

# MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

## ACTIVITY REPORT



**Year 2009-2010**

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**MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**  
**Annual Activity Report for the Year 2009-2010**

Manas Rural Development Institute (MARDI) has pleasure to present this fifth Activity Report for the year ended 2009-2010. The Company is registered under the provisions of Section 25 of Company Act, 1956. The provisions depict the Company as “Non Profit Company”.

We heartily welcome Dr. R.K.Pathak, an eminent Horticulturist of the country and strong promoter of Homa Organic Farming to our Company and under his able leadership as Vice-Chairman of the Company we are confident that the Company shall rise to the new heights in its objectives and goals, we wish him all our best wishes in his endeavors.

**Economic Scenario**

The Indian Economy achieved a significant growth during 2009-10, despite a global recession and a delayed and sub-normal monsoon in the first half of the year. As per the advance estimates of GDP for 2009-10, released by the Central Statistical Department (CSO), the economy is estimated to have recorded growth at 7.2% in 2009-10, with the growth in industrial and service sectors reported at 8.2% and 8.7% respectively. This is despite a negative growth of 0.2% in agricultural sector as a consequence of sub-normal monsoon.

Deficiency in rainfall in the south west monsoon during 2009-10 severely affected Kharif crop, especially paddy. As per the first advance estimates, covering only Kharif crop, production of food grain is estimated at 98.83 million tones in 2009-10 as against 117.70 million tons estimated for the Kharif season of 2008-09 and a target of 125.15 million tones set for 2009-10. As against this, the total food grains production in 2008-09 was the highest at 233.88 million tones.

## **Solution lies here**

Mr. Kulkarni founder Chairman of MARDI with the experiments in chemical based farming practices at his own Manas Krushi Farm (200 acres plus) realized that the chemical farming is not sustainable and to make it sustainable and profitable it needs different vision. Cow centric farming with organic practices integrated with the Homa therapy for agriculture was happen to be the best possible solution to solve above-mentioned pertinent problems faced by our country today. "The need gives the birth to vision". It prompted Mr. Kulkarni to promote Homa Organic Farming and more precise to follow ancient techniques, not blindly but rigorously since 2001. The aim and idea was very limited to fellowmen in near vicinity where physical attention can easily be provided and could be self reliance from resources point of view. It was however, beyond expectation, the response achieved from all associate farmers within further couple of years, felt need of expansion of activities in broader perspective. As well as systematic and organizational approach felt necessary to raise the resources from every corner of the Globe give birth to Vedic and Homa Therapy for Agriculture as Company registered under provisions of section 25 of Company Act, 1956 and subsequently to broaden the base to accomplish still wider objectives the name of the Company was further changed to Manas Rural Development Institute.

**In fact Homa Jaivik Krushi conceived by MARDI is based on reorienting and integrating our traditional technology for mitigating the aforesaid crises and showing a path of sustainable agriculture which can be taken up by any organization and replicated in other parts of the country.**

## **Broadening the area of operation**

**MARDI** has crossed the border of Thane district of Maharashtra and now already started its operations in the field of cow centric Homa Jaivik Krushi in two districts each of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. These districts are Surendranagar and Rajkot of Gujarat and Indore and Khargon from Madhya Pradesh. Agakhan Trust, Sylva and Five Fold Path Mission, Maheshwar, these two trusts have been associated with MARDI to look after the work of Homa Jaivik Krushi in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

With this we are proud to state here that our coverage of farmers already crossed the magic figure of 20,000.

## **Programme Implemented during the year 2009-2010**

### **1. Organic Farmers Meet at Rajkot, Gujarat**

First Organic farmers' meet was arranged for the select pioneer farmers from the Rajkot district at Hotel Grand Regency, on 22.11.2009. The entire hall of the Hotel was overflowing with the attendance of the farmers, press reporters and other NGO personnel engaged in promotion of organic farming. More than 500 farmers attended the meet. MARDI representatives gave in brief about the Manas philosophy on organic farming, importance of cow in organic farming, Agnihotra and its use in purification of atmosphere and crop and animal health, Aahaar Sanhita etc. Shri Kulkarni, Chairman of MARDI gave in brief about the proposed market linkage for the organic produce. The programme was concluded with very enthusiastic note and number of farmers shown their eagerness to follow organic farming practices. In fact this programme gave the boost in extension of Homa Jaivik Krushi practices in Gujarat State and other NGOs like Agakhan Gram Samarthan Karyakram (Agakhan Trust) shown their readiness to arrange huge Kisan mela in Surendranagar district.

