



Defining
Performance

in Difficult
Times

Annual Report 2020 - 21

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1. COVID 19, CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES



1.1 The Global Pandemic, COVID 19:

The humankind is witnessing an unprecedented situation due to the outbreak of COVID 19. This pandemic, having outbroken in China, spread globally in a short span of time.

When the first case of Covid-19 was detected in the early March 2020 in Tamil Nadu, nobody knew that the virus is going to stay for a long and will bring in fear and havoc among the people.

The impact of the virus on the human health on the one side, lockdown and fear on the other side, have affected the people in multi-dimensionally covering psychological, social and economic aspects.

ASSEFA, a pioneering Development Organization in India, was also affected in implementing the on-going programs in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. It has been working for the last fifty two years for the welfare of the rural people.

During this pandemic, some programs were slowed down, others like schools for children education was closed down and subsequently evolved a new strategy to engage the students in e-teaching technology.

New programs were also introduced for vulnerable specially widows, deserted, destitute and aged women, farmers and rural youths to support milk producers.

A newsletter on COVID 19 was initiated and circulated to all the friends, well-wishers and partners regularly to update them with the ground realities and what ASSEFA is doing to its affected people...

There were spontaneous responses from all the quarters with whom, ASSEFA has been Partnering with. Their blessings and generous support has enabled ASSEFA to carry on the following services during this global pandemic period.

1.2 Programs Introduced during COVID 19,

- **Cash Assistance to 2,670 vulnerable women:** The assistance has covered widows, destitute and aged women, who mostly live independently, without any support. These women were provided with Rs. 1,000 each to manage their emergency /medical needs as these women do not have any savings/cash to meet any such incidences.
- **Distribution of Food Pack Materials** to widows and aged women, who were struggling every day for their livelihoods along with their children. The food pack materials consist of 30 grocery items including rice, pulses, masala powders, salt, sugar, etc., with quantities sufficient for a month. As on March 31, 2021, 255 vulnerable families were provided with food pack.
- **Solidarity Support among vulnerable women:** A novel program introduced to support the aged widows by young widowed entrepreneurs. During lockdown, young widowed entrepreneurs were also affected like

other section of the people. When the lockdown was relaxed, these women were in need of working capital to restart their businesses.

ASSEFA supported such women with revolving funds of Rs. 25,000 each with the condition that the nominal interest earned from the rotation will be used to support the aged widows with either cash or food pack materials. ASSEFA has been able to support 126 young widowed entrepreneurs and 33 aged widows with interest income.

Coverage under Challenges Vs Responses

S.No	Particulars	Coverage
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cash Assistance to vulnerable	2,670
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of food pack	255
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solidarity Support	159

1.3 Strategy for Covid 19 in the near future...

The second wave of Covid 19 is active, presently, infecting nearly 35,000 persons every day in Tamil Nadu and the death rate is nearly 1 percentage. The doctors, scientists and global leaders are of the opinion that the vaccination is the ONLY solution to address COVID 19.

Hence, ASSEFA is planning to work with local Government to create awareness among our beneficiaries to get them vaccinated. For those who are having fear for vaccination, will be supplied with immunity boosters, “Kabasura Kudineer” (a Siddha herbal preparation) and Arsenic Album”(Homeopathic medicines), recommended by the government. Primary health centre will also be supported in terms of clean environment, safety of the centre, better amenities for patients based on their requirements.

2. LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION: IN THE MIDST OF PANDEMIC



In the ASSEFA operational areas, the main occupations for the people are agriculture and livestock rearing. Unlike other sectors, the Government exempted farm operation and supply chain from lockdown to ensure smooth supply of food materials to all people. Yet, these sectors faced with challenges such as shortage of labour, availability of quality inputs and falling price.

The following are the services provided by ASSEFA for the farmers during this pandemic period.

2.1 Supply of Indigenous seeds to 557 farmers:

Farmers had a challenging task in accessing to quality seeds due to “Covid” factor. In addition, the farmers had bitter experiences of yellow

stem borer attack in the last season, especially in T Kallupatti area. Hence, the farmers were in dilemma in undertaking cultivation.

ASSEFA has been working in this area in promoting Karunganni Cotton. Hence, the farmers were identified and arranged the supply of quality seed of, “Red gram” purchased from the regional research station, “Paiyur” along with Karunganni seeds.

