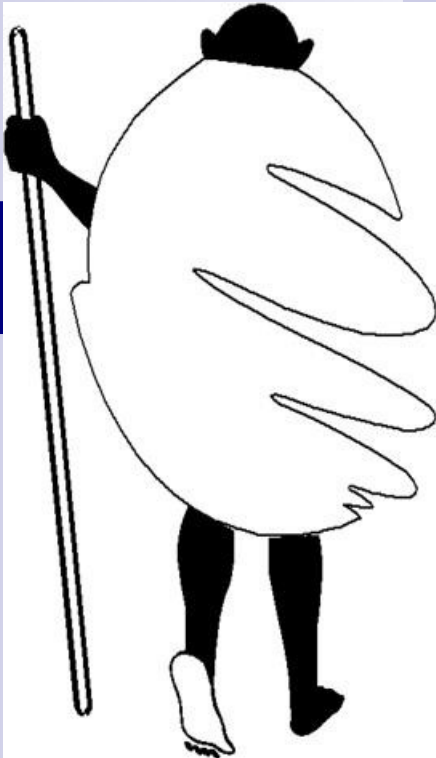


Participation of People in  
**Developing Sustainable, Social &  
Solidarity Economy**

*Experiments of*  
**ASSEFA, India**  
*Last 5 decades*



Presentation at

**International Conference on Transformative Economy**

*Yogyakarta, November 13, 2019*

# Mother ‘The EARTH’

- The Mother Earth is a precious gift by nature.
- All living beings have the right to exist
- The man, considered to be superior among all living being, has greater responsibility to preserve and protect the earth.
- This is possible only through **Green/ Solidarity Economy**, which ensure permanency.

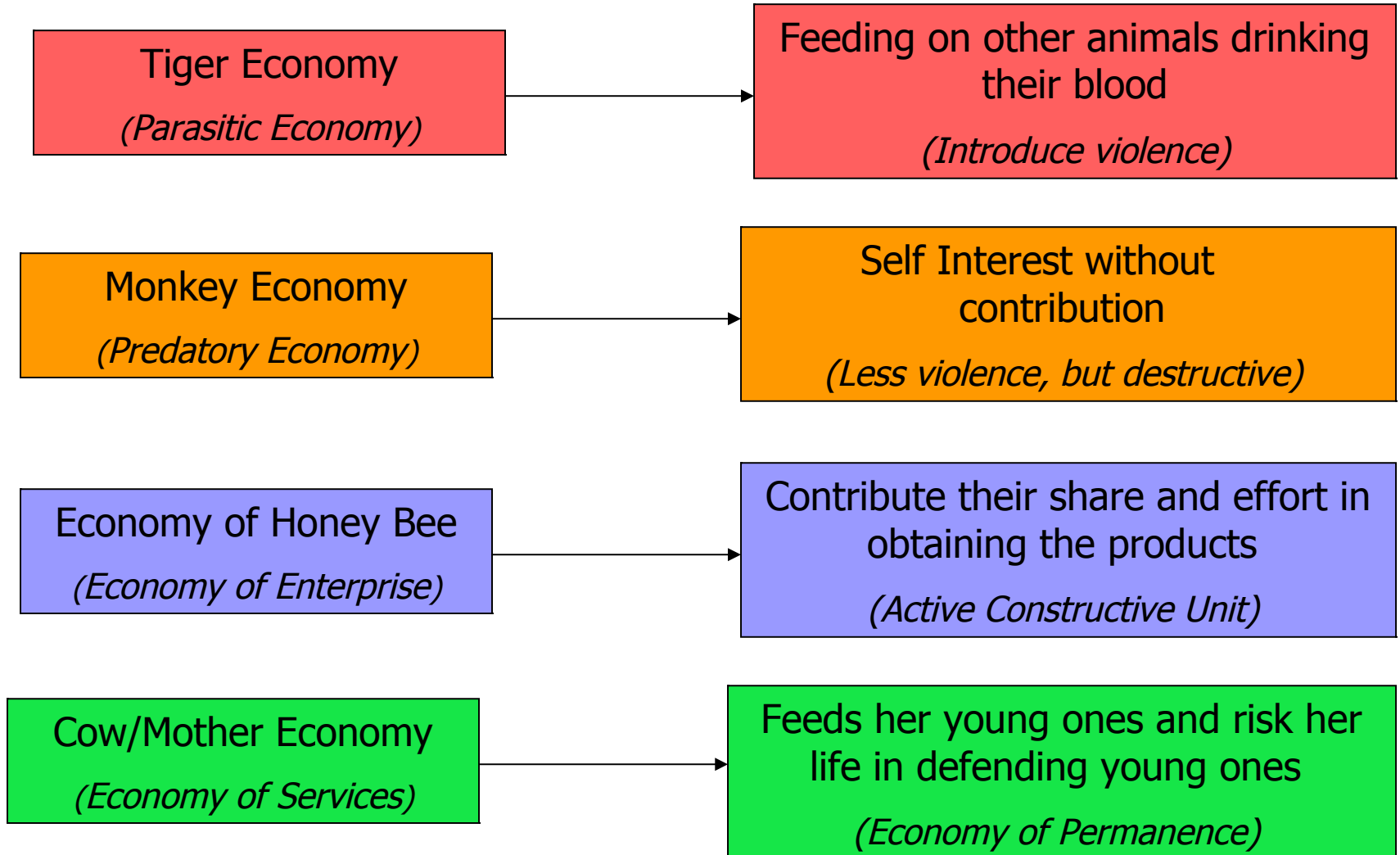
# Preserving Planet, the Earth

- Nature consists of non living stock and animate life.
- The non living stock can be considered inexhaustible in the service of man when only the surplus is taken advantage of.
- Similarly, in animate life, the secret of nature's permanency lies in the cycle of life.
  - Example: *The decomposed leaves, releases various elements absorbed from air, water, light and soil to be used for next generation.*

