



Compas Partners Meeting In Poland



Compas partners visiting a farmer near Lezajsk cultivating willow

An International meeting of all the partners of the COMPAS programme was held at Lezajsk in Southern Poland between 17th and 30th September. The meeting was attended by all the COMPAS partners from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. A. V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi attended the meeting on behalf of CIKS. From India, Professor T. T. Ranganathan of Gandhigram Rural University, Tamilnadu and Dr. S. Arivudainambi of the Entomology Department, Agricultural College, Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamilnadu were present as special invitees. During the meeting, the partners exchanged experiences as well as completed and finalized the text for two books that are being produced as an outcome of this phase of the project - one pertaining to - "Learnings on endogenous development" and the other representing the experiences of the project based on endogenous development in various regions. The delegates also visited organic farms in that area.

New Projects

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

CIKS has been implementing the first phase of the above mentioned project with support from the Ford Foundation for the last two years. This project was completed in June 2006. The Ford Foundation has come forward to fund the second phase of this programme for a period of three years. Under this programme, we plan to convert 500 acres completely to organic cultivation with certification. We are also planning to launch a farmer's institution for marketing and trade related aspects of organic farming.

Restoration of Tsunami Affected Lands in the Nagapattinam District of Tamilnadu

The Wetlands International - South Asia has granted us a project for 9 months, starting from July 2006 for Agricultural Restoration work in Sirkazhi. The main objective of this project is to undertake agricultural restoration of tsunami affected coastal soil through organic cultivation techniques and provide livelihood opportunities for farmers.

For project update, see page 2.



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Enhancing Livelihood and Food Security - Phase II

Under this programme, monthly meetings were conducted in all the three districts. Land selection has been done in Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Thiruvannamalai districts. A total of 307.95 acres of land has been selected. 164 beneficiaries have been selected from 25 villages in all the three districts. On 8th, 22nd and 24th August, project orientation trainings on organic farming and certification were conducted for the beneficiaries of Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts respectively. On 23rd August, training on Internal Control Systems (ICS) was conducted for the members of Sirkazhi organic farmer's sangam.

In Sirkazhi, land selection has been done in Murugamangalam, Allivilagam, Ilayankudi and Agani villages. A one day training program on Internal control systems (ICS), importance of barrier crops and barrier crops for different soil types was conducted for the farmers under this project and members of Sirkazhi organic farmers sangam on 13th September.

Restoration of Tsunami Affected Lands

Under this project, four training programmes on organic farming were conducted for the farmers of Agani and Sitthivinayagapuram villages. In this training programme, farmers were trained on preparation of vermicompost and biopesticides, cultivation in rainfed land and conversion of alkaline saline soil. In Sitthivinayagapuram village, ten vermicompost tanks have been constructed for the beneficiaries. On 25th August, training programme on organic farming was conducted for the staff members of NGOs working in tsunami affected area. On 14th September, Dr. Abdul Razak conducted a training program on animal husbandry to the beneficiaries of Sitthivinayagapuram village. In the coastal areas of

Sitthivinayagapuram, traditional paddy varieties like Kundhali and TRI-2 have been sown. In Sitthivinayagapuram village, ADT-43 has been sown in 40 acres and five other traditional paddy varieties have been sown in one acre.

Reclamation of Agricultural Land in Tsunami Affected Areas

This project which is supported by Gram Swaraj Sangh, Gujarat is being implemented in Sirkazhi from June 2006. As a part of this project, five vermicompost tanks have been constructed in Kheezhavadi and Veppampattu villages. Three tube wells were established in Koozhaiyar, Thirumullaivasal and Sitthivinayagapuram villages. Under this project, implements for ploughing, weeding, spade, sickle etc., were distributed to the beneficiaries. In Koozhaiyar village, demo vegetable garden has been established in 30 cents. On 23rd July, a one day training programme on "organic cultivation and soil conservation" was conducted for 23 beneficiaries of Veppampattu and Sitthivinayagapuram villages.

Capacity Building on Organic Farming

This project, supported by CAPART, New Delhi is being implemented in 10 villages in the Kancheepuram district. Sangam meetings took place in all the 10 villages. Inputs have been distributed to the beneficiaries. Seed banks and biopesticide units constructed at Edaiyur, Narapakkam and Valathodu villages were inaugurated on 23rd and 25th August respectively. A power tiller has been purchased for the beneficiaries of Kolathancherry. Construction of seed bank has been completed in Kolathancherry and Thandaraipudhucherry villages. Revolving fund has been distributed to the beneficiaries of Edaiyur, Narapakkam and Kolathancherry villages for the purchase of milch cow, bullock and power tiller.

