

# Organic Farmers and Farms in UP

## SHOOR VIR SINGH

Village Chanda Nagli, P.O: Haldaur, Distict Bijnore – 246 726, Uttar Pradesh. Ph.: 01342 260840 Cell: 09719148999

In 1976, Shoor Vir Singh, a youth educated in microbiology, disinterested in taking up any job, decided to adopt his family occupation of farming and returned to his village Chanda Nagli in Bijnore district of west U.P. He had 11 acres of scattered land on which he started his work. Due to the influence of western Uttar Pradesh where so-called scientific agriculture for large production was considered ideal, he too was influenced to go in for this method. He was especially enamoured by the Green Revolution's propaganda and used to experiment with all the new things that were coming into the market, be it chemical fertilizers, or pesticides. Not only that, at that time, he even impressed upon others the use of these new products. Because of his educational background and status in society, the local agricultural officers also made special efforts to influence him and through him, other farmers.

Being by nature, a nature lover, and with each passing day of working in the field, he slowly began to see the interconnectedness between different organisms, micro-organisms, plants, animals and trees. In these observations he found that some insects eat other insects that harm crops and therefore those particular insect-eating insects are really great friends of farmers. Slowly he realized that micro-organisms help soil to keep up its fertility and thus are perennial sources of potential high productivity.

One day in 1983 when he sprayed dimecron pesticide on his crop of chana (gram) he found that along with the enemy insects, friendly insects were also dead. Moved by this, and feeling that he was responsible for killing them; he decided finally not to apply any chemicals in his farm. Around the same time, he came across environment friendly alternatives to chemical farming. He was particularly influenced by Japanese scientist turned farmer M. Fukuoka and earmarked three acres of his farm to adopt Fukuoka's principles. The climate and land conditions, however, were not supportive to such experimentation.

In all his initial efforts his elder brother Dr. Yashpal Satya, Professor at IIT Delhi, Dr. Santosh Satya and the Research wing of Gandhi Peace Foundation, Delhi provided the required moral and material support.

### Alternatives Worked Out:

Soon he started to farm in his own unique way which he called PRAKRITIK PURAK KHETI, i.e., Natural Complimentary Agriculture (NCF). He consolidated his entire land into a single stretch and put it under NCF practice.

The NCF principle is as follows: Since Nature in itself is complimentary, full of diversity, balanced, productive, multiplicative, energetic, sensitive, conscious, transformative, autonomous, and sustainable, all the plants, trees and living organisms are interdependent on one another. Their inter-relationship together keeps the environmental balance. There is no such thing as a harmful living creature or a weed. It is only our way of looking at some of its characteristics that makes them seem harmful/undesirable to us.

For example, termites are normally considered harmful to crops, but an interesting experiment in his farm proved otherwise. He spread cow dung, dried grass and leaves in the form of a bed and spread on top of it mud filled with termites. To his surprise, in a week's time, all of it had turned to compost unlike normal composting which requires not less than three months. A bumper sugarcane crop was later harvested from this patch of land.

Similarly, weeds were studied by him for a long time through growing many different plants and grasses in his land. Some were good as fodder while some others were excellent for mulching and yet others were good for composting. He did not find anything that was not of some use to his farm. His experiments with Bio-Dynamic practices have also given excellent results.

Though he grew slowly towards success, his farm was laughed at for nearly two decades. For the past decade, he is being accepted, respected and approached by many farmers for learning basic techniques.

Presently on his farm, all organic wastes is composted, crops are grown within crops ie. spices and flowers are grown along with the main crops, birds are invited to assist in farming by scattering grain brought from home, all farming activities are properly planned and as an extension to the entire activity farmers are motivated to realize, acknowledge and accept that they are quite wise.

### Benefits Accrued to Self and Others:

Family members as well as cattle is healthy - no medication is needed.

The farm has become totally free from outside inputs, energy needs are attempted to be met by solar, biogas and bullock-power.

