ORGANIC FARMERS IN TAMIL NADU

(Source: Organic Farmers Association of India Survey, 2009)

S.No	Organic Farmer and address	Remarks
1	Mr.Sivaprakasam Aranarai, Perambalur, Thiruvalluar District, Tamil Nadu	 Mr.Sivaprakasam cultivates on six acres of irrigated and six acres of rain-fed land with assistance from his family and hired help. He cultivates cumbu, chilies, groundnut, cholam, coriander, red gram, sunflower, onion, sugarcane and rice. In one plot he grows a combination of crops and trees, namely tomatoes, chilies (three month crops), lemon (four years, 20 foot spacing) and moringa (10 foot spacing) with teak and casuarina plants around. The organic manure needs of the farm are met with animal waste from his cattle. Vermicompost is prepared on the farm and leaf manure comes from <i>Morinda tinctoria</i> which grows naturally on the contour bunds. Mr.Sivaprakasam's future plans include practicing a combination of permaculture and organic methods on a half acre experimental plot to explore the possibility of meeting needs of an average family from its produce. This farmer is the secretary of CAD (Community Action for Development) and believes that sustainable agriculture is the only way to stop the continuous distress sale of land by small and marginal farmers.
2	Mr.G. Balakrishnan Putharam Farm, Nemam, Thirukkathipalli (<i>Via</i>), Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu	 He is an energetic and inquisitive retired engineer looking after part of the family land. His is basically a tree farm. He has planted a variety of trees and has plans to introduce many more. When he took up the land for cultivation, it was a sandy upland, created long ago by the overflowing of the river Cauvery. He leveled the land and started growing trees - primarily timber and fodder rather than fruit trees. The trees include teak, eucalyptus, guava, maramalli, gooseberry, etc. He has grown a live fence with trees like subabul and eucalyptus. This farmer is very particular about using organic matter. He collects whatever organic matter is available in the village and makes it into compost. He is also very interested in microbial action on organic matter during decomposition and has tried two different treatments with two different fungi. One is <i>Plerotus</i> species and the other is collected by skimming the surfaces of water tanks.

 Crops grown include cholam, cumbingram, cow pea, green gram, grown following cropping pattern is adopted: ✓ Samai (July) - Sanhemp and Dain - Wheat (December) ✓ Samai - Cholam - Redgram (Sa after 75 days replaced with 'kollu' controlling weeds.) Cow pea is grown as intercrop and grown as single crop. Fodder and crops include sesbania, subabul timber such as teak and fruit trees like and guava are also grown. Vegetabl the family are also cultivated. Seedlings are produced in the farm for the cattle is bought from outsid produced on the farm itself. Solar p irrigation. Pest control measures include: buttermilk (ii) Neem extract applicati urine, (iv) Chilli leaves affected with v powder and mixed with cow urine a urine diacease on black event.
 4 Mr.Ganapathy Sakthi Farm, Veerapathy, Puliyur Post, Kulathur Taluka, Pudukottai District - 622 504, Tamil Nadu. 4 Mr. Ganapathy lives on a small farm v wife and three children. He is a knowledgeable farmer who views eac in terms of energy spent. Hence he d with a view to minimizing use of ener same time satisfying needs. He has n 'Sakthi'.

		 Mr. Ganapathy practices eco-friendly farming on 2.5 acres of land. He also owns another eight acres in two different places where rainfed cultivation is practiced. The soil is sandy clay with slight alkalinity. Average rainfall is around 650 mm with light showers in July and heavy rains in November and December. No machinery is used on the farm except for a three horsepower pump set for pumping water, a plough and other simple implements. Work like harvesting and weeding is done manually by the farmer, his wife and mother without hiring outside labour.
5	Mr. N.S.A. Velu Mudaliar 4, Chidampara Vinayagar Kovil Street, Puliangudi, Nellaikattabomman District - 627 855 Tamil Nadu.	 Mr. Velu Mudaliar has 45 years experience in agriculture of which, for the past 15 years he has been practicing sustainable agriculture. He is a highly committed farmer with a remarkable inclination to experiment. He and his youngest son look after the farm. Crops: This farmer grows fruit trees like guava, lemon, coconut, mango, gooseberry and other trees like teak, sesbania, subabul and Nagai.
6	Mr. P. Thangasamy Karpaga Solai, Sendhangudi, Nagaram Post, Alangudi Taluk, Pudukottai District - 614 624, Tamil Nadu.	 Talkative by nature, Mr. Thangasamy's life revolves around tree cultivation. Whatever the topic he chooses to speak on, he finishes in praise of trees. He emphasizes that trees have given him constant income, fodder, leaf manure, good micro-climate and what is more significant, they have made him a virtuous man. Mr. Thangasamy owns 25 acres altogether: 12 around his home and the rest in another place. He has been practicing alternative farming for the past 15 years.
7	Gloria Land Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry - 605 002, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 0413 2666337, 2339017, Cell: 094432 87531, 094432 72780, <i>e</i> -Mail: glorialand@sancharnet .in	 Spread over 40 hectares (100 acres), Gloria Land dairy farm has been a pioneer in organic farming. Realizing the ill-effects of chemicals and pesticides way back in 1967, Gloria Land persisted with organic techniques all through the halcyon days of the Green Revolution when the usage of chemicals was proclaimed as the best way of farming. The dairy is an integral part of the farm, with nearly 120 heads of cattle mainly of Indian pedigree. No vaccination is given to the animals. The average milk production is 325 litres per day. Approximately 250 kg of cow dung is used in the biogas plant. Slurry from biogas plants is used as manure. Approximately 15-20 acres of land is used for rice production with an average yield of 40 tonnes per crop.