Paddy Organic Chain - Seed to Harvest

CIKS is implementing a pilot project on "Paddy organic chain - Seed to harvest" in Tamilnadu with support from HIVOS, Bangalore. Monthly meetings were conducted in Chithravadi, Kolathancherry and Kaliyapettai villages. Inputs have been distributed to the beneficiaries for samba season. A power sprayer and a hand sprayer have been purchased for the beneficiaries of Kolathancherry village. Crops like paddy, ragi, groundnut, Co3 grass, sunhemp and trees like banana, guava and various vegetable crops are being cultivated in Chithravadi, Kolathancherry, Kaliyapettai and Esoor villages. Revolving fund was provided to the beneficiaries of Chithravadi village for the erection of roofs for the vermicompost tanks.

Vrkshayurveda for Vegetables

This project is being implemented with support from DST. In Sempathaniruppu village, experiments were conducted to control *Epilachna* beetles in brinjal using extracts of *Andrographis*, *Sida* and Castor in various concentrations. Seed germination tests were conducted in chilli and tomato by fumigation method using *Vasambu* and *Vaividangam* powder. A prototype of a new fumigator has been developed exclusively for fumigating the vegetable seeds. On 19th August, a training on organic farming was conducted for the beneficiaries of Allankadu, Allivilagam and Radhanallur villages.

DST Project on Storage Forms of Biopesticides

A DST supported project on storage forms of biopesticides is being implemented in Sirkazhi from September 2005. The armyworms that are being reared are now in the pupal stage. Aphids that are being reared in green gram plants are now in the 46th generation. Bioassay using neem oil emulsion based on

Ninhydrin technique is being conducted on aphids. A centrifuge, a TLC kit and an inoculation hood have been procured for the insect rearing laboratory. A training programme on the preparation of biopesticides was conducted for nearly 101 members of three SHG's.

Use of Animal Products for Pest Control

As a part of this COMPAS supported project, in Agani, experiments are being conducted on ADT-43 paddy variety using RBD and raised row methods. Ponni paddy variety has been cultivated for conducting experiments on paired row method, RBD method and usage of panchagavya. Germination experiments are being conducted in paddy and bhendi seeds, using various concentrations of cow's urine, cow's milk and panchagavya. Seed treatment experiments are being conducted in chilli and tomato by 'roll towel method' using different concentrations of panchagavya.

Technology Resource Centre Activities

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. On 21st and 22nd September, a two-day training programme was conducted for the beneficiaries of Thiruvallarcherry village. Participants were trained on various topics like importance of organic farming, alternative for chemical fertilizers, organic paddy cultivation, preparation of biopesticides, Internal Control Systems (ICS) and certification procedures.

Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, sugarcane variety CO 86032 has been planted. 22 different varieties of indigenous paddy have been sown. Black gram and green gram & red gram seeds have been sown in 40 cents and 20 cents respectively. Seeds of White ponni variety have been sown in the nursery. Different varieties of banana have been planted. Three different indigenous paddy varieties have been sown in the field and nine different varieties have been sown in pots for raising nursery. In paddy field, bird perch, light trap and pheromone trap have been placed in order to control pests.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

Compas Asian Meeting on Traditional Knowledge

On 3rd, 4th and 5th July, a meeting on traditional knowledge systems of Asia and their current relevance was organized jointly by CIKS and FRLHT as part of the COMPAS programme. The meeting was hosted by the National Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) at Bangalore and the participants included delegates from India, Sri Lanka and a couple of representatives from the COMPAS International Coordination in the Netherlands. The inaugural address was delivered by Professor. Srikantan of NIAS and the keynote address was delivered by Dr. P. M. Bhargava, Vice Chairman, Knowledge Commission, Government of India, in the valedictory session. The meeting was attended by A. V. Balasubramanian, K. Vijayalakshmi, R. Sridevi, Subhashini Sridhar and P. Krithika from CIKS.

Use of Animal Products in Traditional Agriculture Review Meeting

CIKS is coordinating a research project on the use of animal products in traditional agriculture in which all the four COMPAS Indian partners are participating. On 6th and 7th July, a review meeting regarding the progress of the project was held at FRLHT office, Bangalore. It was attended by all the partners, Professor Arivudainambi and Prof. Selvamuthukumar as special invitees from the Agricultural College, Annamalai University as well as Mr. Bertus Haverkort and Mr. Coen Reijntjes from the COMPAS International Coordination.

All India Ayurvedic Congress

The Centenary celebrations of the All India Ayurvedic Congress were organized by the Tamilnadu chapter on 15th and 16th July. A. V. Balasubramanian participated in the valedictory function that was held at Chennai on 16th July and offered his felicitations. The session was presided over by the Tamilnadu Minister for Tourism, Mr. N. Suresh Rajan.

