



Training programmes in Emmaus Asia

EMMAUS ASIA, in the last four years, has been discussing about the importance of training programmes in enhancing the capacities of second line leadership within the member organizations, deepen their insights on the history of the Emmaus movement, the main focus areas the movement is involved, studying the possibilities of analyzing grass root level issues, and emerging alternatives to these issues. However due to budget constraint, member groups in Asia were unable to organize the training programmes as planned. And hence in its last Regional meeting held in Bangladesh during Sept 2012, a small amount has been allotted to Asian groups with the objective of strengthening the second line leadership, and strengthening the leadership of people's organization with whom groups are involved. Utilising this funds, some of the Asian groups has already organized the training programmes, the details of which you could read below.

Association d'Entraide Professionnelle (AEP) in Lebanon

organized a seminar cum training program on 'Agro business project' from 1st to 3rd of October in which the borrowers from AEP took part. The issues addressed were about techniques of water irrigation, best practices in saving rain water, solving water problems in the micro projects, protection of the environment etc. During the last day of the seminar, training for micro entrepreneurs in developing their skills and capacities in order to reach sustainability, and in developing basic notions of accounting and marketing skills have been provided.



Village Community Development Society (VCDS) in Tindivanam, South India organized a Youth work camp cum training program from 5th to 10th of November 2012 at its *Karasanur centre, Tindivanam*. Around 30 participants from 15 NGO's took part in this camp. Trainings were given under the 14 topics during this work camp, some of them were:-

- Emmaus International - History, aims, values, activities and solidarity.
- Food policy and Water policy of India.
- Training on Minor millets & Food security on safe food.
- Tree nursery raising techniques.

- Organic input preparation.
- Role of performing arts in Social situation.
- A inner view on YOGA.
- Man is the centre of Universe.
- The work of the organization 'Credit@People' to provide chemical and mineral free safe water.
- New amendments on Foreign Contribution Act.



Group discussion and field survey was also organized during this six days camp, where participants were divided into several groups, and the conclusions were consolidated.

During the evaluation held on 10th November, participants felt that the training programs organized during the camp gave an opportunity to learn more about various social problems, had motivated them to be a different and special person in working for the social causes. Also this camp has given space for them to learn and develop their skills which will help in continuing their work and in strengthening their organization. Participants felt that this camp was meaningful and it will help to bring lot of social sensed youths in the future. On the closing day Mr.S.Martine, Camp coordinator distributed certificate of participation for all the participants

Training for farmers: With the intention of encouraging farmers who are practicing organic agriculture methods, a one day training was organized by TEDE Trust on 4th December, with the objective of orienting the farmers about the benefits of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) to market their organic produces in a better way. From KUDUMBAM, a team of 10 farmers and 2 field staffs participated in the training. Kudumbam is already involved in Internal Control System for the certification with around 1500 farmers in and around Kolunji farm of *Pudukkottai district*.

While explaining the objective of the training, participants were informed that when the organic farmers market their products, the certification has become a must one, because nowadays the consumers who come forward to buy organic products question about the authenticity of the product. While explaining the need of PGS, participants were informed that this method helps to explore new paradigm for way small holders, and also enable them to participate in local markets. All

the participated farmers have decided to gather on the first Tuesday of every month at their villages and discuss with other farmers of their village to start farmers groups for PGS certification. At the end of the training session, PGS application forms have been distributed to all the participants.

New Board meets ...

The Emmaus International Board met from 1-6 October in Dourdan, France. Councillors of Emmaus International from the four world Emmaus regions spent 6 days reviewing the decisions of World Assembly held in Anglet, and setting out the four year work plan on the eight Emmaus International work areas. Over the course of the week, workshops and plenary debates were held. Initially the training session was organized for the Board members on elected members tasks' and responsibilities. From Asia region, all the four CEI's participated the meeting.

Tropical storm Nilam slammed into southern India ...



A view of the paddy field damaged by Cyclone

THE cyclone named NILAM struck the east coast of Tamilnadu (India) between Chennai and Pondicherry at 6.30 pm on 31st October 2012. Hoping to avoid a repeat of the destruction caused by Cyclone Thane last year and other recent storms, the Government and the public were prepared extensively to tackle this Cyclone Nilam. After dozens of people were killed by Cyclone Thane in December 2011, and thousands were forced into emergency shelters, the State decided to bulk up its disaster response in 2012.

