

The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the center of the frame, partially obscured by the silhouettes of mountains. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the light from the sun, creating a shimmering path that leads towards the horizon. The mountains are dark and jagged, adding to the scenic quality of the image.

Sign of Hope

**Revival and Re-construction of
Saline Lands by Sustainable Agriculture
Techniques**

An ecological initiative by Tamilnadu Organic Farmers Movement

**Building
Strength in
Communiti
es for them
to build
better
lives...**



ABOUT US

Promotion of

- **Ecological farming**
- **Green Campaigns**
- **Publications**
- **Research and Development**



Soil salinity is the salt content in the soil

- ✓ Salt affected soils are caused by excess accumulation of salts, typically most pronounced at the soil surface.
- ✓ Salts can be transported to the soil surface by capillary transport from a salt laden water table and then accumulate due to evaporation.
- ✓ They can also be concentrated in soils due to human activity.
- ✓ As soil salinity increases, salt effects can result in degradation of soils and vegetation.

Salinization is a process that results from:

- high levels of salt in the soils.
- landscape features that allow salts to become mobile. (movement of water table)
- climatic trends that favor accumulation.
- human activities such as Excessive usage of chemicals, land clearing and aqua culture activities.
- The moon also can play a huge role in drawing the salt to the surface.

Issues related to salinity

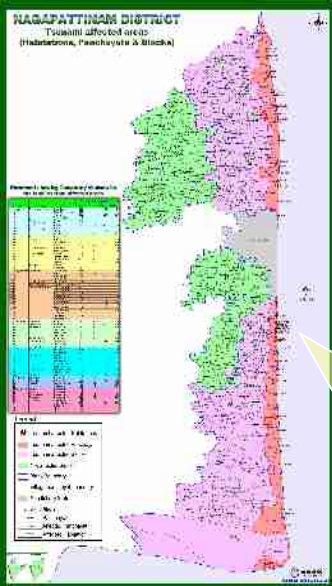
- ❖ Increase in soil salinity
- ❖ Reduction in soil permeability
- ❖ Loss of organic content
- ❖ Less microbial activity

Resulting in the degradation of physical, chemical & biological properties of the cultivable lands

Sustainable Farming approaches in disaster situations

Post tsunami saline land reclamation

- **Nagapattinam, India (3800 acres)**
- **Banda Aceh, Indonesia (32 islands)**
- **Ampara, Sri Lanka (66,000 hectares)**
- **Post AILA land reclamation (8 islands)**
 - **Sunderbans, West Bengal, India**




Agriculture in Nagapattinam District - Some Glimpses

The Nagapattinam District represents diverse kind of agricultural pattern. Agriculture is practiced as close as a 100mts from the sea and crops grown include paddy, groundnut, cotton, vegetables and pulses. Situated in the tail end of the Cauvery delta region, part of agriculture is dependent on the availability of water in the river



Post- Tsunami Agricultural Lands



**Salinity - E.C varies
between 6.7 dsm-1 &
23.7 dsm-1**



**Sea Mud - up
to 2 feet high**



**Silt Deposit -
up to a height
of 5 cm to 35
cm to an
extent of
1369 ha**

**Organic Carbon content
- becomes very low -
ranges between 0.6 &
1.2%**

TOFarM's Response



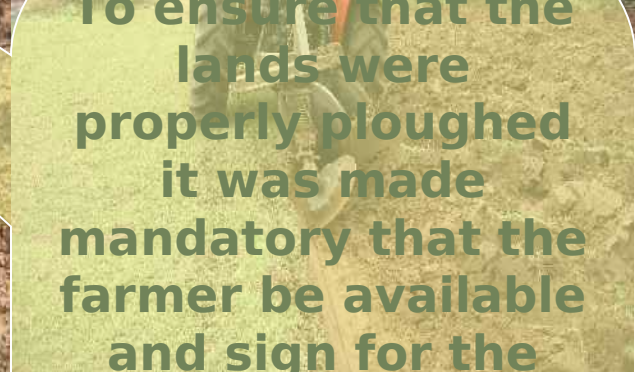
**Problem analysis and
response needs
through Community
Interaction**

