

# MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

## Activity Report



**Year 2010-2011**

Address

304, Sunflower Tower, Kharkar Lane, Thane 400601.  
Maharashtra, India.



Eye check Camp at Manas Krushi Farm, More than 220 attended the camp, 14 cataract operations performed



Performance of Agnihotra by the farmers in Machalpur khurd village in Madhya Pradesh



Manas Team at Statue of Peace, Nagasaki, Japan



Performance of Agnihotra on Costa Classica in sea



Effect of Agnihotra Ash on Organic chilies production



Preparation of Bio-enhancers and Bio-pesticides

**MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**  
**Annual Activity Report for the Year 2010-2011**

Manas Rural Development Institute (MARDI) has pleasure to present this Sixth Activity Report for the year ended 2010-2011. The Company is registered under the provisions of Section 25 of Company Act, 1956. The provisions depict the Company as "Non Profit Company".

**Programmes implemented during the year 2010-11**

**1. Post Harvest Awareness Programmes at the Villages**

Manas has been undertaking seed production programme of paddy crops with the market linkage of Mahabeej since last five years. This year Manas with the Mahabeej Officials has undertaken series of awareness programmes at the select villages on post harvest technology and preparation of farm produce well for the seeds. This has helped the farmers to secure better remunerative prices for their paddy crop. As in the past Manas has been already pioneer in Rice seed production programme in Shahapur, Wada and Bhiwandi Talukas of Thane district. This has resulted increase in number of farmers to 600 plus and total procurement exceeded 600 plus tonnes of paddy seeds.

**2. NABARD's Assistance under FTTF for Training Programmes**

NABARD has facilitated number of Farmers' Clubs throughout the country. Their key role relates to dissemination of locally appropriate technology, development of skills for enhancements of production and productivity in rural areas. Looking to our efforts in rural development and people's participation NABARD has sanctioned us grant assistance for conducting four training programmes on organic vegetable cultivation for the farmers.

**3. Training Programme for the Master Trainers from Malaysia**

The Malaysian Agriculture is characterized by two distinct sectors, namely the plantation sector and the smallholders' sector. Major crops are oil palm, rubber, rice, mixed horticulture, coconut and orchard. Over-dependence of these primary commodities has

made it necessary to use large quantities of chemical fertilizers in order to sustain yield and production. However in recent years, as a result of growing concern on health hazards posed by chemical fertilizers, there is now a concerted effort to review the use of these fertilizers and place more emphasis on use of organic manures. However, to learn more about the organic practices, few plantation farms requested us to impart the training to their Master Trainers. Accordingly full-fledged training programme was arranged for these Master Trainers at our Manas Krishi Farm. Dr. Pathak and Dr. Kshirsagar imparted the training on organic farming methods, use of bio-enhancers and bio-pesticides, use of Bio-dynamic calendars, organic certification process etc. The participants expressed their happiness on the training atmosphere and training inputs received by them. They are now happily practicing these systems in Malaysia especially in plantations.

#### **4. Massive Tree Plantation Programme**

We have undertaken massive tree plantation programme in the select villages of Khargon district of Madhya Pradesh. This includes, Triveni plantation means Bananyan, Peepal and Neem trees were planted because of their oxygen releasing capacity. It is reported that 40 percent of the Honey bees had been died because of the use of chemical pesticides. Honey bees contribute to a great extent in the pollination which in turn contributes to better production of the crops. That's why we selected to plant flowering trees as there will not be any need to spray chemicals on the trees and honey bees will be safe. Plantation of bamboo, as farmers requires bamboo a lot in farming activity or for household purposes. Plantation of bamboo on the hedges was motivated so that it can also act as a barrier from the nearby chemical farms. This plantation Programme has been implemented in the villages viz Palapalasia, Jethvay, Berfad, Mathela and Netangaon, Ratanpur from Khargon district of M.P. with the active participation of the villagers. This has created lot of awareness and love for the trees.

