



AGRO-BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION THROUGH SEED PRODUCTION, CHARACTERISATION, DOCUMENTATION AND DEVELOPING MARKETING LINKAGES FOR TRADITIONAL RICE VARIETIES OF TAMIL NADU

The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Germany has sanctioned this project to CIKS. This project was for a period of four months from July to November 2019. Some of the highlights of the project are as follows,

- Fifty eight farmers were involved in the conservation of 49 traditional paddy varieties in 66 acres in Thiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram districts. Crops are in maturation stage.
- Two training programmes on seed production techniques, each of which were of two days duration, were conducted in September and October 2019 at CIKS TRC in Sukkankollai. Participants were also taken to visit the private and government Seed farm, Seed processing unit, Seed storage godown and Seed testing laboratory in Kancheepuram.
- Fifty four traditional rice samples have been tested for their Nutritional properties.
- We participated in two Agri Exhibitions held in Madurai between 22nd - 24th August and in SRM College Campus in Kattankulathur on 14th - 15th October.
- On 20th October, we had organised a Traditional rice food festival at Hotel Crowne Plaza in Chennai.
- A new publication on "Traditional Rice Varieties of Tamil Nadu - A Source Book" has been brought out in English.

- On 20th October, CIKS had organised a lunch at the Crowne Plaza hotel, Chennai which was in the nature of a celebration of Traditional Rice Varieties. The Chief Chef of Crowne Plaza, Mr. Deva had curated a lunch with a spread of various items made with 11 selected traditional rice varieties. During the introductory part of the event, CIKS introduced and welcomed various farmers and FPO representatives from their field areas who had been involved in this activity for over 20 years.
- Mr. Deva, Chief Chef of Crowne Plaza hotel and Ms. Revathy Shanmugam, well known culinary expert were honoured by CIKS during the event. The lunch was attended by a cross section of well wishers and various supporters interested in conservation and traditional rice varieties.



Lunch with Traditional Rice Varieties



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Strengthening of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) – PHASE – I – 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. Peeravoorani FPC is involved in neera production and necessary license has been renewed. Training programmes on 'Selection of coconut saplings, setting up of nurseries and coconut value addition', 'Accounting procedures and Good Governance' were conducted for the members of the Peeravoorani FPC. On 6th August, a two day training programme on roles and responsibilities of BoDs, CEO and Accountant, business plan preparation, accounting procedures and maintenance of records was conducted for the BoDs of Perambalur FPC. A training programme on "Marketing opportunities" was conducted for the FIG members of the Veeranarayanan FPC in Cuddalore district on 14th August. Project staff attended the meeting organised by SFAC for the review of Resource Institutions in Chennai on 22nd August. An exposure visit was organised for the BoDs and three progressive shareholders of the Perambalur FPC to Kazhani FPC in Erode on 17th September. A training programme on 'Legal Compliances for FPCs' was conducted for the members of the Kanchi FPC on 19th September at CIKS TRC in Sukkankollai. The Third Annual General Body Meeting of the Veeranarayanan FPC in Cuddalore district and the Fourth Annual General Body Meeting of the Groundnut and Cheyyar FPCs were conducted in the month of September. The seed processing unit construction in Pinnal

village by the Veeranarayanan FPC in Cuddalore district is nearing completion. A group of six members comprising of one BoD and the CEO of Kanchi, Cheyyar and Groundnut FPCs visited the SFAC New Delhi office had a meeting with Smt. Neelkamal Darbari, MD, SFAC, New Delhi and also participated in the Samunnati – Economic Times – Summit Awards held in Hotel ITC, New Delhi. An exposure visit was organized for the Groundnut FPC to IIFPT (Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology) in Tanjore and Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI) in Aduthurai on 30th and 31st October. Veeranarayanan FPC has distributed three tonnes of paddy seeds of the varieties BPT 5204, TKM -13 and Swarna sub 1 (F1 type) to 15 farmers for seed production during samba season. Registration with the Department of Seed Certification was also completed. Monthly review meetings of the CEOs, BoDs and LRPs were conducted.

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. Under this project, a health camp, a veterinary camp and three street plays were conducted in the month of July. An exposure visit was organised for the project staff, CEO and BoDs of Managiri FPC and representatives of Village Participants Committee to JISL Mango Farm in Udumalpet on 6th September. They learnt various techniques like planting density, pruning methods, cultivation practices from saplings to harvest and marketing. Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC) meeting was conducted on 30th September at Thiruvannamalai. On 6th November, Mr. Rawoof Shaikh, Manager, NABARD visited the project sites in Jawadhu hills along with Mr. V. Sreeram, DDM, Thiruvannamalai. Necessary equipments were purchased for the value addition unit.