2.2 Engaging Farmers in Tree Plantation:

During lockdown, people had no works and they were confined to their home. However, farmers were interested to participate in farm related works. Thus the idea of planting indigenous tree crops in their villages was started.

Accordingly, 25,000 tree saplings, mainly Manila Tamarind, Citrus fruit, Jamun, Jack fruits, Gauva, Tamarind and cashewnuts were planted in 39 villages benefiting more than 300 farmers. This is expected to give regular income like pension after four years.



2.3 Linkages with Collaborators to support Farmers:

ASSEFA has been collaborating with “VALUE ADDING” enterprises/ entrepreneurs. They were supported with necessary infrastructure in ASSEFA community lands with the condition that they should help the

local farmers in terms of training, purchase of raw produces, etc. As on March 31, 2021, ASSEFA has established collaboration with eight Enterprises / Entrepreneurs.

Details of the Collaborators and the expected benefits to the local farmers are, as given under.

Places	Collaborator	Benefit to farmers
• Mallankinaru	FPO	Input supply, value adding units for pulses and minor millets and weekly market yard.
• Valayankulam	Enterprise	Masala powder making unit
• T. Ramanathapuram	FPO	Training & demonstration unit for herbal cultivation
• Kenjampatti	Enterprise	Charcoal making
• Valayankulam	Enterprise	Carton box making
• Pavalamkuruchi	Enterprise	Charcoal making
• Avarampatt	Enterprise	Sawmill
• Pooriyampakkam	Agri value chain company	Training, demonstration, oil press unit, nursery..

2.4 Reinstating the livelihoods of 50 tribal families

The tribes live at the foot of the Western Ghats in Watrap area of Virudhunagar district lost their livelihoods due to Covid. They were engaged in gathering and selling forest products such as honey, herbal plants, etc. Their agriculture activities were also affected due to erratic rainfall. ASSEFA supported these families with the distribution of Bhoodan land of 110 acres, forty years ago. ASSEFA is in process of supporting them in strengthening their irrigation sources by improving their five open wells and cultivation of fruit tree crops.

2.5 Restoring livelihoods of the 27 cobblers:

The families of Cobblers /leather workers live in a small village, Mangalam, near Sivakasi. Their livelihoods i.e., removing skin from dead animals and making leather products, were affected due to pandemic. ASSEFA has started supporting them, especially women, with cultivation

of tree crops and intercrops by strengthening irrigation water sources in the ASSEFA's 7.5 acres of community land.

2.6 Livelihoods support for Nomad community:

Nomad Community consisting of 25 families lost their livelihood activities, which comprises of making and marketing products from Palmyra trees. They live in a small village, "Maikudi" near Madurai. These families were once supported under Bhoodan movement by distributing 62 acres of land for cultivation. However, they practiced subsistent farming due to lack of irrigation facilities. These families are being supported, now, with strengthening the open wells for irrigation, cultivation of 625 fruit tree saplings and goat rearing activity.

2.7 Community irrigation system:

Assured irrigation is essential to realize improved results in agriculture farming. Many farmers practice rainfed farming. This is always risky in places where rainfall is erratic. ASSEFA is planning to introduce a new scheme to address this problem by introducing community irrigation system. Accordingly borewell or open well will be established for three to four farmers. They should use the water for irrigating their lands on mutually agreed sharing basis. A nominal charge will be collected from the user for maintenance and repayment of loan, availed for investment. ASSEFA has identified 50 locations in southern districts of Tamil Nadu for launching it soon.

2.8 Dairy Promotion:

Though, no lockdown restriction was imposed on dairy sector, but the activity has slowed down due to shut down of other sectors such as hotels, restaurant, tea shops, schools, colleges and other educational institutions. Nearly 60 percent of the total sales were consumed by this commercial sector. Further, farmers were affected due to poor supply of inputs like concentrated feed, timely veterinary care services, etc.

In spite these challenges, ASSEFA has continued to procure milk from its farmers and converted the surplus milk into by-products such as milk powder, ghee, etc. Unlike milk, these products can be stored and marketed

for longer period. Loans were raised from the mainstream financial institutions to compensate the lock up of the working capital.

