

## **Organic Farmers and Farms of Jammu and Kashmir**

LADAKH ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP – LEDeG

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LEDeG is a non-governmental organisation working to promote ecological and sustainable development that is in harmony with and builds on the traditional culture of the hill people of the region. Its activities include development and dissemination of various appropriate technologies like Trombe wall solar space heating units, solar water heating systems, solar ovens, hydraulic rams, improved watermills, micro-hydro installations, etc. It imparts training in development of traditional handicrafts. It is an active promoter of traditional organic farming and provides education and information on environmental problems.

A recent foray has been into training people in value addition to their indigenous and abundantly available apricot and sea-buck-thorn. Many processed food and self care products from these are made and sold.

In recognition of its work, LEDeG was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize in 1986 and the Inaugural Prize for sustainable and participatory development by the Danish Development organisation, Mellemløst Samvirke in 1989.

LEDeG is a facilitation council member of PGSOC since 2014. It operated in Ladakh, Kargil and Zaskar regions.

(Source: Website)

### **THE ORGANIC FARMERS COOPERATIVE LTD**

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Is a strong independent organic farmers cooperative lead by apple farmers like Sajjad Hussein Pandith run of Organic Farmers Association of Kashmir. While the farmer members of the group have been farming organic for decades, in 2014, they have come together to form a cooperative for collective marketing. The Uttaranchal State Organic Certification Board (USOCB) is certifying the cooperative currently but a number of farmers are leaning towards getting PGS organic certification in place. The total land

holding under organic certification is 8.26 hectares with 28 farmers as of November 2014.

(Source: Personnel communication and visit by OFAI)

SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
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SKAUST is lead by the able Dr. TejPratap who has been instrumental in starting the formal organic farming department in Himachal Pradesh and has also been associated with ICCOA. Under his leader ship the university is actively supporting the organic agriculture programs in the state. Formally the university has started an Organic Group under the Dean of Forestry. They are assisting organic farmers of Kashmir and Zanskar in agronomic research and certification of groups.