

Presented at



Auroville Green Practices

Seminar and Site Visits
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Nadukuppam Environment Education Centre

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The vision is.....

That the Nadukuppam Environmental Education Centre becomes a point for community involvement in integrated rural planning and development.

That the necessary skills to bring biodiversity back to the land are researched and taught involving the community, particularly school children.

That it provides a demonstration site for the most appropriate ecological solutions developed over the last decades in the nearby Auroville International Community.

Background

In 2003 Pitchandikulam Bio-Resource Centre began working with the Government High School at Nadukuppam to develop Environmental Awareness Programs in conjunction with the existing academic curriculum.

At that time the schools academic pass rate was just 10%.

There were only six teachers for 575 students.

There were no water facilities, no toilets and only two trees in the school compound.





Entry point activities provided:

- A bore well
- Water tanks
- Hand pumps
- Drinking water systems
- Toilets

Four new school buildings have been built to address the severe shortage of classrooms.



Existing buildings have been improved through provision of benches and decorative murals.



An organic vegetable garden has started to produce food for the midday school meals.







An indigenous plant nursery has been established including more than 50 Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest species.



2000 indigenous trees have been planted by the students within the School compound.

A 3 acre Ethno-medicinal forest has been established with detailed signages explaining the uses of the plants.





Solar photovoltaics pump water and supply electricity using renewable energy.



The school campus has
An integrated sanitation
system and gardens.



Water is recycled
from the new
bathrooms, toilets
and kitchens for
use in the garden
and nursery.



Environmental Education Program



An Environmental Education Curriculum has been developed aimed at Primary, Middle and High level students.



Teaching strategy

- Creating teaching resources relating to our bioregion
- Outreach program to ten other schools
- Linking and collaborating with the education department
- Involving the local community in project planning and implementation



Fauna sensitization programmes focus on informing the community of the true value of biodiversity.











Children's Parliament







Art Festival on Climate Change





Earth Day Festival



Community based training



The nearby villages have already 36 active women's self help groups organised by Pitchandikulam Bio-resource Centre. These groups together with the traditional healers, youth groups and school eco-clubs are increasingly using Nadukuppam Environment Education Training Centre as a focus for eco-restoration work and other capacity building activities.



NEEC helps coordinate programmes of:

- Women's empowerment
- Ecological awareness
- Literacy
- Income generation activities and trainings in:
 - Tailoring
 - Indigenous plant nursery development
 - Herbal medicine preparation
 - Date palm leaf bag making
 - Appropriate renewable technologies



