

Annual Activity Report 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

It gives me pleasure and joy in presenting the brief activity report and the results achieved during the year 2011- 2012. These results are ensuring resilience of the poor to hazards and asserting their livelihood rights.

Programmes implemented during 2011- 2012 are:

- ❖ Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction in drought prone villages of Tirunelveli District (CMDRR)
- ❖ Formation and Sensitization of Panchayat level women's rights cell in three Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Refuge Centre for Women in distress, Nagercoil
- ❖ Organic farming capacity building programme
- ❖ Ensuring resilience among the farmers and school children of thirty villages in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ State and National level workshops and seminars on Disaster Management Act
- ❖ Relief assistance to Cyclone Thane victims in Cuddalore
- ❖ Economic, Social & Human Rights Development of Women Beedi Workers
- ❖ Vocational Skill Training through Community College
- ❖ Economic, Social & Human Rights Development of Women Beedi Workers
- ❖ Creche Programme
- ❖ Consultancy services

1. a. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction in drought prone villages of Tirunelveli District (CMDRR) April - December 2011

"Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction Programme" is implemented in eleven drought prone and four flood prone villages in Tirunelveli District by RUC with the partnership of Cordaid, The Netherlands. The following are the activities carried out during the period.

Capacity building trainings:s

Capacity building training

SI No	Topics and target group	No. of days	No. of beneficiaries
1	Disaster Risk Reduction strategy for task force members, subcommittee members and leaders of the people's movements	6	255
2	Disaster preparedness strategy for community members	270	1123
3	Disaster Risk Reduction strategy and management of disaster management information centres for volunteers	8	24
4	Disaster Risk Reduction orientation for children of 15 communities	3 months	560
5	Organic farming training	12	100
6	Vocational training	One year	13
7	Awareness generation programme on cattle insurance	1	29
8	Disaster Risk Reduction strategy for Panchayat leaders	1	8
9	Risk Reduction Assessment strategy for 15 communities	15	450

Deepening and strengthening of water bodies:

The department of Forest & Wild Life, Government of Tamil Nadu permitted the de-silting of the Koonthankulam pond after a long process. The de-silting and strengthening of bund of Koonthankulam tank was carried out in 2011-2012. 5143 cubic metres of silt was removed from the tank and strengthened the bund for a length of 2590 meters. Julie flora occupied in and around 20720 sq.mts of the pond was also removed.

Providing drinking water:

Additional drinking water facilities were provided to three villages (Koonthankulam, Seelathikulam and Chinthamani) by constructing two bore wells, deepening the existing one drinking water well, providing overhead tanks, installing electric pumps and necessary distribution system by RUC.

Providing subsidy for relocating houses to the elevated places:

RUC provided an amount of Rs. 20000/- (rupees twenty thousand only) each for 86 families to relocate the houses from the low lying flood risk prone zone in Melapathai, Patchandrum, Moonkiladi and Pallikondankudieruppu.

Rescue centres cum disaster management information centres:

Constructed four disaster rescue centres cum disaster management information centres at Moongilady, Melapathai, Pallikondankudieruppu and Patchandrum. The disaster management information centres are provided with computers, printers, UPS and other accessories for exchange of disaster management information and information on development schemes of the Government.

Livelihood activities:

Two veterinary medical camps were conducted for the 602 beneficiaries, who had been assisted with subsidy amount @ Rs. 4000/- for the purchase of cattle. M/s. Neos Park, Ahmadabad provided all medicines free of cost through Dr. Nagaraja Kumar, Veterinary Surgeon, Govt. of Kerala State. Dr.Nagarajakumar treated 275 cattle during the veterinary camps. All the potential beneficiaries of fifteen communities were facilitated to avail the development schemes of the Government and banks to enhance their livelihood activities.

