



TRAINING ON ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

The COMPAS Asian partners organized a training programme for facilitators on Endogenous Development between 25th and 29th August at the Centre for Human Development at Tholangamuwa, Sri Lanka. The workshop was hosted by FIOH, Sri Lanka. Subhashini Sridhar and M. Suresh represented CIKS in the training programme. A. V. Balasubramanian also participated in the training programme as the Coordinator of the COMPAS Asian programme. The participants for the training programme were the COMPAS Asian partners from India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam and a representative from Nepal. The programme focused on increasing the understanding of endogenous development for the trainees particularly in natural resources management.



Subhashini Sridhar during her presentation in the training programme

WORKSHOP ON GENDER SENSITIZATION



Discussion of the participants during the workshop

A workshop of all COMPAS Indian partners on "Gender Equity and Endogenous Development" was hosted by CIKS on 11th August at Chennai. The workshop was attended by the representatives of Indian partners namely Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore and Krishi Prayog Pariwara, Karnataka. The program was facilitated by Ms. Shashi Rajagopalan, Consultant and A. V. Balasubramanian of CIKS. The workshop discussed the role of woman in governance, likely hindrances of having women at all levels, steps to be taken to increase active womens' presence from community at program level and indicators which suggest gender equity in an agricultural program.



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 200.66ha of land has been selected from Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts, out of which 144.90ha are cultivated organically in this season. A total of 39 training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries. The participants were trained on topics such as compost and biopesticide preparation, ethno-veterinary practices, production methods of biofertilizers, SRI cultivation methods, maintenance of farm diary and first aid procedures. Nearly 511 farmers benefited through these training programmes. Biofertilizers like *Phosphobacteria* and *Acetobacter* are being produced in our biofertilizer unit. On 23rd July, a Trainers' Training Programme on "Procedures of internal inspection in organic certification" was conducted for the selected farmers at Murugamangalam village of Nagapattinam district. On 7th and 8th August, two training programmes were conducted on "Techniques of biofertilizer production and application methods" in the Department of Microbiology, Annamalai University. External inspection of farmers fields were conducted by Mr. Kiran of IMO, Bangalore, between 23rd September and 1st October.

Paddy Organic Chain - Seed to Market

CIKS is implementing a pilot project on "Paddy organic chain - Seed to Market" in Tamil Nadu with support from HIVOS,

Bangalore. Monthly meetings were conducted in Chithravadi, Kolathancherry and Kaliyapettai villages. On 18th and 19th July, farmers of Chithravadi and Kaliyapettai villages were taken for an exposure visit to the biopesticide unit in Agani and organic fields in Murugamangalam village. On 5th and 26th August, two trainings on "Methods of compost production and importance of vermicompost" were conducted for the farmers of Kolathancherry and Kaliyapettai villages respectively. Sangam members of Kolathancherry village were taken for an exposure visit to organic farms in Allivilagam on 18th and 19th August. In September, three training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries on SRI cultivation methods and Internal Control Systems (ICS). External inspection of farmers fields were conducted by Mr. Kiran of IMO, Bangalore, between 23rd - 25th September. Experiment on soil fertility management using bone meal, rock phosphate and *Phosphobacteria* is being conducted in Agani village.

DST Project on Storage Forms of Biopesticides

A DST supported project on Storage forms of biopesticides is being implemented in Sirkazhi from September 2005. Armyworms and *Aphids* are being reared under laboratory conditions. Bioassays have been conducted on *Spodoptera* using various botanicals. An experiment on management of sucking pests in bhendi has been initiated in Agani village. *Epilachna* is being cultured in the Department of Entomology, Annamalai University. A trial has been conducted in bhendi to confirm the efficacy of neem oil soap solution on sucking pests. A bioassay

has been conducted on spotted beetle (*Epilachna vigintioctopunctata*) using *Jatropha* and *Andrographis Kashayam*.