Women's Group Federation Meeting



Health Camp for Cattle









Women's Day Festival



Spirulina Production Unit



Health Drink Program for Malnutrition Children



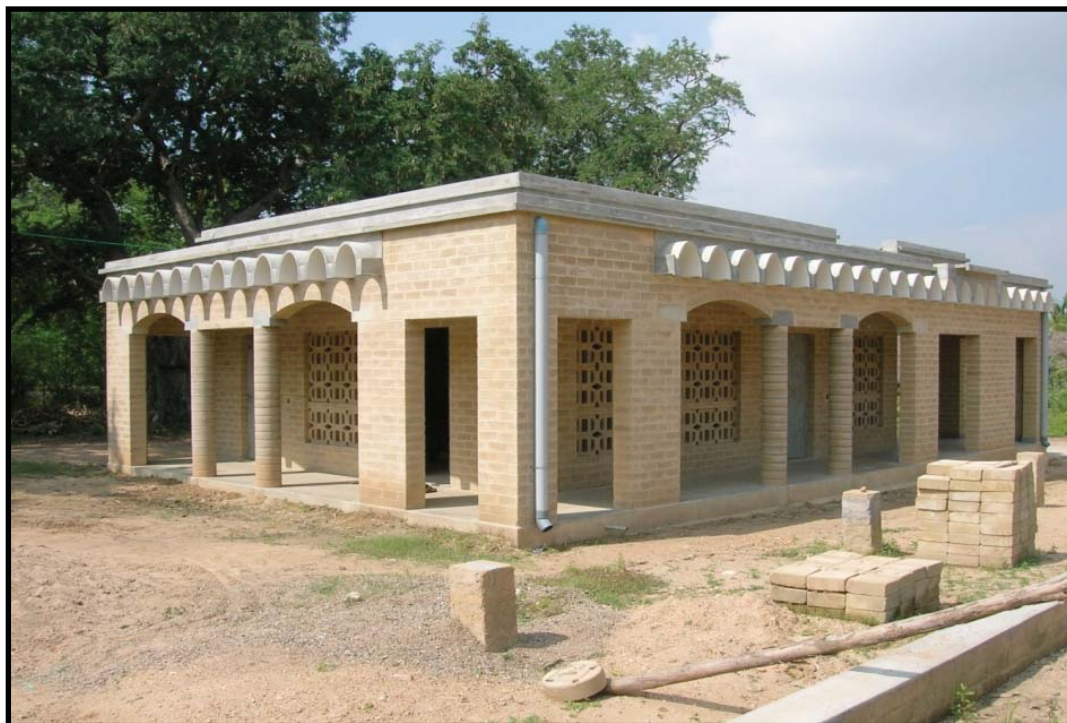
Women's Literacy Programme





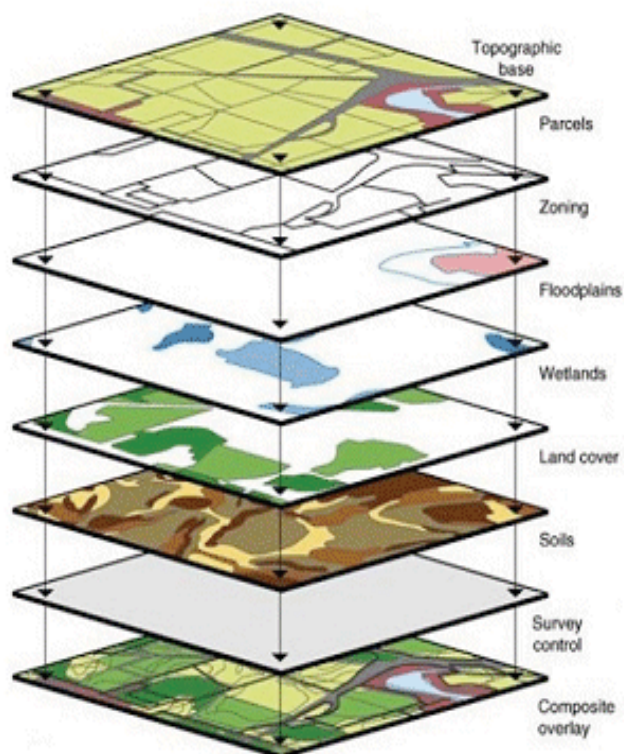


Nadukuppam Community Centre

