



Exposure Visit by ProOrganic Project Team

Nawalgarh (Sikar, Rajasthan), February 20, 2014

Background

M R Morarka GDC Rural Research Foundation is a non-profit voluntary organisation set up by Kamal M Morarka in 1993 to create wealth for the nation through innovations in resource management and capacity building of the people. From being a successful grassroots level implementing agency for 10 years, today it is also being recognised as a leading resource organisation offering solutions for sustainable agriculture in the world.

Unlike other voluntary organisations, Morarka Foundation is into more than just the conventional areas of voluntary actions taking lead to venture into new areas, such as Organic Farming and Certifications, Agriculture Extension, Tourism Promotion, Waste Management, Vermi Compost, Conservation of Heritage etc. For the implementation of an intervention, the foundation restricts its role to that of a catalyst facilitating and encouraging necessary participation of the rural community and entrepreneurs. Today, it is a leading organisation in the field of organic farming.

Promoting Organic Farming in the State of Rajasthan

CUTS started its intervention in the field through a project 'ProOrganic' in the year October 2013 with the support of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Sweden. The objective of the project is to:

- generate awareness among consumers about organic products;
- build capacities of farmers to adopt organic farming;
- promote and increase consumer's demand for organic products;
- encourage consumers to shift towards organic products and sustainable consumption; and
- sensitise and advocate with concerned stakeholders including government agencies to promote organic products in state of Rajasthan and to achieve an overall objective of creating better informed consumers and farmers about organic consumption and farming.

Exposure Visit

Looking at the opportunity to interact with an organisation, such as Morarka Foundation, working intensively in the area and with the purpose to provide an exposure to the project team (Deepak Saxena, Senior Programme Coordinator; Amarjeet Singh, Project Coordinator; Arjun Kant Jha and Dharmendra Chaturvedi, Project Officers), an exposure visit was arranged to view extra ordinary and commendable work being done by Morarka Foundation in the area close to Nawalgarh.



The team met two officials of Nawalgarh office of Morarka - Sanjay Vasishtha, Programme Manager and Anil Saini, Programme Coordinator, who facilitated the visit by CUTS team. Vijay Deep Singh, Regional Manager was also present. CUTS project team also met three farmers in three

farms, namely Ramkaran Singh in Beri village, Kan Singh Shekhawat in Katrathal village and Suresh Sharma in Kolra village respectively during their exposure.

Areas Visited

The two officials first provided all basic information/inputs about organic farming to the CUTS team. They informed the team about the organisational structure and its brief history. Then a campus visit was made showing all types of systems required and involved in the organic farming. An organic

store was also visited within the campus, where they met Vijay Deep Singh, Regional Manager, who is also in charge of the store. Singh showed various types of organic products displayed including eatables and textiles. After completing the ground information in the Morarka office, the team left for visits to three farms namely Beri, Kolra and Katrathal villages and experienced live organic farming demo of certified farmers.



Learning Experiences



The visit provided the CUTS team an opportunity to get an exposure on various types of organic manure preparations, such as *nadep* compost, NSDL compost, vermi compost, herbal spray, *neem* spray, *dhatura* spray, *aak* spray and vermi wash etc. through live demos.

The team also got to know the basics of de-hydration system, down to earth, home farming system and drip irrigation system. In the field, the team learnt about developing horticulture crop programmes, vegetation in green house and tray cultivation etc.



CUTS project team learnt many things related to organic farming and not only the system displays but the live demos in the field provided lot of information and the knowledge of the

team got enhanced, which will provide the team an added advantage during the time of field activities of ProOrganic due to commence from April 2014.

Special Gratitude

CUTS would like to thank Verdhman Bapna, General Manager, Coordination of Morarka Foundation for arranging and making the whole visit well organised and comfortable.

