

NEW INITIATIVES

- Project proposal on “Restoration and Management of Degraded Mangroves as Bioshields in Krishna and Guntur Districts in Andhra Pradesh, India” submitted to CARE India, Hyderabad for financial support.
- Project proposal on “Genetic Diversity Assessment and Molecular Profiling of *Cajanus cajan* and *Vigna* sp of Eastern Ghats” submitted to National Bioresources Development Board, DBT for financial support.
- National Biodiversity Authority has sanctioned the project proposal on “Launching a Biodiversity Literacy Movement in Rural India” with an outlay of Rs.38.23 lakhs.
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust has sanctioned the project proposal on “Conserving 80 threatened species by creating 8 Research Fellowships in systematic botany” with an outlay of Rs.41.00 lakhs.

MEETINGS/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

- A Synthesis Workshop of Self Evaluation of the SDC supported project “Biodiversity Conservation, Integrated Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” was held on November 3, 2005.
- The Eighth and Final Steering Committee meeting of the SDC supported project “Biodiversity Conservation, Integrated Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” was held on November 4, 2005.
- Dr. A. Nambi participated in the “Organic Cotton Stakeholder Workshop India 2005” at Bangalore organized by Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland and International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA), Bangalore during November 5-6, 2005.
- National Training Workshop “To Learn Application of CD ROM based Learning Resource on Gender and Women in Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia” organized by MSSRF with the support of FAO Regional Office Bangkok was held during November 7-10, 2005.
- Dr. Ajay K. Parida, as a Member of the HarvestPlus Program Advisory Committee attended the PAC meeting at International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, Cali, Columbia during November 7-8, 2005.
- Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam participated in the 2-day meeting on “The Role of Libraries in the Knowledge Society” organized by the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Commission at India International Centre, New Delhi on November 7, 2005.

- Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam delivered a Keynote Address at a UNDP Conference on “Water, Environmental Sanitation and Knowledge Management” at Hotel Raintree, Chennai on November 8, 2005.
- Ms. M. Geetha Rani attended the 2nd Regional Workshop on “Global Plan of Action: National Information Sharing Mechanisms on PGR” at NBPGR, Hyderabad during November 7-12, 2005.
- Dr. V.B. Athreya attended the second meeting of the National Alliance Against Hunger (NAAH) at the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi on November 8, 2005.
- Dr. T. Ravishankar delivered a lecture on “Mangrove Restoration Work” at the “Ecological Mangrove Restoration Training Programme” at Vijayawada, AP organized by Mangrove Action Project, South East Asia Regional Office on November 7, 2005.
- Dr. T. Ravishankar organised a Consultative Meeting at Vijayawada on Project Proposal Development on Shelterbelts for Andhra Pradesh Forest Department with NGOs on November 8, 2005.
- Consultative Meeting on “Strategies for Participatory Development and Management of Shelterbelt Forests and Mangroves” for NGOs, VSS and EDCs and Staff of AP Forest Department was held at Kakinada Centre during November 10-12, 2005.
- Dr. A. Chandrasekaran, Pudukottai Centre presented on “Rain-fed Agriculture and Rural Upliftment of Farm Women” at the International Conference on “Rural India: Achieving Millennium Development Goals and Grassroots Development” at Hyderabad organized by Bhoovigyan Vikas Foundation (Earth Care Foundation) during November 10-12, 2005.
- Dr. T.N. Balasubramanian participated and presented at the Stakeholder Workshop on Managing Climate Risk of APN CLIMAG South Asia Project at ICRISAT, Hyderabad during November 9-11, 2005.
- A Brainstorming Workshop on “Beijing +10: Women in Agriculture in India – What Next?” was held at MSSRF during November 11-12, 2005.
- Prof. P.C. Kesavan delivered a lecture on “Post-Tsunami Development in Andamans” at the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad organized by the Indo-German Nachkontakt Association and the Consulate of Federal Republic of Germany, Chennai on November 12, 2005.
- Dr. Vijay R. Subbaiah delivered a lecture on “Site Specific Farming Approaches in the Context of Ecological Farming” at the CASA Training Programme on “Farming for the Future – Ecological and Economic Issues and Strategies” organized by the Centre for Advanced Studies, Department of Agronomy, TNAU, Coimbatore on November 12, 2005.
- Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam participated in the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) at Tunis during November 14-19, 2005. Ms. Kasturi NVA Fellow, Embalamb supported by OneWorld South Asia and Mr. Arulsamy Ananth, Technical Assistant, VRC, Sempatti selected by Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Scholarship attended WSIS, Tunis.

