



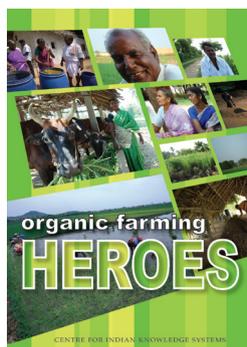
ON FARM LEARNING

A group of four members from the Academy of Development Science, Maharashtra visited our experimental farm in Sukkankollai between 21st and 22nd May, to acquaint themselves and get practically trained on various organic farming technologies. They were trained on various topics including organic farming cultivation methods, organic methods of pest and disease management, SRI (System of Rice Intensification) cultivation techniques, preparation of biopesticides and their uses, various methods of compost and vermicompost production, organic farming certification and standards of ICS (Internal Control System). Following this, demonstration of SRI cultivation techniques - method of nursery preparation and transplantation, preparation of biopesticides and compost production were done. They were also given an overview of various activities taken up in our farm and visited the biopesticide, biofertiliser and vermicompost production units, demo herbal and kitchen gardens and fields of traditional paddy varieties.



Preparation of nursery for SRI method

Case Study of Successful Organic Farmers



Details on page 4

NEW PROJECT

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS THROUGH ORGANIC FARMING IN TAMIL NADU

Jamsetji Tata Trust (JTT), Mumbai has sanctioned a project to our centre entitled "Sustainable livelihoods through organic farming in Tamil Nadu". The programme is for a period of three years starting from May 2009 onwards in three districts of Tamil Nadu - Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam. Under this project, we propose to work towards organic conversion of about 900 acres in these three districts. The work would also involve capacity building of farmers on organic farming. Organic seed production would be one of the new components under this programme.



PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

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

CIKS is implementing the second phase of the above-mentioned project with support from the Ford Foundation. Under this project, a total of 230.80 ha of land has been selected from Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts, out of which 91.63 ha are cultivated organically in this season. A total of 33 training programmes on organic farming technologies and organic certification were conducted for the beneficiaries. A total of 421 farmers benefited through these training programmes. A total of 10 farmers of Nagapattinam district were trained on internal inspection methods and were certified as internal inspectors. Biofertilizers like *Phosphobacterium* and *Rhizobium* are produced in our biofertilizer unit. Under this project, under the component of capacity building of NGOs, a total of three, three-day Trainers' Training Programmes (TTP) were conducted between 11th and 21st June. The participants were trained on various topics including importance and need for organic farming, current status of organic farming, improving soil fertility, pest and disease management, preparation of biopesticides and compost production. A total of 57 persons including representatives from seven NGOs and UG Agriculture students from Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore participated in these training programmes. Loans have been provided to the farmers of Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts for establishing small scale enterprises.

Capacity Building on Organic Farming

This project, supported by CAPART, New Delhi is being implemented in 10 villages in the Kancheepuram district. Sangam meetings were conducted regularly. A farmer from Senthankulam village is involved in the seed production of traditional vegetable varieties. A demo paddy field is being maintained by a farmer in Edaiyur village. Inputs like paddy seeds, vegetable seeds, biofertilizers and storage bins have been distributed to the beneficiaries. Efforts are on for the construction of a seed bank in Senthankulam village. Germination test has been conducted for 47 traditional paddy varieties that are conserved by CIKS. Video documentation of the work carried out under this project has been completed.

Compas Project - Phase II

This project, supported by ETC Foundation, Netherlands, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. Under this project nearly 38 farmers are being involved in the organic cultivation of fodder grass in 3.19 ha. A total of three farmers have established the centralized fodder grass nursery in 2.5 acres with five different fodder grass varieties. An organic package of practices for sugarcane is being developed in Adhamangalam village of Nagapattinam district. On 28th April, beneficiaries of Nagapattinam district were taken for an exposure visit to an organic farm in Panikkampatti village near Karur. They learnt various organic farming practices and methods of vermicompost production.

