



**Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle
Through Promoting Organic Consumption and Production and
Adopting Sustainable Consumption Practices by Engaging
Consumers in the State of Rajasthan, India (ProScop)**

Synthesis Report

Strengthening the Community Managed Seed Cells 2022



ProScop: An Overview

CUTS has been involved in Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan since October 2013, which got concluded in December 2021. The work had made a deep impact and contributed to promoting organic consumption in the state. Looking at the success and to further consolidate its work on the issues, CUTS with SSNC has designed an ambitious five years project clubbing sustainable consumption & production, and practices together in its intervention.

The project ‘Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle Through Promoting Organic Consumption and Production and Adopting Sustainable Consumption Practices by Engaging Consumers in the State of Rajasthan, India’ (ProScop)’ is being implemented in 12 targeted districts of Rajasthan for five years, commenced from January 01, 2022.

ProOrganic

With the addition of two more districts, bringing the total to 12, the organisation intend to intensify work on organic consumption and production over the phase of 2022–26 by leveraging its experience and the network that has been built. The purpose of carrying work in the present ten districts is to not only consolidate the already set base, which was created more than eight years back and has started yielding results at the ground but also to strengthen it by further working with an innovative approach by keeping all the stakeholders in the loop. This is a better time as the Central and state governments have started demonstrating their preference for organic cultural work across the country. The expected outcome is to convert selected villages in each of these target districts to 100 percent organic villages.

Community-Managed Seed Cell System

In ancient times, when no hybrid seeds were there, farmers used to save seeds by traditional methods. By practicing monoculture, we have lost our biodiversity, and resistance to insects, diseases, and weather conditions. So, for successful organic farming, there is a need to use native seeds to preserve and produce them.

Even now, this practice is one of the most vital elements to address the availability of good quality seeds at the farmer’s arm's length. Community-managed seed cells established in various parts of India under different schemes and programmes have enhanced the resilience of smallholder farmers of communities and households. These were most affected by climate change by securing improved access and availability of diverse, locally adapted crops and varieties. This helps smallholders

restore related knowledge and plant management skills, including seed selection, treatment, storage, multiplication, and distribution.

Community seed cells are the source of local genetic diversity that is often adapted to prevailing climate conditions, including biotic stresses. They are instrumental in contributing to community-based strategies for adaptation to climate change. However, community seed cells have received little attention in the literature on climate change adaptation. As climate change significantly impacts agricultural production, growing local varieties, which have a high degree of genetic diversity, is highly important because these varieties can better withstand and adapt to environmental stresses and changes.

Community seed cells helped preserve local seeds of the most adapted varieties for the region. The smallholder farmers' collectives mutually selected the most suitable types for an area. Still, after identifying the best varieties, the community seed bank plays a vital role in maintaining the availability of good quality local seeds. Smallholders diversify their crops and types to reduce the risk of total production failures and strengthen family resilience.

Need to Include this Activity

This unique activity started on the ground in 2019-20 to train target district progressive farmers to develop skills to protect, preserve, and promote indigenous seeds in organic farming. It was introduced in all the 10 targeted districts.

When a farmer adopts organic farming, he requires traditional and organic seeds for sound production. But he cannot find these seeds except some. There is no proper mechanism at the government level to provide organic and traditional seeds to farmers who are willing to shift towards organic farming. When a farmer shifts to organic farming as the first step, he uses hybrid seeds that cannot perform good production in organic farming techniques. Then farmers get demotivated and return to chemical ones. To minimise this risk, there is a need, to begin with, for traditional and organic seeds. It is for this reason; the activity was involved in this project for better outcomes.

Need to Consolidate and Strengthen Seed Cells

The work commenced in 2019 under the project was recurrent in 2022-23. Such structured activity requires more focus and in-depth work by farmers. Hence, similar activities were held during 2022-23 and the same seed cell with the same partner. To cover a wider area and a greater number of farmers in these seed cells, work was done in a focused manner. The community seed cell is a long process, hence, there is a need to continue this for at least four to five years.

Knowledge Sharing Meetings & Feedback Meetings

After the initial Knowledge Sharing Meetings in all the targeted ten districts with the selected farmers, who have switched over from chemical to organic farming, Feedback Meetings were held. The objective to hold these meetings also worked through a three-pronged approach, i.e., to discuss establishing seed cells, consider difficulties in selecting them, and guide the target farmers to take it forward.

