



SENAAPATHY KANGAYAM CATTLE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**AN INSITU BREEDING AND CONSERVATION CENTRE
2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



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Senapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation Annual Report of Activities 2024–2025

Sustaining Biodiversity, Empowering Communities

1. Introduction

The Senapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation (SKCRF) remains a pillar of conservation, cultural heritage, and ecological responsibility within the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu. Driven by a steadfast dedication to preserving the indigenous Kangayam cattle breed, restoring traditional grazing ecosystems like Korangadu, and fostering community-led sustainable practices, SKCRF has cultivated a legacy of impactful initiatives.

The period 2024–2025 was a testament to this ongoing commitment. Building upon its foundation of success, the organization pursued its mission with renewed energy, revitalizing native landscapes, spearheading awareness campaigns, facilitating educational programs, and advocating for policy advancements.

Each endeavour underscored the Foundation's enduring vision: **integrating ancestral knowledge with modern ecological principles to shape a thriving future.**

2. Community Engagement & Awareness

At the heart of SKCRF's conservation philosophy lies the active involvement of the local community. For SKCRF, conservation is not a top-down effort but a collective journey, where farmers, students, youth, and the general public are equal stakeholders in safeguarding ecological and cultural wealth.

In 2024–2025, SKCRF continued to foster this spirit of shared responsibility through awareness drives, grassroots campaigns, and immersive community programs. From rural villages to urban institutions, the Foundation carried forward its mission of educating people on the importance of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and traditional knowledge systems.

Special attention was given to water literacy and ecological stewardship among school children and village youth. In collaboration with local bodies, SKCRF also facilitated clean-up drives, tree planting, rainwater harvesting promotion, and conservation dialogues in public forums.

These activities not only strengthened community bonds but also reinforced the idea that true conservation emerges from people who live in harmony with their environment.

Noyyal Vanam: Inauguration

A notable highlight of the year was the inauguration of the “Noyyal Vanam” scheme—a community-driven afforestation initiative launched to rejuvenate the green cover in the Noyyal river basin region on 2ND Oct 2024.

The program began with the planting of 8600 native saplings over 20 acres, envisioned as a sanctuary that would not only restore the ecological balance but also become a living classroom for future generations.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, volunteers, local villagers, and nature enthusiasts. The collective effort demonstrated how conservation can become a community celebration rooted in purpose and pride.

Through such flagship programs and continuous public engagement activities, SKCRF continues to instil a sense of environmental responsibility among the people, ensuring that traditional knowledge, ecological ethics, and modern sustainability efforts go hand-in-hand.

That set Noyyal Vanam apart was the overwhelming support it received from both corporate sponsors and individual patrons. Their contributions—financial and voluntary—demonstrated how deeply the vision of SKCRF resonated across society.

The program drew participation from schoolchildren, local villagers, professionals, and nature enthusiasts, symbolizing a powerful confluence of tradition, action, and corporate social responsibility.

The event marked not just the beginning of a green movement but also a renewed commitment to public-led conservation, where every sapling stood as a symbol of collective responsibility and shared hope.

A series of felicitations were delivered by key dignitaries, including Prof. Dr J Jayaranjan, Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission, Thiru. Karthikeya Sivasenapathy, Managing Trustee, SKCRF, District collector T Christ Raj IAS, Dinesh Kumar, Mayor of Tiruppur corporation, Mr. T R Sivaram, Trustee - VETRY Trust and MD of Classic Polo, Sundar Ganeshan, Director- Roja Muthaiyah Research Library, Ms. Haleetha Sameem, filmmaker and Mr. T R Ashok Kumar, General Manager of the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank emphasizing the critical need for sustainable development and environmental protection.



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In his address, Prof. J. Jayaranjan remarked, "The Noyyal Vanam project is not just about restoring forests but about rejuvenating an entire ecosystem that will benefit generations to come. This initiative aligns with Tamil Nadu's broader goals of promoting sustainable development and environmental responsibility."

