



CIKS EIGHTEENTH FOUNDATION DAY

CIKS completed eighteen years on 23rd January since its registration in January 1995. The entire team from all locations had a meeting and celebration at Jamunamarathur in Jawadhu hills of Thiruvannamalai district where CIKS has been active for about four years now. On 25th January, there was a review and presentation of the work of CIKS since its inception. Presentations were made by Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian and Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi and this was followed by an overview wherein Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian shared the outcome of the strategic planning exercise to evolve a work plan for the next five years for CIKS in which a core team of members had been involved with facilitation by Catalyst Management Services (CMS), Bengaluru. This was followed by a discussion with the team members that was facilitated by Mr. Raghunathan, Director, CMS, Bengaluru. Following this on 25th and 26th January, there were cultural programmes, games and local visits to the Kavalur Observatory as well as to some locations where CIKS has been active.



Distribution of prizes to the winners



Team members on a stroll

NEW PROJECT AT CIKS

INCREASING THE INCOME LEVEL THROUGH EMPOWERMENT OF FARMERS FOR THE ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE BASED MICROENTERPRISES

This project has been sanctioned by the NABARD to our Centre. This short term project is for a period of three months from February 2013 onwards. Activities of this project are being implemented in Kadambai, Pernamallur and Esakolathur gram pachayats of Thiruvannamalai district. Under this project, we are planning to establish sustainable agriculture based microenterprises to enhance the income level of farmers and to empower farmers through training programmes on sustainable agriculture technologies.



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

Development and Field Testing of Biopesticidal oils formulated as Soaps - A Pilot Project in Tamil Nadu

This project supported by DST is in progress in Nagapattinam district. Under this project, *Spodoptera* and *Aphids* are being reared in our insect rearing laboratory in Sirkazhi. Bioassays have been conducted on these pests using neem and *Pongamia* oil soap solutions, khadhi soap solution, *Annona* and *Andrographis Kashaayam* and commercial neem oil. Products like *Pongamia* oil soap, Neem oil soap, combined neem and *Pongamia* oil soap, *Annona* and *Andrographis Kashaayam* have been prepared based on the standardized procedures. Field experiments on "Testing the efficacy of neem oil and *Pongamia* oil soap on green gram crop" and "Management of sucking pest in bhendi crop using neem oil soap" are in progress in Ilayamadukoodam village. A pot experiment on "Testing the efficacy of *Pongamia* oil soap on *Spodoptera litura*" has been conducted.

Programme for Supporting Sustainable Organic Farming in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu - Phase II

The second phase of this project supported by NABARD is in progress in the Sirkazhi taluk of Nagapattinam district from March 2012 onwards. Under this project, 170.17 tonnes of organic paddy grains has been procured from the farmers by Sirkazhi Organic farmers' Association (SOFA). A total of 2.07 tonnes of white ponni, *Mappillai samba*, *Seeraga samba*, black gram and value added products have been sold. Sri Krishna Womens' group in Uluthukuppai village participated in an exhibition organized by *Magalir Thittam* in A.V.C. College, Mayiladuthurai between 24th and 26th January. On 26th and 27th February, we organized a state

level marketing exhibition at C.P. Art Centre in Chennai with the support of NABARD. A total of 15 organizations from different parts of Tamil Nadu participated in this exhibition. Discussion meeting on formation of Agriculture Producer Company was organized in Nagapattinam district on 6th and 15th March. Monthly project review meetings have been conducted.

Comprehensive Pilot Programme for Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture in Jawadhu Hills Block of Thiruvannamalai District of Tamil Nadu

This pilot programme on strengthening rainfed agriculture is in progress in the Jawadhu hills block of Thiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu from June 2012 onwards with the financial support of the Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) network of India. Under this project, crops like millet varieties, niger (*peiyellu*) and horse gram cultivated under demonstration and seed production has been harvested. Organic kitchen gardens are being maintained by the beneficiaries in project villages. A total of 62 farmers have been selected for the demonstration of green manuring in 31.75 acres. Construction of a seed bank in Seramarathur village has been completed and necessary amenities are being arranged. Efforts are in full swing for the construction of a shade net house in the Jawadhu hills with the financial support from the Department of Horticulture. A preliminary field study on water resources in Jawadhu hills was conducted with the help of Mr. P. Mukesh from ACWADAM, Pune - RRA Water Node. On 22nd March, a training cum veterinary camp was organized in Aatiyanur cluster of Thiruvannamalai district. Monthly project review meetings have been organized.

