

Organic Farmers and Farms in Kerala

K V Deyal

Sreekovil, Kayippuram, Muhamma P.O. Alappuzha District – 688 525, Kerala. Phone: 0478-2583289

Deyal practises a unique method of farming based on a blend of principles associated with natural, ecological, organic, permaculture and local traditions. The farm plots are designed in a pattern with maximum diversity, the coconut being the dominant crop. There is an attempt to emulate a rainforest with a view to making it a self sustaining system.

Deyal and wife Jayta live in the middle of their small farm which is also home to a resident barn owl that lives perched on the lamp holder in the guest bathroom, bearing witness to the toiletry rituals of visiting guests without batting an eye.

Deyal's farm is an agro-ecologist's paradise – every bit of organic kitchen and farm waste is recycled within the farm which itself has been designed on the principles of a complete ecosystem. Almost all local indigenous plant species are seen growing in a multilayered canopy. The diversity in terms of wild and fruit bearing trees, vegetables, tubers, green fences, flowering, medicinal and aromatic plants is a naturalist's delight. The visiting and resident birds, bees, butterflies, insects, chipmunks, snakes... are a given. A little pond for growing water plants that are regularly harvested for mulch is at the centre of the farm. It is designed and crafted alongside a small terraced mound with trees - the two in combination serving as a collection body for harvested rainwater and a windbreak to curtail soil erosion.

There is also a large open spacious outdoor facility for conducting eco-awareness and organic farming classes for school children, farmers and the public.

In many ways their time is not their own. Deyal is always called away to deliver talks, conduct workshops, give expert advice on pest management, soil nutrient enhancement, and to visit farms. He provides naturopathy counsel and medication every Monday, while Jayta plays the role of hostess and personal secretary with much grace and ease. Radhakrishnan as buddy and co-trainer completes the trio. The two, together with the organization, have been significant contributors to the enhanced environmental awareness and the organic farming movement in the state.

SUMAN, JALAJA & NITHYANANDA

Anuragam Organic farm, Mechira, Muthalamada, Palakkad district - 678 581, Kerala. Ph.: 04923 275439, Email: sradhaa@rediffmail.com, Sradhaa@yahoo.co.in, Web: www.myspace.com/sradharetreat, www.kumbham.in/organicfarming.html.

Contact person: K.B. Suman

'Our farm falls in the Palakkad gap in the foothills of Nelliampathy hills. It grows crops like paddy, mangoes, coconut, nutmeg, gooseberry, groundnut etc. As this is a rain shadow area special care was given to water harvesting. Being influenced by natural farming concepts the first few years were spent in planting different varieties of trees and mulching. Finding it difficult to carry on and two snake bites later, the farm was redesigned on permaculture lines.'

'As there was a pattern for planting trees and mulching and space to wander in between, it appeared to be more convenient. Different preparations of biodynamic inputs, panchagavya, EM etc. were incorporated. But when systems take over our original intention is often forgotten and to get back is really tedious. When we go after filling the gaps of the designs we will find ourselves in midst of plants and crops we never wanted to grow and with no room for what we wanted.

'Slogans like "make forest your model," and "tap all the solar energy" can often mislead. We will find ourselves in a shady wood but without fruits. The advice has been to grow everything close and chop it after you select the plant you need. But a tree which has grown tall in competition and a tree grown in sufficient sunlight and wind are entirely different. We now depend on common sense, proceed by understanding the needs of the plants, climatic conditions and adapting just minimum processes from different systems.

'In the ambiance of the farm we have provided a space for visitors or volunteers to take part in the activity here. There is a craft center mainly pottery just adjacent to the farm where visitors are allowed to participate. The center 'Sradha' is intended as a place for silence and physical work (www.myspace.com/sradharetreat).

Suman acquired knowledge of organic farming practices such as preserving the produce, processing seeds and controlling pests from old farmers as well as from expert organic farmers. He uses only whatever he thinks will suit the particular area where he lives. For example, to treat paddy seed, it is kept outside in the sun for one day and one night in moonlight. The next day, the grain is warmed again by the sun and then stored in sacks. This is called 'Mampoo kollikkal' and it is done in the months of 'Makaram'(December – January).

SRADHA

Sradha is a retreat centre located near Chulliar dam. It is a place for silence, inner exploration and physical work, where one lives in communion with the ecology of the hilly terrain, organic farming, nature cure, and spirituality. The retreat centre is set in the ambiance of an organic farm 'Anuragam'.

People are encouraged to visit and stay for short or long periods. Accommodation is limited to four people at a time.

on shared basis. Toxin free food and herbal drinks, produced mostly from on farm produce are served. A small library with books and audiovisuals is available.

Expenses for accommodation and food have to be borne by the visitors. One day camps for around 30 persons can be held. Students / visitors are exposed to alternatives in education, traditional crafts, medicine, agriculture etc.

The farm, the surrounding hills and the small waterfall close by, enthuse many a nature lover and attract many peace seekers.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

K. BASHEER

Sujeevanam, Ederam, Payyamedam P.O., Pallakad District – 678 583, Kerala. Ph.: 04924 231269, Email: happyamal@rediffmail.com

He is an organic farmer very actively promoting organic agriculture. He conducts classes for farmers on organic farming practices.

(Source: K V Deyal)

DR. PAUL NEELAMKAVIL

‘USHUS’ Peramangalam P.O., Trichur – 680 545, Kerala. Ph.: 0487 2308118, Cell: 09447408847, Email: paulneelamkavil@yahoo.com

Dr. Paul Neelamkavil is the president of ‘One Earth One Life’. A medical doctor, he practices organic farming on his farm every day. ‘One Earth One Life’ magazine was started by Prof. John C. Jacob and presently is being lead by Dr. Paul. In spite of being a medical doctor he takes classes for promoting organic farming and his basic theory is that every farm is a potential training and learning space. (Source: K V Deyal)

PEEKAY TREE CROPS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

President, Peekay Tree Crops Development Foundation, MIG-141, Gandhi Nagar, Kochi-682 020, Kerala. Ph.: 0484-2204271, Cell: 09388602105, Email: pkthampan@yahoo.com

Contact: P.K.Thampan

The Peekay Tree Crops Development Foundation is promoting tree-based farming systems through publications, seminars, consultations etc. The major tree crop is coconut palm. Multispecies cropping as well as mixed farming below coconut are the thrust areas. Vermicomposting is being popularized in home gardens. Integrated rural development is another area of activity. The NGO is presently implementing projects sponsored by well known funding agencies.

