

Organic Farmers and Farms in Uttarakhand

TARAI ORGANIC FARMERS' AMITY

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TOFA is run by a small group of enthusiastic organic farmers who supply their own farm products and deal only with other farmers and producers whose products are certified. They guarantee that all organic products are strictly based on the organic farming code of conduct and are produced maintaining the highest quality control standards.

Products: Wheat flour, wheat dali; rice basmati (polished/unpolished), Dehraduni, Pusa, rice tilak chandan; dals whole and split: urad (maha), moong, masoor, chana; black chana, rajma, soyabean; whole dals: lobia (white), arhar, moth; gur (plain/herb/spices), shakkar, natural sugar, chili (flakes and powder), rock salt, dhania (whole and powder), turmeric powder, methi (fenugreek), garlic, ginger, potatoes, onions, mustard (whole and oil), honey, herbal teas, amla products. Essential oils, mentha oil and dried leaves, peppermint oil and dried leaves, lemongrass oil and dried leaves, tulsi oil and dried leaves, tagetes minuta oil (on order).

Cosmetic and herbal products: Apricot soaps (with different herbs), oil, creams and scrubs. Aloe vera products.

(Source: Brochure)

PAN HIMALAYAN GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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The Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation is established as a non-profit voluntary organization under the Societies Registration Act (1860) at the office of the Registrar of Societies, Delhi since November 1992. The primary aim of Grassroots is to initiate peoples action at the grassroots for restoration of ecological security in languishing river basins through holistic mountain development programs, in order to improve the quality of life.

Over the past fifteen years, Grassroots has been able to evolve a holistic intervention strategy which channels resources - managerial, technical and financial - directly to people and associations of the communities, working at the village/watershed level.

The emphasis is on self-help participation and the belief that average villagers have the desire, the right and the capability to promote their own welfare and prosperity and to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Also implied in the mandate of Grassroots and incorporated in its approach and methodology is promotion of the entrepreneurial spirit - the belief that people can determine their own destiny, establish goals, take risks and invest their time and energy to achieve their aspirations for a better life.

One of the prime areas of concern is the restoration of Gagas river basin, wherein environmental degradation has led to impoverishment of more than 300 communities spread over 500 square kms. As an integral part of this eco-restoration effort, communities are being motivated to adopt the participatory guarantee system for certification of traditional farming systems as Organic, with the idea of establishing a bridge between farm-gates and consumers and thereby sustaining traditional farming practices.

DR. J.C. GUPTA

Secretary, Pashu Palak Vikas Sansthan, Mata Mandir Road, Kashipur, U.S. Nagar – 244 713, Uttarakhand, Phone: 05947 224484

Gupta writes that in his area farmers burn paddy straw, wheat straw, sugarcane leaves etc., which are valuable organic matter to the soil. He has instead turned his ten acre sandy soil into clay soil by adding cow dung, paddy ash, sugarcane press mud etc. He practises organic farming.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

**INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(INHERE)**

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INHERE is a well organised NGO. Its organic farmers are certified and it has a number of products on the market. Check its website for further details.

**ORGANIC CERTIFICATION IN UTTARAKHAND FOLLOWING THE
PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS)**

Uttarakhand has 136 organic farmers registered through 11 farmers' local groups. Graasroots is the PGS Organic Facilitation Council that works through PHGDF of Uttarakhand.

Details of these local groups and their organic produce is posted at the www.pgsorganic.in