Soil is getting richer, waste is composted, the villages look cleaner.

The ups and downs of the market do not affect him,

Alternative marketing has been initiated at Bijnore under the aegis of Sarva Shubh Prakritik Utpad Bikree Kendra (Sale Centre of Natural Products Benefitting All) which is associated with and receives its produce for sale from organic farmers. The produce is sold at a 10-20% premium price.

Farmers of surrounding villages, Govt. Officials, organic traders and consumers of Delhi and elsewhere contact

them regularly.

Self-employment opportunities within the villages is apparent.

Farmers are getting training in waste management through composting, organic crop-production, processing etc.

#### **Future Plans:**

Promote Organic Sustainable Farming throughout the state,

Efficiently run the Kisan Vidyalaya allotted to them by the Government,

Strengthen the marketing of Natural and Organic products,

Popularize alternative energy devices,

Organise organic farmers in the state and associate them with OFAI.

(Source: Communication with OIP, Translation: Dr. Bharatendu Prakash)

#### **Organic farmers associated with Shoor Vir Singh:**

1. Dr. Prakash, Surgen Hospital Civil Line, Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 9837033451
2. Shri. Samar Pal Singh, Maujipur Khari, Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 9411228612
3. Shri. Brahmopal, Agari, Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 9411224465
4. Shri. Shishram, Rashidpur Gadi, Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh. Ph.: 01342 251770
5. Shri. Tipendra Malik Bhai, Rajipur, Uttar Pradesh.
6. Shri. Rajeev Kumar, Nagaljad Haldor, Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 9411952462
7. Shri. Chirpalji, Nagaljad Haldor, Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 9456283122
8. Shri. Kanchanveer, Chakarasi, Amroh, Uttar Pradesh.
9. Shri. Ashok Sirohi, Bilari, Muradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **KISAN VIGYAN KENDRA**

Badausa road, Atarra (Banda) 210 201, Uttar Pradesh. Phone: 05192 - 224587

Dr. Bharatendu Prakash, Kisan Vigyan Kendra, Tindwari, Banda 210 128, Uttar Pradesh. Phone: 05192 – 292218

Cell: 09452508251. Email: vskbanda@yahoo.com, ofai.north@gmail.com.)

KVK works for integrated organic farming, including horticulture, animal husbandry, cultivation of spices, herbs etc. as part of its programme. VSK has been working on all aspects of organic farming both at the level of experimentation as well as extension work. Its work includes identification and collection of seeds, improvement of seeds, preparation of various composts, vermi-composting and organic storage of grains and simple processing of various foods.

KVK organises various relevant trainings of farmers, women and school going children. It has initiated work on resource-integration and bio-intensive farming to make small/marginal farms remunerative. KVK is a 4 acre research farm as well as a goshala. Dr. Bharatendu Prakash, Director, is a member of the National Steering Committee of the Organic Farming Association of India and has organized training courses for organic farmers on behalf of OFAI in his area. The Hindi edition of Organic Farming Association of India's newsletter: Living Fields, *Shashya Shamala* is published by KVK with a circulation of 1,000 in the Hindi speaking belt of India.

(Source: Communication with OIP)

#### **SHRI BAL KARAN PATEL**

Palhari Organic Farmers' Group, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Bal Karan Patel represents a farm family cultivating 10 acres dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years, growing: chana (gram), masoor, alsi (linseed) and sarso (mustard). Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His wife works with him on the farm.

(Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti)

#### **SHRI BHAIYA LAL PATEL**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Bhaiya Lal Patel represents a farm family cultivating 3.25 acres dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows gehu (wheat), chana (gram), masoor, alsi (linseed) and sarso (mustard). The animal dung from four cattle heads on the farm is used for composting. Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His family members work with him on the farm.

(Source: Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Banda, V.P.)

### **SHRI OM PRAKASH PATEL**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Om Prakash Patel represents a farm family cultivating 2 acres dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows chana (gram), masoor, alsii (linseed) and sarso (mustard). He owns three cattle heads, the dung is used for composting for the farm itself. Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His wife works with him on the farm.

(Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Banda, V.P.)

### **SHRI SHIV VILAS PATEL**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Shiv Vilas Patel represents a farm family cultivating 8 acres dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows chana (gram), masoor, alsii (linseed) and sarso (mustard). The animal-dung from the three cattle on farm is used for composting. Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His wife works with him on the farm.

(Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Banda, V.P.)

### **SHRI PHOOL CHANDRA PATEL**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Phool Chandra Patel represents a farm family cultivating 4 acres dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows chana (gram), masoor, alsii (linseed) and sarso (mustard). He owns three cattle, their dung is used for composting. Because of being a small family having very few hands to work he has to rely on hired tractor for tilling the land. Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His wife works with him on the farm.

(Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Banda, V.P.)

### **SHRI SHEO MOORAT PATEL**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Sheo Moorat Patel represents a farm family cultivating 10 acres dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows chana (gram), masoor, alsii (linseed) and sarso (mustard). The cow-dung from four cattle is used for compost. Because of shortage of working hands he has to rely on hired tractor for tilling the land. Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His wife works with him on the farm.

(Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Banda, V.P.)

### **SHRI SHEO NARAIN PATEL**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Sheo Narain Patel represents a farm family cultivating 4 acres of dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows chana (gram), masoor, alsii (linseed), sarso (mustard), arhar, gehu (wheat), fruits and vegetables. Presently he keeps a pair of bullocks and one cow. The cow-dung is used for composting for the farm itself. Surplus products are sold within the village and to visiting traders or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His family works with him on the farm. (Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Banda, V.P.)

### **SHRI JUGGI LAL**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Juggi Lal represents a farm family cultivating 9 acres of dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past four years. He grows chana (gram), masoor, alsii (linseed) and sarso (mustard). The dung obtained from three cattle on the farm is used for composting. He relies on hired tractor for tilling the land. Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His wife works with him on the farm.

(Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti)

### **SHRI RAM PRATAP**

Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti, Village/P.O. : Palhari via: Baberu, Dist. Banda, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Ram Pratap represents a farm family cultivating 7 acres which is dry land (rain fed). He has been farming organically for the past five years. He grows chana (gram), masoor (lentil), alsii (linseed) and sarso (mustard). The cow-dung from on farm animals is used for composting. He uses a hired tractor for tilling the land. Surplus products are sold to visiting traders within the village or taken to Baberu (sub-division) market. His family works with him on the farm

(Source: Bhaiya Lal Patel, Group Convenor, Palhari Sajiv Krishi Samiti)

### **SAUBHAGYA VASTU KENDRA**

Opp. Krya Vikrya Kendra, Sadar Bazar, Goolar naka, Banda, Uttar Pradesh. Phone: 05192 – 227368/ 272022, 9415143598 (M)

Contact Person: Prem Singh or Manveeya Siksha Sansthan, Village & P. O. Barokher Khurd, Banda, Uttar Pradesh. Saubhagya Vastu Kendra markets SWAGRAMI Natural Products. These products are purely organic and natural and they have been collected from small farms and from the wild. The products include candy, pickles, pulses, ghee, herbal teas, jellies and jams. Authenticity and reasonable prices are guaranteed.

(Source: Printed pamphlet and Bharatendu Prakash)

### **ORGANIC INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED**

Plot No. 266, Faizabad Road, Kamta, Post Chinhath, Lucknow-227105, Uttar Pradesh. Phone: 0522-2701579, 099562 96685 Fax: 0522-2701395, Email: info@organicindia.com, Web: www.organicindia.com

Office: 22/196 Indira Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Ph: 0522-2351846, Fax: 0522-2352832, Email: contact@organicindia.com, Web: www.organicindia.com

During the 1990s thousands of people from all over the world came to Lucknow to meet Sri H.W.L. Poonja, a spiritual leader. Many settled in Lucknow living and working independently. A few people, including Prashanti de Jaeger, an Ayurvedic Practitioner and Bharat Mitra (Yoav Lev) began a small business of developing Ayurvedic herbal formulations for the health and well being of the many people coming to Lucknow. In the year 2006 the company was renamed Organic India Private Limited.