# Mystery of Nature

- If this cycle is broken at any stage, at any time, consciously or unconsciously, it results in violence.
- When Violence intervenes in this way, growth or progress is stopped, ending finally in destruction and waste.
- Nature is unforgiving and ruthless.
- Therefore self interest and self preservation demand complete non-violence, co-operation and submission to the ways of nature to maintain “Permanency”

# Types of Economies in Nature

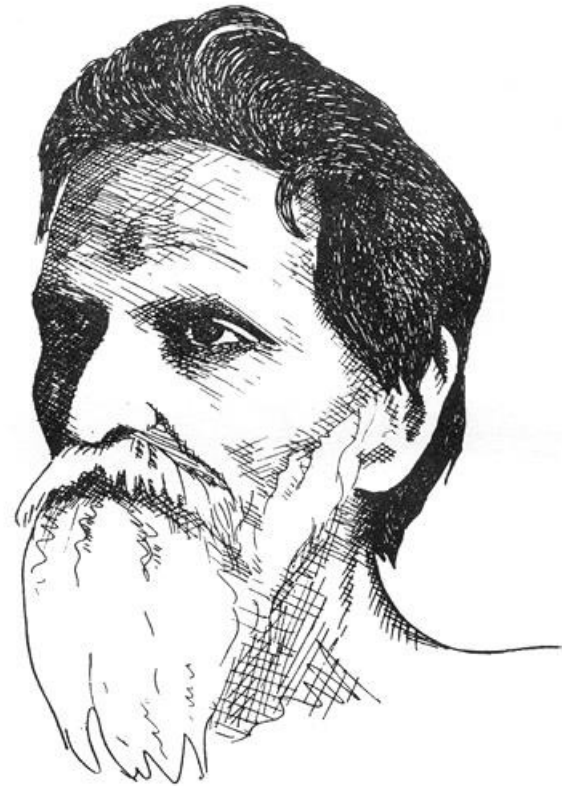


## An attempt to Promote “The Green/Solidarity Economy”

- To move towards “economy of permanence” there is necessity to enhance the goodness in human being.
- The goodness in man is enhanced by practising a) **Love** b) **Truth** c) **Non-Violence**
- This leads to **Peace, Solidarity** and **Harmony**
- Here is a humble attempt by the Gandhians, in establishing a new Green/Solidarity Economy” by developing a self-sufficient and self reliant communities in rural India.

# Who Are We?

- Vinobha Bhave, the spiritual heir of Gandhi, started “**Land gift movement**” to bridge the gap between landlords and landless as
- He did a mission of trekking 14 years across the country since 1951 which enabled him to collect 4.38 *million acres* of lands as gifts from the land holding peasants.
- ASSEFA, with the blessings of Vinoba Bhave, undertook the followup of the Movement since 1968 of rehabilitating the landless farmers.
- Gradually, ASSEFA broadened its mission to bring in vulnerable for their holistic development.



**Vinoba Bhave**

# What is our Motto?

“Establish Village Republic i.e., *self-sufficient, self-reliant and self-managed communities* based on the principles of freedom, non - economical parity with social justice”.

