

Echoes of Eco



November, 2019

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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Green warrior – G.Nammalvar



This month is the death anniversary of Green Warrior Shri.G.Nammalvar. The history of Organic Farming Movement in Tamil Nadu starts with Nammalvar.

Nammalvar was born in 1938 in the village of Elangadu in Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu. He graduated from Annamalai University with a BSc degree in Agriculture.

In 1963, he began working for the Agricultural Regional Research Station, a government organisation in Kovilpatti, as a scientist, conducting trials on spacing and manure levels of various chemical fertilizers in cotton and millet crops. During this time, he understood the bad effects of chemical fertilisers. Frustrated, he left the institute.

For the next 10 years, he was an agronomist for Islands of Peace, an organisation founded by the Nobel Laureate Dominique Pire. His focus was on improving the standard of living through agricultural development in the Kalakad block of Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. It was at this time that he realized that in order to get optimal results in farming, farmers should rely only minimally on external inputs. All inputs should come from within the farm. So-called wastes should be recycled and used as input. This revelation was a turning point in his life. He completely lost trust in conventional farming practices and began experimenting with sustainable agricultural methods.

In the late 1970s, Nammalvar became greatly influenced by Vinoba Bhave and his theories on education. He understood that there can be no education without action. Nor can there be any action without

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Vamana – The Dwarf

All glories to you, O Lord of the universe, who took the form of a Brahmana dwarf. By covering the world in three steps you deceived Bali and released the waters of the Ganges, which flow from your toes to purify all beings of the world.



"Science is a cosy, friendly club of specialists who follow their numerous different stars; it is proud and wonderfully productive but never certain and always hampered by the persistence of incomplete world views"

- James Lovelock



education. Both go hand in hand. Nammalvar interacted with local farmers, understood their needs, and based on their input, evolved farming practices suited to the local farmers.

In 1987, G.Nammalvar attended a 4-week training course conducted by the ETC Foundation, Netherlands, on ecological agriculture. In 1990, he founded a network called LEISA (Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture) to promote the concepts of ecological farming, specifically the importance of self-reliability and low external inputs. G.Nammalvar was also greatly influenced by Mr Bernard de-Clerk of Auroville fame, whom he had worked with since 1984. In 1995 he was nominated as the Tamil Nadu state coordinator for ARISE (Agricultural Renewal in India for Sustainable Environment). During his tenure he traveled widely across India promoting the principles of sustainable agriculture.

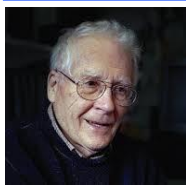


Shri.Nammalvar who was fondly called by everybody as 'Ayya' was also associated with Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep. He interacted with the trainees during the three days' workshop which we organized in collaboration with Pasumai Vikatan magazine. He greatly appreciated our work in the field of Azolla technology.

Recognizing his extensive work in the field of agriculture, the Gandhi Gram Rural University, Dindigal honored Nammalvar with a Doctorate of Science degree in 2007.

G.Nammalvar travelled widely across the world, observed the agricultural practices in various different ecological systems and based on his findings, trained several farmers and NGO workers. He has written several books and articles in the Tamil language.





"Keep in mind that it is hubris to think that we know how to save the Earth: our planet looks after itself. All we can do is try to save ourselves"

- James Lovelock



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture

Training programme on "NPK rich compost preparation" was held at J.C.Bose Nursery, Vivekanandapuram on 9th November. 01 participant attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.

"Zero Budget Natural farming" programme was held at Munchirai, Kanyakumari Dist. on 21st November. 40 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Tamilnadu.



Shri.Rajamony interacting with the farmers



Rabbit wins the Race

Mrs.T.Kalyani
W/o.Kalivanan
Panchalingapuram
Kanyakumari District



Proud Kalyani and her Rabbit hiding below the car another entertaining her friends

I attended the training programme at Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP, Kanyakumari on Livelihood options for Rural women on 27.08.2018. I also received a revolving fund of Rs.20000/- without interest for starting some entrepreneurship. I started a business of Rabbit rearing on a small scale by purchasing three pairs of Rabbits. Two pairs reproduced 5 rabbits and now the family is growing. Now I am selling the rabbits both kids and elderly to the needy and returning the revolving fund which I received by paying Rs.500/- per month.

I am thankful to Vivekananda Kendra - NARDEP for guiding and initial support.



"Because we are urban dwellers we are obsessed with human problems. We are so alienated from the world of nature that few of us can name the wild flowers and insects of our locality or notice the rapidity of their extinction"

- James Lovelock



Happenings this month:
Holistic Health



Happenings this month



Happenings this month:
Holistic Health

Conference on Respiratory disorders and Varmam network members meeting held at Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram on 18th November. 158 members attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



Inauguration session is on

"International AYUSH Summit Puducherry 2020" Pre-conference was held at Vivekanandapuram on 27th November. 31 members attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Press Network of India.



