

# Organic Farmers and Farms in Himachal

## THE SYLVAN HEIGHTS BIO-DYNAMIC AND VEDIC FARM

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The farm is within the dense Sal forests along the Yamuna river in Doon valley of the Shivalik mountain ranges. The entire farm area is 25 acres of which ten acres are mango orchards. The mango varieties grown here are Langras, Dassehris, Chausa and Ram Kelas. Cultivation of paddy, wheat, adzuki beans, soya beans, pulses and fodder for the farm animals is done on the rest of the land. Many varieties of tulsi are grown in the sunny parts of the orchard and turmeric and ginger are grown in other suitable portions.

The farm uses various wild growing plants like lantana, bhang, congress grass etc for making liquid manures and compost after adding biodynamic preparations in homeopathic doses. CPP (cow pat pit) is made from dung of the farm cows. CPP is used for a stem paste and for spraying on the crops. Preparations 500 and 501 are made by introducing cow dung and silica in cow horns which are buried underground and taken out in March and September. Cow urine is used as a spray to combat pests, and as a plant nutrient. Sprays based on bhang, garlic, ginger etc., are used to control pests on the farm.

Agnihotra (Homa), as prescribed in the Vedas is performed at sunrise and sunset, for purifying the environment and marshalling the cosmic forces for plant and soil vitality. This farm is certified by INDOCERT.

Certified organic products:

Products include Kasturi brown basmati rice; Kasturi white basmati rice; Dehradun white basmati rice; Dehradun brown basmati rice; turmeric (haldi) powder; wheat; wheat atta (flour); maize flour(atta); wheat porridge; soybean; soybean flour (atta); groundnut; ginger; garlic; fruits; vegetables; spices and pulses.

(Source: Brochure)

## HIMALAYAN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (HIMOARD)

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HIMOARD provides many services for the promotion of organic horticulture in the state of Himachal Pradesh. It works in all the 12 districts of Himachal with over 2000 registered members. Its activities include:

Educating farmers to undertake crop diversification.

Spreading awareness of the concepts of IPM/ INM (Integrated Nutrition Management) in order to assist farmers to adopt organic farming practices.

Facilitating certification and marketing of produce.

Supporting medicinal, aromatic and herbal plant production including processing for value addition.

Providing advisory services at farmer clinics and to Kisan Call Centers@1551, a free service provided by Ministry of Agriculture GOI.

‘Divya Himachal’ is a newspaper published from Dharmashala and Chandigarh every Tuesday.

MAP (herbals) was started by the organisation keeping in view the rich medicinal and aromatic heritage of these plants in Himachal Pradesh. It promotes the cultivation of these heritage species as intercrops in orchards that have been organically maintained, supplies germ plasm, identifies outbreak of disease and follows up with suggestions for preventive measures.

Certified Products: Apple, almond, kiwi, plum, apricot, walnut, cherry, offseason mango, litchi, pears, peach, nectarine, chilgoja, pomegranate. Pulses like rajmah, mash (urad), mung, kulth, masur, soyabean, organic wheat and maize. All types of traditional grains like koda, kaoni, opla, Fhapra, chillai, bathu, ropa (lal chawal) nauri nut, basmati rice and exotic vegetables and medicinal plants that grow in hilly regions.

The HIMOARD farmers’ group has on their list 132 apple growers with land holdings of 0.1 acre to 15 acres, producing anywhere between 70 to 5000 boxes of organic apples per season.

Chairman HIMOARD is the National President of Stone Fruit Growers Association of India, promoted by Ministry of Agriculture GOI.

(Source: Brochure and Webresearch)

## PARYAVARAN AVAM GRAMIN VIKAS SANSTHAN

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Paryavaran Avam Gramin Vikas Sansthan (PAGVS) started its campaign for organic farming in early 2003 in Solan

& Sirmour districts.

PAGVS has brought 1200 families under organic farming across an area of 50 hectares. In the PGS, the farmers agree to a 'code of conduct' at the village meeting, to follow certain rules and norms. The land use classification for the use of organic farming is certified by each farmer and baseline record is maintained farmer wise. Communities take an 'oath' in the presence of peer – inspectors and officials to follow standards and norms of organic farming agreed in the meeting.

PAGVS is attempting to bring recognition to their certification process. Through the farmer federations, it is exploring opportunities for creating local and niche markets. Goods worth Rs. 2,91,000/- were sold by these farmers during the year 2006-07 and Rs. 6,19,125 during the year 2007 -08 showing quantum jumps.

More than 3000 farmers have been trained in the preparation of bio- pesticides using locally available natural resources in combination with ginger, garlic, chilly etc. The details of some of the common plants of the area used in the preparation of bio- pesticides are available on request.

PAGVS has developed a mechanism for the organic cultivation of off- season vegetables especially tomato and capsicum. It has also developed different types of compost i.e. bio-dynamic compost, vermicompost, NADEP compost, etc., for nutrient management of the soil.

(Source: Brochure)

## **CENTRE FOR ORGANIC FARMING**

### **ICAR, Niche Area of Excellence in Organic Farming**

CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur, Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.

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(Source: Brochure)