Presently, ASSEFA is supporting 7,000 dairy farmers directly. In addition, nearly 9,000 dairy farmers in Gingee and Chinnasalem areas are supported indirectly, by collaborating with Srinivasa Dairy and Vijay Dairy, both having objectives similar to ASSEFA. These Dairy Companies manage the dairy factories established by the ASSEFA group.

2.9 Promotion of social entrepreneurs:

A Bulk cooling unit with the capacity of 4,000 litres was installed at “Avarampatti” in Madurai district. A group of youths were recruited and trained to collect the surplus milk hygienically from the villages, test the quality and quantity of milk and chill it in the BMC.

These milks are marketed subsequently to the bulk purchasers for processing, pocketing and marketing. Presently, this unit is supporting 600 farmers inhabited across 30 interior villages and generated employment opportunities to 70 youths in milking, collection, transportation, testing and chilling activities.



2.10 My Life...My Calf

The intend of this program is to provide economic security for a girl child aged between 10 to 15 years old. ASSEFA has supported these poor girl children with heifer calf. The calf grows with the girl. When the girl is ready for marriage, the asset of the calf will be multiplied many folds, which will be sufficient to meet the cost of the marriages. In addition the animal will start to give milk when it reaches 3 years old, the sale proceeds of which can be used for children education. As on March 31, 2021, 344 children inhabited across 20 blocks had been supported with heifer calves.

2.11 Farmer Producers Company

To make the farmers participate in the process of procurement, processing and marketing, ASSEFA has promoted Farmers Producers Companies. The structure of this company is similar to a Cooperative, where producers alone can invest in the company and the Board of Directors should be the producers. However, the company can appoint Chief operating officer to execute the business plan approved by the Board.

As on March 31, 2021, ASSEFA has promoted four Farmers Producers Companies, which include two for dairy/milk producers, one for livestock promotion and one for seed production. These companies, presently, serve, in total, 4,946 farmers. Recently, NABARD has agreed to support in promoting one more Producers Company with the focus on promoting animal husbandry in Sivagangai area.

Coverage under Livelihood Programs

S.No	Particulars	Coverage
1	• Supply of indigenous seeds	557
2	• Tree Plantation (25,000 saplings)	300
3	• Linkages with Collaborators	08
4	• Livelihoods support for tribal	50
5	• Livelihoods support for cobblers	27
6	• Livelihood support for nomad	25
7	• Dairy based livelihoods	7000
8	• Promoting Social Entrepreneurs	70
9	• My Life...My Calf	344
10	• Farmers Producers Company (4)	4,946

3. EDUCATION AND THE COVID-19



The Covid-19 pandemic has created a lot of challenges in the Indian education system. All schools, colleges and education institutions have been closed down since March 2020.

The sudden outbreak of the pandemic did not allow the concerned stakeholders in education sector to introduce alternative system. Though, the government came up with the suggestion of on-line education, but it was too late for the academic year, as many in rural areas lacked internet and device facilities.

3.1 On-line Education for Rural Students

The schools of ASSEFA too faced the same problem. When the curriculum was developed for on-line, many students did not possess smart phone or labtop with internet facilities. However, the parent (male) of the students possessed smartphone. They were invited and assisted them to register under whatsapp. The syllabus teaching was recorded and sent to whatsapp number of their parents.

Instead of regular curriculum, the classes focused on basic mathematics, English and Social Emotional Learning. However, for higher education, the

government prescribed curriculum was followed. In the coastal area, 50 percent of the students of the higher education did not have smart phone facilities.

The management team of these Schools, under the leadership of Mr. Gowtham Reddy, received mini tabs for the students of 9th and 10th standard from “Suryoday Foundation” under CSR funding.

Simultaneously, this team also raised funds locally through crowd funding and supported the teachers and parents, who had economical problems, with the supply of rice and groceries ration. Five schools in the coastal area have been managed with fee collection and donations from local philanthropists. Similar initiatives were taken up to support other independent schools in Uthiramerur, Madurantagam, Gingee and in south Tamil Nadu. Presently, ASSEFA has 44 schools benefiting 12,100 students. However, active participation of students will be about 40 percent only.

3.2 Weekend Schools:

Proposed to start weekend schools for 6 - 12 years old children. Different ideas have been collected to teach the children with agriculture, livestock, pet animals, poultry, swimming, creativity in arts and crafts, etc. ASSEFA has selected Mykudi, V Ammapatti and Thonugal for experimenting with weekend schools.

