



## CIKS FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

**C**IKS celebrated its 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2017. All the team members of CIKS from various field locations and from Chennai gathered at the CIKS Technology Resource Centre in Sukkankollai village of Kancheepuram district. The staff members shared their experiences of being part of the CIKS team and the way forward. All the major activities of CIKS and various associated companies were discussed.



*Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi Addressing the Gathering*

## NEW PROJECT AT CIKS

### RETAINING VILLAGE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE THROUGH

This pilot project on “Retaining Village Youth in Agriculture through Training Programmes” has been sanctioned to CIKS by Rabo Bank Foundation under its Employee Fund, the Netherlands and also co-financed by NABARD in Chennai. This project is being implemented in Nagapattinam district from February 2017. The objective of this programme is to empower village based youth through capacity building programmes on technology, credit availing strategies and marketing aspects.



*Orientation Training Programme in Progress*



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

### DST Core Support Project

Under this project supported by DST, New Delhi, bioassays have been conducted on *Spodoptera litura* and *Aphis craccivora* using oil soaps. A new mushroom production unit has been established in Uluthukuppai village of Mayiladuthurai block in Nagapattinam district. A total of 74 traditional paddy varieties have been cultivated in the Agani farm in Nagapattinam for the purpose of conservation and seed multiplication.

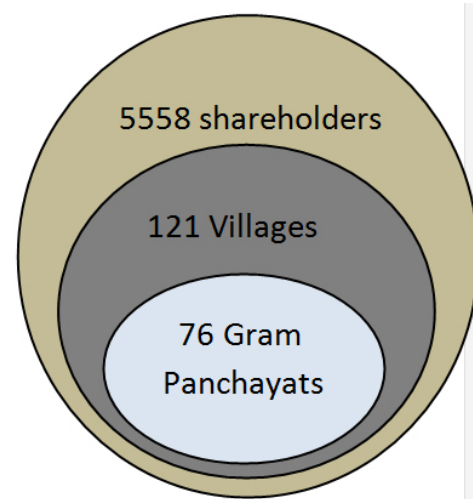
### Strengthening of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) - SFAC Programme

This project supported by the Tamil Nadu Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (TNSFAC) is in progress in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Tiruvarur districts. A group of two BoDs and three FIG leaders attended a training programme on "Credit Linkages and Business Opportunities" held at the State Bank of India in Thanjavur on 9<sup>th</sup> January. A business MoU has been signed between Perambalur FPC and Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation in the month of January. The first Annual General Body Meeting of the Cheyyar and Groundnut Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) in Thiruvannamalai district was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March, respectively. On 31<sup>st</sup> March, a workshop on "Common Facility Centres and Strengthening of FPCs" was conducted for the Board of Directors (BoDs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Thiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Perambalur FPCs at Trichy.

### Project for the Promotion of Farmer Producer Companies in Tamil Nadu - NABARD POPI Programme

This project is being implemented under the NABARD Producer Organization Development Fund (PODF) scheme in Kancheepuram, Dindigul, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts. A total of 7575 farmers have been mobilized under this programme and 300 Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) have been formed. Ten FPCs promoted in Dindigul (3), Ramanathapuram (1), Kancheepuram (1) and Thiruvannamalai (5) districts are operating with 5558 shareholders from 121 villages in 76 gram panchayats. Different kinds of technical, managerial, financial and legal training programmes and exposure visits were organised for the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers and the shareholders. Review meetings of the CEOs and BoDs were conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> March at CIKS TRC in Sukkankollai farm. On 18<sup>th</sup> January, a state level review of the officers on FPC business documentation was conducted in Thandrapet FPC office in Thanipadi.

