



## RAT CONTROL IN PADDY FIELDS USING IRULA EXPERTISE

The organic farmers in Sirkazhi area of Tamil Nadu were facing serious problems due to explosion of rat population. To bring the situation under control, the Sirkazhi Organic Farmer's Association decided to seek the help of Irula tribals who are known for their expertise in dealing with rat and snake problems. Irula tribals from the Irula Snake Catcher's Industrial Co-operative Society Limited, Chromepet, Chennai were invited to the fields in Agani village, Sirkazi, where rat menace was recorded to be maximum. The Irulas then surveyed about 15 acres of the field area and located the rat burrows. The rats were then smoked out and caught by them. A total of six members were involved in this activity. A total number of 233 rats were caught. The whole exercise which was facilitated by CIKS as a follow up of Farmers Scientist meet was welcomed by the farmers who wanted it to be repeated again whenever rat population went beyond control.



*Irulas involved in rat hunt at Agani, Sirkazhi*

## TRAINING ON ORGANIC FARMING CERTIFICATION

Our centre plans to conduct one-day training programmes on organic certification. The main aim of these programmes would be to train the participants on the procedures involved in obtaining organic certification. Topics such as need for organic certification, importance of obtaining organic certification, procedures involved in obtaining organic certification, maintenance of organic farms and records to be maintained would be covered during this training programme. At the end of the training, the participants would be taken around a farm that has been certified as organic. This training programme would be conducted every month on the dates specified below. The training programme would be conducted in Tamil. A maximum of 25 members can participate in one training programme.

### Training Fee:

Rs. 750/ - per person.  
(Includes lunch and course material)

### Dates for the Training:

October - 27th, November - 24th, December - 22nd,  
January - 12th

### Venue for the Training:

CIKS ORGANIC FARM,  
Near Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary,  
Chengelpet.

### For further details, contact:

Programme Coordinator,  
Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems,  
503/3, Santhi Nagar, Vedanarayanapuram,  
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The training fee can be sent as a DD in the name of **Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems**, Payable at Chennai to the above mentioned address.



## 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 497.44 acres of land has been selected from Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram and Nagapattinam district, out of which 315.26 acres are cultivated organically in this season. Land selection has been done in Dindugal district. Vandavasi organic farmers producer society was registered. As a part of this project, three trainings were conducted for the members of NGOs namely Tribal Health Initiative at Dharmapuri, NARDEP at Kanyakumari and CAST at Tirunelveli between 18th - 23rd, 23rd - 26th and 27th - 30th July respectively. Efforts are on to establish an oil expeller unit at Velukampattu village, Thiruvannamalai district. Construction of a biofertilizer unit in Sukkankollai farm has been completed. On 10th and 11th August, farmers of Nagapattinam district were taken for an exposure visit to a neem cake production unit and herbal processing unit in Gandhigram Rural Institute. On 23rd September, a training on organic farming was conducted for the farmers of Adhamangalam village.

### Restoration of Tsunami Affected Lands in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu

CIKS is implementing the second phase of the above-mentioned project with support from the Wetlands International - South Asia from July 2007 in Sirkazhi. Under this project, an orientation programme was conducted for the members of "Udhayanila organic farmers sangam" in Sitthivinayagapuram village on 1st August. On 10th September, a one day training programme on procedures for the preparation of biopesticides was conducted for the staff of Sitthivinayagapuram biopesticide unit. An Agri-fair was organized by the Coastal Conservation Department (CCD), at Thiruvenkadu, on 12th September. Subhashini Sridhar participated in this programme and delivered a talk on "The economics of organic paddy cultivation". On 14th September, a one day training

programme on organic paddy cultivation and seed sowing using drum seeder was conducted for the members of "Udhayanila organic farmers sangam". Dr. R. Kamaraj from TRRI (Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute), Aduthurai served as a resource person and explained about the drum seeder technology.

### 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. Three farmers are involved in the conservation of 18 traditional paddy varieties. Seeds of 13 traditional paddy varieties have been procured from the farmers. A total of 64 farmers are involved in organic paddy cultivation. Three training programmes were conducted on 7th, 18th and 25th July, for the beneficiaries of Sithalamangalam, Thiruvanaikoil and Senthankulam villages respectively. Participants were trained on topics such as Pests and diseases of paddy, organic methods of pest and disease management, Internal Control System etc. On 24th July, farmers of Thiruvanaikoil village were taken for an exposure visit to the organic fields in Velukampattu and Kadambai villages of Thiruvannamalai district.

