



CIKS IN ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS

The 16th Organic World Congress hosted by IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) was held between 18th - 20th June 2008 at Modena, Italy. S. Arumugasamy, Programme Coordinator represented CIKS in the congress.

In Modena - Emilia Romagna Region, the local government (Province of Modena) and regional organic movement (AIAB Emilia Romagna) gathered energy and resources to establish "Consorzio ModenaBio 2008" in order to create with IFOAM and in partnership with other important international and national organizations, a global platform for discussion and for sharing information and experience to "Cultivate our Future" (which was the theme for 2008). The Organic World Congress had two main tracks, the Systems Values Track for presentation and exchange of practical experiences from farmers, consumers, campaigns and cooperation and a Scientific Research Track, where current academic research were presented and discussed. S. Arumugasamy presented a paper titled "Study of Marketing Options and Structures Available for Organic Products for Non-Governmental



S. Arumugasamy during his presentation in World Congress

Organisations in India" and a poster titled, "Plant Products as Biopesticides: Building on Traditional Knowledge of Vrکشayurveda: Traditional Indian Plant Science". The paper and the poster were well received.

NEW PROJECT

IMPROVING THE STATUS OF MID-DAY MEALS PROGRAMME THROUGH ORGANIC KITCHEN GARDENING

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), has sanctioned a project to our Centre entitled "Improving the status of Mid-day meals programme through Organic Kitchen Gardening in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu". The programme will be implemented for a period of one year from June 2008 onwards. Under this project, a survey has been conducted in 25 schools situated in Sirkazhi and Mayiladuthurai for the implementation of project activities. At present, a total of 96 cents of land has been selected from ten schools and activities like land preparation and fencing are in progress.



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 203.76 ha of land has been selected from Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts, out of which 93.13 ha are cultivated organically in this season. A total of 18 training programmes were conducted for the farmers of Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts. The participants were trained on various topics such as organic farming technologies, maintenance of ICS (Internal Control System) records, rat management in paddy fields and awareness on legal issues. Nearly 374 farmers benefited through these training programmes. In our newly constructed biofertilizer unit equipments are standardized and production of *Phosphobacteria* has been initiated. A trial has been initiated in our oil expeller unit at Velukampattu village of Thiruvannamalai district. As a component of this project, under the capacity building of NGOs, a two-day training programme on organic farming technologies was conducted for the farmers working with the NGO, SIMCODESS at Dindigul, on 15th and 16th April. On 11th May, members of Sirkazhi organic farmers' sangam were taken for an exposure visit to Trichy Agri expo and to an organic farm in Panickampatti village. On 7th and 8th June, two training programmes were conducted for the technical staff of CIKS, Chengalpet office on biofertilizer production. This training programme was coordinated

by Mr. Kasinathan from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Pondicherry. On 15th June, a Trainers' Training Programme on "Importance of internal inspection in organic certification and procedures to be adopted" was conducted for selected farmers at Allivilagam village.

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. A total of 10 farmers from Kolathancherry village have been selected for the organic cultivation of various crops in 18.20 ha of land. On 18th April and 27th May, two training programmes on working principles of equipments in our soil testing laboratory were conducted for the technical staff of CIKS, Chengalpet office. In our mini rice huller unit all the required equipments have been procured and a trial has been initiated. On 20th May, a training programme on "Standards of Internal Control Systems" was conducted for the farmers of Madhur, Mogalvadi and Kuripedu villages. On 24th May, a brainstorming meeting on organic farming was held at Puliangudi village. On 17th and 19th June, two training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries on organic certification and Standards of Internal Control Systems.