### **2. Organic Farmers Meet at Bhuj, Gujarat**

Bhuj District of Gujarat has been pioneer in promotion of organic farming. The informal groups of farmers from the various districts of Bhuj under the leadership of Velaji Bhai Dedhia are following cow centric farming practices for their Mango orchards and other crops. An organic farmers' meet was arranged on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2010 at Bhuj wherein more than 150 select farmers participated. The farmers were addressed by Dr. Ashok Bhai Shah on the subject of Vruksha Ayurveda, Dr.Kshirsagar on the topic of rural development through people's participation by way of Jaivik Krushi Farmers Groups for facilitating small holder's group certification. Shri Kulkarni, Chairman of Manas gave in brief the idea of market linkage development for the organic produce. The farmers have also shared their experiences about the organic farming practices being followed by them.

### **3. Kisan Mela at Syla, Gujarat**

MANAS along with Agakhan Trust conducted huge Kisan mela at Syla on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010. Approximately more than 3,000 farmers from the Surendra Nagar district attended the function to know about the *Homa Jaivik Krushi*. The huge gathering was addressed by the eminent speakers in the field of organic farming and rural development through people's participation through Self Help Groups. The programme created enthusiasm about this novel technology i.e. integration of organic farming with Agnihotra developed by the MARDI amongst the farming community in general and Agakhan Trust functionaries in particular. It was therefore, decided to work jointly for propagating *Homa Jaivik Krushi* amongst the farmers in the selected villages of Surendra Nagar and Rajkot Districts of Gujarat and develop marketing linkages for the organic farm produce. Therefore to begin with, a decision was taken to conduct two days comprehensive training programme for the Service Providers and some Kisan Mitras who are working with Agakhan Trust who can act as Master Trainers for further providing field level training in selected villages.

### **4. Training Programme on Homa Jaivik Krushi at Syla, Gujarat**

Two days Training Programme for the Service Providers and few Kisan Mitras of Agakhan Trust was successfully conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 at Agakhan Trust, Syla campus in Gujarat. This was essential against the background of huge response we received from the farmers of Surendranagar and Rajkot districts of Gujarat during the Kisan Mela. The programme was inaugurated at the hands of Shri Pankaj Bhai Dave, Chief of Syla Centre, Agakhan Trust, Syla, Dr Ashok Shah, Dr. R.K.Pathak, Dr. S.M.Kshirsagar, and Mrs. Irma Garcia by lighting the lamp. In all 24 participants comprising of 16 Service Providers, 6 Kisan Mitras, 2 supporting staff members of Agakhan Trust, as a Team Leader participated in the training. The supervisory staff of the Agakhan Trust also availed the benefit of the training programme and wholeheartedly participated in the practicals on preparation of Jaivik Krushi inputs.

**Speakers:**

The entire training programme was conducted by the key speakers as under:

- Dr. R.K.Pathak
- Dr. S.M.Kshirsagar
- Irma Garcia
- Dr. Ashok Shah
- Shri Narinder Sarwal
- Shri Jitendra Radia

**Topics covered:****Theory with the help of Power Point Presentation:**

- Homa Jaivik Krushi: What, Why and How?
- Four Wheels of Jaivik Krushi
- Integration of Homa with the Jaivik Krushi a new concept
- Success in Organic Farming with Vrikshaayurveda
- Sharing experiences of Homa Krushi and its integration with the Jaivik Krushi
- Internal Control System in Organic Certification and documentation
- NABARDs innovative approach towards Rural Development through its various development schemes
- Conversion period for Organic Certification and role of Service Providers in helping farmers in documentation
- Performing evening Agnihotra jointly in groups

**Practicals:**

- Practice of chanting Mantras and performance of Agnihotra jointly
- Preparation of Bijamrut and Jivamrut
- Practical on Mulching methods
- Practical on preparation of Bio-pesticides