### Paddy Organic Chain - Seed to Harvest

CIKS is implementing a pilot project on "Paddy organic chain - Seed to harvest" in Tamil Nadu with support from HIVOS, Bangalore. Monthly meetings were conducted in Chithravadi, Kolathancherry and Kaliyapettai villages. Vegetables, pulses, paddy, cotton, banana, fodder and green manure crops are cultivated organically in these villages. Double the quantity of paddy seeds have been procured from the farmers. On 11th and 12th September, farmers of Chithravadi, Kolathancherry, Kaliyapettai and Esoor villages were taken for an exposure visit to Hassan district, Mysore. They visited the organic farms in Aguduganagalli and Alanahalli villages and observed various organic farming technologies including zero budget farming technologies. They also

met Mr. Swamiyananthan, Coordinator of Karnataka Natural Farmers Association and discussed about the various aspects of natural farming.

### Vrkshayurveda for Vegetables

This project is being implemented with support from DST. As a part of this project, an experiment on "Management of major pests in Brinjal through foliar spray of biopesticides" is being conducted in Allivilagam village. Experiment to test the efficacy of modified panchagavyam on yield parameters of bhendi crop has been initiated in Agani under shade house conditions. PKM - 1 tomato variety has been cultivated in 0.5 cents to develop an organic package.

### DST Project on Storage Forms of Biopesticides

A DST supported project on storage forms of biopesticides is being implemented in Sirkazhi from September 2005. Bioassays are being conducted on Aphids using *Adhatoda ksharam*, *Calotropis ksharam* and Neem oil soap solution under lab conditions. Experiment on "Management of leaf folder in paddy using garlic *arkam* and garlic aqueous extract" has been completed and the data analysis is under progress.

### Compas Project - Phase II

This project, supported by COMPAS, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. Under this project, an experiment on "Testing the efficacy of fermented cow's urine in increasing the yield of paddy" is being conducted in Agani. Seed treatment experiments on tomato seeds using cow's milk and *Sweet flag* powder are being conducted in the Department of Plant Pathology, Annamalai University. A format with specified descriptors for the documentation of traditional paddy varieties has been developed with the help of Dr. R. Latha, PAJANCOA, Karaikal and Dr. Anandhan, Plant Breeding and Genetics Department, Annamalai University. As a follow up of farmers scientist meet that was held on 22nd June, 17 farmers were taken for an exposure visit to Sekkainayakanur village

in Dindugul district to get to know about the procedures adopted for the management of rats. Documentation of characteristics of 16 traditional paddy varieties is in progress in the Department of Plant Breeding, Annamalai University.

### 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. Under this project, a Trainers' Training Programme (TTP) was conducted for the members of 22 NGOs from all over Tamil Nadu from 9th to 13th July, at our TRC training hall in Sukkankollai. Participants were trained on various topics like, organic farming, seed conservation, enriching soil fertility, organic paddy cultivation, pests and diseases of paddy and vegetables, biopesticide preparation, preparation of Ayurvedic medicines, ICS and organic certification procedures etc. This was the first residential programme at our TRC. A one day training programme on "Organic farming certification" will be conducted on 27th October, 2007 in our experimental farm at Sukkankollai.

### Capacity Building of Farmers Through Internet and Allied Technologies

CIKS in collaboration with RTBI (Rural Technology Business Incubator), IIT, Chennai is implementing a project in Myladuthurai to build capacities of farming community through internet and allied technologies. Ten kiosks have been identified in Sirkazhi, Kollidam, Myladuthurai and Tharangambadi. On 24th and 27th August, two trainings were conducted for the operators and owners of kiosks about the basics of the computers and methods of research survey respectively. Nearly 160 farmers have been identified and grouped under the eight kiosks. Under this project, three orientation programmes have been conducted in Ilayankudi, Kondal and Allivilagam villages.

### Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, seeds of 50 different traditional paddy varieties and nine types of 18 vegetable varieties have been sown. Dapog nursery has been raised using Thooyamaltee paddy variety for SRI method of cultivation. Experiment on "Growth promoting effect of papaya and pumpkin fruit pulp in Tapioca stem cuttings" is being conducted in the field. Experiment on "Management of *Helicoverpa* infestation in tomato through NPM technique" is also being conducted in the field.

# NEWSROOM

*Happenings and more.*

### Visit to Sirkazhi

A. V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi made a two day trip to Sirkazhi on 6th and 7th July. On 6th July, they met Professor S. Arivudainambi, Department of Entomology, Prof. Kuruchevu, Department of Plant Pathology, Dr. Kuppaswamy, Dean, Dr. Prakash, Department of Agricultural Botany and Dr. Manivannan of the Department of Horticulture. They discussed the possibilities of collaborative work and the signing of an MOU for undertaking research. On 7th July, they visited the biopesticide unit and the experimental farm at Agani. Later, they had meetings with the CIKS team members as well as the office bearers of the Sirkazhi Organic Farmers Association.