A substantially weakened cyclone Nilam caused four deaths as it struck coastal Tamil Nadu on 31st October 2012. The cyclone

made a landfall close to Mahabalipuram with a maximum speed of 65-75 kmph, sparing large scale destruction. Heavy rains coupled with strong winds also lashed the eastern coasts of Tamilnadu. Power and communication lines were disrupted at a few places due to uprooting of trees.



The continuous rain for last 10 days before cyclone has resulted in large areas being flooded. Farmers were heavily affected, because the storm had damaged their near ripe paddy crops standing in the fields with barely a month to go for

harvest. The 10 days of continuous rains have had a devastating effect on 3115 settlements, 81,100 hectares of rice fields getting submerged and more than 6000 families had to be housed outside

the village, because the walls of their houses collapsed. Water stagnation after cyclone has also led to a drastic increase in health problems. Emmaus member groups – VCDS, FHF & KUDUMBAM in Tamilnadu, their fence and agricultural lands were also damaged.

The three South Indian Emmaus groups made an emergency appeal to Emmaus International to carry out the relief measures for the victims affected by cyclone, to address the health issues and to repair their infrastructures and damaged farm lands. In response to their request, 6000 euros were released in two instalments i.e. 2000 euros per group from EC emergency funds and from Asia Regional emergency fund to implement the above mentioned activities. Thanks to Emmaus International for their timely support.



'Street play against Child labour'



On 29th November 2012, TARA participated in a programme organized at *Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)* in *Qutub Institutional area, New Delhi*. Around 150 participants including students, teachers and friends from the network organizations participated in the programme. The objective of the programme was to motivate and seek the attention of the students, teachers and other participants regarding Fair Trade, the serious problem of child labour, how to

deal with it and to come forward to buy Fair Trade products. Tara social workers also participated in the programme. On the occasion, a street play was conducted with the theme "*Abolition of Child Labour*" by the students at Tara learning centre in *Tajpur Pahadi, Badarpur*. The street play received a huge appreciation and positive response from all present in the programme. Therefore, TARA has decided to organize the street play more regularly in its working areas.

Engaging landless women in Farm Collectives

DURING the last quarter of the newsletter, KUDUMBAM from Trichy, South India shared about the initiative of engaging landless women in farm collectives that has been started in *Kolunji ecological farm*. About 4 landless women from the neighbouring villages around Kolunji farm were involved in Vegetable cultivation in an area of 10 cents provided by KUDUMBAM to each of them. All the farmers have started to get their yield from seasonal vegetables like *Ladies Finger, Kothavarai, Ridge Guard, Bottle Guard, Bitter Guard, Tomato, Brinjal* and 7 types of greens. In total, around 60 Kgs of vegetables and 50 bundles of greens they have harvested so far from the 40 cents. Even at the early stage, they were able to realize multiple benefits from this initiative.



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Their testimony:

- Have got the confidence that organic vegetable cultivation is possible and because of that we are able to avoid the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides completely which we normally do when we work as labourers in our own villages.
- We were able to get poison free vegetables to our own family members and thereby our health and nutritional security has been ensured.
- We were able to supply 30% of the organic vegetables in the farm itself and the increase demand for organic vegetables to our close circles and that has also reduced our fear on marketing our vegetables.
- We have got the feeling of income security with continuous employment opportunities in our vegetable plots.

With all these confidences rooted in the life of these poor farmers, KUDUMBAM has planned to provide training on value addition to engage them in employment during off season which will also bring more income security to them.

Identifying potential trial members in Asia region

EMMAUS ASIA, since last two years has been studying the possibilities of identifying the potential NGO's involved in the key areas of the movement and involved in the income generation activities, and studying the possibilities of them becoming part of the movement. The objective of increasing the members in Asia is to create a stronger

platform at the Asian level on water, education and migration, and also the need to increase self sufficiency of the region. In this context, discussions were held to identify the groups in Nepal, Srilanka and Malaysia where existing members have contacts in the area of fair trade and sustainable agriculture. Taking into account the global economic situation,

Emmaus Asia took a policy decision not to make exclusive visits to trial member applicants in these countries, but to club these visits on a proposed connecting journeys with Emmaus related Regional and International meetings.

