

Community Development Project Cuddalore

The Eco Service Center, Sellancherry (TN)

Final Report

(May, 2010 to April, 2011)

Submitted to

The Gaia-Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action
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by

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The Project at a Glance

1	Name of the project	Community Development Project Cuddalore (Eco Service Center, Sellancherry and Thanikuppam)
2	Operational area	5 Villages in Cuddalore block, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu
3	People at the project	Project leader: Mrs. P. Kalaivani Program Officer: Mr. Ravikumar Program Officer: Mrs. Gejalakshimi
4	Address	No.105, Behind Vinayagar Kovil , Karikalampakkam, Pondicherry
5	Tel. & e-mail	+91-995264 8805 kalaitegdindia@gmail.com
6	The idea of the project and who it reaches	To equip the families in the 5 villages with knowledge and technology that will make it possible for them to decide on steps to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make the families and the village self sustaining in regards to production of food, fertilizer, pesticides and energy. - Improve income by upgrading the traditional farming methods and by identifying and starting new farming and non-farming activities. - Make the households and the village a clean and healthy place to live. - Improve the environment by planting trees and protective fences and by limiting CO2 emission. - Introduce ‘payment for services’ in order to change a situation of demands for hand-outs to a situation of informed investment, and to make the project self sustainable over a period of 3 years.
7	Partners in Development	The Gaia-Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action

The Project in Numbers - May, 10 to April,11

S. No.	Activities in the villages	Plan	Result	Diff.
1	People reached	2,400	5,951	3551
2	Formation of Farmers Clubs	5	5	0
3	Meeting with Farmers Club	55	52	-3
4	Cooperation with women's Self Help Groups	5	5	0
5	Meeting with SHG	55	57	2
6	Formation of Youth Clubs	5	5	0
7	Meeting with Youth Clubs	55	43	-12
8	Formation of Children Clubs	5	6	1
9	Meeting with Children Clubs	55	56	1
10	Formation of Village Development Committee	5	5	0
11	Meeting with Village Development Committee	55	43	-12
12	Open Sundays	12	12	0
13	Number of people trained (workshops, seminars, and exposure visits)	180	667	487
14	Demonstration units for System of Rice Intensification	8	8	0
15	Vermicompost units established	24	24	0
16	Effective Micro-organism units established	24	28	4
17	Vegetable & Kitchen Gardens established	120	160	40
18	Trees Planted	1200	1200	0
19	Solid Waste Management demonstration units	24	27	3
Activity in Eco-Service center				
20	Model of Rope pump	1	1	0
21	Model of Drip Irrigation	1	1	0
22	Model of Low cost water tank	1	1	0
23	Model of Vermicompost unit	1	2	1
24	Model of Nursery - trees/flowers	1	1	0
25	Model of Mushroom production	1	8	7
26	Moringa for cattle feed	1	1	0
27	Model of Solid waste management	1	1	0
28	Rabbit farm demonstration	1	3	2

29	Model of Medicine Plants	1	1	0
30	Model of Bio gas Plant	1	1	0
31	Demonstration of Effective Micro-organism	1	5	4
32	Movie Production	1	1	0
33	Model of Vegetable Garden	1	2	1
34	Model of Conoweeder & Marker	2	4	2
35	Demonstration of Herbal Pesticide	1	5	4
36	Visitors at the Eco Service Centre	500	1556	1056
Activities added under program with NABARD				
37	Formation of Project Management Unit	1	1	0
38	Awareness of Water			
	(i) School Children	5	0	-5
	(ii) Farmers	5	5	0
	(iii) Households	5	5	0
39	Beneficiaries selected for Rope pump	15	15	0
40	Installation of Rope Pump	15	16	1
41	Training about Rope Pump to beneficiary	5	5	0
42	Training about Drip Irrigation	1	1	0
43	Installation of Drip Irrigation	5	5	0
44	Maintenance of Rope pumps	15	15	0
45	Production of Rope pump and guide box	15	15	0
46	Awareness about Water & Sanitation			
	(i) School Children	5	0	-5
	(ii) Farmers	5	5	0
	(iii) Household	5	5	0
ECO-SAN TOILET				
48	Awareness of Sanitation in villages	5	6	1
49	Select Toilet Beneficiary	50	50	0
50	Train Local Mason	3	15	12
51	Exposure Visit	1	2	1
52	Construction of Eco San Toilet	50	50	0
53	Select Household for Kitchen Garden	50	50	0
54	No. of Kitchen Gardens established	50	50	0

Presentation of idea and content of the project

The idea of the Eco Service Center is to:

- provide agricultural services to the community in order for the local farmers to get assistance in establishing new ways of producing, and to use new water saving, energy saving and environmental friendly technologies.

