

S E N A A P A T H Y
KANGAYAM
CATTLE RESEARCH FOUNDATION



**SENAAPATHY KANGAYAM
CATTLE RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

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Senaapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation (SKCRF)

“ SKCRF works to preserve the bio-cultural values and the uniqueness around our indigenous breeds of livestock and the traditional knowledge associated with it.”

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SKCRF is an in situ conservation and breeding centre based in Kuttappalayam, Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu.

SKCRF functions as a resource and research centre working on conservation of native breeds of cattle, focused more earnestly on the Kangayam breed and the Korangadu, a unique Silvi pasture land and farming system in the Kongu region, mid-western Tamilnadu. The Kangayam breed and the Korangadu are interdependent and hence they need to be protected from the threat of extinction.

SKCRF also works to preserve the bio-cultural values and the uniqueness around our indigenous breeds of livestock and the traditional knowledge associated with it.

The pride of Tamilnadu

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The history of Pattagarars, who were clan heads of the communities in the region can be traced to 1000 C.E. from literature and family records. The families of the Pattagarars / Mandradiars and their cousins of the clan took keen interest in raising livestock and have been contributing for the development and sustainability of the Kangayam breed, in spite of the reduction in the grazing area due to several Government policies. A member from the family of Mandradiars and an important legend who sowed the seed for the birth of the SKCRF was Kuttappalayam Swaminathan, a member of legislative assembly, Vellakovil between 1967-71. He was also the Vice Chairman of the Tamilnadu Livestock Development Committee. Swaminathan founded the farm and maintained a major stock of the Kangayam breed.

SKCRF is now involved in several activities that promote the Kangayam breed in its habitat namely the Korangadu in Kongu region.



Cattle breeding has been the legacy of the family tracing back to at least 1000 C.E. Now the responsibility is more...



Vikrama Cholisvara Temple constructed during the period of Kali Muruga Vikrama Chola, a contemporary of Raja Raja Cholan

ACTIVITIES

Maintaining the herd and Korangadu, SKCRF has been advocating and practicing ethical organic farming. The cattle in the farm grow in a stress-free environment in the open grasslands called 'Korangadu'. This is called 'Ecological Livestock Keeping'. Korangadu is a unique silvi pasture grazing system comprising of Velan trees (*Acaia Leucophloea*) interspersed in regular intervals with nearly 23 types of vegetation. With no pesticides in the grazing land, the cattle are raised harmoniously in their ecosystem grazing all day. As the cattle graze on abundant kolukuttai grass and velan pods in the open natural environment, they require less input, thereby making it a sustainable method of livestock keeping.

The Kangayam Breeding Tract is largely a rain shadow region of the Western Ghats receiving an average annual rainfall of 650 mm, having shallow red soil, and calcareous sub-soil, conditions favourable for better growth of grass with high nutritive value. Between July and February, the animals are exclusively grazed by rotating between paddocks. The grazing lands are ploughed every 4 to 5 years and Cholan (Sorghum) is sown and made into hay for animal feeding between March and June. In several places, the Kolukattai (*Cenchrus Ciliaris*) along with legumes like Naripayathankodi (*Phaseolus trilobus*), Seppunerinji (*Indigofera Enneaphylla*) grow, thus improving the quality of forage. Without Korangadu pasture land, it is simply impossible to have free ranging Kangayam breed. Therefore, maintaining a healthy Korangadu becomes imperative for the Foundation.

With the expansion of urban areas and the quick money that is in the market, Korangadu becomes easier target. SKCRF has been trying hard to maintain these Korangadu grasslands by supporting people and spreading awareness. In some cases, the fencing and mending of Korangadu becomes expensive, but it is imperative that it has to be conserved. The major advantage is that the cattle rarely fall sick as they receive the best nutrition and immunity. Hence, the need does not arise for the cattle to be given any medicine or unwanted antibiotics, which are harmful both to them and us. The calcium rich soil in the region adds to the vigour of the cattle and the milk that it provides. Hence, it is a much sought after milk for young ones and

Passionately conserving the Native Breed & the Native Land



women for nutrition, immunity and calcium requirements. This milk is also recommended by ayurvedic practitioners. The milk of Kangayam is recognized as being extremely healthy and nutritious with zero bad fat and is prescribed by doctors for children. The ghee of this region is world famous due to ecological livestock keeping and the calcium found in soil.

To ensure that all these characteristics are maintained, SKCRF has been actively practicing and advocating the best practices in these areas.

