

## **Reddiarchathram Seed Growers Association (RSGA):**

Reddiarchatram Seed Growers Association was formed in 1999-2000 (as an exit strategy of seed village project) it was registered as “ **Reddiarchathram Seed Growers Association Charitable Trust** “ under the Trust Act and was facilitated by MSSRF.



### **Objectives of the Trust :**

The main objective of the Trust is to promote sustainable and participatory development by empowering rural people, especially, farmers, agricultural labourers, women and youth regarding economically and socially while protecting and preserving their natural resources and further promote the welfare of poor and needy people by way of giving proper education, adequate medical assistance and scholarships for needy people of all communities i.e., without discrimination of caste, creed etc.,

### **Weather Station - Agro Field Meteorological Unit ( AMFU )**

RSGA is Managing a ‘ B ’ type weather station in Kannivadi and recording the daily weather parameters. This station acts as a nodal center to receive scientific Medium range weather and seasonal rain forecast from Indian Meteorological Department. After receiving the technical information from the IMD, this centre converts the generic information to locale specific farmer friendly versions and communicates to other knowledge centers

At the same time this centre is documenting the traditional knowledge systems and making an attempt to harmonize the two different knowledge systems through interactive discussion with farmers and agricultural labourers.

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has recognized this station as one of the Agro Field Meteorological Unit (AMFU) in Tamil Nadu and currently, it provides advisories to the six neighboring districts.

### **Use of ICT services**

- Managing an extensive data base for all 43 crops including traditional knowledge and practices.
- Acts as an hub centre for the village knowledge centres (VKC) functioning in this region.

- Installed and managing a “ Light on wall “ - Touch Screen Terminal at the Pandiyan Gramma Bank premises. Farmers who were not even familiar with the computers can also be able to access the agriculture based information stored in the computer.

### **Web based learning :**

Developed and managing a website [www.L3FTN.COM](http://www.L3FTN.COM) for the Life Long Learning Farmers in Tamilnadu. Information on Daily vegetable price details from Oddanchathram Gandhi Vegetable Market, Dindigul Daily flower market price details, Weekly weather forecast, Package of practices for the 30 crops were hosted and updated regularly in the website.

### **Print media based Learning ( Newsletter as ODL ) :**

The association regularly publicize local monthly newsletter called Seithisolai. This monthly issue covers the farmers experiences and issues on agriculture and allied activities pertaining to the region. Recently, RSGA has initiated the course based on ODL principles which focus on season specific, need based contents.

### **Training and Capacity building**

RSGA is imparting participatory need based capacity building programmes on the issues in pest, disease, water, soil management, seed quality, post harvest practices and market linkages. Methods adopted for training are Print based learning, Web based learning, Voice mail based learning, Cross farm and Exposure visits, Farmers Field and business school, Linking with Experts through phone/video, Demonstrations, exposure visit, Lecture etc.

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