

Inside

A visitor from PAN	page 2
Project Watch	page 2
New Publications	page 4

CIKS plays host to COMPAS Asian Regional Meeting

The meeting of the Asian Regional partners of the COMPAS project was hosted by our centre at Chennai between 10th and 14th July. The meeting was attended by about 40 delegates from five different COMPAS partners in India from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu besides delegates from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Holland. The objective of the meeting was to review the progress of the COMPAS project during the first phase which comes to an end this year and to make plans for future activities during the second phase that begins in January 2001. CIKS was asked to continue as the Asian Coordinator for the future period.

As a follow up to this meeting our centre has also been entrusted with the responsibility to organise an International Meeting of All COMPAS Partners

(from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe) in the summer of 2001 and an Asian Conference towards the end of 2001 or early 2002.

Field Workshop for COMPAS Partners

During the COMPAS Asian Regional Meeting we had a parallel session for 3 days at our Field Office in the Anjur village for the field workers of different COMPAS groups. About 15 field workers belonging to different COMPAS groups (IDEA, GREEN FOUNDATION, FRLHT and KPP) stayed together for 3 days at Anjur village. It provided an opportunity for them to discuss their work in detail and share ideas. Each group made a presentation about their work and also demonstrate to each other methods of composting, biopesticide



preparation, medicine preparation, organic farming technologies etc. This was also interspersed with visits to farmers fields where CIKS is working.

Field Visit for All COMPAS Partners

On 13th July all the COMPAS delegates visited Anjur. We had invited 7 farm-

ers who are part of our programme from different villages to exchange ideas and impressions. It was a very lively and interactive session. The COMPAS Partners were also given a detailed overview of the Vrکشayurveda experiments undertaken by CIKS at Anjur. This was followed by a visit to the Organic cotton experiment of CIKS at Ullavoor village.

THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Government of India has commissioned the development of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This process, coordinated by NGOs and official agencies, aims to produce a series of action plans at local state and national levels with inputs from thousands of

people and groups all over the country. If you have information on biodiversity, if you have ideas for workshops, public hearings, if you would like to develop a local level action plan, or in any other way to contribute to the NBSAP process, contact us now.

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PROJECT WATCH

A round-up of our activities this quarter

Programme COORDINATORS Meeting

To have a proper feedback regarding various programmes and also to provide immediate assistance wherever required we have identified programme coordinators in seven villages in our area of work. These programme coordinators are from the respective villages of our work area. The first meeting with these coordinators took place on 17th August at our SP Kovil Office. The role of the coordinators was discussed in detail. It was decided that the coordinators would meet twice a month for half a day on the 2nd and 15th.

Visit of COMPAS Partners from Indonesia

A group of six delegates drawn from the four COMPAS partners in Indonesia visited India between 16th and 26th July. CIKS had

organised their visit which included visits to the CIKS office and field area at Anjur and a tour to COMPAS partners at Auroville, Bangalore, Thaly (in Hossur district) of Tamil Nadu and Vishakpattnam in Andhra Pradesh. The delegates had visited India with the objective of getting to know about the work of the Indian partners in the COMPAS project.

During their visit to Anjur farm the Indonesian delegates had a good interaction with our field staff. A detailed session on plant products used in Pest Control was conducted by our field staff which was very much appreciated by the Indonesians.

Trainers Training Programme

As a part of our project on "Women in conservation programme" we propose to conduct a year long continuous training programme

for 25 farmers in the Kattankalathur block. These farmers are selected from different villages where currently CIKS is engaged in different programmes. These farmers would meet once a month and would be given a day long training on different aspects of organic farming. During the course of the month our field staff would visit them in their farms to provide the required technical support. Exchange visits to other organic farms will also be organised. Our objective is that at the end of one year these farmers would be empowered to train other farmers in their respective villages on different aspects of organic farming. They will also be in a position to set up model organic farms in their area. They would also provide support for CIKS whenever training programmes are organised

elsewhere.

The first meeting of these trainees took place on 28th September at the Anjur farm. After a brief introduction about the programme the trainees introduced themselves. A detailed session on paddy pests and their control was conducted in the morning. In the afternoon the trainees were given hands on training for the preparation of three plant based biopesticides. The next meeting has been scheduled for 23rd October.

Research Initiative on Traditional Anti-Malarials (RITAM)

The Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) has launched a programme called Research Initiative on Traditional Anti-Malarials (RITAM). The objective of this programme is to undertake a survey and research of lines of treatment available for Malaria in Traditional Medicine and to take up clinical and field trials for such remedies. At the invitation of FRLHT, A.V. Balasubramanian attended a project formulation meeting that took place at Bangalore on 29th July. Our Centre has agreed collaborate in this effort for which the city of Chennai has been identified as one of the field areas.

Dr. Sarojeni Rengam from Pesticide Action Network visits CIKS

CIKS is part of the Pesticide Action Network - Asia Pacific based in Penang, Malaysia. We have also been involved in some collaborative projects in the recent years with PAN-AP. Dr. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director of PAN-AP, Malaysia was here in Chennai this month. She visited our field office and the farm on 17th September. At Anjur she was appraised of our in-situ conservation work. She

also visited one of our field areas - the Guruvanmedu village where more than 40 women are involved in indigenous vegetable conservation work. She visited the kitchen gardens of several of these women and observed how innovatively they had constructed the garden safeguarding it from various external factors. This was followed by a meeting of all the women at the Guruvanmedu village school. She delivered a

talk on the importance of conserving seeds, problems of pesticides etc. and had a very useful interaction with the members of the team. The next day (18th September) she visited our office at Kotturpuram and met all our staff. We also had discussions regarding future collaboration.

