

## Participation on Chemical free farming training for ADP Beneficiaries

**Visit Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2016

**Venue:** Killinochchi, Jaffna, Mullaitivu

**Mission Members:** Saumya Vilashini Muthulingam

**Purpose/Objectives of the field visit:**

- Awareness Raising and Intervention to Minimize Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- To make aware the Sri Lankan farms on organic farming and natural fertilizers, with the focus on Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka.
- This training aims to educate the local farmers on organic farming methods which can lead to a sustainable agriculture in the region.

**Observations:**

**29<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – Killinochchi / Vaddakachchi Agri. Training center**

- Participants:
  - DD Development Killinochchi Agriculture Department of Killinochchi
  - 30 Agriculture Extension officers participated
- The session started with the introduction of the participants and Mr. Subbarow explained about their organization work in organic farm and why they promote chemical free farming
- Ms. Saraswathi explained about the chemical free Agriculture farming, then asked the participants to express what they expect of the programme. According to the expectation sessions planned
- Composing session was dropped as every officer was aware of the process but they want to know what are the elements or methods which can speed up the process, and the pest controlling session was conducted by Mr. Theeban and Ms. Suseela practically. The participants made the pest controlling solutions along with the resource persons
  - Fish Amino Acid
  - Egg Lime Solution
  - Farmers EM
  - Pancakavya
  - Amirtha Karaisal
  - 5 leaves Solution
  - Ginger garlic solution
  - Fruit fly trap

- After all the sessions, informal discussion was conducted with all the officers about the problems they will be facing in implementing the methods and technics
- The most common following question were asked by the officers:
  - Farmers are always concern about more yield and more profit, how to convince farmers? How to change their attitudes?
  - How to increase the demand for the organic products in local market?
- The answer given by the resource persons are following:
  - The farmers are having the same attitude all around the world, but we can convince them by showing how much they pay for a chemical fertilizer and how much less they are paying for the organic fertilizer. Most of the solutions are zero cost. As they are going to use their farm and kitchen waste.
  - When you show they farmers how much they will be saving the by adapting organic farming, but ask them to try in a small space so they can see the difference. This will convince them to adopt
  - As a department you can organize a trade fare for organic vegetables which will be a publicity for the farmers and public will have more aware of the product. We do this in Malaysia this was very effective. As you have a diaspora market you can even target them as they are buying from Malaysian farmers.



### **30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 – Jaffna/ Thirunevely Agricultural Training Center**

- 34 extension officers, 4 NGO members and DD development from Jaffna Agriculture Department presented along with UNDP Jaffna staff and Green Veswa PO members. 31<sup>st</sup> participants were less due to Nallur Temple Festival
- The session started with the introduction of the participants and Mr. Subbarow explained about their organization work in organic farm and why they promote chemical free farming
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### **1<sup>st</sup> of September 2016 – Mullaitivu- Oddusudan Agricultural Training Center**

- DD Director Provincial Agriculture Department, 14 Extension officers, 8 Farmers and 8 Students presented along with UNDP Kilinochchi staff. The session started with the introduction of the participants and Mr. Subbarow explained about their organization work in organic farm and why they promote chemical free farming.
- Ms. Saraswathi explained about the chemical free Agriculture farming, then asked the participants to express what they expectation of the programme. According to the expectation sessions planned.
- Composing session was done first with help of Farmer Mr. Maheshvaran. The farmer said he was doing the compost but he was not aware of how to speed-up the process from 3 months to 21 days. The whole process was recorded by the extension officers, the composing process was demonstrated very detail and showed how to make space for air circulation.
- The following solution were demonstrated in details

- Fish Amino Acid
  - Egg Lime Solution
  - Farmers EM
  - Pancakavya
  - Amirtha Karaisal
  - 5 leaves Solution
  - Ginger garlic solution
  - Fruit fly trap
- Farmers and extension officers mention that this is the first time they have been really demonstrated and now they feel it very easy to make the solution.



2<sup>nd</sup> of September – Kandy- Gannoruwa Agriculture department/ organic fertilizer center

- Informal visit to Gannoruwa Agriculture center and visited the cultivation lands.
- Took some sample of organic fertilizers and informal discussion with the officers

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Follow Up:

- The Extension officers of Kilinochchi should be monitor in the process of how they are training the farmers and document case stories
- The CAP's resources are willing to have an exposure visit and an advance training in Malaysia for the officers and farmers who apply the organic farming practices

Prepared by :

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