BENGALURU SEED FESTIVAL 2013
VENUE: KANNADA SABANGANA, HEBBALA, BANGALORE
DATE: 28 - 29TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Organized by
Sahaja Samrudha
In collaboration with
Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA)
Sahaja Samrudha in collaboration with Alliance for Sustainable Holistic and Agriculture (ASHA) organized a two-day seed fair with focus to embrace our rich seed diversity and farmers’ knowledge & traditional agricultural practices, in spite of modern mechanized ways formulated by the government and research fraternity. The two-day festival witnessed farmer scientists, seed savers, organic farmers from across 13 states of India, and representatives from various organic village projects, organizations and village panchayats in the state of Karnataka.

The event had some renowned personalities-Mr. Devinder Sharma, Food Policy Analyst., Mr. Nagappa Nimbegondi, Traditional seed conserver., Mr. Jacob Nellithanam, Dr. Richaria Campaign., Dr. S. Ethiraj, Dean of Veterinary college., Mr. Boregowda, Seed Conserver were few among the special guests present in the dice during the inaugural function. Ms. Deepika Kundaji, Auroville, Pondy and Ms. Namitha, Sambhav, Odisha titled as “Seed Mothers” inaugurated the event by hand pounding the paddy a traditional method of separating the grains from the paddy. Adding to it, the event had a traditional touch, beginning with farmers from Araku valley in Vizag carried the seed caravan for good harvest and rain beginning of the year and Rasi Pooja a ritual practiced after of the harvest.

Mr. Devinder Sharma addressed the gathering by saying, “Melas like this should be conducted very Often, and then how important is it to revisit our traditional knowledge and revive our indigenous seeds.” He applauded the painstaking and tremendous job Sahaja Samrudha has put in reviving the traditional seed diversity. Our present seed system has been promoted by our government, on which few corporations have firm grip over our seed systems. And, now it’s our farmers turn to hold on to this seed systems and protect the future of millions dependant on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Mr. Boregowda, Seed conserver had setup a rice museum showcasing the physiological characters of the whole paddy plant. He is conserving more than 70 paddy varieties and all these varieties are exhibited in his museum. Mr. Nagappa Nimbegondi shared his experience about conserving more than 24 Non-Bt cotton varieties and other traditional landraces.

Devinder Sharma, a journalist and food analyst, shared a number of stories about food-policies in india, which do not benefit the Indian farmers in any way. And he suggested some great solutions too.

Spectacular Seed Exhibition

Seed is Life – Walking through the stalls reminds the diversity around us. More than 2000 varieties of traditional paddy, millets, pulses, tubers and vegetables seeds left spectators fascinated with the rich diversity of crops we have been blessed. But the irony is these varieties have become showcase stuffs in festivals/fairs/exhibition surpassing the ultimate utilities, perhaps some of the varieties posses medicinal properties unexplored by the academic and research fraternities. On the course of time, we need to instill the importance of our landraces to the future generations; the message has to be incorporated in the minds of children at infant stage to explore the benefits to its fullest. More than 40 stalls represented by farmers from Karnataka and 13 other states of India exhibiting the richness of our crop diversity. Indigenous cereals, pulses and Open-Pollinated vegetables seeds were put for sale and exchange between the farmers and consumers.
Sambhav, an organization from Odisha had displayed their rich seed collection of more than 200 indigenous seeds which includes paddy and vegetables. Few interesting vegetables seeds were put up for sale such as, “Komukh Brinjal, a traditional variety-the fruit resembles the face of a cow” caught the sigh of the visitors.

Sanjeevini Rural Development Society from Araku valley in Vizag is unique one among the groups present in the event. It has been working with tribal communities for more than a decade reviving the traditional seed diversity and have also introduced some pulses, millets and rice varieties to the farmers market at Vizag. It had won the Plant Genome Savior Award for the year 2013.

CREATE an organization working with farmers in and around the ‘Rice bowl of Tamil Nadu' have conserved more than 150 varieties of native paddy varieties, and encourages organizations and farmers to restore our rich traditional seed diversity. Photographic displays of farmers conserving different paddy varieties along with paddy panicles and seeds attracted the visitors’ eyesight.

Edavaka Gram Panachayat from Waynad conserves more than 50 tuber varieties, and also play the role of Biodiversity Management Committee appointed by National Biodiversity Authority of India.
The festival have harbored farmers, seed savers and organizations from 13 states across India, displaying more than 2000 varieties of indigenous cereals, pulses and vegetables seeds. Names of the organizations participated in the two-days event are as follows:-

Desi Krushikara Balaga, Karnataka
Malnad Bhatta Belegara Sangha, Karnataka
Vanastree, Karnataka
Thanal, Kerala
Edavaka Gram Panchayat, Kerala
CREATE, Tamil Nadu
Pasumai Sigaram, Tamil Nadu
Dhan Foundation, Tamil Nadu
Yuva Rural, Maharashtra
Ketrivikas Mission, Punjab
Sambhav, Odisha
United Artists Association, Odisha
NIRMAN, Odisha
Swala, Jharkhand
WASSAN, Andhra Pradesh
Timbaktu, Andhra Pradesh
Sanjeevinri Rural Development Society, Andhra Pradesh
VADHODARA, Rajasthan
Tara Foundation, Bihar
HABITAT, Uttar Pradesh
Pebble Gardens, Pondicherry
Save Our Campaign, West Bengal

Jaiprakash Singh, an innovative and dedicated farmer breeder from holy city of Varanasi, single handedly conserves more than 400 varieties of paddy, 40 varieties of wheat and 30 varieties of pigeon pea. His participation in the festival added color to the entire event.
Deepika Kundaji - a renowned home seed saver who runs a home-based seed exchange initiative named “Pebble Garden” based at Auroville, Pondicherry. She has regenerated 6 acres of eroded wasteland into a vibrant forest on the course of few years. It has a fruit tree and a small garden, with 90 hardy crop varieties for home gardening. She is conserving more than 200 varieties of heirloom vegetables and cereal crops.

