

INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

a multi-disciplinary resource centre to think globally and act locally in the arena of sustainable development

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Sustainable Human Development

Sustainable Natural Resources Management

From the Editor's desk.

Stakeholder participation is imperative for realising Sustainable Development. How the stakeholder participation can be initiated and sustained? What makes the stakeholders participate in the development process? How to help them to be part of the development process with the very minimal external dependency? The ISD Team had many levels of discussions along these lines and continued to reinvent the wheel as the situation varied between the different communities with which ISD work. Among other things, advantage in economic terms appears to be one major drawing force for their involvement; and given the context of higher aspirations for better life and living conditions, this aspect can't be ignored too.

The discussions led to Cooperatives, that can empower the members through promotion of self-help and form a strong foundation for sustainable development besides ensuring equitable sharing of economic benefits. A common thread identified among the rural community, no matter landholding or landless, is the milch animal and milk production. Besides fetching an additional income on a daily basis through sales of milk, the cattle help the farmers reclaim the fertility of their land resource. Formation of cooperatives among milk producers is one major focus at ISD now.

The summer vacation started for children and the field team at ISD started preparations for the annual summer camp that will be held in second half of May. And many more initiatives in the field.

Paucity of manpower for documentation and other pressing deadline oriented commitments caused a break in publishing the Newsletter from December 2014. However, a photo journal is attempted for the interim period and added to this issue of newsletter.

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Milk Cooperatives get a special focus in the ISD-Farmers' Training

Cattles play important role in rural economy; besides being an additional income source cattle help in reviving and preserving the soil fertility. Milk is one product that always found to have an increasing demand and if the production and sales are done on a collective mode, along with a tie up to the State Government Milk Marketing Federation, the benefits farmers can derive are much more.

Discussions with the farmers for establishing a Milk Producers' Cooperative Society in Kilambakkam, Sembedu, Kadharvedu, Guruvoyal, Monnavedu pettai, Chithambakkam, Pondavakkam, Madhavaram, and Nadukuppam held during January to April 2015 on different days. Officials including Mrs M A Maheswari, Deputy Director Dairying (Aavin Thiruvallur District) Sub Registrar of Cooperatives Mr. R.Suresh, Senior Inspector Mr. Hari Sankar, Veterinarian Dr. Nachiar, A.K.Vasanth District Coordinator, visited and participated in the discussions. At Kilambakkam which was one of the first village to initiate the process, the Milk Producers Cooperative has been registered and started functioning from February 2015. The milk procurement commenced on 13 Feb 2015 with a total collection of 40 litres and now reached 80 litres. The supply to Aavin help them earn more than double the current price they get from middleman, Rs 12 per litre. However, the farmers seem to trust the middleman more than themselves due to perceived minimal risks. It was with great difficulty, they got convinced about this opportunity that doubles their income. Many things are yet to take shape in this KMPCS, however it has made a good beginning. Farmers of Pondavakkam, Madhavaram and Nadukuppam are in the process of enrolment of members and soon they would be ready to get their Society registered.

Reviewing the partnerships and exploring avenues for future collaboration

The Chennai based **Live Energies Foundation** had their top management team visiting and reviewing the progress so far made in their joint programme with ISD, the Farmers' Financial Inclusion Programme. Having observed that the Farmers Clubs are passing through the *litmus test*, with well-disciplined financial practices including 100% repayment of the credit availed through the pilot programme, the LEF has expressed their willingness to continue supporting the programme with a higher volume. Further, other avenues of collaboration are also being explored.

The **Danish Human Sustainability (TDH-S)** representative Mr Claes Holstein Rathlou (who was earlier associated with the Terre Des Homes, Denmark a long-time partner of KSRSD) visited the various programmes of ISD/KSRSD on 11 March 2015. . He has also held discussions with the beneficiaries of programmes earlier supported by the TDH. He was very happy about the mode of execution as well as the outcome of the activities. The TDH-S and ISD will work together in the area of education for sustainable development, with special focus on women and children.

Discussions are in progress with the **Pallavan Grama Bank** for possible collaboration in the Water and Food Security sector.



Govt Officials with ISD Team in the village in discussion about Milk Producers Cooperatives



LEF and ISD Team in a discussion at ISD



Mr Claes from TDH-S in a discussion with a ISD programme beneficiary at Vengal



Credit Facilities for Farmers Clubs



One batch of five Farmers Clubs have taken the credit assistance provided by ISD totally to the tune of Rs 3.2 lakhs. Twenty five individual members of selected by the five Clubs will get benefitted from this tranche of assistance. The assets created include



agricultural implements, milch animals, goats, and few investments for cultivation. The benefitted members in a briefing session at ISD when they came to receive the cheque.

