

2nd report „weltwärts 2011/2012“

Project: EcoPro

from Susanne Volk

After half a year in Auroville and at EcoPro it is again time to make an abstract. I appreciate my time here more and more although I have not yet achieved all my work goals.

Before I came to India I did not expect the great impact of another culture on work and life. I really had to experience this, only now I realize what “culture” means. On the one hand the different culture and therefore the work and life attitudes of the people are sometimes really challenging (though here are many western people). On the other hand I experience a lot of new things which are totally precious for the whole life.

Usually Tamilians and also my tamilian work colleagues are friendly and openminded so I was invited to their homes soon. This was the point where I got to know more about Hinduism and the importance of the religion in their daily life. Furthermore it was good to see the houses where and how they live - meeting the whole family and eating amounts of delicious food is for sure included. This experience makes it easier for me to understand slowly the behavior and acting of my colleagues which is at the first glance sometimes for me not practicable or confusing.

Beside the culture also the different climate is another important point. Especially for my work at the Discipline farm where I am responsible for the EM (Effective Microorganism) applications. As I already mentioned in my last report I wanted to make an experiment to show the impact of EM on field crops. Therefore I planted at first brinjals (eggplants) which got unfortunately damaged because of the monsoon. The next trial with tomato plants also failed because the cyclon “Thane” destroyed them. This is only one example to show that unexpected things are happening quite often here. I feel that I have to be patient but at the same time I have to take care that I do not loose my energy. In the meantime I am not so easily despaired when my plans have to be changed or things do not go well – a good lecture for me. But all this takes time and the first few months are necessary to figure out these things.



View from our rooftop in Alankuppam

My living situation also changed during the last half year: a few weeks ago I moved from our flat in the village Alankuppam to a capsule at the Discipline Farm. I enjoyed the time in Alankuppam, being part of the “village life”, having contact with the tamilian landlords and experience the pros and cons of living in a village with all the impressions. But because I also want to know Auroville and the people better I decided to spend the rest of my stay directly in Auroville. Furthermore I

decided to live in the beautiful Greenbelt area and also in another accommodation than a “normal” house because Auroville is known for its architecture. The first step is made and living in a capsule build out of wood and keet is like living with and in the nature – it is great. In my free time I take part in different activities like martial art classes, yoga, art courses etc.. I am very happy about the varieties of leisure opportunities so that I can participate also in unknown activities and expand my horizon even in this area.

I am looking forward to the next half year here in India and I am sure that I will continue to learn and understand everything more and more. Also, I'll give my best to achieve the goals for my project (which I really like) so that I leave Auroville and my project after the year satisfied.