



# WORK REPORT

## 2006-2007



CIKS



### **Increasing livelihood security of small and marginal farmers through organic farming technologies**

This project, which commenced in the month of July 2004 was completed during this financial year (June 2006). This project was a major effort towards expansion of our programme on conservation of indigenous genetic resources and capacity building through organic farming and was supported by the Ford Foundation, New Delhi. It was implemented in 24 villages spread over three districts, namely Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram of Tamilnadu. Organic paddy cultivation was undertaken in about 400 acres of land. During the period April – June 2006 regular Sangam meetings were conducted and the trainers training programmes were brought to conclusion. The beneficiaries were asked to make an assessment of the programme and how it has benefited them. They were also asked to give their suggestions for the next phase of the programme. The best Sangam in each district was selected based on various criteria and given awards.

### **Enhancing livelihood and food security through capacity building for organic farming and natural resource management – Phase II**

The first phase of the Ford supported project was implemented for two years by our Centre and was concluded in June 2006. The Ford foundation had come forward to fund the second phase of this programme for a period of three years. Under this programme, the plan is to convert 500 acres completely to organic cultivation with certification. We are also planning to launch a farmers' institution for marketing and trade related aspects of organic farming. A total of 420 acres of land have been selected from 27 villages of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam districts for organic farming. A range of crops are being cultivated organically in these lands. A number of trainings were provided for farmers. The beneficiaries have been trained in internal control systems for organic certification. Exposure visits were also organized for farmers. Internal inspection has been completed for all the selected farms. Three NGOs have been identified for capacity building. A plan has been



made for establishing a neem expeller unit which will be completed by June 2007.

### **Paddy organic chain – Seed to market**

The project entitled – “Paddy organic chain – from seed to harvest : A pilot project in Tamilnadu” which was launched during October 2005 with support from HIVOS continued this financial year. During this phase of the programme, seed storage structures were constructed in all the three project villages. Agricultural implements were also distributed to these sangams besides inputs required for organic farming. Exposure visits and training programmes were conducted for the beneficiaries. Internal inspection was completed and an external inspection by IMO, Bangalore (Organic Certification Agency) was also completed. The inspection agency has also given its first year report and the farmers have their lands currently labeled as in conversion. Participation in agricultural exhibitions and fairs also took place during this phase of the project. Several capacity building workshops for the staff and exposure visits were organized. Two of our staff also participated in an international conference on organic certification in Rome. A study on the marketing structures available for organic products was launched and a report was produced by the consultant. A consultancy assignment for working out a business plan for the organic marketing is in progress.

### **Enhancing nutritional and food security of small and marginal farmers by a package of organic and sustainable farming technologies**

This two year project which was launched in June 2005 supported by CAPART, New Delhi continued during this financial year also. The main objective of this project is to provide material and technical support to farmers for organic production of indigenous varieties of paddy and vegetable seeds, which would provide income for small and marginal farmers thereby raising their financial security. Four hundred beneficiaries from 10 villages in Kancheepuram district are participating in this programme. Sangam meetings, training programmes and exposure visits continued during this phase of the project. Seed banks were constructed in five villages and agricultural implements were also distributed for five villages. A mid-term evaluation of this programme was also conducted.



### Compilation of the IFOAM training module on seed saving at the organic farm level

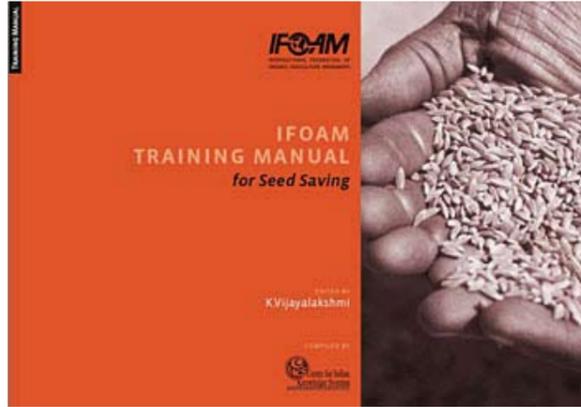
CIKS commenced the preparation of training module on seed saving commissioned by the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) in January 2006. This was completed in November 2006. The manual discusses about various aspects of seed conservation and seed production at the farm level and is meant to be used by trainers in the tropical countries. It is produced in the form of a CD and was handed over to IFOAM as per the contract for dissemination.