## **5. Distribution of Bio-dynamic Agriculture Calendars to the farmers**

As done in the past this year also we distributed 2000 agricultural calendars to the farmers from Thane district from Maharashtra, Khargon and Indore districts from M.P. and Rajkot and Surendranagar district of Gujarat engaged in organic farming practices. Agricultural Calendars which are also known as Bio-dynamic Calendars are based on the principle that the life pattern of all living organisms are interwoven into cosmic rhythms. Human life, as well animal and plant life is strongly dependent on the rhythms of the earth and moon. On the basis of such influences, agricultural calendar is prepared for the year, 2011-12. It needs to be emphasized that there is definite loss of forces which can be observed while cultivation, sowing and planting are carried out on these particular days, in the same way as positive cosmic forces are active at other times which stimulate plant growth, improve health and increase the yield. Since moon is closest to the earth, hence its movement has much pronounced effect than other planets. Every page of the agriculture calendar has been the full of information by pictorial presentations on Organic farming, how to prepare bio-enhancers and bio-pesticides and their application methods, Agnihotra and its impact on atmosphere and plants, package of practices for the important vegetables like Okra, Tomato and Brinjals etc. The farmers found these calendars very handy and useful to carry out their agricultural operations and reap the harvest.

## **6. Indian Holy Cow in Bhagwat Katha on Sea**

Bhagwat Katha was arranged by Giriraj Seva Trust on Charter Cruise, Costa Classica for two weeks. The Katha was recited by his Holiness Shri Radhey Shyamji Shashtri. Around 1300 people from the length and breadth of the country and Nepal attended the Bhagwat Katha. Mostly people from the Industries and Business Communities participated in the Katha. MARDI was invited by the Giriraj Seva Trust Authorities to speak on Indian Holy Cow and our ancient techniques of farming including Agnihotra. A group of 7 people led by Shree Vyankatesh Kulkarni, Chairman, Manas Rural Development Institute participated. The Group presented the various topics of Homa Jaivik Krishi and Rural Development with the help of Power Point Presentation at Costa Classica. In his inaugural speech Shri Vyankatesh Kulkarni, Chairman of the Manas

Group highlighted the purpose of presentations, topics to be covered, Manas Technology of Rural Development, Current problems faced by the people in India and entire world. He stated that the cow centric organic farming is a ray of hope for sustainable agriculture under the current situations. He also emphasized that if any organization/NGO is involved in the rural development through organic farming, Manas can help them in skill up-gradation and logistic support for backward and forward linkages.

Dr. Kshirsagar has made a presentation and given scientific explanations for the role of Holy local cow (indigenous breed with hump) in agriculture and human health.) He explained the scientific reasoning for ancient beliefs and rituals associated with cow and cow products. He also narrated the Manas plan of reestablishing the Indian cow for solving the current problems in agriculture and requested the participants to be active partners in this mission. Mrs. Irma Garcia gave a brief presentation on performing Agnihotra for the better environment, crop management and human health. She emphasized that world is passing through pollution crises. *Agnihotra* at this juncture is crucial and can help in changing the mindset and individuals who could become active members in saving Mother Nature and promotion of *Homa Jaivik Krishi* and rural development. Dr. (Mrs.) Nandita Arbatti gave a presentation on Human Health and *Aahaar Sanhita*. She emphatically said that as far as possible junk foods need to be avoided. Her main emphasis was selection of right kind of food according to different seasons, (*ritues*) and *prakities* i.e. *Vata, pitta* and *kafa*). She also elaborated timely intake of food is essential for normal digestion. While thanks giving, Dr. Pathak gave a brief account of "*Homa Jaivik Krishi*" which is based on harnessing energy sources from cosmos, mother earth plants and cow for sustainable agriculture. He emphasized that this technology will improve crop productivity, soil fertility and environment. Manas with a decade experience, is of the view that for saving the planet earth, assertive promotion of *Homa Jaivik Krishi* is the need of the hour and requested for every member to be an active partner in order to assure quality of life for the future generations. The presentations made by the MARDI representatives were very well received by one and all.

## **7. Homa Jaivik Krishi Technology Meet at Hotel Oberoi**

Our NGO is involved in research and development activities pertaining to value additions of the agriculture produce for the benefit of the farmers. We have developed suitable technologies for wheat flour, Masala pounding machines, User friendly moisture less Jaggary, Pulses and rice milling and ghee etc. The prime objective to develop these special processes is to provide the nutritional food without loss of flavor, colour, aroma and basic essential ingredients. In order to display and make awareness regarding our technologies we called upon eminent personalities in the field and subject, and a special Technology Meet at Hotel Oberoi was held on 11.10.2010. The meeting was attended by Shri B.M.Vyas and eminent personalities from the marketing field. Shri Vyankatesh Kulkarni in his introductory talk highlighted the importance of organic food produced with adoption of Homa Jaivik Krishi techniques developed by MANAS. It is integration of all Jaivik methods developed by the various experts with the Homa i.e. performing Agnihotra. He has also apprised the meeting that MARDI is going to help the farmers to tap the consumers market in a modest way so that both the producers and consumers are mutually benefitted. That's why this meeting has been arranged to promote eco-friendly partnership between farmers and consumers. He also briefly narrated how Manas has reinvented our ancient technology of food production and its further processing so that the essential nutrients are not lost which is of prime importance to maintain the good health.