They cultivate, collect, process, manufacture and market Certified Organic Tulsi Teas, Herbal Supplements, Psyllium, Castor Oil, Ayurvedic and Medicinal Herbs, and many other organic foods and organic spices.

Today, farmers are being trained by Organic India in sustainable, organic farming methods. It contracts nearly 10,000 farmers to grow organic produce on over 50,000 acres of their own land.

Organic India has been given exclusive rights to harvest crops from certified organic forests throughout the plains and mountains of central and northern India.

Organic India is well known for promoting organic foods and health products.

Tea: Tulsi Chai Masala, Tulsi Green Tea, The Original Tulsi Tea, Tulsi Ginger Tea.

Herbal Supplements: Developed by Dr. Narendra Singh.

Natural Solutions: To treat people for acute and chronic conditions.

Ayurvedic and Medicinal Herbs: Whole herb, tea cut and powdered form, including Tulsi, Triphala, Ashwagandha, Senna, Psyllium (Isabgol).

Organic Foods & Spices: Grains, cereals, pulses, spices, edible seeds, oilseeds and specialized products, including castor oil, chicory, ginger, coriander, vegetables and spices etc.

(Source: Brochure and Website)

### **GORAKHPUR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP**

P.O. # 60, Gorakhpur – 273 001, Uttar Pradesh. Phone: 0551 – 2339774, Fax: 0551 – 2344832, Cell: 09415211006, Email: geag@nde.vsnl.net.in, Website: www.geagindia.org

(Contact Person: Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih, 224, Purdilupur, M.G. College Road, Gorakhpur – 273 001, Uttar Pradesh)

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) is a voluntary organization working in the field of environment and sustainable development since 1975. Realizing the negative environmental and social impact of modern conventional farming methods, GEAG has concentrated its efforts to develop, promote and popularize agricultural systems that are ecologically sound, economically viable and sustainable. These efforts led to the establishment of the Ecological Agriculture Centre (EAC) in 1990.

The main objectives of GEAC are:-

- To promote and popularize sustainable agriculture and to develop and promote agricultural methods, practices and techniques which are environmentally sound, low cost and rely mostly on locally available resources.
- To conduct research and studies on agricultural systems, various techniques and methods to assess their viability, feasibility and sustainability.
- To establish a documentation and dissemination centre for sustainable agriculture and rural development.

GEAG seeks to attain these objectives by:

- Field experimentation and demonstration (on-farm research). GEAG works hand-in-hand with several farmers in eastern U.P. Efforts to develop demonstration sites are in progress.
- Documenting experiences of farmers and networking of organizations and individuals in order to enable them to exchange experiences, queries and other information.

- Advocacy and campaigning for land related and gender issues like land rights, minimum wages, etc.
- Publishing its quarterly Hindi newsletter, Vasundhara and its 'Dossier on Sustainable Agriculture.'
- Conducting training workshops/seminars/symposia to bring interested individuals and organizations on a common platform for collective action.

#### **JANHIT FOUNDATION**

D-80, Shastri Nagar, Meerut – 250 002, Uttar Pradesh. Phone: 0121 – 2763418/ 2769329, Email: janhit\_foundation@rediffmail.com , Web: www.janhitfoundation.org

Janhit Foundation initiated its programme for the promotion of organic agriculture in the year 2002. Since then, the movement has touched 210 villages in Meerut and adjacent districts. The main objective of the movement is to save the farming community from the aftermath of the Green Revolution and make the farmers self-reliant so that they will eventually sustain the movement themselves. By combining various farming practices such as floriculture, horticulture, apiculture etc. together with the cultivation of traditional crops. Janhit encourages the farmers to have an integrated organic farming approach. This also helps to maintain the biodiversity in and around their fields.

