

Report on the 30th Foundation Day Programme: CIKS Since 1995: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Date: 23rd January 2024 (Tuesday)

Venue: Madras Management Association, Chennai

The Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) 30th Foundation Day celebrations took place on the 23rd January 2024 (Tuesday) at Madras Management Association, Chennai. The proceedings began at 10am with invocation through a prayer song. This was followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp graced by esteemed individuals Mr.A.V Balasubramanian (Director of CIKS), Mr. Aadhappan (Farmer), Mr.Raghunath Narayanan (Catalyst group, Bangalore), Ms. Shanthi Manikasundaram and Mr. Srinivas M.D (Supraja Foundation). A warm welcome and overview of the day's events were provided by Mr. A.V. Balasubramanian.



From 10:15 to 11:00 AM, the CIKS team members, comprising Mr. A.V. Balasubramanian, Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi (Research Director at CIKS), Mr. K. Subramanian (Program Director at CIKS, Chengalpattu District) and Ms. Subhashini Sridhar (Program Director at CIKS, Nagapattinam District), presented an insightful overview of CIKS's activities since its inception in 1995. This

session shed light on CIKS's significant contributions and achievements over the years, highlighting its role in promoting traditional knowledge systems, sustainable agricultural practices and traditional rice conservation.



Following the overview, Mr. A.V. Balasubramanian addressed the challenges for the future and the tasks ahead, emphasizing the need for continuous innovation and adaptation. Then there was a short coffee break from 11:15 to 11:45 AM. During this time the cake cutting took place.



The subsequent session from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM was dedicated to comments, suggestions, and reflections from the invitees, moderated by Mr. A.V. Balasubramanian. Distinguished speakers from various organizations and domains shared their insights, including Mr. Aadhappan, Mr. Manikandan (Farmer, Sirkazhi), Dr. M. Kandasami (Auditor), Dr. Ranjith Daniel (Care Earth) and others, enriching the event with diverse perspectives, experiences and suggestions.



From 1:00 PM to 1:45pm, release of the CIKS publication *“Tamilnattin Parampariya Nel Rakankal – Oru Thakaval Kalanjyam”* and the launch of the new Namma Nellu website took place. Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi provided a brief introduction to the publication, followed by insights into its contents by K. Parimala. The book was released by Mr. Raghunath Narayanan with introductory remarks. The first copies were received by Dr. Unnamalai of MCRC and Mr. Manikandan. The new website for the Namma Nellu program was declared open by Dr. S. Lakshmi Bala, Professor at IIT Madras, and Mr. Vipin from the design team, Smudge, introduced its features.



After a sumptuous lunch, the reflections and discussions continued from 3 to 4 PM, featuring eminent speakers such as Dr. Unnamalai from MCRC, Ms. Poongkhulali, Ms. Supraja Srinivasan, Mr. Thriyambak Kannan and others, providing enriching exchange of ideas and insights.



The programme concluded with heartfelt concluding remarks and a vote of thanks from 3:45 to 4:00 PM, expressing gratitude to all participants, contributors, and supporters and the event concluded with a tea session.

