



Musuvanuthu watershed Sustainable development Plan (SDP)

- Spreading traditional seeds and awareness about organic farming



SRS is the Institute of Agriculture & Technology.

awareness and promote organic farming.



The students from left to right: S. Tamillasasi, S. Sonia, K. Priya & C. Suganthi

CIRHEP has had collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for twelve years now. We have met a group of students that are doing their final work before graduating, after four years at the university. CIRHEP is taking them around to meet local farmers in different villages. Both this group of students and CIRHEP are working towards a mutual goal, to spread

The students are doing a project for 10 days where they are distributing traditional seeds to local farmers and informing them of the benefits of using these seeds instead of buying hybrids. The traditional seeds they have collected from different organic farms around the state of Tamil Nadu. They have interviewed the farmers about their practices and for how long they have been cultivating organically. After learning about how to cultivate with these seeds and in what types of land and soil conditions they will be suitable, they are testing the seeds out to make sure they are working properly and are of good quality. Then when they have tested the seeds they are ready to go around and give samples to local

farmers in different villages while also promoting organic farming.



Organically grown chili.

This project that the students are doing is the final project before they graduate the university. CIRHEP's roll in this is mainly to take them around on different field visits as well as meetings with local farmers.

One obstacle that this group of students sees when encouraging farmers to go organic is that it will take longer time to get a good quantity yield comparing with chemical cultivation. Farmers are also used to their traditional practices and when they have been cultivating in one way for many years it can be hard to break that habit.



Local farmers receiving samples of traditional seeds from the students.

Despite these obstacles the students are confident that when a farmer is fully aware of the economical and health related benefits with organic farming, they will do the conversion. “One approach to inspire a skeptic is by asking: What do you value higher, health or money? Then whatever the answer will be you explain to them that organic farming would benefit either” (K.Priya, Student).

Prepared by Edwin & Emma, Future Earth-interns of Cirhep, 2019-2020.