Procurement of Traditional Rice Variety *Kuzhiadichan* in Ramnad District

Conservation and Marketing of Traditional Rice Varieties

This project is being implemented by CIKS with the support of the Supraja Foundation for the cultivation and promotion of TRV (Traditional Rice Varieties). Proposed activities like paddy conservation, seed production and orientation programmes are in progress in Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram districts. Under the component on traditional paddy cultivation, 10 traditional paddy varieties have been cultivated in 1116 acres in Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram districts. Under the traditional paddy seed production component, six traditional paddy varieties have been cultivated in 95 acres. Crops are in maturation stage and harvesting is also in progress. More than 100 orientation trainings on climate resilient agriculture technologies and 71 orientation trainings on livestock management were conducted. A workshop on financial management was held in CIKS TRC on 11th and 12th July. A total of 116 one day training programmes have been organized for the shareholders of the Seeds, Valanadu, Marutham, Pudupalayam and Neithal FPCs on the importance of traditional paddy varieties, difference between the traditional varieties and improved varieties, seed selection and seed treatment methods. Four livestock management trainings have also been organized for 112 beneficiaries. In Nagapattinam district, three trainings were conducted in three villages on Seed treatment techniques and Nursery management. Four trainings were conducted in four villages and topics like techniques of seed treatment, nursery raising, transplanting and pest and disease management covered in detail. A one day training programme on Seed

Production Techniques – Traditional Paddy Varieties was organised in PAJANCOA & RI in Karaikal on 23rd October. A total of 40 farmers from 10 villages participated in this programme. Field visit and visit to seed processing unit was arranged as part of the programme.

Review of FWFB Supported AFC Project

FWFB Ahmedabad is supporting a CIKS project for AFC (Agri Facilitation Centre). In this connection, Ms. Milee Parmar of FWFB visited CIKS for three days from 9th to 11th

October 2019. On 9th October, she had meetings with the Company Secretary K. Sridhar along with the CIKS Programme Director K. Subramanian and discussed about support that can be provided under the project for FPCs. Later that day the two of them also had a meeting with the Auditor Mr. R. Ramachandran about accounts and auditing of FPCs supported under the project. After that Ms. Milee visited Chennai again on 11th October for a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian and the other team members.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more

Training on Financial Management

A workshop on “Financial Management Systems for FPCs” was held in the CIKS TRC on 11th and 12th July 2019. The resource persons for the workshop were Mr. Srikantha Shenoy, Mr. Srikanth SP and Mr. Sathya Madhav, LV of IDF and also Dr. V. Tagat and Mr. Lakshmi Narayana from Supraja Foundation, Bengaluru. The meeting was attended by CEOs and selected Board members of 12 FPCs with which CIKS is working closely. The meeting consisted of a few presentations, a series of discussions and certain

practical exercises on various aspects of financial management. As a preparation for this meeting IDF had circulated a format for recording and analyzing basic facts with respect to all the participating FPOs with particular emphasis on financial management. During the workshop the exercise carried out by one selected FPO namely Marutham was taken up for detailed discussion and analysis. A quick overview was also obtained about some other selected FPOs.

National Workshop on Organic Farming

On 2nd July, GIZ, New Delhi organised National Workshop on “Organic Farming: Building a Collaborative Ecosystem”. It was attended by various Farmer Producer Collectives involved in organic farming, Government officials and various technical support agencies. At the invitation of GIZ, A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the workshop and made a presentation about the CIKS



Training Session at the CIKS Technology Resource Centre

experience with respect to the scaling up of the cultivation of organic products with special reference to paddy varieties.

Workshop on Ayurveda for Students and Teachers of Yoga

On 20th and 21st July, Sempulam Sustainable Solutions organised a workshop on Ayurveda for students and teachers of Yoga at Chennai. The meeting was attended by about 40 participants and the key resource persons were Vaidya Narendra Pendse and Vaidya Aruna Pendse. On behalf of CIKS, A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the workshop as a resource person and delivered talks on various aspects of traditional Indian knowledge systems including - testing and validation, folk and classical traditions etc.

Meeting with a Team from Rajalakshmi Engineering College

On 16th August, a team of faculty members and students from Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Sriperumbudur Chennai visited CIKS. The team included Professors Dr. Sheila Anand and Dr. Kumar from the Faculty of Computer Science as well as a group of post graduate students from the Department of Computer Science and Aeronautics. They met A.V. Balasubramanian and Ms. Nancy from CIKS and had a discussion about possible projects in which students can be involved in a collaborative effort to develop smart agriculture applications for sustainable agriculture.