### Capacity building for organic farming technologies in the Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu

CIKS was recognized as a Technology Resource Centre (TRC) by CAPART during the last financial year. This support would be available for three years. During this year work continued on the preparation of various training modules on organic farming. A publication on indigenous paddy varieties was brought out. Demonstration of different organic farming technologies were done in 21 farmers fields. Five two day training programmes with follow up sessions for one day was conducted in five different villages. A green house has been completed in Sukkankollai where the training centre is being constructed. The construction of the Technology Resource Centre began during this financial year and we have completed construction of 2000 sq.ft. area. Trainings would commence shortly from this centre. A small building for a rural library has also been constructed.

### Development of a technical capacity base for the promotion of organic agriculture

CIKS completed the task of developing the packages of practices for organic cultivation of four crops in Tamil Nadu under an FAO Inter Cooperation project being jointly implemented by FAO and National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF). Under this programme organic packages for paddy, groundnut, ladies finger and tomato have been produced both in English and Tamil. The packages were presented in the project conclusion meeting held at India International Centre, New Delhi to a technical group for comments. The



finalized version of these packages have been submitted to FAO for printing and distribution.

### Construction of seed storage structures

The Cottonwood Foundation based in Minnesota, USA had provided partial support for construction of seed storage structures for organic farmers sangams in the Kancheepuram district of Tamilnadu. The construction of storage structures were completed in the respective villages during this financial year.

### Storage forms of biopesticides prepared by eco-friendly methods

This project, which is being supported by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India since August 2005 was continued during the course of this year. Two different insects namely - Tobacco Cut Worm and Aphid have been reared in the Insect Rearing Laboratory in Sirkazhi under laboratory conditions. Similarly, Rice Leaf Folder and *Epilachma* beetle have been reared in a net house in the field area. The bioefficacy of various plant preparations including *Kashayams* and *Arkams* are being tested in the laboratory.



### Testing and propagation of methods based on Vrکشayurveda for the cultivation of selected vegetables

The project is being supported by the Department of Science and Technology and continued during the course of this year. During this project period activities are being implemented in five different villages in Sirkazhi taluk in Nagapattinam district of Tamilnadu. Experiments have been conducted for the management of pests of Bhendi, Brinjal and Chilli using a range of natural products. Organic packages have been developed for cultivation of these three different crops. A fumigator had been designed earlier for seed treatment and during this period a smaller version of the fumigator was developed for treatment of vegetable seeds.

### Core support of the Department of Science and Technology

The Centre has been supported under the Core Support programme of the Department of Science and Technology for over three years. The support continued during this period and was used for strengthening the scientific capacity of the Centre with focused research in the area of use and development of plant products as biopesticides. The Insect Rearing Laboratory has been strengthened and expanded. Standard Operating procedures are being developed for the preparation of a large number of biopesticides.

### Comparing and supporting endogenous development (COMPAS) - January 2005 to December 2006

This work is in continuation with what has been carried out during the previous project period focusing on conservation and propagation of traditional seed varieties and experimentation and field-testing of traditional knowledge of agriculture with focus on crop protection. A large number of training programmes were held for building capacity on traditional agriculture in the districts of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai and Nagapattinam. A collaborative effort was undertaken with the Annamalai University in Chidambaram for the cultivation and genetic characterization of ten different traditional paddy varieties. Out of this certain varieties have been identified and shortlisted for their potential in plant breeding and further studies need to be carried out.

### COMPAS Asian Coordination - January 2005 to December 2006

During this project period there was a meeting of all the COMPAS partners from various parts of the world that was held in Poland in September 2006, which was attended by the Asian Coordinator, Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian. He also participated in the International Conference on Biocultural Diversity that was held in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2006. In February 2007, a meeting of all the COMPAS Asian partners was held in Sri Lanka which was attended by the current COMPAS partners from India and Sri Lanka and potential new partners have been identified from Vietnam and Japan. During this project period, the Coordinator also made field visits to various COMPAS partners in India. Two issues of the newsletter, CLARION were produced during the course of this year. The website of the COMPAS International programme which is being maintained bilingually in English and Spanish was updated regularly.



### Restoration of agriculture in tsunami affected agricultural lands

The Wetlands International South Asia (WISA) had provided a small grant for the restoration of tsunami affected agricultural lands in the Nagapattinam district of Tamilnadu. As part of this programme, the Centre had taken up a series of activities for capacity building and promotion of low cost organic cultivation, testing of soil and water samples to make site specific recommendations based on the extent to which they have been affected and also strengthened water resources for agriculture by desilting the existing farm ponds in two villages. The Centre has also produced a booklet on restoration of tsunami affected agriculture lands, which has been published in Tamil, and it is being distributed widely to farmers and NGOs.

