

**RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE  
DEEPAM,  
THUMPALY,  
IRENIPURAM - 629 197  
KANYAKUMARI DIST.  
TAMIL NADU.**

It gives me great pleasure and joy in presenting the brief report of activities of Rural Uplift Centre and the results achieved during the year 2016-2017.

**Programmes implemented during 2016 -2017 are:**

- Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the poor
- Running of crèches for children of poor agriculture labourers and beedi workers under Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme.
- Micro credit assistance to the poor
- Ensuring resilience of small & marginal farmers to neutralize the damage caused by Climate Change in Tirunelveli District.
- Organic Farming strategy for resilience to farmers to neutralize the damage caused by Climate Change in Kanyakumari District.
- Enabling women to get relief from poverty, security from violence and to get legal aid.
- Consultancy services to civil society organizations
- Networking & co-ordination for ensuring the resilience of the communities prone to risk of disasters:

**1. Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor:**

Rural Uplift Centre is one of the agencies approved by Life Insurance Corporation of India to implement the Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor, who cannot enroll themselves under the regular insurance scheme. Two hundred and eighty live policy holders paid the premium amount of Rs: 1,87,000/-(one lakh and eighty seven thousand) during this year. Thirteen persons surrendered their policies and received the maturity amount of Rs: 93,416/-(ninety three thousand four hundred and sixteen). Eight persons discontinued the payment of premium and received the amount paid from the Corporation.

**2. Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agricultural labour-families and beedi worker families under Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme, Government of India:**

Rural Uplift Centre is maintaining four crèches for the children of beedi-workers and agricultural labourers; one each at Kallathi and Elankulam and two at Thalapathysamuthram in Nanguneri Panchayat Union limit of Tirunelveli District. One hundred and three children are being taken care of at these crèches with the financial support of Central Social Welfare Board, Ministry of Women & Child welfare, Government of India. The children are imparted pre-school training through the play way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers. The children are provided with nutritious mid-day meals. Health and medical facilities are also provided to them in collaboration with the Primary Health Centre personnel. Monthly orientation meetings on child care are organized for their mothers. Besides, measures to prevent diseases and to prepare nutritious meals with the locally available food materials are also taken. Crèche monitoring committees consisting of elected panchayat leaders, community leaders, leaders of women's groups and a representative of Rural Uplift Centre are constituted in all villages. Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day and Annual Day celebrations are organized every year at all the centres to demonstrate the skills acquired by the children. Crèche monitoring committees are formed to animate and monitor the functioning of the four crèches.

The construction work of the crèche building at Thalapathysamuthram is pending due to a dispute over the building site.

**Centre-wise list of children.**

Name of the Crèche	Boys					Girls					Total	
	06 months to 3 years			3 years to 6 years		06 months to 3 years			3 years to 6 years			
	SC	BC	Others	SC	BC	SC	BC	Others	SC	BC		Others
Elangulam	2	3	1	2	4	1	5	0	6	2	0	26
Kallathi	8	0	0	6	0	7	0	0	4	0	0	25
Thalapathi samudram - Unit I	0	4	2	1	6	0	6	1	2	3	1	26
Thalapathi samudram - Unit II	0	7	0	1	5	1	4	0	2	6	0	26
<b>Total</b>	10	14	3	14	11	9	15	1	14	11	1	103

**Results:** All the 103 children are equipped with pre-school training. The headmasters of the nearby primary schools have reported that the children trained in RUC-run crèches perform better than the other children in all school activities.

### 3. Micro Credit assistance to the poor:

An amount of Rs. 1,17,000/-) (one lac seventeen thousand only) was paid to four beneficiaries for their economic development during the year as detailed below.

Sl.no	Purpose	No. of Beneficiaries	Total Amount in Rs
1	Agricultural activities	1	25000
2	Medical expenses	1	17000
3	Social expenses	1	50000
4	Debt relief	1	25000
	<b>Total</b>		1,17,000

An amount of Rs. 3,57,373/- (three lac fifty seven thousand three hundred and seventy three) was repaid by the beneficiaries during the reporting period. As for the default on repayments, a petition was filed before the District superintendent of Police for initiating action on the defaulters.

