

Establishment of DB Organic farm, Research & Training Centre, Bhiwani

After taking the CFA Organic farming course at MANAGE and IIFSR, Modipuram, Dr Sunila got highly motivate to take forward the gained knowledge and share with her community and contribute in the ongoing organic movement in the country. She procured a 7 acre farm in village Phaladgarh, Bhiwani, Haryana, which is an arid zone having water scarcity and sandy soil, where most farmers are not able to take more than one crop a year due to prevailing conditions. The dreadly diseases like cancer and diabetes are increasing steadily in this area. The farm is now named DB farm, research & training centre, dedicated to providing training on organic farming and developing location specific organic crop production technologies for the area.

Currently the farm have a cow and calf, vermicompost unit, azolla production, farm residue management system which contains a pit where all weeds are converted into liquid fertilizer by decomposing them using waste decomposer. Also, bio enzymes are prepared, apart from jeevamurit and panchgavya , neemastra, dasparni ark. It also have a nutri garden where training is provided to local farmers and anagnwadi workers.

Two acers is dedicated to fruit plants, two acre traditional crops, one acre vegetable and one acer nursery. Last Rabi season, organic mustard and black wheat were taken on traditional crop plot. In one acre vegetable plot, raised beds were made manually and vegetable crops such as carrot, maize, palak, coriander, cabbage, cauliflower, white radish, beetroot, red radish, garlic, onion and pea were grown. Crop was changed after every five rows to minimise pest disease incidence.

Various types of trainings are offered at the farm like, one day workshops and awareness campaigns for locals and urban residents to teach organic home gardening, making of nutri garden. One to two months internship is offered to final year BSc. agriculture students.

Apart from cultivation, value addition is also done and taught at the farm. Those crops which are not fetching a good market price are converted into value added products like sun drying, pickles, dry powder etc. Fresh vegetables are sold at Bhiwani.

Apart from training on various aspects of organic farming, also provide mentorship and training to women self help groups. Till now 6 agri graduates have taken one month organic farming training at the farm. Currently, one FPO is being mentored to increase adoption of organic farming of Bajra and do value addition. Many individual farmers have also taken advice from the farm to adopt organic farming.

This farm also organises fairs and events which promote organic farming adoption and connecting the masses to the traditional underutilized crops. In this series, a mega event was organised on 1st Jan 2021 at the farm on value addition in Bathwa (*Chenopodium album*), where more than 200 farmers and students participated actively, women and women SHG participated in cooking competition and cultural programs were presented where they reinforced the importance of these traditional crops. The event was attended by Hon MP Mahindergarh & Bhiwani, Shri Dharambir ji and MLA Bhiwani, Shri Shiraff ji, along with various agriculture officers, village sarpanch and representatives from women and child welfare department. The event was covered by two major newspapers.



Radish pickle workshop

Community Organic Nutri-garden

Dr Sunila established an organic nutri garden with a pit in middle where all kitchen waste and other decomposable household and farm waste can be composed and this composed can be further used to fertilize the beds of nutrigarden. It's a 1200 sq feet garden where more than 19 types of vegetables can be grown in different beds at a time, four small fruit trees like curry leaf, lemon, dwarf mango and papaya can be grown. We are able to harvest 2-7 kg of vegetables daily depending on the season. This garden provides fresh organic vegetables throughout the year and also provides and excellent recreational activity for the whole family. Training is provided to establish nutrigarden to the farmers, city dwellers and students who wish to grow their own fresh organic vegetables. Also anganwari workers are trained who maintain such nutrigardens at the aanganwaries. The farm workers for farm have started such gardens at home and thus their food nutritional security have increased.

The garden was covered in media by Amar ujala news paper.



Newly formed beds



Visit by MLA Bhiwani Shri Sherrof ji and other dignitaries

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