**Films:**

- Film prepared by Manas on Homa Organic farming
- Sendriya Sheti Kalachi Garaj

## **5. Consumer's Awareness Programme (21.02.2010)**

MARDI has created good awareness amongst the villagers of Shahapur, Wada and Bhivandi Talukas on organic farming practices and production of chemical free farm produce which is good for human consumption. However, in order to develop the market linkage it was thought fit to conduct series of programmes for the urban dwellers for creating awareness amongst them about the organic food. One programme was conducted at Hotel Taj President Mumbai on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2010, wherein the experts in different fields addressed the select gathering of participants from elite and high income groups' citizens. The topics included were organic farming methods, cow centric organic farming, importance of Agnihotra in purification of atmosphere and its impact on crops, Aharsanhita and safe organic food. The response from the participants was very encouraging one which prompted MARDI to develop the market linkage for organic produce in city centers for the urban consumers. This will achieve the twin objectives of encouraging farmers to adopt organic practices for food production which will not only reduce the cost of production but will increase the soil health and fetch good remunerative prices. On other hand it will enable the consumers to have easy access for such safe food.

## **6. Training Programme for the Service Providers**

Three days Training Programme for the Service Providers and few Kisan Mitras was successfully conducted from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2010 at Manas Krushi Farm, Sajivali. To begin with a decision was taken to conduct three days comprehensive training programme for the Service Providers and few Kisan Mitras who are working with the MARDI since last two years. Manas Rural Development Institute conceived a new concept of Organic Farming named as "*Homa Jaivik Krushi*" based on systematic harnessing of energy from the everlasting sources in our neighborhood. These sources are the Cosmos, the earth, plants and cow. We at MARDI are of the view that if systematically and synergistically harnessed *Homa Jaivik Krushi* can ensure "Ever Green Revolution" even at this juncture. The 3 days training was confined around this concept. In all 15 participants comprising of 9 Service Providers, 2, Kisan Mitras, 5 supporting staff members of MANAS participated in the training Programme. The

supervisory staff of the Manas Krushi Farm also availed the benefit of the training programme and wholeheartedly participated in the practicals on preparation of Jaivik Krushi inputs.

**Speakers:**

The entire training programme was conducted by the key speakers as under:

- Dr. R.K.Pathak
- Dr. S.M.Kshirsagar
- Mrs. Irma Garcia

The following Guest Speakers were also delivered talks on Internal Control System in Organic Certification and various developmental schemes of the NABARD.

- Shri Prashant Naikwadi, Inspector, NOCA, Pune
- Shri A.Y.Paril, DDM, NABARD,
- Shri Sarwal, Ex-AGM, NABARD

**Topics covered:**

**Theory with the help of Power Point Presentation:**

- Homa Jaivik Krushi: What, Why and How?
- Four Wheels of Jaivik Krushi
- Integration of Homa with the Jaivik Krushi
- Sharing experiences of Homa Krushi and its integration with the Jaivik Krushi
- Internal Control System in Organic Certification and documentation
- NABARDs innovative approach towards Rural Development through its various development schemes
- Conversion period for Organic Certification and role of Service Providers in helping farmers in documentation
- Importance of Deshi Cow in Jaivik Krushi
- Role of Service Providers and Kisan Mitras in propagating organic farming
- Discussion on action points emerged in performance of duties of SPs
- Reporting the progress and development of MIS

**Practicals:**

- Nutrient enriched Compost making , Vermi-compost, NADEP Compost etc
- Chanting Mantras for Agnihotra and doing Agnihotra
- Preparation of Agnihotra Ash Solution Food and its application to the Mango Trees, with chanting of Mantras of Trymbakam.
- Preparation of Bijamrut and Jivamrut
- Practical on Mulching methods
- Performing evening Agnihotra jointly in groups
- Preparation of Dashparni Ark,
- Preparation of Biosol
- Importance of plantation of plants on farm bunds and habitat development
- Green Manuring Practices
- Conducted Written Test

**Films:**

- Film prepared by Manas on Homa Organic farming
- Sendriya Sheti Kalachi Garaj
- Film of Global Warming, Earth in Flames
- Film on Slow Poisoning India
- Film on Agnihotra

**7. Training Programme for Master Trainers**

Two days Training Programme for the representatives especially village level workers of the Agakhan Trust, Gujarat, Five Fold Path Mission, Madhya Pradesh and Manas representatives from Thane districts was successfully conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at Manas Krushi Farm, Sajivali.