Effects of the disaster risk reduction programme

- ❖ Farmers in 11 drought prone villages are able to do paddy cultivation at least one crop per year as the ten water bodies and one supply channel have been deepened and strengthened by RUC.
- ❖ Farmers are able to cultivate drought resistant crops like black gram, gingili, maize, raggi, etc. during the drought period and paddy, plantains during the Rabi Season
- ❖ Six hundred and two landless poor, who are rearing milch animals are earning an additional monthly income of Rs.500/- to Rs.1000/.
- ❖ Forty eight physically challenged people, who started income generation activities are earning an additional income of Rs. 800 to Rs.1500/- per month.
- ❖ The credit facilities helped to start income generation of their own and are earning a regular monthly income of Rs: 2000/, that leads to survive even during the period of drought.
- ❖ One thousand and fifty one children are aware of the disaster risk and climate change destructions.
- ❖ 4180 persons are made aware of the welfare measures of the Government and facilitated to avail the welfare measures for the potential beneficiaries.
- ❖ The food grain/ paddy stored in the food grain stores enabled the farmers to earn Rs. 300/- more per quintal and to store food grains for drought period for the communities in 11 villages. Rescue centres were available for four communities.
- ❖ The well equipped information Centres enabled the fifteen communities to exchange hazard related information with the Government, to receive early warning, to link the community globally and for other development initiations.
- ❖ 144 families reconstructed their houses and are relieved from the risk of flood.
- ❖ Patchandrum and Moongilady communities are free from flood risk due to the removal of silt and construction of retention walls.
- ❖ Drinking water scarcity was reduced in all the fifteen villages.
- ❖ One thousand families transferred their life risk through micro insurance.

Community resilience

- ❖ Various systems such as Disaster Risk Reduction Task force committee, six sub committees

and the Panchayat are effectively functioning (roles and responsibilities are defined and also having the contingency plan), disaster response fund to readily respond any hazards.

- ❖ The communities are capacitated on disaster preparedness and eliminated most of the vulnerabilities to drought and flood in the fifteen communities and are resilience to hazard.
- ❖ Cordaid carried out an evaluation in collaboration with 'Association for Stimulating Knowhow', New Delhi and reported that most of the members of the communities have both disaster preparedness and resilience to drought and floods.

1.b. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction in drought prone villages of Tirunelveli District (CMDRR) January to March 2012:

Cordaid has extended its partnership to the second phase of CMDRR programmes in twelve drought prone villages in Tirunelveli district. The villages identified are:

Thirumalapuram	Pothaiyadi Alankulam
Kailasanathapuram	Rengasamudram
Singarathoppu	Chinnamoolakari
Veppankulam	Anumarputhukulam
Valianeri	Sri Rengarajapuram
Karuppukatti	Ayarkulam / Aryakulam

RUC carried out Participatory risk analysis such as Hazard analysis, Vulnerability assessment and capacity assessment. Key leaders were identified and constituted Disaster Risk Reduction task force in all the twelve drought prone villages. Three days capacity building workshop was conducted on "Disaster risk reduction strategy" for the volunteers and the leaders of the Disaster risk reduction task force committee. Also conducted one day orientation on drought risk reduction measures for the newly elected Panchayat leaders. Five one day organic farming trainings were conducted benefitting one hundred and eighty four members of the twelve communities.

2. Formation and Sensitization of Panchayat level women's rights cell in three Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu:

Misereor, Germany has been kind enough to extend its partnership in the implementation of the project exclusively to make aware of the rights of woman and to assert their rights in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts. There is only two more months for completion of the project. The activities carried out during this year are:

Capacity building trainings/ legal literacy:

SI No	Topics and target group	No. of days	No. of beneficiaries
1	Women's rights awareness generation trainings for Panchayat level leaders	31	1288
2	Women's rights violations monitoring strategy for Panchayat level leaders	27	483
3	Advocacy skill training for the members of Women's Rights Monitoring Committee	6	245
4	Counseling workshop for the members of Women's Rights Monitoring Committee	6	203
5	International women's day programme	2	425
6	Campaign against all forms of torture	1	150
7	Campaign against poverty and violence on women and children , Human Rights day	3	298

Formation of Women's Right Monitoring Cells

Twenty nine Women's Rights monitoring cells have been organized during this year. These monitoring cell members are facilitating the village women to assert their rights. The effective functioning and the strenuous efforts taken by the panchayat level Women's Rights monitoring cells and the involvement of our Advocates team are of great support to the rural women in distress to get relief and justice for many of their grievances.

