

MONITORING REPORTS

INDIA

Success Trust

Indigenous rice and vegetable cultivation among marginal women farmers to prevent their migration to towns

Project No. 1007



ACWW Resource Person Elizabeth Swamy visited this project and reports that Success Trust uses rented offices and has rooms for activities such as training in the use of computers and agricultural practices.

Elizabeth found that the 40 women beneficiaries had been given motivational training regarding the project; they had then been given training in the preparation of natural manure and pesticides. They had started to prepare these, using earthworms, storage drums and other materials. Indigenous varieties of rice seed and vegetable seeds had been distributed and the beneficiaries were preparing the fields to sow the seeds. It had been raining for a week at the time of Elizabeth's visit and the conditions were appropriate for sowing, whereas for the past two years there had been no proper rains.

Elizabeth interviewed some of the women (self-help group leaders and members), and found that they appreciated the training they had been given and were looking forward to a successful harvest and an improved diet.

The trainers and monitors are experienced agriculturists who are interested in reviving traditional methods of farming which are sustainable and use organic methods. Elizabeth discussed the project activities with them and was told that the indigenous varieties of rice are more nutritious than some new ones, and that the farming methods being taught should enable the Trust to establish a seed bank for different crops.

Elizabeth reports that other farmers in the area had expressed interest in taking up this type of organic farming, so the project appears to be having considerable impact in the area. She believes that a further monitoring visit to view the fields at harvest-time would be beneficial and she recommends Success Trust for further funding.