TAMILNADU AGRICULTURISTS' ASSOCIATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Association shall be called in the name Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam (Tamilnadu Agriculturists' Association) and will function as a non-political organisation of peasants.

2. The subscription details of members of various categories are as follows: (in Rs.)

   i. Life Membership 100.00
   ii. Active Member-Annual 5.00
   iii. Land owners in non-irrigated areas and Agricultural Labourers - Annual 1.00

3. The village level organisation consists of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer - all one each and an executive council consisting not less than 12 members besides President, Secretary and Treasurer.

4. The taluk/block level Association consists of President-one, Secretary-one, Deputy Secretary-one, Treasurer-one, and Executive Council consisting of the elected members of the village level Association.

5. The taluk/panchayat union level association will be constituted of representatives to the Bodies from the branches and Presidents of various village branches.
6. Normally, each taluk/block level association should have ten villages within its jurisdiction where the requisite number of village branches fall short, the District Association can constitute the Taluk/Block level Association.

7. The Executive Committee and the associated committee at taluk/block level will be constituted on the same pattern as that of the village branches.

8. One representative will be selected from taluk/block level to represent in the District, General council and another representative is selected to represent the State level General Council.

9. The General Council of the district level Association will consist of one representative from each taluk/panchayat union level Association. Besides this the president of every village branch and the presidents of the taluk/panchayat union level Association would also be members of the general council of the district level Association.

10. The Executive Committee of the district level organisation would be consisted of the following members:
a) President-one  
b) Vice-President-two  
c) Secretary-Four  
d) Treasurer-one

11. The office bearers of the executive committee is not only confined to the members of the General Council but it also open to ordinary members of the village branches. Such ordinary members need to be encouraged by the President of the village branches. However, the voting rights is restricted to the members of the District General Council.

12. The General Council of the Association will have a President, one General Secretary, one Treasurer, four Vice-Presidents and four deputy Secretaries.

14. The Executive Committee at the State level shall consist of 28 members i.e., two members each selected from the 14 district level units of the Association, namely President and Secretary.

15. The office bearers of the State, District, Block, and village level Associations should not belong to any political party.
16. The Associations at village, block, taluk and state levels should maintain proper accounts of its income and expenditure as well as the donations collected on the eve of meetings, conferences etc.

17. The District Association may initiate disciplinary proceedings against members who act contrary to the rules and regulations declared and policies of the Association.

18. The State Association shall function from Madras, the District Associations in the District Headquarters, the Block/Taluk Association in the respective headquarters. The Village level Association will function in the village itself.

Source: Translated from Tamil from the Documents of Vivasayigal Sangam published in 1967. These were formulated to be the bye-laws of the Coimbatore District Vivasayigal Sangam.
1. The constitution of the Association commits itself, to enrol members irrespective of caste, class or religious consideration. It also abides to the democratic form of functioning on Gandhian lines.

2. The Association will maintain its non-political character and strive for the protection and growth of agriculturists.

3. The Association will endeavour to secure facilities in rural areas on the same pattern as in urban areas relating to drinking water, education, occupational avenues, housing, communication, medical care etc.

4. The agriculturists produce food and clothing for the people of the nation. In this process they are indebted to private (traders, money lenders etc.) and institutional sources like Co-operative Societies, Land Development Bank, Nationalised Banks and also are forced to mortgage or dispose off the ornaments of their female folks. The indebtedness has assumed a big proportion due to increase in the cost of inputs and various taxes imposed by the Government. The wrong policies pursued by the Government both by
the Centre and State and the different attitude adopted by them to
the interest of agriculturists is directly responsible to the
indebtedness of agriculturists. They are also not rewarded with
remunerative prices. The Association will strive for relieving the
agriculturists from the debt burden.

5. The Association will strive to eliminate certain evil
practices and insults to the entire farming community initiated by
the Government at times. It will also try to relieve the
agriculturists from the confiscation and auction of the properties of
the agriculturists like land, pumpset, bullock etc., which has been
taken recourse to the institutional agencies to cover their debts.

6. The Association will strive to secure remunerative prices
for various commodities keeping in mind the costs incurred in
various items like labour, electricity, pesticides, fertilisers,
various forms of tax etc., and the net income derived by the
agriculturists.

7. The Association will adhere to the development policies
promoting economic growth of the country. At the same time the
Association will also oppose those activities and programmes which
are detrimental to farming community.
8. The Association will endeavour to eliminate penal interest to term loans and strive to ensure the credit institutions and service organisation function on non-political partisan manner in its transactions.

9. The Association will initiate measures to simplify loan transaction through the system of pass book which would be routed through Nationalised Banks.

10. The Association will strive to make available the agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides etc., in adequate quantities at lower prices.

11. The Association will initiate attempts to seek crop insurance to compensate peasantry who suffer at times of natural disasters.

12. Some of the agricultural operations like spraying, well digging, jaggery processing, pumpset operation etc., involve risks including accidents and deaths to the peasantry. The Association will try to secure compensation from the Government for the affected ones.
13. The Association will try to persuade the Government to construct houses for the agricultural labourers and rural poor.

14. The Association will strive to protect the cultivation of cash crop such as coconut, sugarcane, tobacco, turmeric, cotton etc. At the same time, it will also ensure participation of peasants in the management of Demonstration centres and Research farms of the Government.