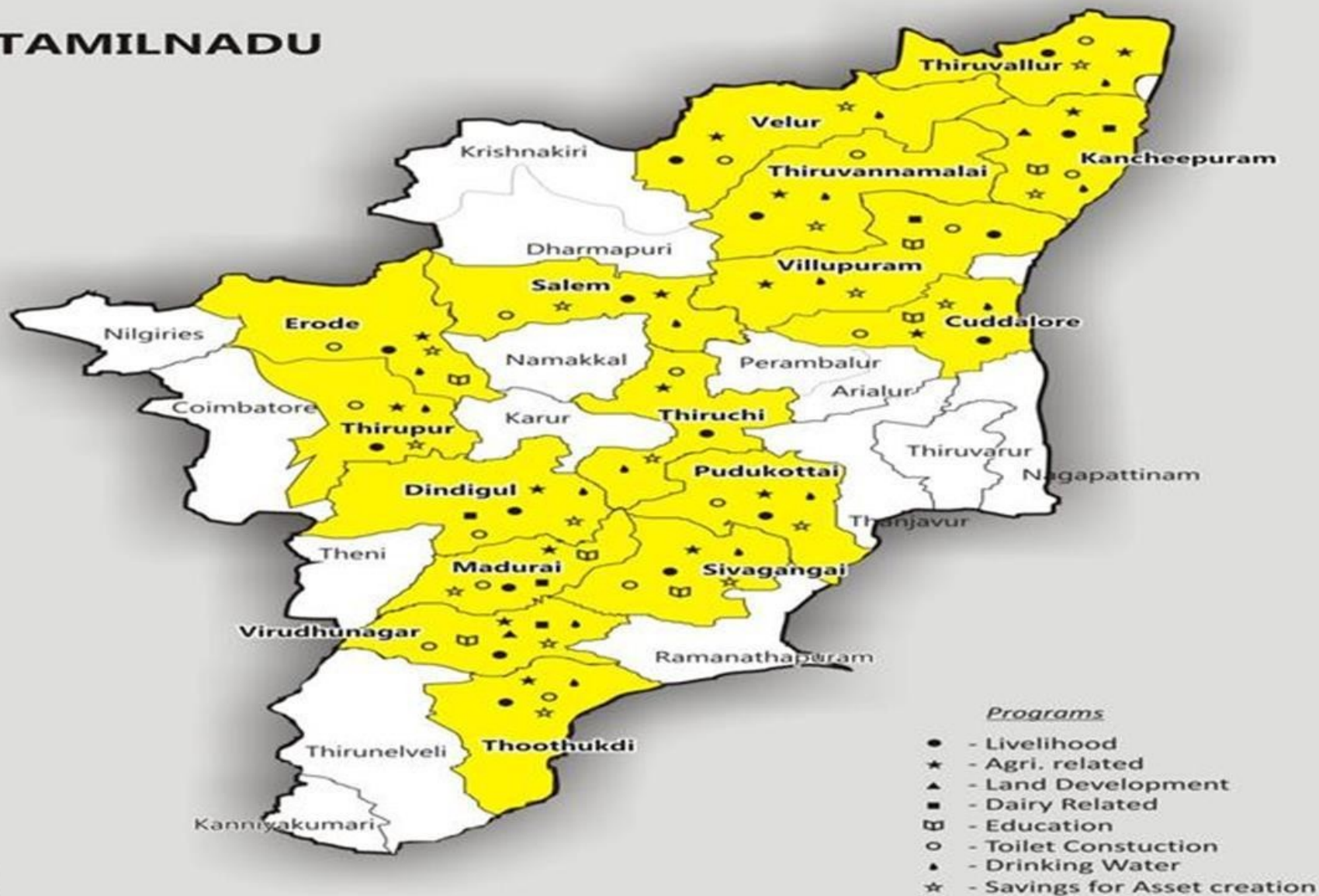


# Where are we ?

- ASSEFA works in rural India across eight states in India, intensively in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Nearly 1.8 million families inhabited across 10,500 villages are part of this mission.
- Involved with multi facet socio-economic actions through 161 CBOs, promoted exclusively under this mission.

## ASSEFA PROGRAMS & COVERAGE

## TAMILNADU



# ASSEFA Steps to strengthen the Goodness in Human Being

- Promoting mutuality groups
  - *To understand, care, love and support each other*
- Ensuring Livelihoods
  - *To meet the basic needs: food, clothes and shelter*
- Providing Social Security
  - *To make them feel secure against vulnerability*
- Teaching holistic education for young children
  - *To develop new generation*

# Mutuality Groups

- Action based groups with 5/20 members
- Working on mutual benefit concept
- Participatory system
- Decision on consences
- Independent operation
- Transparent
- Team being built to strengthen this process at group, federation and regional levels.
- Brought in about 8,00,000 *families* under mutuality groups

# Livelihoods Promotion

- Opportunity for all to participate in income generation activities.
- Preference to land and cattle wealth based activities.
- Protecting and enriching Land and water via
  - Bringing waste land under cultivation
  - Rain harvesting structure to improve ground water
  - Promoting organic farming practices and
  - Tree crop cultivation
- Local capital built up to meet their credit requirements
- Separate marketing structure wherever necessary, preferably to meet the local demand.

# Social Security

- Community based security:
  - Wage loss compensation for pregnant ladies
  - Human life loss compensation for children
  - Cattle loss compensation by replacing with new cattle
  - Productivity loss compensation for farmers.
- Well being of all:
  - Mother and child health by trained persons
  - Stress management
  - Health and Sanitation
  - Safe drinking water
- Community Marriage to address the social problems of poverty, vulnerability and bridge the hearts among the community.

# Holistic Education for Children

- Rural Education:
  - Keep the children under mainstream educational system
  - Learn and respect livelihood activities practised by the local communities
  - Protect and preserve the local WEALTH of NATURE
  - Understand and appreciate their culture and traditions.
  - Learn and practice non-violence and Peace Making Skills
  - Good physique and sound mind through games, sports, yoga and meditation.
- Hundreds of thousand children undergone this training in the last four decades.

# Graduating Local Communities to Sustain these initiatives

- Initiate development programs in the deserving areas.
- Simultaneously promote mutuality groups to participate in the development programs.
- Build up local resources to meet the development initiatives on rotation basis.
- Gradually, strengthen the mutuality groups through its federated and apex bodies formed at area and state levels respectively to manage the programs.
- Once these community structures are graduated to manage the programs, ASSEFA withdraw its support and moves on to other deserving areas.
- It, generally, takes between 12 to 15 years to graduate the communities.