ISD Team along with selected farmers in a consultative meeting at the Rice Research Station of TNAU at Tirur



Kilambakkam Milk Producers Cooperative Society: Inauguration, milk collection, distribution of payment received from Aavin



Farmers Interaction and Discussion for formation of Milk Producers Cooperatives:



There were more than 15 programmes, including the regular Farmers Interaction and discussions at different levels regarding for formation of Milk Producers Cooperatives, special meeting for Farmers Club to sort out internal difference of opinion, removal of member, etc. While major programmes are



held at the ISD Training Centre at Vengal, many discussions are held at villages level and few at ISD, Veerapuram.



Special trainings with external resource persons were also conducted. The training centre at Vengal is becoming a demonstration field for organic farming.



Exposure visit for farmers: The Community Initiatives Team of ISD, followed by Members of the Kilampakkam Milk Producers Cooperative Society, cattle farmers from Pondavakkam Panchayat in Sholavaram block, and farmers from Monnavedu visited the Pattaraiperumbudur on different days during April 2015.

The Pattaraiperumbudur Harijan Colony Milk Producers Cooperative Society established in 1999, with more than 1000 members at present, procures 1000 litres of milk on average a day. It has given an exposure for the farmers of ISD Community Initiatives area on how a Milk Producers' Cooperative Society functions.



The group of 48 farmers including 28 women from Sholavaram Block was overwhelmed with what they saw at Pattaraiperumbudur and visited ISD at Veerapuram on their way back, to discuss the next step. Two of the women admitted that they were about to sell the cows they owned and the day's visit was an eye opener for them; and never think of selling will only buy more cows.



The ISD Team had discussions with the Madras Pinjrapole Goushala Management for a training for the farmers in Cattle and Cattle Shelter maintenance.



ISD Team at the Consultative Meeting of High Level Committee on status of Women constituted by Gol, at Chennai. Mrs Jhansirani, ISD_SLC Teacher share her views with the members.



Diagnostic Camp and Health Education Programme:

Women's Christian College and ISD jointly organised a medical camp for the women and children of Anna Nagar habitation of Thirukandalam Panchayat. Blood and stool samples were tested for around 150 members in the camp that was followed by Hygiene and Nutrition Education programmes. Besides this camp, there were 10 days programme conducted by students and faculty of different departments at the village during December 2014 April 2015.



ISD Presence at the School Day Celebration in Anna Nagar habitation of Thirukandalam Panchayat.





World Water Day 2015 was celebrated with rallies and awareness programmes at Punnapakkam, Kadharvedu and Sembedu villages. Besides school children, Village Panchayat President, and other elders also participated in the programme.



Summer Camp 2015 - Appeal

Summer camp is a regular programme of KSRSD/ISD benefitted by the rural and underprivileged children and this year the 14th Summer Camp is proposed to be held during 18-20 May 2015. 75-80 children in the 12-14 years will participate in the programme that starts with a medical diagnosis camp, followed with health education and other recreational programmes. ISD seeks sponsors for the programme.

National Consumer Rights Day: On 24 December, the National Consumers Day, a special programme was organised for the farmers, focussing basically on farm inputs and food safety. The programme organised jointly with the TamilNadu Progressive Consumer Centre, Chennai.



Eye Camps and Dental Camps as part of health education, were held in Guruvoyal, Punnapakkam, Veerapuum villages. All these camps are organised by the Farmers Clubs in respective villages under the guidance of ISD and with resource persons from Rotary Club Kottivakkam Dental Centre, and Mission Vision. Eye surgery for those who require will be done at Sankara Nethralava, Nungambakkam.



Health Education Programme for the SLC Children and parents on the occasion of World Health Day. Organised by SLC Punnapakkam, with Health Inspector of the Primary Health Centre, Vengal Mr Muhammad Ali as resource person.



Sustainable Learning Centre at Punnappakkam: SLC at Punnappakkam village got a colour ful start on 20 February 2015. There are 22 Children at the Centre that is run at the space provided by the Panchayat.



Mr Aravind and Mr Sakthi of Rainstock, the water entrepreneurs from Madurai visited ISD Projects to learn from the field on sustainable water management and stakeholder participation



Field Visit and programme progress review by Board Member Mr M Malaichamee



Rainwater harvesting and Ground water recharge shaft



An attempt to measure the flow of water at the recharged bore-wells.

The Team ISD along with their families on a day for entertainment



Review Meeting held at Vengal



Discussion on formation of an ECO Club, Melapedu





Mr Claes Holstein Rathlou, representing TDH-S visited ISD and the various community initiatives on 11 March 2015



Special issue in the forthcoming Newsletter on the Research Projects at ISD

Patronage and Partnership:

We place on record our sincere thanks to those who contributed to the efforts of ISD in one way or the other during this period. They include:

Local officials of Government Departments, GoTN; the Central Government Institutions RSFPD and CCBF, SWISS India Trust Chennai; Live Energies Foundation, Chennai; CMDA Friends, Chennai; ANAMICA Inc, USA, WASTE Netherland and IFS UK, and a number of individuals.

We are open to collaboration in research, training or community initiatives in Sustainable Development. For more information mail us at 'info@isd.org.in'.

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