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

Synthesis Report

Community Managed Seed Cell System

CUTS International

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Organic Farming in India – A Background

Agriculture in India, the pre-eminent sector of the economy, is the source of the livelihood of almost two-thirds of the workforce of the country. The contribution of agriculture in India's economic growth is as significant as the role of industry and services. However, Organic Farming is not a new concept to India. It has been followed from ancient times. It aims to keep the soil fertile, cultivate land and grow crops by using organic wastes. The other biological materials along with 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, which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including bio-diversity and soil biological activity. It is perhaps the best alternative to establishing a possible relationship between the earth and the mankind. Increasing awareness about the safety of food that is consumed is realised by the measure of reducing harmful impacts of the chemical-based agriculture. It is notable that organic agriculture occupies only one per cent of the global agricultural land, making it a relatively unused resource for one of the greatest challenges, the world is facing today like deforestation, wildfires and extensive destruction of the environment.

ProOrganic II

With the support from 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 1, 2017 to 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 better eco-system through promotion of organic consumption.

One of the basic objectives of the project is to promote sustainable consumption and production from an important aspect of sustainable lifestyle, which is largely consistent with environmental and social factors and education and empowerment of consumers. In this project, focus is on the aspect of sustainable food and farming and formulating an agenda to achieve it through promoting organic production of farm products on 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 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 has resistant to protect from 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's length. Community managed seed banks 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 smallholder to 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 very useful to contribute 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 have the ability to 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 selection of the most suited varieties for a region was mutually done by the smallholder farmers collectives and district farmers forums followed by trials with necessary technical support, but after the identification of best varieties, the community seed bank plays a very important role in maintaining the availability of good quality local seeds. Smallholder diversify their crops and varieties to reduces the risk of total production failures and contributes to strengthening family resilience.

Why the Need to Include this Activity in ProOrganic II?

Looking to the above narrated importance of seed cell system, this unique activity, which was already planned in the project in the year 2017, started on ground in the year 2019-20 with the purpose to train our target district progressive farmers, so that they could develop skills to protect, preserve and promote different indigenous seeds, which are existing in our country in organic farming. This activity was introduced in all the 10 targeted districts.

An overall idea to include this activity was not only to further train and build capacities of farmers but also this old, ancient but still very unique approach would help in yielding the anticipated results within the framework of ProOrganic II in the most efficient and effective manner.

An Orientation to Project Partners

Before bringing the activities on the ground, the district partners of the project were taken to Dehradun in the March 2019. The purpose of this orientation was to get acclimatise with the district partners of the project, get familiar with the functioning and process of community seed bank and how we can implement this activity in our project area. The visit also aimed to get the district partners know about the different indigenous seeds, which are existing in our target area and how can these be useful and thus promoted in organic farming.

Earth University, Dehradun organised this orientation visit. Team visited one community seed bank at Bhatwadi village in Jaunpur district of Uttarakhand. During the interaction with villagers, it was told that every farmer has a seed bank at their homes and they are preserving the seeds at their homes itself. Whenever, they require any seed from here, they take it then once the crop is harvested, they deposit the double quantity of same seed in the community seed bank. Thus, the seeds are multiplying while it is preserved. 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 .

Knowledge Sharing Meetings (KSM)

For implementation of the activity, initial meetings by the name 'Knowledge Sharing Meeting' were organised with identified farmers at each district. These meetings were focused on three pronged approach, first on preaching the importance of community seed bank, second on as to how indigenous seed of different crops can be promoted in organic farming and the third one is about how cooperative efforts for proper management of a community-based seed management system and traditional methods for seed saving can be adopted for proper functioning of these seed cells. The project team, agricultural experts, NGO district partners were the key resource persons for these meetings.

Details of Meetings

S. N.	District	Block	Gram Panchayat	Date
1.	Kota	Kota	Bhadana	June 20, 2019
2.	Jodhpur	Mandore	Mathaniya	June 25, 2019
3.	Udaipur	Salumber	Salumber	June 28, 2019
4.	Sawai Madhopur	Sawai Madhopur	Sherpur Khilchipur	July 11, 2019
5.	Bhilwara	Suwana	Prawaton ka Aakola	July 12, 2019
6.	Chittorgarh	Nimbaheda	Keli	July 15, 2019
7.	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Barawarda	July 18, 2019
8.	Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan	Asnawar	July 23, 2019
9.	Dausa	Lalsot	Khatwa	July 24, 2019
10.	Jaipur	Bassi	Tunga	January 2, 2020

Glimpses


Knowledge Sharing Meeting of
Community Managed Seed Cell
Ram Krishna Shikshan Sansthan, Kota
20-06-2019
CUTS
Developing a Culture of Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption in the State of Rajasthan (ProOrganic II)
Knowledge Sharing Meeting of
Community Managed Seed Cell
सहयोगी संस्थान :- रुरल डवलपमेंट सोसायटी एण्ड
वोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग ऑर्गेनाइजेशन, सवाई माधोपुर

Feedback Meetings (FM)

After the initial Knowledge Sharing Meetings in all the targeted 10 districts with the selected farmers, who have cooperated, participated and have changed their mode of farming from chemical to organic, there has been Feedback Meetings at same places with group leaders and other farmers. The objective to hold these feedback meetings also worked through three-pronged approach, that is, firstly to discuss the progress of establishing seed cells, secondly to discuss difficulties in establishing it, if any and thirdly to further guide the target farmers to take it forward. This activity got an overwhelming response. However, out of the 10 Feedback Meetings, there could only be six held and four remains as the left out activities due to coronavirus outbreak.

