



*CIKS Wishes all its friends & Well Wishers  
A Very Happy and Prosperous 2009*

## COMPAS PARTNERS MEETING

Our Centre hosted a regional meeting of the COMPAS partners from Asia between 28th November and 2nd December 2008. The meeting was attended by COMPAS partners from India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam besides the COMPAS International Coordinator, Mr. Wim Hiemstra. On 30th November, a group of special invitees who are researchers from Universities and research institutes and collaborating with COMPAS partners joined the meeting. On 1st December, all the partners went on a field trip to the CIKS experimental farm and Technology Resource Centre at Sukkankollai in the Kancheepuram district. During the meeting, the partners reviewed the progress of the programme at the field, national, regional and international level. A. V. Balasubramanian of CIKS had been the Asian Coordinator of the COMPAS programme since April 1999 and with effect from December 2008, K. Vijayalakshmi of our Centre has assumed responsibility of the COMPAS Asian Coordinator.



*Participants of the meeting*

## NEW PROJECT

### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, REDUCTION OF POPs AND LIVELIHOODS FOR FARMERS IN TAMIL NADU - A SUSTAINABLE TRIANGLE

UNDP has sanctioned a project to our Centre under their GEF (Global Environment Facility) - Small Grants Programme entitled "Biodiversity Conservation, Reduction of POPs and Livelihoods for Farmers in Tamil Nadu - A Sustainable Triangle". The programme will be implemented for a period of two years from November 2008 onwards in four districts of Tamil Nadu - Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam. Under this project, a series of orientation programmes have been conducted. A total of eight villages have been selected so far for the implementation of project activities. In Dindigul district, six villages have been selected for conducting training programmes on "Integrated pest and disease management in vegetables". In Vannampatti village, a total of 28 farmers have been selected and an Organic farmers self help group has been formed.



## PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

### **Enhancing Livelihood and Food Security Through Capacity Building for Organic Farming and Natural Resource Management – Phase II**

CIKS is implementing the second phase of the above-mentioned project with support from the Ford Foundation. Under this project, a total of 205.73 ha of land has been selected from Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts, out of which 143.62 ha are cultivated organically in this season. A total of 39 training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries. The participants were trained on topics such as organic farming certification, seed production methods in paddy, groundnut and vegetables and their certification procedures, SRI cultivation techniques and composting methods. A total of 631 farmers benefited through these training programmes. Biofertilizers like *Phosphobacteria*, *Rhizobium* and *Azospirillum* are being produced in our biofertilizer unit. On 16th October, Mr. Vasudev from IMO, Bangalore, conducted the external inspection in the farmers fields. A training programme on “Commercial seed production” was conducted for the beneficiaries of Nagapattinam district. Technical people from Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI) served as resource persons. On 7th November, a discussion meeting on production and marketing of organic products was held in Dharmathupatty village of Dindigul district. Nearly 31 farmers attended this meeting. On 12th December, a group of 12 farmers from Kancheepuram and

Thiruvannamalai districts were taken for an exposure visit to Agri Expo 2008 held at Coimbatore. Internal inspection of farmers fields were conducted in Thiruvannamalai district and Dharmathupatty, Pazhaniyur and Silvarpatty villages of Dindigul district, between 9th – 10th and 22nd – 24th December, respectively.

### **Capacity Building on Organic Farming**

This project, supported by CAPART, New Delhi is being implemented in 10 villages in the Kancheepuram district. Sangam meetings were conducted regularly. Inputs like paddy seeds, vegetable seeds, plastic barrels, biofertilizers, yellow sticky traps and Pheromone traps have been distributed to the beneficiaries. On 18th October, a training programme along with a discussion meeting was held at Sukkankollai farm. A group of farmers and presidents of SHGs participated in this programme. Farm implements have been distributed to the farmers of Edaiyur, Korappattu, Sithalamangalam, Senthankulam and Thiruvannaikovil villages. Video documentation of work carried out under this project is in progress.

### **Paddy Organic Chain - Seed to Market**

CIKS is implementing a pilot project on “Paddy Organic Chain – Seed to Market” in Tamil Nadu with support from HIVOS, Bangalore. Monthly meetings were conducted in Chithravadi, Kolathancherry and Kaliyapettai villages. On 9th and 11th October, two trainings were conducted

on first aid procedures for the farmers of Madhur, Mogalvadi, Kuripedu, Kaliyapettai, Kolathancherry and Chithravadi villages. A total of 53 farmers attended these training programmes. On 11th November, a Trainers’ Training Programme on Internal Control Systems (ICS) was conducted for the farmers of Thiruvannamalai district. A total of 17 farmers participated in this training programme. Soil samples from Sukkankollai farm have been analyzed in our soil testing laboratory. A training programme on Internal Control Systems (ICS) was conducted for the newly selected farmers.

