



CIKS NEWS

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Restoration work in tsunami affected area

Various traditional varieties planted in the tsunami affected area were destroyed by the recent floods. Traditional varieties like Pitchavari, Kudaivazhai and Kattukuthalam have now been sown in five cents. Groundnut variety VRI-2 has been sown in one acre in tsunami affected field. The same variety has been sown in the normal field in one acre as control. On 24th December, a meeting on the restoration work in the tsunami-affected area was conducted in Nagapattinam. Subhashini Sridhar, Ramalingam and Selvakumar participated in this meeting. The work carried out by CIKS in connection with the restoration of tsunami-affected areas was displayed in the form of photographs in the exhibition. On 27th and 28th of December, CCD conducted a meeting on the tsunami restoration work at Kanyakumari. Ramalingam and farmer Mr. Manikandan participated in this meeting.

New Projects at CIKS

Use of animal products for pest control

CIKS has been sanctioned a new project on "Use of animal products in traditional agriculture" by COMPAS, The Netherlands. This project is for a period of fifteen months. This project is basically to study and standardize the manner of use of animal products for agriculture in terms of precise concentration and the spectrum of pests or diseases against which it is effective. An inception meeting for this project was conducted on 18th and 19th November at FRLHT. Members from IDEA, FRLHT, KPP and CIKS participated in the meeting. Dr. Arivudainambi and Dr. Guruchev from Annamalai University were the resource persons. In connection with this project, experiments have commenced in the Agani research field.

Paddy organic chain - seed to market

CIKS has been sanctioned a new project on - "Paddy organic chain - from seed to market: A pilot project in Tamilnadu" by HIVOS, Bangalore. This project was sanctioned in October. The objectives of the project is to convert paddy farmers to complete organic in an area of 60 acres in 3 villages, to enable these farmers to get their farm lands certified and to enable these farmers to market their products effectively to make the programme sustainable.

Construction of seed storage structures

The Cottonwood Foundation based in Minneosata, USA has provided us partial support for construction of seed storage structures for ten organic farmers' sangams in Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu.

Plants that Heal

A series of eight booklets



Details on page 4



PROJECT WATCH

A round-up of our activities

Capacity building on organic farming

The project on "Enhancing livelihood security of small and marginal farmers by promotion of organic farming technologies" is being supported by Ford Foundation. On 22nd and 24th October, two workshops were conducted for farmers on seed production techniques. On 17th November, a seed bank was inaugurated in the Morapakkam village. On 19th November, an organic farming festival was conducted in Thiruvallur district. A farmer who donated the land for the seed bank was honoured and prizes were awarded to the well maintained kitchen gardens. Several bank officials and agriculture department officials participated in this festival. On 22nd, trainings were conducted in the villages of Appavaram and Mangavaram on the use and maintenance of agricultural implements. The "Revolving Fund for Supporting Organic Farming" instituted under this project has commenced operations - loans were given to the Mangavaram and Sennavaram organic farmers sangams. On 16th December,

NEWSROOM

Happenings and more.

Vrkshayurveda for vegetables

As a part of this DST supported project, fumigation experiments using Vrkshayurveda techniques were undertaken. A new fumigation device has been prepared. Brinjal nursery has been raised in two cents for future experiments. Mr. Ravichandran's field has been selected for conducting experiments on ladies finger. Information regarding setting up of green house was gathered from the Pajankoa college, Karaikal.

Organic packages for crops

CIKS has undertaken a project with support from FAO to develop package of organic practices for four crops of importance in TamilNadu. The crops are paddy, groundnut, tomato and ladies finger. The first draft has been completed and sent to FAO.

Work at Sukkankollai

Nurseries have been raised for ADT-37, ADT-43 and Kullakar varieties for use in the Navarai season. Groundnut variety (VRI-2) has been sown in 1.5 acres. Out of the 49 indigenous varieties that were sown during the last season, 35 varieties have been harvested. The vegetable seeds required for the samba crop season has been procured.