8	Bhagyadhan Estate P.O. Box 63, Kodaikanal - 624 101, Tamil Nadu. Contact: Arthur Steele	 The Bhagyadhan Estate is located in the Palani Hills about 20 kms from Kodaikanal. The average annual rainfall is 80 to 100 cms, mainly from September to December. The soil of the area is classified as Alfisols. The land was formerly part of the Shola forest. It is situated in a valley near a river. Three acres of land are planted with coffee bushes and another 1.5 acres are with pineapple. One quarter of an acre is used by the Palni Hills Conservation Council (PHCC) and the Wasteland Development Corporation as a tree nursery. It is managed by Arthur Steele.
9	Mr. N. Chokkalingam No. 82, Virattipattu, Madurai - 625 010, Tamil Nadu.	 Mr. Chokkalingam has 20 years experience in farming. He owns 25 acres located in two different places. He cultivates paddy, coconuts and bananas.
10	 Mr. Gomathinayagam ✓ No. 18, Uchi Magaliamman Koil Street, Puliangudi, Nellaikattabomman District - 627 855, Tamil Nadu. ✓ Vivasaya Seva Sangam, C.B.Complex, Gandhi Bazaar, Puliankudi-627 855, Thirunallvelli District, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 0463 6233235, Cell: 9629952636 	 Mr. Gomathinayagam is an organic farmer from Puliyangudi village in Thirunelveli district. Aged 75, once a teacher, he has been in farming for three decades. He and his friends have started a farmers' sangam where they meet every evening. Through the sangam they subscribe to over 20 journals and magazines which they read to understand the world. He enjoys commenting on any social event through a post card, which the newspapers publish now and then. His entire family, <i>i.e.</i>, his wife, two sons, daughters- in-law and grand children are all involved in farming. He decided to stop education of his sons at the 10th standard as he felt that they don't need more of this kind of education.
11	Khoram Estates 'Fleurette,' Sivanadi Road, Kodaikanal - 624 101, Tamil Nadu. Contact person: Minoo Avari	 The Khoram Estate was purchased in August 1980. It is located 16.3 kms from Kodaikanal, in a valley called Middle Palanis. The nearest town is Perumalmalai which is five kms away. The property is around 4,000 feet above M.S.L. To the north, it overlooks the plains of Palani. West are the hilly massifs which form part of the Anamallai tract while to the south one can see the extreme boundaries of Kodaikanal Municipality.
12	Annapurna Farm Bharat Nivas P.O., Auroville - 605 101, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 0413 3155660, <i>e</i> -Mail:	 Annapurna farm is managed by Tomas, Andre and Brooks. This 135 acre farm belongs to the experimental international township called Auroville, near Pondicherry. The primary purpose of the farm is to produce food for the residents of Auroville. The farm is presently growing approximately 5 acres

	brooks@auroville.org.in	of paddy, and around 35 acres of millet. Only indigenous crop varieties are used. The millets grown are barnyard millet (kuderaivalli in Tamil, sanwa in Hindi) and kodo millet (varagu in Tamil, kodon in Hindi). There are also some tamarind plantations, and plots of casuarina trees. The farm also grows Hibiscus sabdariffa, or Rosella. The fruit of this crop is dried and used for juice production in Auroville's solar kitchen.
13	Kolunji Farm Kudumbam, Ezhil Nagar, Keeranur, Pudukottai District - 622 502, Tamil Nadu	• This farm was established by Kudumbam, an NGO, in 1992. There are five families living on it and looking after the activities. At the time of purchase it was barren land. Thanks to efforts at water harvesting and planting pioneer trees, the farm is now well wooded.
14	Santosh Farm Ooruppannadi Nivas, Kottur, Malayandipattanam, Pollachi, Coimbatore District - 642 114, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04259 - 286499 to 286504 Cell: 09442416543 <i>e</i> -Mail: santoshfarms@gmail.c om Contact: Mr. Madhu Ramakrishnan	 Mr. Madhu Ramakrishnan hated agriculture in his youth, as the income was very low when compared with other professions. He studied to be an engineer and then entered industry. Inspite of this, he has been farming for the past 25 years. Only recently he has begun to understand its real nature after reading Fukuoka's 'One Straw Revolution.' The farm layout is as follows: 32 acres coconut, 5 acres mango, 5 acres teak, 4 acres tamarind and 2 acres of fodder crops. The coconut plantation is interspersed with cocoa, silveroak, arecanut, kadepela and medical plants as well as leguminous crops. The teak plantation has pepper plants. A small orchard is also maintained with jack fruit, chickoo, amla, guava etc. The plants and trees selected for intercropping provide a large amount of leaf fall. Vetiver is cultivated to avoid soil erosion.
15	Mr. N. Nagaraj N. N. Farms, 244, Bahuttampalayam, Ekkaraithatthapalli P.O. Bhavanisagar Via - 638451, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04295 221895, Cell: 09443071495	 Mr. Nagaraj is a well known jasmine flower grower. He grows banana, turmeric and vegetables organically. Panchkavya, herbal pesticide and vermicompost are all prepared on the farm. Surplus is sold.
16	Mrs. S.Poongodi / Mr. R.Selvam Pudhu Nilavu Organic Farm / Manonmani Vermi Farm, Thalavumalai,	 Pudhu Nilavu Organic farm / Manonmani Vermi Farm was started in 1999 by Mrs. S. Poongodi and Mr. R. Selvam with the aim of producing vermi- composters and not just vermi-compost. Selvam and his wife wanted to create awareness and train farmers in vermin composting. Manonmani is a Tamil epic in which the earthworm is referred to in

