



CIKS NEWS

The CIKS quarterly newsletter

January 2007 Vol. 8 No. 1

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*CIKS Wishes all its friends & Well Wishers
A Very Happy and Prosperous 2007*

Restoration of Tsunami Affected Lands



Biopesticide unit at Sitthivinayapuram village

The Wetlands International – South Asia supported project on Restoration of tsunami affected lands in Nagapattinam district is being implemented in Sirkazhi from July 2006. As a part of this project, three training programmes on organic methods of pest and disease management and organic paddy cultivation were conducted for the beneficiaries of Sitthivinayapuram, Vazhuthalaikudi, Periyakutthakkai and Pushbhavanam villages. In Sitthivinayapuram village, paddy has been cultivated organically in 45 acres. A biopesticide unit has been established in Sitthivinayapuram village. On 11th October, Mr. Madhu, Mr. Dhatchinamoorthy and Mr. Mani evaluated the work carried out under this project. They visited our kitchen gardens, vermicompost tanks and the biopesticide unit at Sitthivinayapuram village. On 13th December, Mrs. Akila Balasubramanian from World Wide Fund, Chennai made an evaluation of the restoration work done by CIKS in the tsunami affected area of Sirkazhi. Two training programmes on organic paddy cultivation, identification and management of pests were conducted for the farmers of Vazhuthallaikudi and Manalmaedu villages on 15th and 29th December respectively.

Field Trip to Sukkankollai

On 2nd December, a group of friends and well wishers of CIKS made a field trip to our farm at Sukkankollai to acquaint themselves with our work. The group included Prof. S. Rajalakshmi, Dr. Ramanan and Dr. Shereen, Sri Ravishankar and Sheela Ravishankar, Sri Anand and Abitha Sethuraman along with Ms. Hema Kannan. They were appraised about the various activities taken up in the farm. They also had an opportunity to look at some of the traditional varieties conserved by CIKS, the model kitchen garden, working of various farm machineries and equipments, the green house, composting area and herbal garden.



CIKS Friends at Sukkankollai Farm

New E-mail ID

You can now contact us at
ciksorg@gmail.com or **info@ciks.org**
The old e-mail ID of **ciks@vsnl.com** is no longer valid.
Thank you for your cooperation.



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. A total of 420.11 acres of land has been selected from 27 villages of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts for organic cultivation. In Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Thiruvannamalai districts, crops like paddy, groundnut, black gram, green gram, ragi, chilli and mustard have been cultivated in nearly 173.85 acres. Inputs like, groundnut cake, neem cake, biofertilisers and earthworms have been distributed to the beneficiaries. On 3rd October, a one-day training on organic farming and land maintenance was conducted for the beneficiaries of Kancheepuram district. On 27th and 28th October, two training programmes on the importance of organic farming, standards for Internal Control System (ICS) and certification procedures were conducted for the beneficiaries of Thiruvannamalai district. On 8th & 9th and 18th & 19th November, trainings on importance of organic farming and ICS were conducted for the beneficiaries of Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts. On 4th December, training on documentation and maintenance of ICS records was conducted for the beneficiaries of Nagapattinam district at Agani. Nearly 18 members of the Sirkazhi organic farmer's sangam were taken for an exposure visit to the organic sugarcane and citrus fields in Puliankudi village. They also met Mr. Gomathynayagam and Mr. Anthony samy.

Capacity Building on Organic Farming

This project, supported by CAPART, New Delhi is being implemented in 10 villages in the Kancheepuram district. Sangam meetings took place in all the 10 villages. During these monthly meetings,

topics such as implementation of organic farming technologies, Navarai cultivation, purchase of power tiller, removing admixtures from traditional varieties and functioning of biopesticide units were taken up for discussion. Paddy has been cultivated organically in 55 acres, in which indigenous paddy varieties have been cultivated in 28 acres. Nearly 225 farmers were involved in organic paddy cultivation. For these farmers, seeds of 14 paddy varieties have been distributed. On 24th and 27th November, two trainings were conducted for the beneficiaries of Edaiyur and Valathodu and selected farmers of ten other villages respectively. Participants were trained on topics like biopesticide preparation, maintenance of records, soil conservation, organic pest control methods and usage of organic growth regulators. A power tiller has been purchased for the Kolathancherry organic farmer's sangam. The seed bank constructed at Kolathancherry village was inaugurated on 27th November.