-investigate, test and demonstrate new low cost technologies.

This will enable community based groups and individual farmers to learn environmental friendly farming technologies, methods for conservation of water, water saving irrigation techniques and methods. In this way income can be generated from increased production and improved quality. Garden farming will be introduced to secure healthy food for own consumption and a healthy environment will be build up for the families and the villages.

The examples of all the models / products promoted by the project will be displayed at the center.

The Eco Service Center which was initially started at Parangepettai was moved to Sellancherry village in Cuddalore Block which is the center for the 5 project villages. The center is established on a piece of land of app. 3,200 m² belonging to a Farmer's Club.

The project is working with Farmers Clubs, Women's Self Help Groups, Youth Clubs, Children's Clubs and Village Development Committees to take charge of developing their village in accordance with nature and become independent of world market turbulence by using locally available products.

The project achievements – May, 10 to April, 11

1. The Farmer's Club

The project formed 5 farmers club and 52 meeting were organised with the club members where they were informed about project activity, Eco-Service Centre program, training on seed treatment, different government schemes, system of rice intensification (SRI), crop insurance, bio gas, vegetable cultivation, herbal pesticide, drip irrigation, system of effective micro-organism and vermicompost. The meetings mobilized farmers to adopt the modern methods for an enhanced production and sustainable cultivation.

Inspired from the Farmers club's meetings eight farmers came forward to adopt SRI in 32 acres of land in Karnapattu, Vinayapuram, Thanikuppam, Embalam and Managalam villages. Eight demonstration units of EM (Efficient Micro-Organism) were established for the farmer's for SRI and 5 farmers got good results. Normally a farmer produces 12 to 13 quintals of rice from one acre land however using SRI they produced 2.5 quintals extra by giving lesser inputs. Now government has provided machines for planting SRI in the field and farmers have learned the importance of SRI.

The project established eight demonstration units of EM (Efficient Micro-Organism) for vegetable cultivation, paddy nursery bed and seed treatment. Eight farmers have used EM in paddy nursery beds in Thanikuppam, Embalam, Managalam, Karnapattu and Vinayapuram.

The project has established 12 vermicompost units including 3 each in Karnapattu and Sellencherry, 2 each in Vinayapuram and Thanikuppam and one in Karikalampakkam. Farmers are using the compost for agriculture and vegetable production.

Eight systems of drip irrigations were installed in Pudukuppam, Vinayapuram, Embalam, Sellancherry, Nallathur, Melakuppam and in N. Manavelli.

A training program was organised for farmers club in Karanapattu where the Agriculture Department participated to train 25 farmers on Farmer Field School on SRI. The Agriculture Department provided training to 75 farmers on seed treatment of black gram at Nallathur village. In an another training 75 farmers in

Thanikuppam village with the help of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Agriculture Science Centre), learned about herbal pesticide for paddy cultivation.

2. The Self Help Groups

The project has linked up with 70 members of 5 existing women's Self Help Groups and it meets with them every month. In 57 meetings organized during the year, the members of SHG's learned about System of Rice intensifications, Effective Micro-Organism, Vermicompost and received trainings on setting small shops, making kitchen garden, building and using eco-san toilet, rope pump, solid waste management, eco-service activity, income generation activities, checking monthly accounts, arrange loan from banks and mushroom production. Project organized 10 awareness meetings with SHG'S on use of toilets and 75 women participated all together, the women were informed about Eco-San and other options of low cost toilets.