The Noyyal Vanam project symbolizes a growing movement in Tamil Nadu toward reclaiming green spaces and ensuring a sustainable future. The attendees applauded the efforts of the local government, private stakeholders, and community members in coming together for this cause. As part of the event, participants visited the Noyyal Vanam sites, where the reforestation efforts along the riverbanks are being undertaken. Representatives from political parties and local bodies, including Thiru. N S Chidambaram, Former Kangayam Block secretary, Thiru. Aayakaadu Senthilkumar, Former Kangayam Town secretary, Tmt. Jeevitha Jawahar, Vice Chairman, Kangayam, Thiru. Easwaramoorthy, Keeranur Panchayath, Mr. Gopal, Former Organiser, DMK Members wing, Thiru. A N Senthilkumar, President, Nathakadayur Panchayath, Ms. Seethamanai Sivakumar, President, Maravapalayam Panchayath, Thiru S Eswaramoorthy, District Representative, Thiru. K Velusamy, Sivanmalai, Mr. Arjunan, Thiru. Kavin of Paranchervazhi, Thiru. Rasu of Paapini, along with Ms. Priyadharshini Ramakrishan, Administrative Officer of Senapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation, were thanked with special mention for their support to the launch of Noyyal Vanam Thiru. Aravind Nallathambi, Managing Trustee of Kuttapalayam Saminathan Educational and Charitable Trust & Correspondent of Aanoor Vidyalaya Matric Hr Sec school, thanked the gathering

Sponsors associated with the Noyyal Vanam project

- Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank - Muthur Branch
- Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited - Erode
- Thiru. K K Selvam: Western Medical, Saradha Medicals, Salem
- Thiru. Sadhasivam: Kaveri Irrigations, Erode
- M/s Angulakshmi Spinning Mills, Coimbatore
- Thiru. Ranjith: DMR Green Energy Limited, Coimbatore
- VKSM Green Energy Private Limited, Coimbatore
- Thiru. Kavin Mohan, Chennimalai

3) Knowledge Sharing & Public Outreach

A standout moment of the year was the prestigious lecture presented by SKCRF's Managing Trustee in Madurai, titled "Bull Taming Practices: From the Indus Valley Civilization to Keezhadi".

Disseminating knowledge—both ancestral and research-driven—has long been integral to the mission of the Senapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation (SKCRF). Throughout 2024–2025, the Foundation deepened its role as a cultural and ecological bridge, hosting lectures, events, and collaborative forums that united tradition with contemporary scientific inquiry.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Madurai West and Advocate Ms. Chitra Devi on 5th August 2025, the session traced a rich historical arc, exploring the evolution of bull taming through archaeological findings, classical Tamil literature, and enduring rural customs.



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Drawing from excavated artefacts, Sangam-era texts, and ongoing traditions, the lecture illuminated the profound ties between humans and cattle across India's cultural landscapes. The scholarly depth and interdisciplinary nature of the presentation of Shri Karthikeya Sivasenapathy, the Managing Trustee, SKCRF, captivated a diverse audience—including academics, students, cultural historians, and conservationists—garnering widespread acclaim.

This engagement not only elevated the cultural importance of native breeds such as the Kangayam bull but also reaffirmed SKCRF's leadership in heritage-rooted ecological advocacy. By fostering dialogue between heritage and modern conservation, the Foundation continues to uphold its role as a steward of knowledge and public engagement.

For SKCRF, conservation is not confined to environmental restoration—it is an act of cultural preservation and civilizational continuity. The landscapes it protects, the species it nurtures, and the traditions it upholds are all threads in a much older fabric of Tamil agrarian heritage.

In 2024–2025, SKCRF reaffirmed its dedication to nurturing informed and resilient rural communities through a robust series of knowledge transfer seminars and hands-on training programs. These platforms acted as dynamic conduits between indigenous knowledge systems, academic research, and practical field applications.