Biodiversity Conservation, Reduction of POPs and Livelihoods for Farmers in Tamil Nadu - A Sustainable Triangle

This project supported by UNDP - GEF is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts from November 2008. A total of three training programmes on the preparation of value added products were conducted for the farmers of Edaiyur, Valathodu and Narapakkam villages on 2nd, 4th and 6th June, respectively. A total of three training programmes on non-chemical pest management methods were conducted for the farmers of Dindigul district. Under this project a total of 23 farmers' groups have been formed in Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts. Five farmers of Nagapattinam district are involved in the organic cultivation of traditional paddy varieties like *Karunkuruvai*, *Chithiraikar* and *Arupathamkodai* in 2.4 acres. The farmers of Malayandipuram, Alamarathupatty, Pazhaniyur and Vannampatty villages were taken for the exposure visits to the organic fields in Karadipatty, Vannampatty and Dharmadhupatty villages.

Introduction of Organic Farming in Alangadu Village

Our centre is involved in the promotion of organic farming in Alangadu village of Nagapattinam district. This project is being implemented from January 2009. Under this project a vermicompost unit has been constructed in Alangadu village and inaugurated on 17th May. This unit is being maintained by

Organic womens' group. Production of vermicompost is in progress in this newly constructed vermicompost unit. Seeds of greens, bhendi, cluster beans and gourd varieties have been distributed to the members of the women SHGs. On 25th April, a one day training programme on organic farming technologies was conducted for the beneficiaries. On 28th April, members of selected women Self Help Groups (SHGs) were taken for an exposure visit to an organic farm in Panikkampatti village. On 21st May, a training programme on maintenance of vermicompost production unit was conducted for the selected members of Alangadu Women SHG.

Technology Resource Centre Activities

The 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. Beneficiaries are involved in the implementation of various organic farming technologies. About ten organic farming technologies have been identified and partial support has been provided for the enhancement. Extension of our Technology Resource Center (TRC) has been completed and the new block was inaugurated on 20th April.

Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, sesame, sunflower and ADT 43 paddy variety has been cultivated. Different varieties of greens have been raised under the shade house. Traditional paddy varieties like *Poongar*, *Arupatham samba* and *Norungan* have been cultivated in 20 cents following SRI method. Groundnut, black gram and green gram that were cultivated during the previous season have been harvested. Production of organic seeds of ADT 43 paddy variety by SRI method has been completed.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

Trainers' Training Programme

A five - day Trainers' Training Programme (TTP) on organic farming technologies was organized by CIKS between 21st and 25th April at our Technology Resource Centre (TRC) in Sukkankollai. A total of 20 farmers and NGO representatives from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated in this residential training programme. The participants were trained on various topics including organic farming practices, organic methods of pest and disease management, SRI method of rice cultivation, marketing of organic products and preparation of vermicompost and biopesticides. The participants were also taken for an exposure visit to our paddy processing unit in Thiruvannamalai.

Meetings at CAPART and IGNOU, New Delhi

A. V. Balasubramanian visited New Delhi on 28th and 29th May. On 28th May he visited the Faculty of Agriculture at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and made a presentation about CIKS activities in the area of agriculture. It was decided to explore possible ways in which CIKS could work with IGNOU. He also visited the Science and Society Division of the Department of Science and Technology and had meetings with Dr. Vinita Sharma, Dr. V. C. Goyal, Sri Sunil Agarwal, Ms. Shobana Bhaskaran and Ms. Ujwala Tirkey about several of our programmes. On 29th May he participated in the meeting of the Technology Resource Centres of CAPART that was convened by CAPART at the India International Centre.

Talk at Nature Conservation Foundation

On 22nd June, A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi visited the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) in Mysore. A.V. Balasubramanian gave a talk on "Building on Traditional Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Agriculture Today". The talk was attended by the staff and researchers of NCF at Mysore.