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. Inputs like seeds of ADT-36, ADT-37, black gram and groundnut were distributed to the beneficiaries. Vermicompost has been produced in Chithravadi, Kaliyapettai and Esoor villages. Aphids, *Epilachna* beetle and shoot borer in brinjal and earhead bug in paddy have been significantly controlled by using five-leaf extract and ginger, garlic and chilli extract respectively. On 4th, 6th and 12th October, three training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries of Kolathancherry, Chithravadi and Kaliyapettai villages. In these training programmes, topics like objectives of SHGs, leadership qualities and farmer's experience in soil

conservation practices, plant protection and uses of plant growth regulators were discussed. Construction of seed bank in Kaliyapettai village has been completed.

Vrkshayurveda for Vegetables

This project is being implemented with support from DST. In Sempathaniruppu village, experiments were conducted to control *Epilachna* beetles in brinjal using extracts of *Andrographis*, *Sida* and Castor. Inputs like neem cake and seeds of ponni variety, brinjal, bhendi, chilli and tomato have been distributed to the beneficiaries. On 16th November, a workshop on organic vegetable cultivation was conducted in Allankadu village. Nearly 25 farmers participated in this workshop. On 21st December, a one-day training programme on important pests affecting yield in vegetable cultivation was conducted with the help of Dr. Arivudainambi. Nearly 25 farmers from Allivilagam, Sembathaniruppu, Adhamangalam and Allankadu villages participated in this training programme. Reports of seed treatment experiments were consolidated.

Use of Animal Products for Pest Control

As a part of this COMPAS-supported project, in Agani, experiments are being conducted in ponni paddy variety using panchagavya prepared from cow and buffalo products as growth promoter by paired row and RBD methods. Seed treatment experiments are being conducted in bhendi using various concentrations of cow's milk and panchagavya. On 4th and 5th November, a workshop on 'Validation of Traditional Practices of Agriculture - Methodology and Approach in Tamil Nadu' was organized by CIKS. Scientists, farmers, and members from FRLHT, IDEA and KPP participated in this workshop. On 30th November, H. Ganesh and R. Mahalakshmi visited Dr. Vanangamudi, Professor, Tamilnadu

Agricultural University to discuss about the seed treatment experiments and its implementation procedures.

DST Project on Storage Forms of Biopesticides

ADST supported project on storage forms of biopesticides is being implemented in Sirkazhi from September 2005. The aphids and armyworms that are being reared are now in the 58th and 2nd lab generation respectively. Bioassays are being conducted in aphids by "Bouquet method" using *Andrographis kashayam*. In our laboratory *Adhatoda* and *Calotropis sharam*, Vasambu and Cow's urine arkam have been prepared for experimental purposes. On 2nd and 31st November, two trainings were conducted for nearly 67 women farmers of Irruvakollai and Vazhuthallaikudi. We are planning to establish a net house for rearing *Epilachna* beetles and leaf folders.

Technology Resource Centre Activities

Technology Resource Centre activities of CIKS have 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, nearly 20 beneficiaries were involved in the preparation of vermicompost, compost, plant extracts, cultivation of *Azolla*, sun hemp, fodder crops, organic cultivation of vegetables and traditional paddy varieties, poultry farming and establishment of demo herbal and kitchen gardens. An experimental trial on effect of panchagavya and Amirthakaraisal has been completed. The training centre is under construction.

Work in progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, 12 different indigenous paddy varieties and three banana varieties have been cultivated in the field. Saplings of four different mango varieties have been planted. Experiments are being conducted in bhendi to test the effect of Thirikadukam. In our field, black bug and aphids were completely controlled by 10% neem leaf extract and 3% *Sida* kasayam respectively. On 21st November, farmers of Chinnanatham village of Thiruvallur district were given on farm training on pest and disease identification in the crops through Farmers Field School (FFS) method.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

Conference on Endogenous Development

An International conference on "Endogenous Development and Bio-cultural Diversity" was organized between 3rd and 5th of October 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland. This conference was co-organized and hosted by COMPAS, CDE-University of Bern, IUCN, KFPE and Center for Development studies (IUED) of University of Geneva. Nearly 110 delegates from around 25 countries took part in this conference. On behalf of CIKS A. V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi participated in this conference and made presentations.

External Inspection for Organic Certification

External inspection for getting organic certification was conducted by Mr. Ajith kumar from IMO, Bangalore between 23rd and 26th October. He checked all the documents and inspected the farms at Esoor and Sukkankollai and organic fields at Chithravadi, Kolathancherry and Kaliyapettai villages. He also had discussion with all the ICS staff at Chengalpet field office.

