



**Sustainable Livelihood Institute, Auroville**

# **Programme Report**

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## ***Introduction***

The Tamilnadu Sustainable Livelihoods Institute - an institute delivering livelihood programmes while being dedicated to and rooted in the values of sustainability. The Institute has conceptualized, designed, organized and delivered programmes for skill, knowledge and perspective building on sustainable livelihoods. It develops and delivers successful, equitable and environment friendly livelihood solutions for the state of Tamilnadu.

The institute has been developed jointly by TNSRLM and the IRD Unit of Auroville as an autonomous entity governed jointly, however, responding to the needs of sustainable livelihoods based on a consistent response to existing and emerging livelihood challenges. Other agencies with similar interest such as TNSULM will also be invited to be part of the Institute.

## ***Goal***

To establish an international quality sustainable livelihood institute in Tamilnadu that will work on cutting edge sustainable livelihood solutions in terms of capacity building programmes, research and outreach solutions especially for the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, utilizing the competencies built by Auroville based institutions.

## ***Programmes***

The Sustainable Livelihood Institution is providing regular courses on Sustainable Livelihood subjects including in the areas of skill building, knowledge, perspective building, continuous knowledge building & learning programmes, skills for livelihood and creation & management of sustainable initiatives, enterprises and other programmes in line with the government livelihood programmes. The primary candidates for SLI, initially is seen as the project functionaries of the different rural livelihood programmes of the State Government and the beneficiaries of TNSRLM, Mahalir Thittam and Pudhu Vazhvu Project of the Department of Rural Development.

The SLI provides regular courses on SL subjects including in the areas of...

- Skill building,
- Knowledge,
- Perspective building,
- Continuous knowledge building & learning programmes,

- Skills for livelihood,
- Creation & management of sustainable initiatives, enterprises & other programmes in line with the govt livelihood programmes.

### ***Methodology of Training***

SLI is trying to ensure that each livelihood programme is unique because of the nature, content and the resource persons involved. Course content, duration and any external faculty need have been decided on the basis of the individual programme. Priority has been given to areas which are high on sustainability scale and where there are no other courses available in the state, priority also be provided for the kind of courses that are required for fulfilling any eco-venture initiative by the state and central government schemes.

Learning methods have been fully dictated by models that have proved to be successful in communicating the sustainable values by Auroville units through their several programmes. Each programme has hands-on working and training along with theory programmes, programmes have been organized around the naturally enriching units within Auroville and during the period of the capacity building programme, the participants are encouraged to participate in any of the various community based programmes for a limited no. of hours, participants also evaluated their motivation, orientation and learning needs at the beginning against their motivation, change in orientation and learning at the end of each programme.

### ***Training Programs between Apr'15 to Mar'16***

During the period between Apr'15 to Mar'16, we have organized various training on Sustainable Livelihood which mainly focused on three aspects viz., Perspective Building, Skill training and Trouble shooting. Further we have organized orientation programs to the district level officers and officials of HO, TNSRLM and Pudhu Vazhvu Project to provide an exposure on Auroville and SLI. Since the SLI was involved in the process of developing courses and its schedules, no training program was organized in the month of Apr'15. May 2015 onwards, the trainings were started and the respective project officials from all districts deputed participants from their respective project areas. Till Mar'16, SLI has organized 61 training programs and trained 978 participants in which 777 beneficiaries of Mahalir Thittam and Pudhu Vazhvu Project across Tamil Nadu and 201 district level officers which includes Orientation to SLI to Project Officers of Mahalir Thittam and Project Directors of Pudhu Vazhvu Project, Stewardship for Sustainable Livelihoods to APMs and APOs from respective districts and Marketing & Branding to DSMS of different districts. Apart from that based on the special request from Thiruvannamalai district, we have organized a 2 days works on Sustainable Agriculture to the 24 members of Thiruvannamalai CHGs.

## **Overview of Training Programme**

### **(i) STEWARDSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

*Uniqueness:* This programme was designed to provide the opportunities in working from within the Sustainable paradigm (Alternatives/Opportunities) and evolving an understanding of the fundamental Sustainable activities from Auroville.

