

**COLLOQUIUM ON ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS OF DR. J. C. KUMARAPPA  
AND ITS RELEVANCE TO INDIA TODAY**

Organized by : SOLAI PROGRAM

Date : 20.10.2015

Time : 9.00 AM TO 4.00 PM

Venue : Dr. J. C. Kumarappa Grama Thozhil Solai, Christianpet, Vellore – 59

**Introduction:**

An one day Colloquium on “ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS OF DR. J. C. KUMARAPPA AND ITS RELEVANCE TO INDIA TODAY” was held at Dr. J. C. Kumarappa Grama Thozhil Solai, Christianpet Village , Vellore District, Tamil Nadu, India on 20 October 2015.

The purpose of the Colloquium was to strengthen the emerging ecological economic thought process among the people and social actors on the ground.

The participants for the programme included nature conservationists, natural agriculture farmers, organic farmers, agronomists, farmer cum social scientists, technical staff of the farmer training centres (both governmental and non-governmental), staff of the self reliant grass root level voluntary development organizations, development consultants, lawyers and Information Technology professionals.

**Proceedings :**

Session - I: Introductory Session

Chair Person: Dr. Sr. Anne Xavier M.Sc. (Bot), Ph.D

The Colloquium began with a Welcome and Chairperson’s Remarks.

The theme of the Colloquium was written by Dr.M.S. Swaminathan and presented by Dr. R. T. Rajan, Founder / Hony. Director, SOLAI PROGRAM.

The Colloquium Document titled “Green Gandhian J.C.Kumarappa, Ecological Economic Thoughts and Action” was released by the renowned Agronomist, Dr. Fr. K. T. Chandy M.SC (Agronomics), Ph.D and first copy was received by Dr. Sr. Anne Xavier. The document contains the papers presented at the Colloquium and was given to all the participants.

Ms. R. Maria Sathya introduced the resource persons of the programme and the key presentations under various sessions.

## Session - II: Ecological Economics of Dr. J.C.Kumarappa and Sustainable Development

Chair Person: Dr. Fr. K. T. Chandy

The session had two presentations. The purpose of the session was concept initiation.

**Dr. U. R. Kaliappan**, Retired Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, Bharathiar University presented **“Economic theory of Dr. J. C. Kumarappa – a comparison and appraisal”**. Dr. Kaliappan spoke about the two competing macro ideologies namely Capitalism and Marxism, the causes and consequences of these ideologies over the centuries and quoted several examples. While Capitalism caused the exploitation of labour and resources, Marxism employed violence to establish dictatorship of the Proletariat. He explained growth of communism and socialism as a state enforced ideology. On the other hand, narrating Dr. JCK’s theory of Eco Unity, he stressed that Service Economy is sustainable. Emphasizing the non violent use of natural resources, Dr.JCK called the people to return to nature and promote soil health. Permanent Economy is one where there is co-generation of both demand and supply. Dr. JCK’s economic theory is social, political and organic in scope and is a feasible model, more relevant to India today.

The second presentation titled **“Public Finance and Natural Resource Management”** was delivered by **Dr. Mr. M. P. Gurusamy Ph.D** accomplished Rural Economist, Secretary of Gandhi Museum, Madurai and President of Gandhi Literature Society, Madurai. At the outset, Dr. Gurusamy narrated the academics and life experiences of Dr. JCK and mentioned how Dr. JCK’s life mission changed after an initial encounter with Gandhiji. Dr. Gurusamy cited several quotes and examples from Dr. JCK’s book **“Public Finance and our Poverty”**. Dr. JCK emphasized on ‘Ethics in Economics’ as fundamental to permanent economy. It is the responsibility of the ruler / government which collect taxes, to ensure the well being of all the people, peace and development. Natural Resource Management is one of the important functions of the government. Dr. JCK viewed human resource as part of natural resource. Nature is God and is permanent. Therefore nature need to be preserved, protected and developed. Public finance and natural resource management are inter-related. Despite the changes in economic policies in India in recent times, the well laid principles of welfare India should not be compromised.

## Session – III: Ecological Permanence and Sustainable Agriculture

Chair Person: Mr. Elango Rangasamy

This session had two main presentations.

**Dr. Sr. M. Agnes MSW, Ph.D** spoke on her work and experiences with **Women in Agriculture**. Kalwy experience in Karur district of Tamil Nadu started with understanding the problems of women, solving issues at the local level through collective action and the importance of educating the women workers about their plight and rights. Sangam building and collective action were crucial to ensure payment of minimum wages and for addressing problems related to misuse / exploitation of water and land resources. Organizing the marginalised women against alienation of land and water resources is the need of the hour, Dr. Agnes mentioned.

