



*CIKS Wishes all its friends & Well Wishers
A Very Happy and Prosperous 2008*

WORKSHOP ON LEGAL AND REGULATORY ASPECTS RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

CIKS organised a three day training programme on Legal and Regulatory Aspects Relating to Natural Resources Management between 26th and 28th November in Chennai. The workshop was supported by COMPAS and HIVOS. The objective of the workshop was to provide the delegates with an overview regarding the three major laws pertaining to their work namely The Biodiversity Act, The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (PPVFR) Act and the Seed Act with the proposed new amendments. The first and third day of the workshop was held at the Senate Hall of Hotel Ramada Rajpark, Chennai, while the second day was held at the Technology Resource Centre of CIKS at Sukkankollai. Ten NGO's from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, 2 advocates, 5 law students and 4 students of Plant Biology and Biotechnology participated in the training. Detailed presentations were made on these laws individually by the experts in the field. It was also envisaged that there would be a follow-up in the year 2008 where such training programmes are conducted in Tamil and Kannada (possibly also in Telugu) with the participants being field staff, farmers and local healers in the respective states.



Dr. Suman Sahai during her presentation

NEW PROJECT

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF FARMERS THROUGH ORGANIC VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai has sanctioned a project to our Centre under their Small Grants Programme for a project entitled - "Improving livelihoods of farmers through Organic Vegetable Cultivation in the irrigated areas of Dindigul district in Tamilnadu". The programme will be implemented for a period of one year from November 2007 onwards.



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 227.78 ha of land has been selected from Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram and Nagapattinam district, out of which 147.11 ha are cultivated organically in this season. A total of 25 on-farm trainings on organic farming technologies were conducted for the farmers of Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindugal and Nagapattinam districts. A total of six training programmes on “Legal Awareness” were conducted for the farmers of Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts. These training programmes were coordinated by Ms. B. Poongkhulali and Mr. Gowtham, students of National Law School of India, Bangalore. On 16th, 24th October, 17th November and 29th December, farmers of Thiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram district were taken for exposure visits to an organic farm in Kombupallam village and a vermicompost unit in Uppupallam village. Mr. Ajithkumar and Mr. Kiran from IMO, Bangalore, carried out the external inspection of the farmers fields in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts between 2nd and 7th October. On 26th October and 18th December, two trainings were conducted for the farmers of Nagapattinam district on Internal Control Systems (ICS) and maintenance of farm records. As a part of this project, a four day training programme on organic farming technologies was conducted for the members of a NGO

named SIMCODESS at Dindigul, on 10th, 11th, 14th and 15th December.

Capacity Building on Organic Farming

This project, supported by CAPART, New Delhi is being implemented in 10 villages in the Kancheepuram district. Inputs like paddy seeds, vegetable seeds and organic inputs have been distributed to the beneficiaries. A total of 64 farmers are involved in the organic paddy cultivation. Five farmers are involved in the seed production of five traditional paddy varieties. On 30th November, a training on organic farming was conducted for the farmers of Thandaraipudhucherry 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. Mr. Senthil Kumar, Programme Associate of the Green Coast project office, Chennai visited our Sirkazhi office and discussed about the on going project activities on 30th October. A one day training programme on organic paddy cultivation was conducted for the women farmers of Dharkaz and Pudupattinam villages. On 30th October, 19 members of “*Udhayanila organic farmers sangam*” were taken for an exposure visit to our experimental farm at Sukkankollai. On 24th and 29th November, two training programmes on organic paddy cultivation were conducted for the farmers of Kumarakudi and Vanagiri villages respectively. Under this project, a survey on adoption of organic farming technologies has been conducted in three villages in Sirkazhi taluk.

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. Various crop varieties are cultivated organically in Chithravadi, Kolathancherry, Kaliyapettai and Esoor villages. Infestation of leaf folder in paddy crop has been effectively controlled by Neem Seed Kernel extract. External inspection of farmers fields in Kolathancherry and Esoor villages were completed. Brain storming sessions on various topics like sustainability of organic farming technologies, increasing area under organic farming and comparison between chemical and organic farming were conducted for the farmers of Chithravadi, Kolathancherry, Kaliyapettai and Esoor villages between 18th and 20th December.

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 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. Our staff Subhashini Sridhar and P. Kiruthika participated in the DST Group Monitoring Workshop held at KIIT University, Bhubaneshwar and presented about the activities of our DST supported project on storage forms of biopesticides. On 15th November and 11th December, two training programmes on biopesticide preparation and vermicompost production were conducted for the women farmers of Pazhayagaram & Poompukar and the farmers of Kattur and Pulianthurai villages respectively.

Vrkshayurveda for Vegetables

This project is being implemented with support from DST. As a part of this project, PKM-1 tomato seedlings have been raised and transplanted to the main field to develop an organic package. A biopesticide unit has been established at Allivilagam village together with SHG members. A one-day training programme on organic vegetable cultivation was conducted for the farmers of Anaikaran chathiram, Nathalpadugai and Santhappadugai villages.