This year's focus included strategic collaborations with institutions and grassroots networks to deliver:

- Seminars on sustainable agricultural practices
- Discussions on conservation-driven livelihoods
- Civilizational Legacy
- Ecological restoration

SKCRF's expert-led engagements brought together scholars, farmers, and practitioners fostering meaningful exchanges that elevated local understanding and capacity-building.

SKCRF's expert-led engagements brought together scholars, farmers, and practitioners, fostering meaningful exchanges that elevated local understanding and capacity-building. By supporting these initiatives, the foundation advanced its goal of promoting intergenerational knowledge transmission and embedding ecologically responsible practices into day-to-day rural life. Each seminar catalyzed the creation of an ecosystem where research informs reality and traditional wisdom is seamlessly integrated with contemporary innovation.

New Conversation Series on Water and City
EPISODE 01
WATER AND CITY
Dr. Anjali K. Mohan (Urban Planner) in Conversation with Shri S. Vishwanath (Water Expert)

Dr. Anjali Karal Mohan
Partner
Integrated Design

S. Vishwanath
Advisor
Bioscience Environmental Trust

Webinar Context
Kirtee Shah
President
Habitat Forum (INHA)

Even as the country braces itself for an exceptionally harsh summer, India's expanding cities fuelled by unplanned urbanisation are grappling with multiple manifestations of changing climates, water scarcity being at the forefront. Bangalore is no exception and has been in the news for its soaring temperatures and water scarcity, primarily due to alarming rates of groundwater depletion.

As part of the Water and City series organised by INHA, Dr. Anjali Karal Mohan and Shri S. Vishwanath will be in conversation to discuss the burgeoning crisis of water scarcity in Indian cities. Using the case of Bangalore, the conversation will focus on the immediate and short term (no) solutions as well as proactive, systemic measures to avert the challenges in the long-term.

Habitat Forum INHA Rethinking Cities 112
06th May 2024
6 PM. IST

announcement of the discovery of IVC
R. I. G. COMPLEX
Toponymic evidence for Aryan Migration Theory

an illustrated talk by
R. Balakrishnan

September 20, 2024 | 5:30 pm
Venue: Conference Hall,
Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram.

"R. I. G. COMPLEX" (Rig-Indra-Gandhara Complex) is a complex that provides identical place name clusters in different geographical regions. This is similar to the K. V. T. (Korkai-Vanji-Tondi) Complex that was first announced by R. Balakrishnan in 2010 at the World Tamil Cemmozhi Conference. While the K. V. T. Complex highlights the patterns of migrations of Dravidian language-speaking people, the "R. I. G. Complex" will reveal the patterns of the migration of Indo-Aryan language-speaking people. In this talk, Balakrishnan will provide toponymic evidence for the Aryan Migration Theory.

Logo of Inha Multisun Research Library and Indus Research Centre.



4. Species Conservation & Indigenous Breed Promotion

The Senapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation (SKCRF) has long been a torchbearer for the preservation of native cattle breeds in India, with the Kangayam bull at the heart of its mission. Known for its strength, adaptability, and cultural significance, the Kangayam breed symbolizes resilience in agriculture and harmony with nature.

SKCRF's approach goes beyond showcasing livestock—it seeks to empower local communities and preserve age-old knowledge systems. By participating in heritage fairs and awareness drives, SKCRF is cultivating a deeper understanding of biodiversity and sustainable rural practices.

Traditional cattle fairs are more than seasonal festivities—they are living museums of pastoral identity and agricultural wisdom. SKCRF proudly champions these platforms as a way to reconnect with ecological values and inspire future generations to safeguard indigenous breeds.

