

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems

About the organisation

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) works to enhance the livelihood security of small and marginal farmers in Tamil Nadu through sustainable agriculture, research, and training.

The GROW Fund's impact

The GROW Fund has become a catalyst for comprehensive organizational growth and sustainability. In this 2-year journey with the support of the GROW Fund, CIKS has made various efforts in networking, publication, capacity building, etc. Please find the details below:

Progress in Networking and communication

- CIKS has revamped the Namma Nellu (meaning "Our Rice" in Tamil) website with the aim of boosting funding. By enhancing the online presence, CIKS hopes to raise awareness about Namma Nellu's mission and improve more financial support from donors. Detailed information about this program can be found here: <https://www.nammanellu.com/>.
- Uploaded publications on the CIKS website and tracked downloads to understand which books were accessed by users. Below is a summary of downloads accessed:
 - I. Various organizations, including government departments, educational institutions, NGOs, foundations, and companies, have accessed the books. Notable entities include Agriculture departments, Centre of Excellence for FPOs-Karnataka, Welspun Foundation, Sustainable Life Trust, TNAU (Tamil Nadu Agricultural University), NABARD, ICAR, MCRC, NAF and more.
 - II. A significant number of individuals, farmers, students, startup companies, freelancers, and educational institutions, including universities, colleges, and research centers, have downloaded books.
 - III. International downloads: There are a few downloads from the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (MAURITIUS) and a member from Sri Lanka Customs.

Through The GROW Fund the team was able to participate in the following Capacity Building Training:

- **Training on Ayurveda for Women:** A capacity-building session on health and wellness for our staff members was conducted. The workshop aimed to provide valuable insights into Ayurvedic principles and their application in addressing common health issues among women. The resource person is Vd.Dr. Poorvashri Pendse, an Ayurvedic physician from Pune. The personalized consultations were highly regarded, with participants noting that they felt heard and supported in their health journeys using Ayurvedic principles.
- **Training on use of Instagram:** A comprehensive training session was conducted at our Chennai office with the primary objective of equipping the team with knowledge and skills needed to effectively use Instagram as a tool for creating awareness.
- **Webinar attended on "Relationship mastery":** A CIKS staff member attended an online – "Relationship mastery" webinar organized by Madras Management Association. The resource person was Mr. Chidambaram who won the world's best trainer award and a lifetime achievement award for training. The primary focus of the webinar was on strategies and techniques for nurturing positive and productive relationships within the workplace. Valuable insights on how to initiate and maintain interactions when attending new events such as fundraising activities, seminars, conferences, and networking opportunities were shared.

- **Webinar attended on “Workplace Feedback”:** Two staff members attended a 3-hour online webinar on Workplace feedback organized by the Madras Management Association. The workshop covered the importance of feedback, different types of feedback, best practices for giving and receiving feedback, and handling difficult feedback situations.
- **Webinar attended on “Prioritizing and Planning for Time”:** Two staff members attended the "Prioritizing and Planning for Time" one-day live workshop at MMA center in Chennai. The workshop covered various aspects of time management, effectiveness, efficiency, goal setting, and delegation.
- **Webinar Attended on – “Google Drive Mastery”:** CIKS staff attended a three-hour webinar on – “Google Drive Mastery”. The resource person for this training was a tech coach for adults and senior citizens. The training covered understanding the google drive interface, creating and organizing folders, setting permissions for files and folders, deleting, and recovering files and folders, etc.

As part of a board meeting conducted by the team, various agenda items were covered which included confirmation of minutes, resignation of a trustee, appointment of a new chairperson, arrangements for bank account signatories, and signing of an MoU with MCRC.

Efforts have begun towards enhancing the design and production of annual reports and consolidating activity reports for comprehensive insights. Strategic planning meetings have provided avenues for deliberate decision-making and alignment of objectives.

Testimonial 1

A.V. BALASUBRAMANIAN, DIRECTOR

The GROW Fund has had a profound impact on the organization. While the support is designated for non-programmatic activities, it has significantly strengthened programmatic activities by freeing up the time of program staff previously spent on various core and non-programmatic tasks. For the first time, we have achieved a balance between time allocated to current/immediate tasks and that required for capacity building and long-term planning. We have moved away from constant "Firefighting" and now have a process in place to anticipate and manage changes and risks effectively.

- **Support for Core Operations:** The fund has helped with partial or full coverage of core staff salaries. It enables senior team members to focus more fully on planning and high-priority tasks.
- **Prioritizing Essential Tasks:** Many efforts are in the nature of – taking stock, spring cleaning, cataloging, backups, etc. which were recognized as essential for years could never get prioritized since no substantial support or funding could be allocated because these depended on contributions from donations or administrative costs on which there is always a very high demand. We have got going with them.
- **Fundraising and Networking:** The GROW fund has made a big difference in our fundraising initiatives. We were able to concentrate on raising funds and successfully raised 2.19 crore over three years from Supraja Foundation. Additionally, we collaborated with MCRC (Murguppa Chettiar Research Centre) and received 20 lakhs in funding in July 2023. We also secured a three-year grant of 1, 50,000 USD (approx. 1.2 crores) from the Woka Foundation. It is projected to be 4.3 crores for the next five years.

