



CIKS FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

CIKS celebrated its 20th Anniversary at Chennai on 23rd January 2015. All the team members of our Centre were joined with a group of special invitees. The CIKS team made presentations on – “CIKS 1995 – 2015 : Looking Back and Looking Forward”. Representatives of the two Producer Companies (Marutham and Valanadu) as well as the Consultancy Company (Sempulam) formed with CIKS support made presentations. This was followed by greetings, comments and suggestions by various invitees who included – Dr. Latha Satish and Ms. Kamala Sankaran (Trustees), Auditor Mr. M. Kandasami, Dr. Nirmala Ganesan (Principal, Ethiraj College), Prof. C.N. Krishnan, Photographer S.U. Saravankumar, Advocate B. Poongkhulali, Siddha Physician Dr. T. Thirunarayanan among others.



Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi Welcoming the Gathering

NEW PROJECTS AT CIKS

1. Support for VSAPCL from Rabo Bank Foundation

CIKS has been given a grant by the Rabo Bank Foundation, The Netherlands for providing assistance and support for Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited, which was promoted by CIKS in 2013. This project is for a period of two years from January 2015 to December 2016.

2. Support for Producer Companies from SFAC, Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu office of SFAC (Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium) has signed two MoUs with CIKS for the support and promotion of four Producer Companies, one each in the districts of Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thiruvannamalai and Tanjore. These MoUs were signed in January and March 2015 for a period of three years.

3. Support for Producer Companies from NABARD, Chennai

The NABARD, Chennai has sanctioned a project for the formation of six Producer Companies to be located in the districts of Dindigul (2), Thiruvannamalai (2), Ramanathapuram (1) and Kancheepuram (1). This project is for a period of three years from January 2015 onwards.



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Poverty Reduction in Tamil Nadu through Sustainable Agriculture

This project supported by DFID, UK and HIVOS, Netherlands is in progress in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts. A total of 10,072 farmers grouped under 594 small groups at the Village, Panchayat and Cluster levels. Proven agriculture technologies are being successfully implemented by the beneficiaries. Impact study of these technologies has been conducted. The production of seeds of different varieties of paddy, groundnut and sunhemp were taken up by the beneficiaries. A total of 17 community input production units, 15 community value addition units and 14 Agriculture Machinery Facilitation Centres (AMFCs) are in place. Assessment of CBOs promoted under the project is in progress. The Marutham and Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Companies located in Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts are functioning now with a total of 6032 shareholders. A total of 35 training programmes on various organic farming technologies have been conducted. An exposure visit cum training programme on mango cultivation techniques was conducted for the beneficiaries of Nagapattinam district at Jain Irrigation Farm in Udumelpet. On 12th February, legal training programme and discussion meeting was conducted for the Board of Directors of the producer organizations at Chennai. Government schemes have been availed for the procurement of machinery, training on coconut cultivation technology, for conducting the capacity building programme, for the formation of

Farmers' Clubs in 21 panchayats in Thiruvannamalai district and for the procurement of solar drier for the beneficiaries.

Improving the Livelihood and Food Security of Small-Holder Tribal Communities through WADI Model and Integrated Sustainable Agricultural Practices

This project is being implemented in the Jawadhu hills block of Thiruvannamalai district with the support of NABARD covering 634 beneficiary households and 285.5 acres in the Kovilur panchayat. In the WADI fields (small orchards) nearly 26,041 saplings of fruit crops and border crops are being maintained in 285.5 acres. The entire WADI fields are properly laid out with bunds and fencing. Under the component on other livelihood activities, 119 first year beneficiaries are successfully progressing with the livelihood activities like rearing of cows, goats and pigs, tailoring unit, petti - shops, poultry incubation, fodder cultivation and bee keeping. In the second year, 72 beneficiaries have been selected and provided with the support for above mentioned livelihood activities. A veterinary camp has been organized in Perungattur panchayat on 20th January in collaboration with TVS organization. On 17th March, the Project Monitoring Committee meeting was conducted at the NABARD Office in Thiruvannamalai.

Women's Technology Park for Promoting Organic Agriculture

This project supported by DST is in progress in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam

and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu covering 1400 women beneficiaries. Thirteen community vermicompost units established under the project are being maintained by women beneficiaries and they are getting a steady monthly income. Two mushroom production units are also in place in Kancheepuram and Nagapattinam districts. Demonstrations of *azolla* production and fodder cultivation are in progress in the Sukkankollai farm. A total of 160 beneficiaries are involved in the cultivation and utilization of fodder grass. A total of 18 women from Keezhakalpoondi village of Cuddalore district were trained on the formation of enterprises on 17th March at Sirkazhi. On 18th February, a training programme on mushroom cultivation was conducted for 24 women beneficiaries of Pondicherry Multipurpose Service Society (PMSS). A *Magalir Mela* (Womens' festival) in the theme of 'make it happen' was organized on 17th March at Sirkazhi.

Science and Technology for Sustainable Agriculture - DST Core Supported Project

This project supported by DST is in progress in the Nagapattinam district. A total of 14 bioassays have been conducted on *Aphids craccivora* and *Spodoptera litura* using Neem oil soap Pongam oil soap and Neem oil and Pongam oil mixed soap. An experiment on "Testing the efficacy of Neem and Pongam oil mixed soap against sucking pests in Brinjal" is in progress in Ilaiyamadhukoodam village. Regular production and sale is in progress in the neem soap production unit in Ilaiyamadhukoodam village.

A new neem soap production unit has been established in Adhanur village in Vedharanyam block. A biofertilizer laboratory has been established in Sirkazhi and the staff in-charge got trained on the technology of biofertilizer preparation. Conservation of 102 traditional paddy varieties is in progress in Sukkankollai in Kancheepuram district and in Agani in Nagapattinam district. Our staff served as resource persons in the workshop on Schemes for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) held at the Collectorate in Nagapattinam on 16th February. A one day training programme on Non chemical pest management strategies was conducted at ADA Office in Chithambaram on 23rd February.