Details of Meetings

S. N.	District	Block	Gram Panchayat	Date
1.	Dausa	Lalsot	Khatwa	January 23, 2020
2.	Udaipur	Salumber	Salumber	January 31, 2020
3.	Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan	Asnawar	February 12, 2020
4.	Sawai Madhopur	Sawai Madhopur	Sherpur Khilchipur	February 19, 2020
5.	Kota	Kota	Bhadana	February 19, 2020
6.	Jaipur	Bassi	Tunga	Pending
7.	Jodhpur	Mandore	Mathaniya	March 17, 2020
8.	Bhilwara	Suwana	Prawaton ka Aakola	Pending
9.	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Barawarda	Pending
10.	Chittorgarh	Nimbada	Keli	Pending
11.	Kota	Kota	Bhadana	February 19, 2020
12.	Dausa	Lalsot	Khatwa	January 23, 2020
13.	Udaipur	Salumber	Salumber	January 31, 2020

Glimpses


बीज बैंक स्थापना बैठक
Knowledge Sharing Meeting of
Community Managed Seed Cell
Ram Krishna Shikshan Sansthan, Kota

Observations

- Identified committed farmers, who processed seeds from a range of individuals/ groups and have been sharing seeds among themselves.
- The target groups followed the principal of 'learn-by-doing' as the best management options to ensure seed purity and quality of seeds they produced on-farm.
- The Community Seed Cell, as a modality for technology delivery, provided management practices on seed health, crop diversification; introduction of improved and tolerant varieties, opportunities for market integration, and in conservation of traditional varieties for active use.
- Presence of local champions, the strong support from the local executives, farmer-volunteers, capacity building and community empowerment are some of the success factors that were identified during the course of this activity throughout.
- Different vegetable seeds like Bottle Guard, Cucumber, Chilli, Tomato, Cluster Beans, Okra and Grains & Pulses according to availability in different districts were collected and preserved at local level.
- For preserving the seeds, the farmers have started using traditional methods like mixing with ash, use of neem leaves and use of vegetable fruits.
- Out of 10 community seed cells, almost half of them have proper storage facilities and all seed cells are having register to keep the track of seeds.
- Maximum seed varieties are distributed among the farmers for multiplication.

Conclusion

Being an activity of different kind and also new to farmers, there has been an interest with enthusiasm and zeal and many group leader farmers have been taking it very seriously with lot of hardships and trying to implement it as per their learnings, which they attained from an exposure of Dehradun early last year. Thus, all the 10 (one in each district) Seed Cells have been created. CUTS project team has also been monitoring the activity very closely and have ensured that at least one member of the project team attend the ground level activity.

Media Coverage

किचन गार्डन

गिरती सेहत को मिलेगा लाभ

खटवा में जिले की पहली जैविक बीज लाइब्रेरी खुली, किसानों को मिलेगा निशुल्क बीज, पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के तहत जैविक गार्डन किचन कंसेप्ट शुरू

रासायनिक खाद से तैयार सब्जियां स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक

जिले की अन्य स्कूलों को भी जोड़ा जाएगा

सर्वाधिक फायदा किसानों को ही

लालसोट। खटवा में पहली ऑर्गेनिक (जैविक) बीज लाइब्रेरी का उद्घाटन करते अधिकारी।

जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने का आह्वान

जैविक बीजों का बैंक बनाया जाएगा

संदेश न्यूज। कोटा. जैविक खेती को प्रोत्साहन देने के क्रम में जैविक उपज के लिए बीज बैंक बनाने का निर्णय किया गया है। कन्जूमर यूनिटी ट्रस्ट सोसायटी जयपुर कट्स इंटरनेशनल के परियोजना निदेशक दीपक सक्सेना ने बुधवार को भदाना में रामकृष्ण शिक्षण संस्था के जैविक खेती प्रोत्साहन के लिए बैठक हुई। संस्थान के महासचिव युधिष्ठिर चानसी ने बताया कि चानसी कृषि फार्म पर बीजों की प्रदर्शनी भी लगाई गई जिसमें जैविक बीजों को तैयार करने फसल चक्र तथा बीजों को संरक्षित करने के उपायों के बारे में विचारों को सांझा किया गया। बैठक में पूर्व पार्षद लक्ष्मीनारायण मालव,

