

MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Activity Report



USE OF BULLOCK POWER IN ORGANIC FARMING

Year 2012-2013

Address

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

Manas Rural Development Institute

Thought Behind...

Aim

- To train and equip farmers with the intention of giving them a sustainable life in the village
- To develop Eco-friendly partnership between consumers and farmers.

Objectives

- To have a systematic utilization and integration of the available natural and human resources for their socio economic development in rural areas.
- Spreading awareness about organic farming using ancient organic technology. Adopting Gandhian philosophy of 'Panchkroshi'.

Philosophy

- Gandhian Philosophy of 'Panchkroshi'.
- A cluster of nondescript villages that unify in order to form a 'Panchkroshi'.
- The philosophy identifies and encourages an Ideal Village Community.

Hypothesis

Manas Krushi Farm is a successful model of organic farming because:

- Farmers from villages are trained in organic farming are able to meet their goal of self sustainability.
- They are successful in maintaining their cultural heritage by practicing Ancient Indian techniques.
- They optimize the utilization of resources.

Thesis

- Raising Funds by selling the agricultural produce to educate the farmers about environmentally viable methods of farming to eventually increase the socio-economic status and standard of living of the farmers.

Approach

For quite some time now, India has continuously been projected and stamped as a country of the poor. And truly so...!

The picture is now gradually changing due to the active participation by enthusiastic number of NGOs and dedicated countrymen. Working on the principles of sustainable agriculture,

The Beginning...

- Purchased land in 1994 for establishment of Manas Krushi Farm at Sajivali in Shahapur Taluka of Thane District.
- Up to 1998 conventional methods of farming was followed which was base on usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- It was observed that the conventional method of farming was not profitable due to heavy input expenses on external inputs.
- Hence, during 1999, the entire farm was brought under Organic methods of farming under the guidance of Shri Deshpande, Promoter of Rishi Krushi system of organic farming.
- Homa Therapy for agriculture was also implemented under the guidance of Gurudev Paranjape
- In 2001, Manas Krushi Farm got Certified Organic Status.
- The cost of cultivation was reduced to great extent and the farm produce was chemical free.
- Our survey indicated the farmers in the near by villages were following conventional methods of farming.
- We noticed that more than 70 per cent of the farmers from the adjoining villages were mainly cultivating paddy and other crops during the kharif season which were mainly rain fed.
- Dependence on use of external farm inputs was prominent resulting into input cost escalation.
- The marketing arrangements were also haphazard like conventional.

- The crop yield was low resulting low farm income
- On an average per acre income from the paddy crop was Rs. 8000/-
- Informally we started spreading message of organic farming amongst nearby villages from 2001 onwards.
- It was with the primary focus to augment the farm income of the farmers as a whole and improve their socio-economic status.
- When this activity gathered momentum we incorporated an NGO in 2005 by the name “Vedic and Homa Therapy for Agriculture” to create sustainable platform for promotion of organic farming.
- The NGO was registered as Company under provisions of section 25 of Company’s Act, 1956

Larger Vision

- During the period 2001-05 the focus of the activity was on organic farming alone.
- It was accepted by the farmers from the surrounding villages with overwhelming response.
- Hence it was felt necessary to bring all the activities under organized platform and further continue with the spreading them over larger base.
- The activities developed during this period was mainly on seed production program in association with the Mahabeej and providing marketing support to the farmers for the produce.
- The sailing was smooth between 2005 to 2008 where it became necessary to broaden our vision and maintain organic farming as sustainable activity with help of “rural agriculture infrastructure development”
- The vision prompted change in the name to “Manas Rural Development Institute”.

Our Achievements

- Structured on our working experience in the field, we started evolving a model of Organic Agriculture activities.
- This model supports the main activity of Organic Agriculture and ensures overall development of farmers and surrounding villages.

- We started conducting awareness programmes for the benefit of farmers and women self help groups.
- Suitable cropping pattern was devised to augment the farm income of the farmers
- Two season cropping was achieved with the help of creating irrigation facilities and financial and marketing support.
- In order to increase the income of the farmers we in association with Mahabeej undertook the activity of Paddy Seed production program.
- We started supplying Paddy Seeds procured from Mahabeej to the farmers advising them to adopt suitable package of practices.
- To promote organic farming in the adjoining villages we distributed Gir cows at subsidized rate to the farmers, since organic farming practices are mainly cow centric.
- The activity first started in 10 villages with 131 farmers in the year 2004-05 with total seed production of 22 tonnes has now extended to 20 villages with more than 1000 farmers with total seed production of more than 600 tonnes.
- Through adoption of revised cropping pattern and paddy seed production program It was noticed that on an average the farm income increased from Rs. 8000 to Rs. 15,000.