Details of Meetings

S. N.	District	Block	Gram Panchayat	Knowledge Sharing Meeting	Feedback Meeting
1.	Jaipur	Govindgarh	Devthala	July 21, 2022	January 27, 2023
2	Dausa	Lalsot	Khatwa	July 20, 2022	December 22, 2022
3	Sawai Madhopur	Bonli	Didwadi	July 22, 2022	March 09, 2023
4.	Kota	Sultanpur	Kotsua	July 25, 2022	March 01, 2023
5.	Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan	Semli Gokul	August 18, 2022	November 29, 2022
6.	Bhilwara	Suwana	Akola	July 18, 2022	December 13, 2022
7.	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	Kannauj	July 20, 2022	February 28, 2023
8.	Pratapgarh	Choti Sadri	Gomana	July 21, 2022	March 03, 2023
9.	Udaipur	Sarada	Kewda	August 22, 2022	December 21, 2022
10.	Banswara	Ghatol	Udpura	July 26, 2022	January 11, 2023
11	Dungarpur	Sabla	Khanan	July 27, 2022	January 13, 2023
12	Jodhpur	Mandore	Manaklav	July 19, 2022	February 28, 2023

Outcomes

- The presence of local champions, the strong support from the local executives, farmer-volunteers, capacity building, and community empowerment are some of the success factors identified during the activity.
- As a modality for technology delivery, the Community Seed Cell provided management practices on seed health, crop diversification, the introduction of improved and tolerant varieties, opportunities for market integration, and conservation of traditional types for active use.
- New seeds developed by farmers of one district were shared with other district farmers through the community seed cell system to avail benefits.

Different vegetable seeds, such as Bottle Guard, Cucumber, Chilli, Tomato, Cluster Beans, Okra, and Grains & Pulses according to availability in other districts, were collected and preserved at the local level.

- Sharing with farmers in other districts will be based on the quantity.
- The target groups followed the principle of 'learning by doing' as the best management options to ensure seed purity and quality of seeds they produced on-farm.
- Farmers have started using traditional methods to preserve the seeds, like mixing them with ash, neem leaves, vegetable fruits, etc.
- Identified committed farmers who processed seeds from various individuals/groups and shared these among themselves
- Focus was on multiplying the collected seeds distributed to farmers
- The area and number of farmers have increased substantially in the bridge year
- Multiplication of seed was measured by quantity received at the seed cell, and partners were instructed to engage more farmers

Conclusion

The CUTS project team monitored the activity and ensured that at least one member of the project team attended the ground-level training. The farmers engaged in organic farming can understand the importance of locally-adapted varieties of different crops. They are coming forward and adopting the concept of seed cells. These seed cells will ensure community engagement, and farmers will be self-dependent in the sector of seeds. However, it can take time to reach a broader community but will be beneficial in the future for an individual farmer.

Glimpses & Media Coverage





सामुदायिक पारंपरिक जैविक बीज बैंक को किया स्थापित

शेखावाटी संकल्प

दौसा (मनीष रांझणा)। कट्स इंटरनेशनल जयपुर एवं स्वीडिश सोसायटी फॉर नेचर कंजर्वेशन के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में चल रही प्रो स्कोप परियोजना के तहत सामुदायिक पारंपरिक बीज बैंक की स्थापना, प्रस्तावित आदर्श जैविक जिले के लालसोट ब्लोक के ग्राम थलोज में किया गया। जिसमें वहां पर पोषण वाटिकाओं का अवलोकन करत



बच्चों ने जैविक गार्डन व किसानों ने परंपरागत बीज रखरखाव का तरीका सीखा



किसानों ने परंपरागत बीज रखरखाव का तरीका सीखा

बांसवाड़ा (हेलो राजस्थान पत्रिका)। कट्स इंटरनेशनल द्वारा चलाई जा रही प्रोस्कोप परियोजना के तहत पंचायत समिति घाटोल की ग्राम पंचायत सैनवास के गांव शंकरपुरा में बीज रखरखाव के तरीकों के बारे में जागरूक किया गया। इस अवसर पर कट्स जयपुर के कार्यक्रम अधिकारी राजदीप पारीक ने किसानों को बताया कि हमारे पुरवर्ज बीज परंपरागत तरीके से संरक्षण हम बाजार जैविक से रखरखाव



करने होंगे ताकि जबरन कट्स बीज का आदान-प्रदान करने की पुरानी परंपरा कायम रख सकें। कट्स के कार्यक्रम अधिकारी मदनलाल कौर ने संस्थागत परिचय देते हुए कार्यवाला के जैविक पर प्रकाश डाला। शंकरपुरा के पंचक बामनिया, बीजों के विमलकाय विनामा, ने भी विचार व्यक्त किये। बैठक में जागरूक किसान सहित 40 सहभागी उपस्थित रहे। कार्यक्रम का संचालन चित्रेश सोनी ने किया व आभार उदयलाल गावरी ने जताया।

चित्तौड़गढ़ मदन गिरी गोस्वामी ने जैविक गार्डन में सब्जियां एवं फल लगाने के तरीकों एवं उसका उपयोग मिड-डे-मील बच्चों के स्कूल में ही उपयोग हो जिससे बच्चे जैविक व रसायन वस्तुओं का उपयोग करने में फर्क समझ पाए सभी बच्चे जैविक खेती करने के तरीकों के बारे में