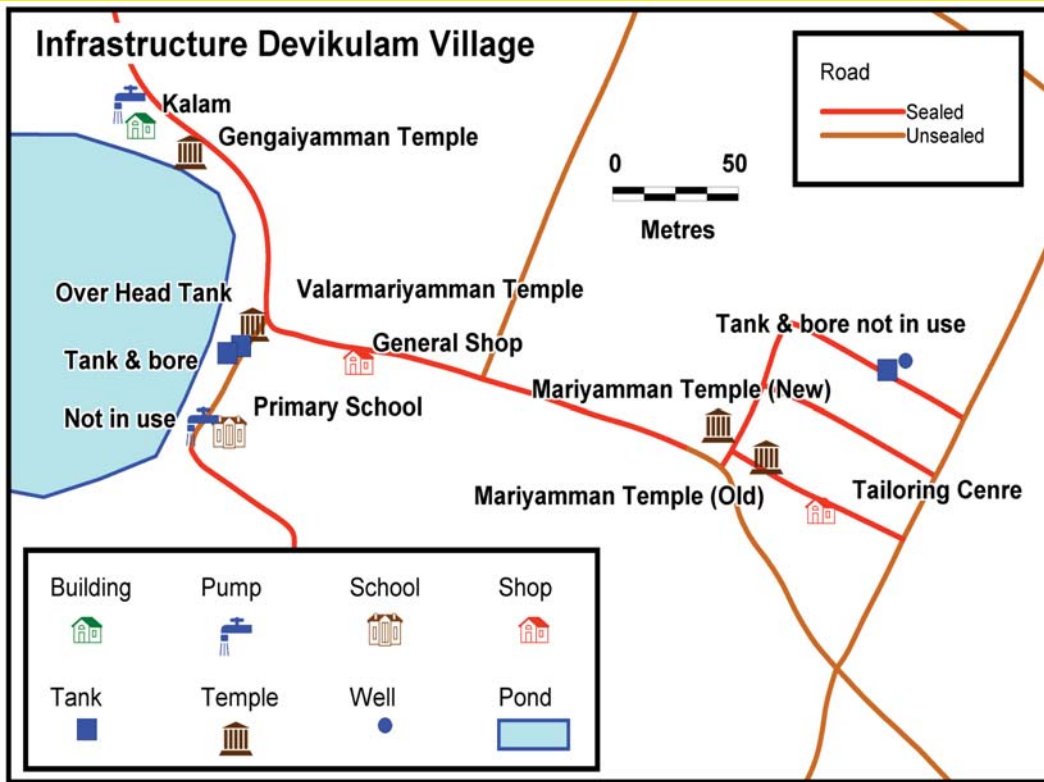


Nadukuppam: Village Mapping

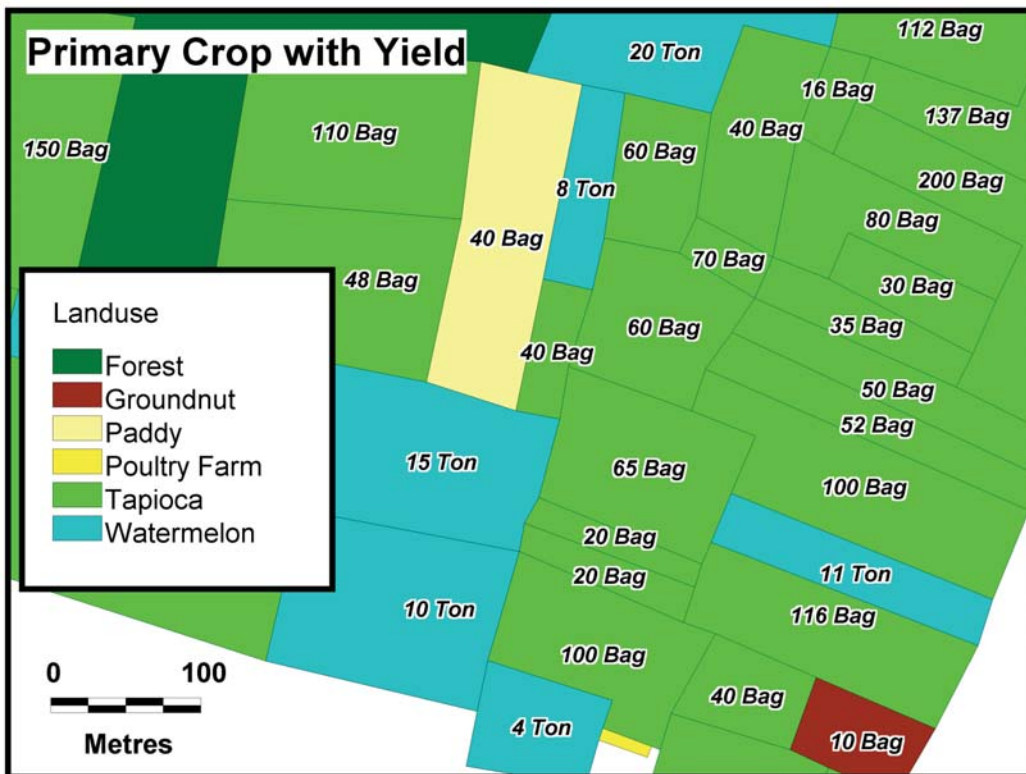
Using GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and GPS (Global Positioning System) to map the infrastructural, resource and social information of rural villages.



