



CIKS NEWS

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CIKS - FRLHT Joint Programme on Vrkshayurveda and Mrgayurveda

On 6th November CIKS and the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT, Bangalore) signed an MOU for a joint programme on Vrkshayurveda and Mrgayurveda (Traditional Indian Plant Science and Traditional Indian Veterinary Science). Under this programme we are planning to take up - Research,

documentation, survey, strengthening of traditional practices, product development, publications and training programmes. FRLHT has made available seed money to commence this work and we would together raise more resources for different activities under this programme.

Consultation on Globalisation and Food security

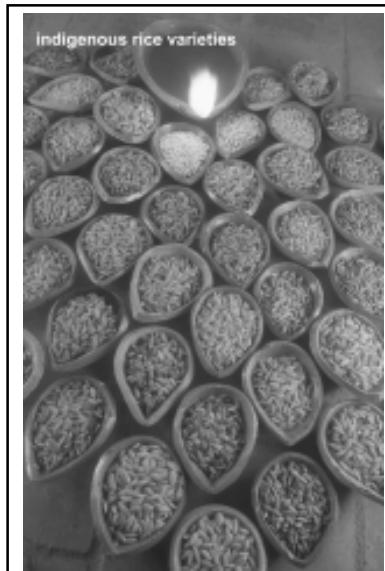
As a part of the peoples caravan organised by the Pesticide Action Network, Malaysia CIKS in collaboration with PREPARE had organised a one day consultation on globalisation and food security on November 19th at the Madras School of Social Work Auditorium. Dr. Romy, Director, PAN Philippines, Dr. Gopal from Centre for Environmental

Science, Hyderabad, Prof. Varadarajan from Vivekananda College, Madras were invited as resource persons. Vijayalakshmi from our centre talked in detail about how farmers are coping with the problems of globalisation in the CIKS Programmes. There was an active and live discussion as to how we could take positive action in several areas.

INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

The commissioner of income tax has renewed our 80 (G) exemption for three years. Hence all donations made to the centre will qualify for exemption under section 80(G) of the income tax upto 31st March 2003.

A NEW BOOK FROM CIKS



Indigenous Rice Varieties

This book provides detailed information on 34 indigenous rice varieties. For each variety the cultivation details, agronomical features, characteristics of the earhead and the grains, yields of grain and straw are given.

(More details on page 4)

NEW PROJECTS AT CIKS

1. CIKS COMPAS Project

CIKS has signed a contract with ETC COMPAS to extend the COMPAS project for the period January 2001 to June 2002. During this phase of the project our centre will continue with the work of conservation of indigenous seed varieties, experimental work on Vrkshayurveda (Traditional Indian Plant Science) and also plan exchange visits with other COMPAS partners.

2. COMPAS Asian Coordination

CIKS has been asked to continue as the Asian Coordinator for the COMPAS project for the period January 2001 to June 2002. A contract has been signed with ETC COMPAS for this purpose. CIKS will be involved in promoting exchange of information and interact between the COMPAS partners in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indonesia. We will also be publishing an Asian Regional Newsletter.

PROJECT WATCH

A round-up of our activities this quarter

Women in Conservation Programme

Our efforts to empower women with technologies continues under our programme women in conservation supported by WWF, Washington. We had three intense sessions with our trainees during this quarter. The sessions included both theory and practicals. Subjects covered were pests of paddy and their control; preparation of plant extracts for pest control; disease management in paddy and green manuring; use of biofertilizers and different composting techniques. Our trainees are also regularly asked to make presentations and prepare charts during these sessions. There has been a tremendous enthusiasm and we are extremely delighted to watch the zeal with which they learn and communicate. We are very confident that these trainees would become our master trainers shortly.

National biodiversity strategy and action plan

Our centre has been entrusted with the responsibility of co-ordinating the Thematic working group on Health and Biodiversity, as part of the effort of the Ministry of Environment of the Government of India to prepare a - "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan". The first meeting of the Thematic Working Group was hosted by CIKS on 20th and 21st October at Chennai.

The meeting drew up a plan of work which consisted of - identification of various stakeholders from whom opinion and information were to be obtained, the methodology of obtaining the inputs. Duties to the various members of the committee were also assigned.

To review the progress and plan the future efforts a meeting of the coordinators of the thematic working groups was held in Delhi on November 2nd. Mr. A.V. Balasubramanian represented CIKS for this meeting.

Biopesticide Preparation - The Ayurvedic Way

A one day discussion with the field staff took place on 12th October. We had a detailed exchange of views on how we take our new project on preparation of biopesticide at the field level. The possibilities of increasing the shelf life of biopesticides using the principles of Ayurveda was discussed. Towards exploring these possibilities it was felt that it would be necessary to acquaint ourselves with different ayurvedic preparations.

