

Agriculture Review meeting (Minutes)

Venue : 313, NCRC Front Office, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

Date : 03.11.06

Time : 2.30.pm

The meeting was to share the activities done by different NGOs and also about the agriculture insurance.

Agenda points:

- Sharing of NGO activities
- Discussion on Agriculture Insurance
- Any other – Issues.

Mr. Chandra Mohan welcomed the NGOs representative's present for the meeting. After a self introduction. Mr. Chandra Mohan briefed as to why this meeting was organised was that to

- Review on our work,
- Interlink – interlink means cross learning linkages with each one
- Planning

In previous meeting we only reviewed and shared information as that was in coordination phase but now we are facilitating role. And review and planning will take a secondary level as sharing is primary, now every one talk on bio mass plantation, livestock improvement fruit tree plantation, thus sharing is the need of the hour. He asked how many of them can accept if desalination process is over.

- ❖ The participants said that the proposed work's are yet to be completed as the land is still not fertile.
- ❖ As farmers got low yield so we have to convince farmers and orient them more on sustainable development.
- ❖ Flooding was one of the reasons for decreasing yield.
- ❖ Apart from these the soil test reports are also not favourable.

Mr. Chandra Mohan explained that in agriculture field top soil is most important. Thus if we remove the salinity from the top soil, the farm level and drainage channels condition is will improve.

- ❖ Soil fertility cannot be changed in a year's time as we are talking about sustainable agriculture, on farming, organic farming and Integrated farming system.

Sharing of the NGOs

The participants were asked to share the following

- activities implemented,
- demonstrations done
- any trails
- Capacity building programmes.

Real – Plan

Activity: Ploughing, trenching and distribution of saline tolerant seeds.

Capacity Building: Training on Panchagaviya, organic pest management at Manalmedu hamlet – Vizhuluthamavadi village.

For Ploughing and distribution of seeds they involved the community where in they contributed 40 per cent and the rest 60 per cent was done by the NGO.

Mr. Chandra Mohan explained the process as to how to link desalination and sustainable agriculture.

CREATE

They have worked with 121 acres in Malarpuram hamlet at Periyakuthagai village. And arranged an exposure visit and distribution of goat. The representative told that he will send more details about the activities.

CEE

They work in Agara Perunthottam and Perunthottam villages.

Activities: Waste land reclamation work. These lands are in direct sea water intrusion area both on full moon and no moon periods.

Previously it was a cultivable land and at present it is waste land.

- Thus the organization took up cleaning of Karuveli for an area of 150 acres,
- Field bund strengthening
- Soil sample collection and analysis of the same.
- Leaching: deep Ploughing (disk and rotavator) out of which 80% was farmer's contribution.
- Canal was desalinated with 25% of farmer's contribution.

Cultivable lands:

- The cultivable lands are situated a little away from sea shore.
- Reclamation work of 150 acres on tsunami affected lands.
- Distribution of Saline tolerant seeds with 80% farmers contribution.
- Distributed bio fertilizers like Azola, Posbopacktria and Neem oil. Community contributed 2%
- 50 non loanee farmers took up Insurance where in they contributed 50% .

- On a trial and research basis have sown medicinal plants and saline tolerant variety
- Certified seed production was carried out with the help of Agriculture department, Nagapattinam.
- Field Faming School has been formed in collaboration with Agriculture department.

Mr. Chandra Mohan told that all are now having Farmers Field School. Mr.Kathar Ifrqim- Kudumbam trainer can be used as a resource person he has taken training from Food and Agriculture Organization institution directly.

Venture:

Distribution of 250 (fodder 100 + 150 timber) seedlings per farmer for almost 100 farmers.

Mr. Chandra Mohan asked if there space was for planting 250 seedlings and they should calculate bund condition and change timber seedlings in to bio mass seedlings.

- Manual ploughing of agro forestry land covering 300 acres.
- Distributions of bio inputs for 300 acres
- Traditional Seeds distributions -300 acres
- 40 acres seed production
- Organised an exposure visit
- Distributed 70 numbers of agro forestry seedlings per acre for overall 200 acres
- Distributed 240 goats and 10 cows for landless & dalit people.
- Provided revolving fund for 7 SHGs
- 2 model farm for paddy and 7 agro forestry was built
- A Resource centre exclusively for farmers was started.
- A storage centre & solar drier was also built.

Trainings:

- Training of Trainers & Farmers Field School
- Training on production of Compost, Vermi compost & Azola
- On growth promoters
- On seed production
- On Tree plantation

RIM:

Though they have started work on 3rd week of October, they are still having problems in getting funds. Their activities include

- Ploughing
- Training on vermi compost & Panchagaviya
- Cleaning of irrigation channel up to 3 kms distance at Sangenthi Vaikkal.

The above mentioned activities are carried out by the farmers and the organization will refund it once they get the fund.

World Vision:

They have organized exposure visits twice at Sathiyamangalam Mr. Ravi's farm. Where in they produce vermi compost using South African type of earth worms and other fertility management techniques.

Distribution of earth worms to 66 farmers in Vettaikkarniruppu village.

BWDC:

They are working in Seruthur up till Kodiyakadu nearly 20 villages. They work with the support of Aid et Action to identify areas left out by other NGOs.

Trial basis demonstration:

On a trial basis they are demonstrating in a plot where they bring farmers and explain stage by stage activities progress.

PREPARE:

They have been working for last one year on partnership and joint implementation. This year they are implementing directly in Tharangambadi taluk 4 villages: Erukkattanchery, Sathangudi, Veppencherry and Manickapangu.

- Summer Ploughing for ½ feet level
- Seed distribution -ADT 38 varieties.
- Bio fertilizers
- Distribution of inorganic fertilizers (urea, DAP, potassium)

Phoenix Federation:

They have worked as two tier agreement basis to create rural level entrepreneur market facility. Motivating to produce marketable products with in the coastal villages. They are working on the action plan for October to December. Further they were asking others NGOs to give suggestions.

Most of the NGOs are not aware of entrepreneur market facility thus a concept note is prepared and also 3 other organisations have prepared brief notes on the same. Which is also available in WTO's (World Trade Organisation's) website.

Kudumbam:**Capacity Building:**

- Have organised exposure visit
- Training of Trainers associating with KVK (Krishi vigyan Kendra)
- Farmers Field School –3 farmer's field school in each village
- Training on marketing
- Have raised seed banks
- Nursery
- Training on Panchagaviya, Amirthakaraisal and Effective Micro Organism (EM)

Activity:

- ❖ They organized farmers federation gave revolving fund for cultivation purposes.

- ❖ Summer Ploughing
- ❖ Distribution of organic fertilizers
- ❖ 40 tones of Neem cakes
- ❖ 5 tone of bio fertilizers
- ❖ Farmers practiced SRI 5 methods
- ❖ Models created on vermi compost and Azola
- ❖ Guidelines for vegetables plots
- ❖ Nursery plantation
- ❖ Cleaning of canal with farmers contribution
- ❖ Desalination of farm ponds.

Further planning for other trainings also.

II Agriculture Insurance:

Kudumbam, CEE and Prepare had done crop insurance in their working areas. Should also target on non loanee farmers to get agriculture insurance, an one day workshop was organized a one follow up meeting (held on August) on this month the responsibility should be a NGO responsible to bring TFSHG farmers in that meeting on revenue village level.

The participants felt that these types of meeting are needed and proposed to have the next meeting on or before 15 th November.

Issues:

Kudumbam raised an issue on Maruthampallam village for crop insurance. In that village all are leased farmers. So VAO and Thasildhar are not giving certificate to concern cultivable farmers to take insurance.