All the basic works have been completed. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the progress of starting these schools is slow.

Coverage under Education

S.No	Particulars	Coverage
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Number of Schools in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Madurai region, ○ Coastal Area ○ Gingee Area ○ Madurantagam Area ○ Uthiramerur Area 	44
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students Enrolled 	12,100
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students actively engaged 	4,840

4. COMMUNITY HEALTH



The sudden outbreak of global pandemic has affected both mental and physical health of the human body. The lockdown and uncertainty of the pandemic has created mental stress and fear among many people.

The Government itself took up complete control in delivering health care services. Gradually, it released the guidelines on preventive measures. However, the government used the services of other stakeholders including voluntary sector to create awareness on the preventive measures.

4.1 Awareness Program:

The following guidelines, on preventive measures, from the Government, were strictly followed in ASSEFA.

- Wearing face mask
- Frequent washing of hands
- Wearing of hand gloves and

- Maintaining social distances.

Subsequently, this guideline was spread to women SHG members, farmers and beneficiaries of 3,581, covered under relief support through orientation and notices. Free face masks were also distributed wherever required.

In project areas like Thirumangalam, T Kallupatti and Kalligudi, the health team from the Primary Health Centres were invited to the villages and created awareness on the preventive measures. These camps were organised in 11 villages covering about 625 people. Face mask and soaps were distributed for the participants.

4.2 Menstrual Health Care:

As the lockdown's goal was to keep everyone safe and healthy, disruption in procurement of raw materials, manufacturing and distribution of sanitary pads have not served the purpose. The napkin manufacturing units were shutdown. Thus, the availability of napkins became precarious. ASSEFA Health Centre in the coastal areas, with the purpose of ensuring menstrual hygiene for rural girls and women, went ahead with the distribution of "**Hygiene essential kits**" containing sanitary napkins, Soaps, masks, first aid kit and awareness pamphlets to young women and adolescent girls. The team also educated them on the importance of menstrual hygiene, healthy practices during menstruation, safe disposal of napkins. Under the Covid-19 relief programme, 497 kits were given to young women.

4.3 Stress and Trauma Releasing Exercise (TRE)

The training on the TRE exercise was given to all the senior workers of SMBTs. This was given by our Vice Chairman, Sri. Nadarajan. It is a simple exercise involving seven steps using our hands. The regular exercise, which takes a maximum of 10 minutes, will regulate blood circulations and activate the brain cells.

4.4 Community Toilet facilities:

ASSEFA in collaboration with local body has constructed a community toilet in Thandikudi area, where the toilet facility is limited due to constraints in availability of space. Hence people attend the nature call in the outskirts of

the villages. The women and adult girls feel risky as they attend either during night or before dawn.

This community toilet has provision for 5 users at a time. ASSEFA has invested in materials and the local body in labour, land, water facility and electricity connections. Each toilet provision will be used by three families, which means this toilet will be used by fifteen families. However for maintenance, the local body has set up a team, who collect a nominal user fee for maintenance.

People from neighbourhood villages have approached ASSEFA to support them with similar toilet facilities.



4.5 Dwelling Houses for Women:

Mela Amathur is a small village in Virudhunagar district, is predominantly inhabited by leather workers, a socially vulnerable community. ASSEFA supported 11 families of cobblers with construction of pucca houses in the ASSEFA community lands to settle them. Recently, ASSEFA has transferred the title of the house in the name of women. Similarly, the title of the houses was transferred to 26 women in vadamalapuram and Chengamalapatti villages.

4.6 Safe Drinking Water:

ASSEFA has continued to supply potable drinking water to the villagers by installing RO water plants. This is implemented in collaboration with TATA Projects, Hyderabad. As on March 31, 2021, 87 RO plants, each with a capacity of 1000 litres per hour have been installed to supply safe drinking water to 30,000 to 35,000 households.

Out of the total plants, 53 plants are managed by ASSEFA group institutions and the remaining by SHG women leaders.