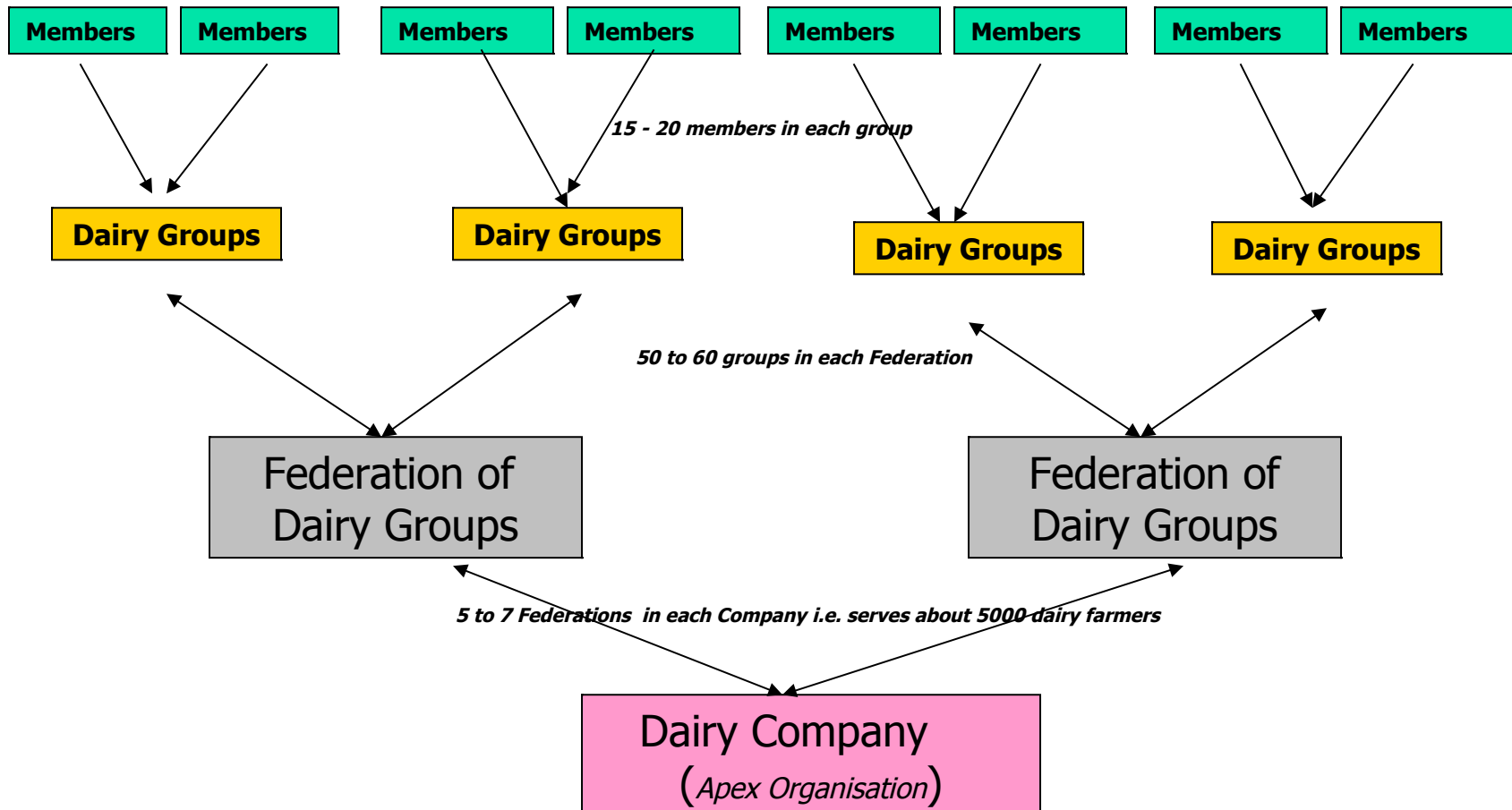


# Trusteeship Based Community Organisations

- All the federated as well as apex bodies of mutuality groups are formed under Gandhian Trusteeship Model.
- Promoted 161 such community Organisations with suitable legal entity with the following features:
  - Decentralised approach