Poverty Reduction in Tamil Nadu through Sustainable Agriculture

This project supported by DFID, UK is in progress in Nagapattinam, Kancheepuram and Thiruvannamalai districts. Under this project, a total of 9,241 beneficiaries have been selected from 79 village panchayats in six taluks of these districts. Village Agri Business Development Service Providers (VABDSPs) are in place for all the village panchayats. A total of 508 Sustainable Agriculture Self Help Groups (SASHGs) and 59 Panchayat Agriculture Development Committees (PADCs) have been formed. Monthly meetings of VABDSPs and SASHGs have been conducted. A total of 143 farmers are involved in the seed production of paddy varieties, black gram, sesame, sunhemp and groundnut. For setting up demonstration fields 149 farmers have been selected and distributed with required inputs. A total of 1808 beneficiaries have been selected for raising integrated kitchen gardens and inputs like vegetable seeds, irrigation apparatus and medicinal plant seedlings have been distributed. Under the component on production of quality inputs and setting up value addition units, eight community biopesticide units, six community vermicompost units and five community value addition units have been established in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts. Microenterprises like poultry farming and cattle rearing have also been taken up by the beneficiaries. Four backyard poultry units have been established in Thiruvannamalai district. A total of 44 trainings and nine exposure visits have been organized for the beneficiaries. On 4th February, a staff capacity building training on Assessment

of Community Based Organisation was conducted. Under this project, a total of eight Agriculture Machinery Facilitation Centres (AMFCs) have been established in all the three districts. Efforts are on for establishing Agriculture Producer Company (APC) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) in Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts. Orientation programmes and discussion meetings for the same have been organized. Government schemes have been availed for power weeder, cono weeder, direct seed sowing machine, straw bale processor, paddy transplanter, inputs etc. In Nagapattinam district, three veterinary camps have been organized in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Mayiladuthurai. A quarterly project review meeting was conducted on 15th and 16th February at Thiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram districts, respectively. The steering committee meeting of the project was held on 16th February at CIKS TRC in Sukkankollai. There were detailed discussions on various activities of the project and current status.

Farmers' Field School (FFS) - ATMA Programme

This programme on Farmers' Field School (FFS) under the ATMA programme is being implemented in Bhuvanagiri and Kurinjipadi blocks of Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. In Kurinjipadi block, the fifth session of the training programme was conducted on 15th February. A total of 17 farmers from four villages participated and trained on post harvest techniques in paddy processing and storage technologies, marketing strategies etc. In Bhuvanagiri block, a total of four sessions of training was conducted between February - March 2013. A total of 80 farmers from two villages participated in these training sessions. The participants were trained on cultivation techniques of pulses, seed treatment procedures, intercropping, post harvest techniques in paddy, drying and storage, conversion to rice, marketing strategies etc. Demonstrations of vermicompost production and biopesticide preparation were also done. Educational materials have been distributed to these beneficiaries.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more

Training for Farmers of Karnataka

CIKS provided training on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of paddy cultivation to the farmers in Gurmitkal taluk of Yadhgir district of Karnataka working under the guidance of Vrutti Livelihood Services, Bangalore. Two sessions of two day long training programmes were organized on 11th - 12th January and 7th - 8th March. This on-farm training was organized by Youth for Action organization. A total of 73 farmers from three villages participated in these training sessions. The farmers were trained on SRI cultivation technology, non-chemical pest management techniques, preparation and use of biopesticides and a detailed discussion on SRI cultivation technology took place. Following this training programme, a group of 10 farmers and two staff members from Gurmitkal taluk visited CIKS Sirkazhi field area on 28th and 29th March. Demonstrations of SRI nursery preparation, weeding using cono weeder, transplanting of seedlings and use of transplanter were done. The participants were also taken to visit the community vermicompost unit in Allivilagam, organic farm in Ilayamadhukoodam, integrated farm in Nemmeli and Neem seed processing unit in Agani.