**Background:**

MARDI has been pursuing development of *Homa Jaivik Krushi* technology in Maharashtra and adjoining states of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh with the association of other organizations working in the field of rural development. Agakhan Trust is already well established in the drought hit districts like Surendra Nagar and Rajkot for

rural development activities. Similar efforts have been in continuation by the Five Fold Path Mission in Indore and Khargon districts Madhya Pradesh. A series of meetings and discussions were held in this respect and then it was mutually decided to continue the work of rural development in the villages selected by these organizations especially through *Homa Jaivik Krushi* technology developed by the MARDI. Accordingly a special training programme was arranged for the representatives of these trusts along with the Manas representatives on 28-29 June, 2010 at Manas Krushi Farm, Shahapur.

In all 19 participants comprising of 5 representatives from Agakhan 4 representatives from Five Fold Path Mission, M.P. and 5 representatives of Manas working in Thane district and Manas farm Supervisors participated in the training Programme and wholeheartedly carried out the practicals on preparation of Jaivik Krushi inputs.

**Speakers:**

The entire training programme was conducted by the key speakers as under:

- Dr. R.K.Pathak
- Dr. S.M.Kshirsagar
- Shri Narinder Sarwal

**Topics covered:**

**Theory with the help of Power Point Presentation:**

- Need for organizing collaborative skill up gradation training of Master Trainers on *Homa Jaivik Krushi*
- Concept of *Homa Jaivik Krushi* its relevance under the current situations
- Role of cow in agriculture and human health
- Role of Calendar in *Homa Jaivik Krushi*
- Promotion of farmers Interest groups/SHGs
- Concept of Manas Model Jaivik Gram and how to attain it.
- Role of Tree plantation and water in *Homa Jaivik Krushi*
- Field visit on compost preparation, vermi-compost, vermi-wash, Biosol, mulching, Resonance Point, orchard management practices in cashew and mango orchards
- Sharing experiences of Homa Krushi and its integration with the Jaivik Krushi

- Benefits of Mulching, Bio-diversity, cover crops, compost making, vermi-composting, preparation of Biosol, green manuring, companion crops, internal cropping, tree plantations, use of Agnihotra ash for human health and in crop protection, Bio-enhancers and Bio-pesticides
- Organic Certification, Why and How? Conversion period for Organic Certification and role of Service Providers in helping farmers in documentation.
- Internal Control System in Organic Certification for small holders groups.
- Role of Service Providers and Kisan Mitras in propagating organic farming
- Immediate task to be completed for initiation of Homa Jaivik Krushi
- Discussion on action points emerged in performance of duties of SPs

#### **Practicals:**

- Practice of chanting Mantras for *Agnihotra* and evening *Agnihotra* jointly by all participants
- Preparation of Bijamrut and Jivamrut
- Preparation of Biosol
- Preparation of Dashparni Ark for crop protection
- Practical on Mulching methods with Black polythene and organic wastes

#### **Films:**

- Film prepared by Manas on Homa Organic Farming
- Film of GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms)

#### **Action Points emerged:**

For immediate promotion of Homa Jaivik Krushi activities it was decided to implement the following activities on TOP PRIORITY

- To advise farmers to adopt the practices of using Angara, Mahua flowers (*Madhuca latifolia*) for increasing microbial activities in the field. Use of Agriculture calendar for carrying out various agricultural activities and sowing/planting operations.

- Planting Glyricidia on big bunds and Tur on field boundaries and internal bunds to capture nitrogen from the atmosphere.
- Use of Bijamrut and Jivamrut as bio-enhancers for encouraging seed germination and plant vigour.
- Use of Nimbark and Lamit and Cow butter milk & urine as bio-pesticides
- Performing Agnihotra and use of Agnihotra ash in the farms
- Formation of Organic Farmers Groups (OFGs) for adoption and promotion of Homa Jaivik Krushi in contiguous area for ease in certification
- Immediate collection of requisite information of the Model Villages in the prescribed proforma
- Completion of Farm Diaries on priority
- To provide exact time of sunrise and sunset to the SPs to enable them to perform Agnihotra regularly.

## **8. Seed Production Programme**

Company has successfully implemented the seed production programme for rice with the active assistance of Mahabeej, a Government Seed Company consecutively fifth year. The programme has been extended to few select villages from Wada and Bhiwandi Talukas in addition to villages of Shahapur Taluka. More than 500 farmers participated in the programme. The buy-back was to the extent to 600 tons. The farmers could receive more than Rs.1250 per quintal although the market prices were below Rs.800.

