



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

CIKS participated in the international conference on "Traditional Practices in Conservation Agriculture" between 18th and 20th September 2010 at Udaipur. The conference was organized by Asian Agri-History Foundation and co-sponsored by CIKS and COMPAS. A total of 14 members of CIKS and COMPAS programme from India, Sri Lanka, Ghana and Netherlands (FRLHT, KPP, CIKOD, FIOH and ETC- COMPAS) participated in the conference and presented papers. The participants from CIKS presented papers on topics like Testing and validation of indigenous knowledge of agriculture, Policy on traditional agriculture, Biocultural community protocol and Eco-friendly rat management practices. The presentations made by CIKS were well received as many participants opined that it was relevant and useful for sustainable agriculture. This International conference made important recommendations including development of biocultural community protocols as important tools.



*A session at the International Conference on Conservation Agriculture*

## NEW PROJECT

### INTRODUCTION OF ORGANIC FARMING IN ALANGADU VILLAGE

Our centre is involved in the promotion of organic farming in Alangadu village of Nagapattinam district with the support of a family belonging to Alangadu village from January 2009. The second phase of this project concluded in June 2010. Now the third phase of the project has begun. The programme is for a period of one year from August 2010 onwards. Under this project, we propose to improve the livelihood security and income generation of farmers through sustainable technologies.



***A Package of Organic Cultivation Technologies for Chilli***

***For more details :***

***See Page - 4***



## PROJECT WATCH *A round-up of our activities*

### COMPAS Project

This project, supported by ETC Foundation, Netherlands, is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts from May 2007. Under this project, a community vegetable garden has been established in Aadhamangalam village of Nagapattinam district and maintained by *Ponni* women Self Help Group. On 21st August, our Research Director K. Vijayalakshmi visited the community vegetable garden and interacted with the SHG members. On 14th August, a meeting on Bio-cultural protocol was conducted in Tharangampadi. Four members of the TANWABE women SHG in Nagapattinam visited the newly established community vermicompost unit in Mogalvadi village of Kancheepuram district. They shared their experiences and demonstrated the procedures involved in vermicomposting. On 2nd September, a meeting on gender sensitization was conducted in Allivilagam on behalf of NABARD, Nagapattinam.

### Biodiversity Conservation, Reduction of POPs and Livelihoods for Farmers in Tamil Nadu - A Sustainable Triangle

This project supported by UNDP - GEF (United Nations Development Programme - Global Environment Facility) is being implemented in Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts from November 2008. In collaboration with IICPT (Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology), Thanjavur, value added products such as puttu mix and dosa mix have been prepared and standardization is in progress. Three training programmes on preparation of rice *appalam* were conducted for the women SHG members. Members of three women SHGs were taken to visit IICPT, Thanjavur to learn about various machineries used in value addition. A total of three training

programmes on reduction of POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) were conducted for the farmers of Dindigul district. An exposure visit was organized for the farmers of Malayandipuram village of Dindigul district to organic farms, fields, input production units and demonstration fields in Sirkazhi taluk. A total of 12 traditional paddy varieties are being conserved by sixteen farmers belonging to 12 villages of Nagapattinam district. A rice flour grinding machine has been purchased and provided to the TANWABE women SHG in Pagasalai for the preparation of rice *appalam*.

### 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 of Tamil Nadu from May 2009. Under this project, a total of 36 farmers sangams have been formed. Production of certified and truthfully labeled seeds of paddy varieties, groundnut (ICGV 91114), black gram (V-4), and sesame are in progress in 165.91 acres. Production of truthfully labeled seeds of 11 vegetable varieties is in progress in 4.45 acres by 20 farmers. About 825.41 acres have been selected and supported under input support and crop loan schemes. Under these schemes, crops like paddy, pulses, oil seeds, cotton, coconut, sugarcane etc., have been cultivated in 298.81 acres. Demonstration fields have been established with various organic farming technologies in 24 acres. A total of 83 demo kitchen gardens and a community kitchen garden have been established. A total of 32 beneficiaries are involved in the production of vermicompost. A community vermicompost unit has been established in Mogalvadi village

of Kancheepuram district. Support has been provided for the beneficiaries for 14 microenterprises like poultry farming, apiculture, mini rice huller unit, vermicompost production etc. A total of nine Trainers' Training and 40 short term training sessions were conducted for the beneficiaries. Three exposure visits were organized for the beneficiaries of Kancheepuram, Dindigul and Nagapattinam districts to organic farms in Nagapattinam and to the Centre for Agricultural Sciences in Sikkal. Under the component of capacity building for NGOs, four training programmes were conducted for CIRHEP and Gandhi Peace Keeping Centre. We have participated in the Agri Tex Expo 2010 held in Villupuram between 7th and 10th August.