17	Arachaloor, Erode District - 638 101, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 0424 2357537 <i>e</i> -Mail : manpulu@rediffmail.com Mr. V.S.Arunachalam Elunkathir Organic Farm, P.Vellalapalayam Post, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District -638476,	 detail. Hence Nammalwar gave it this name. The farm is 2.6 acres and has more than 400 trees of 80 different species. Around 1/4 portion of the farm is being developed as a model farm for training programmes. Mr. V.S.Arunachalam, son of a small farmer from a rural background is an ITI diploma holder. Instead of using this training he decided to farm and fortunately chose to do it the ecological way. The special features of his farm are: ✓ Integrating goat rearing with crops; ✓ Preparing panchakavya with goat products;
	Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04285 246301, Cell: 094433 46323	 Mixing cattle urine with irrigation water; Vermiculture in between banana trees; Mulching in sugarcane; Single seedling plantation in rice; and, Green manure preparation by sowing 20 kinds of crop seeds.
18	Mr.K.Mohanasundaram & Mrs.Pushparani Amudha Surbhi Organic Farming Training Centre, 12, Thingalur Road, Nasiyanur Post, Erode District - 638107, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 0424 2555227	 Mr.Mohanasundaram and his wife Mrs.Pushparani farm, teach and train others in natural/organic farming on their farm land. The plot is three and half acres, of which one and a half is owned by them and two acres is on lease. They were not always organic farmers, but have been so for the past eight years. In 1986 when the farm used chemical fertilizers, Mr.Mohanasundaraman's father got the first prize in the state for growing maize. However even at that time they did not use chemical pesticides or insecticides, only chemical fertilizers.
19	Mr.R. Nallusamy & Mrs.Shanti Koppampatty Post, Thuraiyur Taluka, Trichy - 621 012, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04327-253366	 Mr.Nallusamy and his wife Mrs.Shanti are well known tapioca farmers who have only recently converted their entire twenty-five acre farmland to organic. Mr.Nallusamy says that a few years ago he met Mr.Nammalvar who strongly advocated that he turn to organic farming. However, rather than take Mr.Nammalvar's word for it, Mr.Nallusamy decided to visit several organic farms. Being completely convinced, he converted his own farm to fully organic. The benefits were immediately visible. Ten acres of the 25 acres farmland are under tapioca plantation, turmeric is grown on five acres, coconut plantation occupies another six acres and the remaining four acres have a mixture of paddy, onions and vegetables. Mrs.Shanti is the one who actually manages the farm with Mr.Nallusamy co-coordinating the activities and assisting from time to time. They own five Sindhi cows. They now prepare

20	Mr.M. Krishnamurthy Kullampalayathar Thottam, Perumapalayam, Nagalur Post, Athani Via - 638 502, Bhavani Taluk, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 042567-261463	 herbal pesticide, panchgavya and vermicompost. Mr.Nallusamy says that with this combination of organic nutrients and pest management strategies no insects dangerous to the crops visit his field. Even rats do not dare to visit his farm, he confidently asserts. Despite owning a fifteen acre plot of farmland, Mr.Krishnamurthy almost gave up farming since he simply could not make ends meet. His is a drought prone area and the main problem naturally is water shortage. Ironically, however, weeds grew in abundance and this state of affairs nearly drove him to despair. Then he came to know of organic farming. He switched overnight to organic farming practices as he had nothing to lose. To his amazement he found that not only was expenditure on maintenance of the farm greatly reduced but that both the problems of water shortage and abundance of weeds become manageable issues instead of the nightmare they earlier were for him. So he has decided to continue to be a farmer instead of selling his land and migrating to the city. He now owns thirty sheep and two cows. Three acres of the farm are under coconut plantation, two acres are sown with maize, two acres have bajra, one acre is for mixed vegetables and the rest of the farm is reserved as sheep grazing ground.
21	Mr.V.C. Kannan 220, Thirumalirunsolai, Pudukaraipudur Post, Gobichettipalayam - 638 313, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04285 - 266303, Cell: 098427 61232	• Mr.Kannan converted his six acre farm to 'fully organic' some years ago. Three acres are for sugarcane, one acre for paddy and two acres have a mixture of bananas, vegetables, turmeric, etc. He switched over to organic farming as he found that the chemical farming which he was earlier practicing was not profitable. Also he learnt of the negative effects of chemical farming & how it degrades the soil.
22	Mrs.Reeta Ganapathy Illuppakkorai - 614 202, Ganapathiagraharam Via, Papanasam Taluka, Tanjore District, Tamil Nadu	 On a five acre plot of farmland, Mrs.Reeta cultivates paddy, vegetables, coconut and sugarcane, with turmeric being the intercrop in the coconut grove. The farm produce meets the family's personal requirements. Only the surplus is sold. Mrs.Reeta says that they regularly get an income from the sale of vegetables and other farm produce. The family alone works on the farm keeping the costs down by engaging extra help only when they cannot manage themselves. They have become organic farmers since the past ten years. Earlier they used chemical fertilizers and

		with the mean metric in the state of the sta
		with it one naturally had to also use pesticides and so on. Finding the fertilizer cost very high they switched to organic farming. They also realized that chemical farming spoils the soil which is why you need more and more chemicals each year to give the same results and this is what makes chemical farming so costly. Now with the cattle they own they are able to prepare panchakavya, do vermicomposting and make their own herbal pesticides and so on.
23	Mr.P.C.Subramaniam Nasiyanur, Pallivalayam, Erode District - 638 107, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04326-240555	 Mr.P.C.Subramaniam is a marginal farmer who practices integrated organic farming. He keeps his sheep in a deep litter house. He gets very good prices for his sheep. The manure from the deep litter house is used to enrich the soil and increase its water holding capacity. All his sheep are of the indigenous variety; he has carried out all his organic farming activities and experiments using sheep manure on his own and are pleased with the results.
24	Mr.K.S.Raghavan No. 2 Uppukinar Street, Kottur, M. Patnam PO, Pollachi, Coimbatore - 642 114, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04259-2522271	 430 coconut trees of the age 27-30 years are growing on my farm. On this land, not a single ounce of chemical has been utilized since the 1960s despite the 'green revolution'. In 1993, I took charge of the farm after my father's passing away and in 1994, the region experienced a severe deficit of rain. The well on our land could support only an hour of irrigation at a time and so I introduced a drip irrigation system for the coconut trees in order to cope with this water shortage. This proved insufficient and following problems in the drip system itself I went in for a bore-well, finding water at around 300 feet. I was able to revert to basin irrigation and introduced some organic inputs. The yield increased to around 120 nuts per coconut tree. Mono-cropping and the intensive use of chemicals that have destroyed the soil are the main culprits. Farmers have not mulched their land resulting in a reduced capacity of the land to retain moisture and therefore large-scale water evaporation. Due to inadequate recharge wells also go dry. His hope is that even without irrigation my land will yield good results in the future and Fukuoka's approach will be proved correct in India too.
25	Mr.S. Thangaraju and Mrs.Banumathi 236/4, Akkarai Kodiveri Post, Kasipalayam Via, Gobichetti Palayam, Erode-District-638 454 Ph.: 04285 264150	 Mr.Thangaraju and Mrs.Banumathi is a couple from a middle income family who decided to switch to organic farming a few years ago. They follow all the standard organic practices. They specialize in relay cropping.