किसानों को बीज की गुणवता में सुधार के बारे में दी जानकारी

बीज बैंक स्थापना बैठक आयोजित

जोधपुर एक्सप्रेस न्यूज

जोधपुर। मरूधर गंगा सोसायटी एवं कट्स इंटरनेशनल, माणकलाव के युक्त तत्वावधान में णकलाव ग्राम पंचायत में ज बैंक स्थापना बैठक योजित हुई। कट्स के योजना अधिकारी राजदीप क ने किसानों को बीज पने खेत में तैयार करने भिन्न तकनीकों के बारे गत कराया और कहा गर हर एक किसान त पर हर फसल का ग्रहण करता है और ज को वर्ष दर वर्ष लेता है तो बीज की सुधार भी होता है, थ बाजार में बीज ने ठगी से बचा जा मरूधर गंगा

भरत कुमार भाटी ने बताया कि यहां पर विभिन्न फसलों के बीजों का संग्रहण कर सामुदायिक बीज बैंक की स्थापना की गई। जहां से किसान अपने जरूरत के हिसाब से बीज ले सकता है परन्तु इसके बदले दोगुना बीज तैयार करके वापस देना होगा, जिससे की उसी फसल का बीज किसान के पास भी तैयार हो जाएगा साथ ही साथ बीज बैंक में भी उस बीज की मात्र बढ़ती रहेगी। अगर सामुदायिक स्तर पर इस तरीके के बीज बैंक स्थापित स्वयं का बीज तैयार हो जाएगा, जिससे किसान की बाजार पर निर्भरता खत्म हो जायेगी और बाजार में होने वाली ठगी से बच सकेगा तथा नकली बीज का खतरा भी नही रहेगा। बैठक में माणकलाव सरपंच बलदेवराम चौधरी, अर्जुनराम मकवाना, पन्नालाल माली, बाबुराम हुड्डा, गणपतलाल मेहरा, मुबारक मिस्त्री, हमीराराम भाटी, भंवराराम सहित अनेक किसान उपस्थित थे। इस दौरान

खिलचीपुर में जिले की पहली जैविक बीज लाइब्रेरी खुली

भास्कर न्यूज | सवाई माधोपुर

प्रो-आर्गेनिक परियोजना के तहत रूडसोवाट तथा स्वीडिश सोसायटी फॉर नेचर कन्जर्वेशन व कटस इन्टरनेशनल जयपुर के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिये किचन कंसेप्ट, किचन गार्डन पद्धति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कार्य किया जा रहा है। खिलचीपुर पंचायत में बीज लाईब्रेरी, हरित आर्गेनिक का विधिवत शुभारंभ किया गया, जिसमें अब किसानों को जैविक बीज फ्री में मिल सकेगा। इस अवसर पर कटस इन्टरनेशनल जयपुर के राजदीप पारीक, धर्मेन्द्र चतुर्वेदी परियोजना अधिकारी, कृषि विभाग के सहायक कृषि अधिकारी रामजीत मीना, योगेन्द्र कुमार कृषि पर्यवेक्षक खिलचीपुर, रणधम्भौर किसान क्लब

सवाई माधोपुर। खिलचीपुर में जैविक बीज लाइब्रेरी का शुभारंभ कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित पदाधिकारी एवं किसान।

के मुख्य समन्वयक छीतर लाल बैरवा मोहन लाल बैरवा, गजानद उपस्थित थे। रूडसोवाट के दिनेश कुमार बागडा ने बताया कि जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिये संस्था द्वारा प्रारंभिक तौर पर राजकीय प्राथमिक विद्यालय देवली व ढूंढा, में जैविक विद्यालय किचन कन्सेप्ट के आधार पर लगाये गये है। जिसमें पालक, मूली, टमाटर, गोभी, मोगरी, मैथी, धनिया की बोआई की गई है। तीन महीने पूर्व में बोई गई सब्जियां अब स्कूलों में बच्चों को मिल डे मिल में खिलाई जा रही है। बीज बैंक में किसानों को जैविक बीज के लिये बाजार पर निर्भर नहीं होना पडेगा तथा किसानों को आसानी से उपलब्ध हो सकेगा। कटस इन्टरनेशनल के राजदीप पारीक ने किसानों को देशी तरीके से खेती करने तथा लगने वाली बीमारियों को जैविक तरह से कीटो को मारने के लिये जैविक उपचार के बारे में जानकारी दी।

Community managed Seed Cell
Review Form

(*To be filled by monitoring team*)

1. Name of the Monitoring Team Member_____

2. Day & Date_____

3. Place of Visit _____ (Gram Panchayat)

_____ (Block)_____ (District)

4. Project Partner_____

5. Number of Farmers' _____ Male _____ Female_____

6. Resource persons_____

_____

6.1 Quality of lectures- Good/Fare/Poor_____

7. Refreshment Given- Yes/No

8. Is proper storage facility (Room/Almirah/Utensils/Bags/Boxes/Clay Pot) available- Yes/No

9. Mention the name of seeds (Crop/Vegetable) available in the seed cell

_____

_____

10. Register for record keeping- Yes/No

11. Seeds are distributed for multiplication- Yes/No

11. Positive aspects of programme

_____

_____

12. Negative aspects of programme

_____

_____

CUTS project team member
Signature

Project partner
Signature