Programmes Implemented

- **Educational Activities:**

We undertook multipronged approach by training

1. Pre-school children with an objective to prepare and develop the learning habits of children and make a strong foundation for their formal education.
 2. Youth who are acting as a community representative for undertaking implementation of the various developmental programs undertaken by the Organization.
 3. Women: Promotion of self help groups, vocational training, income generating activities, health and nutrition etc.
- Vocational training, environmental awareness, organic farming practices, preparation of bio-enhancers and bio-pesticides etc.
 - Tree Plantation Programme:

- We have promoted tree plantation on large scale by involving school children, members of women SHGs youths and farmers.
- Plants and seedlings were distributed for plantation.
- We have also conducted environmental awareness camps and rallies on Environment Day
- Eye checkup camp:
- Health check up camp
- Milk distribution program: For the proper nourishment of the children of the weaker section from Sajivali Village We distribute milk obtained from our Goshala to free of cost daily.
- Drinking Water Facility: We have also provided drinking water facility to the residents of Sajivali village by Tap Water System.
- Community Hall: We have constructed community hall for the people of Sajivali village for under taking various social activities.
- Promotion of Sports: We are promoting sports activities in the adjoining villages by sponsoring the sports activities.

The Enhanced Programmes

- MARDI realized that organic farming to make sustainable, required backward and forward integration of services & financial stability of farmers.
- This was complied with, seed supply, Vermi-compost supply and further produce was purchased at fixed price for entire season.
- We started undertaking various training programs on the subjects like
 - Seed bank, planting material and nursery development
 - Vermi-composting and other bio-inputs
 - Irrigation systems
 - Watershed development
 - Shed net and Green Houses
 - Micro-finance
 - Marketing support

Our Strength today

- Three centers of our NGO viz Thane of Maharashtra, Rajkot of Gujarat and Maheshwar of Madhya Pradesh.
- About 3000 acres are certified organic and rest in under “in conversion” process.
- About 1600 tonnes seed was produced and sold to Mahabeej.
- Marketing tie-up was developed for more than 6500 tonnes of farm produce successfully.
- Well equipped Organic Farming Training Centre

Future Vision

- It was felt that mere organic farming will not increase the household income substantially unless it is backed by strong marketing.
- It was also felt that the rural youths should also have regular income source as that of salaried employee in order to prevent their migration to cities.
- To achieve this we envisaged the holistic rural development model.
- Holistic Rural Development Model conceived by the MARDI addresses overall issues besides the agriculture promotion like social development, Compliance of Energy needs, Financial Support and Marketing of agriculture produce.
- The project that MARDI initiated is “Eco Friendly Partnership between Farmers and Consumers.
- It envisages the cultivation of organic crop and supplying to end consumer duly processed.

Road Map

- Development of rural agriculture infrastructure that will support value addition and marketing of farm produce
- Cluster based Installation of cold chain and warehousing facilities.
- Value addition processes to be adopted at village level by group of farmers.
- Processes like making Atta from wheat, hand polished rice, cold pressed oil, pulse milling , spice pounding, etc by traditional processed but with modern machinery.

- Further enhancement of value addition till packaging and distribution.
- Optimum logistic support to reduce carbon footprints.

Expected outcome

- With the support of technical guidance , finance and agriculture infrastructure the substantial revenue enhancement is envisaged.
- We propose the receipt of farmer to be enhanced in two phases Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 50,000 in view of creation of infrastructure, value addition process involved and remunerative prices.
- This will be achieved through processing and value addition of the farm products like hand polished rice, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and supplementary income from the milk production.
- We expect the farm income of the farmers to be enhanced to Rs. 70,000 plus in the span of five years.
- For this requisite infrastructure of cold chains, common cow housing, logistics, electricity generation etc will be developed in the cluster of villages with the marketing support.