Testimonial 2

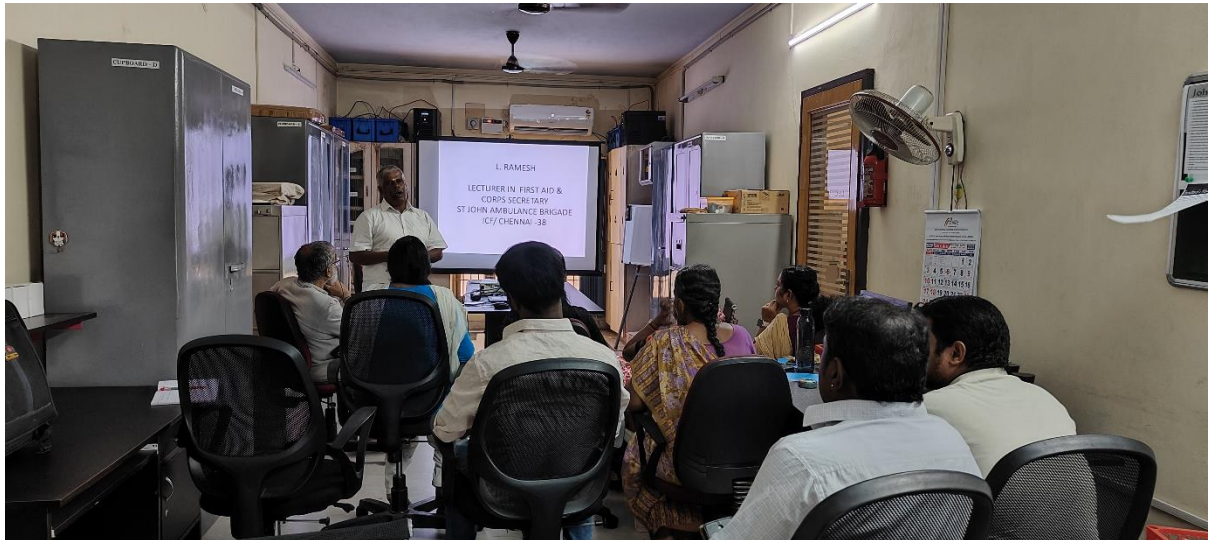
NANCY M, PROGRAM OFFICER, CIKS

The capacity-building training provided by the GROW fund has helped me enhance my skills. The risk management training session, conducted by you, has offered me a new perspective on organizational risks and their management. It has also aided in refining my feedback skills; your training was highly

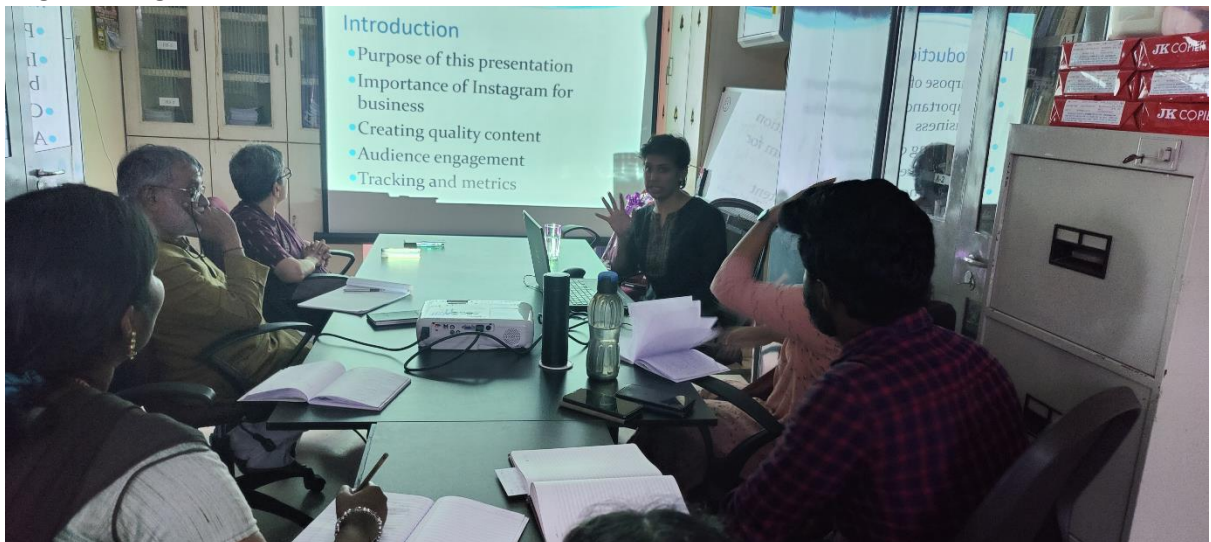
beneficial. GROW has not only contributed to my professional development but also to my physical well-being. The Ayurveda workshop and consultation organized by CIKS have had a significant positive impact on my health. Additionally, the first aid course, facilitated by CIKS, was invaluable, especially since they allowed our family members to participate. GROW has been instrumental in both my professional and personal growth.

Snapshots

Training on First aid course



Training on Instagram



Ayurveda Workshop attended by our CIKS field team.