### 4. Ensuring resilience of small & marginal farmers to neutralize the damage caused by Climate Change in Tirunelveli District.

**Capacity building training:** Rural Uplift Centre conducted nine, one day training programmes to 170 small and marginal farmers of Eduppur, Chinthamani, Melapathai, Moonkiladi, Kallathi, Elankulam, Thalapathisamuthram and Pothaiadiakulam of Tirunelveli District on organic farming. The topics covered are soil fertility management through various types of composts & green manure, selection process of seeds, nursery preparation, manure management, weed management, plant growth, tonic preparations, pest-repellent preparation, bio-pest control measures, inter-cropping, mixed cropping, three-tier cropping etc. As most of the trainees are illiterates, the entire training is given through demonstration process.

#### Results:

1. The above one hundred and seventy farmers have cultivated various drought resistance food crops by adopting organic farming practices and obtained reasonable yield (paddy, plantain, flowers and vegetables) in the first time crop itself. Most of the farmers included poultry or cattle rearing to enhance their income. They ensured food security at their family level for the whole year. The yield obtained is poison free and good for health and prevention of various diseases. The cost of cultivation decreased, as the farmers themselves produce organic manure and pest repellants. They are able to find market at the community and in and around the community.

2. A few farmers adopted organic farming strategy in banana cultivation and reported the cost of production has reduced to half the expenditure incurred in inorganic farming.
3. The 200 farmers and their family members are resilience to damages caused by Climate Change & relieved from poverty.
4. Disaster Management Committees are formed in all the ten communities to respond immediately during emergencies/disasters and they are linked up with State Disaster Management Authority.
5. The neighbours of the beneficiaries have started organic farming with the motivation and the help of the trained beneficiaries.

**5. Organic farming strategy for resilience to the damage caused by Climate Change in Kanyakumari District-supported by Manos Unidas, Spain.**

**Capacity building trainings:** Rural Uplift Centre conducted 12-days capacity building training programmes for 200 small & marginal farmers of Marthandom, Kadayal, Moolachel, Vellamadi and Kulasekaram of Kanyakumari District during the year. The topics covered were soil fertility management through various types of composts & green manure, selection process of seeds, nursery preparation, manure management, weed management, plant growth, tonic preparations, pest-repellent preparation, bio-pest control measures, inter-cropping, mixed cropping, three tier cropping, trap cropping, water conservation measures, animal husbandry etc. Five hundred copies of organic farming technology booklet were prepared & distributed to the farmers. Four days capacity building on Disaster preparedness was conducted to selected fifty farmers.

**Exposure visits to University and expert's organic farm:** Three days exposure programme was conducted benefitting fifty five farmers. Three experts of Coimbatore Agriculture University, organic farming department personnel conducted orientation classes on soil fertility management, disease control and pest management through organic means. The organic farmers visited two organic farms at Sathayamangalam (puliampatti) and Avinasi and learnt the organic measures adopted by Mr.Velusamy and Mr.prager. The organic farmers had interaction with Island Trust, Kothagiri organic farmers.

**Organic farmer's exhibition of organic products:** RUC organized fifteen days exhibition of organic products at Kuzhithurai during the annual Pahuveli function. Moolachel, Marthandam and Kurunthancodu farmers exhibited their seedlings and products and received appreciation award from the Kuzhithurai Municipality as the best exhibition stall.

## **Results:**

1. Two hundred small and marginal farmers of Thirunelveli District belongs to ten villages have acquired alternative skills on organic farming strategy to respond climate change induced drought or flood. The alienated organic farming technologies become their own technology and now have control over it. The organic matter of the soil increased and the soil fertility increased to sustain productivity.
2. The above two hundred farmers have cultivated various drought resistance food crops by adopting organic farming practices and obtained reasonable yield (paddy, plantain and vegetables) in the first time crop itself. Most of the farmers included poultry or cattle rearing to enhance their income. They ensured food security at their family level for the whole year. The yield obtained is poison free and good for health and prevention of various diseases. The cost of cultivation decreased, as the farmers themselves produce organic manure and pest repellants. They are able to find market at the community and in and around the community.
3. The 200 farmers are relieved from the dependency on companies for seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and technology.
4. The 200 farmers and their family members are resilience to damages caused by Climate Change & relieved from poverty.
5. Disaster Management Committees are formed in all the ten communities to respond immediately during emergencies/disasters and they are linked up with State Disaster Management Authority.
6. The neighbours of the beneficiaries have started organic farming with the motivation and the help of the trained beneficiaries.

## **6. Enabling women to get relief from poverty and violence and to get legal aid**

The project “**Enabling women to get relief from poverty and violence and to get legal aid**” in three southern districts of Tamil Nadu” was implemented since First of July 2014 and will be completed in 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. The project is implemented with the Partnership of Misereor.

### **Activities carried out:**

The RUC’s advocates team along with the paralegal workers:

- Conducted two days each para- legal training to 428 women beedi workers on basic principles of Indian constitution, beedi worker’s rights and providing with required resource material
- Conducted two-day paralegal training to 233 women agricultural labourers each on basic principles of Indian constitution, Minimum Wage Act, Provident Fund Act, Prohibition of Sexual Harassment at Work Places Act, welfare measures of Government and provision of required resource material.

- Conducted four days paralegal training programme for 295 women Social activist on. fundamental rights, offences under Indian penal code, Tamil Nadu prevention of women(harassment) Act, Dowry prohibition Act, Protection of Women from domestic violence Act, Protection of children from sexual offenses Act, Information Technology Act and Indian evidence Act and Law enforcement agencies.
- One day each conferences were conducted on commemorating International Day against Violence against Women and Children at Nanguneri and Tuticorin. Four hundred and twenty four Women's groups leaders & social workers of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Kanyakumari Districts participated.
- Formed thirty Women Rights Monitoring cells in Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Tuticorin Districts.
- **Legal Aid:**  
During the year twenty three cases are conducted to assist the victims to get justice & compensation.

Domestic Violence-7 cases.

Dowry Harassment-1 case.

Death compensation-2 cases.

Divorce Cases-2 cases.

Land Disputes-3 cases

Burial Ground Encroachment-1 case.

Maintenance- 1 case.

Protection of Livelihood Rights of 42 communities through High court - 1

Irrigation water rights to Dalit families-1

Education loan -2 cases.

Falsely implicating in Criminal Cases-2.

### **Results:**

- Women's groups leaders, beediworkers & social workers are aware of the means of asserting the rights of women, children, workers and enhanced their joint bargaining capacity to assert their rights.
- Women beedi workers, who were refused passbook & log note received passbook & log note. Due to this they are able to get Rs: 241.63 as wage for rolling 1000 beedies including eight percentage leave wage, eight percentage bonus and ten percentage provident fund contribution.
- The agriculture coolies are able to get wage of Rs: 206/- under NREGA for 150 days in a year.
- Domestic violence victims & others get remedies and compensation.
- The beneficiaries are able to relive from poverty.

### **7. Vehicle project:**

MIVA, Netherlands supported for replacing of the old Scorpio vehicle. A new Tata Zest petrol car was purchased under corporate sales procedure for Women's Rights & Legal Aid project.

## **8. Consultancy services to Civil Society organizations:**

RUC conducted four days capacity building workshops for the Civil Society organizations of Tamil Nadu (one day each at Salem & Trichy and two days at Nagercoil) on compliance of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010 & amendments, Income Tax Act 1961 & amendments, Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Act, 1952 and Lokpal Act, 2013. RUC provided consultancy services to several Civil Society organizations in Tamil Nadu to comply various domestic laws in governing the Civil Society Organizations.