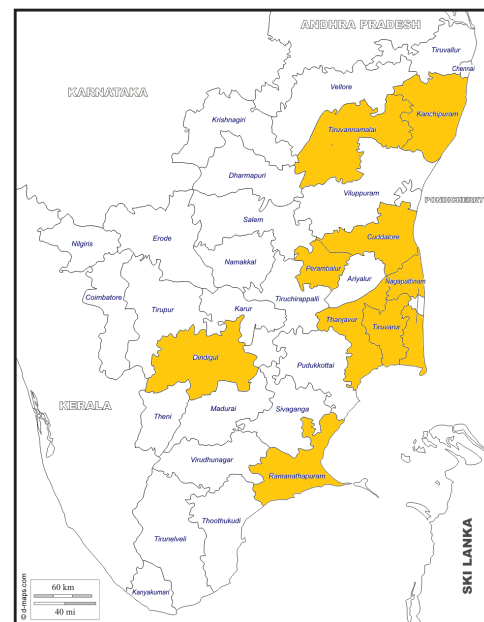
In total, CIKS is involved in promoting 23 FPCs spread across 9 districts in Tamil Nadu. The FPCs currently have a strength of more than 17000 farmers and close to 45% of them are women farmers. With the FPCs activities and operations spanning a total of 277 villages, diverse crops, products and services, the visibility of the institutional strength of the farmers is growing slow and steady.



CEOs and BoDs participated in the review meeting with NABARD CGM and Team on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at Sukkankollai.

### Value Addition and Marketing of Indigenous Rice Variety - Seeraga Samba

This project supported by NABARD under its Farm Section Promotion Fund (FSPF) is in progress in Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil







Nadu. Baseline and physical surveys on the indigenous paddy varieties have been completed. A total of 20 training programmes on seed production and organic cultivation techniques of *Seeraga Samba* have been conducted for the 323 beneficiaries. Three exposure visits were also organised for the beneficiaries to CIKS Indigenous Seed Conservation Centre in Sukkankollai village and *Seeraga Samba* seed Production and Processing Unit in Kalavai. Crops in demonstration fields were harvested and the paddy seeds and grains produced by the farmers are being procured from them.

### **Value Addition and Marketing of Indigenous Rice Variety - Kuzhiadichan**

This project supported by NABARD under its Farm Section Promotion Fund (FSPF) is in progress in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. Survey on the availability of indigenous paddy varieties has been conducted in Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Tuticorin districts. Twenty technical training programmes and two exposure visits were organised for the beneficiaries. Crops in the demonstration fields set up in five villages in 10 acres were harvested. Photo documentation of physical characteristics of the Kuzhiadichan paddy variety has been done.



## **NEWSROOM**

*Happenings and more.*

### **Meetings with NABARD**

- On 5<sup>th</sup> January, A. V. Balasubramanian attended a meeting of the NABARD State Level Consultative Committee (SLCC) on the Produce Fund that was held at Chennai.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, A. V. Balasubramanian attended the half yearly meeting of the NABARD Regional Advisory Group (RAG) at Chennai. Presentations were made by experts on specific topics such as – the water crisis as well as efforts for price forecasting to help farmers.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijaya lakshmi had a meeting with Mr. Jinnah, Chief General Manager of NABARD, Chennai and a team of senior officials. They made a presentation about the emerging issues with respect to the support of Farmer Producer Companies and the need for long term sustained effort to help these Companies to attain financial and institutional stability.

### **Meeting of School Education Network**

A network of organisations from various parts of India involved in alternative approaches to school education has been meeting regularly for several years. This years' meeting was held between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February at the Theosophical Society at Chennai. At the invitation of the network, A. V. Balasubramanian participated on 12<sup>th</sup> February and made a presentation about CIKS activities with special focus on some efforts to work with school students.

### **Workshop on Empowerment of Women through ICT**

On 28<sup>th</sup> February, a workshop on 'Empowerment of Women through

ICT' was organized by the Department of Agriculture Extension in Annamalai University, Chidambaram. Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar, S. Prabhu and Mrs. G. Parvathy, in charge of palm products production unit participated and presented about various women enterprise activities taken up under the Valanadu Producer Company in Nagapattinam district.