Policy Consultation on System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

Pradan, New Delhi in collaboration with the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences organized a policy consultation on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) on 23rd February at New Delhi. Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian participated in the consultation.

Visitor from RRA Water Node to Jawadhu Hills

Mr. Mukesh Patil of ACWADAM, Water node of the Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) network programme visited the Jawadhu hills between 10th - 13th February. He visited the field area and had discussions with the CIKS

team members with respect to the work and progress relating to conservation and utilization of water resources as part of the RRA Comprehensive Pilot programme.

Exhibition at Chennai

An exhibition was organized by CIKS with support from NABARD on 26th and 27th February at C. P. Art Centre, Chennai. It was inaugurated by Ms. Lalitha Venkatesan, Chief General Manager, NABARD on 26th February. Various CIKS team members from Chennai and Sirkazhi and representatives of over fourteen field area agencies participated in the exhibition.

Group Monitoring Workshop for the DST Core Support Members

Between 4th and 6th March, a Group Monitoring Workshop was organized by the Department of Science and Technology for 23 NGOs receiving Core support. Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar and Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian participated in the workshop. Each group made a presentation regarding progress of work with their groups as well as members of the DST Expert Committee. On behalf of CIKS, Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar made a presentation regarding the progress of work and also a proposal for activities to be carried out during the next five year period from 2013 to 2018.

Visit to Hyderabad

On 9th March, Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar and S. Prabhu visited the Society for Energy, Environment and Development (SEED) organization in Hyderabad. This agency is known for its excellence in utilization and dissemination of solar drier technology to farmers and other NGOs in Andhra Pradesh. They had meeting with Dr. Rama Krishna Rao, Founder Director and Mrs. Shyamala Rao, Secretary and discussed about research activities, product development etc., in detail. They also visited Food testing lab, Cooking section, Microbiology lab, Enviro chamber and other departments.

ORGANIC FACTS

SHIFT TO NUTRITIOUS ORGANIC FOODS

Tests have shown that organic tomatoes exhibit higher concentrations of flavonoid substances, organic fruits



and vegetables contain 40% more antioxidants and higher levels of beneficial minerals like iron and zinc. In the case of organic milk antioxidant levels was as much as 90%. It has also

been proved that organic plant based foods contain higher amounts of secondary plant compounds like phytochemicals and also have a more balanced protein profile, and contain more minerals and vitamins.

Processed organic foods do not contain any artificial additives, flavoring/coloring/ processing agents since they are not allowed for use in the processing of organic foods. The negative health impacts of these artificial additives/processing agents is well known, for example, aspartame that is a widely used as an artificial sweetener is strongly linked to migraines, blurred vision and several other nervous disorders. These characteristics are sufficient to substantiate the claim that organic foods are more nutritious than non-organic/conventionally grown foods.

VISITOR'S BOOK

Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 30th January, Mr. Robin Singh, Programme Officer from NABARD Financial Services Limited visited CIKS Sirkazhi office.
- On 2nd February, Dr. Sadam Kumar Das from Vivekananda College of Biotechnology, West Bengal visited our farm.
- On 11th February, Mr. Shashi Enarth, Consultant from RRA network visited us.
- On 22nd February, Ms. Khorshed Talati, Sr. Development Officer, Programs, Planning and Partnership, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai along with Dr. Ramanathan and Mr. Gabriel Xavier from the regional office of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust visited us for a discussion regarding areas of mutual interest.
- On 23rd February, Ms. Pragnya from CMS, Bengaluru visited CIKS Sirkazhi office and our project area in Sirkazhi to get to know about various of our activities.
- On 21st March, Mr. Ramanathan and Mr. Vikram of Pudhiya Thalaimurai TV visited CIKS.

TALK TO US

Send your feed back, comments and suggestions to info@ciks.org / ciksorg@gmail.com

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