

BHARATHI TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 2010

BHARATHI TRUST
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Our Sincere Thanks to...

Bharathi Trust would like to express its sincere gratitude to,

**HIVOS,
ASHA,
CLEAD,
Foundation Roger Riou,
Action Aid International,
AJWS and
TDH**

For their continued support and Irula constructive partnership for building up people's movement, educating the tribal children and Livelihood Support to the victims of Tsunami and flood affected community who were the most marginalized.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

The resource center is an organic is an organic farming community where crops are grown without the use of pesticides and fertilizers. It is meant to serve as a model farm for the community so that they can understand the age old practices of sustainable agriculture which were used extensively in India. The idea is to lead by example and show the farmers that organic farming is a sustainable form of agriculture which is symbiotic with nature.

The resource center crops are grown in cycles which coincide with the various seasons. When the fields are not in use, they are tilled and the leaves that are fallen down are added to them. This lead to the decomposition of the plants which provides nutrients to the farm. It also allows the farms to rejuvenate and recover the nutrients used up in the last cycle. The crop planting season begins right after the first rains. Although, the resource center has a well and a bore well, by waiting for the rainy season they conserve the ground water. The main crop growing are paddy, ragi and jowar.

Mrs. Arokia mary ,B.com(field organiser)is looking after the pallipattu model organic centre, the records of staff engaged in organic centre is maintained by field organizer. Staffs working at the model organic farm are listed below.

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Mrs. Arokia Mary	Field organizer
2	Mr. Pedhappa	field worker
3	Mr. Govindan	field worker
4	Mr. kannan	field worker
5	Mr. Babu	field worker
6	Mr. Kumar	field worker

The field organizer has conducted the meeting during the month of March and April 2010 and discussed about the improvement and development of the organic centre.

Discussions and decisions made during the weekly meeting at the model organic farm

1. Meeting was held at organic centre, all the staff attended this meeting and introducing themselves to the organizer Mrs. Arokia Mary.
2. It was decided to purchase dry grass for cows, since the same was over by the workers during a weekly meeting. This was notified to the organizer and action was taken immediately.

3. Discussion was made about the purchase of Tripler machine to engage water spraying over the field and decided to purchase the same in a weekly meeting.

4. To remove all weeds and collect the same to dumped around plants to be used as pesticide.

SEED NURSERY

1. The nursery is surrounded by “neri” plants which have dense leaves and serve for dual purpose, where they act as wind-breakers and also as manure for the field. These plants have ribosome which also helps provide nitrogen to the soil, while the leaves are added to the soil once on the field has been used.
2. There are also some particular weeds which are allowed to grow with the seeds, these weeds provide nutrition to the soil and provide natural pest control. These also provide some additional benefits; some of these weeds are actually used as natural rodent killers while not harming any other animal.
3. Another interesting technique used is to grow multiple crops in the same field and not growing the same plant next to each other, like growing eggplant. This ensure that the same nutrient does not get exhausted and any pests which affect on a particular plants are susceptible to citrus cancer which does not spread to non-citrus plants like eggplant.
4. The plants are cultivated in rows and are separated by plantain trees and weeds which provide naturals nutrients and prevent the spread of pests.
5. The nursery provides a natural supply of seeds which reduces the dependence on seeds from outside the farm. It also allows them to weed out the plant which is more susceptible to infection.
6. Large number of insects in the nursery including gass hoppers and bees. These insects help transfer pollen and live symbiosis with the plants.

The plants currently being grown in the nursery include tomatoes, eggplant, drumstick, gourd, bitter gourd, spinach. The food crops being grown are ragi, jowar and paddy.

Single Sapling (Othanatham):

Paddy cultivation method in which paddy sapling is not planted as clusters as in traditional methods, but is planted as a single sapling, each 10 – 12 inches away from each other. This method requires land to be irrigated with

ample water (2 inches of water at least). Vermi-compost is sprayed once a week which serves as a fertilizer.

Paddy field
Field is prepared for Plantation



Water is sprinkled in the field using the sprinkler



Paddy field during the Harvest



Paddy field after the Harvest



Banana Plantation (0.50 ACRE)

A new method is followed for growing banana tree. After 300 days, it will give yield. In between banana trees, seeds of cow food, grass are laid. After using this method, we get grass as fodder for 20 cows, use of water is low and it is economical also.

Fully grown Banana Trees



VEGETABLES:

Beet root, onion, carrot, tomato and green chilly are planted in 3 acre and green grasses are grown for feeding cows. 10 numbers of Mango trees and several numbers of teak wood plants are also planted. The resource centre crops are grown in cycles, which coincide with the various seasons when the fields are not used, they are fallen down this leads to the decomposition of the plants which provides nutrients to the Farm. It also allows the farm to recover its nutrients used in the last cycle, the crop planting season begins after the first rains even though the resource centre has its own well and bore well.

Vegetables and Fruits grown in Model Organic Farm



The main purpose of the organic centre is to promote proper training to the farmers in turn they will use the techniques in their own farm in order to get benefit. The farmers from suburban areas started visiting model organic farm.

Storehouse

The storehouse was in good shape and they have been storing grains which are in excess after internal consumption. The long term goal is to be able to sell these to the markets. There was rice which had recently been harvested and was drying. There is also large storage containers were rice from previous harvest was being stored, a large number of sintex tanks were also there for the same purpose. Hay from the last harvest and fodder were also stored for the cows to eat.



Cowshed

The cowshed was being used as a shelter of 10 cows in it. These included 4 calves, 2 cows for purposes of milk and the rest were for tilling the fields. The cow dung is used as manure and is removed periodically.



Panchakavya tanks

There were 2 panchakavya tanks which are made of concrete. Panchakavya is a concoction prepared by mixing five products of cow. The three direct constituents are cow dung, urine and milk; the two derived products are curd and ghee. These are mixture which is made using yeast as a ferm enter, bananas, groundnut cake, and the water of tender coconut, is a potent organic pesticide and growth promoter.

Compost tanks

The compost is grown in cycles were at any given time 2 tanks are in use while others are been prepared for next season. The composting pit is made of bottom layer of clay forward by next layer of green leaves from plants. These leaves are then covered with some top soil and cow dung which is then made a bit firm. Then some earth worms from previous batches are introduced here. The earth worms tend to dig from the top soil all the way down to the leaves which they consume.

The earth worm excrete is which is rich in nutrients and is what end up being the compost. The earth worm also churn the soil as they move up and down this make the soil porous. The pits are covered by mesh to prevent birds and lizard from eating the earth worm. There is also a layer of anti-repellent since ant tends to kill the earth worms by biting them. The composting process usually takes 6 weeks after which the composed is spread in the field. The earth worm also re-introduced in to the field. This allow for natural compost production in the field itself.