Nadukuppam: Village Mapping



Nadukuppam: Village Mapping



Energy Efficient Stove



Awareness Programme on Global Warming







Integral Rural Development (IRD)

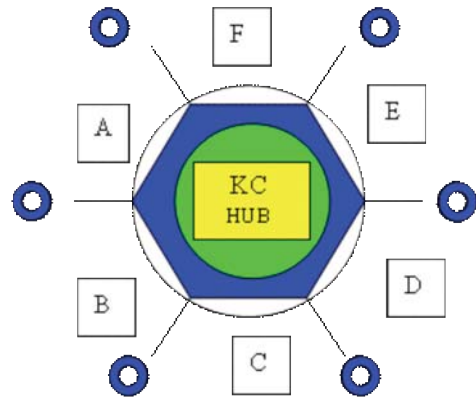
Objectives of Integral Rural Development

- Knowledge-based Socio-economic empowerment
 - Sustainable, Integral development
 - Healthy Environment
 - Retention and employment of rural youth
 - Educational outreach programs and materials
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- Target Area: Vanur and Marakkanam Blocks
 - No. of villages: 140
 - Beneficiaries : 200,000 people

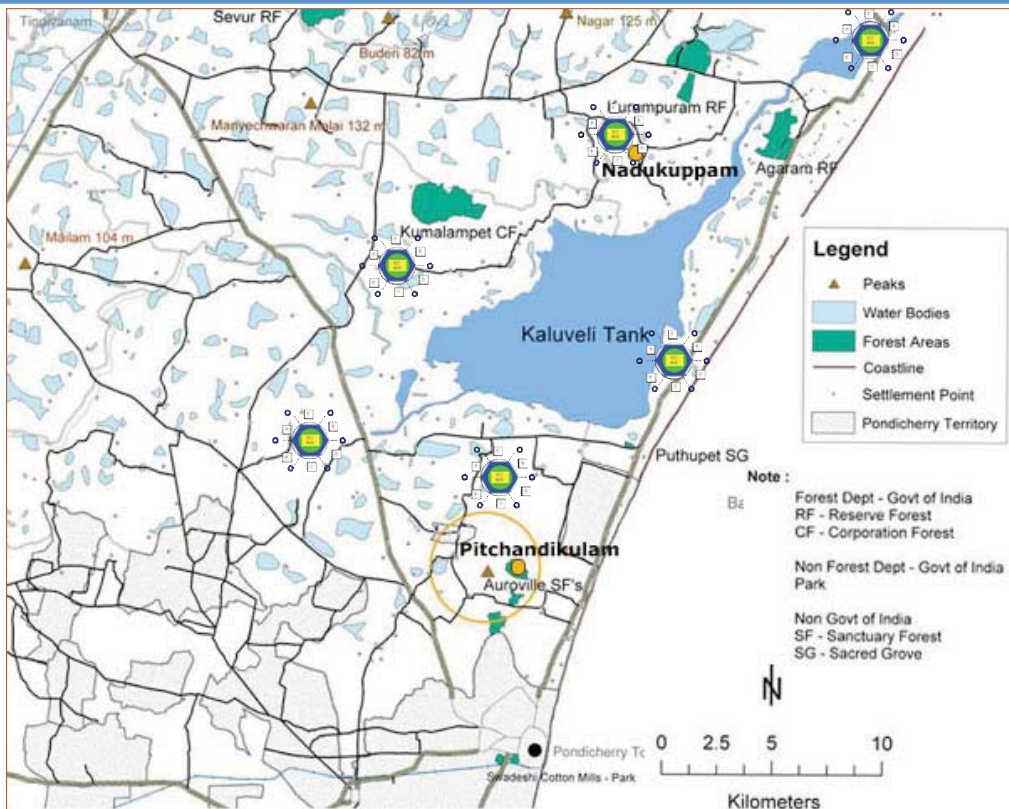
Vision & Goals of Integral Rural Development

- IRD Paradigm
- Knowledge Center Hub
- Village Education Centers (VECs)