15. The Association will strive to seek irrigation for the rainfed and areas having lack of irrigation. Till such time, the Association would attempt to influence the Government to declare these non-irrigated areas as drought prone areas and seek Government concessions for these areas. The Association will also initiate measures to desilt existing tanks and construct new tanks and ponds wherever possible to ensure irrigation for agriculture.

16. To ensure parennial irrigation the Association demands immediate implementation of Ganga-Caveri linking project.

17. The Association will also try to persuade the Central and other State Governments like Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh etc., to provide adequate irrigation facilities to Tamilnadu and also to generate additional electric energy.
18. The Association will oppose all extra charges minimum charges levied in tariff calculation by Electricity Board.

19. The Association will strive for the cancellation of all penal levies and extra taxes levied on peasantry in the irrigated areas.

20. The Association will work for the interests of both agriculturists and agircultural labourers whose sustenance is exclusively derived from agriculture and try to resist the divisive attempts.

Source: This has been translated from Tamil from the documents published by Vivasayigal Sangam in 1967.
APPENDIX 3

TAMILNADU AGRICULTURISTS' ASSOCIATION
NINE POINT CHARTER OF DEMANDS

1. REDUCTION IN COST OF CULTIVATION

In order to reduce the cost of cultivation which has been increasing over years since independence, the Government must fulfill the following demands.

a) Electricity must be provided at free of cost or atleast' the tariff in lift irrigation areas must be equal to the water rates levied on peasants in river irrigation areas.

b) An optimum and continuous flow of 440 voltage of power should be guaranteed for motor pump operation.

c) The agricultural inputs such as fertiliser, pesticides, tools and implements, diesel etc., should be provided to peasantry with 50 per cent subsidy.

2. DEBT RELIEF

Farmers are faced with debt burden due to increase in cost of cultivation like hike in electricity tariff, fertilisers, pesticides,
agricultural implements etc. But no corresponding rise in price was given to peasants for the past several years. Moreover, in the past, the Government also took measures to decrease prices of agricultural commodities whenever there was slight increase in market prices. Consequently, the farmer has lost repaying capacity of loan and his debt burden has kept on mounting. The Central Government owes to the farmers to the extent of Rs. 1300 crores by way of difference in levy prices and market prices. Accordingly, for paddy and cane alone the Government will have to pay RS.10,000 crores for the faulty policy pursued for the past 30 years.

The Government through its institutional sources provided Rs.5,000 crores to farmer. The Tamilnadu shares Rs.360 crores in this. The State and Central Government should write off these loan amount of farmers and should give fresh loan on free of interest through these institutions.

3. REMUNERATIVE PRICES

The production cost of various agricultural produces have increased multifold. But there was no corresponding increase in prices of these agricultural commodities. As a result, farming has
become unremunerative and rendered peasantry in problems. The prices should be fixed taking into consideration not only the cost of cultivation but also the requirements for the maintenance of farming community. To do this separate indices of cost of cultivation and cost of living of farm families are to be calculated. Prices for agricultural produces should be fixed on the basis of this calculation. In case, price falls below than the price fixed, the Government must procure at the price fixed. To ensure all these things, a price commission must be appointed with due representation to farmers.

4. **IRRIGATION FACILITIES**

The Government should nationalise all rivers in India. The Ganges - Cauvery link should be given top priority. The diversion of river which flows westward into Arabian Sea to eastern side would benefit the drought prone areas in Tamilnadu. Till provision of irrigation facilities, to areas marked by rainfed must be declared drought affected and loans of the farmers in this area should be waived.
5. PROBLEMS OF IRRIGATED AREAS

The taxes and levies other than water rate land development tax, additional cess, local cess, crop tax, crop income tax, in the irrigated areas should be given up forthwith. Levy procurement, direct or indirect, movement restrictions of agricultural commodities should also be withdrawn.

6. URBAN LAND CEILING

Provision must be made in the Urban Land Ceiling Act to exempt agricultural lands. The jurisdiction of the Act should be strictly the city limit and not to be extended to the sub-urban and other master plan areas.

7. MINIMUM WAGES AND AGRICULTURAL LABOUR WELFARE

The minimum wage of Rs.10/- and 5/- must be given to all operations to male and female agricultural labourers respectively. Side by side, agricultural economy must be strengthened by giving remunerative prices to farm produces facilitating the farmers to pay this minimum wages to agricultural labourers. The Government must implement family pension and provide accident benefits while
attending work to agricultural labourers to the tune of Rs. 5,000/- for small injuries and Rs.10,000/- in the case of death occurring to them while they perform risky operations like well-digging, cane crushing, spraying pesticides, pumpset operations etc. The landless labour should also be given free housing and essential commodities such as food grains, sugar, edible oil, kerosene etc., at 50 per cent subsidy.

8. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Government must initiate measures to ensure village development by undertaking the following:

a) Free medical care
b) Education
c) Transport and laying of pucca roads
d) Protected drinking water
e) Public convenience
f) Establishment of agro based industries
g) Employment programmes
Since 75 per cent of our people live in villages; similar percentage of funds must be allotted and in Government services 75 per cent reservation must be given to rural people.

9. AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE

The insurance benefits should be extended to agricultural operations to cover crops, cattle, pumpsets, at nominal premia.