Testimonials

- Research & Demonstration site (200 + Acres) is certified as Organic Farm since 2001 by Indian, EU and USDA Organic standards.
- Seed production program since 2005, supported by Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation (Mahabeej) in Thane district.
- Accreditation as Facilitator for Organic Horticulture Promotion program by National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Govt. of India.
- Recognized as official Training Agency of Organic farming by National Center of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad.
- Technology collaboration MOU with IADI (Govt. of South Korea) for soybean and other crops

MANAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Annual Activity Report for the Year 2012-2013

Manas Rural Development Institute (MARDI) has pleasure to present this Eighth Activity Report for the year ended 2012-2013. The Company is registered under the provisions of Section 25 of Company Act, 1956. The provisions depict the Company as “Non Profit Company”.

Major Programmes implemented during the year 2012-13

1. Rice Seed Production Programme with market linkage of Mahabeej at the Villages

Manas has been undertaking seed production programme of paddy crops with the market linkage of Mahabeej since long. This year also Manas with the Mahabeej Officials has undertaken series of awareness programmes at the select villages on post harvest technology and preparation of farm for undertaking the seed production. 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 Taluka of Thane district. This has resulted increase in number of farmers and total procurement of paddy seeds. During this year around 12 tonnes of paddy seeds mainly of Karjat 3 and Karjat 5 variety was distributed to 400 farmers from 16 villages of these blocks. The total production was more than 465 tonnes and on an average price received by the farmers was Rs. 1250 to 1320 per quintal against Rs. 700 per quintal in open market. Thus the farmers could gain of Rs. 600 plus per quintal which is about 90 per cent excess than market prices. It is also heartening to note that average yield of Karjat-3 variety of paddy is 10 quintals per acre but due to adoption of improved technology our farmers could produce around 20 to 25 quintals per acre. Thus there is substantial increase in their farm income from the paddy seed production programme undertaken by Manas with the help of Mahabeej. Looking to this success, more and more adjoining villages now had shown their willingness for joining this paddy seed production programme in the ensuing season.

2. Famers Meet at Manas Krushi Farm, Sajivali

In order to increase the income level of the rice growing farmers Manas has arranged farmers' meet at Manas Krushi Farm, Sajivali on 4th Oct, 2012 on the subject of promotion of farmers groups for undertaking organic cultivation. The programme was chaired by Shri Ajay Patil, T.A.O. of Shahapur Taluka of Thane district. The programme was also attended by the members of the women SHGs from the villages in large numbers. Dr S M Kshirsagar gave in brief about the promotion of SHGs in rural areas and agro-based income generating activities to be undertaken by the groups. Shri Vyankatesh Kulkarni, Chairman, Manas also addressed the gathering and appealed the farmers to grow vegetables and pulses organically so that Manas will help them to develop the marketing linkage most profitably.

3. Distribution of Bio-dynamic Agriculture Calendars to the farmers

As done in the past this year also we distributed 1500 agricultural calendars to the farmers from Thane district from Maharashtra, Khargone 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, 2012-13. 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. There was also demand from the other NGOs working in the field of organic agriculture from Thane District. There have been also enquiries from the farmers from Rajasthan about the supply of these calendars to them. We have supplied calendars to them free of cost for the benefit of farmers. This year also we distributed Biodynamic Calendars to our associate NGOs Durvankur from Vashind and Prasad Chikitsalaya from Ganeshpuri and Sukhbhumi from Thane district for the use of farmers clubs and rice growing farmers.

4. Village level Meets of Farmers and Women Self Help Groups

Series of village level meetings were arranged with the association Department of Agriculture for implementation of Organic Farming in the select villages of Shahapur Taluka. This programme included creating awareness on soil health, soil and water conservation for preserving soil bio-diversity, organic farming systems, income generating activities to be undertaken through women self help groups etc. Dr Kshirsagar gave brief idea about the organic farming systems and importance of self help groups in rural development. Shri Ajay Patil highlighted the importance of organic farming systems and government support in boosting the concept. Shri Vasant Hulyalkar gave the idea about the Rice Seeds Production programme being implemented through Mahabeej. The various organic inputs like vermiculture, glyricidia stumps and literature on organic farming etc were distributed amongst the farmers. The villagers and especially members of the women self help groups have shown tremendous interest in the Manas activities and shown their willingness for active participation in the implementation of organic farming and these rural development programmes.