Janhit Foundation's field coordinators urge the farmers to bring their livestock, especially cow and ox, back to their homes and fields. This is because with the presence of the livestock the raw material for the preparation of organic manure and bio-pesticides is readily available from the farm and home itself.

Janhit Foundation is a member of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM).

#### **PEPUS**

Paryavaran Nagar, Hawelia, Jhusi, Dist. Allahabad - 221 506, Uttar Pradesh.

Contact: Shri Hariram

#### **BIO-VED RESEARCH SOCIETY**

103/ 42, Motilal Nehru Road, Allahabad – 211 002, Uttar Pradesh

Contact: Dr. B.K. Dwivedi

#### **ALLAHABAD AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE (Deemed University)**

Nainital, District Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **JEEVAN VIDYA PRATISTHAN**

Govindpur, Khari (Jhalu), District Bijnore - 246 728, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **BANWASI SEWA ASHRAM**

Gobindpur, Via Turra, District Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh

Contact: Dr. Ragini Prem

#### **Prof. V.K. DUBEY**

N.C.D.C., B-33/14-22, Koshlesh Nagar, Sundarpur, Varanasi - 221 005, Uttar Pradesh

#### **PARIWAR SANSTHAN**

Vill. Bihita, Via Bibi Nagar, Buland Shahar – 245 402, Uttar Pradesh.

Contact: Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi

#### **RAGHVENDRA KR. SHRIVASTAVA**

538/101, Ka, Ahibaranpur, Sitapur Road, P.O.: Nirala Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **DR.V.N.TEWARI**

117Q / 48, Sharda Nagar, Kanpur – 208 025, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Dr. RAN SINGH ARYA**

Vill. Paladi, District Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **AJIT SINGH**

288/101, Arya Nagar, Arya Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226004. Cell: 09936197072

(Source: Communication with OIP)

**DR. O. P. SHRIVASTAVA**

Ex-Director (IAS, BHU), 539-A, Mumford Ganj, Allahabad 211002, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 09415600841  
Scientist  
(Source: Bhartendu Prakash)

**DR. NARENDRA SINGH**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, (DRI-Chitrakoot), Ganeewa, Dist: Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 09415176268  
Scientist  
(Source: Bhartendu Prakash)

**ARUN KUMAR**

Asha Sansthan Jhansi, 129/K Green Park Colony, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 09838493883  
Promoter  
(Source: Bhartendu Prakash)

**DR. KRISHNAGANDHI**

Abhiruchi, 48-Chambers, Near Elite Crossing, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 09415057538  
Email: gandhikrishna2000@yahoo.co  
Scientist, Organic promoter (Source: Bhartendu Prakash)

**DR. SUNANDA KIRTANE**

78, C. P. Mission Compound, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 09415412618, Email: sunandaka@rediffmail.com  
Scientist, promoter  
(Source: Bharatendu Prakash)

**ER. R.K.PANDEY**

Multi Services, A-31, Station Road, Cantt., Kanpur – 208003, Uttar Pradesh. Cell: 09450158162  
Promoter  
Interested in organic food business.  
(Source: Bhartendu Prakash)

**VISHWAMBHAR N. DIXIT**

Village: Terahi-Muafi, PO: Tindwari, Dist. Banda 210128, Uttar Pradesh.  
Promoter  
(Source: Bhartendu Prakash)

**SHRI. PREM SINGH**

Saubhagya Vastu Kendra, Opp. Krya Vikrya Kendra, Sardar Bazar, Goolar Naka,  
Banda, Uttar Pradesh. Ph.: 05192 227368 / 272022, Cell: 09415143598  
Organic farmer and organiser of organic sales and bazaars.

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

Uttar Pradesh has 20 organic farmers registered through two farmers' local groups. KVK coordinates this process for OFAI PGS Organic Facilitation Council.  
Details of these local groups and their organic produce is posted at the [www.pgsorganic.in](http://www.pgsorganic.in)