Cattle shows

SKCRF conducts Cattle Shows every year as part of the awareness program. It is conducted in partnership with Kangayam Cattle Breeders Society. Nearly 600 to 1000 cows/bulls/oxen/ calves are brought to the shows. Transactions such as buying and selling happen in this place quite efficiently. While the trade takes place on one side handled directly by the farmers, the cattle show happens alongside. The event is aimed at promoting conservation of the native Kangayam breed and maintaining the quality of pedigree Kangayam cattle. A key feature of the event is the awarding of prizes for the best bulls and cows showcased. These prizes reward and encourage women and men livestock keepers, many of whom have been custodians of this breed for generations, to continue to protect this breed and save it from extinction. The associated traditional skills such as horse shoemakers, noose fasteners, horn shapers, ethno-veterinary practitioners are identified and honoured. The event helps showcase the cultural heritage of the Kongu region and is an important date in the tourism calendar of the region. The event helps in rekindling interest in native livestock amongst people cutting across communities and strata. Visitors interact with livestock keepers, experts and local communities and get a firsthand experience of the traditional knowledge base in breeding and rearing.

Breeding program

SKCRF has stud bulls, cows, and heifers in the farm. The Stud bulls in the farm are used to cover cows at the farm and for the neighbourhood. No fee is charged for this from people availing the service. From 2009, more than 1800 cows calved pedigree calves through this program. SKCRF also issues bull calf to organizations, societies, farming groups wanting to maintain bull calves in its in situ tract through donations and contributions from public. This program has major support and people look up to SKCRF for advice and support.



Nearly 600 to 1000 cows/bulls/oxen/ calves are brought to the cattle show. 'The Best Bull' and 'The Best Cow' Award goes to the deserving cattle.



SKCRF sees the breeding program as one of the important activity towards conserving Kangayam.

Training

Training is provided in the areas of Zero Budget natural farming, making compost and panchagavya, vembu karaisal, livestock keeping and empowering women by training in several aspects of livestock keeping. SKCRF has been engaged in preparing natural compost using Kangayam dung and the organic waste that is generated in the farm.

Zero Budget Natural Farming is a unique method of farming which requires absolutely no monetary investment for purchase of key inputs like seeds, fertilizers and plant protection chemicals from the market.

It is an alternate to chemical nitrogenous fertilizer farming. All that the system requires is native breed of cattle, which in any case, forms an integral part of farming families in rural areas. It is claimed that one Kangayam cow is sufficient to take up this method of farming on thirty acres of land.

Panchagavya or panchakavyam is a concoction prepared by mixing five products of cow and used in traditional Indian rituals. The three direct constituents are cow dung, urine, and milk; the two derived products are curd and ghee. These are mixed in proper ratio and then allowed to ferment. Panchagavya is prepared in small scale to cater to the needs of the farm. The reason behind this is the in-situ cow grazing under in-situ conditions. It cannot be prepared in large quantities where the unique properties of the preparation may be lost.

Empowering Women through Training, Zero Budget Farming & the preparation of Panchagavya



Documentation

SKCRF has taken the lead in documenting all resources and activities related to the Kangayam breed in the western part of Tamilnadu. Best livestock keepers and practitioners following traditional practices have been identified and documented by SKCRF. They have been nominated for best livestock keepers. The 'National Breed Saviour' Award was constituted by the National Biodiversity Authority (Ministry of Environment and Forest) towards which SKCRF facilitated programs by nominating people, several of whom were recipients of the award. Following this, more people have begun to show interest in following the traditional practices, and it has served as a major awareness program for saving the breed.

A major documentation for the Bio-cultural protocol (BCP) of the Kangayam-Korangadu has been accomplished. BCPs are documents that empower stakeholders to ascertain their rights for the resources and cultural practices they own in a geographic region. A cattle census has been planned for the entire Kangayam cattle region in Tamilnadu to study the demography of the cattle over a period. The flora and fauna of Korangadu have also been documented. Nearly 118 species of birds have been documented so far.

We believe electronic documentation and its projection is the fastest way to educate people about Kangayam Breed.



A photograph showing several Kangayam cattle grazing in a lush green field. The cattle are of various colors, including white, black, and grey. They are surrounded by tall grass and numerous trees with light-colored trunks and dense green foliage. The scene is a natural, rural landscape.

Kangayam cattle grazing in Korangadu,
a unique *silvi* pasture grazing system
in western Tamilnadu

Outreach

The role of indigenous livestock in farming and its important significance in society is showcased through exhibitions. A number of exhibitions have been conducted in different parts of India. The travelling exhibition has been held in schools, colleges, institutions, Government institutions/programs, Shandies, Press meetings and other places. Several lectures have been organized in SKCRF and during cattle shows to spread awareness among people. Lectures are given at schools, colleges, institutions and several programs and occasions. Seminars are attended and conducted to focus on major themes involved in livestock keeping and sustainability of livelihoods for the Kangayam-Korangadu region.