Mr. Thampan is a retired professor. He conducts outreach and training programmes through the foundation.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

SUJITH KUMAR C.K

10/309, Perinchery Post, Thrissur – 680 306, Kerala. Ph.: 0487 2351689, Email: cedar_india@yahoo.co.in

Sujith Kumar has written a few books on organic farming in Malayalam and visited many farms to document their stories. He publishes an organic farming newsletter called ‘Krishi Malayalam’.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

TOMMY VADAKKANCHERI AND ELSY

‘Vadakkancheri’ Marappanmoola, Pulppalli P.O., Wayanad District – 673 579, Kerala. Ph.: 04936 241493, Cell: 09447952055

Tomy Vadakkancheri was born in a farmer’s family. They had years of experience in cultivating pepper, coffee, and the other plantation crops. When a disease named ‘druthavaattom’ (quick wilt) affected the pepper all over Wayanad, Tomy realised the uselessness of chemicals. The agriculture universities and experts made so many enquiries, researches and experiments, which gave no fruit. From the next season onwards, Tommy stopped using pesticides and chemicals. Thus he came to know about the deceitful side of the so-called agricultural experts. He was the first one to become an organic farmer in this region. Later some more people joined him in deserting chemical farming and they jointly formed a society. But now he is not so satisfied about the association and has quit it already.

His farm is a kind of forest with tall trees and the crops in between. Pepper, coffee and plantain grow in robust health here.

Apart from farming, he has some more enterprises. One is a mill where he de-husks paddy into rice for sale. Elsy, his wife is in charge of the enterprise. There is a big traditional boiler there and with two helpers, she manages it well. Tomy also takes neem seeds from other states and make them into powder and sells it as organic growth promoter. He has two shops that sell organic produce and handicrafts. One at Pulppally and the other is at Batheri.

Tomy is the president of Highland Organic Farmers Co-operative Society (HICOS)
(Source: Tomy Mathew)

THAMPI. M. THOMAS AND LEELA.K.M

‘Mattathumal’ Veliyambam P.O. Wayanad District – 673 579, Kerala. Ph.: 04936 241075, Cell: 09447478744
Thampi and Leela are organic farmers. They grow pepper, rubber, ginger etc.
(Source: Tomy Mathew)

BABY JOSEPH AND TRESYA

‘Thundthil’, Veliyambam P.O., Marappanmoola, Pulppally, Wayanad District – 673 579, Kerala. Ph.: 04936 240673
Baby is from a farmer’s family. His sole income is from farming. His wife helps him with the farm work. They grow multiple crops, keep dairy and sheep.

Their plot with some 40 varieties of medicinal plants takes care of minor illnesses, hence saving them from doctors’ bills.

They run a good dairy. Baby finds it easy to maintain one. He says, it all depends on the practices. Dirty cattle sheds and improper feeding patterns create problems for any cattle breed. Cow dung goes to the biogas plant and slurry is used as manure.

Jamnapuri and Malabari goats are reared in neat and clean bamboo sheds. The goats provide additional income and manure.

Mulching is used to minimize irrigation. Medicinal plants, pepper and vanilla get special mulching while leaves from the coffee plant are used as natural mulch for coffee. Weeds in the vanilla plots are removed by slight scraping to prevent pest attacks.

(Source: Gautham Sarang)

VARGHESE JOSEPH AND SHAJEE

‘Arackal’, Palakkolli P.O., Pulppalli, Wayanad District – 673 579, Kerala. Ph.: 04936 241579.

Both Joseph and Shajee are from farmer families. Joseph works as a teacher. The family practices pranic healing. They were traditional farmers but came into organic farming because of the emphasis on poison free food in pranic healing. Pranic healing methods are applied to the farm. No on-farm creatures are destroyed. They are firm vegetarians. ‘We bless our crops while we do our daily meditation,’ says Varghese. He also believes in the tradition of ‘Chaazhivilakku’ (forbidding pests through rituals).

On farm indigenous cattle provide milk to the family and manure to the farm. He claims to know some unique methods of preparing ‘Panchagavya’ with ‘Panchaloha’ (alloy of five different metals). He observes that the lack of access to proper inexpensive technologies is the main problem for a farmer.

Both desire that the produce of their farm should bring only good to the user and believe that the farmer is the most important person in any society as he provides food for everyone. A farmer should therefore be honest and responsible. Mixing poison in crops grown for sale while keeping his own food poison-free, in his opinion are not qualities of a good farmer.

(Source: Gautham Sarang)

JACOB SEBASTIAN

Karikkom Pallil (Puthen Veedu), Chekkidikkad P.O., Edathuva - 689 573, Alappuzha, Kerala. Ph.: 0477 2212681
Alappuzha (formerly Allepey) is a coastal district in southern Kerala. In Alappuzha, a large area admeasuring over a 100 sq. kms lies below sea level. This land is known as Kuttanad. Here, water has to be pumped out of fields prior to cultivation, this sometimes can take weeks. It is done by a traditionally developed semi modern machine called the para. Traditionally there has been a kind of bund around the Kuttanad area for keeping away the water from the fields. The most favoured crop of this region is paddy. The Kuttanad paddy fields are below sea level. After harvest, entire fields get flooded with water and look like lakes.

Jacob’s two acre farm is in Kuttanad – the rice bowl of Kerala. Kuttanad has the most polluted land in Kerala, due to the heavy use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and weedicides in rice cultivation. During 1995 Jacob, a chemical farmer met with Kerala Jaiva Karshaka Samithi and decided to experiment on organic farming. Later he became a member of OEOL.

Under the guidance of Jaiva Karshaka Samithi, with use of a local common weed ‘Mullen Payal,’ he developed an ideal organic farming practice suitable for below sea level rice fields. It took him 9 years to arrive at it. After harvest, when the paddy fields are filled with water, the mullen payal is allowed to grow in abundance. The peculiarity of mullen payal is that, it is a local weed that grows easily attaining a thick growth that does not permit any other weed or floating plant to grow. It has water purifying qualities. Fish populations thrive well at its stem base. When water is

pumped out fully from the fields, in four to five days, the entire mullen payal decays and turns to excellent manure for rice seeds. The rice seeds are broadcast just before the water is fully pumped out. This way, they stay covered by mullen payal when the water is fully pumped out. No tilling or ploughing is necessary. Very little organic manure is necessary if the mullen payal is properly managed to grow densely. The cost of production and overall expenses is very little. Now Jacob is getting a good yield.

Spider rearing is his hobby. Spiders being good pest controllers, the farm has benefited from this hobby. He has planted posts tied with twine for spiders to weave webs in the fields.

(Source: Deyal and Sarang)

RADHAKRISHNAN

‘Vishakh’, Muhamma P.O., Alappuzha District – 688 525, Kerala. Ph.: 0478 2863667

Radhakrishnan was attracted to naturopathy, the environmental movement and organic farming in the 1980s. He is one of the founders of the Kerala Jaiva Karshaka Samithi, a pioneer organization of the Organic Farming movement in Kerala. And this long standing partnership with K V Deyal for promoting organic farming based on ecological principles continues to this day. He hesitates to call himself a farmer, because his actual farming activities are confined to a small patch of land surrounding his home. His contribution to the organic farming movement however, is much more than a modest one.