SHG members got information by theoretical and practical means as follows:

- 5 trainings were organized for the members of SHGs on SRI and EM where more than 60 women participated
- 2 trainings on Eco-San Toilets were participated by 42 women
- 2 trainings were organized on maintenance of Rope Pump where 28 participants were trained
- 5 trainings on Solid Waste Management were participated by 73 members
- 6 trainings on Vermicomposting were attended by 66 participants
- 10 trainings on kitchen garden were participated by 167 members and other women from the villages
- 2 eco-san toilet exposure visits were organized for 33 group members
- In 2 trainings of two days on income generation activities 75 group members were trained on candle, incense sticks, soap and detergent making.

All the trainings with SHGs resulted in following achievements:

- 160 members are using Vermicompost in Kitchen gardens.
- 12 SHG members started rabbit rearing in their homes and generating extra income from their sale.

- 2 SHGs started making home care products including phenol, soap oil, washing powder and selling in their own group and to other SHG members.
- 27 solid waste management systems are established besides 50 demonstration units where organic and inorganic waste is segregated in separate bins provided by the project. The organic waste is decomposed by EM and used as fertilizer in the kitchen garden and the inorganic waste is collected and sent for recycling.
- 1200 plants of fruits including Banana, Mango, Theku, Sappota, and timber varieties TDEF are planted. Timber is mostly planted in school and public places with support from Self Help Group members and children who have been invited for a tree plantation event and awareness meetings.
- Banana trees have started bearing fruits.

Feedback from SHG members of different activity

SHG members are happy to know the technical aspect of EM and used it for kitchen garden, cow shelter, drainage, disinfectant in household and solid waste management. They got good results from EM when used in drainage as there was no bad smell and its use in flower and vegetable garden made the plants healthy and bright in colour. 15 households are regularly using EM for solid waste management. Women SHG's like the idea of Vermicompost and established 10 units and using the compost for agriculture activities and kitchen garden.

3. The Youth Clubs

The project formed 5 youth clubs with 82 members and organized 43 meetings with them. In the meetings they were made aware on issues related to HIV/AIDS, village development, sanitation, Eco-service centre activities, sports activities, mushroom cultivation, eco-san toilet, and system of rice intensification. Inspired from meeting one youth club has started mushroom production while another started rabbit rearing.

Open Sunday's were organised with the youth club members in Karnapattu, Sellancherry and Thanikuppam villages where the youth club members organised tournament of valley ball and cricket for youth, athletics for children and skits on HIV/AIDS and sanitation were performed. The participants were imparted with

knowledge on sanitation health and hygiene in entertaining cultural programs participated by the whole village.

In the occasion of World Water Day, the Project organized a rally with 150 students from Achariya College and Kasthuba Collage for women in Villianur. The rally went around the village and main road and students shouted slogan on water and posters were displayed.

The youth clubs organized 4 sports tournaments for volley ball, cricket and badminton in the villages participated by 189 youth members. The winners were distributed prizes and were motivated to participate in district level tournaments.

A street theater on Eco-san toilet was organized in Managalam village where Yatra Multimedia, a professional agency performed to inspire 120 people of the village to construct eco-san toilet.

4. The Children's Club

The project formed six Children's Clubs with 87 members. The project organised 56 meetings with clubs members and conducted quiz on safe drinking water and sanitation, environment, education and importance of tree besides 6 lessons on computer education and spoken English. The other activities during the children club meetings include quiz, singing, dancing and storytelling to develop inclination of children in the clubs.

The club members have understood the importance of sanitation and started washing their hands before meals and after defecation with soap. They planted trees in their school and houses and are looking after them.

In Sellancherry 20 children of 10 to 12 years age participated in a cleaning action to clean two streets including one street near the temple.

The project trained 15 children from each village to perform a skit on sanitation and they were given dance classes. The children participate in 'Open Sunday' by performing skit, dances and other cultural programs.

The project organized 16 game events and 12 drawing competitions for children in their clubs where 155 children participated. 375 children participated in a sports program which included running, jute bag race, water filling the bottle, music chair, frog race etc.

The Clubs are helping children to take responsibilities and participate actively in drama, dance, speech, singing song, sports, and general knowledge competitions.

School Program – Under School Program in Kooravallimedu, Sellancherry, Nallathur, Mellakuppam, and N.Manavelli primary schools, the project conducted 10 drawing competition on environment with 40 students in each.