26	Mr.V. Ravi Rajchettyar Thottam, Uppupallam, Kenjanur PO, Sathyamangalam via, Erode District - 638 401, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04295 24779	 Mr.Ravi is growing a variety of trees on his farm like nelli (gooseberry), pathimukham (from Kerala, bark used as a coloring agent), sapota, and guava. His farm looks like a wild patch of upcoming forest. He has put in place drip irrigation, inspite of enough water in the well. He sells earthworms and vermiwash.
27	 Mr.N.Gopalakrishnan ✓ No. 4/19, Akila Nagar First Cross, Ganapathy Nagar, South Extension, Mambazhasalai, Thiruvanaikoil, Trichy - 620 005, Tamil Nadu. ✓ Farm: Panickampatty village, Kuliathali Taluk, Karur District, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 094431 48224, 099421 67789, e-Mail: dngopal2003@gmail. com / dngopal2003@yahoo .co.in 	 I am rooted to the village and my native village is Panickampatti of Karur district. My father and mother had no basic education. But through hard work they increased their land holding from a mere ½ acre to 60 acres and provided us with education. Out of these 60 acres I inherited 10.5 acres as my share. I used to follow the agricultural practices adopted by fellow agriculturists. My experience with chemical fertilizers and pesticides was not so encouraging. Cost of cultivation increased due to price escalation of basic inputs, at the same time there was steady decline in the yield. My see-saw battle continued with chemical farming till 1998. Having strongly felt the need to enhance agriculture production and also to do away with chemicals to save land from degradation and man from health hazards, I started experiments with natural ways of farming and organic farming in 1998.
28	Mr.P.B. Mukundan H. No. 92, Rajaji Street, Chingalpet 603 001, Kanchipuram Dist., Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 044 27423902. Cell: 09382337818	 Mr.P.B. Mukandan has an organic farm and keeps a dairy of 40 indigenous breed cows. Five years ago, Mr.Mukandan made a trip all the way from Tamil Nadu to Rajasthan in search of indigenous, hardy cow breeds to start his dairy farm. On his first trip he collected 11 Tharparkar breed cattle from Bassi and Durgapur Gaushalas in Rajasthan. Subsequently, some locals helped him to scout remote villages in Jaisalmer and add 30 more to his collection. He has successfully established his dairy by selective breeding of these indigenous cows. He says it is ideal to introduce a fresh bull into the group after every three years; otherwise inbreeding causes deficient quality off-springs. He has recently obtained a Tharparkar bull from a line that has recorded 3200 liters of milk per lactation. He sources his fodder from Mr.Sundararaman's organic farm in Satyamangalam. The feed consists of ragi, makha, black and red gram kernels/powder. Groundnut cake

29	Mr.Ilangovan & Beauty Trust 39, Thirumanjana Street, Tal: Lalgudi,	 and boiled bran are procured only from known sources to maintain the quality of milk and health of cattle. The cows average eight to ten liters of milk per day per lactating season. The 3 hectare farm is located in Edaiyatrumangalam, Lalgudi. He is using vermicompost and other organic farming methods since five years, before which the farm used chemical inputs for 10 years. Rice, sugarcane,
	Street, Tal: Lalgudi, DistTiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu 621601. Ph.: 0431-2543755, Cell: 09842411953	 Chemical inputs for 10 years. Kice, sugarcane, banana, coconut are cultivated. Surplus produced is sold alongside educating the consumer on benefits of organic foods. Mr.Ilangovan has been a Zilla Parishad Board Member for three terms since 1996 and has used his position well to propagate organic farming methods within the district through the panchayat and the Beauty Trust. The trust works with 45 local associate groups in close association with 1000 farmers within Tirichirapalli through 408 village panchayats.
30	Mr.V. Antony Samy #53, Westcar Street, Sinthamani, Pulliyangudi, Taluk Sivagiri, District Thirunallvelli, Tamilnadu. Ph.:04636 233343 Cell: 9443582076	 Mr.V.Antony Samy is farming organically for the past 19 years on his 150 acre farm. In 1991 he converted to organic methods of farming. His first organic crop was paddy and later he began to cultivate other crops like sugarcane, fruits, and vegetables using organic practices. Presently he is cultivating sugarcane - 20 acres; lemon - 60 acres; amla - 20 acres, paddy - 30 acres. On the rest of the farm he grows vegetables.
31	Mr.R. Srinivasan Vil: Kurumbarai, Post: Polambakkam, Taluka Cheyyur - 603 309, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 09884756090	 The 15 acre farm is in Kurumbarai village. After having farmed chemically for 40 years he switched to organic farming a few years ago. Maize, Ragi, Chili, Sugarcane, peanuts, corn, pulses etc are grown on the farm. He uses sprinkler irrigation for groundnut agriculture after the harvest of which black gram and maize are cultivated on the same ground. Surplus is marketed.
32	Mr.A. Raja Pandian No. 2, U.V. Saminathan St., Maruthi Nagar, Raja Keelpakam - 600 073, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 044-22270687, Cell: 09840620660	 The farm is in Moovalur, P.O. Malliyam in Nagapattinam district. After farming chemically for 20 years he switched to organic farming two years ago because the yield on his farm was going consistently down. With urbanization creeping into rural areas, availability of labour also was a difficulty. Coconut, paddy, some vegetables, cotton, sugarcane are cultivated. Every acre of land yields 25 bags of paddy which is sold to the government department, CTNCSC Civil Supply Corporation. Vermicompost, panchakavya, mulching, farmyard