Seeds Training - Kalanjiyam Seed Farm Visit

Workshop on Medicinal Plants

On 17th August, Ms. Nancy from CIKS along with the CEOs of two FPCs attended a workshop on Cultivation, Conservation, Marketing and Utilization of Medicinal Plants that was organized by the Centre for Traditional Medicines and Research (CTMR) and the Indian Medical Practitioners Cooperative Pharmacy and Stores Ltd., (IMPCOPS) at Chennai. This workshop is the combination of lectures, discussion and visit to a raw drug store of IMPCOPS.

Workshop on Honey Bee Rearing

A three day workshop on honey bee rearing was organised by NABARD in Nagapattinam district in collaboration with MSSRF Poompuhar and KVK, Sikkal between 5th and 7th September. A total of 14 shareholders from Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company participated in the workshop. Participants were also taken for an exposure visit to the honey bee rearing laboratory in Anbil Dharmalingam Agriculture College and Research Institute in Trichy.

Meeting with Desi Crew at IIT Madras Research Park

On 12th September, A.V. Balasubramanian and Ms. Nancy from CIKS visited Desi Crew Company at the IIT Madras Research Park. They were accompanied by Mr. Aravind, Consultant and had a meeting with Mr. S. Thirugnanam (Vice president and Business head) and Mr. J. K. Manivannan (CEO) of the Company. They had a discussion about the computerization of data that have been collected from the CIKS field areas about various farmers who are participants in field programmes.

Training Programme on Seed Production

CIKS organized a training programme on "The Importance and Production of Paddy Seeds" on 23rd and 24th September at the CIKS TRC (Technology Resource Centre) at Sukkankollai in Kancheepuram district. The meeting was attended by 30 persons including, farmers and field staff from the districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam. Mr. Mahalinga Kannan, expert in seed production and certification, was the main resource person in addition to various CIKS team members. The training was a combination of classroom sessions, demonstrations and field visits to private and government seed farms and seed testing laboratory in Kancheepuram.

Meeting with the CEO of TKDL

Dr. Vishwajanani, who is the CEO of TKDL (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library) programme of the Government of India had been in touch with CIKS in order to obtain inputs about inclusion of data relating to traditional agriculture as part of the TKDL programme. On 11th October, during a visit to Chennai, Dr. Vishwajanani and Dr. Vijayalakshmi of TKDL had a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian of CIKS to discuss possible ways of collaboration.



Quality Checking of Seeraga samba in Pudupalayam Field Area

Participation and Panel Discussion on CSA (Climate Smart Agriculture) at New Delhi

Samunnati in collaboration with various other organisations had organised a one day summit of FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) at New Delhi on 18th October. As part of the summit, GIZ had organised a panel discussion on Climate Smart Agriculture and the role of FPOs in it. At the invitation of GIZ, A.V. Balasubramanian of CIKS participated in the panel discussion which was moderated by Mr. Rajeev Ahal, Director, NRM Programme of GIZ.

Meeting with Samunnati Team

On 14th November, A.V. Balasubramanian, K. Subramanian, V. Suresh and S. Vetrivelan visited the office of Samunnati Finances at Chennai. They had a meeting with the Samunnati team members which included the CEO Mr. Anil Kumar and Senior officials including Mr. Ganesh. They had a discussion about the various current linkages of CIKS supported FPCs with Samunnati as well as future plans.

GIZ Meeting on UPNRM Programme at New Delhi

On 19th and 20th November, GIZ organised a knowledge exchange programme entitled - "Mainstreaming and Financing Natural Resource Management based Learnings from the

Umbrella Programme for Natural Resource Management (UPNRM)" at New Delhi. At the invitation of GIZ A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the programme. He also was a member of a panel that was organised on the topic "Mainstreaming and Upscaling NRM Business Models through FPOs".

Film on CIKS work Relating to Seed Conservation

CIKS has been implementing work relating to the conservation of traditional seed varieties since 1995. Recently GIZ had supported CIKS programmes through seed conservation which involved conservation, training, research and publications. As part of this effort a film crew belonging to the group "Moving World Views" visited the CIKS field areas between 21st and 25th November for a series of interviews and field visits that took place in the districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Chennai.