Source: Translated from Tamil from the documents of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam published in April 1977.
NARAYANASWAMI NAIDU AND AIADMK ELECTION MANIFESTO

TEN POINT SCHEME FOR AGRICULTURISTS

1. An Agricultural planning and development council would be established to plan effectively for the development of agriculture and to augment the deteriorating agricultural economy in the State. The Chief Minister will be the President and a Vice-President will be drawn from an agricultural association which adopts non-political stand in its approach, to head the proposed council.

2. Measures would be initiated with the active support of the representatives of farmers organisation to get remunerative and reasonable prices for the agricultural commodities, reduce agricultural input prices, and to know the support prices in advance.

3. Prices for various agricultural commodities would be fixed taking into consideration the production expenditure of different commodities at various places.

4. Action would be taken to provide essential commodities to agricultural labourers at fair price.
5. Agriculturists' welfare fund would be established and the management committee of such kind of fund would also include the representatives of farmers organisation.

6. In order to solve the problems of the agriculturists, a separate council would be established in all the districts. The representatives of farmers organisation would discuss with the district level officers of various development departments periodically for redressing their problems.

7. Additional tax will be cancelled for those agriculturists who get irrigation from canal water for a particular crop and raises some other crop.

8. We will insist the Central Government to waive the credit given to the agriculturists. If it refuses, we will initiate all possible steps to waive the credit issued through the institutional sources in five years from the State exchequer.

9. Monthly pension will be granted to the poor agricultural labourers.
10. Agriculturists will be given compensation from the proposed 'Cattle Insurance Scheme' if catties used for agricultural production purposes die in accidents unexpectedly.

INDIAN FARMERS AND TOILERS PARTY

I. GOAL

The Farmers and Toilers Party (IFTP) is committed to put into practice the saying of the national poet Bharathi, "We pay obeisance to agriculture and labour", through provision of good life to farmers, agricultural labourers, all working people and middle class people. Moreover, the party pledges to eliminate corruption in public life and administration which is now rampant.

II. MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PLANS

1. Fixation of Price for Agricultural Commodities

The prices for agricultural produce must be fixed on the basis of cost of production as is done in the case of industrial goods. In order to safeguard the interests of the consumer, the production cost of agricultural commodities must be reduced by decreasing the prices of agricultural inputs; implements and reduction in the power tariff through introduction of horse power method in electricity charges.
2. Loan Policy

The loans both crop and jewel issued to farmers and labourers who are unable to repay will be cancelled. The distraint proceedings of all forms will be eliminated once for all. In order to protect the interest of borrowers, the system of pass-book will be introduced through which fresh loans will be issued.

3. Toilers

Arrangements will be made to provide salary and other benefits to agricultural labourers on par with what the industrial labourers enjoy at present.

4. Welfare Schemes

The farmers agricultural labourers and all other working class people will be given compensation amount of Rs.10,000/- in case of death in accidents, on par with Government employees. Due compensation will be given to owners of bullock carts the event of accident/damage crop insurance and pension scheme for farmers and labourers will be implemented.
5. Elimination of Corruption

Because of corruption, which is rampant in public life and in administration hardly 30 per cent of tax money reaches the general public. Corruption at all levels will be eliminated through formulation of suitable rules and regulations and thereby a clean administration is given shape.

6. Prices of Essential Commodities

The existing 75 per cent difference between the prices of essential commodities at production and consumption centres will be done away with through elimination of middlemen and thereby the prices of essential commodities will be brought down. The prices of essential commodities will be made affordable by rural and urban poor. The present multiple point sale tax system will be eliminated and in its place a suitable system will be introduced which makes prompt and easy payments of tax by merchants.

7. Ceiling on Properties

The schemes of ceiling on all kinds of properties will be introduced just like what exists now in agricultural
The surplus properties will be taken and used for the welfare of urban and rural poor. In this process, adequate precaution will be undertaken to affect neither industries nor industrial production.

8. Elimination of Unemployment and Urban Agglomeration

The unemployment problem in our country will be solved by making agriculture economically viable. Through establishment of agro-based industries in villages additional employment opportunities are created, and thereby migration from rural to urban areas are checked to a great extent which would in turn eliminate urban congestion and problems accompanying it.

9. Nationalisation of Rivers

Extension of irrigation to non-irrigated areas in adequate quantity and solution of drinking water problem in urban areas are possible only through nationalisation of rivers in India.

10. Education and Communal Amity

A new education system with emphasis on vocational skills and life orientation will be introduced. The communal hatred based
upon caste and religion which till date received encouragement due to political considerations will be removed and communal amity among Harijans and non-Harijan Hindus and non-Hindus and all others will be ensured.

Source: This has been translated from Tamil from the documents of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party published in 1982.
APPENDIX 6

PEASANT POLITICS IN TAMILNADU
A SOCIO-POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF A PRESSURE GROUP

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

PART I

I. GENERAL PARTICULARS

1. Village
2. Respondent
   : i) Name
   ii) Hamlet
   iii) Caste
3. Age :
4. Education :
5. Occupation : Primary / Secondary-
6. Identification : Sample : Code
7. Date of Interview :

II. LAND RELATED PARTICULARS

8. Particulars of land (in ac.) Wet
   Garden
   Dry
   Total Extent Irrigated
9. Sources of Irrigation : Canal
   Tank
   Well
   Rainfed
10. Well particulars
   • Depth
     When dug
     Cost
     Motor pump/Elect/Diesel/Kamalai
     Duration of irrigation

11. Crop grown:
    : First Crop
    Second Crop
    Third Crop

12. Crop Yield and Marketing: Cropwise

III. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

13. Average annual income and expenditure (specify sources)

IV. BORROWAL AND LENDING

14. Particulars of borrowal and lending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>When taken</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Terms of Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cash/Kind</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interest Rate  Amount paid  Amount Due
1. Could you state the circumstances leading to initial organisation of Peasants?

