



The Third Year *Aadi Kidai Pongal* Celebration & The Forest Rights (Recognition) Act, 2006 Awareness Convention

The Tamilnadu Federation of Pastoral People's Sangams (TFPPS) organized the celebration of third year *Aadi Kidai Pongal* (herders celebrating event at end of migratory grazing season) and Forest Rights (Recognition) Act 2006 Awareness Convention at Kalaiyarkovil, Sivagangai district on 27.07.2025. *Aadi Kidai Pongal* is one of the important cultural identities of the people involved in the pastoralism in Tamilnadu. This celebration marks the end of the grazing season starts from Thai month (15th Jan) to Aani month (15th July). It is a belief of the pastoralists that sacrificing a few sheep to their deity will keep their flock healthy and flourished in the forthcoming season. The festival was organized in Kurunthani village. On the night of 26th July, 2025, the traditional kidai Pongal ritual was done in the open pen itself. A total of fifty people comprising the pastoral families, friends and the pastoralism supporters from across the Tamilnadu attended the night event. Earlier, kidai literary discussion was also conducted in the penning field. In this event, the anthropological scholars, natural farming activists, indigenous breed keepers, *Keetharis*, etc. shared and exchanged their experiences.



On the next day, an awareness convention on the Forest Rights (Recognition) Act 2006 was organised in Kalaiyar Kovil. A total of around 100 *Keetharis* from different districts of Tamilnadu participated. Mr. Vivekanandan, the founder of SEVA, NGO primarily involved in conservation of native livestock breeds and also supporting group of International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists 2026 chaired the convention. Initially, Mr. Sudhakar - a local *keethari* (pastoralist herder) who welcomed the dignitaries and participants followed by, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the president of TFPPS. He explained the objective of the convention. The guest speakers included Mr. Mathivanan, grass land ecologist, Dr.Prof. Punniyamoorth ethno veterinarian, Mr. Muthunagu, historian, Mr. Kennedy, secretary of TFPPS, Mr. Ashoka Rajendra Swami, Bargur cattle herder's leader, Mr Chinnaiya Nadesan, *Iyarkkai India* movement, Mr. Renganathan and many others. Finally, Mr. Ramesh offered the vote of thanks. The event was also attended by the activists of pastoralism, organic farming, etc. from all over Tamilnadu.

Mr. Velmurugan a progressive Keethari from Kanniyakumari district who was primarily involved in applying for claiming of grazing rights under FRA Act 2006 was conferred the first ever **Kidaikon (Breed Protector) Award**. Also, Mr. Manikandan who selflessly undergone the torture for claiming grazing rights was awarded the first ever **Anni Mijili Award**.

After the lunch there was a group discussion among members divided into 3 groups Viz. i) what are all the future course of action to overcome the issues faced by pastoralists with Government departments, ii) steps in the process of claiming rights of pastoralists under FRA 2026, iii) how to promote natural farming and traditional herbal treatment practices for livestock among the participants and incentives supported by Govt schemes. There was concluding session to endorse the course of action for addressing the local issues during 2nd week of September 2025 and also to bring the attention of Government. The event was very well welcomed and received by the pastoral communities and the activists.



The following resolutions / recommendations were formulated.

1. In Mudikarai panchayath and also adjoining areas in Sivagangai district a vast traditional grazing area has been planted with Eucalyptus tree for commercial plantation by [Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation \(TAFCON\)](#) a Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking. That needs to be immediately stopped and the land should be restored. Also, in Sannathi Pudhukulam panchayath, there has been a lot of encroachment of grazing land by the local people. This must be protected and restored.

2. In Theni district, there has been a high court case related with reclaiming of forest grazing rights in western ghats. This needs to be attended and force the government to respond to through the suitable legal course and also through FRA claims.

3. In Madurai district, Vadipatti taluk, the *Karuppanang kanmai* irrigation tank has been purposefully made empty for fishing by a few private people. As a result, the grazing animals are deprived of drinking water. This needs to be addressed at the earliest. Also, in the places like T.Krishnapuram, M. Kallupatti, Peraiyur, the forest department has been stopping the animals from accessing the grazing land. This should be addressed, through FRA claims.

4. In each district, the Forest Right Grama Sabha should be conducted and the necessary documentary proof to be submitted along with the application for reclaiming the grazing rights in the forest using the FRA Act 2006.

5. In those places where the traditional grazing land was given to the Department of Forest should be made to access for the pastoralists for grazing the animals. The necessary activities towards it should be done at the earliest.

6. The Tamil Nadu government should be compelled to file a review petition against the Chennai High Court verdict delivered during the month of March, 2002 regarding the ban on grazing in the reserve forest.

7. The Tamil Nadu government should be lobbied to recognize the livestock keeping occupation on par with the cultivating farmers in subsidy scheme implementations, financing facilities, etc. The Maharashtra government example in this regard can be quoted to achieve this goal.

8. The access to the water bodies in the grazing area should be addressed.

9. The pastoralist people who possess the green practices such as grazing, herbal medicines, soil enrichment through natural manure, carbon mitigation, forest regrowth, etc. should be incentivized like that of organic farmers by the government.

10. In each herd one animal can be spared to live its full life as token of showing our love to the tradition of livestock keeping.