5. Training programme on SHGs for the Motivators of NGO, Prasad Chikitsalaya

Trainers Training Program for the Staff of NGOs was conducted on 23.1.2013, with the following **Objectives**:

- To convince participants of the concept and need of SHGs
- To familiarizes them with the functioning of SHGs and their linkage with banks.

- To equip the staff members of NGO for identifying suitable Income Generating Activities for SHGs.
 - To enable them to design and conduct training programmes in their area
- In all 32 staff members who are working for promotion of women SHGs participated in the program. Dr Kshirsagar, Director, Training and Development briefed the participants regarding concept of people's participation in SHGs, thrift and rural livelihood while Shri Vijay Patil gave details of the income generating activities suitable for the konkan region. The NGO officials expressed their satisfaction over the conduct of the programme and desired to have similar programme for their staff engaged in spreading the message of organic farming.

6. Training of Facilitators (TOF) for the Department of Agriculture

The Training of Facilitators was conducted at the behest of Department of Agriculture on 24.1.2013. In all 30 facilitators participated in the programme. The role of facilitators is very important in implementation of various developmental programmes in the field of agriculture and rural development. The attitudinal change towards rural livelihood has been given importance and hence Dr Kshirsagar taken the sessions on soft skills including communication skills, team work and collaboration, working with the rural people etc. Shri Ajay Patil, T.A.O. Shahapur gave in details about the implementation of the various developmental schemes formulated by the government in the field of agriculture and rural development.

7. Training for Field Staff of Sukhbhumi NGO

The Training of field staff of the Sukhbhumi Trust was arranged most successfully at the request of Sukhbhumi Trust. In fact MARDI has created all requisite infrastructures at its Organic Farming Training Institute, Manas Krushi Farm Sajivali. It is our sincere desire that the other NGOs working in the Thane and adjoining districts should utilize this facility and infrastructure for creating awareness amongst the staff and farming community. In all 60 participants both staff and select farmers participated in the programme. The various topics covered in the training programme were related to concept of organic farming and self help groups. Dr Kshirsagar gave in brief about the

concept of organic farming and Manas jaiwik Krushi based on cow centric organic farming and performance of Agnihotra for the purification. Various demos on preparation of bio-enhancers and bio-pesticides were shown at the demonstration hut. Important session on local cow was also conducted in order to implement the cow centric organic farming. The Group certification concept and marketing of farm produce was explained by Shri Ashwin Raghuwanshi, Director, Marketing of Manas Krushi Industries.

8. Programme on Climate Change and cash Crops in association with TERI

Consultation Workshop was organized by TERI and MARDI entitled “Climate Variability and cash Crops in Maharashtra at Manas Krushi Farm. The Energy Research Institute, a premier organization is working on climate variability and its impact of agriculture. One day workshop was arranged at our Organic Training Institute of MARDI where representatives of prominent NGOs, Progressive Farmers and Govt. Authorities were invited to participate in the workshop. The participants were addressed by Dr Kshirsagar, Ashwin Raghuwanshi of Manas, Shri Jitubhai Kutumutia of Nisarg Farm, Malegaon and Aditi Phansalkar and Prutha Lanjekar, Research Associates, TERI. Three groups were formed to discuss the topics of climate change variability, its impact on agriculture and possible solutions. The Group Leaders presented their findings in brief. At the end the outcome and recommendations of the workshop was as below:

Climate Variability and Organic Farming Systems – Operational Strategies

Main Issues

8.1. Non Pesticidal Management

- Integration - all suitable management techniques preventing pests, reaching damaging proportions.
- Restoring Natural Ecological balance
- Making best use of natural resources, locally available

Operational Main Issues Strategies

- Farmers training in concepts of ecological systems.
- Identifying insect pests/predators – life Cycles

8.2. Community Seed Bank Issues

- To make available good quality seed, locally, in time, affordable price.
- Focus – selection, saving, reusing, maintenance, good quality seed

Strategies

- Matrix of farmers' preferences Vis a Vis yield, price premium, pest and diseases tolerance, Traditional and improved.
- Training of farmers – seed saving, production and maintenance
- Demonstration of new varieties – for specific pest/disease/soil related problems
- Identifying, planning, employment and income generating activities

8.3. Improving Soil Health and Productivity

- Improving Soil Microbial population, Environment
- Soil organic matter, texture
- Promoting Best cropping systems
- Increasing crop and genetic Diversity

Strategies

- Popularizing preparation and application of Panchagavya, Jiwamrut etc.
- Inoculation with Azospirellum, Azotobactor etc
- Biomass plantation – bunds, common lands
- promoting dry land composting techniques, tank silt application
- Azolla

8.4. Cropping Systems

- Currently – Monoculture of crops & varieties resulting pest & disease build up
- Increasing cropping Intensity with rational inter crop & mixed cropping systems
- Situation specific crops based on soil suitability, water budgeting, etc.
- Pulses as inter crop component, in crop - cycle -- mandatory.
- Integrating with live stock Promoting tree based farming systems.

