

Translation Plakat-Flyer 2021 BASIS

Since 1989 our society gives development assistance to a variety of programs in South India. Those programs split in different main focus which we like to introduce to you here.

The project area is a place for innovative agriculture and responsibility for our environment

It took many years of careful planting and harvesting to regenerate the soil from the poisons of rubber trees. The fruits and vegetables now meet the European standard of organic quality.

Besides the planting of traditional fruits such as coconut palms, banana trees and papaya the project gives intense research on the cultivating of old, almost extinct regional varieties of vegetables and rice. The aim being a role model for self-supply and to reanimate the interest in home gardening.

Another main focus in the project is the recycling management. Thanks to abundant plant waste a backyard animal husbandry system has been established. In turn the faeces of goats or pigs are being used as organic fertiliser in the fields. Even the rice field has an alternate use as fish pond, the fish excrements help the growing of rice in the following period. Additionally climbing plants such as bitter cucumber or zucchini wind in a net stretched over the pond preventing cormorants from fishing.

For the purification of wastewater, the company's biological clarification plant was built in 2010. It functions according to biological principles. To guarantee healthy and clean drinking water in the community the society **Förderkreis Indienhilfe e.V.** gave financial support to a long waterpipe with taps and to a well which is providing clean drinking water for the neighbourhood at no charge.

The project area is a place for education and social development.

The *Förderkreis Indienhilfe e.V.* supports the qualification of villagers and especially of women to learn how to help themselves. More than 1000 men and women were educated to become dressmakers, carpenters, bookbinders, metal workers or as workers in agriculture. Recently a young man with disability completed his education as dairy worker. This is a big chance in a country where disabled people very often only have the chance of begging or they are hidden away.

Our society in cooperation with Kerala Universities and the Ministry of Agriculture programs has funded a 40 squaremeter covered garden. It has been given to needy families for upgrading their food by growing food products on their own ground. Additionally, the families get short instructions on how to manage their garden and they are provided with young plant such as cauliflower, spinach or different herbs.

The project and the leader have been honored by several awards for the innovative ideas.

The project area is a place for action to improve living standards and for help in emergency situations

The project has now being running for more than 33 years. In all this time many men and women worked in the project for a shorter or longer periods of time. Especially people who originate from lower castes experienced in our project respect and appreciation and value as a person. This was a formative experience for their future lives. The individual growth towards more self-confidence and dignity is a basis for their progress in a wider private, economic and social environment. Our society partly funds the building of family toilets. *Förderkreis indienhilfe e.V.* grants low interest rate loans help people start their own business. By agreement with the employees a small amount of the

earned money is kept and retained as financial reserve. This money can be requested for special issues e.g. the wedding of a daughter.

There is no health insurance coverage in India. In case of acute illness or injury families face very high costs . *Förderkreis Indienhilfe e.V.* takes over parts of the treatment costs if necessary.

The project area is a place for cultivating traditional forms of cultural activities

India is an exciting country balancing traditional life and modern high-tech. The more people are educated the less they are interested in farming, handcrafting or in traditional cultural techniques. The literacy rate in Kerala is about 98% due to an education program of the communist party. Indian schools put most emphasis on the reproduction of learning matters and give only little impulse for creativity and development of artistic talents. The *Förderkreis Indienhilfe e.V.* invites people to practice and present their fine arts at the project area. Very welcomed is the performance of the play Kathakali, of temple dancers or musicians. 250 years old wooden houses are rebuilt on the project area. Craftsmen with special skills participate in the reconstruction, painters dress the walls with typically Indian patterns or sceneries.

The project area is a place for gentle tourism programs and international encounter

Tourism-offers are being continuously developed since 1997. The *Förderkreis Indienhilfe e.V.* encouraged and gave money to the set up and development different programs to get to know people and life in South India. The guests in the project are not only tourists but they are welcomed as part of the residential community. A variety of tourism experiences can be made on three different locations. Near the backwaters behind Vembanad lake, in the Westghat-hills near Kumili and directly on the beach of the Indian Ocean guests are invited to see different temperatures, different landscapes and different flora. There is the opportunity to attend a certified Ayurveda cure or a yoga trip.

Our society funds programs of international encounter: there are opportunities for young volunteers and for senior experts to contribute their professional experience and knowledge in the progress of various programs or accompany different activities scientifically.