

Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and  
Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in  
the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic II)

**Community Managed Seed Cell System**

**Synthesis Report**  
**2020-21**





## Organic Farming in India: A Background

Agriculture in India, the pre-eminent sector of the economy, is the source of almost two-thirds of the country's workforce. The contribution of agriculture to India's economic growth is as significant as the role of industry and services. However, organic farming is not a new concept in India. It has been followed from ancient times. It aims to keep the soil fertile, cultivate the land and grow crops by using organic wastes. The other biological materials and organic waste's microbes release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco-friendly pollution-free environment.

Organic farming is a holistic production management system that promotes agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity and soil biological activity. It is the best alternative to establishing a possible relationship between the earth and humanity. Increasing awareness about the safety of food consumed is realised by reducing the harmful impacts of chemical-based agriculture. Notably, organic agriculture occupies only one percent of the global agricultural land, making it a relatively unused resource for one of the most significant challenges the world is facing today, like deforestation, wildfires and extensive destruction of the environment.

### ProOrganic II

With the support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), CUTS is implementing a project 'Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic II)' from April 01, 2017-March 31, 2021 in 192-*gram panchayats* of 10 selected districts of Rajasthan (India). The main objective of the project is to fill the identified gaps and sustain the acquired momentum to achieve expected outcomes of a better eco-system through the promotion of organic consumption. One of the basic objectives of the project is to promote sustainable consumption and production from an important aspect of a sustainable lifestyle, which is largely consistent with environmental and social factors and education and empowerment of consumers. In this project, the focus is on sustainable food and farming and formulating an agenda to achieve it by promoting organic production of farm products on the one hand and promoting organic consumption on the other. Thus, leading towards sustainable development in the agriculture and environmental sector as a whole. The target group of the project is entire population of the covered 10 districts, 96 blocks and selected 192 *gram panchayats* in the State of Rajasthan.

More information about the project can be viewed at: <https://cuts-cart.org/developing-a-culture-of-sustainable-consumption-and-lifestyle-through-organic-production-and-consumption-in-state-of-rajasthan-proorganic-ii/>



## Community Managed Seed Cell System-An Importance

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

Even now, this practice is one of the most vital elements to address the availability of good quality seed at farmer's arm 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 most affected by climate change by securing improved access and availability of diverse, locally adapted crops and varieties. This helps smallholders restore related indigenous knowledge and skills in plant management, including seed selection, treatment, storage, multiplication, and distribution.

Community seed banks 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 banks have received little attention in the literature related to climate change adaptation. As climate change has a significant impact on 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 banks helped to preserve local seeds of the most adapted varieties for the region. The smallholder farmers' collectives mutually selected the most suited varieties for a region and district farmers' forums flowed by trials with necessary technical support. 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 varieties to reduce the risk of total production failures and strengthen family resilience.

## Why the Need to Include this Activity in ProOrganic II?

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





## An Orientation to Project Partners in 2019-A Background

Before bringing the activities on the ground, district partners of the project visited Dehradun in March 2019. This orientation aimed to get district partners of the project familiar with the basic understanding and functioning, process and implementation of the community seed bank project areas. The visit also aimed to get the district partners to know about different indigenous seeds existing in our target area and how these can be useful and promoted in organic farming.

Earth University, Dehradun organised this orientation visit. The team visited one community seed bank at Bhatwadi village in the Jaunpur district of Uttarakhand. During the interaction with villagers, it was revealed that farmers have seed banks at their homes and preserve them at their homes. Whenever they require any seed, they take it then once the crop is harvested, they deposit the double quantity of the same seed in the community seed bank. Thus, seeds are multiplying as well as preserved also. The detailed report of the orientation can be seen at: <https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/exposure-visit-earth-university-dehradun-march-23-26-2019.pdf>.

## Need for Consolidating and Strengthening Seed Cells

The work commenced in 2019 under the project was recurrent in 2020-21 as well. Such structured activity requires more focus and in-depth work by farmers. Hence, similar set of activities were held in the year 2020-21 and the same seed cell with the same partner/farmer.

## Knowledge Sharing Meetings (KSM)

For the implementation of the activity, an initial meeting by the name 'Knowledge Sharing Meetings' was organised with identified farmers at each district in 2019-20. These meetings focus on a three-pronged approach: preach the importance of community seed bank; promote indigenous seeds of different crops; and adopt traditional methods for seed saving. The project team, agricultural experts, NGO district partners were the key resource persons for these meetings. Similar meetings were organised at the same place to view the status and overall performance of seed cell in the last year. The project team member, in their presence, discussed with the member farmers of the seed cell.