8.5 Village Farmer Federation

Includes crop farmer, Dairy farmer and Horticultural farmer

Basically work on:

1. Production and marketing plans
2. Technical Capacity Building
3. Post-Harvest technologies

8.6 Indicators at Village level

- Productivity of the cropping system, than individual crop
- Increase in net realizable incomes
- Reduction in pesticide, Fertilizer usage
- Extent of Internalization of inputs
- Decrease in Distress and tied up sales
- Increased Nutritional security

9. Women Meet on the eve of Women's Day Celebration

Prasad Chikitsalaya, NGO from Ganeshpuri celebrated Women's Day and arranged "Mahila Milan" huge gathering of the women members of the Self Help Groups. In all more than 2000 women members participated in the meet. The SHG members presented various programmes on different topics related to women health, agriculture, environment and other social aspects. Dr Kshirsagar was invited as a Chief Guest. He congratulated the women members for their awareness in these fields and talked at length the role of women SHGs in rural development. The various income generating activities likely to be undertaken by the SHG members individually and in groups were also suggested since the Thane district offers good scope to start small business on agro-processing and allied activities to agriculture. Smt Nilima Sathe, an eminent Chair person of Lokbharati NGO from Nashik already engaged in spreading the concept of women SHGs talked in brief about the marketing of products and other social development activities that can be undertaken by the SHGs most successfully.

10. On the Job Training on Organic Farming for Malaysian Farm Supervisor

Mr. Raj, Farm Supervisor from the Paramount Farm House Malaysia was sent for the on job training on organic farming at our Institute by the owner Shri Alan Yang. In Malaysia many agriculture farms started adopting organic farming with performance of Agnihotra. Mr Raj was trained in the different components of organic agriculture like soil development, making of garden soil, vermin-composting, preparation of various bio-enhancers and bio-pesticides, drip irrigation techniques, Dairy activity with Brahman

Cows breed etc. Smt Irma Garcia trained him how to perform Agnihotra, chanting of Mantras and preparation of Agnihotra Ash Medicine. The feedback from Mr Alan Yong, owner of the Paramount Farm has been very encouraging. He wished such type of training can be held in Malaysia itself so that the farm supervisors of many such farm houses can be benefitted to learn about the organic agriculture and Homa.

11. Educational and Environmental Awareness Visits

We have developed Manas Krushi Farm and Manas Organic Farming Training Centre with all requisite infrastructural facilities and demonstration huts of preparation of bio-enhancers and bio-pesticides. Well equipped Goshala with the indigenous cow breed of Gir, Floriculture activities with Sonchafa cultivation, other Horticultural plantations like Mango, Cashewnut, Coconut, Jamun, Lemon, Guava, Custard Apple, Amala etc the total piculturlantation on more than 53 acres with more than 5300 trees. The visitors get essential knowledge about the floriculture, horticulture, Dairy, Composting methods, Organic bio-enhancers and bio-pesticides, Homa i.e. performance of Agnihotra for purification and natural blend of scenic beauty surrounded by beautiful mountain ranges beneath the Bhatsa Dam offers an unique opportunity and climate of learning. Many organizations bring their students, farmers, Women members of SHGs etc to visit our farm for happy learning. The major visits during the year as follows:

Name of Organization	Category of Visitors	No of Visitors
RAMETI, Khopoli	Agriculture Dept. Staff Trainees	27
ATMA Roha	Farmers and SHG Members	40
ATMA, Kalyan	Farmers and SHG Members	55
Women SHGs, Murbad	Members of SHGs	33
Farmers Clubs, Nabard	Farmers Clubs of Panvel	13
D'care High School Nashik	Teachers and Supervisors	40
ATMA, Murbad	Farmers and SHG Members	40
Karate Classes	Student participants	30
Prakalp Vidyalaya Bhatsanagar	Students and Teachers	500
FTS, Shahapur	Forest Guards and Officers	123

