

## **Minutes of the Agriculture Meeting**

**Date: 07.07.05**

The meeting began with the deliberation of point of discussion for the meeting by Mr. Chandra Sekar. Which was followed by display of Nagapattinam district map that depicted NGOs working in different Tsunami affected villages and hamlets in Nagapattinam. There was a discussion on the possibility of sharing the working areas among the NGOs and to sort out the overlapping work and demarcation of working areas for the NGOs. From the discussion two alternatives were suggested:

1. To work together in collaboration among the NGOs working in particular village.
2. To identify village wise where there are no NGOs working, where in to create a mechanism to seek for amicable solution to concentrate equally for all the affected villages.

There was a discussion about the clearance of sand cast on how NGOs can carry out the work in a most effective way.

### **Damages to Agricultural Land:**

- Salinity
- Sand Casting
- Farms ponds
- Irrigation drainage and canals

### **Individual Packages for the Farmers:**

- Transferring of sand cast from the agricultural land. And machinery to be used.
- Loosening of soil around the farm land to facilitate leaching.
- Trenching around the farm land/ soil.
- Clearing of individual farm ponds.

### **Collective packages for the Farmers:**

- Clearing common pond
- Clearing drainage

### **Mid term measure:**

- Green manure- Daincha, sun Hempt
- Sowing saline resistant seeds
- Addition of farm yard maure/ Vermi Composting

### **Long Term Measure:**

- Production of organic matter within the farm-
- To grow bio-mas mainly in farm of foliate, poovarasu. Agathi, sapania, soobabul, vadanarayanam.

### **Suggestions from the NGOs:**

- To give the money directly to farmers.
- Seed, manure and fertilizers to be given
- To help farmers to convert the sand cast land into coconut farm.

- Tsunami has brought many micro nutrients- therefore; to be careful when we remove the sand cast.
- Development of disaster management. Mitigation and plantation of income generating crops.
- Vulnerability mapping. (CASA will be undertaking soon) Vulnerability mapping can be useful for long term program and sustainability program.
- To call experts for consultative discussion on the restoration of agricultural farms.

**Immediate Need:**

- Assistance for ploughing their lands. The financial help at the moment can be directed through SHGs.

**Action Plan:**

- Core Group for Advocacy regarding the packages.
- Core Committee members are; Rejuvenate India Movement, Tsunami Legal Action Committee, Kudumbam, People's Education for Development Association (PEDA), EFICOR and NCRC.
- Core group will meet on 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2005 at 11.00 am at NCRC to sort out points for advocacy and they will meet the Collector to submit the advocacy points.
- The completed form to be made available by 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2005. (Form which was given to the NGOs for the collection of data regarding the requirement and the needs of farmers)

**List of Participants who attended the meeting on AGRICULTURE at  
Mini Conference Hall, Collectorate, Nagapattinam on 07.07.05**

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