Sustaining Traditions in 2024–2025

Throughout the year, SKCRF remained steadfast in its commitment to breed conservation through targeted programs such as:

- Hosting and supporting cattle awareness campaigns
- Actively participating in indigenous cattle fairs
- Promoting ethical breeding and livestock care

In 2024–2025, SKCRF continued its dedicated efforts to safeguard this legacy through active engagement in traditional cattle fairs, awareness drives, and breed conservation programs

4.1) Erode Traditional Cattle Fair 2025

A standout initiative this year was SKCRF's committed support of the Erode Traditional Cattle Fair—one of the region's most culturally significant gatherings for livestock and rural communities.

Rooted in the heritage of Kongu Nadu, this fair functions not only as a trading venue but also as a cultural cornerstone that promotes and sustains indigenous breeds. SKCRF played a pivotal role by contributing support, distributing educational materials, and showcasing exemplary Kangayam bulls.



SKCRF's presence amplified the fair's impact by championing scientific breeding practices, ethical livestock care, and the preservation of genetic purity. SKCRF actively nurtures traditional knowledge systems and empowers grassroots conservation.

These fairs represent more than celebratory events—they are living archives of pastoral heritage, and SKCRF proudly serves as their steadfast guardian. SKCRF's participation in heritage platforms such as the Erode Traditional Cattle Fair is expected to yield multifaceted outcomes.

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Culturally, it strengthens the identity of Kongu Nadu and deepens community engagement, especially by inspiring younger generations to value indigenous breeds. From a conservation perspective, it reinforces the preservation of Kangayam cattle through scientific breeding practices, ethical livestock care, and the showcasing of model bulls as benchmarks for genetic purity. Economically, these programs enhance market opportunities, empower farmers with knowledge and recognition, and contribute to strengthening rural livelihoods.

At an institutional level, they position SKCRF as a trusted guardian of pastoral heritage, enabling the dissemination of traditional knowledge, fostering grassroots conservation networks, and building credibility with stakeholders ranging from rural communities to policymakers. Collectively, these outcomes contribute to creating a sustainable ecosystem where cultural heritage, scientific rigor, and rural prosperity converge.

4.2) Advancing Research with Strategic Breed Donation

In a landmark initiative underscoring its forward-thinking approach, SKCRF donated a Mayilai Kaalai—a distinguished strain of the Kangayam bull—to the Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal, which is a constituent institution of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) on 11th December 2024.

This gesture transcended symbolism; it was a calculated move to enhance:

- Hands-on academic research in veterinary reproduction
- Breed propagation strategies
- Practical studies benefitting both scholars and rural livestock communities

By facilitating direct access to genetically valuable livestock, SKCRF continues to bridge the gap between conservation and scientific innovation.

This initiative highlights SKCRF's evolving role—not only as a breeder and guardian of indigenous heritage, but as a visionary catalyst driving sustainable development in native livestock systems.



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5) A Day in SKCRF Experiential Learning at its Finest

Among SKCRF's most beloved outreach efforts, "A Day in SKCRF" continued to make a lasting impact in 2024–2025. This **immersive, on-site learning program** opens the doors of the Foundation to students, faculty, and professionals, inviting them to engage directly with the living rhythms of conservation.

Set amid the scenic Korangadu grasslands, the experience offers:

- Close interaction with indigenous Kangayam cattle
- Insights into biodiversity and sustainable farming practices
- Engagements that explore the intersection of ecology, heritage, and livelihood



Participants are guided through the Foundation's facilities, take part in interactive sessions, and gain firsthand exposure to the blending of traditional knowledge systems with scientific conservation methodologies.

The program has gained particular traction among:

- Environmental science students
- Veterinary and agriculture scholars
- CSR teams from corporate institutions seeking meaningful community partnerships

In 2024–2025, A Day in SKCRF welcomed a diverse spectrum of attendees, reaffirming its role as a living classroom and cultural catalyst

More than a field visit, it's an awakening—one that cultivates awareness, sparks curiosity, and inspires long-term ecological responsibility.