Two days capacity building training was conducted on Disaster Management to twenty NGOs of Tamil Nadu, at Kanyakumari.

Two days workshop on “Preparation of disaster damage rapid assessment format and familiarizing the participants on online survey using Google app” for thirty three humanitarian agencies involved in Disaster Response in India. Mr.Saji Vargheess, World Vision India provided the technical support and Inter Agency-TamiL Nadu Convener Mr.Joseph Sahayam did the logistic arrangement at Chennai.

## **9. Net working & co-ordination :**

A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC was elected as the District Chief Convener for the Kanyakumari District Social Action Movement having forty two member organizations. The term of office is three years. The District forum planned several activities for enhancing NGO's Governance and animating the people for development initiatives.

RUC participated in the National consultation on NGO Governance organized by Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) at New Delhi. As a follow up, RUC submitted a memorandum to Government of India on 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, to exclude NGOs receiving above ten lacs rupees as contribution from statutory reporting by the office bearers and officers of NGOs under Lokpal Act, 2013 as it is discriminating action on NGOs receiving more than ten lac rupees foreign contribution in a year. Immediately, on 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, Government of India issued a notification. The notification mandated all the State & Central Government employees, Members, Officers and Directors of the reporting under the Lokpal Act 2013 as redundant.

RUC participated in the two executive committee meetings and two planning meetings of the Tamil Nadu Inter Agency Group held at Chennai to discuss the status of drought situation, strengthening the coordination during disasters in Tamil Nadu. A joint drought status assessment is planned in collaboration with UNICEF.

RUC participated in the two days experts' consultation on "Financing Risk Management & Recovery" jointly organized by Sphere India, Change Alliance, Oxfam India and Caritas India held in New Delhi during 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2016.

RUC was jointly invited by Give2Asia & International Institute for Rural Reconstruction for sharing the Disaster Response in the Asian Conference on "Disaster Preparedness and the Power of Local Leadership" held in Manila, Philippines from March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup> of 2017.

### **9. Staff capacity building:**

RUC participated in the two days Child Rights defenders workshop organized by Campaign Against Child Labourer, Tamil Nadu at Nagercoil. RUC participated in the one week Child Rights Defenders workshop organized by National Institute of Child Rights Protection, New Delhi during July 2016.

### **10. Resource mobilization:**

Two representatives (Director, Accountant) participated in the three days resource mobilization workshop conducted by Misereor at Mumbai.

RUC participated in the two days conference organized by Confederation of Indian Industries on mobilizing local resources for responding disasters in Tamil Nadu, held in Chennai.

Mr.A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC visited Europe from 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 and held meetings with several donors for potential partnership.

### **11. Income & Expenditure account:**

During this financial year an amount of Rs: 50, 50,708/-(fifty lac fifty thousand and seven hundred and eight) only was received as contribution from various sources and spent Rs: 54,33,034 /- (fifty four lac thirty three thousand and thirty four only) only on various charitable activities as detailed in the audited statement of accounts.

### **Thanks to the Collaborators & Partners.**

We, the members, staff & beneficiaries of Rural Uplift Centre, whole heartedly thank Misereor - Germany, Manos Unidas-Spain, Indesch Patens Chaften - Luxembourg, MIVA-The Netherlands, Tamil Nadu State Social Welfare Board, Central & State Government officials, Chairman and Members of State & District Legal Services Authorities, Mr.P.Kulathooranpillai, Auditor-Nagercoil, NGOs of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Kanyakumari Districts, Members of Inter Agency Group-Tamil Nadu, Sphere India, Confederation of Indian Industries, Print & Electronic media personnel for their valuable co-operation & solidarity in implementing the charitable activities during the year 2016 - 2017.

**RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE  
DEEPAM, THUMPALY,  
IRENIPURAM - 629 197  
KANYAKUMARI DIST.  
TAMIL NADU.**

**Annual Report 2016-2017**