2. What were the issues which confronted the Peasants at the time of organisation?

3. How was the prevailing condition in agriculture during early 60s affected peasantry?

4. Could you explain the reasons for the emergence of the organisation in Coimbatore district?

5. How do you distinguish the classes of peasantry. (elicit concretely the acreage based classification and ask why)

6. What, according to you, are the issues which facilitated to preserve organisational unity and solidarity at the initial stages?

7. Could you state elaborately the specific issues and magnitude of peasant misery owing to that at the initial stages of organisation?

8. How do you relate uniformity of issues irrespective of strata?

9. Who were the leaders initially leading the organisation?

10. What was the caste belonging of these leaders?

11. How agriculture was affected on account of initial participation?

12. Do you feel all the issues of peasantry mainly favour a particular strate of peasantry? State reasons.
13. List the demands raised by peasants at initial stages.

14. How Government responded to the demands of the peasantry?

15. Under what circumstances Government's action precipitated organisation of peasantry?

16. Could you state elaborately the organisational history before the establishment of peasant organisation?

17. Could you elaborate the aims and objectives of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam? (General and specific objectives)

18. Could you state the Governmental measures during 60s which affected the peasantry? (Probe, issuewise)

19. Which part of the peasants in Tamilnadu took leading role in peasant organisation at the initial stages?

20. How caste facilitated for initial organisation?

21. Was the strategy adopted at the initial stages attracted peasantry? (Elaborate).

22. What were the reasons for the establishment of a non-political organisation of peasant in Tamilnadu?

23. What were the relative advantages and disadvantages of political and non-political organisation?
24. How was this Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam organised at State level? Why there was a need for such an organisation? Who took leading role in such initiative?

25. How would you put the socio-economic status of members of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam of your locality? (Age, Education, Caste, Class, Political affiliation etc.).

26. What was the strategy adopted at the initial stages for organisation of branches at village level. (Probe contact farmers caste and class influence, meetings, conferences, printed materials personal contact etc).

27. Could you state the comprehensive demands raised by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

28. How did agricultural labour participate in various movements?

29. Do you think village values and norms were affected on account of peasant participation in agitations?

30. Which castes and classes of people manifested militancy in the agitations undertaken by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

31. Was it true that agricultural economy was disturbed owing to peasant movement?

32. How peasants belonging to various strata participated spontaneously in agitations?
33. What was the impact of peasant participation in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam movements and change in rural social life?

34. Could you list your participation in the militant movements of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and state your personal experience.

35. How did your participation affect family life/agriculture? What was the quantum of suffering?

36. What was the concrete results/achievement of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, in your view, in view of participation in militant agitations undertaken by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

37. Was there any awackening amongst suffering peasants owing to their participation?

38. How this awackening generated owing to conscentisation helped to transform peasants into action.

39. Who, according to you, are benefited much due to Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam agitations?

40. Could you compare relation of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and its benefit to various strata of peasantry?
PART II

NATURE AND EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION OF MEMBER IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THAMIZHAGA VIVASAYIGAL SANGAM/INDIAN FARMERS AND TOILERS PARTY

1. Were you a member of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?
   YES / NO

2. If ‘Yes’ when did you enrol as the member?
   Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam / Indian Farmers and Toilers Party.

3. What motivated you to join Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and later in Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

4. What was your status in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and later in Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?
   a) President
   b) Vice-President
   c) Secretary
   d) Assistant Secretary
   e) Treasurer
   f) Committee Member
   g) Others (Specify)

5. Why did you join the Association?
   a) Debt relief
   b) To show solidarity
   c) Power tariff reduction
   d) Common interest
   e) Higher farm prices
f) Conformity with others

g) Others (specify)

6. What was the aims and objectives of Association?

7. Were you attracted by speeches and demands raised by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

8. Could you tell me the organisational efforts undertaken in your village at the time of organisation of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

9. Was it organised due to the initiative of caste leaders? Who took the pioneering efforts to organise the Association?

10. What was the strategy/method adopted in sending members to various militant movements of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

11. According to your opinion, which were the major problems of the following category at the time of your enrolment?

   a) Agricultural labour
   b) Small farmers
   c) Medium farmers
   d) Big farmers

12. What were the demands of farmers which should have been met by Government to provide relief to various segments of peasantry?

13. Which of these demands you were strongly supporting during the days of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?
14. How were leaders selected/elected in your village?

15. Was there any dominant caste influence in the selection/election of leaders?

16. What was the style of functioning of leaders of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam in your village?

17. How did they motivate other fellow members in order to strengthen the organisation in your village?

18. What are the identity credentials of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party, when do you wear these identities?
   
   a) Membership card
   b) Green flag
   c) Green towel
   d) Others

19. Could you state the popular slogans of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

20. When and why do you celebrate farmers' day?

21. Could you state the nature and extent of your contributions to Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party for its organisational activities?