International conference at Bangalore

The third General Assembly of Third World Organisation for Women in Science (TWOWS) and the International Conference on "Impact of Women's Research in Science and Technology in the New Millennium" was held in National Science Seminar Complex, (NSSC), JN Tata Auditorium, IISc, Bangalore between 21 - 25 November, 2005. This was organized by the TWOWS and hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi. Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) was the local organizer. His Excellency, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India, was the chief guest. He inaugurated the programme and released the compendium of papers, "Technologies for Empowering Women" on 21st November 05. The compendium of papers were compiled and produced by Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai for the Department of Science and Technology. About 400 delegates from several countries participated in the conference and presented papers on their work. R. Sridevi and Subhashini Sridhar from CIKS participated in the exhibition.

Visits to Gandhigram

On 10th October, Subhashini Sridhar visited the Gandhigram Trust to learn about the various small scale industry activities there. She learnt about the preparation of different neem products and ayurvedic medicines and also the different equipments used for the same.

India Organic 2005

ICCOA hosted a major organic fair "India organic 2005" at Lalbagh, Bangalore between 4th-7th November. S. Sivakumar and B. Ramakrishnan from CIKS participated in this fair, put up a stall and made excellent sales of our educational materials.

Subhashini Sridhar and P. Krithika participated in the workshops on "Internal guarantee systems and organic cotton cultivation" that was held along with the fair.

Training programme at Sukkankollai

Shri A. M. M. Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre, Chennai conducted a ten day training programme on "Rural Technologies" for the NGOs working in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu between 9th and 18th November, 2005. As a part of this programme, a one day field visit was organized to our experimental farm at Sukkankollai for the participants to gain knowledge of the rural technologies in the field. A group of forty participants visited our farm on 16th November. They were appraised about the activities of the centre and they were taken around the farm, where they had a chance to see the various traditional paddy varieties conserved. Theory and demonstration on the preparation of the various biopesticides were also done.

Meeting with students of Ayurveda

On 29th December, a group of eight students from Sri Jayendra Saraswathi College of Ayurveda, Nazarethpet, near Chennai visited CIKS. There was a meeting between the students and the CIKS research team. A.V. Balasubramanian made a presentation about the work being carried out by the Centre for the last several years in the area of Vrkshayurveda and this was followed by a discussion about the possible areas where collaborative work can be undertaken.

Visit to INDOCERT

On 30th & 31st December, K. Vijayalakshmi visited INDOCERT, the Indian organic certification agency at Kerala to gather information regarding the procedures involved in the group certification of organic farms.

Talk to us.

Send your feedback,
comments and suggestions
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PLANTS THAT HEAL

A series of eight booklets



"Plants that Heal" is a set of booklets that highlight everyday uses of some common plants with extremely valuable properties. Each booklet contains details and instructions on various aspects of cultivation of a particular plant and its uses in agriculture, gardening, human health and animal health. These booklets cover plants such as Aloe, Garlic, Ginger, Turmeric, Adhatoda, Kalmegh, Custard Apple and Onion.

These booklets are available in English.

Price : Rs.10/- booklet , Complete set: Rs.70/-

To obtain copies, send a Money Order or Demand Draft favouring "Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems" payable at chennai. Cheques are NOT acceptable. We do not send books or CDs by VPP.

VISITOR'S BOOK

Who's been dropping in at CIKS

- On 5th October, Ms. Vrinda Dar, Consultant from Italy visited us in connection with developing a workplan for restoration of agricultural lands in the Tsunami affected areas.
- On 10th October, Mr. Ranjit Henry of KOLAM along with a group of twelve visitors belonging to the Fair Trade Network visited us to get to know about our work.
- On 22nd October, Mrs. Saraswathy and Mr. Baskar who are involved in seed conservation activities in Tiruvallur visited the Sukkankollai farm to get to know the various techniques on organic farming.
- On 11th November, Ms. Anja Mertineit and Mr. Manny from Misereor (Funding agency from Germany) visited us at the Kotturpuram office. The next day, they visited our field area and interacted with some farmer groups.
- On 15th December, Mr. R. Raghunandan, Secretary, Krishnaswamy Iyer Charitable Trust, Chennai visited us.
- On 21st December, Ms. Tisha Srivastav, Correspondent, NDTV, New Delhi visited us.



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