### **Talk at the Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre**

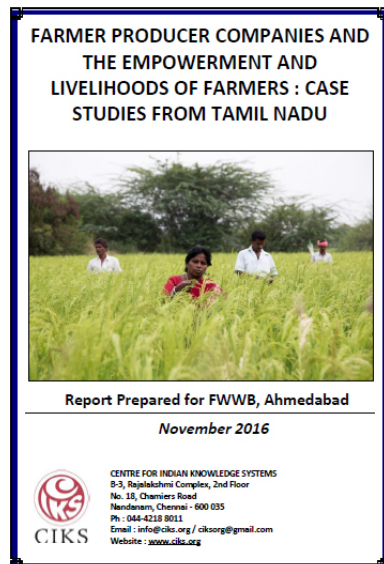
At the invitation of MCRC (AMM Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre), A.V. Balasubramanian visited the Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> March and made a presentation on the topic "From Sustainable Agriculture to Farmer Producer Companies : Looking Back and Looking Forward". The meeting was attended by all the faculty of the Centre and there was a detailed discussion after the presentation about the experiences of CIKS.

### **Trip to New Delhi**

A.V. Balasubramanian travelled to New Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> March for a series of meetings. On 15<sup>th</sup> March, he had a meeting with Mr. Hari Rajagopalan and Mr. Arindom Dutta of Rabo Bank Foundation about the activities of CIKS in promoting Producer Companies. Later on the same day he also had a meeting with Ms. Nitin Singh and Mr. Nirju Bharali of ICCO (Innovative Change Collaborative) about the efforts of CIKS with respect to farmers groups, sustainable agriculture and Producer Companies. After that he visited the office of VANI (Voluntary Agencies Network of India) and met the CEO Mr. Harsh Jaitli. On 16<sup>th</sup> March, he visited the National Kisan Mela held at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Campus. Later, he visited the Department of Science and Technology and met Dr. Sunil Agarwal of the Core Support Programme.

## BOOK STORE

### FARMER PRODUCER COMPANIES - EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOODS OF FARMERS - CASE STUDIES FROM TAMIL NADU



This publication in English is the outcome of a case study of two FPCs in Tamil Nadu brought out in February 2017 with the support of Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB). Two FPOs were selected, one a mature FPO – Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company in Thiruvannamalai and another an emerging FPO – Kurinji Sustainable

Agriculture Producer Company in Dindigul district, to understand the factors that go into the performance of the FPOs. The section on each of the FPOs discussed the background, membership and governance, activities and structure etc. The concluding chapter discussed the factors responsible for the growth and nurturing of FPOs, the current challenges and made suggestions about the way forward. A summary of this report can be found in the website of FWFB ([http://www.fwfbindia.org/pdf/Farmers\\_Producer\\_Company\\_Case\\_Study.pdf](http://www.fwfbindia.org/pdf/Farmers_Producer_Company_Case_Study.pdf))

## VISITOR'S BOOK

### Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 10<sup>th</sup> January, Ms. Aswini Ramkumar working with an International NGO based in England visited CIKS to know about our activities relating to Producer Companies. She was involved in similar efforts in Indonesia and parts of Africa.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> January, Mr. S. S. Vaseeharan, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Johnson, Programme Officer from NABKISAN Chennai visited Veerachozhan FPC in Nagapattinam district.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> February, a group of officials from the Pudhu Vaazhvu Programme (PVP) visited the Valanadu Producer Company in Sirkazhi.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> February, Dr. Shobitha Parthasarathy of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan visited CIKS to discuss about the possibility of collaboration with CIKS in research projects relating to innovation and science policy.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> February, a group of four Ayurvedic physicians - Dr. Skanthesh, Dr. Arjun, Dr. Abijith Venu and Dr. Mahidhar Krishna from Sri Jeyandra Saraswathi College of Ayurveda in Chennai visited CIKS. They were interested in knowing about CIKS efforts in the area of Vrکشayurveda (Traditional Indian Plant Science). They were also interested in possible collaborative efforts with CIKS in the areas relating to medicinal plants and home gardens.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> March, Ms. Sai Vaishnavi of Vriksha Agro visited us for a discussion about collaboration with CIKS.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Mr. S.S. Bhat, Joint Managing Director of Ananya Finance, Ahmedabad visited us to discuss about cooperation for providing support to Farmer Producer Companies promoted by CIKS in various parts of Tamil Nadu.

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](mailto:info@ciks.org) / [ciksorg@gmail.com](mailto:ciksorg@gmail.com)

Website : [www.ciks.org](http://www.ciks.org)