

MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Activity Report



Year 2008-2009

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MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Annual Activity Report for the Year 2008-2009

Manas Rural Development Institute (MARDI) has pleasure to present this fourth Activity Report, after its registration as Company under provisions of section 25 of Company's Act, 1956. Earlier the name of the company was Vedic and Homa Therapy for Agriculture which was formed to augment the farm income of the farmers. Persistent experiments in the field of organic agriculture by following ancient and Vedic agricultural practices prompted the promoters of the Company to promote organic farming in the near by villages. The aim and idea was very limited to fellowmen near vicinity where physical attention can easily be provided. The results were very encouraging. It was found that if the farmers are provided farm inputs like seeds, manures etc with the know how on package of practices and assured market linkage, there was considerable increase in farm income of the farmers. It was noticed that on an average the farm income was increased from Rs. 8000 to Rs.16, 000. The Company's desire is to raise this income level to Rs. 50,000 which will require additional efforts for the development of individual farmers in particular and village in general. To broaden the base of the Company the additional objectives were formulated and the resolution was passed to change the name of the Company from Vedic and Homa Therapy for Agriculture to Manas Rural Development Institute. We are very happy to state here that our request was considered by the competent authorities and we have received the approval for the same on ninth day of June, 2008. Now we are poised to undertake the village and cluster development programmes with the holistic approach.

Programmes Implemented during the year 2008-2009

1) Training Programme on Organic Farming and Certification

At the instance of National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF), four training programmes were conducted as under:

Sr.No.	Dates	Villages	No. of farmers
1	23-24 Sept, 2008	Sajivali, Birwadi, Sarangpuri	113
2	26-27 Sept, 2008	Sajivali, Kukambe, Pimpalgaon	174
3	19-20 Jan, 2009	Saralambe, Khutadi, Arjunali	98
4	23-24 Jan, 2009	Sane, Bhatsai	46
5	7-8 Feb, 2009	Pimpalpada, Kalepada	69

- Topics covered
- Organic farming methods
- Organic certification
- Internal Control System
- Peoples participation in rural development through SHGs
- Crop production technology by organic farming methods
- Marketing of organic products
- Farm demonstrations on preparation and use of various organic inputs or local formulations like Bijamrut, Jivamrut, Dashparni Ark, Nimboli Ark etc
- Vermi composting

The experts to address the farmers included the experienced faculties in the field of Organic Farming and its Certification and Self Help Groups. The representatives from the State Agriculture Department were also invited to appraise their schemes for the benefit of the farmers. The response of the participants was really encouraging.

2) Promotion of Women Self Help Groups

The SHG movement has taken root in India and is contributing in poverty alleviation, and more importantly women empowerment. Manas are involved in rural development since a decade and mainly concentrating on promotion of Homa Organic Farming through FIGs / SHGs for sustainable livelihood. Manas have initiated necessary steps to promote the women SHGs in the select villages of Shahapur Taluka. Our efforts will also continue to regenerate the dormant or defunct SHGs promoted by other NGOs and Organizations under various Government Sponsored Programmes. So far we have conducted meetings of members of 84 women Self Help Groups from more

than 22 villages. The SHG members have shown their willingness to adopt income generating activities both farm and non farm based activities. MARDI is working on these important aspects and already in dialogue with the pioneer institutes like AFC and NABARD.

3) Group Organic Certification (ICS)

MARDI has successfully completed group Organic Certification for group of farmers with following data.

Sr.No.	Particulars	Details
1	Certification Agency	NOKA, Pune
2	Standards	NPOP and EEC 2092/91
3	Inspection date	21.06.09
4	No. of farmers	321
5	Area	250 acres
6	Crops	Paddy/Vegetables

4. Training to other NGO personnel

MARDI have also successfully conducted Trainers Training Programme on Organic farming and Micro-finance to the Master Trainers of other NGOs operating in the Thane and adjoining districts. The noted NGOs are Sukhbhumi and Bridge Trust working in these areas. These NGOs expressed their satisfaction over the training inputs provided to them. Thus MARDI got the leading edge over others working in these fields. Two programmes on Homa Jaivik Krishi were also conducted for the representatives of Five Fold Path Mission organization at Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh.

5. Programme on Climate Change and Environment Awareness

As already done in the past our Chief Co-ordinator of Rural Development Projects, Dr.S.M.Kshirsagar has provided his faculty supports to conduct the programme on climate change to the 200 students of one of the colleges from Shahapur. The programme was conducted at Forest Training School (FTS), Shahapur. Similar programmes have been conducted at our MANAS Krishi Farm Sajivali. The topics covered were Global Warming, Climate Change, and Habitat Development etc.

6. Seed Production Programme

MARDI have already pioneer in Rice seed production programme in Thane District. The programme now also extended to Wada and Bhiwandi Talukas of the district. This has resulted increase in number of farmers to 500 plus and total procurement exceeded 500 plus tones of paddy seeds. Mahabeej, a Government Seeds Producing Company is actively participating in this programme. By and large the seed production programme is being implemented on the line of organic farming methods.

7. Programme on National Horticulture Mission

MARDI have also plans to implement the Organic Certification programme with the right earnest in the Shahapur Taluka of Thane district particularly for vegetables. Okra (Bhendi) production has already taken its roots in the Taluka and it is now poised to earn export earnings for the producers. **MARDI** thought it feet to implement NHM programme on organic certification of vegetables grown in this Taluka. The villages were selected on the basis of area under vegetables and farmers list and other documents were collected. The programme will be implemented in 11 villages of Shahapur Taluka of Thane district for the benefit of 564 farmers with the cultivable area admeasuring to 600 hectares.

8. Promotional Publications

MARDI brought out booklets on Organic Farming and its Certification and the booklets have been made available for the other NGOs for distribution of the same to the participants attending the training programmers.

.Agriculture calendar based on biodynamic farming practices were prepared and distributed amongst the farmers. The organic farming practices, input production and its use have been dealt in Marathi and Hindi for the benefit of farmers. Many farmers started using this calendar for carrying out farm operation and preparation of farm inputs

Acknowledgement

MARDI is very happy to place on record its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everybody and every organization which have helped us in organizing various programmes and activities throughout the year most successfully. We really owe a lot to them for this act of kindness and sure to receive same help and patronage in our future endeavors too.





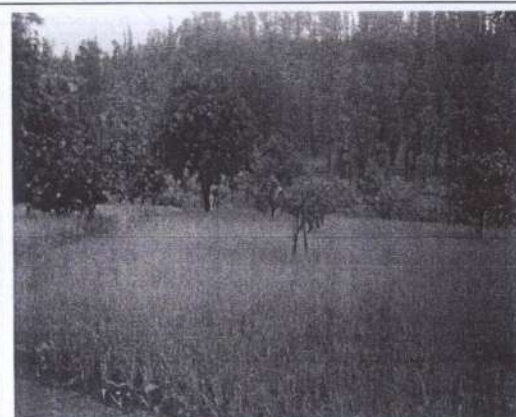
Preparation of Jivamrut



Application of Jivamrut while transplanting



SHG Members' Monthly Meet



Use of Vermi-Compost in Paddy & Mango Fields



Members seeing the Mango Plantations



Mulching in Mango Plantation



Village level farmers' meet



Women's Participations in awareness program



Distribution of Agricultural Calendar to farmers



Farmer's feedback on Organic Training Program



Soil Testing at the farmer's farm



Farmers' registration at village level Training Program