## **9. Promotional Publication**

Promotional publication on Indian Gir Cow has been released. The booklet has been received good response from the farmers and other NGOs. The booklets were distributed on gratis to the other NGOs working for promotion of cow centric organic farming in the state of Maharashtra. Dr.R.K.Pathak, our Vice-chairman was instrumental in developing the literature on organic farming as per MARDI's approach. The list of the literature is as follows:

- Homa Training Manual-English
- Homa Training Manual-Hindi
- Manas Rural Development Institute Website: [www.manasorganic.org](http://www.manasorganic.org)
- Scientific Explanation for promotion of Organic Farming: MARDI-Approach
- Jaivik production of vegetables-Hindi
- Jaivik productions of Cashew & Mango
- Jaivik Sheti-Marathi & Gujarati
- Harnessing Cosmic Energy in Agriculture
- Promotion of Homa Jaivik Krushi- MARD's-approach

## **10. Development of Course Material**

Considering the urgent need of course ware for the Homa Jaivik Krishi, an innovative model developed by the MARDI, a detailed course material has been developed. Course contents for the 2, 3, 5 and 15 days training programmes on Homa Organic Farming has been developed. ICS Manual has also been developed for facilitating ICS for carrying out Small Holders Group Certification.

## **11. Participation in Conferences, Seminars and Workshops**

MARDI's experts Dr. R.K.Pathak participated as a resource faculty in the following programmes.

- Innovative Approach to Organic Farming in Horticultural Crops: Need for rapid technology transfer. Lead talk delivered in International Conference (ICH-2009) Horticulture for Livelihood Security and Economic Growth, at Bangalore organized by Prem Nath Agricultural Science Foundation November, 9-12, 2009.and also addressed the faculty member of International Competence Center.
- Acted as Resource person in one day work shop on organic production of mango in Bangalore.
- Delivered a lead talk on Organic Production of Medicinal Plants organized by AFC in International Organic Trade Fair organized at Mumbai, 2009.

- Homa Jaivik Krushi: A Ray of Hope for Sustainable & Evergreen Agriculture a lead talk delivered in the National Conference on organic farming” organized by Agriculture University, Modipuram, Meerut, March, 2010
- Delivered a talk on Homa Jaivik Krushi a tool to ensure sustainable and Ever Green Revolution in Consultation Meeting on Organic Farming in India held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010 at New Delhi organized by ICAR.
- Organized one day International Conference on Innovative Ancient Techniques in Resolving the current Crises of Soil, Water, and Environment. Acted as Convener and delivered a talk on “Homa Jaivik Krishi a ray of hope for sustainable agriculture”. The Conference was sponsored by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, Gayatri Pariwar, Hardwar, and India Water Foundation.
- Dr. S.M.Kshirsagar has also participated as lead Resource faculty in the workshops and seminars on Eco-tourism and Micro-finance arranged by Agril. Finance Corporation (AFC) for the benefit of JFMC members and staff of Forest Department of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, and other Union Territories.

## **12. Website Development**

MARDI has developed and launched two websites as follows:

[www.manasorganic.org](http://www.manasorganic.org)

[www.manasruraldevelopment.org](http://www.manasruraldevelopment.org)

Both the websites are developed by our experts in the field of Homa Jaivik Krushi and Rural Development. Dr.R.K.Pathak, Ex-Director of Horticulture and Chief Consultant of National Horticulture Mission has been instrumental to devise the website on organic farming while Dr.S.M.Kshirsagar, Ex-Chairman of Bhandara Regional Rural Bank and Hon. Professor of Yashwantrao Chavan Open University, Nasik has devised website on rural development through promotion of SHGs and peoples participation.

## **Acknowledgement**

Organization is very thankful to everybody and every organization that helped in organizing various programmes and activities throughout the year.



Inaugural function of Meet on Eco-friendly partnership between farmers and consumers at Hotel Taj, Mumbai



Skill Development Program of Women SHG members



Cashew Nut Plantation at Manas Krushi Farm



Indian Holy-Cow Goshala at Manas Krushi Farm



Trainee participants observing Vermi Compost Unit



Biosol Making Unit



Training on Homa Jaivik Krushi at Agakhan Trust, Sylva, Gujarat



Performing Agnihotra at Sylva, Gujarat



Organic meet at Rajkot, Gujarat



Joyous moment during the Organic Meet at Rajkot



Performing Agnihotra at Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh



Performing Agnihotra at Sylva, Gujarat