12.. Free Eye Check-up Camp at Manas villages

year, Tulsi Eye Hospital Nashik started visiting our villages regularly and conducting the eye check-up session at the villages itself. The eye checking is being 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 folks and backward tribal community of the society. Villagers now receiving the benefit of the free eye check-up. Some beneficiaries were also provided eye drops for eye lubrication. As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure, MARDI's eye check-up camp is a step of prevention from any eye problem in any villagers. During their visit vision disorders were identified and treated subsequently. As these beneficiaries belong to the weaker sections of the society, MARDI bears 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 disorders or were suffering from an eye-related ailment. The women Self Help Groups members of almost more than seven villages wholeheartedly participate in such camps and got the benefit. So far 9 cataract operations have been successfully performed free of cost during this year.

13. Drinking Water Facility to villages

The villages from Shahapur face acute shortage of water in summer. Manas have taken an initiative for supplying fresh water to the village Sajivali through Tap system. Special overhead tank was constructed at Manas Krushi farm Sajivali and from this Water Tank the drinking water has been supplied daily through taps to the villagers. Thus the entire village including tribals started getting good amount of fresh drinking water which has diminished incidence of water borne diseases due to contamination. Manas has plans to provide such drinking water facility to other adjoining villages also in near future with participatory community involvement and management.

14. 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 continued distribution of rechargeable solar lantern and tube lights to such tribal household in the tribal padas in Shahapur taluka. This has especially helped the school going children to complete their study at night also. In addition to this Manas have installed one Electricity Transformer with the help of MSEB and supplied electricity to the remote hamlet of Sajivali Village. Around ten houses now got the electricity connection with our initiatives.

15. Organic Training Centre

Manas Rural Development Institute has already conducted various training programmes in respect of agriculture and rural development since a decade. We have now created essential infrastructure like Training Halls, Office Buildings, Guest Houses, Demonstrations structures, unique composting systems from wood chips and other organic material including cow dung and urine. Our dream will come true of establishing International Knowledge Centre at our Manas Krushi Farm at Sajivali in Shahapur Taluka of Thane district. We wish to 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. So far we have conducted more than five programmes on organic farming systems at this institute to the local farmers, college students, NGO staff and Motivators and Farm Houses Staff of Foreign countries like Malaysia. The response is overwhelming. The school and college students, farmers clubs from ATMA, Women SHG members from the various Talukas of the district, Forest Guards and Forest Officers of the Forest Department are regular recipients of the technical knowledge from this Training Centre.

16. 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. We are planning to launch our organic products in the market through our associate companies very soon. Special website has already been launched for this purpose i.e. www.manasorganicfood.com.

17. Organic Agriculture: Promotional Publications

Books Published in Marathi

1. Sendriya Sheti : Shaswat Sheti Ani Pramanikaran (Organic farming and Certification)
2. Mazi Gir Gai (Gir Cow)

Dr Kshirsagar, our Chief 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

. 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

Books to be published in Marathi:

- Why Organic Agriculture and its Certification
- Organic cultivation of Cereal, Pulses and other Cash Crops

- Organic Cultivation of Vegetables
- Organic Fruits Plantations
- Bio-dynamic farming and Homa Jaivik Krushi
- Organic Manures and Bio-pesticides

The drafts of the books have been finalized and the printing of these booklets is in progress.

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.



Rice Seed Production Programme at Saralambe Village



Consultative workshop on climate change by TERI



Visit of students of Management Institute, Mumbai



Distribution of Agriculture Calendars to farmers



Organic Farming Training for the Farmers of Agri.Dept.



Farmers Meet of Agriculture Department



Our Sonchafa floriculture plantation, golden flowers



Visit of the Farmers and Women SHG Members



Organic Mango Plantation at Manas Krushi Farm



Visit of Women SHG Members under ATMA



Farm Supervisor from Malaysia preparing Pachagavya



Local Gir Cow best for Cow Centric Organic Farming



Our Organic Training Centre of MARDI



Full view of the Organic Training Centre



Residential arrangements for the Participants



Organic Farming Inputs Demonstrations Huts



Preparation of Medicines from Agnihotra Ash



Performing Agnihotra at Manas Krushi Farm