

Satvik¹ : Promoting Ecological Farming

Bhuj – Kachchh Activity Report 2009-10

1 Background

Modernization of Indian agriculture began during the mid-sixties which resulted in the green revolution making the country a food grain surplus nation from a deficit one depending on food imports. However, given the continuous growth of modern technology along with the intensive use of natural resources, many of them of non renewable, it is felt that agriculture cannot be sustainable in future because of the adverse changes being caused to the environment and the ecosystem.

Satvik's work is based on the premise that sufficient attention and investments have not been made for strengthening organic agriculture and rain-fed & dryland production system, and its full potential and significance is not being recognized from all parameters of food and nutrition security; ecological significance with respect to sustainable production, biodiversity and low carbon foot print; its ability to continue to provide food security in the face of climate change and reduction of poverty.

2 Genesis

Self motivated farmers, who voluntarily started organic farming since 1995, came to-gather and formed the Kachchh Sajivkheti Manch (KSM) in 2000. This small initiative had aim to develop organic farming system and promote their practices. Since beginning activities of KSM has increased several fold. In 2007 KSM is registered as society and trust in the name of 'Satvik : Promoting Ecological Farming'. Governing board of Satvik consists of farmers and people having academic and development background.

3 Programme, Activity and Outreach

3.1 Conservation of Traditional Seeds and Seed Security : Anmol

Farmers practicing rainfed farming suffer from availability of good quality seed at right time. On one hand ill practices of on farm seed selection and introduction of hybrids and improved varieties has deteriorated the local seed stock. On other hand introduction of flux of out side seeds has not helped increasing sustainability of rainfed farming. Satvik is working on in-situ conservation and improvement of traditional rainfed seed and working on achieving seed security at village level by using identified traditional seeds. Satvik is perusing following strategy.

- Identification and collection of traditional seeds of rainfed crops in Kachchh district.
- Evaluation trial across Kachchh district to understand its characters and performance.
- Training of seed breeding farmers for improving and maintaining purity of their traditional seed stock.
- Organizing farmers in the villages for seed security.
- Participatory variety selection from selected traditional seeds for performance and preference evaluation.
- Organizing seed production, storage and distribution system at village level.

3.1.1 Trails to Understand Characters of Traditional Seeds of Rainfed Crops

In the year 2009-10 Satvik with the support of grassroots partners has encouraged farmers to voluntarily undertake trial sowing for Character Mapping of traditional seeds of Kachchh under rainfed condition. Farmers who have conducted these trails were honored with memento.

¹ Satvik is commonly used for nutritious, healthy and hygienic food. The root of Satvik in Sanskrit is 'Satva' means truth and only truth is sustainable.

3.1.2 Demonstrations for Preference Evaluation

In the year 2009-10 Satvik with the support of grassroots partners has encouraged farmers to voluntarily undertake Demonstrations of selected traditional seeds.

3.1.3 Workshops

In the year 2009-10 Satvik has organized workshop in which importance of traditional seeds and need of conservation was discussed with farmers.

3.1.4 Capacity Building

In the year 2009-10 representative of Satvik has made presentation on Importance of Land Races in Drylands in farmer training organized by Sardar Krishinagr Dantiwada Agricultural University (SDAU).

3.1.5 Study

In the year 2009-10 Satvik has conducted study on Understating Traditional Seeds and Grain Storage device locally known as Kothar in Kachchh district for Community based Agro-biodiversity Conservation Action. This case study was published in book titled 'Day and Night Cannot Dwell Together : The Human Strand in The Web of Life published' by Green Foundation.

3.2 Sustainable Agriculture

3.2.1 Study

During the year 2009-10 Satvik has initiated study to prepare Compendium on Climate Actors on India with emphasize on agriculture in Arid Semi Arid areas in India. Climate change is already forcing agricultural practices to adapt, but appropriate interventions in this sector can contribute immensely to reduction of harmful emmitions and contribute to mitigation as well. Promotion of conservation based agriculture, such as rainfed farming, low external input agriculture, conservation and use of agro biodiversity, promotion of organic farming, use of traditional knowledge etc, will be useful both in adaptation and mitigation. Alongside farmers will require support from agriculture research including weather forecasting and tools to mitigating to reduce the increasing risk to their livelihood. This directory will bring some of this work happening in the country at present.

3.2.2 Action Research

In the year 2009-10 Satvik has usefully demonstrated use of

- Neem based pest repellent GrowNeem for control of sucking pest in Bajara, Moong, Kala Cotton and Chilli
- Bordeaux mixture for control of diseases in tomato

3.2.3 Workshops

In the year 2009-10 Satvik has organized and/or participated in following workshops

- Representative of Satvik has made a presentation on Strengthening Traditional Risk Mitigation Systems For Food Security In The Context Of Climate Change – Learning's from Kutch in a workshop on Understanding Climate Change And Its Impact On Agriculture And Adoption Strategy For Western India organized by Seva Mandir, Udaipur.
- Satvik has made a representation to Hon'ble Ministry of Environment and Forests in a public hearing organized to take decision on introduction of BT Brinjal. Later on to raise public awareness on BT Brinjal Satvik in collaboration with Jatan and Kachchh Kisan Sangh has organized one day fast. About 100 citizens of Bhuj and farmers have participated.
- Representative of Satvik has participated in an international conference on Bio diversity in relation to Food and Human Security in a Warming Planet. This was organized by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai.