List of participants:

Sl. no.	Name	Organization/Profession	Place	Contact
1.	Santhuru Manikkavasagam	Editor	Chennai	9789073346
2.	B. Prabakaran	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Coimbatore	9171714550
3.	K. Murugesan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Coimbatore	9944444001
4.	V. Natarajan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Coimbatore	9943039446
5.	P. Renganathan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Sulur	9842510077
6.	Saravanan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Periyakilachi	9751136065

7.	T. Kalieswaran	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Gopalakrishnapuram	7695879827
8.	E. Selva	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Gopalakrishnapuram	-
9.	K. Chinnaamuthan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Nedungkulam	-
10.	A. Muthupandi	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Poolangulam	9787410452
11.	A. Murugan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	kitthalakundu	9791775476
12.	M. Rakeshkanna	BBA.	Karumathur	9342374013
13.	K. Kalaiselvam	ITI	Karumathur	9626036122
14.	Panturengan	Farmer	Manamadurai	8015463121
15.	M. Chinnakannan	Organic Farmer	Sivagangai	9842289791
16.	Jegatheesan	Teacher	Thanjavur	9566082013
17.	R. Syaiye	Fishing	Muthupet	90431684981
18.	K. Suresh	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kurunthani	8072908265
19.	Ramesh	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kurunthani	8270585193
20.	M. Boominathan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kurunthani	6369817560
21.	A. Kannagan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Neduvathaavur	9843678885
22.	A. Muthuiah	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Neduvathaavur	9585570927
23.	C. Ramesh	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Neduvathaavur	7010960106
24.	A. Vengatesan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Nallenthal	9843851010
25.	A. Pansunathan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Nallenthal	8940943303
26.	M. Rathakrishnan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Karchipatti	9842294590
27.	S. Shankar	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kurunthani	9655625131
28.	V. Kallumuthu	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Mudikarai	9842481467
29.	Devaraj	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kandaangipatti	9786686457
30.	A. Kathiresan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Karunkali	8940216345
31.	M. Anguchamy	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Aruppukottai	8270815819
32.	Bhoominathan	Bhoominathan	Kalkulam	6380714096
33.	Varneeswaran	7 th Std.	Karungali	9626563112
34.	M. Barath Ram	laayar	Karaikudi	8883622125
35.	A. Mariya Thiraviyam	LIC	Chithaalangudi	9159407292
36.	K. Muthuswamy	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Periyakiluvachi	9159407292

37.	M. Chandiran	9 th Std.	Periyakiluvachi	9688009735
38.	S.E. Sukan	6 th Std.	Karaikudi	9600722149
39.	G. Saranya	Esevai	Kalaiyarkovil	9698830091
40.	V. Vignesh	Reary Tech.	Madurai	9092203040
41.	K. Arjun	Sheep/goat/cow Keeper	Madurai	8098822770
42.	Kishore	Reary Tach.	Madurai	8754820702
43.	S. Boomi	House Wife	Erupokkie	8489052687
44.	S. Ganeshan	Ulavar Uravinar	Erupokkie	9965182001
45.	Shiva	Lawyer	Pattukottai	9788577445
46.	N. Sugitha	Kothanar	Peravoorani	8344150146
47.	Karthik	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Chellakammai	8940615368
48.	Nagarajan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Moolakarai	9047299231
49.	Vijayakumar	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Koravalasai	8056950923
50.	N. Punniya Moorthy	Mooligai Maruthuvar	Thanjavur	9842455833
51.	S. Alaguraja	Farmer	Seiyalur	9943641739
52.	Ganesh	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Selvakammai	8524851691
53.	Angammal	Sheep/goat/cow Keeper	Karungal	-
54.	L. Aadhi moolam	Farmer	Thirupuvanam	9481943900
55.	Dhanalakshmi	Farmer	Erupokku	8608110817
56.	V. Lakshmanan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Sollaiyur	763913407
57.	Nagarajan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Keelasethur	9787572310
58.	Kalaiyarkovil Goat keeper	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kalaiyar kovil	9943306881
59.	Nagappan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Vechattakudi	9787211606
60.	V, Indhrasattu	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Melapilavur	9787887275
61.	Siddik	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Vadipatti	-
62.	Raja	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Vadipatti	8148152003
63.	V. Masillamani	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Sollaiyur	7639134007
64.	Subbiya	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kanjipatti	-
65.	Thiru Nagalingam	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	M. Chittarapatti Madurai	90994016384

66.	K. Ramesh	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Chattani	9025383007
67.	Ilaya Raja	Lawyer	Sivagangai	9787209994
68.	Sanjaigandhi	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kanjipatti	8098092653
69.	Aandi	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Pachattikudi	9626823193
70.	Selvam	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Soorakulam	9655831038
71.	A. Nagarajan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Pechatakudi	8489602011
72.	Naga	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Pechatakudi	9943714769
73.	Vijayakumar	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Pechatakudi	7639953165
74.	M. Boss	Farmer	Orupottie	9524381813
75.	Saravanan	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Thandikammai	6384939599
76.	Dharmaraj	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Thandikammai	8940072089
77.	Saravanakumar	Farmer	Paramakkal	9080990611
78.	Karthikeyan	Tractor driver	Pudukilivichi	9442362544
79.	Sathis	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kanjipattie	8098290416
80.	Periyasami	Sheep/goat/cow keeper	Kanjipattie	9626427987
81.	Harikrishnan	Framer	Manamadurai	9600890480
82.	P. Vivekanandan	SEVA	Madurai	7708852334
83.	Dr. Mathivanan	ATREE	Tirunelveli	9488063750
84.	Ashoka Rajendra swami	Buffalo Keeper	Bargur	8489889491
85.	C. Rajiv Gandhi	TN Pastoral People Sangam	Kalaiyar Kovil	9677517899
86.	Kennadi	Cattle Keeper	Theni	9442880403

P. Vivekanandan,
SEVA / IYRP Support Group – South Asia.

Date: 31.07.2025.

C. Rajiv Gandhi,
Tamil Nadu Federation Pastoral People Sangam
Kalaiyarkovil, Sivagangai.