

## PROJECT NEWS — CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

*Prepared by Samy, Director of CCD and Peter Thorsten, February 2009*

Centre for Culture and Development (CCD) had many both Subud and non Subud visitors recently. Mr. Peter Thorsten from Norway came to visit our project and stayed in the villages for nearly a month. CCD was able to implement different program during his visit with financial help and guidance. CCD is a register non-profit charitable trust with the aim of promoting sustainable development programs in the rural areas of Tamilnadu in South India.

### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

#### The Training Hall

The meeting hall at the training centre was completed with cement flooring and by building a wall for people to sit on. The bamboo windows were put up around the meeting hall. Now it can accommodate forty people to participate in any program organised by CCD. Recently we held a training program about preparing the organic manure and natural pesticides with forty women from the village participating. Mr. Micheal taught them how to make natural fertiliser without any chemicals .The training hall will regularly receive students, women, children and farmers, for different programs.



## Herbal Medicinal Garden

An herbal medicinal garden was made at the training centre to educate the people about the use and the importance of herbal cures for different health problems. Since the people are poor they cannot afford to go to a city hospital for treatment. These herbs and plants help them to heal without side effects and it is cost free. Common diseases such as pain, cough and cold have fifteen different varieties of plants that can cure patients. We have medicines extracted from these plants for the people in powder form, oils and extracts. Already people from the villages have started using these herbal medicines.



## LIVELIHOOD TRAINING PROGRAMS

### Margreta Tailoring Institute

A sewing institute was started with five sewing machines and ten low income women joined the course. Under the guidance of a tailoring teacher, the women were trained and, after three months, were tested on their tailoring skills. With seed money to buy the raw materials provided by CCD, they make clothes they can sell in the villages. School uniforms are one of the important needs of the village children and so the women will make and market these. We have agreed that they will keep the profits and return the seed loan to CCD. The next training will start in the middle of February 2009 and more women want to join the training session.



**Children Centre.** The children centre is functioning in five villages with the help of teachers who provide special coaching in language learning. Each child is being carefully watched and counselled to continue their education without dropping from the school. Since many children found maths to be a difficult subject, we plan to conduct maths coaching during the holidays. Mr. Peter Thorsten trained the children in drawing and in painting on the week-ends.



**Children Educational Fund:** CCD has created a fund for the children's education. This fund will help the children continue their education without dropping out of school. Some poorer parents are prevented from letting their children go to school because they are not being able to provide a uniform or notebooks. Some families don't want their children to go to school because they earn a little money which helps to reduce the family's poverty. This fund will assist such families with financial support and help the children to continue their studies.



## RAIN WATER HARVESTING MODEL

In order to educate the villagers about saving rain water in the waste land, to increase the ground water level and for safe guarding the soil, CCD has created a small water storage tank in the training centre. The purpose is to educate in conservation of water and it also serves as a fish pond for growing fresh water fish for eating. Every monsoon there is a lot of water going to waste and not used in the village.

The training centre functions as a resource and knowledge centre in capacity building and educating in the following areas

- Livelihood skills for poverty reduction
- Food security and organic farming methods
- Climate change and global warming education
- Folk arts for development communication

*We thank all those who have helped us both financially and by giving other kinds of support. Our audited accounts statement will be available at the end of financial year 2008 April - 2009 March.*