22. Can you recapitulate the popular agitations of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?
23. Could you state your involvement in the agitations of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party since your enrolment?


25. How did you participate in the agitations/organisational activities of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Issues highlighted</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>loss/suffered pain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) Meetings  
b) Conferences  
c) Rallies  
d) Fast  
e) Peculiar Agitations

26. What are the other activities of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party in which you have participated?

| SI. No. | Name of struggle/ agitation participated | Date | Place | Losses | Pains | Remarks (participation by other members of the household) |
Personal experience (interesting and bitter) of respondent in various peasant movements.

Personal anecdotes in the life of respondent which reinforced his decision to participate in peasant movements?

Could you inform the arrears outstanding?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI.</th>
<th>Taxes and dues</th>
<th>Periodicity of non-payment</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Proceedings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-op. loans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Electricity Bill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Land tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Water tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Betterment levy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Agrl. income tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Panchayat tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>B.P.S.C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Others (specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In your opinion which strata of the peasantry/rural population are more represented in the farmers agitations/struggles?

a) All peasants
b) Rich peasants
c) Middle peasants
d) Small peasants
31. What monetary benefits have been gained in the wake of peasant movements from the Government?

a) Power tariff reduction
b) Debt relief
c) Better deal in agriculture
d) Remunerative prices.

32. Which particular programmes of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party you strongly support and oppose?

a) Demands raised
b) Strategies and Techniques
c) Attitude towards Government
d) Political and electoral involvement
e) Style of functioning
f) Caste
g) Class bias

33. How do you think about the style of functioning of leadership in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

34. What are the strong and weak points of the present day leadership?
35. Do you subscribe the strategies and methods adopted by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party in order to realise its goals and objectives?!

36. What, according to you, are the major demands of the Indian Farmers and Toilers Party? What are the minimum demands which the Government should accept?

37. Whom do you consider the enemies of peasants?

   a) Central Government  
   b) State Government  
   c) Land lords  
   d) Traders  
   e) Money lenders  
   f) Agricultural labourers

38. What are the consequences of peasant movements?  
   Positive / Negative

39. Are you aware of similar agitations launched in other states? If 'Yes' elaborate.

40. Are you aware of any reliefs, concessions given by Tamilnadu Government during the last 5 years? (Can you specify them and your views on them?).

41. Do you support or oppose more concessions to the small farmers and less to big farmers (If 'No' could you state reasons?)
Which strata of the peasantry according to you are represented in the leadership at various levels?

What are the prospects, according to you, for peasant movements in Tamilnadu.

Do you think that Indian Farmers and Toilers Party will live upto the expectations of members and serve for their bright future?

What are the hurdles, do you think, encountered in the process of achieving prosperity?

What motivated you to continue to be in the political party inspite of all suppressions, repressions?

What are the limitations of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

How do you evaluate the comparative effectiveness of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party? (cover members interest in participation)

What are the activities of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party since inception? (Make a detailed review of political action at State, District, Taluk/Block levels)

How do you think about the relative militancy of members of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam/Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?
51. What, according to you, are the burning issues of peasantry? What are your suggestions both for organisation as well as to the Government to improve the conditions of peasantry? What should be done in order to redress the demands of peasantry?

52. Do you participate in agitations in the name of your village/caste? Who are your partners in such type of agitations? Do you associate with untouchables in such type of agitations?
PART III

AGITATIONAL AND PERSONALITY PROFILE

A- MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICE POSITION

1. Were you a leader of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?  
   YES / NO

2. If 'Yes' when did you join Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and elected/selected to office position?

3. Were you in any agriculturists' Association before becoming member/leader in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam? (Probe and collect detailed data on past association with peasant organisation).

4. Were you a political member before your enrolment in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam? Probe and collect detailed data.

5. Could you specify the reasons/motivational factors which prompted you initially to join the Agriculturists' Association?

6. How did you organise the local unit of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam? What were the problems confronted in the course of organisation? How did you overcome these problems?

7. What was the strategy adopted at the initial stages to organise the Association (Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam)? (Probe role of caste association/interest group. Common cause issues identified. Similarity of status and homogeneity of identity etc.)
8. Could you state in detail the abject condition prevailed in agriculture/in your village at the time of organisation?

9. Under what circumstances, the peasants felt the need for organisation for protecting their interest?

10. How the pressure course of action was effectively carried out in the area?

11. What office(s) do you hold in the Association? Since when?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI.</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

12. How were you chosen for the office? (State influence of caste personality, economic, status, etc.).

13. Were you also a member in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam's other bodies (like General Council, Executive Body, Volunteer Corps, Agitation Committee).

14. How did you keep formal and informal contact with other leaders? (at local, Block, Taluk, District, and State levels).
**B. PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT**

1. Could you recall and state number of committee meeting, public meeting, conferences and rallies etc., you attended during your leadership in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI. No.</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Committee meeting</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Public meeting</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rallies</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Picketings</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bullock cart procession</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Any other)</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How many public meetings, conferences, rallies etc., have you addressed during your leadership in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI. No.</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Nos.</th>
<th>Subject of Taluk</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Did you participate in the drives/campaigns launched by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam from time to time?