Compas Project - Phase II

This project, supported by COMPAS, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. Under this project, experiments on tomato has been initiated in collaboration with the Department of Plant Pathology, Annamalai University. On 19th August, a training programme on "Documentation of traditional paddy varieties" was conducted for our staff members by Dr. Anandan of Annamalai University. Seeds of ten traditional paddy varieties have been distributed to the farmers of Sirkazhi taluk for multiplication. Land selection is in progress for establishing a central nursery. A group of 21 Agricultural officers from the Department of seed certification, Karaikal visited our biopesticide unit at Agani. On 20th September, a one day training programme on fodder grass cultivation was conducted for the farmers of Narapakkam village. A farmer scientist meet on "Validation of Traditional Agricultural Practices" was organized on 13th September. A total of 25 farmers and four scientists participated in this meeting.

Improving Livelihoods of Farmers Through Organic Vegetable Cultivation

CIKS is implementing a project on "Improving livelihoods of farmers through Organic Vegetable Cultivation in the irrigated areas of Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu" with support from Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai from

November 2007. Under this project, a total of 8.2ha of land has been selected and beneficiaries are involved in the organic cultivation of various vegetable crops. Between 16th - 18th July, four trainings were conducted for the farmers of S. Pudhur, T. Pudhupatti and Karadipatti villages. Participants were trained on topics such as enhancing soil fertility, demonstration of compost and plant extracts preparation etc. A total of 11 farmers are involved in the production of vermicompost. On 23rd and 25th September, a total of 41 beneficiaries were trained on first aid procedures. Two training programmes on "Organic vegetable cultivation techniques" were conducted for the beneficiaries.

Improving the Status of Mid-Day Meals Programme Through Organic Kitchen Gardening

Our center is implementing a project on "Improving the status of Mid-day meals programme through Organic Kitchen Gardening in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu" with support from the Department of Science and Technology. Under this project, a series of orientation trainings were conducted. Nature clubs have been established in the schools. Each club consist of 20 members. Trainings were conducted for these members of Nature clubs on "Importance of composting and preparation of vermicompost". Nearly 180 students participated in these training programmes. A total of five vermicompost tanks and three cool chambers have been constructed in schools. On 18th September, a training programme on "Importance of organic kitchen gardening and vermicompost preparation" was conducted for the teacher coordinators from selected schools.

Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, 23 traditional vegetable varieties and 46 indigenous paddy varieties have been cultivated. Four indigenous paddy varieties have been sown in the nursery for SRI method of cultivation. In addition to this, green manure crops and vegetable crops have also been cultivated in the fields.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

National Seminar at Trichy

A National Seminar on "Self help groups (SHGs) for rural upliftment - emerging extension issues and strategies" was held on 12th July at Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Trichy. This programme was organized by Society of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Our staff Subhashini Sridhar and P. Kiruthika participated in this seminar and presented a paper on "Organic farming for rural upliftment: Role of Women SHGs". More than 50 scientists belonging to different institutions from Kerala, Karnataka, Delhi and Rajasthan participated in this seminar.

Conference in Malaysia

A.V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi traveled to Malaysia between 20th - 25th July, at the invitation of the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP). On 23rd July, they participated in a meeting organized by the CAP at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. A.V. Balasubramanian made a presentation on "Building Capacity for Sustainable Agriculture based on Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom". On 24th July, they attended a meeting that was organized by CAP in collaboration with the UNDP on "Sustainable Agriculture: Moving from grassroots initiatives to mainstream policies" at Kuala Lumpur. K. Vijayalakshmi made a presentation giving an overview of CIKS efforts relating to the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

Staff Capacity Building Training Programme

A staff capacity building training programme was organized in Yelagiri between 29th - 31st July. A group of 14 technical staff of CIKS attended this training programme. Staff members were trained on various topics including implementation of projects on organic farming in villages, maintenance of records and standardization of organic farming technologies.