Radhakrishnan has some fruit trees like mosambi, jackfruit, mango, loulolikka, chamba etc. He grows many varieties of vegetables and tubers, pepper etc. Mulch and cow dung are the main manures used in farming. He cultivates a kind of water plant in his ornamental fish tank for mulch. This plant used to grow naturally in ponds before and was traditionally used as a good fertiliser. Since the acidification of ponds it is no more found in abundance.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

INFAC T

Kizhathadiyoor, Palai, Kottayam-686 574, Kerala, Ph.: 04822- 211997, Email- ktm_infact@sancharnet.in, Web: www.infact.org.in

Located in the Central Travancore town of Palai in Kerala, INFAC T (Information for Action) is a registered NGO committed to the cause of sustainable living. INFAC T visualises a society in which sustainability is the living principle in relationships, livelihoods and lifestyles.

INFAC T’s objectives are to engender sustainable relations in society, strive for food security through sustainable agricultural practices and promote sustainable developmental initiatives for the rural poor especially the ignored farmers, women and children.

Organizations like the Eco-Friendly Farmers Forum, Karshakavedi, Organic Spices Growers Forum, PTD Farmers Group, Vanitha Vikasanvedi - Aroor, Kerala Food Security Coalition etc have been supported by INFAC T to grow in strength, effectiveness and outreach. INFAC T co-ordinates the activities of the Indian Network of Action Groups (INAG).

Some of its activities directly linked to Organic Farming are through the Organic Spice Growers Forum and the Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI). INFAC T functions as the State Secretariat of OFAI. In collaboration with OFAI, it has launched the farmer friendly organic certification system called PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) in Kerala.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

TONY THOMAS

Kizhakkekara, Irumpakachola, P.O, Kanjirappuzha (via), Palakkad - 678 591, Kerala. Ph.: 0492 4238253, Cell: 09447058253

Tony Thomas is the present director of the legal cell of ‘One Earth One Life’. He has bred local varieties of the near extinct cattle, Vechur pachy which is well known for its hardiness. It is least difficult to manage, requires little food, small in stature and yields about 3 liters of milk a day. He keeps many of these cattle and gives them away to many local farmers. He produces on farm organic coconut oil that goes by the name of Sahyadri.

Irumpakachola is a village, in the interior of Palakkad, a border district of Kerala. The village is surrounded by rain forest. 30 years ago this village itself was a densely forested area. Tony Thomas’ family migrated here when he was still a little boy and converted some forest land to agriculture. They left a large part of the area undisturbed. That decision helped to conserve water, a very scarce commodity particularly in the summer months.

Tony turned to organic farming in 1994 and then onwards he stopped all external inputs and by 1999 his entire farm had been converted to organic food production. Tony is also an activist and a well known member of the Kerala Organic Farmers Association. His wife Jancy too comes from an agricultural background.

Tony has 30 acres of land with crops such as rubber, coconut, arecanut, pepper, different fruit trees, bamboo, and

almost all the short season crops that grow in Kerala.

At first, like other farmers, he faced difficulties with drop in yield and problems with pests. But with experience he has overcome them and has discovered several methods and techniques which have enabled him to convert his rubber plantation, paddy cultivation and other crops from chemical to organic while maintaining the quantity of the output.

Tony believes that it is best to have diversity of crops. This allows the soil to breathe and results in increased production - upto 20% more than one can obtain from a single crop. Diversity gives soil more strength and this is transmitted to the plants and trees, making them resistant to pests.

Usually rubber plantations are covered with grass instead of undergrowth and the 'net rooting' of the grass doesn't allow any other plants or trees to grow and suffocates the soil. To remedy this and bring diversity into his rubber plantation, he planted Karinkurinji among the rubber trees. Gradually this plant covered the floor of the plantation, in the process making the soil loose and rich with the increased micro-biological activities. Naturally this increased production.

Similar changes were made in the coconut plantation as well. Here he has planted fruit trees among the coconut trees. He makes sure that none of the fruit trees grow to suppress the coconut trees. The cropped branches and leaves are allowed to decompose naturally and this contributes further to the richness of the soil.

The paddy fields are near a river. Since diversification in paddy is not practical, he alternates between a hybrid and a traditional variety. Initially the paddy field is flooded with river water to suppress weed growth. Once the paddy has grown sufficiently in height, the water is drained, permitting only moisture retention. This technique is similar to the Madagascar method. The hybrid variety faced severe pest attack initially. But as the soil grew rich in nutrients the immunity of the rice variety increased. It now is cultivatable just like the traditional variety. 'We should make the soil high yielding, rather than making the seeds high-yielding,' says Tony.

Water conservation is practised through pits and tiny check dams for harvesting maximum rain water. Mulching techniques are also used to preserve the moisture in the soil.

The cattle and goats he keeps provide the raw material for preparing organic inputs. 'The soil knows its needs and it will take whatever it wants,' says Tony, pointing to a heap of coir waste. 'Usually this takes more than a month to decompose, but in places where the soil needs the waste it will decay within eight or ten days.' For control of pests he sprays a mixture of small chillies, jaggery and water to attract ants which will eventually eat up all the caterpillars.

As director of the Legal Cell of One Earth One Life, he looks into environmental issues and files judicial cases against environmental misappropriations on the part of both private individuals and the Govt. As an active member of Kerala Jaiva Karshaka Samithi, he conducts trainings classes in organic farming and environmental awareness. He travelled across the Western Ghats to record the degradation and changes over time in the area. An LCD presentation by him with photographs gives a good idea of the deteriorating condition of the ghats and its probable impacts on agriculture and climate change for Kerala.

(Source: Deyal, Mathew and Sarang)

THOMAS AND JOLLY

'Pannamattath' Cherukadu P.O. Athiyodi – via Kozhikkodu District – 673 527, Kerala. Ph.: 04962 660935 [pp]
'Kattulla-mala' means 'windy hill'. It is a steep hill which goes to a height of approximately 250 meters. This is where Thomas and Jolly live. Thomas' father started farming on the piece of land where they live. Cultivation was in the traditional style. Later he started using some fertilizers and synthetic inputs. Since the use was minimal, the lands were not seriously damaged.

The main crops are cashew, arecanut, pepper, coconut. They also cultivate tubers and vegetables. To protect the seedlings from ants they have developed a curious method: they tie pieces of fish on small bamboo pieces which they hang on some trees to attract the ants. They claim it works as ants go for the fish, sparing the seeds within the nursery. (See photo)

They have formed a small farmers group named 'Kadambari'. The group has started group cultivation on a piece of leased land on the hill side. They have almost all varieties of vegetables growing there. Irrigation for the vegetables is done by taking water from the nearby stream.

Apart from organic farming, Thomas and Jolly have bought some plots in which there are small patches of forests. Some of the plots have small clear water ponds surrounded with reed with water even in summer. They bought these plots to protect the forest from the poachers.

They also have a small shop in the valley that sells some of their organic crop produce catering to local customer needs.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

BABU AND MARY

'Editor' Cherukkadn P.O. Thiyodi via Kozhikkode District – 673 527, Kerala Ph.: 04962 660438

Babu had been working abroad for a long period. Subsequently, he quit his job and returned to his native place to be

with his wife and children. He decided to do farming. His wife Mary and their three children help in farming.