  - Participation of community in governance
  - No individual ownership. Communities are the owners/trustees
  - Democratic approach
  - Profit/surplus invested through provision of extension services/social services to benefit the people.

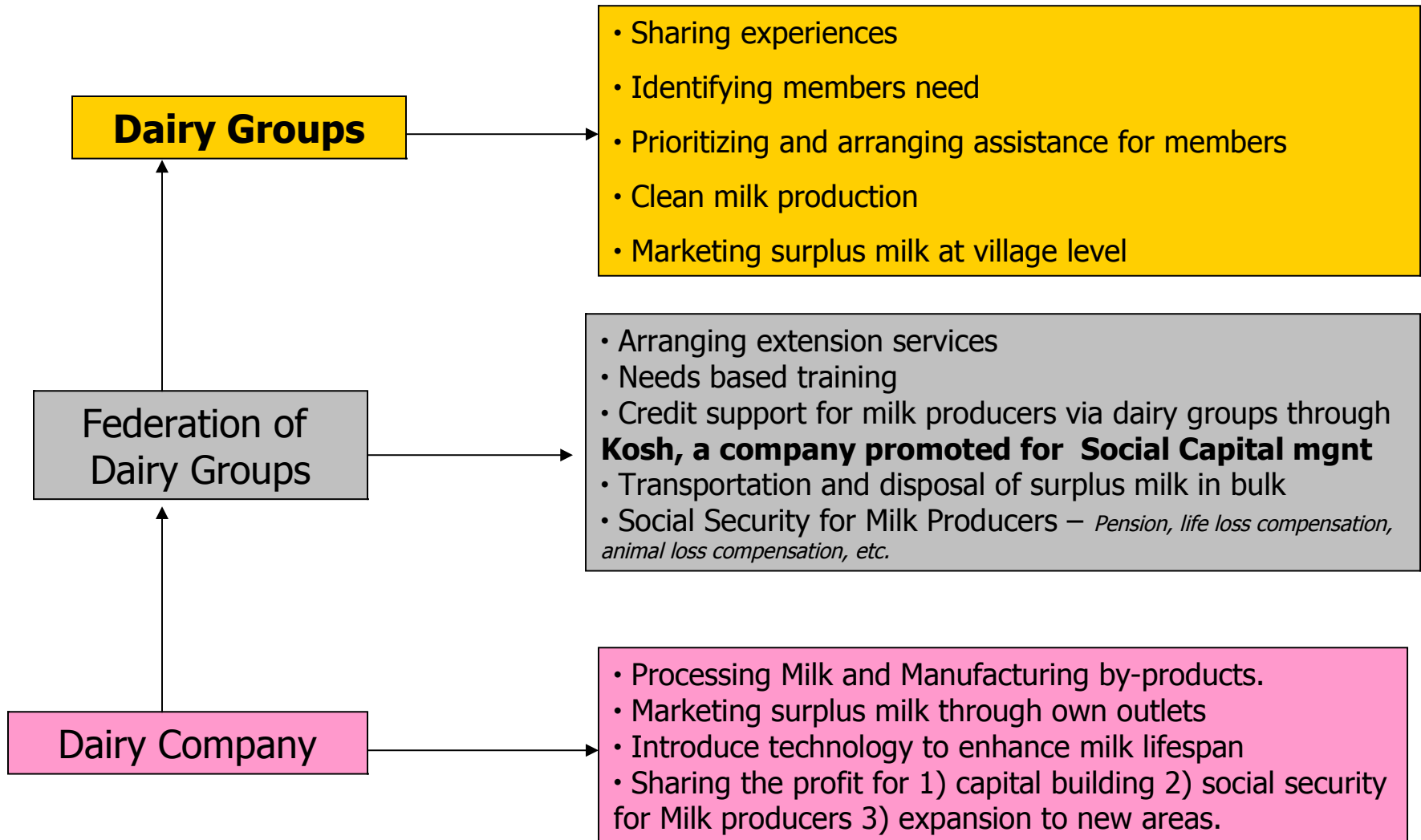
# Organizational Structure of Community Organisations