S. No	Date	Institution	Visitors' details
1	18.11.2024	LOKHAA - a Waldorf-inspired school, Samiyaarpalayam - Tiruppur	25 students from the Primary wing
2	19.11.2024	Vivegam Girls Higher Secondary School, Udumalpet	150 students and 3 teachers
3	10.12.2024	Veveaham Prime Academy, Dharapuram - 638672	130 students and 3 teachers
4	26.05.2024	Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Manakadavu, Pollachi	65 students and 2 teachers
5	16.06.2024	Environment team, Nizhalkal – Vellakovil	63 Students from different institutions visited the SKCRF
6	25.02.2025	Guests from Oxfordshire, UK	4 Foreigners

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(6) Alignment with Global Goals

SKCRF Initiatives and Corresponding UN SDGs

SKCRF Initiative	Corresponding SDGs	Explanation
Noyyal Vanam Afforestation Program	<p>SDG 13, 15, 16, 17</p>    	Carbon sequestration, biodiversity improvement, and ecosystem restoration with corporate and individual support.
Restoration of Traditional Ecosystems (Korangadu)	<p>SDG 1, 2, 12, 13, 15</p>     	Conservation of grazing lands supports sustainable livestock systems and food security.
Kangayam Breed Conservation & Cattle Fairs	<p>SDG 13, 15, 17</p>   	Supports resilient agricultural practices and promotes genetic diversity in livestock.

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SKCRF Initiatives and Corresponding UN SDGs (Contd).,

<p>Lecture on Bull Taming Heritage</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SDG 4, 16</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> </div> </div>	<p>Preserves intangible cultural heritage and promotes public engagement.</p>
<p>Student and Citizen Science Engagements</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SDG 4, 12,13, 16,17</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;">  <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;">  <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;">  <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;">  <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;">  <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> </div> </div>	<p>Builds ecological awareness and responsibility among youth.</p>

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2. Global Initiatives Resonating with SKCRF's Work Relevance

Global Initiative		
UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021– 2030)		SKCRF's ecosystem restoration and afforestation align with this call for reversing ecosystem degradation.
UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Program		SKCRF preserves traditional cattle rearing, rituals, and rural heritage.
FAO Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources		SKCRF supports the sustainable use and conservation of livestock genetic diversity.
One Health Initiative (WHO, FAO, OIE)		SKCRF's biodiversity and livestock focus aligns with animal-environment-human health integration.
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)		SKCRF promotes biodiversity awareness and ecosystem protection at the grassroots level.
Global Citizen Science Association (GCSA)		SKCRF enables citizen participation in conservation through student and public programs.

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Conclusion

As we reflect on the journey of 2024–2025, the Senaapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation (SKCRF) extends its deepest gratitude to every individual, institution, corporate partner, and community member who stood beside us in advancing our mission. Your support—through sponsorship, participation, encouragement, or belief—has been instrumental in transforming ideas into action and dreams into living landscapes.

This year was not just a continuation of our conservation work; it was a reaffirmation of the values we hold dear—biodiversity, sustainability, tradition, and inclusive growth. From the success of the Noyyal Vanam afforestation drive to the powerful outreach of knowledge-sharing programs, from breed conservation efforts to cultural preservation, SKCRF remained rooted in its commitment while embracing innovation and collaboration.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by the declaration of 2026 as the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, which places global attention on the very ecosystems and traditions SKCRF has long worked to protect. This moment presents both a recognition of our past and a renewed responsibility for the future.

In the years to come, SKCRF pledges to:

- Deepen its work in ecosystem restoration and native species conservation,
- Strengthen partnerships with academic and grassroots networks,
- Expand experiential learning programs that empower the next generation,
- Advocate policy grounded in ecological integrity and cultural pride.

We remain hopeful and resolute, knowing that every tree planted, every heritage preserved, and every young mind inspired is a step toward a more harmonious planet.

With gratitude for the journey so far, and with determination for the path ahead, SKCRF renews its promise to serve the Earth, honor tradition, and build a sustainable legacy for generations to come.

Yours truly,
Karthikeya Sivasenapathy
Managing Trustee
Senaapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation

