



CIKS Wishes all its Friends & Well Wishers  
A Very Happy and Prosperous 2017

## CONFERENCE ON BUILDING AN ECONOMY OF NURTURANCE (BEN)

The Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB), Ahmedabad had organised a Regional workshop on the theme of "Building an Economy of Nurturance (BEN)" on 17<sup>th</sup> October at Chennai. At the invitation of FWWB, the Director of CIKS Mr. A.V. Balasubramanian and Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi participated in the workshop. Also, invited and present at the workshop were five women participants from two Producer Companies promoted by CIKS namely, Marutham and Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited based in Thiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram and Nagapattinam districts, respectively. There were presentations and active discussions on the role of women in conceiving and nurturing an economy that is ecofriendly and the support that they needed including the institutional structures. Following this, FWWB had organised a consultation cum conference of women leaders from various parts of India on the same theme between 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November. The conference was organised jointly with SEWA Cooperative Bank, Ahmedabad and held at the ATIRA Campus



*Ms. Ela Behn Bhatt, Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das and others during the Plenary Session on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November*

of Ahmedabad Management Association. Director of CIKS, A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the conference along with K. Subramanian (CEO), Ms. Selvi and Ms. Karpagam, Members of the Board of Directors of Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited. The Marutham team made presentations about the progress of the Company, provided an overview of the future plans and participated actively during the discussions.



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

### **DST Core Support Project**

Under this project supported by DST, New Delhi, regularized production is in progress in the neem oil soap unit, biofertilizer unit and mushroom production units. Bioassays have been conducted on *Spodoptera litura* and *Aphis craccivora* using oil soaps. Two capacity building programmes were organised for three FPOs in Cuddalore district - Thirumuthukundram Farmers Producer Company, Siva Sakthi Farmers Producer Company and Cuddalore Community Livelihood Services Producer Company on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Two batches of 16 undergraduate students from Adhiparasakthi College of Agriculture in Kalavai visited CIKS Sirkazhi office and learnt the technologies on insect rearing, production of oil soaps, biofertilizers and mushroom cultivation. Our staff Dr. Vijay Subbiah and A. Rajesh participated in the second India International Science Festival (IISF-2016) on the theme of "Science for the Masses" held between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016, in New Delhi. This event was organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) and coordinated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

### **Strengthening of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)**

This project is being implemented in seven districts of Tamil Nadu namely, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam,

Perambalur, Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Tiruvarur with the support of Tamil Nadu Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (TNSFAC). Technical trainings, orientation programmes and demonstrations were organized in all the districts. Three exposure visits were organized for a group of farmers of Cuddalore district FPO to Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences (TANUVAS) College and Research Institute in Namakkal, Nadayanur FPO in Karur, Reman Engineering works in Namakkal and Animal feed production unit in Vijayanagaram. A group of 60 undergraduate students from PAJANCOA & RI in Karaikal and Annamalai University in Chidambaram visited the Nagapattinam FPO to get to know about the activities of the FPO. On 28<sup>th</sup> November, 18 women FIG members from Tiruvarur FPO were taken to an integrated farm in Nannilam to learn the rearing techniques of goat and poultry. Two capacity building training programmes on vermicomposting have been conducted for the women beneficiaries of Tiruvarur district at Melapanaiyur village in Mannargudi block. Following this, a community vermicompost unit has been established in Melapanaiyur village and the unit was inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> December by Mr. Manoharan, Deputy Director of the Department of Agri Marketing and Agri Business, Tiruvarur. The first Annual General Body meeting of the Perambalur FPO was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations in Tamil Nadu - POPI Programme**

This project is being implemented under the NABARD Producer Organization Development Fund (PODF) scheme from January 2015. A total of 7525 beneficiaries from 121 villages of 76 gram panchayats are part of this project. A total of 293 Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) have also been formed. A total of 10 Farmer Producer Companies (FPOs) with 5332 shareholders have been promoted in Kancheepuram, Dindigul, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts. A series of orientation and technical trainings were organized in the project villages. To build the capacity of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers, shareholders etc., different kinds of technical, managerial, financial and legal training programmes and exposure visits were organised. Monthly meetings of the Board of Directors and project review meetings were conducted regularly in all the districts. Eight Agri - Information and Service Centres have been established through the FPOs in their respective districts. Through these Centres various input supplies and knowledge dissemination activities are being carried out.

### **Value Addition and Marketing of Indigenous Rice Variety - Seeraga samba**

This project sanctioned from NABARD under its Farm Section Promotion Fund (FSPF) is in progress in Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. Baseline survey and physical

survey on the availability of indigenous paddy varieties have been completed in Thiruvannamalai, Vellore and Viluppuram districts. A total of six orientation programmes and two technical training programmes on cultivation and seed production techniques of indigenous paddy varieties have been conducted for the beneficiaries. Seed farm activities are in progress in 10 acres in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture in Thiruvannamalai district. Crops in the demonstration fields are in the harvesting stage. Two exposure visits were organized for the beneficiaries to the CIKS Indigenous Seed Conservation Centre in Sukkankollai village and to the Seed production and Processing unit, Manimegalai Rice Mill in Kalavai, Vellore district. Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee meeting was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

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

This project sanctioned from NABARD under its Farm Section Promotion Fund (FSPF) is in progress in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. Physical survey as well as the literature survey on the availability of indigenous paddy varieties has been completed. Four orientation programmes and eight technical training programmes on organic cultivation and seed production techniques of indigenous paddy varieties have been conducted. Exposure visits to CIKS Indigenous Seed Conservation Centre in Sukkankollai and Seed Production and Processing Unit in Manimegalai Rice Mill in Kalavai have also been organized. Demonstration fields have been set up in five villages in 10 acres. Seed farm activities are in progress in 10 acres in collaboration with the Department of Agribusiness in Ramanathapuram district. Project Implementation Monitoring Committee meeting was conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## **NEWSROOM**