Legal literacy Camp

One legal literacy camp was organized at Chinnamoolakarai village of Tirunelveli district. Seventy six women presented their grievance to the District Legal Aid Authorities during the camp for redress. RUC Advocate team facilitated the women in the preparation of grievance petitions. The district legal aid authorities promised for early actions on the petitions received.

Results of Legal aid interventions:

- ❖ Mrs. Glory Stella, aged 32, from Nalloor got back the dowry amount of Rs.2,60,000/-, household articles worth Rs. 50,000/- and the gold ornaments of 9 sovereign from her disputed husband.
- ❖ Mrs. Mary Pinks belonging to Kuzhithurai village obtained orders for an interim compensation of Rs. 2000/- per month.
- ❖ Mrs. Sindhuja from Parvathipuram, Nagercoil favored with an interim orders from the court that neither her husband nor her in laws should vacate her from the house where she is living at present or to sell the house till a final settlement arrived at.
- ❖ Mrs. Santhi, aged 25, from Killiyoor and Mrs. Kavitha, aged 27, from Keezh Ramanputhur are getting a monthly compensation of Rs.4500/- and Rs. 5000/- respectively from their counterparts.
- ❖ The divorce case of Mrs. Rose Mary from Kandavilai was settled out of court through periodic counseling.
- ❖ Ten birth certificates obtained from various courts.
- ❖ Mrs. Diana of Kurumbanai got back the dowry amount Rs: 5, 00,000/- (five lac), 136 grams jewels, car and her certificates.
- ❖ Mrs.Kavitha of Nagercoil got protection order from the Judicial Munsiff Court Nagercoil.
- ❖ Mrs.Irine of Pacodu joined with her husband

Evaluation

RUC conducted an evaluation for assessment of the results achieved during the last three years. Dr. Johnson Raj, Director, Pro- Vision, assisted by Miss. C.M.Pratheeba, Professor, Social Works Department, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil carried out the evaluation and reported that the rural women have acquired knowledge on the ways and means to assert their rights individually and collectively.

3. Refuge Centre for Women in distress, Nagercoil

RUC submitted the request to Government of Tamil Nadu to approve RUC as service provider under "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act - 2005". The District authorities conducted an assessment of the request and the District Collector of Kanyakumari and the Director of Social Welfare forwarded the proposal to the Government of Tamil Nadu to issue appropriate Government Order.

4. Organic farming capacity building programme

RUC is trying to facilitate through organic farming capacity building training programme during the past few years in Kanyakumari district. A good number of farmers in Kanyakumari district are adopting organic farming practices in their agriculture field. The activities implemented during 2011 to 2012 and the achieved results are given below.

Activities:

- ❖ 150 farmers were oriented in organic farming skills through the monthly foundation course trainings organized in four centers - Marthandam, Moolachal, Kurunthancode and Shenbagaramanputhur. The topics for the training are soil fertility management, preparation of organic manures, bio-fertilizers, preparation of pest repellents, integrated pest management, mixed farming technology, inter cropping, mulching, seed preparation, nursery raising and rain water harvesting.
- ❖ 40 farmers were oriented in animal husbandry at RUC for duration of ten days. These trainees were taken to different farms, institutes, universities in Tamil Nadu and Kerala for practical experience. Twenty five of them have successfully completed the course and they were honored with certificates in a function conducted at RUC on 14th April 2012.
- ❖ Eight students from Tamil Nadu Agriculture Research Institute, Killikulam had their internship with RUC & organic farmers for 15 days and learned the organic farming skills and challenges in organic farming.
- ❖ Ten organic farmers associations were formed in ten villages during this year with the support of National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development. National Agriculture Bank for

Rural Development (NABARD) will provide training and assistance for the community development for a period of three years from 2012-2013.