AFPRO Workshop in Pachmari, Bhopal

An orientation workshop on organic farming was organized by AFPRO, Delhi in Pachmari on 19th and 20th July. Subhashini Sridhar participated in this meeting

and discussed with the participants on topics such as organic pest management, vrkshayurveda and SRI method. Nearly 70 representatives from various NGO's participated in this meeting.

Development of Markets for Organic Produce

A series of meetings and consultations are being carried out with respect to our efforts to develop a market for organic produce and undertake studies in connection with this. On 4th August, A. V. Balasubramanian visited Bangalore and met Mr. Umesh of IMO and Dr. Sunita Unni, Independent Consultant to explore the possibility of their taking up specific studies or suggesting suitable candidates for studies. In continuation with this visit, on 22nd August, A. V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi had a meeting with Mr. G. Raju, Chief Executive, Gram Mooligai Company Ltd and Ms. Manju Raju, Independent Consultant.

CIKS in Press

The work of CIKS was featured in 'The Hindu' and 'Nanayavikadan' (a business magazine of Vikadan group). In Hindu, on 26th August, K. Vijayalakshmi was featured as woman of the week and on 24th August, an article about a vegetable variety preserved by CIKS was featured. In the Nanayavikadan issue of September 1-15, CIKS work was featured as a cover page article.

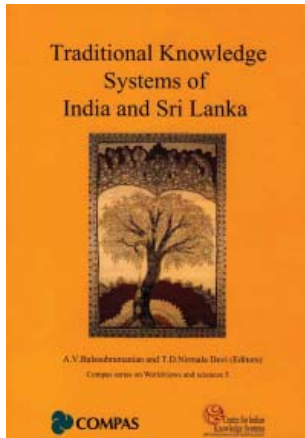
Exposure Visit

From 5th to 7th September, our staff S. Arumugasamy, K. Subramanian and Subashini Sridhar visited the Centre for Technology and Development, Uttranchal Organic Commodity Board and CAPART, New Delhi and IARI library. At CTD, their staff gave an overview of their work. They were also briefed regarding the working of neem seed decorticator. At UOCB, Dehradun, Mrs. Binita Shah, senior programme manager explained about their activities, marketing systems and the certification agencies. They also visited the farmer's fields at Kesarvala village and observed their record maintenance. They also learned about the certification procedures, documentation methods and problems faced by them in implementing the ICS. Besides they visited the IARI library.

BOOKSTORE

New publications and audiovisuals

Traditional Knowledge Systems of India and Sri Lanka



This book “Traditional Knowledge Systems of India and Sri Lanka” is the compilation of the proceedings of the Compas Asian Regional Workshop on Traditional Knowledge held at Bangalore in July 2006. Experts from different NGOs and Academic and Research Institutions, involved in the study of Indigenous Knowledge participated in this workshop. The papers presented during the workshop have been compiled as a single volume. It contains articles on topics such as Agronomy, Livestock and Veterinary Sciences, Traditional Methods of Weather Forecasting and Traditional Healthcare Methods.

Price: Rs. 250 / -

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VISITOR'S BOOK

Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 12th July, Dr. R. Veera Cholan and Dr. C. C. Sagar of All India Ayurvedic Congress visited us.
- On 19th July, Dr. Catherina Batello, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Plant Protection Division, FAO, Rome visited our farm at Sukkankollai.
- On 29th July, Mr. Bhaskar Mitra, Programme Officer of Sri Dorabji Tata Trust from Mumbai visited us.
- On 7th August, Ms. Deepa Verma from MSSRF, Chennai, visited our field office at Chengelpet and Sukkankollai farm.
- On 8th August, Mr. Ajay Kumar, ICP and E-governance consultant from Madhya Pradesh visited us.
- On 8th August, Dr. Suman Sahai from Gene Campaign, New Delhi visited us.
- On 17th August, Mr. V. Giriraj, I.A.S Officer, Government of Maharashtra visited us.
- On 17th August, Dr. T. T. Ranganathan and Mr. Senthilvel from the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul visited us.
- On 18th August, Mr. Y. S. S. Prasad, Head- Plant production and protection from Sresta organic Ltd., Hyderabad visited us.
- On 21st August, Ms. Kavita Vemuri and Mr. Selvaraj from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Southern Regional Office, Chennai visited us.
- On 4th September, Dr. Maarten, Stopper of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research from Australia visited us.
- On 11th September, Mr. Ranjit DeSilva of Sri Lanka Organic Farmers Movement from Sri Lanka visited us.
- On 12th September, Dr. Veena Ravichandran of IDRC, from Canada visited us.

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