In the above context, after the Regional meeting held at **BANGLADESH** in *Sept 2012*, the Regional CEI's visited the organization 'RULFAO' & 'PUP'.

RULFAO: On 15 Sept 2012, *Mr.Alexander and Ms.Moon* visited this organization in *Rajshahi district* which works for the landless, poor, destitute and downtrodden people of the society. They have been implementing various programmes in the working area for the economic development of the rural poor through group formation, adult literacy, health, hygiene, sanitation, education, land rights, legal aid support, skill training. Landless people, farmers, poor people and drop out children are their beneficiary.



Visit to RULFAO

PUP: The next day on 16th, *Mr.Oswald and Mr.Alexander* visited the organization 'P.U.P' based at *Bogra area* working with poor and landless artisans, providing skill development training, non formal primary education, health care, family welfare and credit support. Their main production is Handicrafts. Along with different trainings such as Group Management, Leadership training, Production Quality Control etc., PUP also provides adult education for the producers and child education where the children of the producers take their primary education.



Visit to PUP

Another two organizations - GRAMIA SEVA SEVANA(GSS) and SATYODAYA in **SRILANKA** were visited by *Mr.Oswald and Mr.Alexander* on 14th and 15th of Oct 2012, after their participation in the Board meeting of Emmaus International. These two organizations were involved in Non formal education, micro credit, skill training programs for community leaders, Organic Farming. Both are involved with 1000 to 1500 farmers in facilitating the procurement of grains and collective marketing of seeds, and also involved in marketing of vegetables and organic foods. They have a farm and a training centre which could accommodate around 40 participants.



Visit to GSS, Srilanka

The reports of the visits made by CEI's in Bangladesh & Srilanka will be discussed during the forthcoming Regional meeting at Indonesia in March 2013 to decide on their applications for trial membership.



MUTUAL HEALTH programme which started as a pilot project, has now been launched in two of the Asian groups – *TARA in North India and THANAPARA in Bangladesh*. Mutual health system at Tara and Thanapara has started working successfully which is of tremendous help to the poor. The recent studies in health in all over Asia has clearly depicted that there is an increase in food borne diseases.

Bangladesh and India account for more than 60% of the world diabetics. People who are rich get access to all kind of private hospitals, and for poor, it is really a poor state of affair. In such situation, MHO proved really good, and it took long time for the community to understand what it is all about.

Asia region considers this programme a very important one in the context of increasing food borne diseases and a low cost alternatives in addressing mutual health needs of people. Apart from this MHO programme, Asian groups very often organise awareness camps & campaigns for the people in need of Health care.



TARA in North India organized a Medical Health Camp in *Agra* during *October 2012* for the benefit of the the artisans with the main objective of making them aware about the health hazards in their areas and to provide them necessary medical treatment for the already suffering persons from the infectious and communicable diseases. More than 200 craft producers and their family members were provided medical check-up and treatment with necessary medicines. Tara social workers and the volunteers from the communities worked hard to make the health camps organized, a successful and meaningful event.



In view of large number of the persons suffering from various diseases and the need to provide medical support, TARA has decided to organise more camps together with the active participation from the community on need based in the concerned communities. TARA has also planned to network with the existing health programmes in the government, and to promote community participation in the preventive health actions.

Kudumbam in Trichy, South India organizes awareness programmes in schools every year with a different focus, and during 2012, it has decided to educate 650 children from twelve schools about the co-relation between food habits, food borne diseases and the positive outcomes of organic farming. Twelve university students have been identified and trained in the objectives of the programme, who then travelled around to schools to educate them on the above topics. Involving university students in the project is a good way for the children to get information

from students in a similar age. The projects aim is also to spread the information to the children's families and their communities. Since most of the chosen schools were situated in the local areas, and moreover the children's parents are farmers, the knowledge the children gain from the project is hopefully transferred to their parents.