		 manure, compost are used. Cows on the farm provide dung; bore well is used for flooding paddy field. Paddy and sugarcane crops are interchanged. Paddy and cotton is sown in the proportion of 2:1, paddy and pulses are sown in the proportion of 2:1. This is alternated with growing green manure for one season. He is part of a local organization of 700 farmers that meets once every three months to share farming notes.
33	Mr.P. Adaikalaraju 82/36, S.M.E.S.C. Colony, II Cross, K.K. Nagar (P.O.), Tiruchirapalli - 620 021, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 09443581704	• The 4 hectare farm is located in Valanadu of Manapparai Taluka. Raju has been farming organically for the past two years. Paddy and cotton are cultivated using cow dung compost and he wishes to now experiment with mulch.
34	Mr.A. Dhanraj Patil & Arivagam Trust Arivagam Trust, 36 Thirumangalam Road, Santhaipettai, Lalgudi - 621 601, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 0431-6541986, Cell: 09943018554, <i>e</i> -Mail: humenreach@gmail.co m, Web: www.tamilwriters.com Contact Person: Mr.A.Dhanaraj, Project Director	 Mr.Dhanraj's 5 acre farm is located at Kovilady in Tiruraiyaru. He has been farming organically for the past 25 years cultivating paddy, banana and growing green vegetables for home consumption. Some vegetables are sold to friends at cost. Panchagavya, green manure, organic pesticides are prepared from 'bitter leaves' and used on farm. He also uses Cyanobacteria. Water is sourced through channels from river Kaveri. Arivagam Trust has been working on organic farming issues for the past five years. They are linked to 15 NGO groups and 250 women groups. They work directly with 2500 farmers who are being slowly converted to organic methods. These methods are being introduced for paddy, banana, vegetables and herbals. Their approach is through trainings and advocacy. Some experiments in coordination with University of Bharadhidhasan, Trichy on <i>Cyanobacteria</i> in the vegetable gardens have yielded very good results.
35	Mr.R. Ramakrishnan Vil. & Post Vaipoor, Tal. & Dist. Tiruvanamalai - 606 774, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04175-244791, Cell: 09787179096	• The 9 acre farm is located at Vaipoor. He has been farming organically since 1998 before which he practiced chemical farming for 20 years. He grows 3 acres paddy, 2 acres sorghum, 4 acres sugarcane and vegetables for home consumption on 5 cents of land. Produce is sold to co-operatives and the Pasumai Angadi Green House in Erode. This has been set up by member farmers through contributory payment. He uses panchagavya, pusivariti (organic pesticide), cow dung, mulch, green manure, sanapai on the farm. When panchakavya is applied, paddy is 30% larger in size and there are 6-7 times increase in yield.

36	Mr.S.A.Dharmalingam	• The 5 acre land is located at Suneisandai. He has
	250 Suneisandai , Taluka Senumpatti Bhavani, Erode Dist 638 504, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 0425-8258527.	been farming organically since 1985 and converted fully in 1992 before which he practiced chemical farming for 30 years. Chili, papaya, pumpkin, local vegetables, banana, onion, tomato, brinjal and beans are grown on his farm. The vegetables and fruits are marketed through associations, banks and offices. Mulching, compost, man-pullu (earthworm) vermicompost and panchakavya are used.
37	 ✓ Venkataswamy Illam, Kethanur - 641 671, Tal. Tiruppur, Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph: 04225 279220/ 279241, Cell: 09843059241, 09943979791 ✓ Prakash Paper Mills, Pattam, Pottapalayam - 630 611, Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu. Ph. 0452 2465744, 3092767. 	 The 10 acres of Mr.Palaniswamy's farm are devoted to organic vegetable farming. He has been farming organically for the past two years before which he practiced chemical farming for 34 years. He has a variety of vegetables that are supplied to the market. He practices raised bed farming and supplies water for just 15-20 minutes per day. Pheromone and light traps are used for keeping away insects. Azolla is fed to the cows and the water is used for the vegetable plantations. Panchakavya is the main spray used. He uses fish solution for his vegetable garden. Old fermented butter milk is kept for 7 days and then sprayed on plants to stimulate higher flowering. This directly translates into extra vegetable produce. Vermicompost is used on the whole farm. He produces bitter gourd, snake gourd, ridge gourd, lady finger, tomato, gherkins, beans and drum sticks. The seeds are supplied to the local Agricultural University.
38	Mr.K.Nallasamy Errikari Thottam, Perumal kovilpudur, Nakalur post, Anthiyur - 638502, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9842729596, 9842829596	 In the past seven years, he has tried to grow varied crops like cotton, maize, organic SRI paddy- white ponni, kichadisamba-native varieties of Tamil Nadu, Kadali banana (with ratooning) and sugarcane. The turmeric crop is exceptional and pest free. Presently he cultivates paddy (white ponni, kichadisamba) on two acres, turmeric on two acres and the 2nd ratoon banana crop stands on three acres. The left over sugarcane thrashes are mulched in between in the standing banana crop.
39	Mrs.Parvathi Venkateshwaran W/o Venkateshwaran, Pallatu Thottam, Alukuli post, Karatadipalayam, Gobichettipalayam Taluka, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 04285 264103, 264646	 Mrs. Parvathi Venkateshwaran is doing organic farming for the past six years on 40 acres of land. She grows sapota on ten acres, turmeric on two acres. Coconut & cocoa is intercropped on ten acres of land; white ponni, delux ponni on eight and half acres.

