



## IN-SITU CONSERVATION BREED SAVIOURS

Following the Convention on Bio Diversity (CBD) at the Rio Earth Summit, India passed the National Biodiversity Act in 2002. Subsequently the National Biodiversity Authority was constituted. A network of NGOs and individuals working in this area which includes the SKCRF formed a LIFE Network headed by Dr. Ilse Kohler-Rollefson. The NBA and the LIFE network now work together and address the issues of conservation of biological diversity. Under access and benefit sharing regime of CBD it proposes incentives for communities conserving genetic diversity. SKCRF identified and nominated three names for breed saviour award.

*In Pic: Soundaram Ramasamy, Breed Saviour Award winner*

**SENAAPATHY KANGAYAM**  
CATTLE RESEARCH FOUNDATION







Mrs. Soundaram Ramasamy, Mr. Vivekanandan and Mr. Natarajan are the Breed Saviour Award winners from the Kongu region. Vivekanandan is very strong in documentation and has meticulous records. Natarajan is a fine traditional ethno-veterinary practitioner.

Soundaram Ramasamy, a livestock keeper and breeder of pure Kangayam cattle is popularly known among the fellow residents of Kathasampalayam village in Tirupur district as '**Kalai Kara Amma**' (or **the Bull Lady**). She possesses seven sturdy Kangayam bulls. She won the 'Breed Saviour' award instituted by National Biodiversity Authority and LIFE Network, a consortium of NGOs.

Mrs. Soundaram is known for her dedication in activities promoting conservation of pure Kangayam cattle and more importantly, in the preservation of 'Korangadu,' the grazing area necessary to sustain the species. She has dedicated 10 acres out of her total 15-acre farm land to grow 'Korangadu,' containing 29 types of shrubs/trees.

She takes the bulls to graze only in the 'Korangadu' area which is rich with a mixture of monocot and dicot plants like **Kolukkatai** grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris* sp), '**Kilivuai Mullu**,' and '**Vellai velan**,' and ensures that her bulls eat a 'balanced diet.'

A loud whistle by her will make the animals from the grazing area to rush towards her and stand near her like obedient 'children.' "My wife and bulls share a sentimental relationship," tells her husband Ramasamy who is a farmer. The Bulls in her farm serve almost six cows in a day. She maintains the records of the services. She also travels to nearby areas and adopt calves of good pedigree so as to use them for pure breed improvement. She has the ability to identify good pedigreed calves by observing physical features like humps, sexual organs, horns and tail.

