

**CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
IN AGRICULTURE -(CIKA)**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
GANDHIGRAM RURAL UNIVERSITY
GANDHIGRAM-624 302
TAMIL NADU, INDIA**

Recently a “Centre for Indigenous Knowledge in Agriculture” - (CIKA) has been established under the aegis of Faculty of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram with a view to document, analyze, validate, standardize and further propagate the Indigenous Knowledge/ Practices in Agricultural and allied fields under various farming systems of Tamil Nadu.

Preamble

Many of our indigenous technologies in agriculture and allied fields have been replaced by the so-called modern and hazardous technologies and they have become obsolete, especially among the younger generations. Now these indigenous practices are endangered ones and they are available only with the aged and elderly farmers and animal healers as an unwritten body of knowledge and hence, there is a possibility for them to become extinct particularly during this era of liberalization, privatization and globalization. Therefore, there is a need to systematically document, validate, standardize and to propagate the Indigenous Knowledge/ Technologies so as to reduce dependence on external inputs, to reduce the cost of cultivation and to propagate eco-friendly agriculture.

With this background, the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge in Agriculture (CIKA) has been established with the approval of appropriate authorities/ academic bodies of the Gandhigram Rural University with the following objectives and activities:

Objectives of the centre

1. To serve as a research and development centre for carrying out advanced research activities on the Indigenous Agricultural Practices existing in different farming systems of Tamil Nadu.
2. To establish and maintain demonstration farms and exhibition on the Indigenous Agricultural Practices and their inputs.
3. To serve as a centre for providing training to farmers, farm women and extension workers on various aspects of Indigenous Agricultural Practices.
4. To serve as an extension centre for propagating and promoting the adoption of Indigenous Practices in various agricultural enterprises among the farmers.

Outline of Proposed Activities of the Centre

1. Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge/Agricultural Practices existing in different farming systems of Tamil Nadu.
2. Analysis of Rationality and Scientific background for selected indigenous agricultural practices and identification of effective indigenous agricultural practices as perceived by farmers.
3. Validation and standardization of the effective indigenous agricultural practices by Laboratory experiments and also by On farm trials in farmers' fields through PTD approach.
4. Formulation of crop wise 'Package of Indigenous Practices' for the major crops and also for other agricultural enterprises.
5. Establishment and maintenance of demonstration farms depicting the various Indigenous Agricultural Practices at the Centre.
6. Organization of IK clubs among the farmers in selected villages of Dindigul district.
7. Publication and circulation of a professional journal on IK in agriculture for the scientists and an IK magazine for the farmer of IK clubs.
8. Conducting awareness campaigns, training programmes, farm schools and other extension activities for promoting IKs among the various sections of farmers.
9. Preparation and broadcasting of Radio/Television programmes on various dimensions of Indigenous Knowledge in Agriculture.
10. Facilitating information exchange among the farmers on IKs through computer networking of villages.
11. Establishment of a permanent exhibition/ park at GRI, on IA practices, tools, materials etc.
12. Working for the introduction of Indigenous Agricultural Practices as a part of the curriculum to those students studying agriculture at school, college and university levels.
13. Lobbying for the cause of IKs at various levels of policy making and programme implementing agencies related to agriculture and also among the consumers of agricultural commodities.
14. Serving as a nodal agency for teaching, research and extension of Indigenous Agricultural Practices in this agro-climatic zone.
15. Other activities (will be spelt out and included as and when necessary in future).

Organizational Structure of the Centre

Organizational Structure of the Centre is as follows:

1. Advisory Committee
2. Core Staff Committee
3. Panel of Experts and Resource Persons
4. IK Study Forum

I. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Constitution of the Advisory Committee for the centre is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Vice-chancellor, GRU | - Patron and Chairman |
| 2. The Registrar, GRU | - Member |
| 3. Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry | - Member |
| 4. Dr. S.K. Gopal, CTO, K.V.K, GRU | - Member |
| 5. Dr. A.David Ravindran, Professor, Dept. of Biology, GRU | - Member |
| 6. Dr. R. Udhayakumar
Professor in Agricultural Engineering | - Member and
Associate Coordinator |
| 7. Dr. S. Ganesh
Reader in Horticulture | - Member and
Associate Coordinator |
| 8. Dr. G. S. Kannan
Reader in Plant Protection | -Member and
Associate Coordinator |
| 9. Dr. M. Sundaramari
Reader in Agricultural Extension | - Member Secretary,
Convener&Coordinator |

II. CORE STAFF COMMITTEE

Constitution:

The following are the Core Staff of the centre:

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. M. Sundaramari
Reader in Agricultural Extension | - Coordinator and Convener |
| 2. Dr. R. Udhayakumar
Professor in Agricultural Engineering | - Member and Associate Coordinator |
| 3. Dr. S. Ganesh
Reader in Horticulture | - Member and Associate Coordinator |
| 4. Dr. G. S. Kannan
Reader in Plant Protection | - Member and Associate Coordinator |

III. PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND RESOURCE PERSONS

The following constitute the Panel of Technical Experts and Resource Persons:

1. Dr. T.T. Ranganathan, Professor in Agriculture, F.Ag. & A.H., GRU
2. Dr. M. Seethalakshmi, Reader in Dairying, F.Ag. & A.H., GRU
3. Dr. A. Ramanathan, Senior Lecturer in Animal Husbandry, F.Ag. & A.H., GRU
4. Dr. M. William Baskaran, Professor, Dept. of Gandhian Thought, GRU
5. Dr. V. Ragupathy, Reader, Dept. of Political Science, GRU.
6. Dr. P. Anandakumar, Reader, Dept of Tamil, GRU.
7. Dr. N. Punniamurthy, Professor & Head, VUTRC, TANUVAS, Tanjore.
8. Dr. R. Netaji Seetharaman, Professor of Agrl. Extension (Retd.) TNAU, Coimbatore.
9. Dr. V. Sekar, Professor& Head, Dept. of Agrl. Extension, HC& RI, Periyakulam.
10. Dr. J. Vasanthakumar, Professor & Head, Dept. of Agrl. Extension, Annamalai University
11. Dr. Santha Govind, Professor, Dept. of Agrl. Extension, Annamalai University.
12. Dr. A.V. Balasubramanian, Director, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai.
13. Sri. P. Vivekanandan, Executive Secretary, SEVA, Viratipathu, Madurai.
14. Dr. C. Swaminathan, Professor, Dept. of Agronomy, AC&RI, Killikulam, Tirunelveli.
15. Sri. S.R. Sundararaman, Organic Farmer, Sathiamangalam.
16. Sri. P. Gomathi Nayagam, Organic Farmer, Vivasaya Seva Sangam, Puliyangudi.
17. Sri. V. Anthonysamy, Organic Farmer, Vivasaya Seva Sangam, Puliyangudi.

IV. IK STUDY FORUM:

Interested staff, students and researchers of Gandhigram Rural University having flair in the field of Indigenous Knowledge can become the members of IK Study Forum. Along with them, NGOs, farmers and independent researchers engaging themselves in IK field can also enroll as members of this forum.

The experts, researchers and farmers who made innovations and discoveries in the field of IK will be invited to share their findings and experiences. This forum will meet once in a month and Coordinator of the centre will convene such meetings.

Ongoing Activities of the Centre:

1. A research/ resource book entitled **Indigenous Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Farming** has already been published through Agrobios (India) Ltd., Jodhpur and another book entitled **Indigenization of Indian Farming: Problems and Prospects** is about to be published soon.
2. Three scholars are already working for their Ph.D. programme on IK; one on 'Indigenous Practices on Horticultural crops of Kerala', second one on 'Ethno-veterinary practices for Wound Healing in Livestock' and the third one on 'IAPs in Tribal Areas'. Two more scholars are about to start their work on 'Indigenous Dry Land Practices' and 'Indigenous Post Harvest Practices'.
3. Publication of research and popular articles on IAPs in various journals and magazines.
4. Running a Major Research Project entitled **Validation and Standardization of Indigenous Dry Land Practices** funded by UGC, New Delhi with a period of 2007-2009.

Highlights of Achievements of the Centre:

1. Documented about 1200 Indigenous Agricultural Practices on 61 crops in Dindigul District
2. Documented about 1100 Indigenous Horticultural Practices on 40 crops in Kerala state
3. Documented about 600 Indigenous Dryland Practices on 29 crops in Southern Dryzone of Tamil Nadu
4. Six inventories on various dimensions of IK items prepared and documented
5. Documented 95 Photographs and six Drawings on various dimensions of IK items.
6. Preserved 33 Herbarium specimens on various Crop Varieties and Bio-control Inputs and Seed samples of seven crop varieties.
7. Validated Two fresh herbs viz. *Centella asiatica* and *Tridax procumbens* and a Traditional Poly Herbal Formulation (*Aristolochia bracteata* based) on wound healing management in Livestock.
9. About 85% of the Indigenous Dryland Practices documented were found Rational.
10. Thirty eight Indigenous Dryland Practices being subjected to Validation in 10 Field Experimental Trials and Laboratory Studies.

Linkages with Other Organizations:

This Centre is also having Linkages with Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai, SEVA, Viratipathu, Madurai and other leading organizations for undertaking collaborative programmes for the promotion of Indigenous Knowledge.

For further details, please contact:
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