S. No	District	No of Plants
1	Dindigul	5
2	Madurai	11
3	Trichy	1
4	Sivagangai	1
5	Virudhunagar	11
6	Cuddalore	19
7	Kancheepuram	10
8	Thiruvannamalai	8
9	Vilupuram	20
10	Tiruppur	1
	Total	87

Coverage under Community Health

S.No	Particulars	Coverage
1	• Awareness Program	4,206
	• Menstrual Health Care	497
2	• Stress Releasing Exercise	85
3	• Community Toilet	05
4	• Houses for Vulnerable	37
5	• Potable drinking water	32,500

5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTION



In the recent period, people have started to realize the importance of protecting the environment. During the unprecedented lockdown, people in some areas, witnessed the return of normal climate, which they experienced decades ago.

ASSEFA has continued to implement the following programs towards enhancing the environmental conditions.

5.1 Climate Adoption Initiatives:

This program has been implemented in six areas in Madurai and Sivagangai districts to address the vulnerability of the farmers arising due to climate change. These project areas, often, witnessed erratic rainfall, frequent drought situation coupled with poor maintenance of feeder drains. Thus, the farmers had faced with low production, inadequate income, disposal of livestock and migration.

ASSEFA, with the support of NABARD, has been supporting the farmers, over the years, in building rainwater harvesting structure, technology for efficient irrigation, application of organic manure and improvement of soil

health, natural resource management for sustainable harvesting and strong local communities to manage the program.

Status as on March 31, 2021:

- Districts : Madurai & Sivagangai
- Blocks/Areas : Six, 3 in each district
- Villages : 29
- Families : 3,324
- Land in (ha) : 6,101

Consequent to the continuous intervention, these areas have started showing positive impacts such as

- Increase in groundwater level, water available during summer also
- 110 to 20% unused lands brought under agriculture.
- Cultivation of tree crops increased vegetation by 10 to 15%.
- Reduction in soil erosion
- A shift from mono cultivation to multi cropping system.
- Reduction in distress sale of livestock and the seasonal migration.

ASSEFA is planning to expand these activities to the neighbourhood villages, and has submitted a proposal to Australian National University. Similarly, NABARD has approved a new watershed program in Kalaiyarkovil block of Sivagangai district, to treat nearly 2,000 hectares of land.

5.2 Resilience through Indigenous Seeds:

Climate Resilient Indigenous Seed Project (CRISP) was implemented in Thirumangalam, Kalligudi and T Kallupatti areas with the support of SWISSAID. The purpose was to address the issues of the farmers through cultivation of indigenous seeds, particularly Karunganni cotton.

Karunganni cotton was earlier cultivated in these project areas. Subsequently, the farmers have switched over to sowing hybrid seeds and BT cottons, for various reasons, in the last two decades. As these farmers face some difficulties in cultivating the hybrid / BT cotton, ASSEFA introduced Karunganni as alternative for their present.

In the last two years, ASSEFA with the support of Cotton Research Station, Kovilpatti, multiplied Karunganni seeds. As on March 31, 2021, about 1,000 kgs of Karunganni seeds have been produced, which is sufficient to cultivate 200 acres of land.

Further, the farmers had been assisted with the traditional seeds for “Red gram” for cultivation during monsoon, as the farmers had a bitter experience of pest attack by “stemborer” in the previous year.

- Coverage of Project Area : 3
- Villages : 21
- Farmers : 557
- Karunganni Cotton : 1,090 kgs
- Karunganni seed : 1,000 kgs

5.3 Development of Community Lands:

ASSEFA developed the unused community lands with suitable collaborators for the benefit of local people. These include

- 30 acres of land in Mudukankulam village is being developed with integrated farming practices.
- 21 acres of land in Neerpair village is developed with herbal cultivation.
- 28 acres of land in Pooriyampakkam village is being developed with integrated farming practices for demonstrative purposes.
- 35 acres of land in Puliur village is promoted for cultivation of horticultural farm, mainly mangoes and coconut trees.

5.4 Introduction of Clean Energy:

Application of solar lights for domestic purposes is being introduced in collaboration with ECOLIFE Company in Tamil Nadu. These include

- a) Solar lantern
- b) Home lighting and
- c) Street lighting system.

As on March 31, 2021, 3,768 households were motivated to use the solar lighting system.

