**Progress Report on Project #6265**

**“Biodiverse Agri Trainings to 1500 Youth every year”**

**Implemented By**: VOICE Trust, a non-profit social service organization from Tiruchirappalli District, State of Tamil Nadu, India.

**Collaborated By**: Global Giving, Washington D.C., USA.

**Supported By**: Friends of Earth in India, USA and Worldover.

**Special Activity from October 2012 to January 2013**

Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India said in his Victory Speech in 1947: “EVERYTHING ELSE CAN WAIT BUT NOT AGRICULTURE”.

But, today, more than one third of agricultural lands are sold for other than agricultural purposes as seen from News clip of The Hindu Daily of January 17, 2013 (Scanned and attached).

It is not only fertile farmlands that are being sold but also the rainfed drylands (over two thirds of cultivable land in India) are up for quick sale in VOICE work villages. VOICE Trust has been cautioning stakeholders about this grave danger.

Efforts to save agriculture is continuing through Project #6265 under Global Giving – VOICE Trust collaboration from October 2010. This is possible only because of supports from Friends of Earth in India, USA and Worldover. A big “THANK YOU” for your help and cooperation.

VOICE Trust is now concentrating on Plant Protection through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Efforts are on to move to Integrated Farming Systems (IFS). Specific steps are taken in Chilli Crops for effective pest control (Photos of IPM in Chilli in Thuraiyur Area are attached).

But, it is not easy to continue SAVE AGRICULTURE Programs without your support. Hence, VOICE Trust appeals to you for specific supports fund here below:

1. Strengthening Youth in Agriculture in 150 work village of VOICE Trust through Working Capital supports to 150 Youth Groups at Rs.5000/- per village (around 100 US $).
2. Introducing IPM (Integrated Pest Management), ICM (Integrated Crop Management) and IFS (Integrated Farming Systems) at Rs.20000/- per village (around 400 US $).

**N.B.**: 1. Other supports what VOICE Trust had asked for in September 2010 Open Challenge are continuing to apply besides the above specific needs. More needs are there too like equipments and Team Transportation facilities for SAVE AGRICULTURE Programs.

2. But, right now VOICE Trust is not able to even meet the basic expenditure for the project, because there are no regular supports from most of you. It will be difficult to manage Project #6265 from February 2013.

Hence, VOICE Trust wants to know from you what your decision to continue supports for Project #6265. Please let us know whether VICE Trust can continue Project #6265 from April 2013, the new Financial Year for people in India. Kindly inform your views.

With Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. A. **Jecintha**)

Managing Trustee, VOICE Trust.