Environmental Awareness Programme

An environmental awareness programme was organized by NABARD on 8th November at Kancheepuram district. K. Subramanian participated in this programme and gave talk on "Harmful effects of chemical fertilizers", "Importance of organic farming" and "Vermicompost preparation".

CIKS at India Organic 2006

The International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA) organised the "India organic 2006"- Trade Fair, Organic Food Festival and Congress, between 9th and 12th November in Bangalore. CIKS jointly with Gram Mooligai Company Limited participated in this fair and exhibited its publications.

FAO Meeting in New Delhi

On 15th and 16th of November, K. Vijayalakshmi attended the project conclusion meeting of the Technical Cooperation programme of FAO held at India International Centre. During this meeting, she presented the package of practices for Paddy, Groundnut, Okra and Tomato, developed by CIKS. These

packages would be printed in English and Tamil by FAO shortly.

Conference on Organic Certification

An International conference on organic certification was organized by IFOAM between 15th and 17th November, at Rome. Members of certifying bodies from over 30 countries participated in this conference. On behalf of CIKS, S. Arumugasamy and Subhashini Sridhar attended the conference.

Group Monitoring Workshop

On 27th and 28th November, the DST, Delhi had organized a Group Monitoring Workshop at Dehradun. Subhashini Sridhar participated in this meeting and made presentations on two of our DST supported projects namely, Vrکشayurveda for vegetables and Storage forms of biopesticides.

Compas Meeting on Animal Products Programme

On 6th December, CIKS hosted a meeting of COMPAS Indian partners to review the coordinated research programme on the use of animal products in traditional agriculture. Members from KPP, FRLHT and IDEA attended the meeting. During the meeting there was a review of various project activities.

Conference at Hyderabad

An International conference on "Indigenous vegetables and legumes" was organized between 12th and 15th December at Hyderabad. Our staff S. Arumugasamy, P. Murugan and A. Suganthi participated in this conference.

Workshop on Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems

On 19th December, A. V. Balasubramanian attended the workshop organised by 'The Nature Conservation Foundation' in collaboration with the Forest Department of the Government of Tamilnadu and made a presentation regarding the restoration of degraded agricultural ecosystems based on traditional knowledge and wisdom.

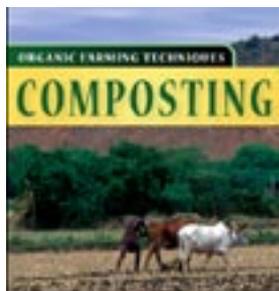
First Aid Training

On 20th December, Mr. P. Chandran from St. John's Ambulance conducted a first-aid training programme for our staff at Chengalpet field office.

BOOKSTORE

New publications and audiovisuals

Organic Farming Techniques COMPOSTING



The Green revolution resulted in the wide spread usage of high yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. As a result of this, soil fertility and diversity of microorganisms in the soil reduced drastically. Today, many agricultural lands have become unsuitable for cultivation. Most of them have become saline and alkaline soils unfit for cultivation. Farmers are looking for alternative methods of fertilizing their fields. Preparing compost and using them for improving the soil fertility is one of the important alternatives. This film describes three important composting methods namely the pit method and heap method of composting and also vermicomposting in detail.

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

- On 2nd October, Mr. Sabeer Ahmed and Mrs. Kalpana, PTA Architects visited us.
- On 18th October, Shri Pon Dhanasekharan from the Tamil magazine Ananda vikatan, visited us.
- On 23rd October, Mr. Ajithkumar of IMO, Bangalore visited us.
- On 25th October, Mr. Prasad of Shresta Organics, Hyderabad, visited us.
- On 9th November, Mr. Baluthennavan, Reporter from Pasumai Vigadan visited the CIKS field office at Chengalpet.
- On 20th November, Dr. Gerry Bodekar from Green College, Oxford University, visited us.
- On 25th November, Dr. Shankar Raman and Dr. Divya Mudappa from Nature Conservation Foundation, Valparai, Tamilnadu, visited us.
- On 6th December, Mr. Kamata Yoji from Atelier for Development and the Future (ADF) of Japan visited us at Chennai and also visited our farm at Sukkankollai.
- On 8th December, Dr. V. Bhavani Shankar from Dhan foundation, visited us.
- On 20th December, Dr. Mathivanan and Mr. Jayaprakashvel from The Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, Chennai, visited us.

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Design and Layout : R.Anand & S. Ramesh



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