1. Membership drive
2. Collection drive
3. Election campaign

To what extent did you participate in the major agitations/struggles launched by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam from time to time?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI. No.</th>
<th>Agitations/Struggles</th>
<th>Extent &amp; nature of participation</th>
<th>Extent &amp; nature of participation by various strata of peasantry</th>
<th>Extent &amp; nature of violence in such struggles</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

What were the militant movements launched by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam? Could you list all such movement and state the nature of your participation.

Did you participate in any no-tax/non-payment campaign launched by Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI. No.</th>
<th>Taxes and dues not paid of non-payment</th>
<th>Periodicity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Proceedings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


7. What were the personal sufferings you faced in view of your participation in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam agitations?

8. Could you state the consequences of the agitations in which you had militant involvement?

9. What do you think about strong and weak points of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

10. How Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam was in a position to realise its goals, aims and objectives?

11. What do you think about the attitude of the State towards peasants' question?

12. How did you mobilise finance to meet the expenses of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam's activities?

13. What type of misery/harassment which you had to face owing to your participation in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam agitations. (Arrests, physical repression, assaults, manhandling etc.).

14. Do you think inspite of State repression Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam movements were kept at high morale due to vehement participation by peasants?

15. Do you agree that small peasants had overwhelmingly served as the mass base of the organisation?
MEANS AND METHODS

16. What strategies and techniques did you use to mobilise farmers for the agitations/struggles?

1. Printed Materials
2. Public Meetings
3. Conferences
4. Rallies
5. Flag hoisting ceremony
6. Cycle/Bullock cart processions

17. What strategies and techniques did your Association (Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam) follow to bring about unity among various strata of peasantry?

1. Non-political stand
2. Common cause
3. Anti-Government bias
4. Caste solidarity
5. Class collaboration

18. What, according to you, should be done to alleviate the sufferings of the peasantry?

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

19. To what extent the Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam in your opinion had succeeded in realising its declared goals and objectives.
If Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam was partially or wholly unsuccessful, what were the reasons attributed to it?

To what extent 'facionalism' (based on caste, kinship, religion, party affiliation, personal loyalty) has affected Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

What were the consequences of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam movement? (positive and negative).

What type of changes had taken place due to these weakness of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

What agitational methods did Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam follow in order to realise the demands of peasantry?

1. Petition
2. Memoranda
3. Meetings
4. Conferences
5. Processions
6. Rallies
7. Road roko
8. Picketings
9. Bandh
10. Gheraos
11. No-tax campaign etc.

Do you approve the use of violence and violent methods by the participants in agitations?
26. What factors do you think which hindered the emergence of unity among different strata of peasantry?

   a) Divergence of issues
   b) Heterogeneous class composition
   c) Divergence of approaches
   d) Heterogeneous caste composition
   e) Divisive policy of Government
   f) Political and ideological difference

27. Do you agree fully to all the views of the Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

   a) Demands
   b) Methods
   c) Continued anti-Government stand
   d) Political and electoral involvement
   e) Style of functioning of leadership
   f) Financial excesses
   g) Caste considerations
   h) Class bias

28. How did Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam fare with regard to fulfilment of its issues when compared to other similar or party based peasant organisations working in your area/region?

29. What were the main problems faced by agriculturists which forced them to go on agitation during the days of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam.
30. How did the Government respond to these issues of peasantry?

31. What Government should have done in order to alleviate the pressing problems of peasantry in those days?

32. Do you think the problems of peasantry vary in each setting? State reasons - Probe why?

33. Could you state specifically the nature of problem faced by different strata in each setting and common problems irrespective of eco-structures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wet</th>
<th>Dry-cum-wet</th>
<th>Dry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Specific:

Common:

34. What concessions - the Government has provided to the suffering peasantry in view of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam agitation - was it adequate? If 'not' how did Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam effectively respond to the non-realisation of its demands?

35. Do you think the concessions should be differentially accorded to various strata of peasantry?

36. Do you think the leadership of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam was shared only by the dominant caste of the area?

37. Could you state class position (small, medium> big) of leaders various eco-structures.
What was the influence of the dominant caste leader in organisation of peasantry?

Was there at any given point of time conflict among leaders owing to lack of response from Government?

How did the difference of opinion of leaders affect the organisational activities?

Which strata of the peasantry had actively participated and shown militancy in the agitations of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam?

What was the reason for active participation or militancy of a particular strata and less participation of other strata of peasantry?

How do you think about the realisations of peasantry owing to the agitations launched through Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam? Could you evaluate the success (extent) and failure (extent) of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and consequences of success or failures?
PROFILE OF POLITICAL PARTY ORGANISATION

1. Could you state the circumstances leading to the conversion of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam into a political party?

2. What was the state of affairs/condition of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam on the eve of conversion?

3. Who mooted the idea of conversion of political party?

4. When and where the decision to convert Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam into a political party was taken?

5. Could you inform in detail the proceedings of the meeting where you had taken the decision? (Cover such aspects as aims, objectives, philosophy of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party, flag, symbol etc.)

6. What was the response of the members of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam towards the decision?

7. How the decision was disseminated to members?

8. Did you enrol once again members at village level since conversion of organisation?

9. Was there any decrease in the strength of the organisation since conversion?

10. What are the activities of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party since inception?
11. Which was the maiden election entry of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party? What was the consequence?