40	Senthil Farm Bangalapudur, 28, New Hospital Road, Gobichettipalayam- 638452, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9842089273, <i>e</i> - Mail: mailto:visualv@gmail.c om visualv@gmail.com Contact: Mr.V.Senthilkumar	 Mr.Senthil's father, late Mr.Venkatachalam, a leading organic farmer started organic farming in 1998 in horticultural crops like guava, amla and mango. Now Senthil continues in his father's footsteps. The farm is 34 acres in size with eight acres each of guava, amla and mango. Pathimugam (a medicinal plant) is grown on an eight acre farm located at Kallipatti in Gobichettipalayam Taluk.
41	Mr.Ramalingam Annur Gounder Thottam, Sathyamangalam- 638402, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9965699288.	 Mr.Ramalingam has been farming organically since 2000 on 40 acres of land. He is now well experienced in growing crops like turmeric, banana and tapioca. He uses Bio-controllers like <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>, Bacillus sps. for the management of disease and applies chicken manure to the farm during land preparation to supplement soil nutrient content. He recommends Pseudomonas + Panchakavya for leaf spot disease and <i>Trichoderma viride</i> + Bacillus for root diseases.The farm has yielded 13 to 15 kg of banana (Kadali variety) per tree and 18 tons of tapioca per acre. He uses biogas slurry as multiplication base for the microbes, 15 days prior to application.
42	Mr.K.R.Sundaram 1/1A Kovil thottam, Annur, Coimbatore - 641 653, Tamil Nadu. Ph.:04254 264278, Cell: 9600916166	• Mr.K.R.Sundaram has been farming organically for the past five years on 3 acres of land. The use and application of panchakavya, EM solution, Jeeva amritham have given an yield of 15 to 16 kg banana (netharan variety) per plant. In sugarcane, he has achieved a yield of 80 tons per acre in the first crop and 68 tons in the third crop He says dipping the young banana suckers in the above solutions will avoid most of the pest and disease problem in the initial stage of the crop. He normally divides his field into two equal parts, in one part he plants banana while the other is left fallow for a season. In the next season this land is cultivated while the just harvested land is left fallow.
43	Mrs. Indra Ramanathan Vadakku Thottam, Kanakkam Palayam Post, Kallipatti, Erode- 638505, Tamil Nadu.	• The 152 acre Mrs.Indra Ramanathan Farm at Kallipatti is being farmed by Smt. Indra since 2008.It is an organic orchard with tree crops; On 60 acres, 2000 coconut trees are intercropped with cocoa plants and a1000 dates palms and 300 mango trees. On 75 acres 3000 coconut trees are intercropped with malaivembu, savuku, kumil, rosewood (timber

	Ph: 04285 263333, Cell: 9345981081	value tree), jathikai, pomegranate, jackfruit and guava. On 15 acres is sapota. White ponni rice is cultivated on two acres
44	Mr.S. A. Myilsamy Kannakan thottam,Chettipalayam, Aalathur post, Kavanthapaddi via, Bhavani Taluka- 638455, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9965154640, 9965154642	 Mr.Myilsamy has a 20 acre organic farm and has in the past decade gained good experience of growing turmeric, sugarcane and paddy. Presently he grows Bhavani rice on 2 acres. This land was initially not at all suitable for agriculture; however using organic practices along with various soil enrichment techniques like use of green manures, application of FYM, panchakavya and jeeva amirtham solution, he cultivated paddy - SRI method.15 acres are cultivated with sugarcane. Mulching has helped in increasing the biomass to a great extent
45	Mr.P. Balasubramanium S/o Palanisamygounder, Thoppampatti,Narasim manayakanpalayam, Mettupalayam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9944475099	 Mr.Balasubramanium practices organic farming on seven acres of his land and is well experienced in growing mulberry and banana. Banana has yielded bunches weighing 18-19 kg. He says the cost of cultivation using organic methods is low and the keeping quality of the fruit is very good.
46	Mr.Arun Lakshminarayanan AIG Farms, Vedapatti, Thondamuthur road, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9843015951, 9442222908	 Mr.Arun Lakshminarayanan is farming organically on 10 acres since 2000.He has grown 700 coconut trees, 2500 areca nut trees. The land is fully mulched with areca nut and coconut palms. Glyricidia has been planted to fix the free nitrogen from the atmosphere. He applies panchakavya to the farm once in every 15 days.
47	Mr.Kasthuri Rangian Malankuli, Thalavadi, Sathyamangalam- 638461, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9443388145, 9442222908, 9842255908.	 Mr.Kasthuri Rangian is a former Mechanical Engineer practicing organic farming on 98 acres of the 150 acres of total land. He cultivates 40 acres of amla, 25 acres of cashew, 15 acres of mango, 12 acres of coconut, 4 acres of sugarcane. On the remaining two acres, vegetables, sapota, banana, dates and so on are cultivated. Since the land was uncultivated, he offered to build cowsheds for the local cattle keepers. The cow dung and urine was then purchased by him and used for improving the soil on his land.
48	Mr.Nandhakumar Sri venkateswara Blue Metal, Mangalakarai	• Mr.Nandakumar is practicing Biodynamic Farming on 40 acres since 2007. He has cultivated 20 acres of coconut, 8 acres of banana, 7 acres of curry leaves, 5 acres of mango and sapota. Within the

