

Community Meeting Report

Date: 07.03.06

Place: Maniyan Theevu

Introduction:

The Vedaranyam VIC organized a village level meeting on 07.03.06 at Maniyan Theevu village. The agriculture sector team participated in this meeting to have an interaction with farmers to get an idea of implemented agriculture activities and planning for next season and some issues relating to reclamation activities.

Participants:

From this village there are 29 farmers who participated in this meeting. All participants are involved in both fishery and agriculture. Rough season for fishing is normally the time for intensive agriculture. All have below one acre of land.

Introduction of VIC:

The participants were asked about their know-how on VIC and its location. Few people are only aware about Vedaranyam VIC and its functions. A brief explanation on VIC was also given.

Review:

It was asked in this village how many people has attended taluk and district level agriculture meeting. Farmers said that none of them are aware of those meetings. It was learned that few farmers who were part of those meetings.

We asked which are the organizations who had taken land reclamation activities in this place. Farmers said that here two organization have done.

BHARATHI:

This organization has done sand cast removal work. They also did plough work, supply of seeds @ 40 kgs per acre, supply of farm yard manure in enough quantity, and cleaning of farm ponds. They have formed SHG for old age people and supplied milk animals.

TMSSS:

This organization had done sand cast removal work, ploughing work and cleaning of common ponds.

Paddy harvesting:

In this area the crop performance is very poor. Initially the crop growth was alright but later the rains came, the crop was totally lost in most areas.

How change soil salinity:

Farmers said that agriculture department gave gypsum only but further not distributed any DAP, Urea, Potassium. We asked how these fertilizers are related to soil salinity. Some farmers felt that these kinds of fertilizers are good for the ground nut crops not

good for paddy crops. After the discussion sector head briefly explained usage of these fertilizers importance and their irrelevance towards soil salinity correction.

Do you know any other activities (without packages) can remove soil salinity?

- Reduction of soil salinity through flooding.
- Reconstruction of drainage channels
- Plantation of saline tolerant tree species like Mangroves, cashew nuts etc.
- Application of farm yard manure and compost materials

Farmers felt that soil testing would be of use.

Issues:

- Though NGOs had done reclamation activities some farmers are left out.
- Few affected ponds still not renovated.
- Desalination of Uppanar River

The sector leader told the farmers that in future we would organize taluk and district level agriculture meetings. So active farmers should participate in these meetings and those meeting information should be shared all the farmers. This is because still many of the farmers in the village are unknown of the package undertaken in the first year.

BHARATHI WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (BWDC)

The agriculture sector team visited Bharathi Women Development Centre at Thiruvarur. We met Mr. Nagarajan Chief Functionary of BWDC. He was working as a volunteer for Gandhian based organization. Discussion on their office locations, type of work, focused areas, staff, concentration on agriculture and next year plan for implementing agriculture in tsunami affected area.

Mr.Nagarajan briefly explained establishment of BWDC. He said that initially established a non governmental organization at Thiruthurai Poondi. In that time they focused women and children development projects. After they were changed to their own native on Thirukoilur for name of Bharathi Women Development Centre working as landless labors. Their main motive is generation of employment and socio-economic development.

Administration:

Bharathi Women Development Centre have three offices namely Velankanni (CCF), Thiruvarur, Vedaranyam (Field Office). In Thiurvarur office looking with administrative works for all the projects and income generation projects and garden. This organization has above hundred staffs.

Sub units:

- ❖ Short stay home
- ❖ AIDS counseling centre
- ❖ Home for Aged
- ❖ Income generation units
- ❖ Garden

Problem of landless labors:

In this location mostly depends up on agriculture and mono crop on paddy. Here farmers cultivate samba crop varieties its duration is 150-180 days. The land less labors have job during plantation and harvesting time. Remaining period they were migrated to high wage produce area like Tirpur and Kerala. And industrial area on coimbatore, Karur, Chennai. This migration activities ones a good because previously this area affected by starvation problem.

Future plan:

BWDC have their own plan on adopting five villages to working as organic farming manner. Their activities mostly depending with training, exposure trips, documentation and generating employment. But their lacking of funding problem they discussed with their donor agency on Help age India. This organization has own strategy.

Discussion on:

The sector head briefly explained about first year packages activities and purpose of the framing short & long-term activities. These are mostly concentration on preparing the land ready for cultivation. But next year we try to sustainable agriculture development with farmer's participation. It should be capacity building, training, and various exposure trips relating to integrating farming system. And importance of bio mass tree plantation, growth of animals, compost & vermin compost, and other sustainable paddy cultivation. After this explanation the BWDC should be try to approach other donor agency also.

Suggestion:

Mr.Nagarajan asked to draft letter relating with next year implementing activities. That is very useful to convey to my donor agencies. Because we are working help age India particularly in aged people.

General information's:

In Thiruvarur is native of Ex- Chief Minister M.Karunaneethi mother. She is obituary home is there. And their heredity temple on Mandaleswari temple situated here. They have agriculture land. And some cinema actors have agriculture land here. In this area "Muthalaiyar" community is more.