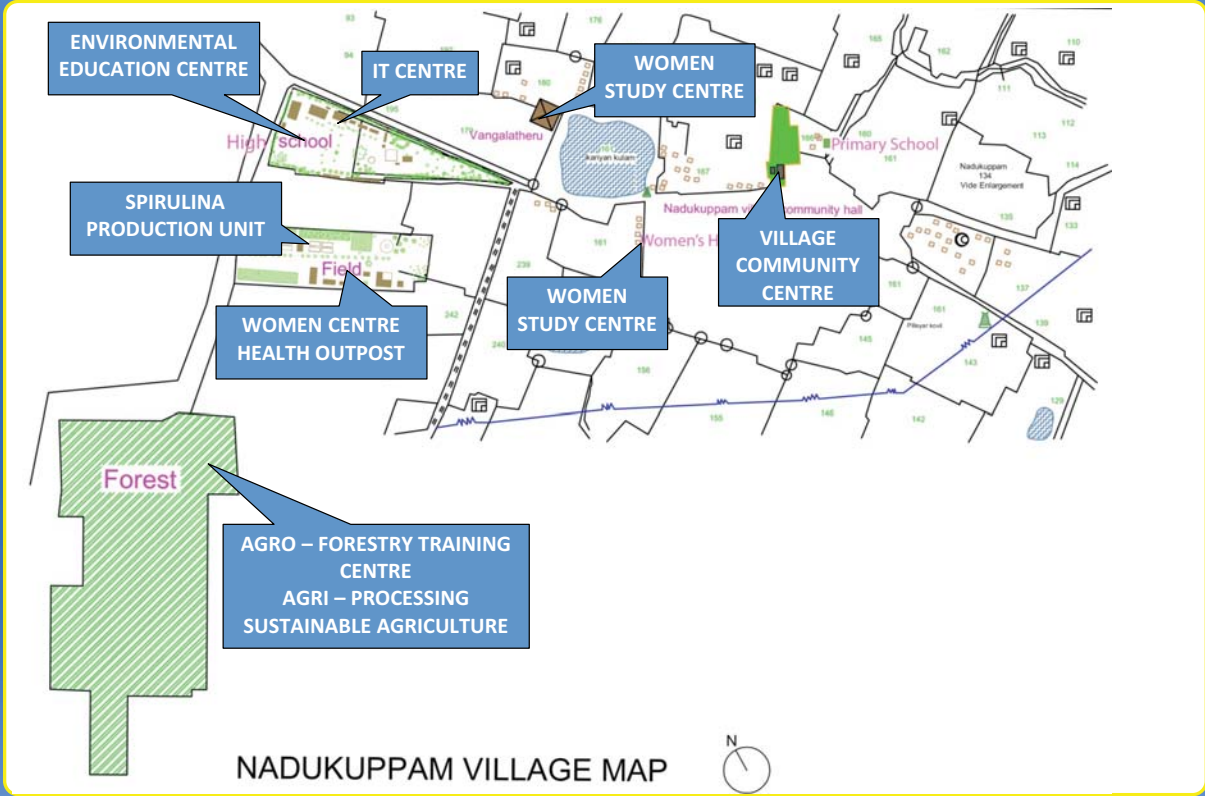
A – Education/ livelihood
B – Agriculture/environment
C – Health/nutrition
D – Energy/transportation
E – Shelter/infrastructure
F – Advanced Technology