- Review meeting of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust funded project on “Sustainable Management of Natural Resources” was held at MSSRF, Chennai and Pudukottai Centre during November 16-17, 2005.
- Orientation Workshop on “Production and Marketing of Bio Pesticides – *Trichogramma* Egg parasitoid and *Trichoderma* Biofungicide” was organized by the JRD Tata Ecotechnology Centre during November 15-16, 2005. Around 25 NGOs from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh participated in the workshop.
- Dr. K. Bhanumathi participated in the “Media Skills Training Workshop on Environmental Hazards to Human Health” at Chennai organized by TERI & BBC, New Delhi during November 15-21, 2005.
- A Seminar on INDO-UK Programme on Impacts of Climate Change in India” jointly organized by MSSRF and the British Deputy High Commission, Chennai was held at MSSRF on November 17, 2005.
- Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Ms. R.V. Bhavani, Dr. Sudha Nair and Dr. Swarna Vepa participated and presented at the Consultation on “Ten Years After Beijing: Gender, Science and Technology” at New Delhi organized by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the National Commission on Farmers during November 18-19, 2005.
- Dr. A. Nambi attended the “Project Yearly Planning Meeting” at AFPRO, Hyderabad during November 20-22, 2005.
- Dr. A. Nambi participated in the “ENVIRO 2005 Conference on Environment Safety & Health” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry Southern Region at Hotel Radisson, Chennai during November 22-23, 2005.
- Dr. Swarna Vepa attended the Seminar on “Environmental Hazards to Human Health” at the Park Sheraton Hotel, Chennai on November 22, 2005.
- Dr. J.D. Sophia participated in the Regional Learning Workshop on “Disaster Risk Reduction: Learning from Tsunami Experience” organized by University Sains Malaysia, Penang during November 22-30, 2005.
- Dr. Tara Gandhi participated in the Planning Commission meeting on “Finalisation of State Development Report of Andaman & Nicobar Islands” at New Delhi on November 23, 2005.
- Dr. Selvam organized a 2-day Training Programme on “Bioshield Development and Management for NGOs” at Chidambaram Centre during November 23-24, 2005.
- Dr. M. Velayutham participated in the Dialogue on “Improving Watershed Policies, Practices and Knowledge to Impact People’s Livelihoods and Ecosystems” at ICRISAT, Hyderabad on November 24, 2005.
- Dr. S. Bala Ravi participated in the Seminar on “IPR and their Enforcement” organized by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chennai at Hotel Chola Sheraton on November 24, 2005.

- Dr. Ajay K. Parida participated in the HarvestPlus Rice Crop Meeting 2005 at International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines during November 24-25, 2005.
- Meeting of the Project Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC) on the project “Measures of Impact on Science & Technology in India: Agriculture and Rural Development” was held at MSSRF on November 26, 2005.
- Voicing Silence of MSSRF organized a Presentation on “Uraiyadha Ninaivugal – The lives of Aravanis – a glimpse” at Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board Auditorium, Guindy, Chennai on November 26, 2005.
- Dr. V. Arivudai Nambi attended the 4th Planning Meeting for organizing National Conference on Agro Biodiversity at National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai on November 26, 2005.
- ICT-Enabled Development: South-South Exchange Workshop organized by the Informatics Centre at MSSRF-Chennai and Pondicherry during November 28 – December 5, 2005.
- Ms. S. Velvizhi participated in the Regional meeting on “Effective Design and Delivery of Rural Community ICT Services” at Kuala Lumpur organized by the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand during November 28-30, 2005.
- IDRC-CIDA sponsored Project Design Workshop on “Knowledge Centres and Coastal Eco-Rehabilitation to Strengthen Community Resilience to Natural Disasters” was held at MSSRF during November 28-29, 2005.
- Dr. L.R. Gopinath attended a Discussion for Preparing Curriculum Materials on Environment at the Periyar University, Salem on November 29, 2005.

VISITORS

- A Team of 6-Members from State Institute of Rural Development, Assam visited MSSRF on November 2, 2005.
- Dr. Mohan Das, Dean, Kerala Agricultural University visited on November 3, 2005 and discussed on National Agricultural Innovative Project on Virtual University for Agricultural Trade.
- Dr. S. Nagarajan, Chairman, Commission on Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Rights Authority visited on November 3-4, 2005 and discussed on the involvement of MSSRF in relation to the activities of the Authority.
- Dr. Alpesh Patel, Attracting Global Entrepreneurs Scheme of UK Trade & Investment visited on November 15, 2005 and discussed on collaboration with MSSRF.
- Mr. D.S. Rajan, Research Fellow, Observer Research Foundation visited on November 15, 2005 and discussed on the issues of optimizing the marketing chain in the agricultural and horticultural domain.

- Dr. S. Sithanatham and 15 Participants from National Seminar on “Biotechnological Management of Nematode Pests and Scope of Entomopathogenic Nematodes” organized by Sun Agro Biotech Research Centre visited on November 22, 2005.
- A Team of 7-Members from State Institute of Rural Development, Assam visited MSSRF on November 23, 2005.
- Dr. Freyssinet, Dr. Debrand and Dr. Vijayalakshmi from Universite de Technologie de Compiegne, Compiegne, France visited on November 30, 2005.
- Dr. Ir Derk Hille Ris Lambers and Ms. Keity Lambers from Netherlands Management Cooperation Programme visited on November 30, 2005.

MOU

- MoU signed with NASSCOM Foundation to collaborate in providing information and knowledge support to setup 2 VRCs and 25 VKCs in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry under the project “Tsunami Rehabilitation Project – Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry”.
- MoU signed with DBT to support a project “Ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants used by major tribes of Western Orissa and capacity building of local communities for conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants used in healthcare systems”.

News from Namakkal Centre

- Conducted a series of discussions with the Government Hr. Sec School, Electricity Board, Telephone Office, and Municipality for creating Medicinal plant gardens in the public space to create awareness.
- Ms. Ramayee and Ms. Jothi SHG Member of Singilipatty participated in the Minor millet sale and exhibition at Food Pro 2005 held at Chennai between November 12-15, 2005
- Ms. Susee, Consultant, BBC, Rome, Italy visited Kolli Hills to interview the SHG Members of Kootchakkiraiipatty, Semboothuvalavu and Padasolai on November 17, 2005