DST Project on Storage Forms of Biopesticides

A DST supported project on storage forms of biopesticides is being implemented in Sirkazhi from September 2005. Armyworms and Aphids are being reared under lab conditions and on green

gram seedlings respectively. Bioassays have been conducted on pulse Aphids using Five leaf extract, Ginger, garlic, chilli extract and *Andrographis kashaayam*. On 25th April, a training programme on biopesticide preparation was conducted for the women farmers of Pagasalai village. On 13th May, a one day training programme on "Biopesticide preparation and setting up of biopesticide unit" was conducted for the members of SHG in Agani village. Nearly 40 women belonging to various SHGs participated in this training programme.

COMPAS Project - Phase II

This project, supported by COMPAS, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. An experiment on "Eco-friendly management of fusarial wilt in Tomato crop" is in progress in the Department of Plant Pathology, Annamalai University. Two experiments on paddy titled "Control of bacterial leaf blight using cow dung extract" and "Yield increase and disease resistance through foliar spray of fermented cow's urine" are being conducted in Ilayankudi and Agani villages respectively. On 16th and 25th April, two brainstorming sessions on organic farming were conducted in Nagapattinam and Dindigul districts respectively. On 25th April and 11th and 20th May, three training programmes were conducted for the farmers of Edaiyur, Thakkandarayapuram and Narapakkam villages on fodder grass cultivation.

Improving Livelihoods of Farmers through Organic Vegetable Cultivation

CIKS is implementing a project on "Improving livelihoods of farmers

through Organic Vegetable Cultivation in the irrigated areas of Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu" with support from Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai from November 2007. Under this project, a total of 32 farmers from three villages have been selected. A total of 8.18 ha of land has been selected. Three organic farmers self help groups have been formed in T. Pudhupatti, S. Pudhur and Karadipatti villages. Inputs like bone meal and pheromone traps have been distributed to the beneficiaries. On 24th April, a one-day training programme on organic farming technologies was conducted for the beneficiaries of all the three villages. Between 26th - 29th May, two trainings were conducted for the farmers of Pazhaniyur and Dharmathupatti villages. The participants were trained on various organic farming technologies. On 20th and 24th May, beneficiaries of this project were taken for an exposure visit to the organic fields in Pazhaniyur and Dharmathupatti villages and to a Vermicompost unit in Padiarajapuram, Dindigul.

Technology Resource Centre Activities

The Technology Resource Centre activities of CIKS commenced from October 2005. As a part of this programme, organic farming technologies have been implemented in Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram districts. Between 21st - 22nd and 24th - 25th May, two training programmes were conducted for the farmers of Madhur, Mogalvadi, Kuripedu and Velukkampattu, Velanthangal and Septangulam villages respectively. Vermicompost production has been initiated by the farmers of Septangulam village.

Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, 12 different traditional paddy varieties have been sown. Greens, mentha and coriander have been sown under shade house. Groundnut and Chilli cultivated during the previous season have been harvested.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

Programme Officer from Ford at CIKS

On 3rd April, Dr. Vasant Saberwal, Programme officer from FORD foundation, New Delhi visited our organic farm and the newly constructed biofertilizer unit in Sukkankollai. Following this, he visited the organic fields in Kadambai village of Kancheepuram district and had discussion with farmers regarding various organic farming practices.

Brainstorming on Organic Farming

Our Centre is organizing a series of brainstorming meetings in four districts of Tamil Nadu on organic farming. On 16th and 25th April, two brainstorming meetings were conducted in Nagapattinam and Dindigul districts, respectively. Nearly 46 persons including farmers, NGO representatives, students and scientists attended these sessions. During these meetings, the participants are split into groups and the constraints and problems of organic farming and suitable solution for problems were discussed.

Visit to New Delhi

A. V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi made a visit to New Delhi on 29th and 30th April, for a series of meetings. On 29th April, they visited the Department of Science and Technology and had a meeting with Dr. Anuj Sinha, Head, National Council for Science and Technology Communication. They also had a meeting with Dr. Vinita Sharma, Head of the Programme on Science and Technology for Women. Following this, they had a meeting with Dr. Ganesan Balachander and Dr. Vasant Saberwal of the Ford foundation. On 30th April, they met Dr. Prabjot Sodhi, National Coordinator of the UNDP Small Grants Programme and Dr. Murali at UNDP. They also met Mr. P. N. Srinivasan, Director of Rural Technology Division of CAPART, New Delhi.