	Pudur, Karamadai Via, Mettupalayam, Coimbatore - 641301, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 98452 72439	 banana plantation is intercropped red gram, lady's finger, black gram, sorghum, avare (bean) and green gram. On the farm, he rears eight Kangayam breed cows, six Jersey cross breed cows and 95 sheep. He prepares panchakavya, amirtha karisal, Cow pit pat (CPP) 500, 501 and fish based manure. He has a dedicated building for the purpose of making these preparations, giving it a degree of professional efficiency. This was developed with the assistance
49	Mr.R.Ramamurthy 52-Gt, Annur Road, Mettupalayam - 641301, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04254 223952, Cell: 98422 23952.	 of Mr. Navaneetha Krishnan of Mettupalayam. Mr.Ramamurthy is doing organic farming on four acres since 2001.He is well experienced in growing different varieties of banana - kadali, red banana, robusta - using organic methods. The yields have been exceptionally high. He grows vegetables using the double digging method for his home consumption. He says there are less pest and disease attacks in organic cultivation.
50	Mr.K. Sureshkumar B-4 Lakshmi Narayana Apartments, Dr.Suburayan Street, Tatabet, Coimbatore- 12, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 0422 2490612	 Mr.Sureshkumar is farming organically on eight acres since 2000. He cultivates banana-(nethran, kadali), brinjal and tomato. Borders are cropped with ridge gourd. He is one of the rare farmers maintaining country bullocks for land preparation activities. Initially this eight acre farm had alkaline soil, which he nursed back to the appropriate pH through organic applications.
51	Mr.S.Chinappan Vattakkalvalasu, Malayam palayam, Karumandam palayam, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 0424 2351136, Cell: 94430 19781	• He started organic farming in 2004 growing turmeric. Prior to cultivation he sows green manure crops like diancha, sunhemp. Presently, he has three acres turmeric, five acres coconut intercropped with fodder grasses and one acre ragi. He owns 5 goats and 12 cows.
52	Mr.C.V.Subramanium 3' R Spiritual farm, Polumvampatti road, Thanamanallur post, Thondamuthur, Coimbatore-641109. Ph.: 0422 2906200, Cell: 9994368998	 Mr.Subramanium, a retired Engineer and his wife practice natural farming on their 12 acre farm. Of these, two and half acres are planted with coconut intercropped with different varieties of banana -red banana, rasthali, thenvalai, nentharan, kadali - drumstick and pomegranate. Irrigation is supplied through two feet deep trenches along which are grown pigeon pea, cowpea and maize.
53	Mr.T.S.Raman Green Kovai farm, AIMS for SEVA, Annaiketti post,	• Raman ji is the project manager of the 18 acre Green Kovai farm that is farming organically since 2002. The farm is spread in units, cultivating medicinal plants and an orchard. The farm keeps 23 cows.

	Coimbatore- 641108, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 0422 265 7001, Cell: 94426 46713	• The farm cultivates medicinal and aromatic plants like sweet margoram, geranium, rosemary, <i>Gymnema silvestris</i> on three acres; amla- two acres; guava and mango- two acres; eucalyptus- seven acres; and half an acre has different species of trees.
54	Mr.Selvaraj M S organic Farm, Uvasimangalam, Alanthurai, Siruvani, Coimbatore-641101, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9344451474, 9965975534.	 Mr.Selvaraj is farming organically on his ten acre farm since 2004. He cultivates crops namely banana (poovan variety) intercropped with onion on three acres, tomato on two acres and ragi on one acre. The predominant crops in these areas are vegetables such as tomato, brinjal, ridge gourd, snake gourd, coconut and grapes. Additionally, he has an organic nursery and selling point, in which vegetable seedlings, flower crop seedlings are prepared. He uses composted coir pith as bed material along with vermicompost in the proportion of 9:1. Coir pith is composted using panchakavya. According to him, the survival rate of saplings and keeping quality of the fruit is high when grown in this fashion. The tomato and onions from his farm have a shelf life of one and six months respectively. In his experience, organic farming requires less water too.
55	Mr.C.Ganeshan 21,Senguntapuram, II nd. cross, Ramanutar Nagar, Karur-639 002, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9865209217	 Mr.C.Ganeshan is an organic farmer and a breeder and collector of high yielding indigenous cattle breeds since 1980. His experience over the years has made him into an expert in this field. Mura buffaloes; cow breeds -Red Sindhi, Tharparkar, Kangayam, Gir, Sahival; and pure breeds of goat - Telecheri, Jamunapari are maintained on his farm. About 50 acres of land is under cultivation of various fodder crops like cumbu napier, glyricidia, subabul, fodder sorghum, guinea grass, lucerne, muyal masal, velli masal. He prepares his own concentrate mixture of cattle feed with rice bran, maize, cumbu, red gram, black gram, salt etc. About 20 acres are devoted to cultivation of paddy, coconut, amla and sapota.
56	Mr.Venkat Rasa S/o K.R.Radhakrishnan, No. 2, Erode Main Road, Valayutham Palayam Post, Namakkal, Karur Taluk & District- 639 117, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 270398, Cell: 9842770398, <i>e</i> -Mail: rasaokr@gmail.com	 Mr.Venkat Rasa has been farming organically for the past ten years on his 20 acre farm. He grows sugarcane intercropped with black gram on 11 acres and coconut on six acres. The coconut farm is covered with coconut palm leaf and sugarcane trash mulch. He prepares and uses panchakavya, avuttam, EM solution for growth promotion and crop protection.