### **(ii) SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES**

*Uniqueness:* Auroville has some of the most diverse forms of practitioners of Organic Farming and the practice of the Auroville farmers has influenced and re-introduced sustainable agriculture in the region around Auroville as well. This programme provided the participants with an overview of the Sustainable Agriculture principles and provided them with practical skills in preparing and utilizing some of the products and practices in adopting sustainable agriculture in their own farms.

### **(iii) SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE – Biodynamic**

*Uniqueness:* The programme was designed to provide an introduction to various methods and techniques of formulating micro organisms in the soil which would help the farmers avoiding chemical fertilizers and promoting organic farming. In this programme, we have focused on Biodynamic agricultural system

### **(iv) CLINIC FOR COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES**

*Uniqueness:* This programme is designed to be a ‘clinic’ in which the various rural enterprises launched through the bulk-loan credit from the SRLM are diagnosed for their problems and remedies including radical re-thinking of their business challenges are provided as solutions. This programme is also designed to provide active follow-up after the programme is completed.

### **(v) COMMUNITY BASED SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD BASED LIVELIHOOD INTRODUCTION (CSA)**

*Uniqueness:* This programme provided the participants with an overview of the Community based Sustainable Agriculture principles and provided them with practical skills in preparing and utilizing some of the products and practices in adopting

Permaculture in their own farms. This program primarily aims to motivate community members to do their farming practices based on the principles of permaculture techniques and run their own business on vegetable selling and running a restaurant for community

(vi) **DAIRY VALUED ADDED AND ETHNO – VETERINARY PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES**

*Uniqueness:* Utilizing the local herbal remedies to quickly address the most prevalent and recurring livestock diseases, this programme equips women CLG members involved in dairy and livestock rearing with capacity to enhance their livelihood and save significantly from the expenditure incurred through costly medicine and unknown medical consequences. Further preparing value added products from milk is an additional source of income. This program focused on Dairy Value addition along with ethno veterinary practices.

(vii) **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE - Advanced (Millet based farming and products)**

*Uniqueness:* This programme provided the participants with an overview of the Millets based Sustainable Agriculture principles and provided them with practical skills in preparing and utilizing some of the products and practices in adopting sustainable agriculture in their own farms. In this 5 days session, the subject covers from millet farming to value addition.

(viii) **MARKETING, BRANDING AND PACKAGING**

*Uniqueness:* This programme is designed to give them an understanding diagnosed for their problems and remedies including radical re-thinking of their business challenges are provided as solutions. This programme is also designed to provide active follow-up after the programme is completed..

(ix) **HERBS FOR HEALTH**

*Uniqueness:* the programme was designed to provide women with an overview and understanding of the hidden wealth in their village in the form of herbs that are commonly available in most places. They were provided with several recipes of medicines, cosmetics and herbal food and the ways in which these could be converted into enterprises for enhancing rural livelihood.

(x) **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

*Uniqueness:* Sustainable livelihoods Institute (SLI) undertook a 2 day training programme for 25 village panchayat based solid waste collectors who were called as Thoymai Kavalargal in Tamil which translates to protectors of cleanliness. The programme was aimed to motivate and train the participants on effective solid waste management techniques or methodologies.

(xi) **ORIENTATION TO AUROVILLE & SUSTAINABLE LIVLIHOOD ISNSTITUTE**

*Uniqueness:* This programme is designed to give an overview and a first-hand experience of the reality and the ideals of Auroville. This course introduced the participants what are the possibilities and the scope of Sustainable Livelihood activities.

(xii) **SPIRULINA**

*Uniqueness:* The programme was designed to provide participants with an overview and understanding the high nutritional value of Spirulina. This programme provided the participants to realize the challenges of malnutrition and the deficiency of protein and train them on Spirulina production along with it have a session on value addition in preparation of chocolates and cookies using spirulina.

All these programs are designed to give more practical exposure at field to the target community other than class room presentation to understand the importance and relevance of particular subject matter. Almost all the participants rated the programme to be adequate and beneficial to them.

***SLI Faculties (in alphabetic order)***

**Anandi Vaithialingam:** Anandi started KOFPU (Kottakarai Organic Food Processing Unit) over two decades ago, with the aim of promoting organic farming and healthy eating habits. Her approach, carried by enthusiasm, conviction and research, embraces both traditional and innovative, Eastern and Western methods of preserving food in healthy and eco-friendly ways.

