



*CIKS Wishes all its friends & Well Wishers
A Very Happy and Prosperous 2011*

COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN

A community kitchen vegetable garden has been established in Aadhamangalam village of Nagapattinam district. The main objective of this effort is to create awareness on nutritional security, conserve indigenous vegetable varieties and to improve the community spirit. This community kitchen garden established in 10 cents is being maintained by the *Ponni* organic farming women's group. Technical support in the form of trainings, regular visits to the garden as well as inputs like quality seeds of different indigenous vegetable varieties have been provided by CIKS. The entire stretch of activities likes weeding, watering, preparation and use of biopesticides and compost, harvesting etc. are taken care of by the women's group. This community kitchen garden also serves as a demo vegetable garden for the people in and around Aadhamangalam village. Many women in the village have started raising their own kitchen gardens. This is one of main impact achieved through this effort.



Members of the Ponni Women's Group in the Community Kitchen Garden

HONORIS CAUSA FOR CIKS DIRECTOR

CIKS Director A.V. Balasubramanian was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by the Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI) at Gandhigram, Dindigul on 28th October 2010, for his efforts on the promotion of alternate systems of knowledge. The honorary degree was presented by the Vice President Mr. Hamid Ansari at the 28th convocation function of the Gandhigram Rural University in Gandhigram.





PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

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. The Women SHG in Nagapattinam has started their commercial production and sale of rice *appalam* and a revolving fund has been provided to them to enhance the production capacity. Two of our women beneficiaries served as resource persons for a two day gender sensitization meet organized for the officials of the Department of Agriculture, Thiruvarur district at KVK in Sikkal. They shared their experience on organic farming, value addition, community production of vermicompost etc. A total of six training programmes on reduction of POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) were conducted for the farmers of eight villages in Dindigul district. A total of 57 farmers belonging to 12 coastal villages of Nagapattinam district are involved in the conservation of different traditional paddy varieties.

Sustainable Livelihoods through Organic Farming in Tamil Nadu

This project supported by Jamsetji Tata Trust (JTT), Mumbai is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts from May 2009. Monthly meetings were conducted for all the 38 farmers sangams. Production of certified and truthfully labeled seeds of paddy varieties, groundnut, black gram, sesame and vegetables are in progress in 180.81 acres. About 777.85 acres are being supported through input support and crop loan schemes. By utilizing this support farmers have been involved in the cultivation of different crops like paddy, pulses, oil seeds, banana, cotton, coconut, sugarcane, maize, flower crops etc. Demonstration fields

with various organic farming and allied technologies are in place in all the four districts. Cultivation and conservation of traditional vegetable varieties are in progress in 83 demo kitchen gardens and in two community kitchen gardens. Production of vermicompost is in progress in three community vermicompost units established in Kancheepuram and Dindigul districts as well as by individual farmers. Seventeen microenterprises like poultry farming, apiculture, mini rice huller unit, vermicompost production etc., have been started by the beneficiaries with the project support. Beneficiaries are provided with 38 short term and eight Trainers' Training sessions. Five exposure trips were also organized for them. We have participated in the 'Agri Expo 2010' held in Madurai. External inspection of farmers' fields was conducted by Mr. Naveen Bhatta from IMO, Bangalore.

Strengthening Sustainable Agriculture for Improving Rural Livelihoods: A Project with Focus on Dryland Agriculture

This project supported by Ford Foundation and HIVOS is in progress in Thiruvannamalai and Dindigul districts. The project activities are in progress in 1350.81 acres in 15 villages of Javvadhu hills of Thiruvannamalai district and Sendhurai block of Dindigul district. Sangam meetings were conducted. Crops like niger, horse gram, maize, groundnut, little millet, black gram etc., have been cultivated in 1106 acres in both the districts. Internal inspections were conducted in the fields of the beneficiaries. Organic kitchen gardens are being maintained by 45 beneficiaries in both the districts. Beneficiaries are also involved in the production of vermicompost. A total of four training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries on various organic farming technologies, water management

techniques and legal awareness. Two exposure visits were organized for the beneficiaries of Dindigul district to organic farms and vermicompost units. A land has been selected for erecting the millet processing machinery in Javvadhu hills.