### Details of Meetings

S. N.	District	Block	Gram Panchayat	Date
1.	Kota	Kota	Bhadana	August 19, 2020
2.	Jodhpur	Mandore	Mathaniya	August 25, 2020
3.	Udaipur	Salumber	Salumber	October 17, 2020
4.	Sawai Madhopur	Sawai Madhopur	Sherpur Khilchipur	September 28, 2020
5.	Bhilwara	Suwana	Prawaton ka Aakola	August 20, 2020
6.	Chittorgarh	Nimbaheda	Keli	September 18, 2020
7.	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Barawarda	September 18, 2020
8.	Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan	Asnawar	August 18, 2020
9.	Dausa	Lalsot	Khatwa	August 26, 2020
10.	Jaipur	Bassi	Tunga	January 22, 2021

### Feedback Meetings (FM)

After the initial Knowledge Sharing Meetings in all the targeted ten districts with the selected farmers, who have cooperated, participated and changed their mode of farming from chemical to organic, there have been Feedback Meetings at the same places group leaders and other farmers. The objective to hold these feedback meetings also worked through a three-pronged approach, i.e., to discuss establishing seed cells, consider difficulties in establishing them, and guide the target farmers to take it forward.

### Details of Meetings

S. N.	District	Block	Gram Panchayat	Date
1.	Dausa	Lalsot	Khatwa	February 17, 2021
2.	Udaipur	Salumber	Salumber	March 05, 2021
3.	Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan	Asnawar	February 12, 2021
4.	Sawai Madhopur	Sawai Madhopur	Sherpur Khilchipur	March 07, 2021
5.	Kota	Kota	Bhadana	February 11, 2021
6.	Jaipur	Bassi	Tunga	February 22, 2021
7.	Jodhpur	Mandore	Mathaniya	February 28, 2021
8.	Bhilwara	Suwana	Parwaton ka Aakola	February 11, 2021
9.	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Barawarda	February 23, 2021
10.	Chittorgarh	Nimbaheda	Keli	February 23, 2021





## Outcomes

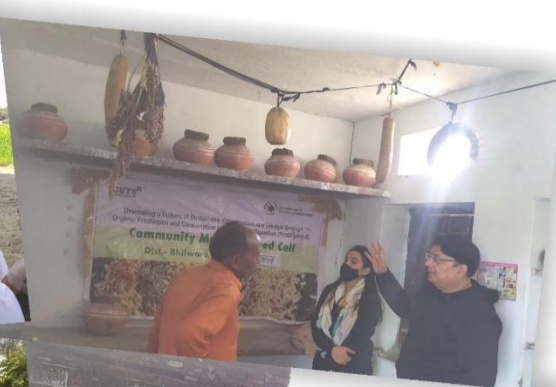
- Identified committed farmers who processed seeds from various individuals/groups and have been sharing seeds among themselves.
- The target groups followed the principle of 'learning-by-doing' as the best management options to ensure seed purity and quality of seeds they produced on-farm.
- As a modality for technology delivery, the Community Seed Cell provided management practices on seed health, crop diversification; introduction of improved and tolerant varieties, opportunities for market integration, and conservation of traditional varieties for active use.
- 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.
- Different vegetable seeds, such as Bottle Guard, Cucumber, Chilli, Tomato, Cluster Beans, Okra and Grains & Pulses according to availability in different districts, were collected and preserved at the local level.
- To preserve the seeds, the farmers have started using traditional methods like mixing with ash, use of neem leaves, vegetable fruits, etc.
- New seeds developed by farmers of one district were shared with other district farmers through the community seed cell system to avail benefits.
- The sharing with farmers in other districts will be based on the quantity.

## Conclusion

CUTS project team has been monitoring the activity keenly and ensured that at least one member of the project team attend the ground-level activity. The farmers engaged in organic farming can understand the importance of local adopted varieties of different crops and are coming forward and adopting the concept of seed cells. These seed cells will ensure the community engagement and farmers will be self-dependent in the sector of seeds.