**Aravinda Maheswari:** Active resident faculty at SLI, Aravinda has been associated with Auroville from the beginning. An artist, educator, and cross-cultural facilitator, he keenly supports all efforts towards a healthy, fair, and sustainable world.

**Baburam Mohapatra:** Steward of the Matrikunj organic farm. Rooted in farming tradition, Baburam has known the intact system of a largely self-sufficient farming village. A tireless researcher, he has experience in a wide spectrum of organic farming approaches, and finds that science supports the intuition that ‘if we listen, the plants tell us perfectly what they need’.

**Bernard & Deepika:** Auroville’s foremost stalwart of sustainable agriculture, Bernard has pioneered natural farming in South India since over four decades. Tamilnadu’s revered organic farming guru, Dr.Nammalvar, got his initial introduction to organic farming from Bernard and often acknowledged him as a guru. Deepika and Bernard are active throughout India teaching traditional seed conservation and promoting exchange of traditional seeds among farmers and establishing seed banks among farmers. Their farm, the ‘Pebble Garden’ is seen as one of the best examples of soil reclamation utilizing organic farming techniques in the country.

**Bubesh Gupta Dr.:** Senior zoologist researching and working from PitchandikulamBioresource Centre, Bubesh Guptha has undertaken surveys and studies of the nearby Kaluveli tank, a significant sanctuary for migrant birds and biodiversity. He has been credited with discovering a new form of snake in the Seshachalam forest range and has several peer-reviewed journal publications to his credit.



**Deepti Tiwari:** Living in Auroville since four decades, Deepti works extensively in integral education. She is the Principal of Last School, a senior level school based on the unique 'Free Progress' approach. Her students today are leading professionals in several parts of the world. Apart from teaching in the school, Deepti is also a visiting faculty in several universities.

**Dhandapani:** An engaged organic farmer and farming-teacher with more than 15 years of experience both in teaching and networking, Mr.Dhandapani has in-depth knowledge of the status of farming regionally. He has created extensive organic farming based intervention in the bio-region of Auroville and implemented the same. He has created and facilitated several farmer groups in the region and developed many organic model plots and farms.

**Jasmin Maheswari:** A team member of SLI, with a background in education, healthcare and arts, Jasmin as a resident faculty plays the role of introducing the Auroville culture and institution the participants.

**Jeff Goodchild:** Trained as a teacher, Jeff is long-standing steward of Discipline farm, practicing permaculture and researching the viability of a range of lesser-known crops. He also convenes the Auroville Farm group.

**Joss Brooks:** Originally hailing from Tasmania in Australia, Joss is the founder steward of the Pitchandikulam Forest in Auroville and a long standing Aurovillian. Joss has promoted and dedicated his life for the regeneration of the indigenous plants and their revival in the bio-region around Auroville as well as other parts of the state and country. With 4 decades of experience in foresting and planting he is considered a leading practitioner of this sector. The Pitchandikulam forest is a living proof of his dedicated and careful stewarding. His other accomplishments include establishing Adayar Poonga, a large re-forestation park in Chennai city and in creating several bio-diversity interpretation centres in many parts of India.

**Krishna McKenzie:** Long-time Aurovilian, steward and co-founder of Solitude organic farm and restaurant, permaculture teacher & promoter of 'a food garden for every home and school', Krishna believes that local, organic food growing is essential for a healthy world and society. He has been providing the Community based Sustainable Agriculture as a course under SLI. Krishna is also a much sought after musician and part of the band 'Emergence' which performs music promoting eco-conscious issues.

**Lourdes Nadin Epinal:** Environmental education teacher at Pitchandikulam, Lourdes blends local knowledge, environmental priorities and 4H education (head, heart, hand, health) to reach the message to the community. He is an accomplished educator in mindfulness

techniques and laughter therapy. Lourdes conducts stress reduction, laughter yoga and mindfulness exercises programmes for SLI which blend with the themes of the various programmes.

**Lucal Dengal Dr.:** While serving as a medical doctor at the Auroville Health Centre in 1980s, Lucas took up environmental issues of public health concern. He started an organic farm and later two enterprises for promoting organic farming and of EM(Effective Microorganisms)technology, for trading of organic foods and EM, and for the ecological management of liquid and solid waste (EcoPro). A teacher and trainer in organic and biodynamic farming, Lucas is secretary of the Biodynamic Association of India (BDAI).