The land he purchased was on a hill slope. It was full of rocks and was very difficult to cultivate. Babu began by making terraced plots. He broke the rocks and built retaining walls. Now almost the whole land is converted into terraces. When people remove soil in order to construct buildings, he buys the soil and fills the plots which do not have good soil. He wants the farm to be well planned and maintained.

It is amazing that he has never engaged laborers to help him in his farm. Even the breaking of stones, building retaining walls, terracing, filling plots with earth, planting crops... everything is done by him and his wife. They are happy that they are able to thus minimize the expenses of the farm and make ends meet.

Tapioca, coconut, other tuber varieties, rubber and banana are grown on the farm. Rubber is the main income generating crop. He cultivates organically and claims to have good results even with the banana crop. He does not mind the farm progressing at a slow pace in keeping with his attitude to life.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

KEERTHICHANDRAN AND ELSY

‘Varappambil’ Mattanodu P.O. Kozhikkodu District - 673527, Kerala. Ph.: 04962 2659520

Keerthichandran and Elsy are simple farming folk with two school going age children who help on the farm along side schooling. Keerthichandran was attracted to naturopathy and yoga years ago and the entire family follows these natural practices.

Their farm has a variety of trees. They also keep honey bees. They have developed seeds of ‘yam’ by pollinating two yam flowers that yield tiny yams (photo available) and have also successfully cultivated paddy on their terrace in mud filled sacks (photo available). He is also experimenting with tapioca.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

LUMIERE – Natural Foods Restaurant

G-268, 11th Cross Road, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi 682 036, Kerala. Ph.: 0484 4012000/4012222, Email: lumieremd@hotmail.com, Web: www.lumiere.co.in

Contact: Manjunath, Managing Director. Cell: 09447144822

Lumiere serves food made from organic produce. It is probably the one of its kind in Kerala and caters to a multiple palate with sea food, vegetarian and non vegetarian sections alongside a bakery, juice cum salad bar and an eco shop. Most of the raw material is sourced from its own farm at Kanthallore, Munnar and some from others whose farming techniques have been appraised personally before purchase.

Mr. Manjunath, its managing director comes from an IT background. He returned to Kerala and bought 9 acres of land to practice organic farming. Meeting with Ambrose, a local natural foods restaurant owner was a major contributor to his decision for starting Lumiere. Lumiere the restaurant serving organic cuisine in Cochin is their collaborative endeavour.

Procuring organic food is not easy, raw material costs 50-100% more, he laments. They have difficulty in sourcing organic soya sauce particularly for their Chinese section. The restaurant is patronised by tourists, foreign visitors and locals. Tariffs are 20% – 30% above those in the similar bracket.

Lumiere has a special fresh fruit juice and salads section and a bakery that is a good crowd puller. They are now planning another restaurant in an uptown area of Bangalore.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

C.P. KOYA

Prayaga, Mavilikadave, Kozhikode - 673 010, Kerala. Ph.: 0495-2374658, Cell: 09947022452, Email: cpkoya@yahoo.com

Koya is an expert nutmeg and spice grower. The 1.5 acre farm is located in Vengori, Karuvissery post. He has been involved in organic farming since 1987. Coconut, nutmeg, clove, pepper, banana and medicinal plants, etc., are grown. Koya retired from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Department and practices only organic and natural way of farming. He says, ‘organic is the only way to keep the soil and earth good.’

(Source: Communication with OIP)

SUBIN JOSEPH

Kallookunnel, Parathode, Velichiyani P.O. Kanjirappally, Kottayam Dist - 686512, Kerala.

Subin Joseph represents a farmer family cultivating 9.50 acres land. His land is located in Edakkunnam of village Kanjirappally.

He grows rubber, coconut, arecanut, coco, mango, rambuttan, jackfruit, guava, coffee, pineapple, pepper, nutmeg, passion fruit, papaya, tapioca, tuber crops, banana, ginger, vanilla, turmeric, variety of medicinal plants and

Vegetables.

He is making and using vermicompost and other inputs from on farm animal dung and urine. He has 10 cows, 5 goats, 3 pigs, a fishpond, poultry, rabbits, dog and other farm pets. He is a member of Eco-Friend PGS group.

(Source: Rony Joseph)

MRS. RUBY MICHEAL & MR. RONY JOSEPH

Kariyankal, Vezhanganam, Choondacherry P.O. Kottayam Dist - 686579, Kerala.

Mrs. Ruby Micheal & Mr. Rony Joseph represent a farmer family cultivating 15.08 acres land. Their farm is located at Choondacherry.

They grows rice, rubber, coconut, arecanut, coco, mango, rambutan, jackfruit, guava, coffee, pineapple, pepper, nutmeg, passion fruit, papaya, tapioca, different tuber crops, banana, ginger, vanilla, turmeric, variety of medicinal plants and vegetables. Mrs. Ruby is a member of Eco-Friend PGS group.

(Source: Rony Joseph)

JOHNY MATHEW

Pottamkulam Thenpuzha, Kootickal P.O. Taluk: Kanjirappally, Kottayam Dist - 686514, Kerala.

Johny Mathew represents a farmer family cultivating 51 acres land. His farm is located at Thenpuzha , Mukkulam and Vempala ward of Kokkayar Gramapanchayath, Kokkayar village of Peerumedu Taluk.

Johny Mathew grows rubber, coconut, arecanut, mango, jackfruit, guava, coffee, pineapple, pepper, nutmeg, passion fruit, papaya, tapioca, tuber crops, banana, rambutan, sapota, ginger, vanilla, turmeric, variety of medicinal plants and vegetables. He is making and using vermicompost. He has a processing unit for making white pepper.

He is OFAI Managing Committee Member and member of Eco-Friends PGS group

(Source: Rony Joseph)

GEORGE ANTONY

Eco-Friendly Farmers Forum (EFFF), Earathumuttathukunnel, Poovarany P.O. Taluk: Meenachil, Kottayam Dist - 686577, Kerala. Ph. 04822 226041, Cell: 09447808417

George Antony represents a farmer family cultivating 5 acres land. The farm is located in ward Vilakkumadam of Village Poovarany in Lalam Block of Meenachil Taluka. (More about him in the Organic Seed chapter.)

EMMANUEL THARAPPEL

Tharappel, Kizhapparayar.P.O., Taluk: Meenachil, Kottayam Dist - 686578, Kerala.

Emmanuel Tharappel represents a farm family cultivating 20 acres land. His farm is located in Kizhapparayar.

Emmanuel Tharappel grows rubber, coconut, arecanut, coco, mango, jackfruit, guava, coffee, pineapple, pepper, nutmeg, passion fruit, papaya, tapioca, tuber crops, banana, ginger, vanilla, turmeric, variety of medicinal plants and vegetables.

He is making and using vermicompost and also uses cow dung and cow urine mixture. He keeps three cows, five goats and one buffalo.

(Source: Rony Joseph)

A. J. JOSE

Alappattukunnel Thalanad P.O, Taluk: Meenachil, Kottayam Dist - 686580, Kerala.

A.J. Jose represents a farm family cultivating 4.06 acres land. His farm is located in ward of Maravikallu in village Thalanad.