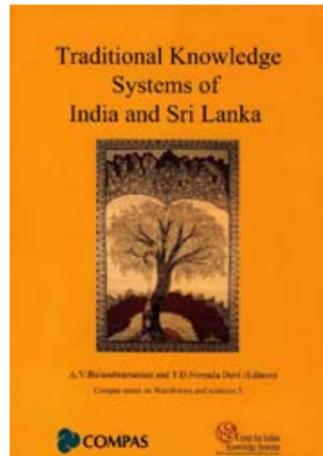
### Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation in Agriculture

Our Centre had implemented a short term programme between June and August 2006 for Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation in agriculture in two selected villages in Nagapattinam district. This effort was funded by the Gram Swaraj Sangh, Gujarat. The activities taken up include training and initiation of organic home gardens in the two villages, training on organic farming, construction of vermicompost units, installation of bore wells and distribution of agricultural implements.

### COMPAS programme for research on the use of animal products in traditional agriculture

This project, which had commenced in October 2005, was continued during the course of this year and it concluded in December 2006. During this period the three project partners namely, CIKS in Tamilnadu, Krishi Prayog Pariwara in Karnataka and IDEA in Andhra Pradesh continued to carry out experimentation in their respective field locations. The survey of traditional practices relating to the use of animal products in agriculture was concluded. Three field level meetings were held in Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh wherein discussions were held between farmers, traditional Ayurvedic scholars and University trained researchers and academics on various aspects of testing and validation of traditional knowledge. A partners meeting was also hosted in Chennai in early December 2006. The project has now been concluded and the final report prepared and submitted in March 2007.





### COMPAS regional workshop on traditional knowledge systems of Asia

The COMPAS regional workshop on Traditional Knowledge Systems of India and Sri Lanka was conducted in July 2006 at the National Institute for Advanced Studies at Bangalore. It was attended by scientists, NGOs and other delegates from India and Sri Lanka. The presentations pertained to the themes of traditional agriculture and livestock, traditional systems of healthcare as well as the methodology of traditional sciences and technologies. The papers presented during the workshop have been brought out as a publication.

### Traditional Agriculture Promotion Programme.

Our Centre has been involved in the effort for promotion and preservation of traditional agriculture. During the current year the programme is being expanded to include the components of group certification for small and marginal farmers through the method of Internal Control Systems (ICS). The activity is now being taken up in four different districts of Tamilnadu

### Publications

The following publications have been produced during the current year.

1. *"Nalam Tharum Thavarangal"* - A booklet in Tamil providing information and instructions on various aspects of cultivation of eight most commonly used plants and their uses in agriculture, gardening, human health and animal health.
2. *Organic food – why you should care* - A book that helps to understand the importance of organic foods and its benefits – from both environment and health perspectives.
3. *Traditional Knowledge Systems of India and Sri Lanka* - A compilation of the proceedings of the COMPAS Asian Regional workshop on Traditional Knowledge held at Bangalore in July 2006.
4. *"Parambariya Nel Ragangal - 81 parambariya nel ragangalai pattriya thagavalgal"* - A book in Tamil providing information on 81 indigenous rice varieties of Tamil Nadu.



5. Three booklets in Tamil which gives complete details on organic cultivation of

groundnut, tomato and ladies finger namely - *"Iyarkai sagupadi thozhilnutpangal - Nilakkadali"*

*"Iyarkai sagupadi thozhilnutpangal - Thakkali"*

*"Iyarkai sagupadi thozhilnutpangal - Vendai"*

6. *"Tsunamiyum Vivasayigalin Maruvazhvum"* A book in Tamil that discusses in detail the experiences of the agricultural restoration work in the tsunami affected regions of Tamil Nadu.



### Audio - Visuals

Films in English and Tamil describing three important composting methods in detail as DVD and VCD namely -

1. *Organic farming Techniques – Composting*
2. *"Iyarkaivazhi Sagupadi Nutpangal - Makkuvura Thayarippu"*

## LIST OF DONORS FOR PROJECTS DURING APRIL 2006 - MARCH 2007

- The Ford Foundation, New Delhi
- The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi,
- HIVOS, Bangalore
- Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), New Delhi
- International Federation for Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), Germany
- Food and Agriculture Organisations (FAO) of the United Nations , New Delhi
- Cottonwood Foundation, USA
- Educational and Training Consultants (COMPAS), The Netherlands
- Development Cooperation Division of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, New Delhi
- Wetlands International, South Asia
- Gram Swaraj Sangh, Gujarat
- Friends and Well Wishers



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