Compas Project - Phase II

This project, supported by COMPAS, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. Seed treatment experiments on tomato seeds using cow's milk and *Sweet flag* powder is in progress in the Department of Plant Pathology, Annamalai University. A survey on status of traditional seeds in our old project villages has been conducted. A case study on organic farmers and the technologies followed by them has been conducted in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Dindugal districts. On 2nd & 3rd November and 16th & 17th December, four trainings were conducted on fodder grass cultivation for the farmers of Mogalvadi, Kuripedu, Kadambai, Sathapoondi and Kayanallur villages.

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.

Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, seeds of 10 traditional Paddy varieties, TMV-2 groundnut variety and T9 black gram variety have been cultivated. Experimental trial on SRI method of cultivation using Thooyamalli paddy variety is in progress. An experiment on "Testing the effect of *Jeevamirtham* on ADT 43 paddy variety" is being conducted in the field.

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

Visit to Netherlands

A.V. Balasubramanian visited the Netherlands between 30th September and 7th October to attend the COMPAS International Management Meeting that was held at the ETC Headquarters. The objective of the meeting was to have a discussion between the Regional Coordinators and the International Coordination about the progress of the COMPAS programme. He also visited the HIVOS headquarters in the Hague and had a meeting with the HIVOS officials - HIVOS is currently funding one of our major programmes on organic farming.

Training on Organic Certification

A one day training programme on "Organic Farming Certification" was held on 27th October and 24th November in Sukkankollai farm. A total of 15 participants from different districts of Tamil Nadu participated in this training programme. Our programme coordinator S. Arumugasamy conducted this training programme. Participants were trained on various aspects of organic certification. Participants were also taken to visit our experimental farm at Sukkankollai.

Asia Workshop at Bangalore

FRLHT had hosted a policy dialogue and exhibition on - "Community Knowledge, Application and Development" on 31st October 2007. A.V. Balasubramanian had participated in the meeting and delivered a talk on - "Community Knowledge for Sustainable Agriculture". Four other members of the CIKS team had participated in the event - Ms. Shobana, Ms. Fatima and

Ms. Arokiyajaya from the Sirkazhi field office displayed the products developed at the biopesticide unit as well as CIKS publications. Mr. Suresh, Marketing Manager from Chennai exhibited the organic products that are being marketed by CIKS.

Visit to CRRI

On 16th November, Subhashini Sridhar and P. Kiruthika visited the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack, Orissa. They were given an overview about the integrated farming concepts and importance of deep-water paddy varieties. They also visited the Department of Agricultural Engineering and took a look at various implements used for paddy cultivation.

CIKS in Agri Intex and India Organic 2007

CIKS participated in Agri Intex Fair held in Coimbatore between 22nd and 26th November. The International Competence Center for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA), organized an organic fair "India Organic 2007" at Delhi between 28th November and 2nd December. CIKS participated in this fair and exhibited its publications. Our staff M. Suresh, P. Murugan and H. Ganesh along with eight farmers from our project villages participated in this fair.

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Endogenous Development in India - Revisiting Swadeshi

This publication provides an overview regarding the experiences of the Indian partners of COMPAS programme in the area of endogenous development during the previous phase of the COMPAS project that concluded in December 2006. This also

includes a chapter where the Indian experience has been synthesized based on inputs that have been received from all the partners.

Price : Rs. 125/-



Botanicals for Pest Management in Organic Agriculture

This booklet outlines methods to prepare plant extracts from commonly available plants which have pest control properties and the method of use of the same.

Price : Rs. 25/-

Enhancing Soil Fertility in Organic Farming

This booklet describes the methods by which soil fertility can be enhanced using organic material like Farmyard manure, Green manure and Green leaf manure. Preparation of different types of compost is also described.



Price : Rs. 25/-

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VISITOR'S BOOK

Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 9th October, Dr. T. T. Ranganathan, Professor, Gandhigram Rural University visited us.
- On 11th October, Mr. H. Lanting from ETC India visited our Chennai office as well as our Sukkankollai farm.
- On 5th November, a team of five folk healers from Meghalaya led by Mr. Bringstone Kharu accompanied by Mr. M. B. George, Consultant, FRLHT, visited us.
- On 16th November, Dr. Ramasamy from Institute of Food and Dairy Technology (A part of Tamil Nadu Veterinary University), Kodivalli near Chennai visited us.
- On 19th November, Mr. Deepak Pani, Secretary, Gram Swaraj, Mayurbhanj, Orissa visited our Chennai office as well as our Sukkankollai farm.
- On 6th December, Mr. Panneerselvam, Researcher from the Danish Research Centre for Organic Food and Farming (DARCOF), Tjele, Denmark visited us.
- On 7th December, Dr. S. Ramanathan, Vice President, Crop Research, RASI Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Salem, Tamilnadu visited us.
- On 8th December, a group of 19 farmers from Tribal Health Initiative, Dharmapuri visited our Sukkankollai farm to get to know about the organic farming technologies.
- On 18th December, Dr. B. K. Datta and Dr. Ramalakshmi Datta from the Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology, 24 Paraganas district (Sunderbans), West Bengal visited us.
- On 26th December, Mrs. Sasikala and Mr. Annamalai from Solayil Sanjeevanam, Chennai visited our Sukkankollai farm.
- On 31st December, Mr. M. D. Harun-Ar-Rashid from the Agricultural Advisory Society, Dhaka, Bangladesh visited us.

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