Discussion Meeting on Technology and Society

On 23rd June, a discussion meeting on Science, Technology and Society was organized by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore in collaboration with Environment and Good Governance Trust (EGGT), Bangalore. The meeting was inaugurated by the Governor of Karnataka, Mr. Rameshwar Thakur. A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the meeting and made a presentation on "Traditional Knowledge for Revitalization of Rural India".

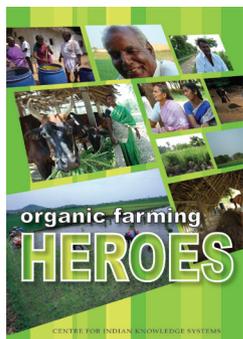
Brain Storming Meeting at New Delhi

On 23rd June, a brain storming meeting on "Developing road-map on vocational education and indigenous knowledge for north-eastern region" was organized by Educational Development of North-Eastern Region Unit (EDNERU), New Delhi and IGNOU Institute for Vocational Education and Training (IIVET), Shillong at Convention Centre, IGNOU, New Delhi. On behalf of CIKS our Programme Officer M. Suresh attended the meeting and made a presentation on "Overview of activities of CIKS".

BOOKSTORE

New publications and audiovisuals

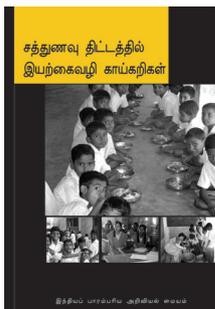
Organic farming Heroes (Iyarkai Vazhi Vivasaya Sathanayalargal) (English and Tamil)



CIKS has been encouraging and supporting small and marginal farmers to convert to organic farming. In this book, case studies of successful farmers have been presented. Their experiences, reasons for shifting to organic farming, their views and aspirations and their way of thinking and way of life has been presented in this book. The case studies were done as a series of interviews with

the farmers and hence it is presented in a narrative format.

Uses of Organically Cultivated Vegetables in Mid Day Meal (Sathunavu Thittathil Iyarkaivazhi Kaaikarigal) (Tamil)



CIKS implemented a project on 'Improving the status of Mid-day meals programme through organic kitchen gardening in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu'. The experiences gained through this project have been compiled in this book. This publication provides information on importance of balanced diet, preparation of nutritious food, simple methods for

setting up organic vegetable gardens in homes and schools in detail.

For copies, contact
"CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS"
at the address given below.

VISITOR'S BOOK

Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 6th April, Dr. Ganesan Balachander visited us for a follow up discussion about Green banking.
- On 21st April, Mr. Sudhakar, AGM of NABARD, Kancheepuram district visited our field office at Chengelpet and the training centre at Sukkankollai.
- On 19th May, Mr. Venugopal, AGM of NABARD, Nagapattinam district visited our Sirkazhi field office.
- On 21st May, Mr. K. Nagarajan from the Rural Business Unit of State Bank of India visited us.
- On 25th May, Mr. Sabu M. Siman and Ms. T. Siju from Peermade Development Society, Kerala visited our experimental farm.
- On 2nd June, Mr. Rajeev Khedkar from the Academy of Development Science, Pune visited us for a discussion regarding the COMPAS programme and collaboration with CIKS.
- On 4th June, Ms. Akila Balu and Ms. Sowmya Karthik visited CIKS office for a discussion regarding the future progress of the organic farming activities in Alangadu village in Nagapattinam district.
- On 6th June, a group of 30 farmers working with the NGO, Hand in Hand visited Sukkankollai farm to get to know about the various organic farming technologies.
- On 10th June, Mr. M. Karthikeyan, Programme Leader of Dhan Foundation visited our Centre for a discussion regarding possible collaboration between Dhan Foundation and CIKS.
- On 12th June, Mr. Venugopal Nair and Mr. Ravi Ganapathi, Brand Portrait visited our experimental farm.
- On 24th June, a group of seven staff from the NGO - Hand in Hand visited our Sukkankollai farm.

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