Dr. Pathak with help of power point presentations explained in brief about the Homa Jaivik Krishi Technology. He apprised the house that, majority of the organic farming systems developed by various promoters is taking care of only Rhizosphere. However with integration with the Homa Biosphere is also taken care of. Since it has been scientifically proved that around 96 per cent of plant nutrients are derived from the biosphere. Hence purification of Biosphere with the help of Homa i.e. with the performance of Agnihotra, the atmosphere can be very well healed and healed atmosphere will heal the entire human populace. He has also explained the importance of agriculture calendar and performing Agnihotra. Shri B.M.Vyas has shown his interest in performing Agnihotra. An Agnihotra Kit was handed over to him as a token of love

and affection from the Manas. Dr.S.M.Kshirsagar, then explained how this Homa Jaivik Krushi technology was spread amongst the villages with the peoples participation. This was done through promotion of women self help groups and Farmers interest Groups for carrying out small holder's group certification through ICS. He also briefed about the village level awareness programmes conducted by the Manas for adoption of this technology. Picturised presentation was used for the purpose. He gave in brief idea about the opening of centers and conducting awareness meetings in Maharashtra, M.P. and Gujarat, taking number of villages over 500 with the agriculture acreage more than 10,000 acres under organic cultivation. Dr. (Mrs.), Nandita Arbatti, talked in brief about the Aahaar Sanhita and importance of food intake as per Ritues. She also explained in length about the importance of ancient way of food processing and preservation and our rich traditions to maintain the nutritive value of the food products. She apprised the meeting that Manas is coming out with the more than 150 food recipes ready to cook for the benefit of the consumers. Shri Rajiv Anikhindi in his talk informed the meeting in brief about the marketing strategy to be adopted for supply of ten essential food items to the consumers especially of high income group of elite class people so that the organic food producers can be benefitted to the greater extent.

#### **8. Lighting Tribal Houses:**

There are certain tribal villages which are still starving of electricity supply. As such they have yet not seen the light from the electricity in their houses. Manas have distributed 15 rechargeable solar lantern and tube lights to such tribal household in the Sajivali and Thadyacha Pada in Shahapur taluka. This has especially helped the school going children to complete their study at night also.

#### **9. Free Eye Check-up Camp at Manas Krushi Farm**

An Eye Check-up Camp was organized at Manas Krushi Farm on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, where 6 specialist Doctors and Ophthalmic Assistants of Tulsi Eye Hospital, Nasik conducted the eye check-up session. The eye checking was done in the well equipped mobile van of the Tulsi Eye Hospital. It is a step towards humanity by providing eye check-up for the needy village folk and backward tribal community the society. 222

villagers received the benefit of the free eye check-up. Some beneficiaries were also provided eye drops for eye lubrication. As the saying goes, precaution is better than cure, MARDI's eye check-up camp is a step of prevention from any eye problem in any villagers. This session identified any vision problem or any such eye related infection or disorder in person. As these beneficiaries belong to the weaker sections of the society, MARDI has borne all the expenses for conducting the camp. The camp witnessed experienced doctors of Tulsi Eye Hospital which is pioneer in eye treatments in surgeries, providing the best of check-up sessions and giving advices to the villagers who either had some vision problem or were suffering from an eye-related ailment. The women Self Help Groups members of almost more than seven villages viz Sajivali, Saralambe, Sawarshet, Pimpalpada, Kalepada, Khutadi and Arjunali wholeheartedly participated in the camp and got the benefit. More than 56 beneficiaries have been advised cataract surgeries which will be done at Tulsi Eye Hospital, Nasik at a very comparatively low cost. So far 14 cataract operations have been successfully performed free of cost. MARDI's team work for successful conduct of the camp was very much admired by Dr. Suresh Patil, Project Officer of Tulsi Trust and shown his readiness to help in conducting many more camps in near future. With the grand success of this Camp, MARDI proposes to have similar eye-check-up camps at villages of Bhiwandi and Wada Talukas in immediate future in co-ordination with the Tulsi Eye Hospital.