### **Compas Project – Phase II**

This project, supported by COMPAS, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. In collaboration with the Department of Plant Pathology, Annamalai University, experiment on eco-friendly management of *Fusarial* wilt in tomato has been conducted. Fumigation trials are being conducted. Under this project, ten farmers from eight villages are involved in the conservation of nine different traditional paddy varieties. Seeds of ten different traditional paddy varieties have been distributed to the farmers of Sirkazhi taluk for multiplication. Traditional paddy varieties are being cultivated by the farmers for the purpose of documentation of their characteristics. Characteristics of nine traditional paddy varieties have been documented so far. On 25th October,



a training programme on fodder grass cultivation was conducted for the farmers of Kancheepuram district. Co3 fodder grass cuttings have been distributed to the farmers of Septangulam, Mogalvadi and Kuripedu villages. Nearly 25 beneficiaries are involved in the organic cultivation of fodder grass.

### **Improving the Status of Mid-day Meals Programme Through Organic Kitchen Gardening**

Our center is implementing a project on "Improving the Status of Mid-day Meals Programme through Organic Kitchen Gardening in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu" with support from the Department of Science and Technology. Under this project, a total of eight training programmes were conducted for the students. They were trained on topics such as balanced diet, importance of vegetable consumption and techniques for organic vegetable cultivation. Inputs like vermicompost, biopesticides, biofertilizers and neem cake have been distributed to the eleven beneficiary schools. Information chart on balanced diet has been prepared and distributed to five beneficiary schools. A vermicompost tank has been constructed in a school at Nangoor. Quality parameters of vegetables stored in cool chambers have been tested in order to standardize the use of cool chambers that are constructed in two schools.

### **Work in Progress at Sukkankollai**

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, *Gliricidia* stem cuttings and saplings of *Adhatoda* have been planted around the fields to increase the density of the buffer zone. Production of foundation seeds by SRI method of cultivation, using ADT 43 paddy variety is in progress. Groundnut and *Sweet Sorghum* has been cultivated. An assessment on self sustainability of our experimental farm has been completed. All farm records were checked and updated.

## **NEWSROOM**

### **Happenings and more.**

#### **Compas Meeting in the Netherlands**

A. V. Balasubramanian travelled to the Netherlands between 30th September and 4th October. He attended the meeting of the COMPAS International Management Group at the COMPAS headquarters in the Netherlands on the 3rd and 4th October 2008. During the trip, he also met with Ms. Willy Douma and Mr. John Hollands from the HIVOS International Headquarters in the Netherlands.

#### **Workshop on Natural Resources Management**

On 16th and 17th October, CIKS had organized a workshop on the Legal and Regulatory Aspects Relating to Natural Resources Management at Chidambaram. The meeting was held in Tamil with the objective of educating farmers, local healers and rural leaders about the legal and regulatory aspects in this area with particular reference to the Biodiversity Act, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, the Seed Act and the proposed new Seed bill etc. The meeting was inaugurated by the Dr. G. Kuppusamy, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University and the Keynote Address in the first session was delivered by Dr. K. Venkatraman, Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority of India.

#### **Team from IDRC**

On 21st October, Mr. Oliver Puginier, Senior Programme Officer, IDRC Regional Office for South Asia and Dr. Merle Faminow, Rural Poverty and Environment team leader from IDRC (International Development Research Centre) Canada visited us. They met with the CIKS team who made a presentation regarding various activities of the Centre. There was a discussion about areas for possible collaboration and future interaction.

#### **Workshop at IIT, Madras**

A brainstorming workshop on Science and Technology in Rural India was held on 1st November 2008 at IIT Madras. A. V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi participated in this workshop. This was organized by RTBI, IIT in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology. It was attended by scientists and NGOs from different parts of the country.

#### **Brainstorming on Organic Farming**

A state level brainstorming meeting on organic farming was held on 4th

November 2008 at our experimental farm in Sukkankollai. The objective of this meeting was to disseminate the overall discussions and views on organic farming arrived at meetings that were already held in 4 districts of Tamil Nadu. The meeting was attended by 26 members including organic farmers, officials from Government Departments, scientists from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and NGO representatives.