### 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. A total of 1237.46 acres has been selected from 13 villages of Javvadhu hills of Thiruvannamalai district and Sendhurai block of Dindigul district. The entire land area selected under this project has been registered with Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department. Thirteen sangams have been established. A total of four training programmes on organic farming technologies, certification and leadership qualities have been conducted for the farmers of Thiruvannamalai and Dindigul districts. Crops like little millet, pearl millet, groundnut, maize, cotton and red gram have been cultivated in 892.71 acres in both the districts. In Dindigul district, 25 farmers have raised kitchen gardens using different vegetable varieties. A total of 133 sample farmers

have been selected from both the districts and analysis of soil health is in progress.

### **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, a detailed survey on "Rate of rat damage in the last cropping season and amount spent for management" has been conducted. A total of 106 farmers belonging to 10 villages were interviewed. Details like the rate of damage, quantity of yield decreased, management measures followed and the amount spent towards management measures have been collected and documented. A total of 16 families of *Irula* tribal community have been identified in Vaitheeshwaran kovil and basic details have been documented.

### **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). Villages like Aadhamangalam, Pagasalai and Ilayamadhukoodam has been selected for the implementation of project activities. Baseline survey has been conducted in these villages. Baseline data has been collected for the selected farmers. Organic inputs like neem cake, vermicompost and biofertilizers have been distributed to the beneficiaries involved in the organic paddy cultivation in Pagasalai village.

### **Work in Progress at Sukkankollai**

In our experimental farm, nursery has been raised for 21 traditional paddy varieties. Forty four varieties have been transplanted in 47 acres following SRI method. Vegetables like gourd varieties, beans, pumpkin etc., have been cultivated. Medicinal gourd (*Vaithiyakumbalam*) has been cultivated in 25 cents. Greens, coriander, capsicum and traditional tomato variety *Kuzhithakkali* have been cultivated under the shade house. Traditional paddy *Kullakar* cultivated during previous season was harvested. A tank has been constructed for the cultivation of *Azolla*.

# NEWSROOM

*Happenings and more.*

### **Capacity Building Training Programme**

A staff capacity building training programme on "SWOT analysis - Importance and Procedures" was conducted for the technical staff of CIKS Sirkazhi office on 5th July 2010 at CIKS training hall in Agani village. The participants were trained on the importance of SWOT analysis, procedures to be followed, formation of matrix etc. Followed by this, SWOT analysis was done for the Sirkazhi Organic Farmers Association on 29th July. These programmes were facilitated by Mr. Daniel Anandraj, Consultant.

### **Participation in National Seminar on SRI**

The Natural Resource Management Centre in Calcutta had organized a National seminar on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method on 11th and 12th July 2010. The seminar deliberated on the status of SRI in India, research and extension in SRI, problems and issues in SRI, role of Government and other stake holders in the promotion of SRI and impact of SRI in food security. There were more than 100 participants from all over India. On behalf of CIKS, Programme Director, Subhashini Sridhar participated in this seminar.

### **Conference on Synergies in Healing**

On 18th July, Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Chennai conducted a conference on "Synergies in Healing". A.V. Balasubramanian attended the meeting and made a presentation on the topic "Seeing with two eyes: how the patient is trying to integrate medical systems and what the professionals can do to help". The meeting was attended by about 200 persons which included a large number of medical professionals. Presentations were made by practitioners of modern science and Yoga and researchers.