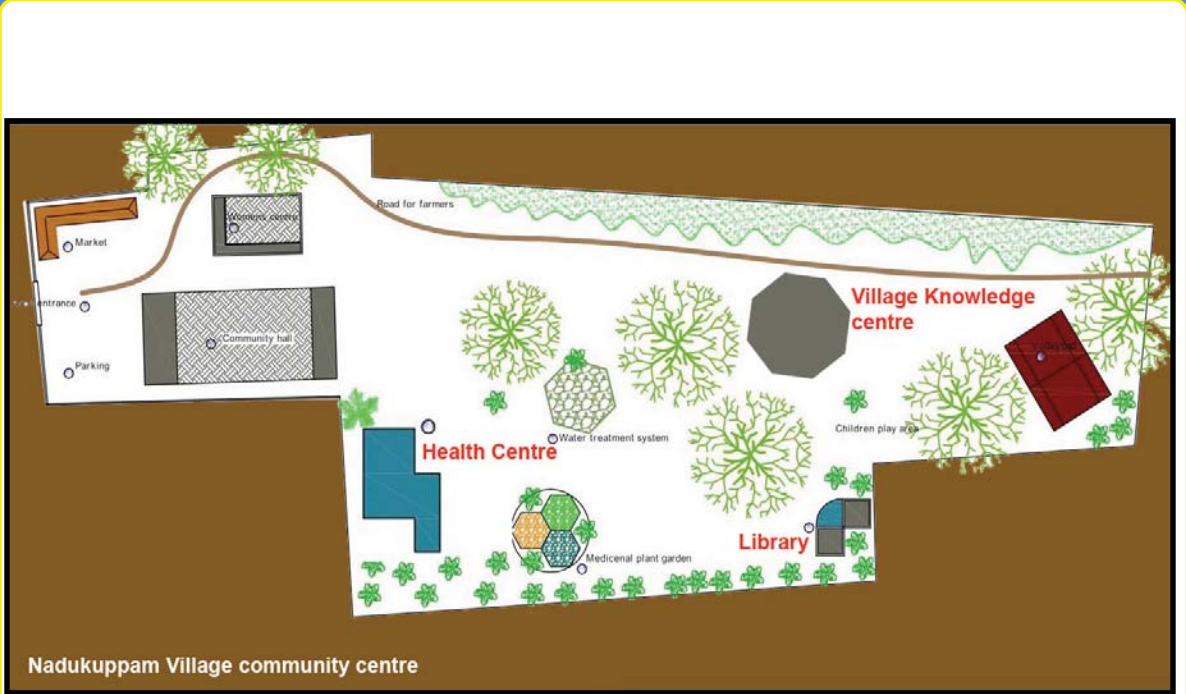
Target Area - The Kaliveli Bio Region



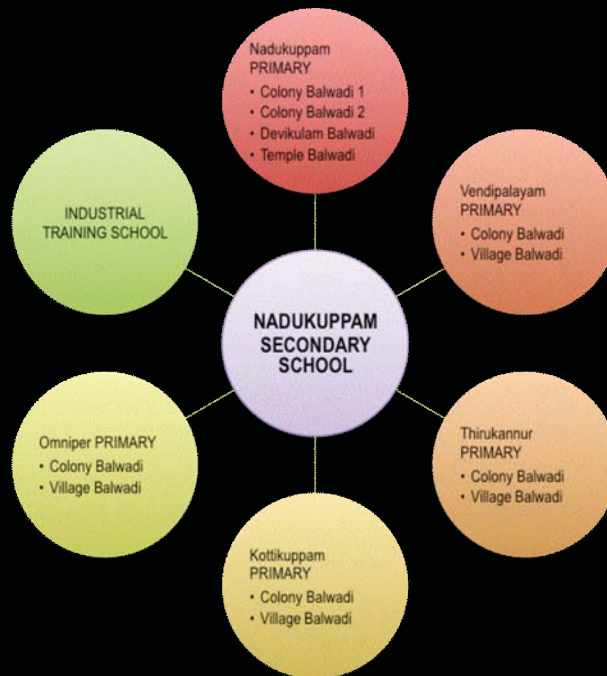
Nadukuppam



Nadukuppam Village Community Centre



Nadukuppam Education Hub



Nadukuppam - Path Forward

ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL

ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FIVE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

CONSTRUCTION OF TWELVE BALWADIS

CONSTRUCTION OF A VILLAGE INFORMATION AND PLANNING CENTRE

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE MAIN LIBRARY

CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI DISCIPLINED HOLISTIC HEALTH CENTRE

DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAINING CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRE

- Electronics
- Mechanical
- Electrical
- Building technology – Ferro cement stabilized earth
- Alternative energy technology
- Craft and Artisan training

Conclusion

Auroville's aspiration is to work with and for its bioregion. Learning from it, helping when necessary, establishing partnerships and addressing together common concerns.



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