Visit of Supraja Foundation Team to CIKS and Supraja Foundation Partners Meeting at Bengaluru

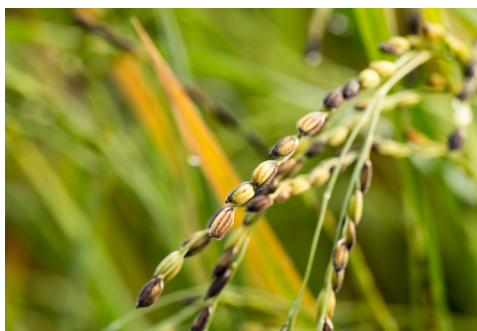
A team of six persons from Supraja Foundation including the trustees and members of the Advisory Committee visited the CIKS field area on 3rd December 2019. At first the team members visited the Parvatham Poondi village and

had an interaction with a group of farmers and representatives of the Producer Companies. After this they visited the Velukkampattu village, where a neem seed processing unit is in operation and a fodder unit is under construction. Later the team visited the CIKS Technology Resource Centre at the Sukkankollai village where they had a detailed discussion with the CIKS team members.

Subsequently, on 6th December 2019, the Supraja Foundation hosted a meeting of various partners who are being supported by the foundation in the sector of Agriculture and Natural Resources Management. The partners who are from the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and other locations made presentations about their work. CIKS was represented in this meeting by A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Subramanian who made a presentation about CIKS activities supported by Supraja Foundation.



Sivappu Kuruvikar - A Samba Rice Variety Rich in Iron

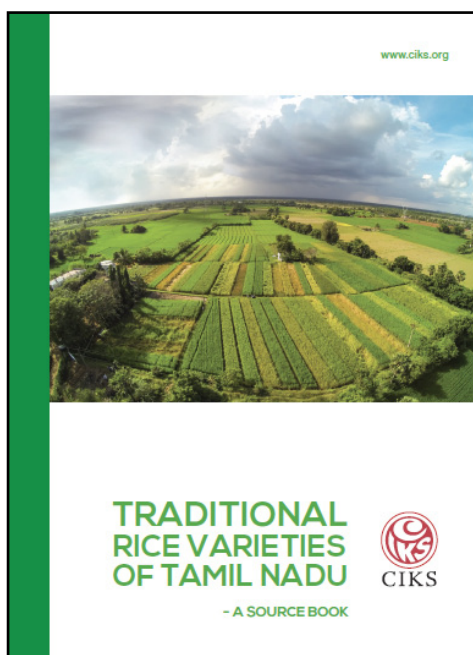


Karunguruvai - A Black Rice with Low Glycemic Index



Curd Rice with Kullakar - A Traditional Rice Variety

TRADITIONAL RICE VARIETIES OF TAMIL NADU – A SOURCE BOOK



A new publication on “Traditional Rice Varieties of Tamil Nadu – A Source Book” has been brought out in English. This publication provides an overview of our activities relating to various aspects of Traditional Rice Varieties for the last 25 years. This publication is brought out as part of the project co-financed by GIZ, commissioned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Note : The soft copy of the book will be uploaded in the CIKS website by April 2020.

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

- On 30th July, Mr. Kurian Job of the Corporate Division of HDFC bank visited CIKS for a discussion about the possible engagement of HDFC in offering support to CIKS as well as Farmer Producer Organisations supported by it.
- On 16th August, Dr. Svati Bhogle from TIDE (Technology Informatics Design Endeavour), Bangalore visited CIKS. TIDE was the all India coordinating agency for a project funded by DST on Biomass-based driers. Since CIKS is one of the participating agencies, she had a discussion with A. V. Balasubramanian about the progress of the project and the follow-up plans.
- On 16th August, Mr. Ramasamy and Mr. Krishnan of IFLI (India First Life Insurance) visited CIKS office for a discussion about various kinds of products that may be developed specifically to meet the needs of Farmer Producer Companies.
- On 26th September, Mr. N. Srinivasan of Supraja Foundation visited the CIKS office at Chennai and had a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian about the progress of the project on “Cultivation and Marketing of Rice Varieties”.
- On 30th October, Mr. Prasad and Ms. Radha of AME Foundation, Bengaluru visited and had a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian and M. Nancy about collaboration between AME and CIKS to develop a knowledge base on sustainable agriculture.
- On 16th November, Ms. Anjali and Mr. Sanjeev as part of the film crew of Moving World Views for a discussion about the proposed film on seeds.
- On 25th November, Dr. Sheela Anand and Dr. Ganesh from Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Sriperumbudur.
- On 30th November, Mr. Ajit Narayan of Disability Division of Google, USA.
- On 11th December 2019, Aravind, Computer consultant for a discussion about the baseline survey in CIKS field areas.

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