## Glimpses









**जैविक खेती एवं बीज प्रबंधन पर कार्यशाला**

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## जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किसान आगे आकर काम करें

भारत सरकार | स्वास्थ्य विभाग

**भारत न्युट्रिशनल** | लखनऊ

उपखंड के खटखट ग्राम में कट्स इंटरनेशनल एवं एचडीबीएस टीमा एवं कट्स इंटरनेशनल जयपुर के संयुक्त तत्वकर्म के तत्वाधान में जैकब खेलों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए स्थापित हुई जिस में जैकब खेलों को बढ़ावा देने को लेकर समीक्षा बैठक का आयोजन किया गया। कृषि मंत्रीलखनऊ के अध्यक्ष डाक्टर मन्मथ प्रसाद यादव की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित बैठक में जिले की प्रमुख स्थापित

मया। कट्टर इंटरनेशनल परियोजना के राजकीय ने-  
तृत्वता यह यह योजना राज्य में 10 जिलों के अंदर  
कवर की जा रही है। जैविक प्रलेखन ओपी परियोजना  
ने बताया कि किसान हिल में किया जा रहा काम  
की श्रेष्ठता प्रदान करने के लिए इस जिले में एक  
जैविक बीज लाइवरी का होना जरूरी था और य-  
ह काम किसानों के स्वास्थ्य से आगे बढ़ाया जा रहा है  
क्योंकि जैविक बीज भी जहां-जहां अच्छे किसान  
के फार्म हैं वहां से संग्रहीत जा रहे हैं (जिनमें लाइवरी  
में रखा जा रहा है वहां तक कि गांववाला जैविक

**जैविक खेती एवं बीज प्रबंधन पर कार्यशाला**

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
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औसित/बापिणी. बापिणी कखे  
में मरुभर गंदा सोसायटी  
माणकभाव एवं कंसा डटनेसामल  
के तत्वाधान में राज्यसभा द्वारा  
जैविक उत्पादन व उपयोग राज्य  
सहित उपभोग व जीवाशैली की  
संस्कृति का विकास स्वेच्छता,  
शारिरीक दूरी पर जागरूकता  
कार्यशाला बापिणी ब्लॉक स्तरीय  
पर आयोजन किया गया इस  
कार्यशाला में बापिणी, कडवा, वेदु,  
नासर से बैठक में 32 सहभागियों  
भाग लिया सोसाइटी के मुख्य  
कार्यकारी भरत कुमार भाटी  
होना कि मारवाडी की परंपरा  
य धनिय खेती को हमने दे



ओसिया, जैविक खेती की जानकारी देते हुए।

और जा रहे हैं पैदावार तो बढ़ी है सुभाष सिंह मांगलिया ने  
और गणवत्ता गिरावट आई है। सब्जियों के लिए

पत्रिका

सुभाष सिंह मांगलिया ने जैविक  
सब्जियों के लिए कीचन गार्डन एवं

जैविक खेती एवं बीज प्रबंधन पर कार्यशाला आयोजित

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कार्यशाला में परंपरागत खेती करने के तरीके बताए

तिंवरी में जैविक खेती  
एवं बीज प्रबंधन विषय  
पर कार्यशाला  
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तिंवरी. मरुधर गं



कार्यशाला में कृषि संबंधी जानकारी देते कृषि विशेषज्ञ

ता कार्य म का परिचय  
एक म जितेंद्र सिंह शेखावत  
क कृषि अनुसंधान केंद्र  
कहा कि परंपरागत खेती  
में के लिए बीज प्रबंधन  
का होगा। कृषि अधिकारी  
ने कहा हमें बुजुर्गों की  
रीति की ओर आने के  
लोचने, गंभीर खेती

पत्रिका की आवश्यकता प्रणाली को  
युवा योजना अधिकारी  
देशीय सामुदायिक  
फसलों के बढ़ावा देने  
रत बताई। ग्राम शिक्षण  
सांगाराम, चानसी  
रालाल, भूराय  
ताल सोनी,  
केशन खत्री  
में

बीज बैंक व वर्मी कम्पोस्ट  
बेड से होने वाले फायदों  
पर की चर्चा

भौलवाड़ा। करसु  
द्वारा राजस्थान में जैविक खेती का  
बढ़ावा देने के लिए स्वीडिस  
सोसायटी फॉरनेचर कन्वर्शन  
के सहयोग से प्रो. ऑर्नोल्ड क्लिं  
वरण परियोजना के तहत जिले  
पुरवादी को आक्ला ग्राम में  
सामुदायिक बीज बैंक का ग  
किया गया था। बीज बैंक में  
भौलवाड़ा के 12 रहसिल  
किसानों द्वारा जैविक बीज  
एकीकृत किया है। बीज  
किसान बीज नि शुल्क  
है वे वापस दाना बी  
जमा करवाते हैं। जि  
जमा बीज नि

ने कहा हम खुजुगा की  
तो की और आने के  
गोस्ट, गह्रा खाद,  
मृत आदि बनाने की  
पारहण, दु  
भाटी, प्रेम सिंह,  
घनस्थाम भाटी, गो  
इत्यादि ने भाग लि

गुप्त किशोर, अजय श  
आदि आदि मौजूद हो।

मंत्रलाल सोनी,  
 पी किशन खत्री  
 या। निसं

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