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[Back](#)

[Tamil Nadu](#)

Project to convert kitchen waste into manure launched

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Kunrathur Town Panchayat adopts concept of 'zero waste centre'

— Photo: A.Muralitharan



NEW INITIATIVE: Hand-In-Hand Adviser Percy Barnevik being briefed about the working of the compost yard of the Kunrathur Town Panchayat on Thursday.

TAMBARAM: The Kunrathur Town Panchayat has been added to the small list of urban local bodies in the southern suburbs of Chennai to adopt the concept of 'zero waste centre.'

On Thursday evening, a project to convert kitchen waste into manure through the process of vermin-composting was formally launched. The project, limited to only four wards initially, will soon be extended to cover all the 18 wards in this local body whose daily output of garbage is nearly 10 tonnes.

The town panchayat, about 10 km from Tambaram and with a population of around 30,000, is implementing the project along with non-government organisations Hand-In-Hand (HIH) and SEED Trust. The objective is to launch source segregation in the households in all the wards, recycle plastic waste and compost organic waste through vermi composting, town panchayat officials told reporters.

On land measuring about 13 grounds, the Kunrathur Town Panchayat had built

sheds, at a cost of Rs.12 lakh, as part of the compost yard project in 2004, but it did not take off until the two NGOs volunteered to help, they said.

With the consent of the Kancheepuram district administration and technical assistance from Exnora, the project was launched some weeks ago. Source segregation is done in about 2,000 households in the four wards. On Thursday evening, a 'sugadhara thiruvizha' was organised to take the message to each of the 7,000-odd households in the town panchayat.

HIH adviser Percy Barnevik released a packet of V Compost manure made at the yard. The first packet was received by Labour Welfare Minister T.M. Anbarasan, who hails from Kunrathur. Mr. Barnevik said HIH was involved on five core fields in Tamil Nadu of which environment formed a thrust area.

Others who were present on the occasion included K. Sathyamoorthy and R. Kannan, president and Executive Officer respectively of the local body, M.B. Nirmal, founder of Exnora and Kalpana Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of HIH.

Global 2020 delegation

Earlier in the day, a three-member delegation of 'Global 2020' programme, sponsored by Tuck School of Business and supported by Confederation of Indian Industry, visited the Zero Waste Centre of Pammal Municipality at Visweswapuram. The members included Anthony Oshiotse, Human Resource Director (India) of Corning Inc., Laudio Nogues of Rolls Royce and Steve Rathborne of British Telecom.

They said that along with representatives from other companies, including Walmart and Colgate-Palmolive, the delegation was in India to not only study business opportunities but also observe other challenges, including in environment. The 10-month study would span different countries, including India and China, they added.