Enhancing Livelihood Security of Farmers through the Formation of Agriculture Producer Company

This project is being implemented in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu from November 2014 with the support of PROCIF - Small Grants Fund, The Netherlands. A total of 19 villages have been selected from Senthurai, Pilaiyarnatham and Kudagipatti panchayats of Dindigul district. A total of 462 beneficiaries and 12 Village Agri Business Development Service Providers (VABDSPs) have also been selected. A total of 27 Sustainable Agriculture Self Help Groups (SASHGs), seven Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and 10 Farmers' Clubs have been established. A total of 220 shareholders have been selected for the Agriculture Producer Company (APC). Efforts are on for the registration of the Company. On 31st March, the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was conducted at the CIKS Field Office in Senthurai. Series of orientation programmes and two training programmes on organic farming technologies, biopesticide production, soil fertility management and integrated farming were conducted for the beneficiaries. Monthly meetings of SASHGs and VABDSPs were also organized.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more

Training at the Collectorate of Nagapattinam

The Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium, Delhi and NABARD, Nagapattinam had jointly organized an orientation workshop on Schemes under "FPO - Credit Guarantee Cover and Equity Grant Schemes" at the Collectorate of Nagapattinam on 16th February 2015. More than 60 farmers from seven blocks of Nagapattinam district participated in this meeting. CIKS staff Subhashini Sridhar, R. Manikandan and Mr. S. Chellappa, Director of Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited were the resource persons of this training programme.

Review of UPNRM Project Activities

The activities of the NABARD supported project on "Umbrella Programme for the Natural Resource Management" were reviewed on 24th February 2015. Mr. D. Ganesh, AGM, NABARD, Nagapattinam visited Sirkazhi and had discussion with the team members of the Sirkazhi Organic Farmers' Association (SOFA) about the current status of the project components.

Meetings with Board of Directors of Agriculture Producer Companies

During the past couple of years CIKS has supported the formation and development of two Agriculture Producer Companies namely - Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (VSAPCL) operating from Nagapattinam district and Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (MSAPCL) operating from Thiruvannamalai district. A.V. Balasubramanian and team members of CIKS had detailed discussions and interaction with the members of the Board of Directors and advisors of both the Companies. The meeting with VSAPCL board was

held at Chennai on 12th February and the meeting with MSAPCL board was held at the CIKS MSAPCL at Sukkankollai on 13th February 2015. During the meetings there were discussions about the inception and progress of the Companies.

Support for the Formation of New Producer Companies by NABARD

On 24th February, the Southern Regional Office of NABARD hosted a meeting in connection with its programmes for support of existing Producer Companies and the formation of new Producer Companies. NABARD had identified eight organisations as promoting agencies for Producer Organisations including CIKS. CIKS will be setting up and promoting six Farmer Producer Organisations to be located in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, Kancheepuram and Thiruvannamalai.

During this meeting, NABARD also issued a sanction letter to Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (MSAPCL) for support under their Producer Organisation Development Fund with credit guarantee from SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium). NABARD General Manager Mr. Natarajan mentioned that MSAPCL was the second organisation being supported under this programme and the first organisation was Valanadu Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited (VSAPCL) and also added that both the efforts had been initiated by CIKS jointly with Vrutti, Bengaluru.

TALK TO US

Send your feed back,
comments and suggestions
to info@ciks.org

MAGALIR MELA - WOMENS' FESTIVAL



On 17th March 2015, a Magalir Mela in theme of "Make it happen" was organized by CIKS Sirkazhi field office in Nagapattinam district. The prime objective of this event is to create awareness among women groups about the enterprise activities and scaling up of current women led activities. Members of 83 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) from Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts participated in the event. Officials from Agriculture Department, NABARD, academics and NGO representatives were the chief guests of the event. SHGs excelling in different activities were given awards in the function.

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

- On 7th January, Dr. Anil Kumar of the Innovation Centre of TATA Chemicals, Pune visited our farm and TRC at Sukkankollai. He had discussions with the technical team members of CIKS about possible areas for collaboration.
- On 20th January, Mr. Mayank Jha of TATA Chemicals visited our Chennai office. He had a discussion with the Director A.V. Balasubramanian about the possibilities for marketing indigenous paddy varieties with special properties.
- On 4th February, Mr. Fukaya San, CEO, NTT Data Asia Pacific Pvt. Ltd. along with his colleague Mr. Madurantakam Sathya and his team visited us for a discussion about collaboration with CIKS to assist farmers in marketing organic produce.
- On 11th February, Ms. Khorshed Talati of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai visited us along with Dr. Chandrasekar Pathak, Consultant and two interns Mr. Karthik and Ms. Shwetha about collaboration for work in the Jawadhu hills block of Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu.
- On 26th February, Mr. Madurantakam Sathya of NTT Data along with his team member Mr. Kannan visited CIKS for a discussion about collaboration with CIKS to assist farmers in marketing organic produce.
- On 6th March, Mr. S. Prasanna, Assistant General Manager & Branch Head and Mr. R. Sridhar, Assistant Manager from IDBI-Bank, Chengalpet visited CIKS Sukkankollai field office in connection with cattle loan.
- On 20th March, Mr. Nitin Chordia, Retail Business Consultant had a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi to explore possibilities of ways in which various farmers' groups can interface with retail marketing agencies.
- On 27th March, J. Badri Narayanan, Consultant had a meeting with A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi about possible ways in which he could work with CIKS to help promote conservation activities and to build capacities for farmers' groups.

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