**Manu Gopal:** An architect in Auroville who specialises in building utilising locally available materials, apart from adopting waste materials as part of his designs. He is currently stewarding the Sacred Groves, a low-cost, energy-positive, zero-waste, socially enhancing housing project in Auroville.

**Martina:** Martina has built up the food processing unit 'Naturellement' since the early years of Auroville with the aim of making use of its farms' excess fruit crops. Over the years, her unit has established highest quality standards, a stable market, and an exemplary care (in health, nutrition, education etc) for Naturellement's staff which she considers as family. Today the brand is one of the leading brands in healthy jams, squashes, cookies and other health foods. Martina and Naturellement serves as one of the several units that provides exposure and insights into the quality management aspect of food processing for SLI programmes.

**Nick Klotz:** A skilled and passionate entrepreneur, Nick has more than 3 decades of experience in working with the corporate sector across several continents on marketing and sales strategies. At SLI, Nick addresses the question of how to be economically viable while working for social and environmental sustainability, sharing insights and experience in successful marketing and branding.

**Olaganathan Sundamurthy:** Annachi as he is fondly called by all, Olaganathan is one of the most experienced and sought after trainers for the community based institutions in the state. He has been providing training and mentoring services through the several institutions that he is associated with, he sits in the Board of many Non-Government Organizations and shapes their thought and action. At SLI, Olaganathan Annachi provides a framework and approach for the community enterprises programme and acts as the main faculty for the same.

**Parthasharathy:** A MBA graduate from Gandhigram Rural University, Partha has more than a decade of experience in rural livelihood programmes and particularly community based institutions and organizations. He has brought his experience in rural empowerment, natural resource management, and project manager of SEDAB (Sustainable Enterprise Development for the AV Bioregion) in designing and developing community based enterprises based programmes at SLI. Partha facilitates the trouble shooting programme on community enterprises that happens each month.

**Parvathy Nagaraj:** A Human Rights & Sociology graduate, Parvathy is a social entrepreneur. She is dedicated to women's causes, economic empowerment and enhancing daily life, e.g. through growing their own food and healing with herbs. Her first teachers in the knowledge of medicinal herbs were her parents, both traditional vaidyas. Today, she successfully incubates several rural managed enterprises that are based on herbs and herbal products.

**Ramasubramanian:** Acting Director and co-founder of SLI, Ram is an active advocate for safe food and a sustainable society and world. He has extensively worked with academic institutions, civil society organizations and state & national government for over 17 years as a process management and conceptualizing expert in social initiatives. He has been inspiring, shaping & supporting grassroots organisations and institutions, especially with a view towards building strong rural economies utilizing the concept of self-reliance.

**Satprem Maini:** Founder of Auroville Earth Institute, the Asian chair of the UNESCO earthen architecture programme, Satprem teaches extensively both locally and internationally, in Asia & Africa. Auroville has many examples of Stabilised Earth Brick construction, including the Visitors Centre and 4-storey apartment buildings. Laura is an architect colleague of Satprem and has worked extensively in Earth Institute programmes across the world. Aiyappan is a key faculty at Earth Institute and has taught all over the world.

**Suresh Bhandari:** Activist and Waste Management expert who has experience working with Bobbili municipality in Andhra Pradesh and Coimbatore municipality in Tamil Nadu and also holds a world Guinness record on waste management.

**Toine van Meghen:** Senior Aurovilian working with large-scale Renewable Energy projects (Solar & Wind technologies), and at local & regional planning & policy-making level. A recent breakthrough spearheaded by Toine is the option of installing grid-connected solar energy systems on Tamilnadu homes and public buildings

**Tom Gablier :** Founder of the Auroville Water Harvest project, with decades of experience in water & environmental management, Tom has conducted ecological & social surveys and outreach programmes in the bioregion, and continues to work towards saving what is possible in terms of Tamil Nadu's precious water.

**Tomas:** Steward since decades of Annapurna, Auroville's largest farm and its rice- and millet basket, and South India's first certified organic dairy farm, Tomas has helped establish the standards for organic dairy certification in India. Annapurna also processes millets and oil seeds from surrounding farmers and assists them through networking.