*E.g Dairy program*



# Roles and Responsibilities at Each Level

*E.g dairy program*



- At A Glance -

# **Mutuality Group in Action**



# **Women Mutuality group in their business meeting..**





# **AGM of women Federations..**





# Women Led Conference





# Farmers Mutuality Group in Action



# Farmers Mutuality Group in Action



# Livelihoods Promotion At A Glance





# Agriculture, the prime income source...



# Training in Soil testing..





# Farmers practising Vermi composting..



# Organic farming, top priority for farmers..



# Watershed in Action..



**Orikulam Kanmai**



# Drip Irrigation



# Micro Sprinkler

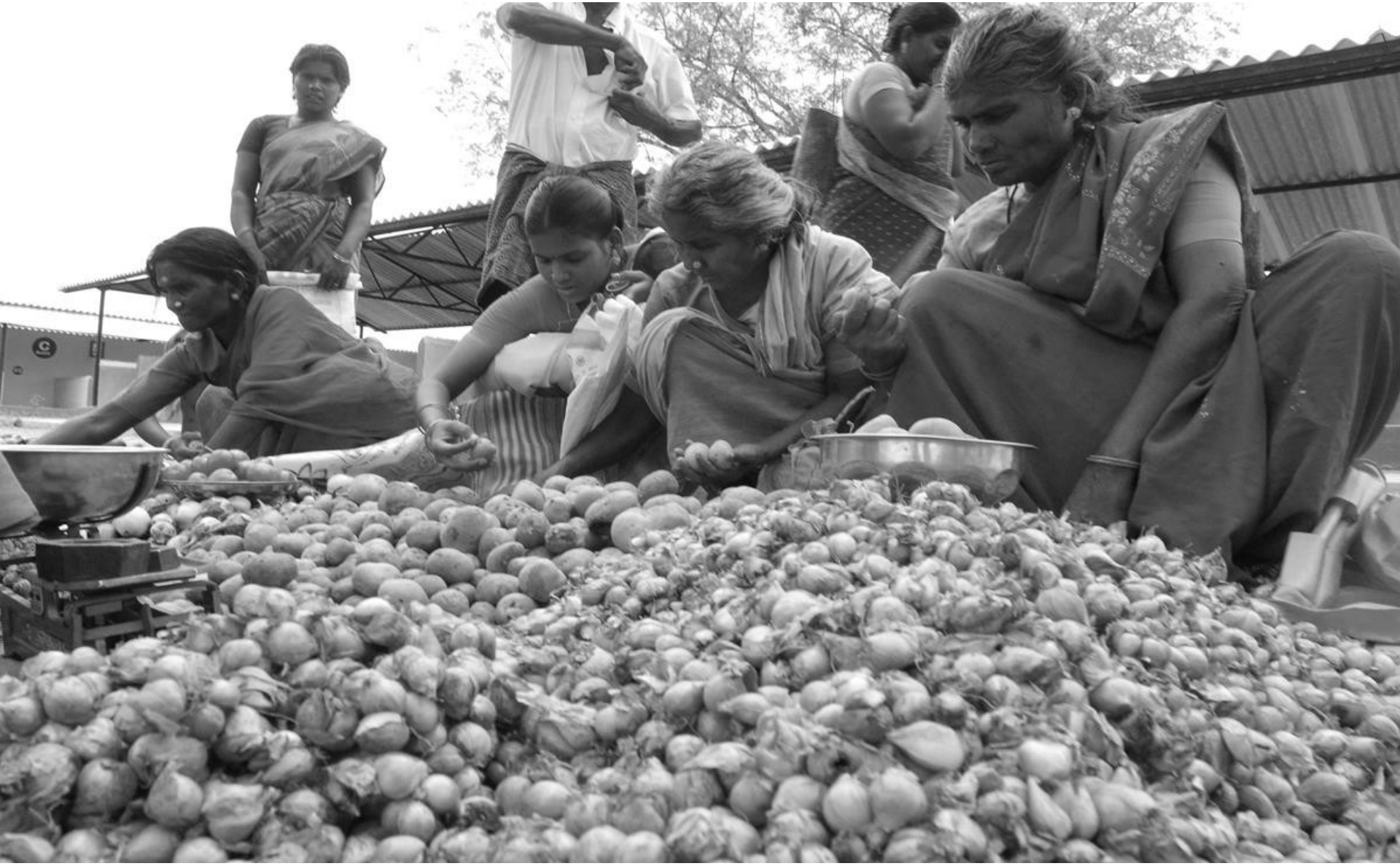


# **Appropriate technology in farming to reduce production cost..**





# **Rural Marketing Bazaar linking farmers and consumers directly..**









# Dairy promotion as alternative to agriculture farming..





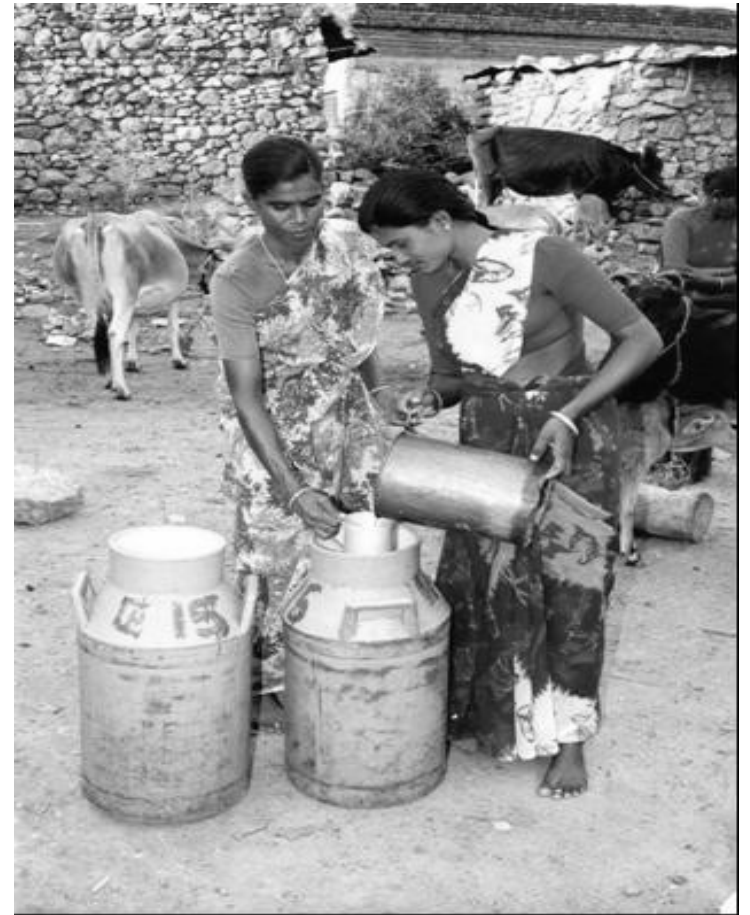
## Veterinary Care..