12. Do you think the election verdict jeopardised image?

13. How far party politics helps peasants (Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and Indian Farmers and Toilers Party) to mitigate their sufferings?


15. What was the outcome of these elections, was it better than the earlier Parliament election experience?

16. What was the pressure course of action initiated after the inception of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

17. How the different strata of peasantry had respondend to the calls of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

18. Do you think Indian Farmers and Toilers Party is comparatively inactive due to lack of peasant participation?

19. Do you have any alliance with other like minded parties in Tamilnadu in order to effectively carry out your pressure activities?

20. Could you mention the political parties with whom you had alliance/likely to have alliance?
21. What is the strategy adopted by Indian Farmers and Toilers Party in order to carry out its agitations at various levels?

22. What was the peculiar type of agitations launched so far by Indian Farmers and Toilers Party to attract the attention of Government?

23. What type of future course of action would you like to initiate in order to get your demands fulfilled by the Government?

24. How do you think about the future of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party in Tamilnadu?

25. Do you give consideration for caste and class at the time of selection of leaders for Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

26. How do you think about involvement of various strata of peasantry in Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

27. Do you think the death of Narayanaswami Naidu had affected greatly the prospects of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

28. Is there any other similar organisation in India converted into a political party which fight for the demands of peasantry?

29. What type of link which you maintain with All India Peasant Organisations like the one led by Sharad Joshi and Bharathiya Kisan Union?

30. Do you think there is a lull in the organisational or movement activities in your party?
31. What are the reasons which you attribute for the slackness?

32. What do you think about the caste-class factors in the activities of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

33. How these factors (caste & class) have hindered/facilitated organisational activities?

34. How do you compare the organisational effectiveness of both Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

35. Which one (Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam & Indian Farmers and Toilers Party) of the organisation, according to you, is effective than the other?

36. Do you think Indian Farmers and Toilers Party is unable to attract mass base due to its political colour?

37. What are the disadvantages of being a political party (compared to Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam non-political colour)

38. How had the prospects of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party had eroded due to conversion of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam into a political party?

39. What are the advantages of conversion into a political party?

40. Do you realise that duplication/multiplicity of membership of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam served as the positive factor for strengthening the non-political party organisation?
41. Do you think that your political organisation is comparatively less active in pressure tactics to seek benefits from Government?

42. How do you perceive the deterioration of mass base of your party organisation?

43. Are you of the view that political party organisation had helped to retain the image of erstwhile Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and its mentor Narayanaswami Naidu?

44. Was there any vertical split after the death of the founder president Narayanaswami Naidu?

45. Could you tell me the circumstances leading to the vertical split?

46. What were the activities carried out by Indian Farmers and Toilers Party since split?

47. Was there further deterioration in the mass base due to split in Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

48. How do you evaluate the organisational morale, styles of functioning of leadership at various levels in your party?

49. How do you feel about the organisational effectiveness of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam with Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?
50. What are the limitations of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party? How it had affected the movements of the party?

51. How do you think about the factors of caste, class in organisation of party politics?

52. Do you think the dominance of a particular caste / irrespective class in a given region had facilitated for Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam once and which is the factor absent in Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

53. How do you think about the socio-economic status of members of your organisation and how far it had improved during the Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and through Indian Farmers and Toilers Party?

54. Could you state the nature of response/whole hearted/voluntary participation of members in Indian Farmers and Toilers Party agitations?

55. How in your opinion the Indian Farmers and Toilers Party fared better than Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam with regard to realisation of its issues through pressure course of action?

56. Do you agree that the issues undertaken by both Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and Indian Farmers and Toilers Party mostly favour the rich peasants rather than other peasants?

57. Is there any other party in India similar to yours and fighting through pressure course of action for the cause of peasants?

58. What Government should do in order to ameliorate the problems of peasants in Tamilnadu?
PROFILE OF KEY LEADERS OF THAMIZHAGA VIVASAYIGAL SANGAM

1. C. NARAYANASWAMI NAIDU

Born in Vyampalayam in Ooty, district in a farm family. Educated upto V standard. Aged about 65 at the time of his death. Owned about 7 acres of garden land. As he was very much concerned with the deteriorating economic conditions in farm families in the event of certain abject conditions in agriculture like frequent droughts, crop failures, less hours of electricity supply, higher electricity tariff, indebtedness of peasantry etc., took the lead role in the initial organisation of peasantry in Coimbatore district to see the prosperity of farm families. He was instrumental in articulating the deprived condition of peasantry and thereby mobilising peasantry for various pressure courses of action launched later in the name of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam (non-political) on issues like reduction in electricity tariff, debt relief, remunerative prices for farm produces, crop insurance, irrigation, etc.

He was popularly known as 'Naickar' amongst peasantry and became the founder president of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam since 1973 and continued in that position even after the conversion of the Association into a political party named Indian Farmers and Toilers Party in 1982. He was arrested several times and subjected to
imprisonment in places like Coimbatore, Palayamkottai, Trichy, etc. lie -AVIS also once arrested under National Security Act by the State Government. He died owing to massive heart attack during electioneering at Kovilp执意 in the year 1984.

