



*CIKS WISHES ALL ITS FRIENDS & WELL WISHERS
A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 2014*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT ON POVERTY REDUCTION IN TAMIL NADU THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

CIKS in collaboration with Vrutti is implementing this project in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts with the support of DFID, UK and HIVOS, Netherlands. A total of 9168 farmers from 79 village panchayats in seven taluks of these districts are the beneficiaries of the project. Some of the key achievements of the project are,

- Involvement and participation of the farmers together as a community has been encouraged through 13 community owned and operated vermicompost units, 7 community biopesticide units and 7 community value addition units. These community units ensure the timely availability of good quality inputs and also an additional income to the farmers.
- Fourteen Agriculture Machineries Facilitation Centres (AMFCs) have been established with a range of machineries. These AMFCs have addressed the issues of agriculture labour scarcity and heavy cultivation costs. A total of 68 farmers from Nagapattinam and Thiruvannamalai districts have acquired a net profit of Rs. 1,32,300/- through the transplanter. Apart from this, beneficiaries have also got a yield increase of 10% than the farmers who have transplanted manually. Paddy cleaned by using the winnower has fetched the farmers an additional price of Rs.50-100/bag.
- Number of farmers are following new technologies like SRI Paddy cultivation, use of drum seeder, transplanter, seed drill etc., introduced through the project and reduced the cost of cultivation substantially. By following SRI method farmers have reduced Rs. 1200 - 1250/- per acre towards the cost of cultivation. 152 beneficiaries of Nagapattinam and



*On-farm Demonstration of Paddy Transplanter
held in Nagapattinam District*

Thiruvannamalai districts have reduced Rs. 2,32,750/- towards the cost of cultivation.

- Two agriculture producer companies have been initiated through this project in the districts of Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam. These are the companies catering to mostly small and marginal farmers. These companies provide good quality foundation seeds, inputs like neem seed powder, vermicompost, biofertilizers, biopesticides, gunny bags, cattle feed etc., to the members.
- The Village Agri Business Development Service Providers (VABDSPs) placed in all the 79 panchayats are the direct local contacts for the implementation of the project and provide services like facilitation of Government entitlements, access to credit, insurance etc.



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture

This pilot programme has been implemented in the Jawadhu hills block of Thiruvannamalai district with financial support from Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network of India. A total of 600 beneficiary households are maintaining organic kitchen gardens. Seed bank and little millet processing unit in Seramarathur village are being utilized efficiently. Upgradation of the little millet processing unit is in progress and a capacity building programme on upgradation of little millet processing machinery was conducted. Seeds of different millet varieties have been distributed to the beneficiaries of four gram panchayats through the seed bank. Monthly meetings of farmers' club federation were conducted regularly. Detailed meetings with Collector, Joint Director of Agriculture and other line department officials took place to work out linkages with the Government programmes, schemes and subsidies. Seed situation analysis was conducted in the project villages of Jawadhu hills area. Under the activities of water node, water samples from eight locations of the project area were collected and sent for analysis. Under the activities of the soil node, production of biomass based manure is in progress in 10 hamlets and fields of three farmers are being monitored for soil health.

RRA Nodal Activities of CIKS

CIKS has functioned as the nodal anchor of the seed node for the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN). As a part of this project, a total of 10 books on various aspects of seed systems with particular emphasis on rainfed areas have been

published (for more details refer Page No. 4).

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

This project supported by NABARD is in progress in Jawadhu hills of Thiruvannamalai district. Under the component of WADI (small orchard), saplings of fruit crops have been planted and being maintained. Analysis of soil samples from the WADI fields is in progress. Assessment of kitchen gardens in the project villages was done. Under other livelihood activities of the project, efforts are on to start the microenterprises like backyard poultry farming, livestock rearing, bee keeping, tailoring, vermi composting etc. A veterinary camp was organized in Jawadhu hills for the control of foot and mouth disease in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and TVS group. Two trainings on organic kitchen gardening and an exposure visit to Thiruvannamalai project area and to the CIKS Organic Research Farm in Sukkankollai were organized for the beneficiaries. A staff capacity building training on soil and water conservation was conducted at Hand in Hand in Jawadhu hills. The Project Monitoring Committee meeting was held on 30th December in NABARD AGM's Office in Thiruvannamalai.