Jai Prakash Singh- is a popular and innovative farmer scientist from Tandiya village in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh have started his tireless work way back in 1990’s witnessing the plight of farmers due to poor yielding wheat varieties and water scarcity. He has received innovative farmer awards from two of our former presidents. He conserves 480 varieties of paddy, 120 varieties of wheat, 30 varieties of pulses and 4 varieties of mustard. All these varieties are spread across the villages of Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Syed Ghani Khan- a fourth generation descendant from Kirugaval village in Mandya district of Karnataka. He is conserving more than 500 varieties of indigenous paddy and 120 mangoes, and maintains different paddy strains to keep alive the evolutionary processes and to ensure a continual supply of germplasm. He is skilled in the art of seed production and has over the year developed a fine ability to identify the best seeds and also setup a paddy museum in his home.

Sudama Sahu – is a farmer breeder from Odisha associated with Bittubhoomi, an organization working with the farmers promoting sustainable agriculture and cultivation of indigenous landraces. He had gained in depth knowledge about pure line selection and breeding of potential variety suitable for their region. He had bred more than 3 varieties of paddy and conserving more than 120 varieties of paddy innate to his region.

Nagappa Nimbegondi – is a dedicated organic farmer and traditional crops conserver from Haveri district in Karnataka. Renewed effort to conserve 24 desi cotton varieties has earned in recognition and appreciation from research communities and organizations across India apart from his past fruitful endeavors. He is also engaged in cultivation of rare millet varieties and still many organizations and agriculture departments get in touch with him for seeds.

Dr. Anupam Paul – Asst Director of Agriculture (TRG) of Agricultural Training Centre, Fulia under the aegis of Biodiversity Conservation Farm, Government of West Bengal, engaged in the conservation of crop varieties, particularly rice.
PHOTO GALLERY
Good turnout: People flocked to the Bangalore Seed Festival held at the Veterinary College campus in Hebbal in Bangalore on Saturday. — Photo: K.Gopinathan

The seed festival on Saturday was buzzing with activity and filled with heterogeneous crowd consisting of scores of farmers, students, researchers who came to look at the rich heritage of traditional seed diversity. As many as 600 varieties of paddy seeds, 150 varieties of millet seeds and eight varieties of pulse seeds were on display in around 40 stalls at the seed festival organised by Sahaja Samrudha and Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA).

Farmers who came to exhibit seeds from various parts of the country, including Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, had several stories to share. While Surendra N.R., a fifth generation farmer spoke to visitors of how he had exchanged more than thousand seeds with other farmers, another farmer Rechanna from Bagalkot district explained how seed saving was becoming the norm as organic vegetables were back in “trend”.

The urban Bangaloreans looked at the farmers in awe. While some visitors, including school and college students, were busy scribbling notes and making the most of the educational trip, older visitors turned nostalgic and remembered their roots.

Explaining the need to conserve seeds, Soumik Baneerjee, an agricultural researcher, who works with Self Help Groups in Sundarpaharadi block in Godda district of Jharkhand, said: “There is a need to save indigenous variety of seeds which are on the brink of extinction as they were facing stiff competition from hybrid variety of seeds. The traditional seeds also yield crops that have high nutrition content. Moreover, the traditional seeds need less irrigation and fertilizer as compared to the hybrid variety of seeds.”
Another young sixth generation farmer, Surendra N.R. (26) from Ramanagar who had a stall with several varieties of paddy and vegetable seeds was busy interacting with customers who were buying organic seeds for their kitchen garden. Mr. Surendra who initially tried to explain the nitty gritties of how the seed should cultivation later gave up and said, “My number is at the back of the seed cover. Call me and tell me which colour the seed is, I will explain to you in length about how the seed can be cultivated.”

A stall that attracted several visitors was the stall of the Edavaka Gram Panchayat of Wayanad which displayed around 35 varieties of tubers that were grown by tribal people.

Meanwhile, visitors like Vijay Mahantesh C.K., an engineer said that the exhibition was “nostalgic” for him as his father was a farmer. Stating that his knowledge about the paddies and fields was limited after he moved to the city, he said that the visit to the seed festival was an “exciting” experience.

Another visitor Pushpa said, “This festival is witness to the frustration that is coming out of hybrid variety of seeds. I hope that there is a revolution and farmers shift back to traditional seeds.”

The festival is open on Sunday between 10 am and 6 pm at the Veterinary College, Hebbal.

Earlier during the inauguration, Devindra Sharma, farm policy expert threw light on the politics of seed and explained how big corporations tried to destroy and displace the traditional varieties of seeds. He urged farmers to rediscover and reinvent the traditional variety of seeds.

Article published in The Hindu dated 29.09.2013

Explore rich traditional seeds at this fair.
Article published in New Indian Express dated 29.09.2013
http://newindianexpress.com/cities/bangalore/Explore-rich-traditional-seeds-at-this-fair-today/2013/09/29/article1809362.ece


ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಉತ್ತರಾಖಣೆಗಳು.
നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകൾ

നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു. 

മോബൈൽ മാർക്കറ്റിംഗ് സോഫ്റ്റ്വേറിന്റെ പ്രധാന സ്വഭാവം ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നതിനെത്തുകയാണ്. ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങളോടെയുള്ള നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നു. രൂപപ്പെടുന്ന നിരക്കുന്ന കഴിവുകളിൽ ഉള്ളവ ഗണിതാതീതാംഗങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നു.