**Dr. Fr. K. T. Chandy** in his presentation titled “**Economy in Ecological Permanence**” spoke at length about the fundamental do and don’ts for ecological permanence. With a drawing, he explained how nature of eco system is inter-dependant and inter-related. Removal of non living components from the eco system such as Air, Heat, Water, Soil, Slope and light will endanger the living components of such as humans, plants, animals and microbes. He highlighted that humans are the most fragile group in the eco system. He explained how slope determines the soil health. Dr. Chandy then went on to speak on immutable laws of our eco system. He presented 28 laws that will ensure ecological permanence. Beginning with the importance to observe the Earth, he explained how deforestation has caused drying of springs and water bodies and urged to take necessary action for watershed management. He emphasized that agricultural land should never be used for other purposes. Land as an organic component, need to be structured for productive use. Recycling of bio mass is a key input to a healthy eco system. Waste is wealth, he stressed. Highlighting the high levels of malnutrition and lack of awareness regarding the same even among the learned, he narrated how it leads to an unhealthy population, both physically and mentally. The temperament of strong likes and dislikes is an emerging evil affecting the young generation. Commercialization of food is doing much harm to the society and natural resources. Dr. Chandy presented house hold level estimation for a decent living for food and non food items. Narrating the woe of farmers, he pointed out that good ecological status is fundamental to good economic status.

#### Session – IV: Network Growth Economy – Cluster Model for Panchayats and Rural Artisans

Chair Person: Dr. M.P. Gurusamy

This session had four presentations by practitioners who have tried workable models.

**Mr. Elango Rangasamy** made the first presentation titled ‘**Network Growth Economy through Panchayat Raj**’. He narrated how the backwardness of his village Kuthambakkam in Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu disturbed him in his youthful days. That motivated him to leave his secure job and take up a new mission to bring about a change in his village by contesting the Panchayat elections. By ignoring villages, no change can be brought in the nation, he pointed out. Change has to start from local level through existing system. He explained the process of making five year plan for the Panchayat and how by educating people and changing their mind set, all felt needs were fulfilled in five years. In eight years, self sufficiency was reached by networking extensively for mobilizing financial, technological and human resources. Employment and income generation was given main thrust. The Panchayat Academy he set up has since trained 700 panchayat leaders and aim to train 2000 in another few years. The panchayat network will create 2000 model panchayats in next ten years, he hopes. Dr.JCK model of decentralisation, use of available technology and energy efficiency can solve many problems. Such a network growth economy model is practicable, viable and replicable.

**Dr. Maruthakutty Ph.D,** Professor and Head of the Department, Sociology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli presented on the Self Reliant community model among Kanikar Tribals. The Kanikars were into shifting cultivation and then moved on to settled cultivation in line with the governmental policies for their settlement area. They are now self reliant in their traditional agriculture and traditional medicine. Their medicine systems cure diabetes, piles, insect

and other poisonous bites. Kanikars now extend their services to other communities also. He also spoke about their community self regulation methods. Dr. Maruthakutty expressed that concepts and models discussed in the Colloquium should lead to policy inputs.

**Mr. K. Mohanraju**, Retd. Director of KVIC, and presently Secretary of Palm Products Research and Promotion Foundation, spoke on **Palmyra Trees for Development**. He explained the work of his foundation in promoting palm products. He narrated the present socio economic situation of palm industry artisans. Presently the foundation has adopted 30 families working in palm industry for development programme. The families are now given social security cover and insurance. The foundation could help anyone interested in setting up units by transferring technological know-how.

**Ayurveda Acharya R. James Rajarajan** BAMS discussed the **Green Healthcare, Green Livelihood in the footsteps of Dr. JCK**. He explained the three-tier workers integrated social entrepreneurship model with the Natural Resource Dependent Communities (NRDCs) piloted and promoted by SOLAI PROGRAM in Vellore District. The model consists of individual entrepreneurship, group entrepreneurship and finally leading to social entrepreneurship model involving promotion of ethno healthcare through SAN Clinics, Panchakarma unit, etc. The livelihood model for NRDCs prevent their migration, and contributes to their self reliance by generating employment.

The session was followed by a presentation of the Summary by Ms. R. Maria Sathya. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. R. T. Rajan who mentioned that the Colloquium was meant to inspire social actors to carry on the green thinking and replicate with awareness generation and practical action on ground in their areas.