Women's Technology Park for Promoting Organic Agriculture

This project is in progress in Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts with the support

of DST. Under this project, two *azolla* cultivation units have been established and cultivation of fodder and vegetable seed production is in progress in the CIKS Organic Research Farm. Two community vermicompost units have been established and being maintained by the women's groups in Kancheepuram district. A total of 16 training programmes on vermicomposting, mushroom cultivation and biopesticide production were conducted for the beneficiaries. Selected women beneficiaries of Kancheepuram district were taken for an exposure visit to Sirkazhi project area. Sippee Sustainable Agriculture Women's Group formed in Pagasalai village of Nagapattinam district has set up a mushroom production unit.

Increasing the Income Level through Empowerment of Farmers for the Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture based Microenterprises

This project supported by NABARD has been implemented in four village panchayats of Vandavasi taluk of Thiruvannamalai district. In each panchayat, a total of 12 training sessions on adoption, economics, capital raising, accounts maintenance and business strategy of sustainable agriculture based microenterprises - vermicomposting, biopesticide production and rice based value addition were conducted. An exposure visit was also organized for the beneficiaries to CIKS Organic Research Farm in Sukkankollai. Beneficiaries were also given educational material.

Farmers' Field School (FFS) - ATMA Programme

A Farmers' Field School (FFS) under the ATMA programme has been

conducted in Parangipettai block of Cuddalore district and Kuthalam block of Nagapattinam district. In Parangipettai block, three sessions were conducted on various organic farming technologies and an exercise on on-farm collection and identification of pests and diseases was done. In Kuthalam, two sessions on organic paddy cultivation were conducted. Participants were also taken to visit the organic paddy fields and neem seed processing unit in Agani village of Nagapattinam district.

NEW PROJECT

Nutritional and Therapeutic Properties of Indigenous Paddy Varieties (IPVs)

CIKS is part of the HIVOS and Oxfam Novib programme on Agricultural Biodiversity. The programme has sanctioned a short term project to undertake a preliminary study on nutritional and therapeutic properties of indigenous paddy varieties. The project is for a period of eight months from November 2013 to June 2014. Under this project, the survey of literature from agricultural sources as well as technical literature of Ayurveda and Siddha, collection of samples from the field and preliminary testing in the laboratory has been initiated.

A New Year 2014 Calendar with aerial photographs of some of the CIKS field areas was brought out. This calendar depicts the efforts of CIKS in the fields of Sustainable Organic Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation.



NEWS ROOM

Happenings and more

Control of FMD

A series of veterinary camps have been organized in the Sirkazhi taluk of Nagapattinam district for the control of foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry in Mayiladuthurai. Livestock have been vaccinated for foot and mouth disease. Apart from this, natural disease control methods prescribed by Dr. Punniyamoorthy, Veterinary University, Thanjavur and Dr. Rajamanickam, Siddha veterinary physician were also disseminated to the farmers. A survey on status of FMD and measures taken for the control was conducted in Sirkazhi and Mayiladuthurai blocks in December in collaboration with CTMR, Chennai.

Inauguration of the Agriculture Producer Company

The Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company established in Thiruvannamalai district with the assistance of CIKS and Vrutti was formally inaugurated on 12th November. The inaugural function was organised in Pernamallur panchayat. Nearly 450 farmers and local people attended the function. Apart from the project staff of Thiruvannamalai, A. V. Balasubramanian, K. Vijayalakshmi, K. Subramanian and C. Saroja from CIKS and Mr. S. Balakrishnan from Vrutti attended the function. Following this, the first General Body Meeting of the company was conducted.

Broadcast in Kalaigiar TV

On 26th November, Kalaigiar TV broadcast an interview with CIKS Director, A.V. Balasubramanian as part of their programme on "Vidiyale Vaa". In that he spoke about the problems with agriculture, the sustainable agriculture approach and work done by CIKS with the farming community in this context.

Staff Capacity Building Training Programmes

A total of 2 two day long capacity building trainings on "Strengthening Community Based Organizations" and "Capacity Building of Self Help Groups and Peoples' Institution Development" were conducted for the project staff of CIKS at CIKS Technology Resource Centre in Sukkankollai and at MYRADA in Hosur in the months of November and December, respectively. Staff members were trained on various aspects of maintenance and capacity building of SHGs and peoples' institutions.