6. BLENDING CULTURE WITH SPIRITUALITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

An Annapoorani cultural and spirituality center was established in 2019 at Thonugal village in Virudhunagar district. The purpose was to strengthen the traditional practice of culture and spirituality among the women self-help groups and deliver services to the poor and vulnerable people.

The following activities have been carried out during the reporting period:

- A mass prayer and meditation was organized in August 2020 under the guidance of Sri. Lalitha Mahila Samajam. Thousands of women had participated. This was organized for the well-being of human being. In addition, the local women had performed some traditional customs and spiritual events. A free meal was organized with local contributions.
- A special event was organized in December to celebrate the holy month of Margazhi. Professor. Alagar Ramanajum, the founder of Vedathiri Maharishi Ashram in Peralam gave a spiritual lecture on Thiruppavai, which explains the history of Goddess. Andal. Cultural programs performed by the local female artists. About 500 women and elderly persons had participated and enjoyed.
- The Centre has also adopted three backward villages, *Vakkanakundu*, *Kariyanenthal* and *Thonugal* and is planning to introduce the following programs
 - **Supply of Free meal**, every day, to 75 vulnerable, .i.e., aged and physically challenged people, who do not have any support and are physically unable to cook their foods.
 - **Supply of Foods materials/groceries** to 30 vulnerable on alternative months. These vulnerable, mostly widows work, but struggle with inadequate income. This food pack will contain 30 items, which will be sufficient for a family of 4 members for a month.
 - **Livelihoods Support to young widows and deserted ladies**, who requires financial assistance to improve existing or start alternative livelihood activities. The centre will support with revolving fund.
 - **Training centres** to capacitate adult girls in self-employment activities like tailoring and computer, e-commerce, etc..

7. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

ASSEFA has become a member in the following two international network organizations.

- **Asian Solidarity Economic Council (ASEC)** is the Asian hub for enhancing the responsibilities of stakeholders in co-creating a compassionate, solidarity economy. It brings together 18 national and continental networks in 21 countries of Asia. ASSEFA is also a **member in Management Committee**. Its registered office is in Malaysia.
- **RIPESS** is a global network of continental networks committed to the promotion of Social Solidarity Economy. The member networks themselves bring together national and sectorial networks, thus ensuring strong territorial anchoring. It brings in network organization from Asia and Oceania, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. ASSEFA is a **member in its Board**. Its registered office is in Spain.

ASSEFA also participated and presented papers in the following international events.

- **Asian Solidarity Economy Council** workshop on, “Social Solidarity Economy Enterprise”
- **Asia Europe Peoples Forum** workshop on “Social Inclusion and Social Protection”.
- **Asia Pacific Peoples Forum for Sustainable Development’s** workshop on “Grassroots movements in Asia Creating alternative development models for economic justice and inclusion”

8. LOOKING AHEAD



In the midst of the uncertainty due to Covid 19, it is a challenge to design and execute the development programs. However, with the development of vaccination, the humanity is anticipating an end to this global pandemic at the earliest.

ASSEFA will continue to create awareness and convince the rural people to get vaccinated. The vulnerable people – widows, deserted, destitute and aged ones will be supported based on the necessity and requirements.

Further, ASSEFA is planning to design and execute development initiatives having the essence of social solidarity economy. This program will have the characteristics of

- **Production based economic activities** i.e., agriculture and livestock based initiatives.
- **Ecological friendly intervention** i.e., natural materials will be used to a)enriching soil health, b) harvesting rainwater, c) agriculture farming and d) supply of balanced diet to livestock.
- **Integrated farming practices** will be adopted i.e., farmers will be encouraged to practice agriculture as well as improve livestock. The waste one will become the inputs for another. Multi-cropping system will be followed to enrich the soil naturally.

- **Green to Greener** approach will be followed with the cultivation of traditional tree crops, beneficial to farmers and environment.
- **Production for local consumption.** Farming or livestock, production will be for local consumption.
- **Develop Seed Bank** for local or traditional ones that is suitable and adoptable to local environment.
- **Community Structure** preferably Producers Companies will be established to take the lead in executing the initiatives.
- **Diploma course in Forestry** in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore.

This idea will be executed in southern Tamil Nadu in five areas, where the socio-economic and agro climate is different from one another. The proposed areas include 1) Sivagangai, 2) T Kallupatti, 3) Thandikudi, 4) Natham and 5) Kariyapatti.