## **Surplus milk collection in the villages**



# Transporting milk to the factory..



# Checking the quality of milk in process..





# Processing of milk..



# Pocketing processed milk..





# OUR BRAND SEVA / SARVODAYA..



# MILK BY-PRODUCTS..



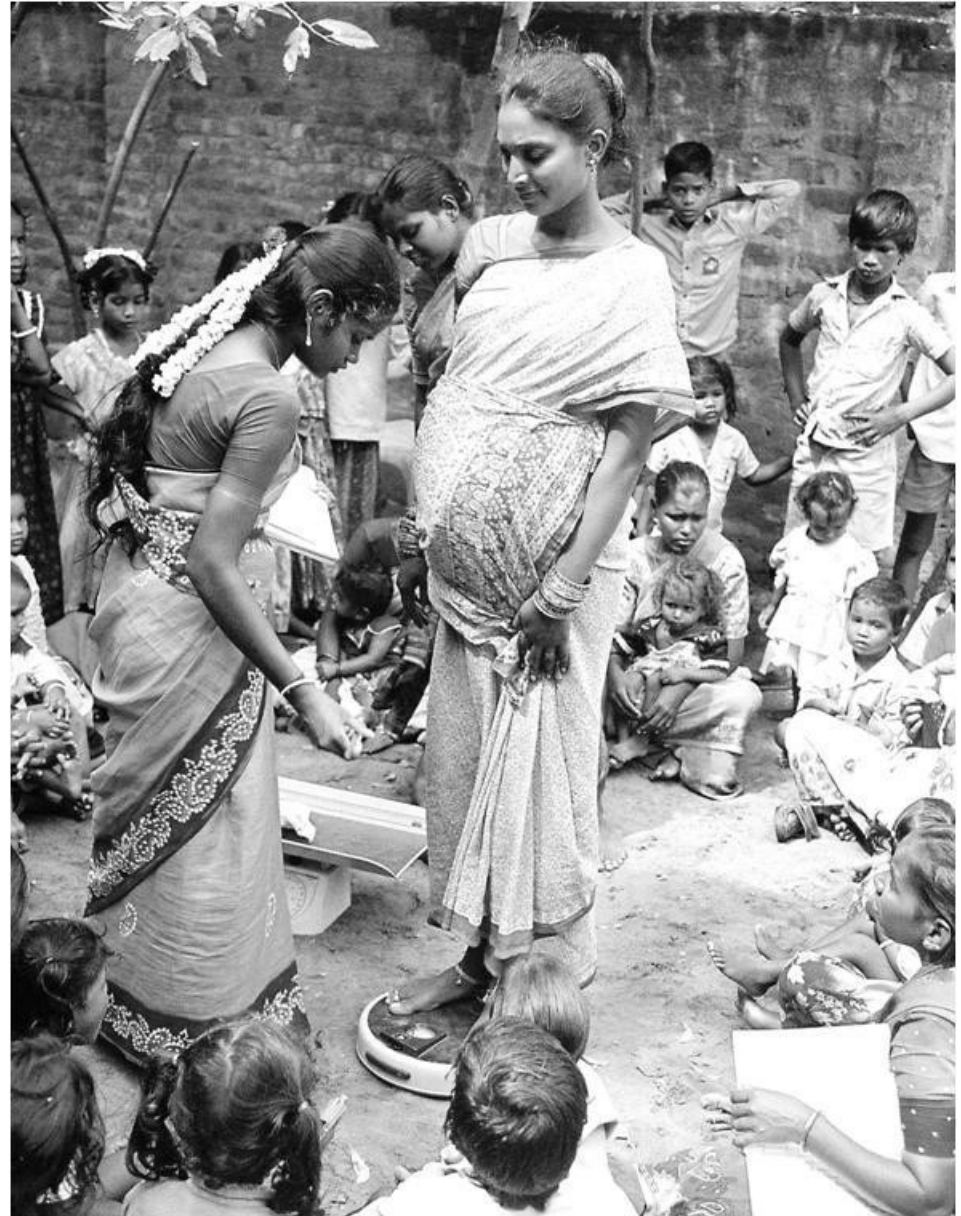


The photograph shows a busy outdoor milk processing center. At the top, a prominent sign reads "சரிவ் சேவா தேர்நீர் மையம்." (Sariwa Seva Thernir Mayam), with "நத்தம் - கோவில்பட்டி" (Nattam - Kovilpatti) written below it. To the left, a group of people, mostly women in saris, are seated on the ground. In the center, several men in light-colored shirts are engaged in different tasks. One man stands next to a board displaying a price list for various items, including "செய்யுள்" (Seyyulan), "செய்யுள்" (Seyyulan), "செய்யுள்" (Seyyulan), etc., with corresponding prices like 13.00, 11.00, 7.00, etc. Another man is standing near a large metal tank. On the right, a man is operating a machine, possibly a churn or a press, over a large metal pot. Below this machine, a sign reads "சேவா பால்" (Seva Pal) and "செய்யுள் பால்" (Seyyulan Pal). The entire setup is outdoors, with traditional buildings visible in the background.



# Social Security Initiatives – At A Glance

**ANC services for pregnant members..**



# Regular Health camps..







# Mass wedding for social harmony..







# Couples in procession..





**Women SHGs organise these events..**  
***(As on date 2,830 couples solemnized as husband and wife)***



**HAPPY LEARNINGS..**





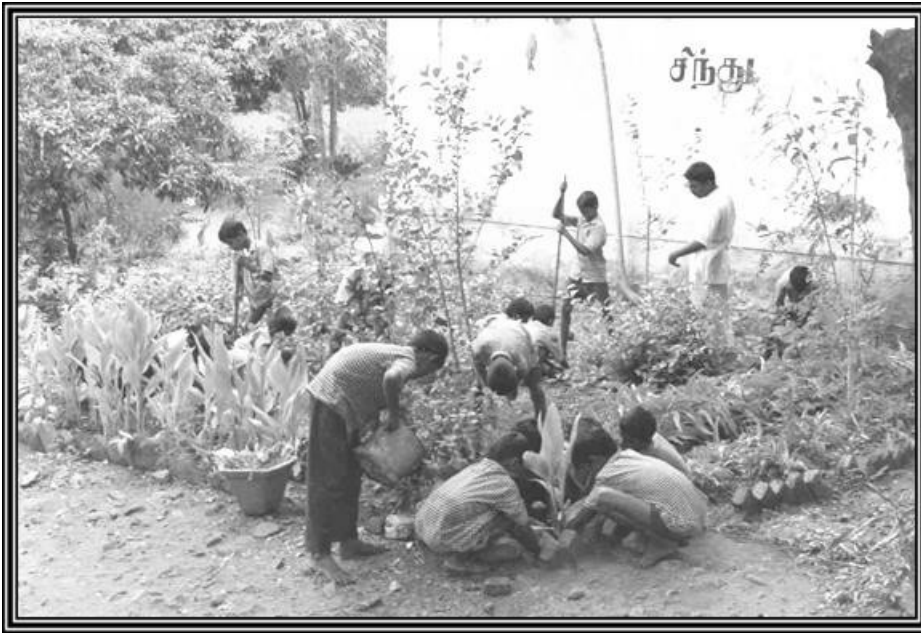
# INNOVATIVE TEACHING..