After the lectures, a contest has been held at each school. Children were divided into groups of three, and in those groups they independently wrote a

summary of the lessons they learned during the lectures. Prizes and participation certificate were distributed to the winners and to all those who participated in the programme.



During the last quarter of 2012, **Yayasan Penghibur (YP) in Jepara, Indonesia** along with local health institution organized a campaign in three elementary schools of around 500 children, located in *Blingoh village*. Children were informed about the importance of keeping their mouth clean to prevent sickness in their body. They were taught of how to make their mouth clean by using tooth brush. During this event, YP donated tooth brushes and tooth paste for all the participants.

Also YP organized a Christmas celebration on 10th December, in which around 400 people participated. During this occasion, children from Penghibur Home also had opportunity to perform the cultural programmes.



IN THE LAST TERM of 2012, the number of loans given got affected due to the political situation in Lebanon. The chocolate project has improved this year which ended very successfully and this allowed AEP to participate in the Emmaus solidarity sale.

The traditional meeting of the regional teams of AEP took part on 4th of November at *Hotel Colibri Baabdat*, in which achievements and future plans were discussed. Some borrowers from AEP also participated, and their testimonies were noted remarkable. At the end of the day, an evaluation of AEP activities was done, and some recommendations were given to improve the skills for the future.



AEP participated in YMCA contest for the best micro entrepreneur award, in which three of the borrowers from AEP won valuable prizes which were distributed during a ceremony on 19th December. The team of AEP participated in several other training sessions in marketing, sales and Human Resources strategies.

VISITORS IN KUDUMBAM



DURING the first weekend of November, **KUDUMBAM in Trichy, South India** had a group of visitors from Sweden. *Varalakshmi Wellman*, known as *Valla*, an old friend to Kudumbam travelled together with ten Swedish teachers and nurses, many of them retired. Together with Kudumbam team, the Swedish group visited the community forest. The group was interested in learning more about how Kudumbam has worked for many years turning the area from a eucalyptus plantation into a multi-species forest that serves the whole community. The Swedish group also visited a farmer named 'Aravind'. He has been an organic farmer for the last ten years, trained by Kudumbam. Aravind has also got a bio control lab where he produces parasites to control sucking pest in sugarcane and rice. That sucking pest he sells to almost 3000 farmers in surrounding villages. At the end of their visit, the group had opportunity to see a perfect example of organic farming of rice and sugarcane.

VISITORS IN FHF

THREE MEMBERS from the organization 'CREDIT @ PEOPLE' based in France with their branch office in Pondicherry made a friendly visit to **FLORANCE HOME FOUNDATION (FHF)** in **Cuddalore, South India** on 21st November. They visited the boys & girls hostel, and the ecological farm of FHF, and felt that their visit was useful to know more about FHF and their service for the community in the last 20 years.

Their observations (in their own words) :

Boys hostel: It looked a bit like the Boarding School - the same type of sanitation, dormitory, way of cooking (wood) etc. FHF has two social businesses to help the hostel to be sustainable: a paper-cup making cup unit and a areca-plate making unit with banana leafs.

Girls Hostel: This hostel was more innovative than the boys one. Indeed, the girls are using dry toilets. There are four. Two are used during 6 months and after left to create fertilizer. During the 6 months of "fertilization", the two other toilets are used. After fertilization, it is used for the fields that provide food for the girls. There are also cows but here the cowpat is used to create biogas for cooking. As there are only 2 cows, the gas produced is enough only to bake some tea or to make some sambar (dish). Firewood is used for the real cooking. The girls are taking care of the fields and garden.



The Ecological farm of FHF: There were millet, rice fields, mango trees, kitchen garden with many vegetables, cows, sheeps, hen, medicinal plants, a kind of artificial lake (used for fish culture and for watering the fields). FHF uses those plants and animals to feed the children of their Boarding Schools. Everything is natural with no pesticide, using the cowpat as a fertilizer ...