*Happenings and more.*

### **Talk on Vrکشayurveda at Coimbatore**

The Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (AVP) group of institutions had organised an intensive two week workshop on the traditions of Ayurveda under the title of "Tatwaprakashini" at Coimbatore. The meeting was attended by over one hundred students, vaidyas and scholars studying and interested in Ayurveda and traditional knowledge from various parts of India. At the invitation of AVP A.V. Balasubramanian delivered a talk on "Vrکشayurveda : An Introduction to Traditional Indian Plant Science". There was an intense discussion about the relevance and utility of Vrکشayurveda for organic farming and the cultivation of crops as well as medicinal plants in today's context.

### **National Workshop on Advances in Phyto-Insecticide Research**

On 6<sup>th</sup> October, the Department of Entomology - Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University had organised a National Workshop on 'Advances in Phyto-Insecticide Research'. On behalf of CIKS, Ms. Subhashini Sridhar attended the workshop and made a presentation about the preparation of traditional formulations.

### **Workshop on Promoting of Organic Agriculture through Sustainable Business Models**

GIZ, Delhi and NABARD, Dehradun together organized the above workshop at Dehradun on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October. Ms. Subhashini Sridhar was one of the panel experts and shared the experience of Sirkazhi Organic Farmers' Association and Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited initiative in Nagapattinam district.

### **Meeting on Yoga at IAIM**

A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi were part of a review meeting that was organised at the Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine (IAIM) at Bengaluru on 22<sup>nd</sup>

October. The meeting was attended by Dr. Vaibhavi Joshipura (COO), Dr. Prateek and Dr. Ayush from the IAIM along with Mr. Reji. The meeting reviewed the experiences of IAIM in utilising Yoga for Therapy and came up with a plan of action for the future.

### **Review Meeting with Board Members of Marutham and Kurinji FPOs**

On 24<sup>th</sup> October, A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi facilitated a meeting organised with the members of the Board of Directors of two Producer Companies namely - Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited and Kurinji Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited. The members discussed and brainstormed about the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) faced by the two Companies. Starting with a general presentation on SWOT, tasks were assigned to two different sub-groups working on one Company each. This was followed by a plenary session where the findings of each group was presented and discussed. The meeting concluded with the identification of the follow up work required for building on these findings and agreed upon a time frame for this.

### **Review Meeting of TNSFAC Project**

A review meeting of the TNSFAC supported projects was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> November at TNSFAC office in Chennai. A total of 35 Deputy Directors and nine Resource Institutions participated in the meeting. Mr. S.J. Chiru, IAS, Managing Director, Dr. K. Ilango, JDA, Department of Agri Marketing and Agri Business, Chennai and Mrs. Poongothai, Executive Director, SFAC Chennai reviewed the project activities in detail. On behalf of CIKS, Subhashini Sridhar, K. Subramanian, R. Manikandan, Dr. Vijay Subbiah and other CIKS staff involved in the SFAC project participated in the meeting.

## NAMMA NELLU

### An Effort to Save Traditional Rice Varieties



During the course of its work for the last 20 years on indigenous seed conservation, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) has collected more than 100 indigenous varieties of rice suitable for cultivation in Tamil Nadu. All these varieties have to be planted out year after year for conservation. They also need to be conserved in more than one region so that they are not destroyed due to the vagaries of climate. Besides this the Centre experiments with any new variety that it gets and cultivates it at least for a few seasons before passing it on to the farmers. Sometimes the Centre also gets access to rare varieties and the amount it gets may be a handful (say a few grains). These have to be cultivated with great care and propagated. CIKS is currently conserving these indigenous varieties in its experimental farm in Sukkankollai in the Kancheepuram district and also in Agani, Sirkazhi in the Nagapattinam district. In public interest CIKS feels that this large genetic diversity needs to be conserved and we appeal to well wishers to support this activity.

**For more details visit : [www.nammanellu.com](http://www.nammanellu.com)**

## VISITOR'S BOOK

### Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 7<sup>th</sup> October, Mr. Anil Kumar (CEO) and Mr. Sharad Varma of Samunnati visited the CIKS Chennai office and had a discussion with A.V. Balasubramanian.
- On 18<sup>th</sup> October, Ms. Vijayalakshmi Das, CEO of FWWB (Friends of Women's World Banking), Ahmedabad visited CIKS office and had a discussion with A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi about the ongoing collaboration between CIKS and FWWB as well as discussed various future possibilities.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> October, Mr. Kandasamy, Assistant Director, MSME, Development Institute of Government of India, Guindy, visited Keelakalpoondi office of Cuddalore FPO and discussed about the cultivation and oil extraction of aromatic medicinal plants.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> November, Ms. Sai Vaishnavi of Vrksa Agro Ventures, Coimbatore visited CIKS and had discussions with A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi about possible areas for working together and collaboration.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> December, Mr. M. Balasubramani from IIT Madras visited the CIKS Organic Research farm in Sukkankollai.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, Dr. Ka. Ilango, JDA (AB), Department of Agri Marketing & Agri business, Chennai visited the Rajaraja Chozhan FPO in Thanjavur.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> December, Mr. Himanshu, Programme Officer, FWWB, Ahmedabad visited Thiruvannamalai to assess the activities of the Marutham SAPCL.

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