

CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
REPORT OF WORK DONE DURING THE PERIOD
APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021

1. IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SECURITY OF SMALLHOLDER TRIBAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH WADI MODEL AND INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

This project was implemented in Jawadhu hills block of Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu from May 2013 onwards with the support of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development). The activities of the project were spread over 39 hamlets in Kovilur panchayat covering 1051 beneficiary households with four hundred acres of WADI fields (small orchard) with fruit crops and border crops that were raised by 511 beneficiary households. Fruit crops in about 300 acres have started to yield providing farmers with a steady source of income. A total of 551 landless beneficiaries are involved in other livelihood activities such as, rearing of cows, goats, poultry and pigs, maintaining tailoring unit, petti shops, poultry incubation unit and fodder cultivation. These microenterprises are a source of additional income for the beneficiaries. Backyard kitchen gardens that are being maintained by the beneficiaries are the conservation spots of the traditional varieties of vegetables and seeds. A range of sustainable agriculture techniques are being followed by the beneficiaries like soil and water conservation methods, intercropping, nutrient management and vermicomposting. Nearly, 40 vermicompost production units are in place and being maintained by the farmers for their own use. The Melnellimarathur Village Planning Committee is maintaining a range of agricultural equipment including a tractor and letting it get utilized by the beneficiaries with modest rental charges. An Integrated Centre comprising of oil extraction unit, little millet-processing unit, value addition unit, storage godown and the community hall/training centre is being utilized by the farmers. Under this programme, three Village Planning Committees, 18 Farmers' Clubs and 56 Producer Groups (PGs) are in place. Training programmes comprising of technical trainings, institutional building, health and enterprises related techniques were conducted for the beneficiaries. . Inputs like neem seed powder, vermicompost, bio fertilizers and agricultural equipment were provided to the WADI beneficiaries. COVID -19 awareness programmes as well as protection materials like masks and sanitizers were supplied to the project beneficiaries. Monitoring visits were carried out by the

officials from NABCONS and NABARD. An audio visual on project activities and the impact of various components of the project has been produced. Assets created under the project were handed over to Melnellimarathur Village Planning Committee and Managiri Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited. Managiri Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited is providing marketing linkage for the project beneficiaries. A project completion report was prepared and submitted to NABARD.

2. LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION FOR FARMERS IN KANCHEEPURAM

This project was implemented in Uthiramerur block of Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu with the support of United Way Chennai. The activities of the project were spread over eight panchayats in Uthiramerur block covering 150 beneficiaries including 125 women beneficiaries from the categories of landless, small and marginal farmers. Selected beneficiaries were provided with the Aseel cross, the Giriraja and the Siruidai poultry breeds @ 5 birds / beneficiary including four hens and one cock. CIKS conducted eight orientation meetings and 16 trainings to the beneficiaries and covered various topics on poultry rearing. Poultry camps were also conducted in the project villages. Monitoring visits were carried out by the United Way team. Records are being maintained by the project beneficiaries covering the income and expenditure in poultry rearing. Currently all the 150-project beneficiaries have harvested eggs from the birds provided through the project. Through the project intervention family income was raised through the sale of eggs and additional nutrition was provided through the consumption of eggs and chicken. School children also learnt about poultry rearing during COVID -19 period.

3. NABARD – PODF: NURTURING OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRODUCER COMPANIES (PHASE – II)

Under this programme on nurturing of Sustainable Agriculture Producer Companies, a group of four Producer Companies namely, Kurinji in Natham block of Dindigul district, Mullai in Reddiyarchatram block of Dindigul district, Seeds in Chethpet block of Tiruvannamalai district and Pudupalayam Producer Company in Pudupalayam block of Tiruvannamalai district are being supported by NABARD. The BoDs, CEO and shareholders received training on sustainable agriculture practices, livestock

management, FPC-Compliances, business plan, records maintenance, role of Board of Directors (BoDs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEO), accounting systems and digitization. Through CIKS support, these four FPCs received support for remuneration to CEO and support for conducting trainings to CEO and BoDs to the extent of Rs. 1.7 Lakh per FPC. All the four FPCs were involved in marketing of vegetables, fruits and grocery items to the public during the COVID lockdown between May to November 2020. Marketing linkages were created by CIKS for these four FPCs with rice mills and traders. These FPCs were involved in providing marketing linkages to farmers for sale of traditional paddy varieties, pulses, millets, maize, chickpea and coconut. They were also involved in procurement and marketing of cattle feed, rice and groceries to its shareholders.

4. CIKS FLOOD RELIEF PROJECT

This project was implemented by CIKS with the objective to provide support to farmers who were affected by cyclones Nivar and Burevi as well as heavy rainfall that caused severe damage to the agricultural fields during the period November 2020 – January 2021. This was supported through donations given by a large number of individuals. As a part of this project, CIKS provided neem seed powder to 50 farmers as organic manure and plant protection material and identified 280 farmers who were severely affected. Traditional paddy seeds, organic manures and plant protection materials will be provided to more farmers in the coming season.