Biodiversity Stewardship and Climate Change

M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation had organized an International Forum on the topic of "Conservation and

Stewardship of Agricultural Biodiversity in an era of climate change" in August. A. V. Balasubramanian attended the workshop on 8th August and delivered a talk on "Building on Indian Knowledge Systems for Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Biodiversity".

Talk on Systems of Medicine

Professor Gerry Bodeker from the Oxford University visited the Chennai Office of CIKS on 19th August and had a discussion and meeting with our team members. CIKS in collaboration with the Centre for Traditional Medicinal Research (CTMR) organized a talk by Professor Bodeker, who spoke on "The Global Scenario of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Potential and Prospects for India".

Convention on Ayurveda

The Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore celebrated the birth centenary of its Founder Arya Vaidyan Rama Varier with a convention on Ayurveda that was held between 21st - 24th August at Coimbatore. A. V. Balasubramanian participated in the meeting on 24th August and delivered a plenary lecture on the topic "Nutritional and therapeutic properties of traditional varieties of paddy and vegetables: The need for a study".

Visit to Sri Lanka Organic Farming Centre

On 29th August, A. V. Balasubramanian visited the National Centre for Organic Farming of the Government of Sri Lanka located at the campus of the University of Peradeniya at Kandy. He had meetings with the Director of the Centre, Professor Sarat Bhandara as well as some faculty members at the Centre.

Training on Soil Testing

On 20th and 21st September, a two day training programme on "Soil testing" was conducted for the technical staff of CIKS. This training programme was coordinated by Dr. Sultan Ismail, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, New College, Mrs. Dhatchayani, Lecturer, Department of Microbiology, Dr. M.G.R. Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women and Mr. Balaji from New College. Participants were trained on methods of soil testing and analysis.

BOOKSTORE

New publications and audiovisuals

GROUP CERTIFICATION IN ORGANIC FARMING - A GUIDANCE MANUAL (TAMIL)



This manual provides complete information on procedures involved in smallholder group certification. It also provides information on organizing farmers groups, formation and implementation of an Internal Control System (ICS), preparation of an ICS

manual, land selection, risk management, training farmers and maintaining the organic quality of the products. This will serve as a complete guidance manual for farmers interested in obtaining an organic farming group certification. A CD ROM produced along with this manual will serve as a training tool on organic group certification.

THIS MANUAL WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY

For copies, contact 'Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems' at the address given below.

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

- On 4th July, Ms. Shashi Rajagopalan, Consultant for the COMPAS programme from Hyderabad visited us.
- On 19th July, a three member team consisting of Mr. Bishwadeep Ghose and Dr. Murali from HIVOS Regional Office at Bangalore and Mr. John Holland of HIVOS International Headquarters in the Netherlands visited CIKS.
- On 18th August, a group of 15 undergraduate Agriculture students from Annamalai University visited our insect rearing lab at Sirkazhi.
- On 23rd August, Dr. Divya Mudappa of the Rainforest Research Station, Valparai, Tamil Nadu visited us.
- Between 31st August and 2nd September, Ms. Rozmeen Surani, Chartered Accountant, Hyderabad, Auditing Consultant to Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai visited us.
- On 6th September, Ms. Margriet van der Zouw, Junior programme Officer from HIVOS, The Netherlands visited our Sukkankollai farm.
- On 7th September, Mr. Bhaskar Mitra, Programme Officer from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Mumbai visited our farm and had a meeting with the field staff and farmers.
- On 16th and 17th September, Mr. Hiroshi Bingo from Life Foundation, Tokyo, Japan and Mr. Sivakumar from Gandhigram Rural University visited CIKS Chennai office and field office.
- On 25th September, Mr. M. S. Ashok, Consultant, Cirrus Management Services, Bangalore visited our CIKS Sirkazhi office to get to know about our activities.

Editorial Team : Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi, R. Abarna and T.D. Nirmala Devi **Design and 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