

Visit of Maria Klerfelt from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

May 18, 2018, Jaipur, India

Background

Maria Klerfelt (Programme Manager, Climate Change, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) visited CUTS, Jaipur on May 18, 2018.



Objective

The purpose of the visit was to review the activities concluded during the first year (2017) of the project and planned activities for the year 2018. It also provided an opportunity for her to know about CUTS' contribution in the field of climate change and similar issues of public interest.

Commencement of Visit

Field Visit at Saharia Organic Farm and KVK Chomu

During the field visit, Klerfelt along with George Cheriyan, Deepak Saxena and Rajdeep Pareek visited Saharia Organic Farm at Maheshpura village of Jaipur district. This farm is situated 22 kms from Jaipur and covers 18 hectares of land owned by Vinod Saharia. The caretaker of the farm Bhupendra attended the team during the visit. The team observed organic orchards of Anola, Citrus and production units of organic inputs, such as vermicompost, vermiwash, nadep compost, kunappa etc. The team also visited the beds of vegetable cultivation and natural mud houses. This farm is also associated with Working Weekends on Organic Farms (*Wwoof – a platform for exploring and gathering more knowledge about organic farming from different countries*). It was told that in 1992,

it was a piece of barren land, when Vinod Saharia started developing it with the help of a retired army officer and successfully turned it into an organic farm.



Currently, they are selling their organic products on higher prices to many suppliers. Many Wwoof fellows visit from different countries to learn more efficient techniques of organic farming.

The team then visited to *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK), Chomu and interacted with S S Rathore (Programme Coordinator). He provided a brief overview of main responsibilities of KVK. He stated that the Centre is mainly exercising to transfer the technology to farmers' field and are directly monitored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Total 671 KVKs are established in all states and the target is to cover all villages of India. The team also visited Anola Garden in KVK, Goatery and Poultry Farm, Nursery, Vermicomposting and Azolla units. Rathore opined that setting up of a small unit of Goatery or Poultry can be beneficial for small farmers.



Meeting with CUTS Team and Project Review

After the field visit, Klerfelt interacted with ProOrganic team at CUTS conference hall with a brief introduction about SSNC's and CUTS collaboration. George Cheriyan welcomed her and shed light on CUTS' work on different issues of social interest. Klerfelt also briefed about SSNC's network in different countries. Three presentations were delivered on ProOrganic II, GAW India and SC practices on sustainable development.



Reaction from Klerfelt

Klerfelt raised some queries about presentations, which were suitable resolved by the team. She also discussed the participation of women in activities done in the past and Human Right Based Approach (HRBA). Finally, she gave a vote of thanks to CUTS team

for a well-managed and successful visit. She also had a formal meeting with Secretary General of CUTS, Pradeep S Mehta.