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[Tamil Nadu](#) - [Chennai](#)

## Helping hand for Mudichur to handle solid waste

K. Manikandan

*Non-governmental organisation representative visits compost yard Non-governmental organisation representative visits compost yard*



TAMBARAM: The Mudichur village panchayat, which enjoys the support of the Kancheepuram district administration, Exnora and its residents in implementing solid waste management, has another friend from across the ocean.

On Thursday, Percy Barnevik, Adviser to Hand in Hand, an NGO assisting the panchayat in its zero waste centre project, visited the compost yard from where garbage from nearly 700 households is being converted into organic manure through vermi composting.

Mr. Barnevik said they planned to reach out to a large number of people of Tamil Nadu, particularly women, through various programmes in the years to come.

A leading cosmetic manufacturer had donated \$ 5 million to Hand in Hand. This sum and an equal amount already in the possession of the NGO is to be used to implement the schemes in the State, he said.

Mr. Barnevik, who worked with multinational firms, including ABB, General Motors and Dupont before joining the NGO, has visited India more than 60 times since 1968. In Mudichur, a dozen women collect source-segregated garbage from nearly 700 homes and the kitchen waste is converted into manure.

Mudichur panchayat president P. Damodaran said with financial assistance from the Kancheepuram district administration, sheds for compost yards had been built, tricycles purchased and bins distributed to residents. There were plans to extend the scheme to all 2,500-odd households.

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