Introduction of Organic Farming in Alangadu Village

Our Centre is involved in the promotion of organic farming in Alangadu village of Nagapattinam district from January 2009. Organic paddy cultivation has been taken up in 22.52 acres. Beneficiaries are provided with inputs like neem cake and vermicompost. Organic kitchen gardens are being maintained by beneficiaries using traditional varieties of vegetables. A new farm pond has been dug for rain water harvesting. Alangadu irrigation channel has been cleaned and placed with a check dam to regulate the water flow. A community kitchen garden has been established in the village. Under the component of additional income generation for women, training programmes on basket making and tailoring have been conducted for the women beneficiaries. Nursery of tree saplings is being maintained by women SHG members. On 10th October, an awareness programme on importance of planting and maintenance of tree saplings was conducted. A total of 233 tree saplings have been planted around the village.

Eco-Friendly Management Strategies to Reduce Rat Damage in Agricultural Crops in Sirkazhi Taluk of Nagapattinam District

This project supported by the Department of Science and Technology is being implemented in the Sirkazhi taluk of Nagapattinam district. Under this project, detailed surveys on "Rate of rat damage and amount spent for management"

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

and "Rat management measures using Thanjavur traps" were conducted. A survey and identification of different snake species in Ilayankudi village was done with the help of Irulas. With the help of Irula expertise rat control activity by smoke pot method was taken up in 63 acres in Agani, Nemmeli and Kondal villages. A total of 30 irulas from Vaitheeswarankovil were involved in this activity. Efforts are on for the research on "Rat management using suitable baits" in collaboration with the Department of Entomology in Annamalai University.

Creating Livelihoods through Organic Farming - A Model

This project is being implemented in Sirkazhi taluk of Nagapattinam district with the support of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The project activities are in progress in Aadhamangalam, Pagasalai and Ilayamadhukoodam villages. A case study on economics of cultivation of paddy was conducted in these villages. Organic paddy cultivation is in progress in 40 acres and inputs like, neem cake and vermicompost have been distributed to the beneficiaries. A total of four training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries on various organic farming technologies. Beneficiaries participated in the brain storming meeting on "Technology transfer and Marketing" organized by NABARD Nagapattinam on 12th November. A training session on pests and beneficial insects was conducted at Pagasalai village following Farmers' Field School (FFS) method. This training programme was coordinated by Mr. Ganesan, Additional Director of Horticulture, Sembanarkovil.

Work in Progress at Sukkankollai

In our experimental farm at Sukkankollai, 87 traditional paddy varieties have been cultivated for seed multiplication. Characterization and photo documentation of these traditional paddy varieties have been done. Paddy varieties ADT 47, ADT 37 and *Thooyamalli* have been cultivated following SRI method. Crops like coriander, cabbage, cauliflower and greens have been sown under the shade house. Demo herbal garden was renewed with 118 herbal species. *Azolla* cultivation is in progress in the newly constructed tank. Floristic survey and documentation of flora in the Agro forest area have been done.

Meetings at Gandhigram

On 27th October, A. V. Balasubramanian and K. Vijayalakshmi visited the Gandhigram Trust at Gandhigram near Dindigul in Tamilnadu. On 27th October, K. Vijayalakshmi made a presentation regarding "Organic methods of cultivation with specific emphasis on crop protection and enhancement of soil fertility" to a group of farmers who were involved in organic cultivation of medicinal, aromatic and dye yielding plants as part of an FAO supported programme that was implemented by the Gandhigram Trust. Followed by this A. V. Balasubramanian spoke about governance issues relating to administration of non profit organizations and K. Vijayalakshmi spoke about the sustainable agriculture efforts of CIKS in the meeting of the Core Group of Gandhigram Trust.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the governing body of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Canada was held in Nagoya, Japan between 18th and 29th October, 2010. On behalf of CIKS, Dr. Merlin Franco, Consultant participated and made a presentation on "Biocultural community protocols".

International Conference at Ahmedabad

Between 1st and 3rd November, Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad hosted an international conference on "Ethical Framework for a Sustainable World" at Ahmedabad. As part of the conference, a session was organized involving the Small Grant partners of the UNDP programme in India. A. V. Balasubramanian participated in the conference and made a presentation on "Marketing of organic produce: An overview of CIKS intervention".