A.J. Jose grows rubber, coconut, arecanut, coco, mango, jackfruit, guava, coffee, pineapple, pepper, nutmeg, passion fruit, papaya, tapioca, tuber crops, banana, ginger, vanilla, turmeric, variety of medicinal plants and vegetables.

He is making and using vermicompost and also uses cow dung and cow urine mixture. He keeps two cows, a calf and 30 meliponiculture (bee) colonies. He is a member of Eco-Friend PGS group.

(Source: Rony Joseph)

A.V. DAVIS

Aikkarakunnel Ullanad P.O, Taluk: Meenachil, Kottayam Dist - 686651 Kerala.

Member of eco-friend PGS group

A. V. Davis represents a farm family cultivating 3 acres land. His land is located in ward of Ullanad village.

A. V. Davis grows rubber, coconut, arecanut, coco, mango, rambutan, jackfruit, guava, coffee, pineapple, pepper, nutmeg, passion fruit, papaya, tapioca, tuber crops, banana, ginger, vanilla, turmeric, variety of medicinal plants and

vegetables.

He is making and using the vermicompost and also makes use of cow dung and cow urine mixture on the farm.
(Source: Rony Joseph)

SHRI RAJU JOSEPH

Vechurettu, Vandenmettu, Idukki 685 551 Kerala.
Expert in organic cardamom cultivation, nutmeg and other spices.
(Source: Rony Joseph)

T. J. KURIYACHEN

Theruvankunnel , Josegiri. P.O. Cherupuzha, Kannur - 670 511 Kerala.
He is promoting and practicing 'Agnihotra' for air purification for organic cultivation. He is cultivating organic vegetables and spices. (Source: Rony Joseph)

V. K. RAJAN NAIR

Sathia Darsana Shylayam, P.O. Kakkoor, Kozhikode - 673 619, Kerala. Ph.: 0495 - 2856357
Rajan is an expert in banana cultivation. He has a banana farm. He preserves and propagates several traditional varieties of banana. He is also associated with the promotion of rice cultivation.
(Source: Rony Joseph)

LIJU LOSE

Vettikuzhakunnel, Meenachil P.O, Pala, Kottayam, Kerala
Expert nutmeg and spice grower.
(Source: Rony Joseph)

A.T. MATHUKUTTY

Ambattu House, Anapettakongal B P O, Edamon, Punalur, Kerala.
(Source: Jacob, UPASI)

ABY GEORGE

Kammathuruthal, Agamkudy, PO Muttuchira, Kottayam – 686 613, Kerala.
Resource person
(Source: Communication with OIP)

ANAMALA FARM

Media Mate, PO Mattathur, Kodakara, Thrissur, Kerala.
Contact: C.A. Robin
Anamala farm conducts farmer training programmes in sustainable agricultural practices.
(Source: Tomy Mathew)

C. P. GANGADHARAN

Chittiyethu House, Chengalloor PO, Puthukkad, Thrissur, Kerala.
Gangadharan is an organic farmer. He has translated many books into Malayalam like 'One Straw Revolution,' 'Limits to Medicine,' etc. He is centrally involved in Kerala's socio political forum - Patavedhanan.
(Source: Tomy Mathew)

Prof. JOSE & Dr. SALIKUTTY JOSEPH KOCHUTHOTTIYIL

Rama Varma Puram P.O., Thrissur, Kerala.
Dr. Joseph is a professor in the Agricultural University at Thrissur. He has written many books on organic farming methods. His books reveal deep insights in practical methods of organic farming and their application.
(Source: K.V. Deyal)

G. CHANDRASEKHARAN NAIR

Rageendram, Kothanalloor P.O., Kottayam District – 686 632, Kerala. Ph.: 04829 242892
Nair is a very elderly organic farmer, practicing organic farming for many years. In spite of his age the farm continues

to be organic.

(Source: K. V. Deyal)

K. V. DEVASIA

Umnalalickal, Chempanada, Peruvannamoozhi – 673 528, Kozhikodu, Kerala.

Devasia is an organic farmer.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

LUKOSE KADALIKKATTIL

Kripa, Palavayal P.O., Kasaragod District – 670 511, Kerala.

Lukose is a naturopath and natural healer. He has a good organic coconut farm.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

MS N. MINI RAJ

Haritha Ladies Hostel, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur, Kerala.

Ms N. Miniraj is an associate professor in the agricultural university. She has a small organic farm. Her larger work through the university is related to actively promoting organic farming practices.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

DR N.N. POTTY

Prof of Agronomy, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara – 680 654, Thrissur, Kerala.

Promoter of organic farming.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

S. ANITHA

‘Santhi,’ Belhaven Garden, Thiruvananthapuram 695 003, Kerala. Ph.: 0471-318113

Anitha is an activist who has been consistently involved with the organic farming movement in Kerala. She along with Drs. Satish Chandran and Shanti have been spreading environmental awareness and are presently spearheading an aggressive Anti GM campaign in Kerala.

(Source: K. V. Deyal)

P.D. MANI

Pananthanath Alanad, Anthinad, Kottayam, Kerala.

Mani grows organic rice.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

MALANADU DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Kanjirapally – 686 507, Kerala.

Contact: Abraham Poovathany

Malanadu Development Society has been consistently engaged with promoting organic farming and sustainable agriculture in Kerala for many years.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

P. J. JOSEPH

Purapuzha PO, Thodupuzha, Kerala.

P.J. Joseph comes from a farming family holding large farming land. They have set up a Gandhian study and research centre. This centre is working on rural sustainable livelihood themes based on Gandhian philosophy. Few years ago they held the largest sustainable exhibition in Kerala which created a forum for spreading the organic message to a wide audience. The farm is an example of good organic farming practices. Presently P.J. Joseph is an elected people's representative.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

S. S. KAIMAL

214 PTP Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 038, Kerala.

Kaimal is a retired Superintendent engineer from PWD. He has a vegetable garden on the terrace of his home. He is very well informed on organic farming practices and promotes organic farming through numerous articles in

newspapers and magazines.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

SIDHARDHAN

K. K., Kollam Parampil, Avalookunnu P.O., Alappuzha - 6, Kerala.

Sidhardhan is an organic farmer and a promoter of organic farming.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

VISALAKSHAN

Mattannoor, Edayannoor PO, Kannur, Kerala.

Visalakshan is an organic farmer and a member of 'Ore Bhoomi Ore Jeevan' working group.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

V.T. SEBASTIAN

Vadakkemuriyil, Mundaya Paramba, Nallel Iritty PO, Kannur – 670 704, Kerala.

Sebastian is an organic farmer and keeper of plant nurseries. Recently he has ventured into landscaping for hotels, parks, offices and tourist resorts. His landscaping skills are so well appreciated that he is earning a very good income from this new enterprise.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

V. K. SREEDHARAN

Vathyat, Konathukunnu, Irinjalakuda – 680 123, Thrissur, Kerala.

Sreedharan is a social worker and has been promoting organic farming for a long time. He conducts regular training programmes for farmers on organic farming and sustainable agriculture.