#### **10. Our Contribution to Organic Movement**

Our Vice-Chairman, Prof. R.K. Pathak had the commendable contribution towards promotion of organic movement, during the year under report, as follows:

##### **Papers published**

- Pathak, R.K. Ram, R.A.,Garg, N; Kishun, R, Bhriuvanshi, S.R. and Sharma,S 2010, Critical Review of Indigenous Technologies for Organic Farming in Horticultural Crops, Organic Farming News Letter, June, 2010;pp3-16.
- Pathak,R.K, and Ram,R.A, 2010, Manual on Jaivik Krishi, CISH, Lucknow
- Pathak,R.K, and Ram, R.A, 2010,Jaivik Krishi, Hindi, CISH, Lucknow
- Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Force behind Organic Movement-Hindi

### **Training material developed**

#### **Bulletins finalized**

- Homa Jaivik Krishi-English, pp: 1-27
- Homa Jaivik Krishi-Hindi, pp: 1-67

#### **Literature developed for Training**

- Harnessing cosmic energy in Agriculture
- Harnessing Energy Mediated by Cow
- Harnessing Energy mediated by Plant
- Harnessing Energy mediated by soil
- Integration of Organic Farming Systems for sustainable Agriculture
- Scientific Explanation for promotion of Organic Farming

#### **Papers submitted to ICAR for publication**

- Role of Cow (*Bos indicus*) in promotion of *Homa Jaivik Krishi*
- Harnessing cosmic energy in Agriculture
- Homa Jaivik Krishi: A Hope for Sustainable Agriculture- MARDI's Approach
- Homa Jaivik Krishi (Hindi)
- Organic vegetable cultivation-Hindi
- Integration of Organic Farming Systems for Sustainable Mango Production – MARDI's Approach
- Homa Jaivik Krishi: An Eco-friendly & Sustainable Technology – MARDI's Approach

#### **Participated in Seminars, Conferences and Symposia**

- Chaired session in Indian Horticulture Congress, Organized by Horticulture Society of India 18-21, November, 2010 and delivered a talk on "Homa Jaivik Krishi- way for sustainable horticulture.
- Homa Jaivik Krishi: A Ray of Hope for Sustainable Agriculture- Case Studies. Brain Storming Conference organized by Natural Resource Management, ICAR, New Delhi, December, 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010
- Participated in National Seminar on Precision Farming in Horticulture, December, 28 & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Delivered a lead talk on " Plant Bio-enhancers: Potential and Affordable Source for Fertigation" organized by College of Horticulture, Jhalawar, of Maharana Pratap, University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur
- Participated in 10<sup>th</sup> National Congress of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences held at Lucknow on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February and delivered a lead talk on

"Homa Therapy and its impact in mitigating on environment, soil and water crises"

- Organized brainstorming discussion with Senior Faculty of department of Environmental Sciences, IIT, Mumbai along with Dr. Ulrich Berk, President Homa Farming Association, Europe on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2011.
- Participated in National Symposium cum Brainstorming Conference on Organic Agriculture on 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 organized by Department of Organic Agriculture of CSK University of Agriculture & Technology, Palampur, HP. Chaired a session and delivered a talk on "Homa Jaivik Krishi-a ray of hope for sustainable agriculture".
- Participated in National "Symposium on Technological Intervention for Sustainable Agriculture on 3-5<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 organized by College of Forestry and Hill Agriculture, of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology. Delivered a lead talk of Homa Jaivik Krishi an effective tool in assuring sustainable agriculture
- Participated in Annual Conventional of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences held on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, June, 2011.
- Participated in National Workshop on "Improving productivity of Agriculture in MP on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June. Delivered a talk that Homa Jaivik Krishi could be a viable option, needs to be promoted.
- Participated in International Conference on "Organic Bihar on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011. Chaired a session and delivered a talk on Organic production of mango.
- Participated in Kishan Gosthi on 28<sup>th</sup> June in Sujangarh, Rajasthan and demonstrated practically how a group of farmers can initiate Homa Organic Farming-a joint effort.
- Addressed Faculty member of Central Arid Zone Research Institute and delivered a Talk on "Homa organic Farming an effective tool to mitigate water and soil constraints- need institution attention.
- A team of five representatives visited Bio-fach, and ICCOA, India, 2010, International Organic Fare December, 7-9 on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

