

Agriculture Review Meeting

Date : 04th July 2006 (Tuesday)
Time : 10.50 am to 1:05 pm
Venue : 313, Collectorate, Nagapattinam.

Objectives:

1. Brief review and planning of second season plans of NGOs
2. Planning for exhibits for workshop
3. Finer planning for workshop on disaster preparedness in agriculture

The meeting started with self introduction by the participants. Mr. Chandra Mohan welcomed all and briefed the purpose of the meeting. The NGOs briefly reviewed their plans in the second season. The excerpts:

CEE: It is working among both the tsunami affected as well as the non-affected communities in Karaikal and Nagapattinam respectively. It is planning to extent its work for three years. The following are their activities:

- Summer ploughing
- Waste land development (clearing thorny bushes and cleaning land in Perunthottam)
- Eco restoration through planting casuarinas, neem and palmyra trees in shore line
- Programmes on disaster preparedness using GPRS
- Alternate livelihood training

KUDUMBAM: KUDUMBAM is planning to extent the work for two years. Their activities are:

- Capacity building through Training of trainees (ToT) and Farmers Field School (FFS)
- Participatory research on organic farming
- Alternative farming
- Cultivation of vegetable, nuts and rice
- SRI (System of Rice Intensification)

World Vision:

- Capacity building
- Exposure visit to leading farms for farmers on organic farming
- Provision of implements to both farmers and labourers (eg., spade)
- Reclamation of land
- Training to farmers in Vettaikaraniruppu

CCD: The following plans come in addition to the plans already given.

- CONO implement to reduce weeds
- Micro credit training (MIS system)

RIM and CCD were asked to share their plans together and reach a consensus as they were working in the same village.

CCD and KUDUMBAM are giving trainings on ToT and FFS every week. A brief discussion on these two participatory methodologies was done and NGOs were encouraged to go and see these programmes at the field for cross-learning.

CREATE:

- Distribution of cows and goats to 91 farmers
- Exposure visit to farmers at TNAU
- Ensuring people's participation in all the works

TOFARM: In addition to the plans given before an exposure visit for farmers has been taken to Gopi, Erode and Mettur.

SEVALAYA:

- Training for farmers in TNAU
- Training in inter-cropping
- Bee-keeping
- Training on vermicomposting in KVK

After the review of plans, Mr. Chandra Mohan stressed on collaborative mode of functioning among the NGOs working in agriculture. He also insisted on drawing boundaries for NGOs who are working in the same village. He requested to make use of the review meetings as an issue sorting forum if necessary. However, the NGOs said that there was unity among the NGOs working in agriculture in the district.

Plans for exhibits

Followed by the review of plans the group engaged in discussing the exhibits to be displayed in the workshop on disaster preparedness in agriculture. Ms. Annie George, CEO, NCRC joined the discussion at this juncture. The date of the workshop got changed to 3rd and 4th of August from the previously decided dates of 17 and 18th July.

Ms. Annie said that the agriculture reclamation process in Nagapattinam following the tsunami has been very systematic and has been acknowledged worldwide. Yet, there has been hardly a full-fledged document to convey the enormous work went in the process. Therefore, the need of the hour was to showcase the works of NGOs to rest of the world and to top officials of Indian government. It includes the list of NGOs that worked for agriculture, the area covered and the works done by them.

Followed by the introduction, the gathering got going with how to go about exhibiting the works done by them. SEVALAYA and CCD said that they have already got exhibits for

display. The others agreed to prepare materials that would fit into tiny stalls. The present status of agriculture in Nagapattinam, the possible impacts of future disasters and what to do on the face of it were discussed to be projected in the exhibits, other than exhibiting what NGOs have done on their own for reclamation.

Around 20 - 25 stalls will be put up, 13 for the NGOs who attended the meeting and about 3 on the theme of the workshop, one for the government, etc. NCRC would help NGOs print their maps.

Primary and Secondary data collection:

The following disasters were identified as the focus points in the context of the workshop.

1. Flood
2. Drought
3. Salinity/backwater
4. Cyclone

The following problems that are common to all the above mentioned disasters were discussed:

1. **Areas:** Time series analysis of the area. The information is available with agriculture department.
2. **Loss:** Yield and cash wise loss to be collected from the department of agriculture
3. **Cropping pattern:** The information would be collected from the department of agriculture
4. **Profile of farmers:** Taluk wise profile of farmers will be collected through field work in NGOs' own working areas. NCRC will help with the available data.
5. **Water bodies:** The detail of water bodies would be collected from engineers, ISRO data and department of agriculture
6. **Indigenous coping mechanism:** Need to be collected as primary data from the farming community
7. **Live stock:** The information will be received from the department of animal husbandry
8. **Climatic seasons:** Rainfall activity in the district would be studied.

Soil test report that are with BEST, KUDUMBAM, CCD, TOFARM, CIKS and CREATE have to be made available ahead of the workshop. The reports would have to be studied season wise in the context of pre and post tsunami.

The following NGOs took up the responsibilities for the identified fields for the workshop:

\\KUDUMBAM – Flood and drought
CCD – Salinity and back water

The following NGOs have taken the responsibility of gathering information on the following fields covering two decades of information, if possible:

Sl. No.	Responsibility	In charge
1.	Water bodies	CWS
2.	Loss	CWS
3.	Cropping pattern	CWS & KUDUMBAM
4.	Rain fall	CWS
5.	Climatic seasons	KUDUMBAM
6.	Livestock	SEVALAYA
7.	Copping mechanism	All NGOs in their respective working villages. And CWS will collect for the entire district

Ms. Annie George suggested that the responsibilities like logistic arrangements for the workshop could be shared by all the NGOs. However, NCRC and Concern World wide would take care of the other responsibilities. The responsibilities related to the arrangements would be discussed in the next meeting. All the NGOs were asked to bring the available information for the exhibits in the next meeting which was decided to take place on Saturday, the 8th July.