(Source: Alter Media)

P. N. UNNIKRISHNAN

Eco Farm, Bommiyampathy, Palloor P.O., Mannarkkad (via), Palakkad District, Kerala.

Unnikrishnan is the present C.C.F. As the Chief Wildlife Warden, he was centrally involved in the Silent Valley project. He has played a crucial role in protecting the forest by taking the forest people into confidence as co-protectors.

Eco farm is an experiment in community farming. 33 members contributed Rs. 5000 towards buying the farm to be run on organic principles. The farm is about 5 acres and grows rice and coconut. The message is to promote organic farming by example. (Source: Deyal and Mathew)

K. SAHADEVAN/ K.E. KARUNAKARAN

'Sanctuary,' Karmel, Payyannur, Kannur District, Kerala.

They are environmental activists and the main organisers of the Society for Eco Development. They are attempting to develop a farm on the principles of common ownership.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

NANDAKUMAR

Paruthikattukalam, Kondayur, Desamangalam (via), Thrissur District, Kerala.

(Source: Alter Media)

AVIYIL JOSEPH

Nilamboor, Malappuram District, Kerala.

Aviyil Joseph is an exemplary organic farmer. He was awarded the best farmer award by Malaya Manorama, a popular family magazine of Kerala.

(Source: Alter Media)

PNEME GEORGE

Sub-editor, Karshakasree magazine, Malaya Manorama, Kottayam – 686 001, Kerala.

Pneme George writes regularly on organic farming issues. George has reported many organic farms of Kerala and has been using print media very effectively to promote organic farming.

(Source: Alter Media)

K.R. SANKARANKUTTY

Vandana Organic Farmers Society, Karamakkal, Vappuzha P.O., Chazoor, Thrissur District, Kerala.
(Source: Alter Media)

C.M. JOSEPH

(Kurunnappan) Kaulakkal, Vaishaiamvihaagam P.O., Chambakulam, Alappuzha District, Kerala
(Source: Alter Media)

MATHEW PAUL

Chalakupuzha, Kattoorkara – 689 101, Tiruvalla P.O., Kerala.
(Source: Communication with OIP)

THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Thodupuzha, Idukki, Kerala. Ph.: 04862-223717, Fax: 04862-226107, Cell: 09847413168

The Kerala Agricultural Development society (KADS) owes its origin to an organic vision and the commitment of a group of farmers who were faced with odds.

KADS started organic farming and certification in 2001, It claims to have 125 certified farmers, 1000 farmers under group certification (ICS) in Idukki District. The main crops are cocoa, pepper, vanilla, cardamom and other spices, vegetables, coconut, banana, honey, fruits.

All KADS produce are certified by INDOCERT.

Products: Dried cocoa beans, cocoa mass, cocoa powder, cocoa butter, chocolate and drinking chocolate and cocoa beans (organic & non organic) graded, quality, alkalized (optional).

(Source: Brochure)

WAYANAD SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (WSSS)

PB NO. 16, Mananthavady, Wayanad, Kerala 670 645. Ph.: 04935-240314, Fax: 04935-242388, Email: wsss@sify.com/wsssindia@dataone.in, Website: www.wsssindia.com

WSSS is a voluntary organization established in the year 1974. It works in the districts of Wayanad, Kannur and Malappuram in Kerala and Gudalur taluk in Nilgiri district of Tamilnadu.

Its areas of intervention are: Organic farming, certification, and marketing. Rural energy development. Tribal development. Revitalisation of health traditions and medicinal plants conservation. Watershed development.

Organic Farming:

WSSS is a pioneer organization in the entire state of Kerala for large scale promotion of Organic Farming. At present, it has coverage of 2800 acres of 2000 farmers under small holder certification programme. Of them, 506 farmers have obtained organic status for different crops in 806 acres in Wayanad district alone. Certification has been obtained both under European Union regulation and USDA. WSSS is the only accredited agency who has the status of Service Provider for organic farming under National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF), Govt. of India in Wayanad District. WSSS has developed a strong Internal Control Systems (ICS) that regulates the functioning of the organic certification programme. WSSS has its own processing centre. This is a well equipped unit established with machinery viz. cleaning plant, de-stoner, sorting machine, spiral machine and milling units all supported by modern technology for processing of organic products.

Certified Organic Products Available:

Herbs and Spices: Black pepper (MG1, TGEB, TGSEB), white pepper, cardamom, clove, cinnamon, ginger, turmeric, nutmeg and mace, vanilla, bird's eye chilli, lemon grass, curcuma aromatic.

Other Organic Products:

Coffee, rice, banana, jack fruit, mango, passion fruit, tamarind, cashew, coconut, yam, tapioca, arecanut.

(Source: Brochure)

KURISUMALA ASHRAM

P.O. Vagamon - 685 503, Kottayam District, Kerala.

Kurisumala Ashram was founded by Fr. M. Francis Acharya. It is a monastic community dedicated to worship, meditation and social uplift. The inmates of the Ashram have transformed 200 acres of rocky wasteland into pastures for high yielding cows. This has been achieved with the use of organic manure - cow dung and slurry irrigation. Bio-gas is used as fuel for the community kitchen. The dairy farm at the ashram helps about 100 families by collecting milk from them at a good price and distributing it.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

MRS. ANNIE GEORGE

Mandanam Eco Gardens, Thiruvankulam - 682 305, Ernakulam District, Kerala. Ph.: 0484-2786820.

Mrs Annie George is the wife of Prof. N.P. George, a pioneer of organic farming in Kerala, who died early in 2005 after a tragic accident. She carries on the organic farming traditions on their farm and is now a member of OFAI in her own right.

Prof. George served as a professor of chemistry in various government colleges in Kerala. He had however dispensed with all chemicals in farming.

Shri K.V. Deyal considers the passing away of Prof. George as a great loss to the organic farming community in Kerala as he was the one person they always freely approached for scientific explanations and authentication.

George switched his ten acres residential gardens to organic farming in 1988. Mandanam Eco Gardens is located in Chottanikara panchayat, a very famous pilgrim centre. It is farmed on the multi-species, multistoried agro-forestry pattern without the use of fertilizers and pesticides, fully capitalizing on rainwater, solar energy and meticulous organic recycling.

Vigorous mulching and on farm recycling are the strategies for successful organic farming. Species diversity is well maintained with coconuts, arecanuts, nutmeg, mango, jackfruit, neem, pepper and miscellaneous tree crops, in addition to extensive cultivation of fruit trees like banana, papaya, pineapple and tubers: cassava and colocasia. Livestock integration and pisciculture are also basic features of this eco garden.

George construed farming as an equitable solemn contract between the farmer and the farm wherein the farmer is entitled to the net product alone and the entire plant residue is to be returned to the farm for organic recycling so that after every crop the farm increases in vigour and vitality.

George did not turn or till the soil since he had assigned this portfolio to the soil flora and fauna who laudably do it with the exquisite bonus of rainwater conservation. A bird bath is provided to entice birds to the gardens to devour insect pests and give precious droppings as manure. He translated Gandhian non-violence towards his fellow creatures as applicable also to all creations of Mother Nature.