#### **Visitors from Malaysia**

A group of 14 members including farmers and University researchers from Consumers Association of Penang (CAP), Malaysia participated in a ten-day exposure programme organized by CIKS between 8th - 16th November 2008. The members were given an overview of the activities of CIKS. They visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai and the Sirkazhi project area.

#### **India Organic 2008**

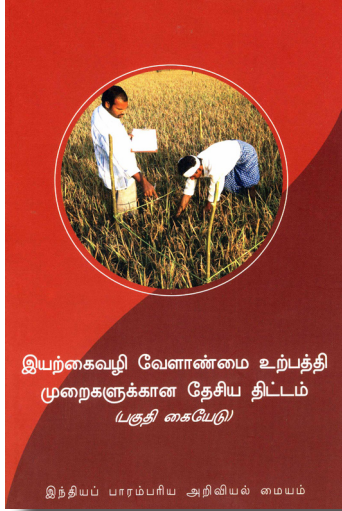
The International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA) in association with National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ministry of Agriculture and APEDA and Ministry of Commerce had organized the India Organic Trade Fair between 27th and 30th November at New Delhi. CIKS participated in this fair and exhibited its publications and organic products and made a good sale.

#### **Meeting on SRI (Sustainable Rice Intensification)**

On 4th December, CIKS hosted a meeting on SRI in the Technology Resource Centre at Sukkankollai. The meeting was attended by Dr. Norman Uphoff of Cornell University, Dr. Thiyagarajan, Retired Professor from the Tamilnadu Agriculture University and some other scientists and technologists. During the meeting, there were presentations on the work done by CIKS on SRI as well as presentations regarding the experiences of farmers on SRI.

#### **Rice Chain Workshop at Indonesia**

A Regional meeting towards pro poor rice value chain was organized by HIVOS, between 18th and 20th December 2008 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This workshop was attended by more than 30 participants from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Cambodia. On behalf of CIKS, our Programme Director Subhashini Sridhar participated in this workshop.

**BOOKSTORE***New publications and audiovisuals***NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR  
ORGANIC PRODUCTION  
(Partial document in Tamil)**

This publication provides complete information on standards to be followed for organic production in India. It also provides information on organic methods of animal husbandry, standards to be followed by farmer groups for getting organic certification, list of inputs allowed and restricted in organic agriculture and the quantity of use.

**For copies, contact "Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems" at the address given below.**

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

- On 7th October, Mr. M. K. Sudhakar, AGM, NABARD, Kancheepuram district visited our Sukkankollai farm.
- On 9th October, a group of 28 farmers from Dindigul district visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai.
- On 26th October, Mr. Nicolas Rowlean from Canada visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai.
- On 30th October, Prof. V. Sritharan, Faculty Member and Internship Coordinator of ICFAI, Hyderabad visited us to discuss about student interns with CIKS.
- On 2nd November, Mr. V. Venkatachalam, Director General of CAPART, New Delhi visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai.
- On 18th November, Mr. Srinivasan from Exnora International, Chennai and Mr. Abubakkar from ECOMWHEEL visited our Sukkankollai farm.
- On 22nd November, Dr. Madhulika Banerjee from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi visited us.
- On 7th December, a group of 25 farmers from Sirkazhi visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai.
- On 8th December, Mr. Wim Hiemstra of COMPAS International Coordination from the Netherlands visited us.
- On 28th December, Mr. Jaganathan, Research scholar from IARI, New Delhi visited us.

**Attention e - Newsletters**

CIKS has also been bringing out a monthly e-newsletter "CIKS Wire" for the last eight months. Some of you are already in our mailing list and you would be receiving it. Others, who are not currently receiving it, but are interested to receive it, please send a mail to [info@ciks.org](mailto:info@ciks.org) or [ciksorg@gmail.com](mailto:ciksorg@gmail.com). We would be happy to send it to you regularly.

In addition to this, we would also like to inform you that our quarterly newsletter CIKS NEWS is also available as an e-version. Please let us know if you would like to receive the newsletter as an e-version or as a printed version. Please let us know your interest through email to [info@ciks.org](mailto:info@ciks.org) or [ciksorg@gmail.com](mailto:ciksorg@gmail.com).

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