A workshop was organised on 23rd November for the field staff which was coordinated by Vaidya Shyam Sundar. This workshop gave an orientation to the field staff as to how certain plants could be processed for use as biopesticides using principles of Ayurveda. We

have started a few experiments in this direction. A follow up session was also held on 14th December at our farm in Anjur.

Group Monitoring Workshop for the DST Programme in Biomass Regeneration

A group monitoring workshop for the projects funded by the Science and Society section of the Department of Science and Technology was held from 27 - 29th November at Parapuram in Ernakulam district in Kerala. A.V. Balasubramanian attended this workshop and presented a report of our project on biomass regeneration in the Kattankalathur block of Tamil Nadu.

Evaluation of the Community Seed Bank Programme

CAPART has been supporting our farmers community seed bank programme for the last three years. A post evaluation of this programme was undertaken by Dr. Natesan from Madurai in November. On 17th November Dr. Natesan visited our centre. Our field researchers made detailed presentation about our work. On 18th he was taken to our field area. After a meeting with farmers at the Singaperumal kovil office he visited four other villages

where the programme is currently on. He had a good interaction with the farmers.

Using Agricultural Diversity Team Visit

Mr. Rajeev Khetkar from the Academy of Development Sciences, Karjath, Maharashtra and Mr. Palash Baral from UBINIG, Bangladesh visited our project on Conservation of Indigenous Vegetable Varieties involving Women. This programme is supported by IDRC and monitored by UBINIG. These members of the steering committee had undertaken this visit to understand the different projects supported by this programme and also plan for future work. They visited Guruvanmedu where more than 50 women are involved in conservation work and also visited our experimental farm in Anjur. Plans were also made for future workshops and publications.

Meeting of Nattu Vaidyas

A meeting of traditional health practitioners (Nattu Vaidyas) of the Katankalathur block in our field area was held on 14th December. Also present at the meeting was Ayurvedic physician Vaidya K.M. Shyam Sundar. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the problems faced by the Nattu Vaidyas and explore ways and means of strengthening the traditions.

Revival of Organic Farming

A workshop on revival of organic farming was conducted by the Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre on 2nd and 3rd November. Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi of our centre participated in this workshop as a resource person. She delivered a talk on traditional pest management techniques. This workshop was attended by nearly 150 participants from all over Tamilnadu. Our researchers Mrs. Subhashini, Mr. Sudhakar and Mr. Subramaniam also attended this workshop. CIKS had a display of its publications for which there was an excellent response.

Meeting at ATREE

ATREE is an environmental organisation based in Bangalore. On 7th November A.V. Balasubramanian addressed the ATREE staff on the use of biodiversity for disease control.

Non-Chemical Pest Management workshop in Bangalore

CIKS was invited to conduct a one day session on non-chemical pest management for a group of 60 farmers from Karnataka. This workshop was conducted by ICRA a Bangalore based NGO on 24th November. Subhashini and Shankar of CIKS were the resource persons for this workshop. They discussed in detail several non-chemical pest management measures for paddy, cotton and vegetables. Demonstration of preparing

different biopesticides were also done. The farmers expressed great enthusiasm and the response was very good.

Organic Farming Workshop at Thirunelveli

The Vivasaya Seva Sangam of Puliyanikudi in Tirunelveli District had organised a one day Organic Farming Workshop on 4th October. CIKS was invited to participate in this workshop and also put up a stall in the exhibition. Our researchers Arumuga swamy and Shajith attended this programme. Nearly 2000 farmers participated in this workshop and we had an

CIKS TALK

Seminars, Discussions, Presentations, Workshops, Fairs . . .

opportunity to interact with organic farmers in that area. After this workshop our researchers also visited the organic farms of Sri. Velu Mudaliar and Sri. Anthonysamy at Puliyanikudi. Sri. Velu Mudaliar does extensive tree farming and Sri. Anthonysamy has tried out several innovative technologies in lemon cultivation.

Tech-Expo 2000 at Anna University

CIKS participated in the Tech-Expo 2000 organised by National Small Scale Industry Corporation at the Anna University on 14th and 15th October. In this expo we disseminated information on different organic farming technologies.

An Evaluation of the activities of Pesticide Action Network

As a member of the PAN (Pesticide Action Network), CIKS participated in the external evaluation that was undertaken by funders who support PAN activities. Mrs. Nimalka Fernando of Sri Lanka was in Chennai to do this evaluation. Dr. Vijayalakshmi along with Dr. Daisy of PREPARE another network member appraised Mrs. Nimalka of various collaborative efforts with PAN-AP.