**Vivekanandan:** Founder of the Madurai based NGO, SEVA, Vivekanandan is one of the leading proponents and practitioners of the ethno-veterinary practices in the country today. With our 3 decades of experience in the grassroot rural innovation sector as well as ethno-veterinary practices, he is the main resource person for the ethno-veterinary programme at SLI.

## Programme wise summary – 2015-16

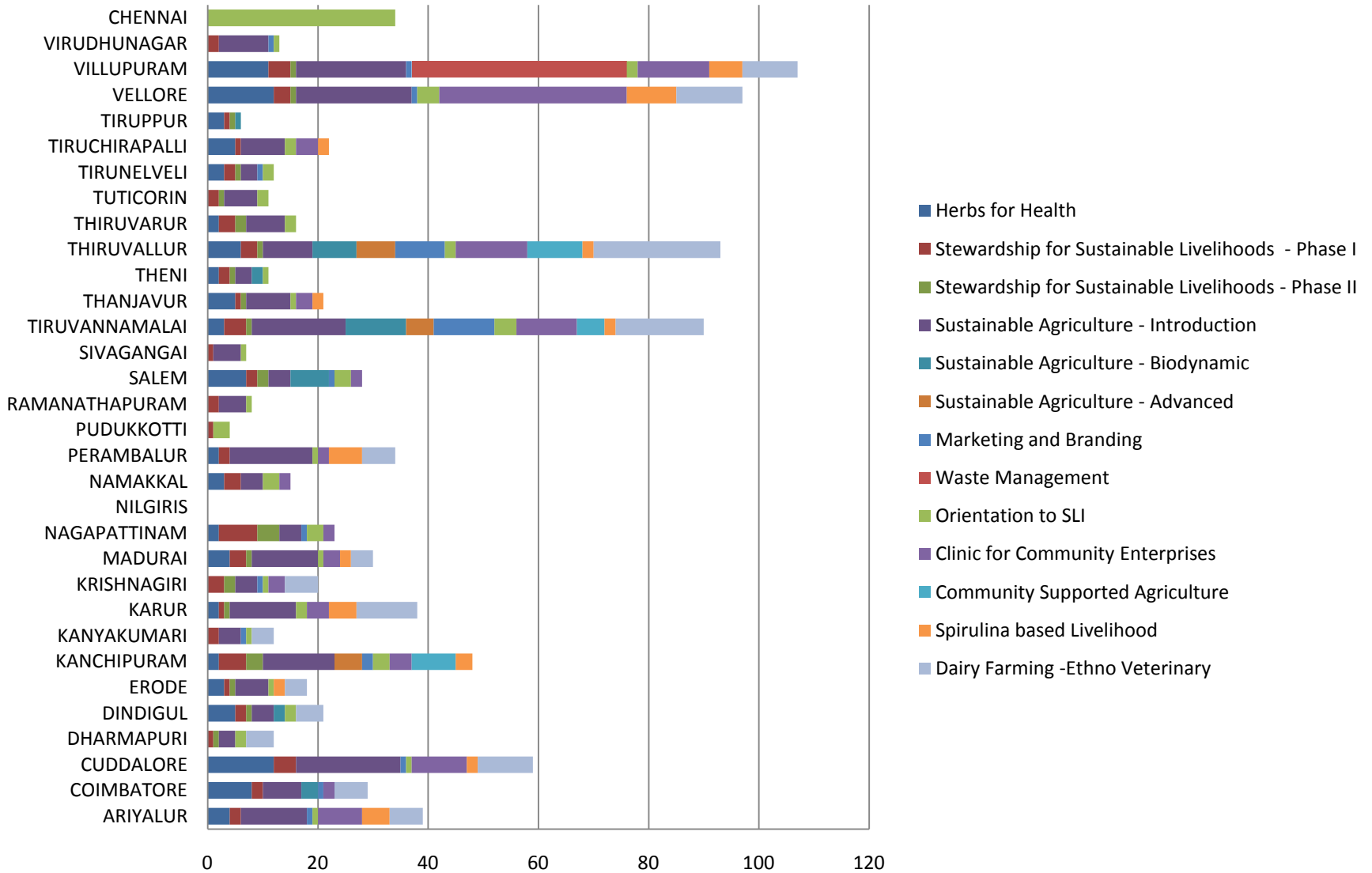
S.No	Programmes	No. of Programmes conducted	No. of Participants
1	Clinic for Community Enterprises	8	120
2	Community Supported Agriculture & Food based Livelihood - Introduction	2	23
3	Dairy Value Addition & Ethno - Veterinary	8	128
4	Herbs for Health	6	106
5	Marketing and Branding	2	33
6	Orientation to SLI	6	87
7	Spirulina production and marketing based Livelihoods	3	48
8	Stewardship for Sustainable Livelihoods	7	99
9	Sustainable Agriculture - Advanced	1	17
10	Sustainable Agriculture - Introduction - I	14	244
11	Sustainable Agriculture - Introduction - II (Biodynamic)	2	34
12	Waste Management & Livelihood based on the same	2	39
	<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>978</b>
	<b>Special Programme</b>		
1	Sustainable Agriculture - 2 Days workshop for Thiruvannamalai CHGs	1	24
	<b>Total Coverage Between May'15 &amp; Feb'16</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1002</b>