5. The Village Development Committees

The project has formed Five Village Development committees. The VDCs consist of 7 members including one each from Farmers club and Youth Club and 2 members from the SHG besides one representative from Panchayati Raj.

The project organized 43 meetings with the VDCs of Selacharry, Karnapattu, N.Manavelli, Nallathur, Mellakuppam, Perungalur and Thirukanchipet on issues like village sanitation, solid waste management, village cleaning action, education and facilities for preschool children, Eco-san toilets, rope pump and safe drinking water.

The VDC members of Thirukanchipet village, which was having acute drinking water problem learned about the rope pump and installed one. They were trained and have started taking the responsibility of its operation and maintenance to ensure a smooth supply of drinking water and other domestic purposes for the community.

Inspired from the meetings and trainings, the VDC members are playing an active role to maintain drinking water source in Sellancherry, 10 SHG members started solid waste management in their households, preschool building is cleaned by VDC members and application for its repair is given to the panchayats leader.

Activities at the Eco Service Centre

Rope Pump - The project has installed A – model rope pump on a 65 feet bore well, which is properly working and the water is used for drip irrigation in banana plantation. Fifty households are collecting drinking water from the Rope pump. The project has trained a technician from the village for repair and maintenance.

Drip Irrigation - The project has installed a drip irrigation system on a 25 x 30 sq meters plot irrigating 25 banana plants. The water from rope pump is collected in a low cost tank eventually running to the plantation. The ESC has a demonstration plot where 25 banana plants are irrigated by drip irrigation with water supplied from a rope pump. The banana plants were planted in February, 2010 and have started giving fruits, the whole process was monitored by farmers from the project villages. 5 farmers inspired by the drip irrigation method came forward to ask technical details to establish drip irrigation in their land. One farmer has started cultivating sugar cane in 7 acres of land and has got a drip irrigation system with 50% subsidy from the government. Four other farmers are growing vegetables with drip irrigation.

Low Cost Water Tank - The project has constructed a low cost water tank with red bricks and cement for demonstration and has stored water in it.

Vermicompost Unit - The project has established a vermicompost unit for demonstration which is supplying organic manure to the Banana plants. The farmers visiting the centre can easily visualize the difference in the plants and 6 farmers got motivated to opt vermicompost units in their own fields.

Rabbit farm - The three rabbit rearing units established by the project observed birth of 19 bunnies. It was unfortunate that after 3 days of birth 8 bunnies died due to rain, however it was a good learning experience and mobilized SHG's to adopt it as an income generating activity.

Medicine Plants - The project has planted 22 medicine plants of 10 different varieties including Thiruvelli, Thipili, Karsalakani, Valarai, Insulin, Lemon grass, Thannir Vetta Keezhangu, Aloe vera, and Tulsi. The surrounding families are using the plants especially Insulin plant and Basil to control blood sugar and cold fever among the children.

Bio Gas Plant - Project has established bio gas in the ESC which is working well and the gas produced is being used by the farmer who owns the land of ESC for cooking purpose. Three farmer's clubs and 2 SHGs apart from other villagers have seen the production of energy from bio gas and are interested to install one. The biogas plant costs Rs.11, 000 and the one promoted by government costs Rs.35, 000 but they are giving subsidy only in the models promoted by them. Since Rs. 11,000 is a big amount for the poor community, the project is trying to convince the government department to consider a subsidy for the same.

Effective Microorganism (EM) - The ESC has demonstration of system of Effective Microorganism as fertiliser for banana and medicine plants and as a sanitizer in the rabbit farm. It has been visited by farmers and as a result 20 litres of activated EM has been sold and 35 litres has been distributed free for promotion. Farmers are getting activated EM and Herbal Pesticide from Eco-Service centre.

Conoweeder & Marker - The model and use of Conoweeder and markers at ESC has attracted farmers, as a result the ESC is selling and renting them to farmers to prepare land and weeding the grass for System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in 4 villages. The government has introduced a new technology to plant single seedling and tray nursery, which is being promoted by project for SRI.

Trees/flowers Nursery - The project has established a nursery of vegetables at ESC, irrigated by drip irrigation and the seedlings are given to farmers for plantation.