Yoga Training Programme at FRLHT, Bangalore

As a continuation of the Yoga training for the FRLHT staff, K. Vijayalakshmi & A.V. Balasubramanian visited FRLHT on 6th November. It was encouraging to note that there were several new enrollments.

National Innovation Foundation Meeting

At the invitation of Dr. Anil Gupta of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Balasubramanian attended the meeting of the - "National Innovation Foundation" at Ahmedabad on 10th December. The foundation has been set up with the corpus of Rupees twenty crores provided by the Government of India to identify and encourage grassroots innovations. The objective of the meeting was to design a procedure and format for the recording of innovations.

Meeting on Interface with Income Tax Department

On 16th December the Loyola Institute of Business Administration had arranged for an interface between non-profit organisations and officials of the Income Tax Department. Eight selected Voluntary Agencies were requested to make presentations regarding their work and make suggestions for a better interaction of the Income Tax Department with the Voluntary Agencies. A.V. Balasubramanian participated in the meeting and made a presentation regarding the work of CIKS.

Meeting on History of Science and Technology

The C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyer Institute of Indological Research held a symposium and workshop on the history of Science and Technology in India on 16th December. A.V. Balasubramanian made a presentation on - "Traditional Science and Technology in India" and spoke about the contemporary relevance of the Traditional Health Care Systems.

Visit to Gloria Farms

On the 6th of December, our research associates S. Arumugaswamy and K.S. Sudhakar visited Gloria Farms in Pondicherry. This 100 acre farm is well known for its organic cultivation of various crops from rice to banana with very low external input. They also had an opportunity to interact with Mr. Manindra Pal of the farm and share his rich experiences.

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

Educational And Training Material On Indigenous Health And Agriculture Books - Posters - Stickers - Directories - Video Films

PUBLICATIONS

CIKS had edited a Folio on Indian Health Traditions for The Hindu. This was brought out on 8th October. There has been an excellent response from a wide cross section of people.

NEW PUBLICATION FROM CIKS

Indigenous Rice Varieties

This book provides detailed information on 34 indigenous rice varieties. For each variety the cultivation details, agronomical features, characteristics of the earhead and the grains, yields of grain and straw are given. It also provides information of certain special features of the variety such as pest resistance, drought tolerance, medicinal properties, etc. All the information provided in this book is based upon our own experience of the cultivation of these varieties under field conditions - this adds to the value of the book. This is available both in English and Tamil.

Price : Rs.60/- (English), Rs.40/- (Tamil)

HOW TO ORDER

Please specify clearly the titles required, the languages and the number of copies. The cost includes postage. However if you wish to obtain the copies by Registered Post, please add Rs.15/- to the cost. Please send a Money Order or Demand Draft favouring "Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems" payable at Chennai. Cheques are not acceptable.

BOOK POST

VISITORS BOOK

A look at who's been dropping in at CIKS

*Dr. Phillip Darby, Director, Institute for Post Colonial Studies, Australia visited us on 3rd October.

*On 13th October Sri Vivekanandan of Seva, Madurai visited our centre to do a prefunding evaluation of a project on Organic farming which has been submitted to CAPART.

*Dr. John Joseph of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation visited us on 9th November. He was requested by DST to comment on a project submitted by CIKS. He took this opportunity to visit CIKS and also get to know of our activities.

*Mr. Ajay Rastogi of the Eastern Himalaya Programme of ATREE and Ms. Ruchi Pant, Director ATREE, Darjeling visited us on 10th November to discuss our work on Vrkshayurveda.

*Ms. Jayshree Venkatesan of "Earth Care" visited our centre on 24th November in connection with coordinating the work of prepar-

ing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

*Mr. R.K. Agarwal of Natural Remedies, Bangalore visited us on 2nd December to discuss the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Programme from the industrial sector point of view.

*Dr. T.P. Trivedi, Scientist from National Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi visited us on 5th December, to exchange information and acquaint himself with the activities of CIKS.

*Ms. Vartika Jaini, Programme Office of the Ratan Tata Trust visited us on 13th December to get to know the various programmes of our centre and also discuss our future plans.

*Sri. Navjyothi Singh, Director, PPST Foundation visited us on 15th December.

*Mr. Joss Brooks and Joy visited us from Pitchandikulam, Auroville on 19th December.

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30 (Old No. 47C) Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085. INDIA.

Phone : 91-044-4471087 / 4475862 Fax : 4471114

e-mail : info@ciks.org <http://www.ciks.org>