Visitor from HIVOS

Between 25th and 26th November, Mr. Naresh Bandaru, Programme Officer,

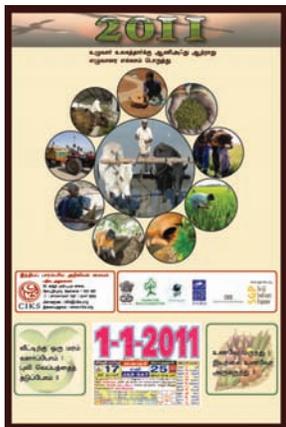
HIVOS, India visited CIKS. On 25th November, he had a meeting with the senior team members of CIKS at Chennai and presentations were made about the overall work and approach of CIKS and the programmes being implemented in collaboration with HIVOS. On 26th November, he visited the CIKS research farm at Sukkankollai and a meeting was arranged with a group of representative farmers working with CIKS from Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram districts. Later he visited the Mogalvadi village in Kancheepuram district and saw the field activities like organic seed production, kitchen gardens and community vermicompost unit and had a meeting with the members and office bearers of the Mogalvadi organic farmers' group.

Presentation on Vrکشayurveda at the World Ayurveda Congress

The Fourth World Ayurveda Congress was organized at Bangalore between 9th and 13th December 2010. As part of the Congress a plenary session was organized on 13th December on "Untapped Potentials in Ayurveda". At the invitation of the Congress, A. V. Balasubramanian of CIKS made a presentation during the plenary session on "Vrکشayurveda: An introduction to traditional Indian plant science".

Student Interns from Law School

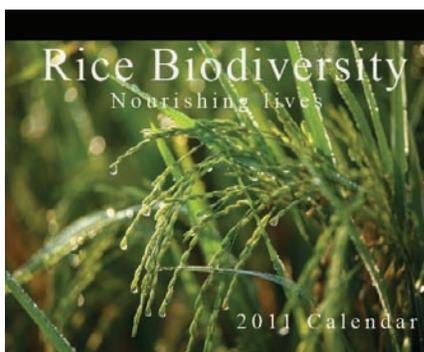
Two second year students of the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad worked as interns for a short term assignment during the month of December. They contributed to the project looking at the rights and possible remedies for the "Farmer as Consumer". They undertook a survey of literature, had meetings with the farmers groups and also made a study on some relevant case law literature. The work was undertaken with CIKS under the guidance of Ms. Sudha Ramalingam and Ms. B. Poongkhulali, Advocates, Madras High Court.

BOOKSTORE*New Publications, Audiovisuals and Educational Materials***DAILY SHEET CALENDAR - 2011**

This calendar in Tamil emphasizes various activities of organic farming. Information on agro biodiversity conservation, organic kitchen garden, importance of organic farming certification, SRI method of paddy cultivation etc., are provided in brief.

RICE BIODIVERSITY - NOURISHING LIVES (Desktop Calendar - 2011)

A desktop calendar on rice biodiversity has also been brought out. This calendar in English gives details on special features, peculiarities and properties of few rice varieties and also highlighted with catchy pictures.



For Copies, Contact
CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
at the address given below

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

- On 14th October, a group of 19 farmers and representatives of the organization LEAD visited the research farm to get to know about various organic farming practices.
- On 8th November, Dr. Rajasri Parthasarathy, Ayurvedic Vaidya and Mr. Parthasarathy from Chennai visited us for a discussion about the use of Vrکشayurveda in organic crop cultivation.
- On 14th November, Mr. Ganesan, Senior Sub – Editor (Chutti vikadan), Vikatan group along with a group of eight children visited the farm to get to know about various organic farming technologies and conservation of traditional paddy varieties.
- On 15th and 16th November, Ms. Geetha Suresh from FRLHT, Bangalore visited us in connection with a Ph.D research work on Vrکشayurveda.
- On 18th November, Ms. Chandrika and Mr. Sasi Kumar from CARE India, Chennai visited CIKS Sirkazhi office.
- On 19th November, Mr. Venugopal, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Nagapattinam visited CIKS Sirkazhi office.
- On 23rd November, Ms. Prema Gopalan, Director of Swayam Sikshak Prayog (SSP), Mumbai visited us to discuss possible field level collaboration with CIKS.
- On 17th December, Mr. Nandakumar of NPM, India and Mr. Sameer Valdiya of Safe Harvest visited us.
- On 18th December, a group of three students from Stella Maris College, Chennai visited the farm.
- On 28th December, Ms. Sujatha, AGM, NABARD, Chennai visited our farm and Seed processing unit in Sukkankollai.
- On 29th December, Mr. Naveen Bhatta from IMO, Bangalore visited the farm for inspection.

Editorial Team : Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi & R. Abarna

Design & 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