- ❖ RUC in collaboration with All India Radio, Nagercoil organized seventy three audio recording programmes on the success stories of the organic farmers. The success stories of the organic farmers were broad casted in "World of farmers" programme of All India Radio for eleven hours in different dates.
- ❖ RUC encouraged the farmers to produce and preserve the traditional seeds which have been verge of extinction.
- ❖ The farmers were taken to various organic farms in Tamil Nadu, to get on the spot training.

The results are:

- ❖ 40 farmers are cultivating paddy and produced 75 tones of paddy in ten hectares, 35 farmers produced 50,000 bunches of banana in 20 hectares by using organic farming strategy.
- ❖ 25 farmers got the yield of 30,000 coconuts from 8 hectares.
- ❖ 40 farmers got the yield of 161 tones of tapioca from 23 hectares.
- ❖ 35 farmers are adopting biological method of controlling pests.
- ❖ 26 farmers are cultivating cocoa, papaya, ginger, cardamom as intercrop in their coconut garden and fine apple as intercrop in rubber plantations that support them to earn additional income.
- ❖ 82 farmers are involved in bee- keeping.
- ❖ 47 farmers are producing vermin compost on commercial basis and at an average they are earning a monthly income of Rs. 2500/ -.
- ❖ 82 farmers are cultivating Azolla for cattle feed and green manure.
- ❖ 65 farmers have involved in the process and have produced 12 kgs of vegetable seeds, 10 kgs of green leaves seeds, 75 kgs. of fodder seeds, and 5 tones of paddy seeds during the year.
- ❖ Damages to the crops by wild animals are brought to the notice of the forest department. The forest Department initiated the process of assessing the damages and assured compensation to two of our farmers. The forest department constituted a welfare committee to look after the grievances of farmers and to recommend the government for remedial measures. Four of our beneficiaries are included in the welfare committee.

4. Ensuring resilience among the farmers and school children of thirty villages in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu(January - March 2012)

RUC selected twenty eight volunteers from Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts and conducted pre-service orientation training on climate change adaptation activities to be initiated in the selected villages of Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts. Ten one day orientation programmes were conducted in Kanyakumari District benefitting one hundred and twenty farmers.

5. State and National level workshops and seminars on Disaster Management Act

RUC Conducted two days state level conference in collaboration with 'Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture-India' at Madurai on Challenges on food security and Disaster Management. Participated in the Inter Agency meetings-Tamil Nadu to plan and regularize the relief activities of the member organizations in Villupuram, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam Districts of Tamil Nadu and Pondichery Union Territory. RUC translated the Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction training Manual and disseminated the concept among the NGOs working in Tamil Nadu. The copies were submitted to the State Government officials, who are involved in Disaster Management.

6. Relief assistance to Cyclone Thane victims in Cuddalore.

The Thane cyclone that struck Cuddalore district on 30th of December 2011 caused heavy devastation and destruction to the houses, household articles, livelihood means to the people of Villupuram, cuddalore, Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu and Pondichery of Union Territory. RUC deputed a expert team of five members to Cuddalore District, the most affected District by

Thane cyclone. The team went around the most affected villages, held focus group discussion with the victims, community organizations working in the particular village, District authorities, Panchayat Raj Institution members (PRIs), NGOs working in that area, and submitted a detailed report on the damages caused by the Thane Cyclone and immediate needs of the communities affected by Thane Cyclone. RUC, in consultation with the local NGOs, PRIs and SHGs identified 2000 victim families in 14 rural villages. We had several rounds of discussions with the families, NGOs PRIs and finalized the following relief materials to be distributed to each beneficiary family.