### **Meeting with the Forest Department**

On 29th July, A. V. Balasubramanian and M. Suresh had a meeting with

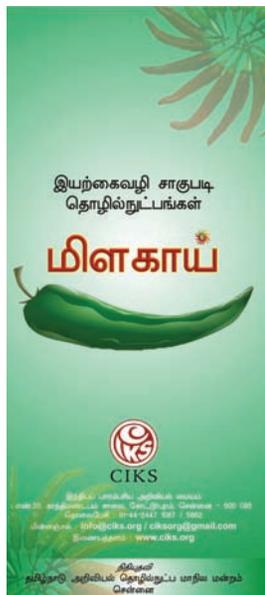
Mr. A. S. Balanathan, I.F.S, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) of the Government of India. They discussed with him about CIKS initiatives in the Javadhu hills area of Thiruvannamalai district and the possibilities of collaboration with the Forest Department. Later on they also had a meeting with Mr. T. S. Srinivasamurthy, I.F.S, Director, the Department of Environment of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

### **Presentation on Alternative Medical Systems and Traditional Agricultural Knowledge**

A group of students and two faculty members from the Davidson College, North Carolina is spending a semester in India and being hosted by the Madras Christian College from August to November 2010. At the invitation of the group, A. V. Balasubramanian delivered a talk on "Alternative Medical Systems" on 27th September 2010. On 28th September, Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi delivered a talk on "Building on Traditional Agricultural Knowledge" to the same group of students.

### **Visit of Director General of CAPART**

On 30th September, the Director General of The Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), Mr. Mohamed Aleem Khan visited CIKS. He had a meeting with the CIKS team members at the CIKS office at Chennai. The CIKS team made a presentation regarding their work and outlined the various activities that are being carried out and activities carried out with support from CAPART as part of the Technology Resource Centre (TRC) programme. He was also briefed about the efforts of CIKS to promote marketing of certified organic produce. Mr. Khan spoke about certain new schemes that have been introduced by CAPART such as the programme to help and nurture innovations that has commenced in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation as well as programmes to help the farming community in risk management.

**BOOKSTORE***New Publications and Audiovisuals***ORGANIC FARMING TECHNOLOGIES -  
CHILLI (TAMIL)**

This pamphlet on Organic Farming Technologies - Chilli in Tamil provides details from seed selection to harvest. It also provides detailed information about organic cultivation practices like land selection, manuring, pest and disease management, post harvest and storage practices. The information on common pest and diseases of chilli and their management measures are provided in detail.

*For copies, Contact*

'Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems'  
at the address given below.

**Attention Readers**

This quarterly newsletter is also available as an e-version. If you would like to receive the newsletter as an e-version alone kindly send a request to [info@ciks.org](mailto:info@ciks.org) / [ciksorg@gmail.com](mailto:ciksorg@gmail.com)

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

- On 2nd and 3rd July, Mr. K. Venugopalan, AGM, NABARD Nagapattinam and Mr. C.S.R. Moorthy AGM, NABARD Chennai visited our Sirkazhi field office.
- On 18th July, a group of six members from Thiruvalluvar trust in Karaikal visited CIKS Sirkazhi office to get to know about our activities.
- On 27th July, Dr. P. V. Ramakrishna from the Department of Electronics, Anna University, Chennai visited us.
- On 27th July, Ayurvedic Physician, Dr. Hafeel and Homeopathy physician, Dr. Saya from Holistic Healing Medical Centre, Dubai visited us.
- On 3rd September, a group of Undergraduate students and their faculty member from Chuo Law University, Tokyo visited CIKS accompanied by Mr. Ranjit Henry. A. V. Balasubramanian met the group and made a presentation on Indian Knowledge Systems with Specific Focus on Indigenous Medicine.
- On 10th September, Mr. Ganeshbabu, Head of Herbal Nursery division FRLHT, Bangalore visited our demo herbal garden in the experimental farm in Sukkankollai to impart suggestions for improvement.
- On 18th September, Dr. C. N. Krishnan along with four members visited our farm to get to know about various aspects of organic farming.
- On 21st September, Mr. Narayanan, CGM, Chennai, Mr. Suresh, AGM, Thiruvallur and Mr. Venugopal AGM, Nagapattinam of NABARD visited Sirkazhi project area.
- On 22nd September, Mr. Adhithya from Venture East visited our farm to get to know about the organic farming technologies.
- On 24th September, Dr. Prabjoth Sodhi, National Coordinator, UNDP Small Grants Programme from New Delhi visited us.

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