Preparatory meeting for WC-TNG

Date: 29 Nov 2012

Venue: Emmaus Asia office, Pondicherry

For the meeting on World Council for Training and New Generations which is to meet in the month of Jan 2013 at Montreuil, France, a preparatory meeting was organized at *Emmaus Asia office, Pondicherry* on 29th November 2012. Members from South Indian Emmaus groups participated the meeting. They explained their experience in organising trainings in their groups and the difficulties encountered while organising such trainings, and proposed that training on sustainability should be provided for the organizations, so that the groups could

provide sustainability training for the beneficiaries. A survey/study should be initiated to learn what is the immediate and real issues to be addressed for the training, and then to provide knowledge and support to the people on those issues. There was also another proposal from the members that all the training contents organized by Asian groups should be drawn into a handbook, which could be utilized by other member organizations. Following were the training topics compiled from the proposals received from Asian groups:-

- Priority programs of Emmaus International.
- Ethical and Technical training on governance.
- Attaining sustainability of the groups through group work.
- How to organise and manage various activities of the groups.
- Creating and maintaining alternate learning centres.
- Planning, evaluation and monitoring.
- Enhancing skills in collective processing & marketing of organic food products.
- Conducting mutual health plan and para medical training.
- Training on recycling and reuse.
- Training on strengthening the alternative energy methods.
- Strengthening of solidarity tourism.
- Value addition to agriculture produce and collective marketing to welcome new people and groups into the agriculture movement.

Trainings already existing within Asian groups:

- Organic farming training (source & resource).
- Water harvesting methods & techniques.
- Developing and maintain seed bank.
- Managing self help group on micro credit.
- Income generating activities.
- Alternative food and medicine.
- Governance (source & resource).
- Creating alternative or supplementary education methods.
- Migration - Causes & preventive measures.
- Mutual health groups.

Training modules available within Asian groups:

- Cultural training module.
- Work camp.
- Classes & field visits.
- Debates.
- Exchanges with other groups.

Asia region has also discussed in its past Regional meetings about the importance of organizing the Regional and International training programmes. Since most of the groups in the region are involved in collective project implementation on Water, Micro Credit, Eco tourism, Education, health and food crisis, the region is capable of exchanging detailed information on the above aspects. The region has also planned to organize one day training program for a day after each Regional meetings from the year 2013.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2012

TARA producers organized World Fair Trade Fortnight Celebrations at Tajpur Pahadi, Delhi on 29th November 2012 with the theme **“Fair Trade and Sustainable Consumption”**, in which around 200 beneficiaries including the artisans, their families especially their children, students from the learning centers and the other community members participated. Participants were informed about the various standards of Fair Trade, and about the increased violence and injustice prevailing in the society against women. According to Fair Trade principles, men and women have equal rights to empower and develop themselves.

A drawing competition was also organized for the children on the theme of, *“Importance of education and ill effects of Child Labour”*. Their drawings depicted about the level of their awareness and understanding about the evil of child labour. Simultaneously, a rally and a street play was also organized by the artisan and SHG group members to promote Fair Trade and women empowerment. The programme concluded with a small party where all enjoyed the refreshments.



External evaluation of Millet project

Through Kudumbam's Friend Group in Sweden, *Future Earth* is supporting KUDUMBAM for a millet programme in and around Kolunji ecological farm of Pudukkottai District since last two years. In order to evaluate this project, an external evaluation team visited Kolunji farm and some of the project villages from 14th to 15th December 2012.



During the end of their visit, they debriefed their observation and findings with lot of positives aspects on Kudumbam's interventions, especially its strategies and approaches in taking the concept of food sovereignty to both farmers and the consumers. They also gave valuable suggestions mainly on the importance of strengthening the farmer's federations, to orient the farmers on the importance of increasing the diversity of millets in the same field, to focus on management of soil through appropriate technologies. They also suggested to document case studies and success stories of farmers who has shifted from cash crop to millets, groundnut to millets and revival of fallow lands through millet cultivation.

Editorial Committee

Ms.Moon Sharma, India
Ms.Lena Sayad, Lebanon

Mr.Oswald Quintal, India
Mr.Alexander, India



Compiled by :

Mr.M.Kamalakaran
Regional Secretariat

For Communications

EMMAUS ASIA SOCIETY
Door No: 16, Vasantha nagar
First cross street,
Thengathittu, Mudaliarpet
Pondicherry - 605 004, INDIA
Tel: +91 94426 17266
E-mail: emmausasia@yahoo.com