### Visit of a Team from Sri Lanka

At the request of an Italian Funding Agency, ICEI which has been carrying out Tsunami Relief operations relating to agriculture in Sri Lanka, CIKS had organized a training programme and an exposure visit for a team of four persons from Sri Lanka. The members of the team were Mr. Giuseppe Busalacchi from ICEI, Italy, Mr. I. M. Najeem from ICEI, Sri Lanka, Mr. Harischandra Silva from Gami Sewa Sewana, Sri Lanka and Mr. Nimal Dayaratni from the Department of Agriculture, Ampara District, Sri Lanka. They spent a period of eight days undergoing training and exposure visits between 17th and 24th July, at Chennai, Chengalpet and Sirkazhi areas.

### Visit to Agricultural University

The Agricultural Research Society of Annamalai University hosted a meeting on 26th July. On behalf of CIKS, Subhashini Sridhar participated in this meeting and delivered a talk on "Experience of CIKS in restoration of Tsunami affected areas - case study and analysis". Nearly 150 research scholars from different departments participated in this meeting.

### Training for SHG Members

On 18th August, the Department of Agronomy of Annamalai University conducted a training programme for the members of SHG at Thandavankulam village. On behalf of CIKS P. Kiruthika

and S. Ashokkumar participated in this training programme and presented about the methods of vermicompost production, cost for setting up a vermicompost unit, marketing strategies adopted for sales and methods of biopesticide preparation respectively.

### Visit to Timbaktu Collective

A.V. Balasubramanian made a visit to Timbaktu Collective in Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh between 31st August and 3rd September, to know about their organic farming project.

### Visit to Mumbai

A.V. Balasubramanian made a visit to Mumbai on 7th September. He met with Dr. Swapan Garain, Faculty in Charge of Placement at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences to discuss the possibility of having their students in the Masters in Social Work for placement at CIKS. He also visited the Homi Baba Centre for Science Education and met Dr. Ravi Subramanian.

### Meeting on Non Profit Organisations

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Southern Regional Chapter had organized a meeting on Non Profit Sector. A.V. Balasubramanian participated in this meeting and delivered a talk on "Governance of Small and Medium Non Profit Organisations".

### Training on Organic Farming

A five day training programme on organic farming was conducted for the field extension officers by the Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University from 24th to 28th September. On behalf of CIKS, Subhashini Sridhar participated in this training programme and delivered a lecture on "Systems of certification, record maintenance, grading, packing, handling and storage of organic products".

## TALK TO US

Send your feed back,  
comments and suggestions  
to [info@ciks.org](mailto:info@ciks.org)

# ORGANIC FOODS

for good health

## LIST OF AVAILABLE ORGANIC PRODUCTS

CIKS is involved in the marketing of organic products. We have given below the price list for the products that are currently available with us.

S. No.	Organic Product	Retail price (Rs/kg)		Remarks
		Raw	Boiled	
1.	White Ponni Rice	26	24	Suitable for meals
2.	ADT-43 Rice	Nil	20	Suitable for meals
3.	ADT-37 Rice	Nil	19	Suitable for Idli & Dosa
4.	Kadai Kazhuthan Rice (traditional variety)	Nil	20	Suitable for Idli & Dosa
5.	White Ponni broken rice	10	8	Suitable for Idli & Dosa
	Organic Product	Retail Price Rs/kg		
6.	Jaggery	30		-
7.	Black gram	65		-
8.	Flat Rice--Red (Poha) (Avul)	32		-

Those interested in purchasing these products may contact our Sales Manager M. Suresh @ 99427 96313 or our Sales Executive T. Kannan @ 99427 96314.

You can also place your orders by e-mail: [suresh@ciks.org](mailto:suresh@ciks.org)

## VISITOR'S BOOK

### Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 2nd July, Ms. Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar, Director and Secretary, Heritage, Bangalore, Mrs. Usha and Mrs. Chitra of the same organization visited us.
- On 13th July, a group of four Agriculture students from PAJANCOA, Karaikal visited our Sirkazhi office.
- On 21st July, Ms. Harini and Mr. Anjaneya from Rural Technology Business Incubator (RTBI) visited our Sirkazhi office.
- On 26th July, Mr. Sridhar Sethuratnam of International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada from their Asia Office at Singapore visited us.
- On 6th August, a group of six students from Kalavai Agricultural College visited our Sukkankollai farm to get to know about the organic farming technologies.
- On 10th August, Dr. Lalitha and Dr. Reji from Tribal Health Initiative, Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu visited us.
- On 13th August, Mr. Jomo Uduman, Organic farmer from Sri Lanka visited us.
- On 11th September, Mr. Arul Raj, Programme Officer, Green Coast Project, Chennai visited our Sirkazhi office.
- On 13th September, Mr. Ashish Panda and Mr. Aswin Joseph from Timbaktu Collective, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh visited us.
- On 20th September, Mr. Senthil Gopalakrishnan from Payir Ashram, near Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu visited us.
- On 25th September, Mr. Gowtham Shankar, Chairman, IDEA, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh visited us.

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