TOFarM's Response

REVIVAL OF THE TSUNAMI AFFECTED FARM LANDS IN ORGANIC WAY
912 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND RECLAMATION WORK AT SIRKALI TALUK,
VETTANGUDI, KOOLAYAR, THIRUMULLAIVASAL, THIRUNAGARI VILLAGES.
PROJECT BY : TAMILNADU ORGANIC FARMERS MOVEMENT
FUNDED BY : OXFAM

ACTIVITIES	BUDGET
DEBRIS	Rs. 30,000
DISK PLOUGHING	Rs 6,38,400
ROTOVATOR PLOUGHING	Rs. 8,20,800
TRENCHES	Rs. 3,64 800
SYSTEMATIC TRAINING	Rs. 1,76,000
VERMI COMPOST UNITS	Rs. 2,25,000
SPRAYERS	Rs. 36,000
EXPOSURE VISIT	Rs. 32,400
FODDER TREES	Rs. 75,000

**Direct Action on the
Field through a
Project Initiative**



Affected fields are ploughed according to the level of damage

To ensure that the lands were properly ploughed it was made mandatory that the farmer be available and sign for the ploughing using the appropriate implement for the tractor contractor

Clearing the Irrigation Channels in the Village



Village
Channels
Cleared



**Cash for
work ..
Trenches
(50m x 45cm
x 60cm) and
filled with
coarse
material**



**These trenches
absorb saline
water and help
create microbial
activity in the
soil**

**Work Created -
many man Days
Monetary Help
Disbursed**

***Daincha* seeds were distributed**



***Daincha -
Thakkapoondu*** as
they locally call it
provides the much
required bio-mass
in the soil and
helps in creating
activity in the soil

Capacity Building of Farmers



**Practical Training
in the field
provided by
practicing Organic
Farmers from
TOFarM's network
across the state**



**Exposure
visits
organised**



**Exposure visits to Organic
farms and model farms
which have adopted
organic practices in
similar cropping areas**

Regeneration Activities

165 Sprayers
9750 Fodder
saplings



2756 vermi compost units set up



Having their own vermi compost units help farmers to produce organic manure from waste bio-mass and cattle dung in their own backyard and thereby save on the input cost

Signs of Hope



Same Farms
- less than a
year later

2005 11 05 16:53

The Harvest Festival



Smile Returns

TOFarM

An Ecological Initiative by Tamilnadu Organic Farmers Movement

To enhance the skill of farmers for increased net income

Capacity building
programmes for
Master farmers and
establishing
hundreds of farmer
field schools



To enhance the skill of of co-producers for alternate income opportunities



Livelihood groups for 800 landless labours



forming and strengthening of landless labours





...and Common Ponds cleared through Community Participation

The community was taken into confidence regarding the finance of the project and left to plan as to how many would be employed through this project and at what wage would

To demonstrate farmer's increased capacity on alternative farming technologies - Model Plots are being established



1023 farmers from 9 villages are exposed to sustainable and alternative farming practices



Maintenance and management of common water resources



The farmers and
landless labour
livelihood groups
took initiative and
executed the canal
renovation work



Partnering Agencies

ASB Germany

OXFAM

CII

India Today



They came on
their own and
have stayed to
become good
friends

Sharing Learning across the Ocean - Desalination and Regeneration Activities at *Banda Ache- Indonesia*

Problem
analysis
and
response
needs
through
Community
Interaction



Sharing Learning across the Ocean - Revival of Tsunami affected lands in Indonesia

Desalination activities
planned and executed
according to the location
specific



Rejuvenation activities at Ladang and Sava – 32 islands in and near Banda Ache



Having their own vermi
compost units help
farmers to produce
organic manure from
waste bio-mass and
cattle dung in their own
backyard and thereby
save on the input cost



Skill Development of Farmers of Andhra Pradesh



PART OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS - SEED R & D



**Sustainable Farming Approaches are
continuing in AILA affected Sunderbans**



TOFarM's work caught the eye of the media from the local cable operators to major international network televisions - everyone wanted to feature this as one of the striking and positive initiatives in the tsunami



Recognition from media near and far...

**Those who
contributed...and
recognized the
work!**



**From the President of
the Nation to the former
President of USA, many
recognised the value of
TOFarMs initiative**

**From the District
Collector to the
Agricultural
Department
officials, many
government
agencies
contributed to the
TOFarMs
initiatives and
actively**

participated

TOFarMs

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Thank You

