

NEEC Field

Through

our ongoing work with students, womens' groups, farmers and the local village communities there was identified a need for a place where people could meet, take part in workshops and observe demonstrations of organic agricultural principles and environmentally sustainable practices. To this end, a two acre plot of land adjacent to the NEEC was purchased in 2005 through the Kaliveli Environment Education Trust.

It is envisaged that this site will become a central part of the community where organic programmes and ideas can be developed and implemented.

A number of structures and activities have been established at the site that include:

- A women's centre where groups can meet, take part in workshops, plan village development and coordinate their income generating programmes.

- A health drink preparation area where 50 underweight students receive a special highly nutritious drink supplement to encourage healthy minds and bodies.

- Four spirulina tanks producing spirulina to include in the health drink programme. The spirulina units are also a case in point for income generation for womens' self help groups and their programmes; and the SHG members are responsible for monitoring and preparing the spirulina.

- A demonstration vegetable garden displaying organic farming principles such as the use of effective micro-organisms (EM), panchakavya, vermi-compost, amrut pani and integrated pest management. The vegetables are used for the health drink programme with additional produce being sold in the local market as an income generating activity for self help groups.

- A medicinal plant garden with information signboards to provide a demonstration of household herbal gardens and simple herbal health remedies. The plants are also to be used as raw materials for the future herbal medicine dispensary that is to be established at the women's centre.

- An indigenous plant nursery that currently has 30000 seedlings of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest for use in plantation programmes and nursery development. It also provides the basis for nursery training for womens' self help groups.

- Accomodation and offices where project staff can coordinate and monitor the various activities.