Dr. M.R. SIVASAMY

Born in Mathampalayam in Coimbatore district, in a small farmer's family. Aped about ₱ and Gounder by caste. A medical practitioner by profession, had a clinic in Coimbatore prior to his enrolment in Thamizhaga Vivasayi Sangam. Inspired by the speeches and writings of Narayanaswami Naidu on the economic condition of peasantry left his lucrative profession and became an activist in the Association. in view of consistent successes of agitations in which he took a lead role, he was made the Chairman of Agitation Committee, the position once Narayanaswami Naidu had occupied. Arrested countless times and subjected to imprisonment which ran months together. As he was offered conditional parole to fulfill the last rites to his mother who died while he was in jail, thousands of peasants performed the last rites to his mother. After the demise of Narayanaswami Naidu in 1984, he became the president of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party. He was affectionately called 'Doctor' by his followers. It is said that he lost all his property through contests in elections and sacrificed his profession and dedicated his life for the cause of peasantry.
3. M. CHELLAMUTHU

Born in a small village in Kallimanthayam in Dindigul Anna District. A Gounder by caste. Aged about 45. Farmer by occupation. Educated upto matriculation. Me attracted the front line leaders of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam through his oratory skills and leadership qualities. He staged successfully number of protest movements announced by the Association every now and then. He grew in the Association owing to his own merits and became the General Secretary of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam while Narayanaswami Naidu was the President. He was arrested more than 15 times on several occasions and lodged in jails in places like Madurai, Trichy, Cuddalore, Madras, etc. He was also once sentenced to 7 years imprisonment in a murder case, served the term in Madurai Central Prison and released later.

Dissatisfied with the style of functioning of leadership in Indian Farmers and Toilers Party (IFTP), he split the party and led a faction in his name retaining the name, flag and symbol of the party. He had unsuccessfully contested the Assembly election once in Oddanchathram constituency in Anna district. His faction of IFTP contested the assembly elections held in 1989 and 1991 and secured one seat in each election.
4. **N. NANDAGOPAL**

Born in Vyampalayam. Aged about 45 at the time of death in 1990. Son of C. Narayanaswami Naidu, the founder leader of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam. After the conversion of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam into Indian Farmers and Toilers Party and its subsequent split he supported the faction led by Dr. Sivasami. Later dissatisfied with the style of functioning of Sivasami on the organisational matters he founded the faction identified as Indian Farmers and Toilers Party (Nandagopal). He was very much instrumental in construction of a memorial in Vyampalayam for Narayanaswami Naidu which was declared open by Devi Lai, the then Deputy Prime Minister of India.

5. **L.K. LAKSHMANA PERUMAL**

Born in a planter’s family in Sirumalai Village. Belongs to Pillai community. Aged about 50. He settled in Dindigul. Educated upto Matriculation. Owns about 25 acres of land in Sirumalai and on which mostly plantation crops are grown. He was enrolled in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam in mid seventies to protect primarily the rights of planters in Sirumalai hills. He was selected the President of Plantation farmers in this area. He served as the District President of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and Indian Farmers and Toilers Party in Dindigul Anna district.
Led the pressure courses of action in this district and was subjected to arrest more than ten times. The novel and innovative strategy of keeping bullocks in front of Electricity Board office and writing on its name board as 'Interest Shop' had earned name and fame for him in this district.

6. M. PANDIAN

Born in a farmer's family in Periyakulam. Belongs to Piramalai Kallar community. Aged about 56. Educated upto 8th standard. He owns about 10 acres of land in Periyakulam on which plantation crops are raised. Attracted by the policies, programmes and demands of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam particularly the 9 point charter he joined in it in 1970. In recognition of his oratory skills and organisational endeavours he was made the President of Madurai district unit of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam in 1973 and continued in the same position even after the conversion of the Association into a political party in 1984. Later, he was made one of the Vice-Presidents of state level organisation of Indian Farmers and Toilers Party. He had contested unsuccessfually in the by-election to Parliament in Periyakulam constituency held in 1982. Arrested many times while he was active in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and was lodged in jails in places like Madurai, Trichy, Cuddalore, etc. He was also once arrested under National Security Act.
7. BALAKRISHNAN

Born in K_nltipatti village. Aged about 60. Educated upto V standard. Belongs to Gounder community and owns about 5 acres of garden land. Inspired by the speeches and causes exposed by Narayanaswami Naidu while he toured in Vedasendur area in 1977 he joined in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam to fight for the protection of peasantry. He was a vociferous speaker and known for organisational skills in this area. As one of the pioneers in the establishment of Vivasayigal Sangam in this area, he took lead roles in the organisation of peasantry and selected President of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam in Vedasendur. He was very active in staging various resistance courses like bullock cart procession, road blockade, rallies, picketing, no-tax campaign, etc. Arrested more than 10 times, served about 3 months in jails in places like Madurai, Trichy, Salem and Cuddalore.

8. M.V. CHINNAIAH

Born in Usilamptti. Aged about 60. Educated upto Matriculation. Belongs to Piramalai Kallar community and owns about 3 acres of garden land. He was an ex-service man. He retired as J.C.O. He joined in Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam in 1977 primarily to alleviate the sufferings of peasantry. He was instrumental in the establishment of taluk level organisation of
Vivasayigal Sangam in Usilampatti through organisation of village level branches in almost all village panchayats in Usilampatti taluk. He led resistance movements of peasantry in Usilampatti and was subjected to arrests, lodged in prison for about 3 months. He was selected General Secretary of Madurai district unit of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and continued in the same position even after its conversion into a political party.