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ODDS AND ENDS

Assorted bits of news and information.

Visit to Indian Grain Storage Institute

On 25th August K. Vijayalakshmi visited the Indian Grain Storage Institute situated in the campus of Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University at Rajendranagar. She had detailed discussions with various officials and the director of the institute regarding their work. The possibility of providing training for NGOs was discussed. She also got to see the various storage structures built by the institute which could be implemented in our field area. Educational material in the form of CDs and books were obtained.

Evaluation of IRDAS Programme on Bluegreen Algae

CAPART had requested K. Vijayalakshmi to undertake an evaluation of a project undertaken by Institute for Rural Development and Social Action based in Hyderabad. As a part of this assignment she visited Hyderabad on 24th August. She visited the villages in Karimnagar where the project was implemented. She also met the farmers who were trained during this programme and also visited the farms where this technology is being implemented.

Seminar on WTO and its implications on Agriculture and Environment

K. Vijayalakshmi attended the above seminar conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry at Chennai on 31st July.

Talk on Relevance of Indian Healthcare Systems

On 24th September, A.V. Balasubramanian delivered a talk - "The current relevance of Traditional Health Systems" organised by the Rajaji Centre for Public Affairs at Chennai.

Meeting on Science Behind the Tradition

Our research associates Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar and S. Sudhakar attended a seminar on Science behind the tradition on 22nd September at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. This seminar which was basically on participatory plant breeding was conducted by Prof. V. Arunachalam of MSSRF.

CIKS Participates in Agricultural Fairs.

CIKS participated in a four day agri-expo organised by the Interface Trade Fair in Coimbatore between 3rd - 6th August. This fair was a great success. CIKS also participated in the Agri Intex 2000 organised by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and the Codissia at Coimbatore between August 29th and

Sengupta (Madras Institute of Development Studies), Shri Dharampal etc. Presentations were made by Dr. Gadiyar, O.B.Ramasubramanian, Dr. M.D.Srinivas and Dr. Ashok Jhunjunwala and there was a lively discussion.

Gram Muligai Company Limited

A.V. Balasubramanian attended a meeting of the board of Directors of the Gram Muligai Company Limited (GMCL) that was held at Bangalore on

21st August. GMCL has been formed with the objective of encouraging the conservation and sustainable use of our plant wealth by involving farmers, cultivators and collectors of drugs and their sangams in a major way as shareholders. The meeting discussed various initiatives that has been taken till now for the promotion of sangams and identification of voluntary agencies under the - "Vanalakshmi scheme" of GMCL for promotion of the cultivation and sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants.

CIKS TALK

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

September 3rd.

Discussion meeting on information technology

Our Centre hosted a meeting on the topic - "Where are we heading with Information Technology" that took place on 4th August evening. It was attended by about twenty persons including - Prof. C.N.Krishnan and his colleagues from Anna University - KB Chandrasekar Centre for Internet and Telecom Technologies, Dr. Ashok Jhunjunwala, Dr. M.D.Srinivas (Centre for Policy Studies), Dr. Nirmal

VISITORS BOOK

A look at who's been dropping in at CIKS

On 24th July Prof. Anil K.Gupta from Centre for Management in Agriculture, IIM Ahmedabad visited us.

On 24th July Sri P. Vivekanandan of SEVA visited us and discussed possibilities of collaborating with CIKS on studies related to ethnoveterinary practices.

Mr. K. Ragunandan of EID Parry visited us on 20th September to discuss the possibilities of CIKS inputs for the Agriportal being developed by the Murugappa Group.

Mr. Manivasagam and Mr.Gowri Shankar of E-com Solutions Private Limited visited our Centre to discuss the possibility of involving us as a partner to develop the content relating to traditional medicine in their website e-indianhealthcare.com.

On 6th September Mr. V.K. Khoda, specialist of the National Dairy Development Board, Bangalore visited us to discuss the possibility of collaborating with NDBB to study and strengthen traditional veterinary practices.

Centre For Indian Knowledge Systems

Educational And Training Material On Indigenous Health And Agriculture

Books - Posters - Stickers - Directories - Video Films

PUBLICATIONS

Iyarkaivazhi Kaigari Thottam (Organic Vegetable Gardening)

A book on organic vegetable gardening has been brought out in Tamil. This book focusses on how to grow vegetables in your garden without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It also gives information about how compost and botanical pesticides can be prepared. A section on laying out a vegetable garden is also provided.

Price : Rs.20/-

Pest of Paddy and Their Control (Information Cards)

A set of information cards containing pictures of pests of paddy and their control measures has been produced. This set covers six major pests of paddy and their control. It is available both in English and Tamil.

Price : Rs.50/- per set

HOW TO ORDER?

To order copopies of this or any other publications of ours, send us a letter informing us of your name, postal address and telephone numbers, accompanied by a Money Order (M.O.) or Demand Draft (D.D) favouring "Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems", payable at Chennai.

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