Candle	1 no.
Tarpaulin	1 no.
Clothing (sari - 1 and lungy - 2nos)	1 set
Bed sheets	2 nos.
Mosquito net	1 no.
Milk Powder	1 kg.
School bag (with 5 note books and a geometry box)	1 set

RUC purchased all these materials by adopting the procurement policy of RUC and distributed the materials to the victims with the active support of Rural Education Development Centre, based in Bhuvanagiri, Cuddalore District. It is happy that all the local Panchayat Raj Institutions and volunteers of Rural Education Development Centre extended their full support in the distribution. The panchayat presidents were present during the distribution of relief materials. Mr. Gopalakrishnan, ASK, New Delhi, conducted an on the spot evaluation of the relief activities carried-out by RUC. He selected four out of fourteen villages randomly for his study, went around all the villages, had detailed discussion with the beneficiaries and collected maximum information required for his study. He submitted an appreciative report to Cordaid and ASK.

4.Economic, Social & Human Rights Development of Women Beedi Workers

The major thrust of the programme is economic and social development of women Beedi workers of Tirunelveli district. Three hundred and thirty one beneficiaries have availed micro credit assistance to a tune of Rs.29,35,000.

Purpose wise details of the micro credit assistance

SI No	Purpose	No. of beneficiaries	Amount
1	Agricultural activities	113	1005000
2	Educational purpose	64	513000
3	House construction	32	270000
4	Purchase of labour equipments	4	40000
5	Medical expenses	14	152000
6	Petty business	29	270000
7	Cattle rearing	59	550000
8	Debt relief	16	135000
	Total	331	2935000

The beneficiaries repaid a sum of Rs. 32, 05,519/- including the service charges of Rs. 2, 27,646.50/- during the current year .

Results

- ❖ 176 families increased their annual income at an average of Rs:2000/=through agriculture, cattle rearing and petty business.
- ❖ Sixty four families educated their children in engineering other vocational trainings.
- ❖ Thirty two families ensured their housing needs.
- ❖ Sixteen poor people have relieved from the clutches of money lenders.
- ❖ The micro credit assistance has helped the poor people to acquire livelihood assets,

enhancement of family income, helped to meet their medical, and educational needs.

9. Rural Community College - Nanguneri

RUC provides educational opportunities to the excluded students to get quality technical education for their better tomorrow through 1. National Institute of Open Schooling, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India, and Indira Gandhi National University Programmes-Community College Scheme.

The following are the details of students benefitted during the year.

AS (Computer Science) 2nd Year - 20
 AS (Computer Science) 1st Year - 11
 AS (Electronics) 2nd Year - 06
 AS (Electronics) 1st Year - 06
 Electrical Technician - 21
 Bachelor of Preparatory Programme (BPP) - 20
 B.Com - 05
 Hair dressers training - 83

Placement Details:

Forty students completed their studies. Fifteen of them got employment in Rohini Textile Industry (p) Ltd., Tirupur, Fourteen of them got employment in Unique Shell (P) Ltd., Coimbatore and eleven of them got employment in R. S. Wind Tech Engineer (P) Ltd., (ISO 9001 Company), Aralvaimozhi. All the eighty three traditional hair dressers are involved in self employment.

10. PRE- SCHOOL EDUCATION

RUC is conducting four creches for the children of beedi-workers and agricultural labourers in Kallathi, Elankulam and Thalapathysamuthram (2 units) of Nanguneri Union, One hundred and eight children are being taken care off with the financial support of Social Welfare Board. They were imparted pre-school training through play way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers. The children were provided with nutritional mid day meals, health and medical facilities. Monthly orientation meetings were conducted to the mothers on child care, disease preventive measures and preparation of nutritious meals with the locally available food materials.

Results:-

The children increased motor development, knowledge development, physical development, social development and language development. These creches reduced the burden of the parents in taking care of their children, while they go for manual work: Also enabled the elder children in the families to continue their studies, instead of caring their younger brother/sister.

11. Consultancy services:

Fourteen pre-funding appraisal were done for Miva, The Netherlands for their partners in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Pondicherry. One project evaluation cum audit was carried-out for Tribal foundation, The Netherlands supported project at Madurai. RUC conducted one day orientation programme for the NGOs of Tamil Nadu on the compliance of Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act 2010 and Income Tax Act 1961.

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