### ***District wise Summary (Participants from each district)***

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Herbs for Health</b>	<b>Stewardship for Sustainable Livelihoods - Phase 1</b>	<b>Stewardship for Sustainable Livelihoods - Phase II</b>	<b>Sustainable Agriculture - Introduction</b>	<b>Sustainable Agriculture - Biodynamic</b>	<b>Sustainable Agriculture - Advanced</b>	<b>Marketing and Branding</b>	<b>Waste Management</b>	<b>Orientation to SLI</b>	<b>Clinic for Community Enterprises</b>	<b>Community Supported Agriculture</b>	<b>Spirulina based Livelihood</b>	<b>Dairy Farming -Ethno Veterinary</b>	<b>Districtwise total - 2015-16</b>
1	ARIYALUR	4	2	0	12	0	0	1	0	1	8	0	5	6	<b>39</b>
2	COIMBATORE	8	2	0	7	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	6	<b>29</b>
3	CUDDALORE	12	4	0	19	0	0	1	0	1	10	0	2	10	<b>59</b>
4	DHARMAPURI	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	<b>12</b>
5	DINDIGUL	5	2	1	4	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	<b>21</b>
6	ERODE	3	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	<b>18</b>
7	KANCHIPURAM	2	5	3	13	0	5	2	0	3	4	8	3	0	<b>48</b>
8	KANYAKUMARI	0	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	<b>12</b>
9	KARUR	2	1	1	12	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	5	11	<b>38</b>
10	KRISHNAGIRI	0	3	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	6	<b>20</b>
11	MADURAI	4	3	1	12	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	4	<b>30</b>
12	NAGAPATTINAM	2	7	4	4	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	<b>23</b>
13	NILGIRIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
14	NAMAKKAL	3	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
15	PERAMBALUR	2	2	0	15	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	6	6	<b>34</b>
16	PUDUKKOTTI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
17	RAMANATHAPURAM	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
18	SALEM	7	2	2	4	7	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	<b>28</b>
19	SIVAGANGAI	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>7</b>

20	TIRUVANNAM ALAI	3	4	1	17	11	5	11	0	4	11	5	2	16	<b>90</b>
21	THANJAVUR	5	1	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	<b>21</b>
22	THENI	2	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>11</b>
23	THIRUVALLUR	6	3	1	9	8	7	9	0	2	13	10	2	23	<b>93</b>
24	THIRUVARUR	2	3	2	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>16</b>
25	TUTICORIN	0	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>11</b>
26	TIRUNELVELI	3	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>12</b>
27	TIRUCHIRAPAL LI	5	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	2	0	<b>22</b>
28	TIRUPPUR	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
29	VELLORE	12	3	1	21	0	0	1	0	4	34	0	9	12	<b>97</b>
30	VILLUPURAM	11	4	1	20	0	0	1	39	2	13	0	6	10	<b>107</b>
31	VIRUDHUNAG AR	0	2	0	9	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>13</b>
32	CHENNAI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	<b>34</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>978</b>

### District wise Participation - 2015-16





**Annexure –I – Month wise Report and Pictures**

**Annexure –II – Financial Report**