SKCRF has been supporting the biocultural events in Tamilnadu such as Rekhla, Jallikattu, and Kavadi as it is strongly believed that these events would ensure the safety of the genetic resources in the State. Representations have been made at Biocultural summits such as UN CBD COP 2010 in Nagogya, Japan, UNCBD COP 2011 in Hyderabad, major meets in UN Food and Agricultural Organization, ILRI, Global Agenda for Action Consultations, Kenya, UNEP World Gathering of Livestock keepers and pastoralists 2014, Kenya.

SKCRF also works with both the Union and State Governments by suggesting several policy matters. Visitors come from all corners of the world. They tour the farm and observe the various activities. Some come in for training in specific areas. The visitors are usually the general public, veterinarians, NGOs, livestock keepers, tourists, Government officials, School and College students. Visitors are welcome to visit the farm with prior appointments.



SKCRF strives to protect the Kangayam breed by spreading awareness. Here is a school taken on 'Kangayam Safari'

- Chairman, SKCRF



Support

The people maintaining the farm and the cattle need resources and support. Some support has come for publications and towards adopting a cow scheme. SKCRF is looking for partners/supporters to maintain the cattle, training programs, time bound projects and a Corpus. Environmentalists, animal lovers, general public, philanthropists, corporate houses and others interested in conservation of native cattle who believe in this cause can contribute and be part of this major effort. Contributions to the Trust are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

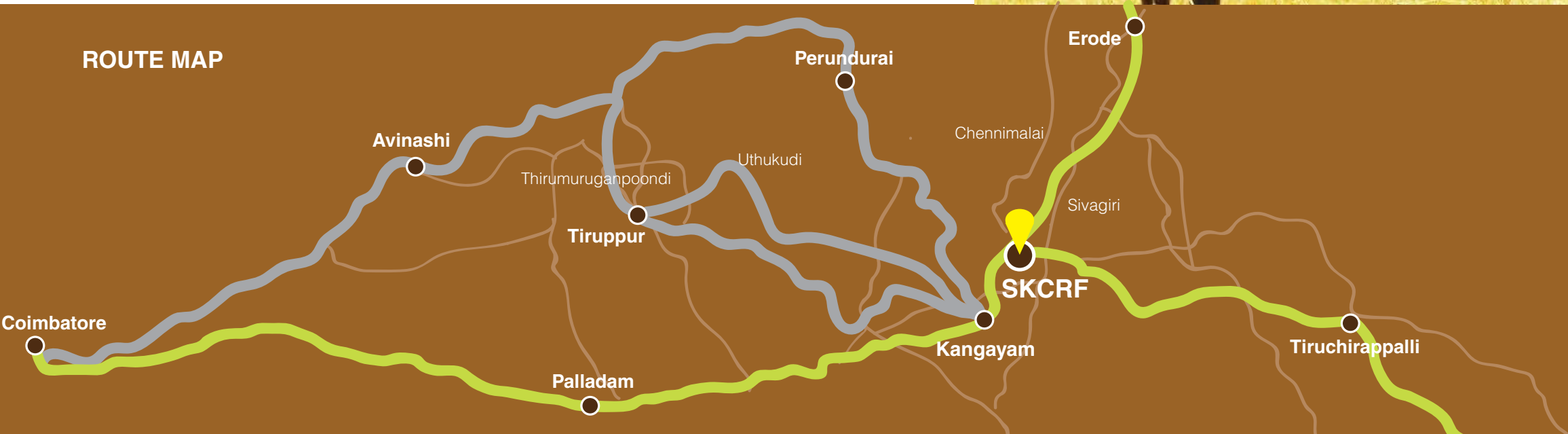
Location

The foundation is located in the hamlet of Kuttappalayam, 5 km from Muthur on the Kangayam–Kodumudi Road and 5 km from Nathakadiyur on the Palani – Salem State highway. It is located about 97 km from Coimbatore, 38 km from Erode and 49 km from Tiruppur. A part of the cattle herd of the foundation are maintained at a farm in Valliarachal village, 6 km south of Muthur.

**Experience
Kangayam
personally**



ROUTE MAP



Distance to SKCRF

Coimbatore	- 97 kms
Avinashi	- 62 kms
Tiruppur	- 49 kms
Palladam	- 54 kms
Perundurai	- 36 kms
Tiruchirappalli	- 136 kms
Erode	- 38 kms
Kuttapalayam	- 350 mts