Dr Kshirsagar, our Chief Co-coordinator, Rural Development actively participated as an Guest Speaker in the workshops, seminars and training programmes arranged by Agriculture Finance Corporation Ltd, Mumbai on the subjects of Joint Forest Management, Promotion of Self Help Groups for development of forests, Global Warming, Climate Change and Eco-tourism in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. He has been visiting Professor at YCMOU, Nasik for the subject of Agro-journalism

### **Books Published in Marathi: As a Main Author**

- Self Help Groups-Reference Book
- Organic Agriculture-Introduction Booklet
- Organic Agriculture and Certification
- Organic Onion
- Organic Cotton
- Organic Paddy
- Organic Cereals

He has developed the following Training Material essential for Organic Certification

- A Booklet on Organic Certification
- A Training Manual on Internal Control System (ICS) for Group Certification

### **11. 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 programmes. 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 operations and preparation of farm inputs.

### **Our Future Plans:**

### **12. Projects under National Horticulture Mission**

National Horticulture Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by Govt. of India during the year 2005-06. The objective of the scheme is to provide holistic growth of horticulture sector in India and to enhance horticultural production through an area based regionally differentiated strategies. The scheme is fully funded by the Central Government and different components proposed for implementation financially supported on the scales laid down. Presently India is the second largest producers of the fruits and vegetables in the world. Thane district has been pioneer in meeting the demands of fruits and vegetables of the city dwellers from Mumbai. As such area under fruits and vegetables is growing rapidly in Shahapur, Bhiwandi and Wada Talukas of the

district. To develop appropriate infrastructure we have submitted the following proposals to NHM for their consideration and sanction.

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Cold Storage                       | Rs. 43.50 lakhs |
| • Pre-cooling Unit                   | Rs. 25.00 lakhs |
| • Collecting, Grading & Packing Unit | Rs. 26 lakhs    |
| • Organic Group Certification        | Rs 200 lakhs    |

We have already received the letter of Intents from the concerned authorities. After sanction of these proposals the necessary infrastructure will be created at our Manas Krishi Farm, Sajivali in Shahapur Taluka of Thane district.

### **13. International Knowledge Centre**

Manas Rural Development Institute has already conducted various training programmes in respect of agriculture and rural development since a decade. We now intend to have an International Knowledge Centre at our Manas Krishi Farm at Sajivali in Shahapur Taluka of Thane district. In the background of lush green plantations and green fields of more than two hundred acres of area just beneath the Bhatsa Dam, it will be of its own kind and unique. This organization will promote the traditional indigenous knowledge and systems used in areas like organic farming, biodiversity conservation and are also involved in imparting training to farmers, NGOs and students. The Centers main focus would be specifically in three areas, biodiversity conservation, organic agriculture and Ayurveda and Aahaar Sanhita for human wellness.

### **14. Training Centre on Bee Keeping**

Bees are needed for the eco-balance on the planet. All over the world, bees are dying on huge scale due to indiscriminate use of pesticides. Even if we employ all known methods of improving soil and sustainable organic agriculture, if the bees continue to die, human beings cannot survive. This is a big danger to agricultural production in general and human survival in particular. Contrary to this in area where, Homa Farming is practiced, bees are more active which is required for effective pollination and there is marked improvement in production and quality of products. Hence, consideration of

establishing a training centre at MARDI will open a new avenue in accelerating honey production and its everlasting impact on ailing environment. It is heartening to know that the Maharashtra State Khadi and Village Industries Development Board, Thane District Office has rightly initiated the steps for promotion of apiculture in the district. KVIB is going to implement a special programme on training on bee keeping and its promotion in Shahapur Taluka of Thane District. We have submitted the proposal for opening a Training Centre on Bee Keeping at our Manas Krushi Farm, Sajivali for the same.

#### **15. Support to Marketing of Organic Produce**

We had already made inroads for organic movement in five districts of three states with the farmers' participation. Group certification is in progress. Now in order to fetch good prices for the organic produce we are going to start own marketing organization to meet the consumers demand for the organic produce and also to benefit the farmers for providing them a common platform for the marketing and fetching good remunerative returns.

#### **Acknowledgement**

MARDI is very thankful to everybody and every organization that helped in organizing various programmes and activities throughout the year. We are also sure to receive the same co-operation and patronage in our future endeavors.

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Our Sonchapha orchard at Manas Krushi Farm



Golden Flowers ready for market



Technology Meet at Hotel Oberoi, Mumbai



Presentation on Aahaar Sanhita



Master Trainers visiting organic Mango orchard



Cow Centric Organic Farming is a key

Books Authored by our Vice-Chairman, Prof. R. K. Pathak