- Representative of Satvik has participated in a National Symposium on Climate Change and Rainfed Agriculture. This was organized by Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad.
- Representative of Satvik has participated in an international conference on Global Warming: Agriculture, Sustainable Development and Public Leadership. This was organized by Indian Society for Community Education, Ahmedabad.

3.2.4 Capacity Building

In the year 2009-10 Satvik has organized and/or provided and/or participated in following trainings

- Satvik in collaboration with Jatan has organized three day training programme on Scientific Use of Cow Dung and Urin in Agriculture at Bhuj. Shri Subhash Palekar has provided inputs. From various parts of Gujarat 375 farmers have participated.
- Satvik has provided training along with Prof. Chandrawadia of Shards Gram Vidyapeeth on Bio-control and Cultural Methods of pest control. This training was organized by Bhachau Setu at Adhoi and 60 farmers and 15 representatives of partner organization have participated.
- Satvik has developed posters in Gujarati each on Beauveria, Metarhizium, Verticillium, Trichoderma and GrowNeem to spread awareness on bio-control agents for pest control.

3.3 Organic Production and Foreword Linkage Support

Farmers associated with Satvik offer the diverse organic produce ranging from arid pulse to fresh fruits. On request with buy back guarantee from corporate houses, Satvik is organizing farmers to produce quality organic products. Satvik has helped farmers group to established mandatory quality control system like Internal Control System (ICS) and is carrying out internal approval for the organicness of the produce. This ICS is accredited with OneCert, Jaipur, and CUC, Mumbai for organic certification. These farmers' organic products are certified according to NPOP, EU 2092/91 and NOP regulations and they are bulk sourcing to Oasis Agritech Ltd., Vadodara, ITC Ltd., Hyderabad and Castor Product Company, Gandhidham.

In the year 2009-10, produce of production season 2009 Satvik has handhold farmer groups to establish market linkage with organic market. On an average each 282 farmers have received Rs. 5,525/- as additional direct economic benefit due to supplying their material to organic market.

3.3.1 Workshops

In the year 2009-10 Satvik has organized and/or participated in following workshops

- Satvik in collaboration with Forest Department, Government of Gujarat and Charak Pharma has organized training workshop on Gugal Cultivation and Market Linkage. Gugal is drought tolerant and well suited medicinal shrub species for Kachchh is also a threatened species.
- Representatives of Satvik have participated in a training workshop on An Introduction of Online Traceability System in Organic Certification. This was organized by Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) at Ahmedabad.
- Representative of Satvik has participated in a workshop on Linking Agriculture Produce with Fair Trade Market. This was organized by Fair Trade Forum of India at Bangalore.
- Representative of Satvik has participated in a scoping workshop on Capacity Building and Learning Initiatives for Livelihood Promotion Organizations.

3.3.2 Capacity Building

In the year 2009-10 Satvik has organized and/or provided and/or participated in following trainings

- Satvik has provided series of training to para workers on data collection, internal inspection, post harvest handling, management of chain of custody and labeling procedure. These para workers were appointed by Setus in Bhachau Taluka for organic certification.
- Representative of Satvik has participated in training on Marketing and Business Development with Producer's Institution. This was organized jointly by Sahjeevan, Bhuj and Access to Livelihood, Hyderabad.

- To organize organic farmers of Bhachau and Rapar Taluka as a collective which can undertake business independently, Satvik has organized training of farmers representatives to make them aware various legal instruments like co-operative, producers company ect..
- Representative of Satvik has participated in training on Validation of NPM Label. This was organized by Non Pesticide Management Initiative, Hyderabad.

4 Partnership and Networking

Satvik has developed collaboration with 10 grassroots organizations for development of seed security programme across villages of Kachchh district

Satvik has developed collaboration with 6 grassroots organizations for organic production, certification, value addition and forward linkage support.

Satvik is facilitating organic farmers to get access services of organic certification from Control Union Certifications (Mumbai), OneCert Asia Private Ltd. (Jaipur) and IMO Control Pvt. Ltd. (Bangalore)

Satvik is facilitating organic farmers to supply their organic produce to Castor Product Company (Gandhidham), Oasis Agritech Ltd. (Vadodara), and ITC Ltd. (Hyderabad).

Director of Satvik is a member of Steering Committee of Drought Proofing Programme Phase II implemented by Kachchh Nav Nirman Ahiyan. Focus of this programme is to strengthen services for livestock development and forward linkage for milk and milk produce.

5 Organogram and Organizational Mechanism