Workshop on Sustainable Farming

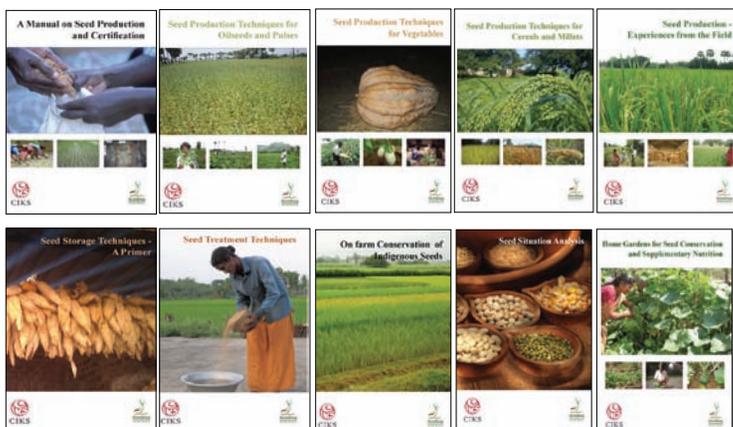
A workshop on sustainable farming was organized at PAJANCOA, Karaikal on 19th December. The workshop was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Karaikal in collaboration with PAJANCOA. On behalf of CIKS, Subhashini Sridhar, R. Manikandan and S. Chellappa, Office bearer, SOFA participated and shared the marketing experiences of Sirkazhi Organic Farmers' Association (SOFA).

Meeting of the Producer Companies

NABARD, Chennai had organized an interactive meet of producer companies in Tamil Nadu on 20th December. A total of 17 producer companies from Tamil Nadu participated. Our staff Subhashini Sridhar, R. Manikandan, K. Subramanian and SOFA President K. Jayapal participated and made presentations on the progress and business plan of the Valanadu and Marutham Sustainable Agriculture Producer Company Limited established in Nagapattinam and Thiruvannamalai districts, respectively.

BOOK STORE

New Publications, Audiovisuals and Educational Materials

BOOKS ON SEED SYSTEMS

A series of 10 books on various aspects of seed systems with particular emphasis on rainfed areas has been published as part of the seed node activities of CIKS under the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN). The titles of the publications are, A Manual on Seed Production and Certification, Seed Storage Techniques - A Primer, Seed Production Techniques for Cereals and Millets, Seed Production Techniques for Vegetables, Seed Production Techniques for Oil Seeds and Pulses, Seed Treatment Techniques, On farm Conservation of Indigenous Seeds, Seed Production - Experiences from the Field, Seed Situation Analysis and Home Gardens for Seed Conservation and Supplementary Nutrition. These publications can also be accessed and downloaded from the websites of RRAN (www.rainfedindia.org) and CIKS (www.ciks.org).

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

- On 15th and 25th October, Mr. S. T. Sudharshan, AGM, NABARD visited CIKS Thiruvannamalai office in connection with the NABARD MEDP training programme.
- On 30th October, Mr. Gunasekaran, Deputy Director of the Department of Seed Certification and Mr. Mahalinga Kannan, CIKS Consultant visited the CIKS Thiruvannamalai field office with reference to the license for seed marketing.
- On 27th November, Mr. Shanmugavel, District Manager, SKM cattle feed visited Thiruvannamalai field station.
- On 3rd and 4th December, Mr. Sharad Verma from FWFB, Ahmedabad visited CIKS Sirkazhi Field Station and CIKS Organic Research Farm in Sukkankollai, respectively.
- On 9th December, Ms. Jothi, Secretary of the NGO AWARDS based in Thiruvallur at the outskirts of Chennai, visited our office along with her colleagues to explore the possibilities of collaboration.
- On 12th December, Mr. Sathya and Mr. Ajith from NTT Communications visited our office and had a discussion on support for CIKS activities as part of their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative.

Editorial Team : Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi & R. Abarna

Design & Layout : R.Anand & S. Ramesh

Book-Post

To



CIKS

30, Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kotturpuram

Chennai - 600 085. INDIA

Phone : 91-044-2447 1087 / 5862

E-mail : info@ciks.org / ciksorg@gmail.com

Website : www.ciks.org