कट्स इंटरनेशनल जयपुर व एचजीवीएस दौसा के तत्वावधान में निःशुल्क बीज वितरण

द पुलिस पोस्ट लालसोट (दौसा)। जिले में प्रथम जैविक बीज संग्रहालय का विगत तीन वर्ष पूर्व गठन किया गया था जो जैविक कृषि पर कार्य करने वाले किसानों का एक समूह बनाकर के उनको निःशुल्क बीज उपलब्ध कराकर जैविक कृषि को आगे बढ़ाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका इस संग्रहालय की रही। जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयासों के चलते प्रोस्कोप परियोजना के तहत जैविक बीज संग्रहालय खटवा पर बुधवार को बैठक का आयोजन किया गया।



साथ ही जैविक कृषि करने वाले दूरदराज के किसान भी इस संग्रहालय से लाभ प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। पूर्व सरपंच श्री नारायण सैनी ने कहा कि यह बीज संग्रहालय छोटे लघु सीमांत कृषकों के लिए और भी ज्यादा फायदेमंद हो सकता है। लिहाजा हमारा बहुत सारा पैसा बीज पर खर्च होता है जिसे बचाया जा सकता है। अंत में संस्था निदेशक ओ पी पारीक ने बताया कि यह नेक कार्य आज एक गांव से प्रारंभ करके कुछ ही समय बाद पूरे जिले में जहाँ-जहाँ भी इसकी

थ जैविक खेती कटर के माध्यम त जैविक खेती ड्राई एवं जैविक कसित करने के नानाया भी आवासीय कल्याणपुरा से श्रीमती वीणा ड से कार्यक्रम गोवर्धन लाल विचार व्यक्त

जैविक बीज बैंक की होगी स्थापना

निवाणा. कट्स जयपुर व आत्मा संस्थान जगमालपुरा के तत्वावधान में बाढ़ देवथला गांव में जैविक बीज बैंक स्थापित किया जाएगा। यह निर्णय कनिनवालों की ढाणी में आयोजित किसानों की एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला में किया। इस दौरान परंपरागत बीजों

को सुरक्षित करने किया। इस दौरान कार्यक्रम अधिकारी संस्था के विशेषज्ञ विशेषज्ञ करण बैंक में बीजों के बारे में जान

जैविक खेती के परंपरागत बीजों का संरक्षण जरूरी

कट्स द्वारा संचालित प्रोस्कोप परियोजना के तहत पुरातन का अकोला में बीज बैंक कार्यवाला अर्थात् जैविक बीज बैंक का उद्देश्य जैविक बीजों का संरक्षण करना एवं किसानों को निरंतरक जीवन के पुनः आरंभ के लिए प्रयासों को सहायता की। राजदीप पारीक, कार्यक्रम अधिकारी, कट्स काट ने उक्त बीज बनाने की विधियां बताई एवं बताया कि किसान



कर बीज बैंक में जमा कराए, इससे जैविक बीजों का संरक्षण भी होगा और जैविक किसान को निःशुल्क बीज भी मिलेगा। विवाल लालवाणी, कार्यक्रम अधिकारी, कट्स ने बताया कि किसान एमपीओ से जुड़कर कई लाभ प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, किसान एमपीओ के माध्यम से बड़े स्तर पर अपनी फसल को बेच कर मुनाफा कमा सकते हैं। साथ ही किसान एक पी ओ से जुड़ कर बड़े स्तर पर व्यापार कर सकते हैं जिसका फायदा सभी सदस्य किसान को होगा। हेतत निह सिरोदिना, कार्यक्रम सहायक, कट्स भीलवाड़ा एवं जैविक किसान गोपधर लाल बत्ताई, हरिश्चंकर व्यास, होरा

समुदाय आधारित बीज बैंक इकाई के गठन के लिए बैठक आयोजित



भीलवाड़ा। कट्स मानव विकास केंद्र द्वारा समुदाय आधारित बीज बैंक इकाई बैठक का आयोजन आदर्श जैविक गांव धाकड़खेड़ी तहसील मांडलगढ़ में किया गया। गौरव चतुर्वेदी, कार्यक्रम सहायकी कट्स संस्थान ने बताया कि कार्यक्रम सहायक ने बताया कि जैविक बीज प्रणाली को व्यवस्था करना सबसे जरूरी मुद्दा है किसान जैविक बीज सुरक्षित रखते हैं व आपस में एक दुसरे को आवश्यकतानुसार बीज देते हैं व उन बीजों के द्वारा उत्पादन होने पर धाकड़, जैविक किसान जमाना लाल धाकड़, गोकुल धाकड़ मौजूद रहे।