. Karaikal District Collector Shri. A. Vikranth Raja, IAS presided as chief guest. Programme Director of CIKS Sirkazhi Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar participated and delivered a talk on "The Importance of Traditional Paddy Varieties to Combat Climate Change - CIKS Initiatives and the Market Support of Valanadu FPC". More than 250 farmers and organic farmers under the guidance of CIKS participated. A "Traditional Rice Gift Box" was presented to the Collector as a gift of honour.

Visitor from FWFB, Ahmedabad

Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das, CEO of Friends of Women's World Banking, Ahmedabad visited Chennai on 20th and 21st February. On 20th February, she had a meeting at the CIKS TRC along with the CIKS field staff and the CEOs and selected Board members of 12 FPCs promoted by CIKS that are currently being supported by FWFB. The meeting reviewed the current status of loans and support to the FPCs. On 21st February, she had a follow up meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian and Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi at the CIKS Chennai office.

Partners Meeting at Supraja Foundation

At the invitation of Supraja Foundation, A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi attended a meeting at Bengaluru on 28th February and made a presentation about a pilot study that was taken up by CIKS about the market potential of TRV (Traditional Rice Varieties) in Tamil Nadu State. The meeting was attended by about eight organisations including field groups, marketing support agencies and financial institutions involved in work relating to agri marketing.

Meeting of NABARD State Level Consultative Committee on the Produce Fund

On 6th March, A.V. Balasubramanian attended a meeting of the NABARD State Level Consultative Committee on the Produce Fund under which NABARD is promoting the formation of a large number of Producer Companies in Tamil Nadu State. The meeting reviewed the progress and achievements during the current phase.

BOOK STORE

A set of eight publications have been brought out as part of the FWFB supported Trainers' Training Programme carried out during the period January 2018 – February 2019.

1. Contracts : An Introduction for Producer Companies.
2. Compliances for Producer Companies: An Introduction
3. Banking Operations based on Internet and Debit and Credit Cards: An Introduction
4. *Inaiyathalam, Patru Attaigal mattrum Kadan Attaigalai Adippadaiyaga Konda Vangi Seyalpadugal: Oor Arimugam* (Tamil version of the above book)
5. *Vivasayigalin Vilaiporutkalai Sandhaipaduthum Vazhimuraigalum Kuraindhapatcha Aadharavu Vilaiyum : Oor Arimugam* (Title in English - Marketing of Agricultural Produce by Farmers and Minimum Support Price : An Introduction).
6. *Urpathiyalar Companigalin Vettrikkana Thittamidai Mattrum Therndha Seyalpadugal* (Title in English - Strategic Planning and Good Practices for Producer Companies).
7. *Urpathiyalar Companigalukkaana Vaniga Thittam : Oor Arimugam* (Title in English - Business Planning for Producer Companies : An Introduction). The book is given along with a CD which contains a sample business plan.
8. Glossary of Technical Terms on Farmer's Collectives and Related Areas (English – Tamil and Tamil – English).

These publications will be made available shortly as downloads from the CIKS website.

NEW PROGRAMME

SOIL PROGRAMME



A programme entitled SOIL - Sustainable, Organic, Indian Farming Principles Learning Programme was launched on 2nd March in Chennai. CIKS will implement this programme in association with Sprouts Montessori School in Chennai and Sempulam Sustainable Solutions. It will be a 10 month programme starting from June 2019 - April 2020. The participants will be exposed to various principles of organic farming. The practical sessions will take place in the CIKS farm in Sukkankollai and the theoretical sessions in Sprouts Montessori School in Chennai. Application forms are available in Sprouts Montessori School (10, Luz Avenue Road, Mylapore, Chennai – 04). Anyone interested in organic farming and nature can reach out for further details @ 044-24981006 / 044-42074027 or write to - sproutsmont@gmail.com

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

Design & Layout : R.Anand & S. Ramesh

Book-Post

To



B-3, Rajalakshmi Complex,
2nd Floor, No. 18, Chamiers Road,
Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035

Ph : 044-4218 8011

Email : info@ciks.org / ciksorg@gmail.com

Website : www.ciks.org