Dr.V.Ganapathy interacting with the participants

Green health home worked for 4 days and treated 176 patients.

Workshop on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting Practices" was held at Technology Resource Center on 11th and 12th November. 23 Vaidyas, Students attended the training. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



Chemponvilai Vaidyar sharing his experiences

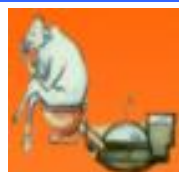


Practical demonstration is on



“I call Gaia a physiological system because it appears to have the unconscious goal of regulating the climate and the chemistry at a comfortable state for life”

- James Lovelock



**Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy
Sources**



Happenings this month:



**Happenings this month:
Networking**

Training programme on “Repair and Maintenance of Kitchen waste based Bio-methanation plant” was held at Technology Resource Center on 22nd and 23rd November. 31 participants attended the training. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by IFAD, Chennai.



Lady Participants repairing the defective bio-methanation stoves during training

Training programme on “Kitchen waste based Bio-methanation plant” was held at Technology Resource Center on 23rd November. 01 participant attended the training. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

Construction of Bio-methanation plants -

1 cum - Portable type

Tiruvarur Dist. - 10 nos. (IFAD)

Thanjavur Dist. - 20 nos.(IFAD)

“Green Technologies Implementation” - SHG Network meetings were held at different Villages of Kanyakumari Dist. on 5th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd and 26th November. Total 141 participants attended the meetings. Shri.C.Vijayaraghavan was the resource person.



Get together of SHG members





"We live at a time when emotions and feelings count more than truth, and there is a vast ignorance of science"

- James Lovelock



**Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy
Sources**



Happenings this month:



**Happenings this month:
Networking**

32 students from Sheffield Innovative School, Nagercoil visited J.C.Bose Nursery on 22nd November as part of study tour. They learned Vermi composting technologies.



Students at Terrace garden

90 Well-wishers of Vivekananda Kendra, Solapur visited Technology Resource Center on 27th November as part of field visit. They saw Green construction technologies.



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan interacting with the participants

87 members from Nehru Yuva Kendra visited Technology Resource Center on 23rd November as part of field visit. They learned Sustainable development technologies.



Shri.V.Munesswaran explaining Bio-methanation technology to the participants

40 students of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Arunachal Pradesh visited Gramodaya Park on 27th November as part of study tour. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan explained them various activities of VK-Nardep.



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan explaining VK-Nardep's activities to the students



"We are no more qualified to be the stewards or developers of the Earth than are goats to be gardeners"

- James Lovelock



Visions of Wisdom

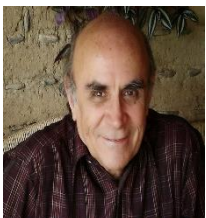


Development Stinks

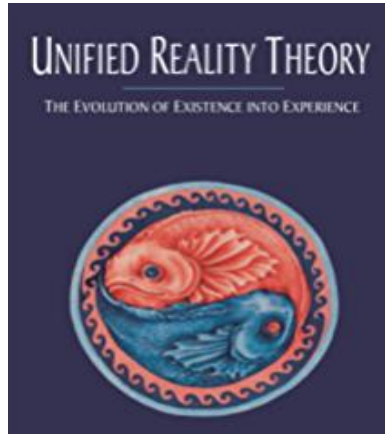
Gustava Esteva concludes 'Development stinks'. Image of development as plunder and triage may appear incredible and shocking. The disillusionment with development came much earlier than expected.

Esteva confirms 'The damage to persons, the corruption of politics and the degradation of nature, which until recently were only implicit in development can now be soon, touched and smelled. Himsa is directly proportional to development thrust.

The situation in the west improved when they transferred their suffering to non-Europeans, first by colonialism and then by development.



Gustavo Esteva
Mexican activist,
"deprofessionalized
intellectual"



Reality - A Unified Whole

When you are healthy, you are not aware of any of its myriads of parts. Your awareness is that of being one single organism. It is only when something goes wrong with you, you become aware about the parts of your body. One understands, he has a head when there is a head ache. Become aware about the existence of stomach when there is a stomach-ache and so is with all the parts of the body.

Similarly, the states of experiencing all of reality as a unified whole is the healthy state for the mystics. The division in to separate objects, for them is due to a mental disturbance.

Phiroz Mehta
Indian writer, astronomy,
poetry and philosophy



Need of a New Language

A new language appropriate to new science is required. Conventional scientific language is descriptive, while language to share experience needs depictive. It would be language more akin to poetry or even to music, which would depict the experience directly, conveying somehow its qualitative character.

I have become more doubtful about language as a necessary paradigm for thinking - Mused Laing. After listening this Capra felt that they are swimming in the same ocean.

R.D.Laing
Scottish psychiatrist
who wrote extensively
on mental illness