National Consultation on Rural Technology

On 26th May, CAPART organized a "National Consultation on Rural Technology" at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by representatives from CAPART -Technology Resources Centre (TRC) from all over India, representatives of various Government Organizations (Ministry of Rural Technology, Agricultural Science and Technology) and the Minister for Rural Technology Dr. Raghuvam Prasad Singh.

A. V. Balasubramanian participated in the meeting and made a presentation on "Role of NGOs in conducting field trials, propagation and establishment of Micro enterprises".

Visit of DST Expert Committee

Our Centre had submitted a proposal to the Science and Society Division of the Department of Science and Technology for renewal of core support for the five-year period starting from 2008. An Expert Committee appointed by the DST consisting of Dr. P. Pushpangadan (Director General, AMITY Institute), Dr. D. J. Bagyaraj (Microbiologist, Bangalore) and Dr. V. C. Goyal (Director, Science and Society Division) visited our Centre on 5th and 6th June. The team members visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai as well as our Biopesticide unit and farm at Agani near Sirkazhi.

Visit to the NIN

A. V. Balasubramanian visited the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad on 19th June. He made a presentation on "The need for a study of the nutritional and therapeutic properties of traditional varieties of rice and vegetables". The discussion was held with Dr. Longvah, Dr. J. Srinivasa Rao, Dr. Devendra and Dr. Veena Shatrughna. It was decided to explore ways in which CIKS and NIN can collaborate in this effort.

National Workshop on Organic Farming in India

On 20th and 21st June, the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture in Hyderabad had organized a national workshop on "Organic Farming in India: Reshaping the post green revolution agriculture". A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the workshop. On the first day of the workshop he was a member of the panel discussion on "Self Reliant Production" where he shared the experiences of CIKS. On the second day of the workshop, under the theme of "Organic farming for domestic market" he made a presentation about the CIKS experiences with marketing. The meeting was attended by about fifty delegates from various parts of the country which included NGOs, scientists from the Agricultural Universities and ICAR, funding agencies and agencies such as the National Horticultural Mission and APEDA.

BOOKSTORE

New publications and audiovisuals

ORGANIC FARMING CERTIFICATION - AN INTRODUCTION (English and Tamil)



This publication provides an overview of the organic certification systems. It also provides information on how the system of certification evolved, need for certification, different methods of certification, merits and demerits of each system. It also discusses about the procedures for the small holder group certification. A

list of accredited certification bodies in India is also provided in this booklet.

For copies, contact 'Centre for Indian Knowledge systems' at the address given below.

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

- Between 2nd – 4th April, a group of six junior scientists from NAARM, Hyderabad visited our Sirkazhi office to get to know about the various organic farming technologies followed by CIKS.
- On 3rd April, Dr. Veezhinathan, Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, Poompuhar College, Dr. Martin Devaprasath, Reader, Department of Chemistry and Mr. Ravichandiran, Reader, Department of Zoology, T.B.M.L College, Poraiyar visited our biopesticide unit in Agani village.
- On 17th May, a group of students headed by Dr. Selvanayagam visited our Sukkankollai farm as a part of the Vocational training programme, organized by Loyola College.
- On 17th and 18th May, students from National Law School, Bangalore visited our Sukkankollai farm, to conduct trainings on legal awareness for our farmers.
- On 5th June, Dr. D. J. Bagyaraj, DST core team member visited our experimental farm at Sukkankollai.

WE ARE HAPPY TO INFORM ABOUT OUR RECENT VENTURE - CIKS WIRE, THE ONLINE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CIKS. THOSE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING IT CAN SEND A MAIL TO info@ciks.org / ciksorg@gmail.com INDICATING YOUR INTEREST.

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