DR. AASHA VINOD KRISHNAN

Kampurath House, Kollengode, Palakkad – 678 506, Kerala. Ph.: 0492 3262606, Email: ashavinodkrishnan@yahoo.co.uk

Promoter of organic farming.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

WAYANAD ORGANIC FARMING CONSORTIUM

C/o Sustainable Development and Organic Farming Cell, Agricultural Wholesale Market, Ammayipalam, Sulthan Bathery P.O., Wayanad -673 592, Kerala. Ph: 04936 223192, 226985, Email: agrimarketbathery@gmail.com

Wayanad Organic Farming Consortium is an association of organic farming farmers and promoters in Wayanad. It is promoted by Sustainable Development and Organic Farming Cell, Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala. It acts as a common platform for various agencies engaged in organic farming. NGOs', societies, farming groups and 3500 farmers are associated with it covering an area of 2250 hectares under organic farming. Marketing and market development activities are undertaken in association with Agricultural Wholesale Market Bathery, Wayanad. Its activities also include collection, compilation and conservation of traditional indigenous knowledge and practices, publications and liaison.

Organic and under conversion products: Black pepper, white pepper, coffee (robusta), coconut, coconut oil, ginger, turmeric, clove, cardamom, vanilla, medicinal plants, vegetables, fruits: papaya, jack fruit etc.

The Sustainable Development and Organic Farming Cell is an exclusive wing in the department for the promotion of organic farming in the state. The cell is engaged in market development activities and coordinates the implementation of the organic farming schemes of the State.

Associates of the consortium are:

Wayanad Social Service Society – wsss@sify.com

Vasudha – vasudhaorg@yahoo.com

Organic Wayanad – organicwayanad@yahoo.co.in

Voice – voicewayanad@sify.com

Hilda – hildasby@eth.net.,

Haritha, Rastha, Odapallam Jaiva Karshaka Sangam, Brahmagiri, MSSRF, HICOS

(Source: Brochure)

ORGANIC KERALA

Al Manar Complex, Opp. Avenue Regent, Jos Junction, M.G. Road, Kochi, Kerala. Cell: 09847133083,

09846247943, Email: organickerala@rediffmail.com

Organic Kerala is involved in the following activities: Organic farming, sale of organic food at fair price, farmer trainings, publications, exhibitions, organic seed bank and EM technology.

(Source: Brochure)

NATURAL HARVEST (INDIA) PVT LTD

(A CGH Earth Experience Hotels Community Benefit Venture)

Head Office: 24/1350, Seagull Road, Willindon Island, Cochin - 682 003, Kerala

Site Office: Building No. 15/422, Attapallam P.O., Kumily 685 509. Ph: 04869-222315, Email: naturalharvest@gmail.com

Natural Harvest (India) is an organic export venture promoting organic farming through the local community in the Periyar forest. Its principal goal is to promote the organic farming concept in forested areas. Presently this is being carried out in the Mannakkudy, Palliyakkudy and Vanchivayal tribal settlement areas. 450 tribal families have been helped to certify their farms by Lacon Qualitat of Germany.

Their collective certified produce are pepper, chillies, curry powder, ginger, cardamom, turmeric, lemon grass, nutmeg, mace, cloves, wild pepper, vanilla, cinnamon, mustard, cumin, garlic, coriander, honey, salt.

(Source: Brochure)

KARSHAKAN

Res: 37/475 Green Dreams, Yakkara Road Near D.P.O, Palakkad City PO - 678 014, Kerala

Ph.: 0491 2528052, Email: chamymohan@rediffmail.com

Farm: Kalathil Farm, Kattupadam, Muthalamada PO, Kollengode Via Chittur Taluka, Ph.: 0492-332534

Contact: C. Mohan

Karshakan has an 18 acre organic farm producing coconut, arecanut, coco, coffee and paddy.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

SWAPNAM - Organic Farming Training Centre,

Mookkam House, Kummathu west, Kusciachira, Thrissur – 680006, Kerala. Ph 0487-2428156,

Swapnam, is an Organic Farming Training Centre located on 2.5 acres of land. Trainings in various techniques of sustainable agricultural are provided to individuals at very nominal rates inclusive of food and accommodation. The centre also provides training free of cost to 30 school children each year. On an on going basis research on sustainable techniques are carried out.

(Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Joseph)

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

M.A. IYYUNNI

Mafiyekkel House, Puthen Peedike , P.O. Thrissur - 680642, Kerala.

M.A Iyyunni happened to attend an organic farming class organized by K.V. Deyal in 1998. This motivated him to switch to organic farming on his six acre farm. Today the average annual yield is 400 coconuts per tree while the state average for Kerala is 30.

This achievement was reported by B.B.C as a success story in one of their documentaries on the poor state of coconut yield in Kerala. (Source: K.V. Deyal)

P.K. BALAKRISHNAN

THEJAS, Poilur P.O., Kannur - 670 693, Kerala

P.K. Balakrishnan has an organic farm and the coconut yield on his farm is very good. (Source: K.V. Deyal)

BALASUBRAMANI. G.

BASUMA, P.O. Thattarambalam, Marelikkare , Alappuzha – 690 103, Kerala.

Has a 20 acre farm in Tamil Nadu which he has recently started to convert to organic methods.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

SMT. NARGESE

Teacher, Poovan China, P.O. Randathani, Malappuram District, Kerala.

Smt. Nargeese is the present president of Kerala Organic Farmers Association. She is an avid promoter of organic farming.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

K.P. UNNI GOPALAN

Mundukandi, Veedu, P.O. Thoovakkod, Chemanchery, Kozhikode District – 673 304, Kerala.

Is an organic farmer and promoter. He is the present secretary of Kerala Organic Farmers Association.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

KRISHNA KUMAR AND AASHA

Haiku, Cheliya, Koyilandy, Kozhikode District, Kerala.

The yogashala run by Krishna Kumar and Aasha serves organic and natural foods. (Source: K.V. Deyal)

HEERA NETTUR

Sreevalisam, Kilur P.O., Payyoli, Kozhikode, Kerala.

Is the Deputy Director, Agricultural Department and is keenly promoting organic practices through the department.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

Adv. JOSEPH PHILIP

Olassayil, Thrikkodithanam P.O., Changanasserry, Kottayam District, Kerala.

Has been the previous block panchayat president and has formed a group in Medeppey that is conducting trainings and promoting organic farming.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

FR. K. MAMPILLY

Sevashram, Mantattukara, Puliyanam P.O., Angamaly 683 572, Ernakulam District, Kerala.

Has a large organization through the many centers of which they are promoting organic practices for growing coconut.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

P. C SETHU MADHAVAN

Smruthi, Karayad P.O., Kozhikode, Kerala.

Is the Managing Director of a monthly Malayalam magazine, 'One Earth One Life,' a publication dedicated to promoting sustainable farming that has had an uninterrupted publication record of thirty years. He is also an organic farmer.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

P.K . DHARMARAJ

Milanipu , Kodungallur P.O, Thrissur, Kerala.