5. SETTING UP THE AGRICULTURE FACILITATION CENTER (AFC) UNDER THE PROJECT “CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT FOR SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS PRODUCERS COLLECTIVES IN TAMIL NADU”

This project supported by Friends of Women’s World Banking (FWWB), Ahmedabad was implemented from May 2019 onwards covering 12 FPCs from five districts of Tamil Nadu. Various kinds of support were extended to these FPCs including - training programmes to shareholders, Board of Directors (BoDs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) on sustainable agriculture technologies, financial management, livestock management etc. CIKS has also submitted credit proposals to NABKISAN, Indian Bank and Samunnati for six FPCs and availed Rs. 163 lakhs. In addition, three FPCs received Rs. 9.7 Lakhs as grant assistance as a part of loan support from

NABKISAN. Through CIKS support, four FPCs received Business Development Assistance from NABARD @ Rs. 5 Lakh / FPC and one FPC received Rs. 10 Lakh from NABKISAN as Mezzanine capital assistance. Cattle insurance was facilitated for 150 milch animals by providing support to three FPCs. CIKS provided support to two FPCs for receiving Rs. 10 Lakh / FPC as grant support from Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project. By utilizing this grant amount they established Oil extraction units, cattle feed manufacturing unit, completed trademark registration and milk chilling plant.

6. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES FOR FARMER PRODUCER COLLECTIVES AND ESTABLISHING MARKET LINKAGES (PHASE – II)

This project supported by Supraja Foundation, Hong Kong was implemented in Kancheepuram, Chengalpet, Tiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Villupuram, Thiruvarur Dindigul and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu State. It reached out to 2562 farmers from 149 panchayats. The cultivation of 59 traditional rice varieties was taken up in 4006 acres. The farmers were provided with seeds for cultivation. Despite severe crop damage caused due to Nivar and Burevi Cyclones at the end of the crop season, the project facilitated the procurement and sale of about 2300 MTs of traditional rice varieties through rice mills and traders both directly and also through the producer companies. They also started marketing of traditional rice varieties through online marketing channels like Q trove, JivaBhumi, Kalgudi etc. Seed production of selected traditional varieties was also taken up in 27 acres. Comprehensive trainings were also given on various climate resilient agriculture technologies, traditional rice varieties cultivation and seed production and post-harvest management technologies in paddy cultivation. A total of about 1680 farmers belonging to five FPCs were trained. Similarly, about 1211 farmers belonging to three FPCs were trained on livestock management with refresher training to selected master trainers. A set of 292 farmers who had participated in various project activities were selected for detailed documentation to assess the impact of the project through case studies.

7. PROMOTION OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS IN TAMILNADU (SFAC III & IV)

The Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC) has identified CIKS as resource institution for formation and strengthening of FPO's in Tamil Nadu in December 2014. The activities were carried out in six districts viz. Nagapattinam, Tiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Perambalur. The activities of two FPC namely Veerananarayanan Agriculture Farmers Producer Company limited and Perambalur District Maize and Small Onion Producer Company limited were continued under the period April 2020 to March 2021.

During COVID lockdown (April-June 2020) Veerananarayanan FPC was involved in sale of vegetables and fruits in the villages of Cuddalore district. The FPC has sold 9500kg of produce for Rs. 2.85 lakhs. Matching equity grant application for Rs.10 lakhs was prepared and submitted. The company has been sanctioned seed processing unit under NADP Scheme – Sub Mission on planting material implemented by Department of Agri Marketing and Agri Business, Cuddalore with an outlay of Rs. 60 lakhs. The company procured paddy seeds from farmers which were processed and sold to farmers during samba season 2020. A credit assistance from Sammunathi Financial services and Indian Bank to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs was also facilitated.

For Perambalur FPC, equity grant application along with relevant documents were prepared and submitted during December 2020. FIG (Farmers' Interest Group) meetings and project review meetings were conducted and exposure visits were organized.

8. REPORT ON NAMMA NELLU PROGRAMME - CONSERVING TRADITIONAL RICE VARIETIES IN TAMIL NADU

One hundred and forty four traditional rice varieties were conserved at the CIKS Research farm, Sukkankollai, Chengalpattu district during the year 2020-2021. Good quality seeds were produced. Good quality grains of 58 traditional paddy varieties were cultivated in 103 acres in Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvannamalai district with the support of farmers. Nearly 22.5 tonnes of seed quality grains have been procured and stored. A survey was conducted in Tamil Nadu to assess the spread of traditional rice varieties. 50 new varieties were selected and added to the

collection. Conservation and production of good quality seeds of these newer varieties will be taken up this year.

9. DOCUMENTATION OF PLANT DATA UNDER THE “NATIONAL MISSION ON BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN WELL-BEING” PROGRAMME

CIKS had entered into collaboration with FRLHT – TDU (Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions - Trans Disciplinary University) in Bengaluru, which is implementing a project under “National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being” programme. Under this programme, CIKS was committed to documentation and reporting with respect to the component on the use of biodiversity for plants and agriculture. Specifically, CIKS was responsible for the preparation of entries relating to the sub-area of agriculture, providing planning inputs and participate in the review of field reports and the preparation of final report with respect to the field survey relating to agriculture that will be taken up in the specified field area. While the major focus of the effort was in the area of agriculture, CIKS provided suggestions about possible sources of information from classical and folk literatures relating to animal husbandry. It was a one year project which commenced from 1st October 2019 to 30th September 2020 and then it was extended to a further three months that ends on 31st December 2020. The project has now been completed and CIKS has fulfilled all the commitments.

10. PREPARATION OF A SOURCEBOOK ON VRKSHAYURVEDA (TRADITIONAL INDIAN PLANT SCIENCE)

The project aims to compile a Sourcebook of Vrکشayurveda. CIKS has commenced work to produce this sourcebook on Vrکشayurveda (Traditional Indian Plant Science) in March 2021. This is a short -term project and it is being supported by INDIC Academy, Hyderabad.