# Regular practises of Yoga and Meditation..

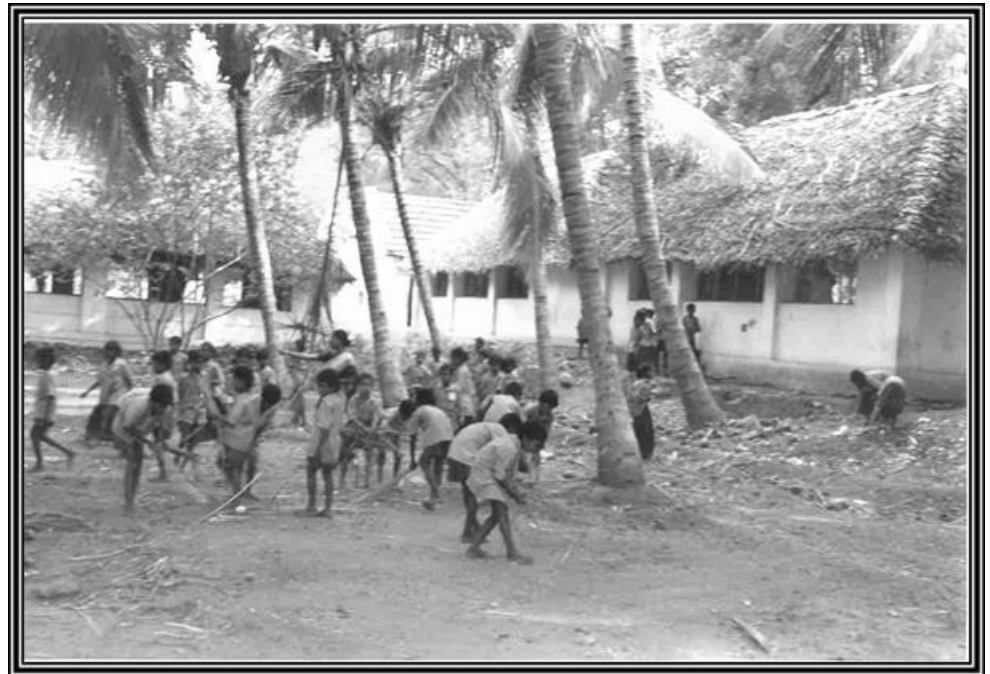






## **Practising Shramdhan..**

**Garden maintenance,  
Campus cleaning..**



# Kutty doctor helping the mates to maintain hygiene



# Science lab..

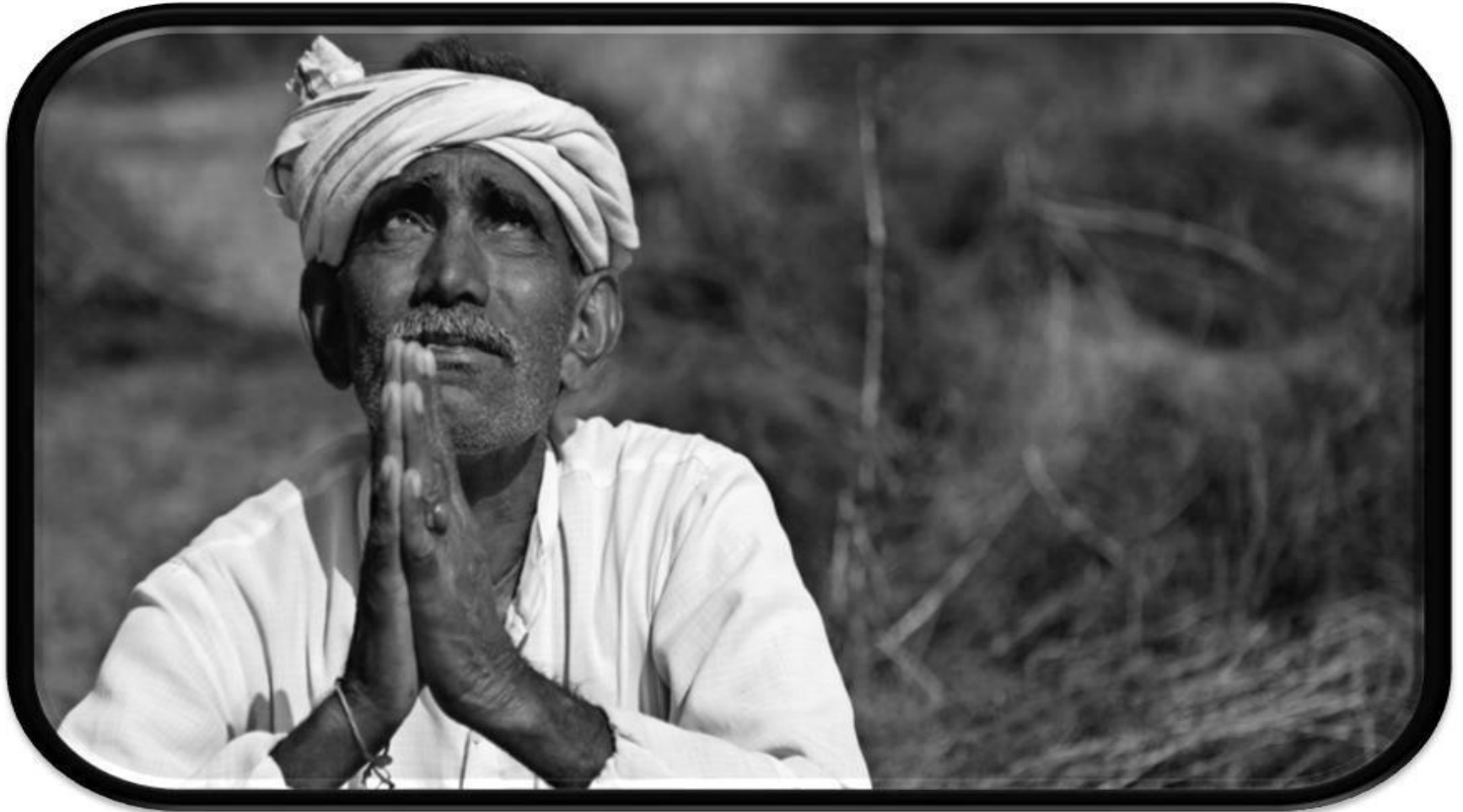




# Training in software, hardware technology..



**Whether Replicable ?**



**Thanking You**



**For futher information, contact**

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**Royapettah,**

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