An organic farmer and an activist. (Source: K.V. Deyal)

DR. P. K. RAMACHANDRAN

Peedikaparambil, Periganam west, Thrissur 680 686, Kerala.

Is an ayurvedic doctor and has been practicing organic farming on his coconut farm for over 18 years.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

G. P. BALAN

Mattathil, House, Kalavoor P.O, Alappuzha, Kerala.

Is an organic farmer.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

SAJEEV KUMAR

Kollamparompil, Avalookunnu P.O Allappuzha, Kerala.

Sajeev Kumar has a good organic farm with over 22 varieties of vegetables.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

C.G PRAKASAN CHEMMANED

2 Mayithara. Market P.O. Cherthela South, Aleppuzha, Kerala. Ph.: 0478 281 4518, Cell: 09846136793.

C G Prakasan, has a six acre farm. Because of labour scarcity, he switched from paddy to growing vegetables with great success. An interesting aspect of his lady's finger patch is that he has sown two seeds together. On enquiry, he explains, 'with two plants growing together, the stems play a supportive role to each other, especially in the sandy fields where plants can easily be uprooted by strong winds or heavy rain.' The lady's finger is completely organic, while other vegetable patches of gourds, cucumbers, gherkins, egg plant etc. are in the final stages of conversion. He is testing a fish based bio-solution for the cure of white spot disease on amaranths and says the results are encouraging. The produce is sold in the local market at an average turnover of Rs. 2,000 per day.

(Source: Farm visit Nyla Coelho)

P. V . VIJEYAMATHA PANIEKER AND MINI VIJEYAMATHA

Neveaneetham, Muhamme P.O., Alappuzha District- 688 825, Kerala. Ph.: 0478- 2868909 Cell: 09446155299

Mini Vijeyamatha is a school teacher who single handedly takes care of their two and half acre farm in spite of a full time job. She is a keen learner and has adapted organic techniques on her farm.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

DR.V. S. VIJAYAN

Former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Pallimukku, Pettah Post, Thiruvananthapuram – 695024, Kerala. Ph: 0471 2740240, Fax: 0471 2740234, Cell:09388249845

(Source: Communication with OIP)

INDIAN ORGANIC FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED

IV/294, Thottumugham PO, City Aluva, District Ernakulam - 683105, Kerala.

Ph.: 0484-2620659, Fax: 0484-2620659, Email: info@iofpcl.com. Website: www.iofpcl.com

IOFPCL is a farmers company involved in production and marketing of in conversion and certified organic produce.

Contact: P. J. Chackochan

(Source: www.iccoa.org)

K.V. SIVAPRASAD

Swasraya, Mottammel P.O., Kannur- 670 331, Kerala. Ph: 0497 2862987

Sivaprasad is a retired school teacher and social activist. He has two acres of land on which he practices natural farming closely integrated with biodiversity conservation of local species.

He is very knowledgeable about traditional ayurveda and medicinal plants. As Director of the Awareness Programme wing of One Earth One Life, he is actively engaged in conducting Nature Education Camps and taking classes in schools and colleges on conservation and sustainable issues.

He came into the organic movement in 1994. He is the present Editor of OEOL magazine. He is a full time social worker.

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

RASTA-Rural Agency for Social and Technological Advancement

Kambalakkad P.O, Kalpetta, Wayanad – 673 121, Kerala. Ph.: 04936 286725, Fax: 04936 284197, Email:

rasta_k@satyam.net.in, rasta@eth.net, Web: www.rastaindia.org

Contact: C.K. Vishnudas, Research Officer

RASTA began in 1984 as a branch of the Barefoot College, the Social Work and Research Center of Tilonia, Rajasthan with the belief that solution to rural problems lie within the community.

RASTA address the problems of rural people especially women, indigenous communities, small and marginal farmers related to agriculture deterioration, rural unemployment, food security, technology gaps in rural development, backwardness of women and tribal communities, water and sanitation, conservation of ecosystems, health and decentralized governance.

RASTA serves a population over 1,50,000 in Wayanad and other districts of the state.

(Source: Website)

THANAL

H-3, Jawahar Nagar, Kawdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003, Kerala. Ph./Fax: 0471 2727150, Email:

thanal@md4.vsnl.net.in, mail.thanal@gmail.com

Contact: Usha S, Executive Director, Sridhar R.

The main programmes that Thanal organizes as part of promoting organic farming is the Organic Bazaar - an alternate market of local organic produce. Training programmes on organic farming practices are conducted at regular

intervals. It is one of the leading organizations working on sustainable development issues in the southern Kerala. (Source: Communication with OIP)

MANNIRA

Al Manar Complex, Opp. Avenue Regent, Jos Jn., M.G. Road Kochi, Kerala. Cell: 09847133083/ 09895084688, Email: organickerala@rediffmail.com

Mannira is a charitable society initiated by Thrikkakara Grama Panchayat Cooperative Hospital. It is promoting bio-waste management practices.

VENKITESH

Suresh Bhavan, Thrissilery, Kartikulam P.O., Mananthavady, Wayanad – 670 646, Kerala. Ph.: 04935 250413.

Venkitesh a young farmer, hails from a farming family with 10 acres of farmland. The farm is located in Thrissilery, Kartikulam, Wayanad. Venkitesh and his family gave up chemical farming decades ago. Being influenced by One Straw Revolution, One Life One Earth magazine and Shri. K.V. Deyal he grows paddy, coffee, pepper, banana and ginger based on insights gathered from his readings and interactions with fellow sustainable farmers. The farm keeps 4 cows, 1 goat, 5 hens and 3 ducks. Farm inputs are generated from manure sourced from these farm animals. He also uses cow dung, dried leaves and BG slurry on his farm and laments that on his farm wages are high, output is low, wild animals like elephants, boar, monkey etc. attack cultivated crops. He would like to understand more about organic farming practices so that he can apply them on his farm for maximum benefit.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

C.G. HOTELS EARTH GROUP

C.G. Hotels Earth Group runs many resorts on ecological principles. The entire hotel fresh food needs are grown organically on premises or on farms locally. Farm and hotel waste is recycled using organic methods. Tourists are encouraged to work on the farm and learn organic farming techniques. Their butterfly gardens and banana gardens are star attractions. They have been winners of awards from the State Pollution Control Board consecutively for 4 years for clean and green business practices and have been recognized with awards by the Central Government for eco-based tourism.

CGH group has branches at Maria Cumaragam beach, Takedy, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Lakshadweep. It may be noted that CGH switched from running very prosperous casinos to an eco-based sustainable service industry.

(Contact: Mr.Subramaniyan, General Manager, Marari Beach Resort, Maraikulam, Allappuzha)

(Source: K.V. Deyal)

KERALA – PGS FARMER GROUPS

ECO FRIEND

Group of 10 farmers with 115.5 acres under organic cultivation. They grow mango, tuber crops (tapioca, amorphophallus, etc), vegetables and spices. OFAI is the Facilitating Council for this group.

Convener: George Antony, Vil. Poovarany, Tal. Meenachil, Dist. Kottayam - 686 577, Kerala.