57	Mr.K.Ramakrishnan Bangalore Thottam, Poyankuttai, Bhavani Taluka ,Erode District, Tamil Nadu.	 Mr.K.Ramakrishnan has been farming organically on his four acre farm for the past five years. He grows groundnut, cotton and tapioca. Tobacco is grown and ploughed insitu as green manure. Other organic practices include application of FYM, panchakavya, amirthakarisal and poultry manure.
58	Mr.A.R.Selvaraj S/o. Ramasamy Reddiyar, Aathirediyur, Kettisamuthuram post, Anthiyur via, Bhavani Taluka, Erode-638 501, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 0456 263331, Cell: 9750050605	 Mr.A.R.Selvaraj is farming organically for the last 5 years. He grows cotton, tapioca, groundnut and cumbu, mango and bamboo. VAM production beds have been installed to enrich the soil with microorganisms. The cotton yield on his farm was a remarkable 13.5 quintals/acre.
59	Mr.R.Raju S/o. Ramappa Gounder, D.No:467, Karuppana Mothiliyar Thottam, Anna Nagar, Bommanpattti, Bhavani Taluka, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04256 253152, Cell: 9976723940	 Mr.Raju has been farming organically for the last 3 years growing cotton, tobacco and fodder sorghum on 6 acres. There are 12 cattle and 30 hens on the farm. He practices various techniques like intercropping black gram, cowpea with cotton, preparing and using various organic solutions like devaamirtham, panchakavya etc.
60	Perumal Kovil Thottam Bommanpatti, Vellithiruppur, Bhavani, Erode-638 314, Tamil Nadu	 Perumal Kovil Thottam may be contacted for reaching the following organic farms and meeting these farmers: Shanthi's Farm: Smt. Shanthi grows cotton and gingili (oil seed) using organic methods Govindasamy's Farm: Govindasamy has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows cotton, turmeric, tobacco on his three acre farm. Suresh's Farm: Suresh has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows cotton, groundnut, sorghum, gingili on four acres of land Ramados's Farm: Ramados grows cotton and gingili organically on his two acre farm
61	Mr.Karupanaraj Bejalatti, Thalamalai, Thalavadi, Sathyamangalam, Erode District, Tamil Nadu	 Mr.Karupanaraj is a farmer in a small village in the hills of Thalamalai. He has been farming organically for the past 40 years without giving in into the lure of the Green Revolution. The family's lifestyle is in tune with agricultural practices and they have used every inch of land and the available natural endowments very resourcefully. He uses FYM, vermicompost, crop residues and various leaf extracts for crop production and protection.

62	Mr.P.B. Murali 77, Luz Church, Allvarpattai, Myllapur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 044 24991203, Ph.: 9380691203, e-Mail: pbm50@rediffmail.com	 Mr.Murali runs and owns a sprawling 60 acre organic orchard 90 kms. south of Chennai. Only Alphonso, Himampasand, Banganaballi and Rumani varieties are grown here. The farm is about 12 yrs. old and has been in organic practice from day one. He runs an organic shandy in Chennai every Saturday, sourcing vegetables and fruits from other organic farmers. Mr.Murali is a member of the National Steering Committee of the Organic Farming Association of India.
63	Mr.M. Sethuraman Kidathalimeadu, Kalai post,Mailladuthurai - 609811, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 04364236467 Cell: 9952844467	 Mr.Sethuraman is a long term organic farmer. He a member of the National Steering Committee of the Organic Farming Association of India.
64	Mrs.Anthiyur Kalaivani Bommanpatti, Annanagar, Vellithiruppur, Bhavani TK, Erode district, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 9865485221	 Mrs.Kalaivani is an organic farmer and works with SHGs in Tamil Nadu. She single handedly promoted organic Cotton Cultivation not only around other villages but also in her village for the past 4 years. Presently the number of Organic Cotton farmers she works with is more than 500 and the acreage is around 700. A very dynamic women willing to take up responsibilities, she is a member of the National Steering Committee of OFAI.
65	Mr.G. Sither Agriculturist, Layco's Nature Food Shop, 71/1516, Vanakkara Street, M. Chavady, Thanjavur 613 001, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 04362- 239788/272417, Cell: 09443139788, <i>e</i> -Mail: sither_1960@yahoo.co .in	Organic Paddy grower
66	Auro Annam Grace, Auroville 605 101, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 0413-2622044, Res: 0413-2623391, <i>e</i> -Mail: auroannam@auroville. org.in, margarita@auroville.or g.in	 Mr.Selvaraj is farming organically for the last 5 years. He grows cotton, tapioca, groundnut and cumbu, mango and bamboo. VAM production beds have been installed to enrich the soil with microorganisms. The cotton yield on his farm was a remarkable 13.5 quintals/acre.

67	Mr.R.Raju S/o. Ramappa Gounder, D.No:467, Karuppana Mothiliyar Thottam, Anna Nagar, Bommanpattti, Bhavani Taluka, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04256 253152, Cell: 9976723940	 Mr.Raju has been farming organically for the last 3 years growing cotton, tobacco and fodder sorghum on 6 acres. There are 12 cattle and 30 hens on the farm. He practices various techniques like intercropping black gram, cowpea with cotton, preparing and using various organic solutions like devaamirtham, panchakavya etc.
68	Mrs.Vanya Orr Project Director, Earth Trust, Ketty Post, Nilgiris, Tamilnadu, India. Mob.: +919787749943 office: +914232517036 www.earthtrustnilgiris. org	 Mrs.Vanya Orr is a dynamic woman who has energised the organic farming movement in the Nilgiris. She has great programmes for involving school children in organic farming. God give her many more years
69	Mr.T. Navaneetha Krishnan Poonthottam, 21/25, Vellipalayam Road, Mettupalayam, Coimbatore - 641301	• He is Biodynamic farmer since 1997. He is having 5 acres of biodynamic maintained farm. He is consultant for various local biodynamic farms and over Tamil Nadu.
70	Mr.V. Natarajan 66D, Rajapuram Road, Banglamedu Mettupalayam Coimbatore District- 641301 Ph.: 04254 224888, Cell: 9442019955	Organic farming since 2000.
71	Mr.A.Yuvaraj Kurichan Valasu, Nasiyanur, Erode district. Cell: 9865873751	• He is doing Organic farming since 2002. He is having 5 acres with Organic Turmeric, Ground nut, paddy and Sesame. He is converting his groundnut and sesame in to oil and selling it locally for premium price.
72	Mr.R. Jayachandran Ariyanoor Village Periyavenmani Post Maduranthakam Kancheepuram- 603311 Ph.: 044 - 27539608	 Organic Paddy farmer for last 20 years.