Mushroom production - The project after receiving training from Agriculture Science Centre in Thantachavadi has established 10 units of mushroom cultivation in ESC. The yield is being sold to the neighboring farmers.

Solid Waste Management - A model of solid waste management unit at ESC is demonstrating segregation of bio degradable and non degradable solid waste, where degradable waste is treated with EM to produce compost.

Visits to the Eco-Service centre - The activities from the Eco Service Center are becoming popular in the area and attracting many farmers, SHG members and other village people from the operation area and from neighboring districts. They are getting knowledge and education material in the form of pamphlets and live demos at the centre. Farmers are spreading the information to other farmers to visit the centre and showing their willingness to start the new farming techniques they learn from ESC.

In this year 1,556 visitors including farmers, SHG members and Youth visited the ESC, on an average 3 to 5 visitors come to ESC every day.

Visitors to the project

During the year many visitors from government and other institutions visited the project. The prominent visitors came from National Bank for Agriculture and

Rural Development, State Co-operative Bank, Pondicherry Co-operative Land Development Office, Block Development Office from Villanur and Karikalampakkam, Pudukkottai Barathiyar Bank and M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Nagapattinam.

The visitors from NABARD was very impressed with the project activities and have offered to support Eco-San Toilets, Rope pumps and Drip Irrigation in other areas of Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Kanchipuram, Karikal, Villupuram.

Activities supported by NABARD

The project was supported by NABARD to construct 50 Eco-San toilets and installing 15 rope pumps in Karikalampakkam, Embalam, Perungalur, Thirukanchipet and Embalam villages.

In order to secure community participation and quality implementation a Project Management Committee (PMC) consisting of 7 members from NABARD, DRDA, Indian Bank, Beneficiaries and HPPI was formed.

The Project did a random survey in 7 schools, Anganwadi centers, individual farmers and public places to identify the need for toilet construction and installation of rope pumps.

Awareness was created in the community on water and sanitation through rallies, meetings, movie shows, distribution of pamphlets on Eco-san toilet and presentation given through model of Eco-san toilet and chart presentations. The beneficiaries were taken for exposure visit to model eco-san toilets and to get a chance to interact with the families who are using the toilets to understand the concept of Eco-san and adopt.

The project has built 50 Eco-San Toilet in 4 villages and handed over to the families who are satisfied with its use. The village wise details of Eco-san toilet construction is as follows:

Thirukanchipet	14
Karikalampakkam	23
Perungalur	3
Embalam	10

The project has installed 15 rope pumps including 7 rope pumps in farm lands for irrigation purpose and eight rope pump were installed in the public places for drinking purpose. 276 families are getting benefit through 15 rope pumps in the operational areas. The projects has also installed 5 drip irrigation systems running on rope pumps. A farmer, Mr. Saravanan in Thanikuppam who had sown lady finger seeds, is now harvesting 7-8 kg of lady fingers every day. He is making a profit of Rs. 50 per day by selling after his family consumption. He realized the benefit of drip irrigation in term of less consumption of water and less labor in term weeding and less use of fertilizer and the income he is getting is higher than the investment. The farmer's field is situated at the road side so many other farmers and NGO's are getting the opportunity to see and interact with the farmer to gain experience. The project has trained 3 to 5 people to maintain the rope pumps in each village and handed over them a tool box for repair and maintenance.

Effect of the Project Activities

- SHG members have learned the accounting procedures and are maintaining group's account.
- SHG members have started small income generating activities like rabbit rearing, vermicompost and making home care products.
- SRI technology is spread through the project interventions and farmers are adopting it.
- Children are interested in the program and they are following what they had learned from the project.
- Many farmers visited eco-service center and learned the technique and are replicating in their fields.
- Project has established linkage with government departments, who will support the beneficiaries after the project finishes.
- The project has spread the new concept of Eco-Sanitation in the rural area of Pondicherry.
- Rope pump has become a popular low cost technology to get water for drinking as well as for irrigation purpose.
- Community members are appreciating and accepting the concept of Eco-san toilets and rope pumps.
- Community participated actively in tree plantation action after knowing the importance of trees.