



# THE LIVING FIELD

January 2015. Issue Twenty (*Past issues at [www.ofai.org](http://www.ofai.org)*)

(For private circulation)

## OFAI's 5th Biennial Convention

### NITTTR, Chandigarh

28 Feb - 2 March 2015

#### “MAINSTREAMING ORGANIC FARMING”

##### VENUE

NITTTR, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

##### JOINTLY ORGANISED BY

- ▶ Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI)
- ▶ National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR)
- ▶ Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA)
- ▶ Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM)

##### PATRONS

- ▶ Bhartiya Jnanpith Laureate Dr Gurdial Singh

- ▶ Padma Bhushan Dr Inderjit Kaur

- ▶ Dr M P Poonia, Director, NITTTR, Chandigarh

##### CONVENTION ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- ▶ Dr. J.S. Saini, HOD, Dept. of Rural Development, NITTTR
- ▶ Dr. U.N. Roy, Professor, Dept. of Rural Development, NITTTR
- ▶ Kapil Shah, Secretary, OFAI
- ▶ Kavitha Kuruganti, Convenor, ASHA
- ▶ Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, KVM

**CONVENTION WEBSITE** [www.organicconvention.in](http://www.organicconvention.in)

## ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS 2017

TO BE HELD IN DELHI

\* IFOAM World Assembly Accepts OFAI Bid

\* Assembly accepts OFAI bid in preference to bids from China, Russia and Brazil

\* OFAI proposes to organise the biggest organic farming event in the history of IFOAM

\* More than 1,000 organic farmers from India to attend

\* More than 500 organic farmers from South America, Africa and Asia to participate

\* Organic farmers to dominate the proceedings and presentations

\* PDA Trade Fairs Bengaluru to collaborate with OFAI in co-organising the event and to provide necessary financial investments

*(For more details, see inside story)*

For those who are going to register, accommodation will be available from 27 February morning to 3 March morning 2015.

No one will be permitted to participate unless she/he is registered. Last date for registration is January 25, 2015. Those who register after that will have to pay more. Registration closes on February 10, 2015. The Convention is being designed to accommodate 1500 guests.

The venue of the Convention is the campus of the NITTTR, Chandigarh.

For the first time, Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) and Kheti Virasat Mission will also join as co-organisers of the Convention.

The Union Agriculture Minister, Mr Radha Mohan Singh, is expected to attend. Ms Maneka Gandhi, Minister for Women and Child Development and a strong promoter of organic farming policies, has confirmed she will come for a day. Several Ministers of the Punjab and Haryana government have accepted the invitations of the organisers to come and support the organic farming.

# OFAI's 5th Biennial Convention

*If you are involved in organic farming, you should be there!*

The present crisis facing agriculture in India – which is leading to farmer suicides in various parts of the country on the one hand, and poor quality of food produced on the other – is forcing both farmers and policy makers to take a serious relook on the potentials of organic farming.

While the expertise available within India for dealing with the problems associated with green revolution package of practices – now disclosed in the form of water logging, salinity, insect imbalance, etc. – is fairly limited, the competence of this country in organic farming is based on thousands of years of experience and trial and error research carried out by farmers.

Farmers of India were able to maintain sustainable yields due to their expertise in maintaining the fertility of their soils. Sources of soil fertility were intimately linked to livestock rearing which provided, eventually, all the food required to feed the community of organisms living in the soil.

These competencies were damaged by the intervention of the Green Revolution post-1966.

Admittedly, food production increased to approximately 260 million tons in 2014-15, and the enhanced production provided relief to the expanding population and also brought about the food security of urban populations.

However, it also reduced sharply the basket of food crops available for consumption, with its almost exclusive focus on cereals like wheat and rice. Pulses and millets found themselves downgraded even while scientists acknowledged that the production of pulses was essential for a largely vegetarian population and that the nutrient composition of millets was far superior to those found in rice and wheat.

While the quantitative contributions of the green revolution package are still being discussed, there is little doubt that it has resulted in serious pollution of the soil and widespread contamination of surface and ground water. Due to the phenomenon of bioaccumulation, there is increasing presence of chemical residues in human and animal tissues including mother's milk.

The large-scale application of fertilizers and pesticides in the Malwa belt of Punjab, for example, has resulted in various cases of cancer, reproductive failure, deformity and other complications among the farming community in districts like Batinda, Sangrur and Ferozpur. The story is found repeated in those parts of the country where similar

chemical-based modern agriculture was introduced and supported.

No one doubts that organic farming is the need of the hour.

Thus while food security appears to have been achieved, nutritional security has become a major question, challenging development planners and scientists. Some challenge the very concept of food security in a population where more than 50% of the women and children in the rural areas of the country are found to be anemic and undernourished.

The problems associated with the introduction of chemicals in agriculture have emerged earlier in many of the industrial countries. Several nations like Australia, Argentina, USA, Germany, Sweden, Holland and Italy have now adopted programmes for incremental adoption of organic farming. As of today, areas devoted to organic farming in these countries already exceed 30 million hectare.

In India, the stimulus to move to organic farming is accompanied by a parallel stimulus to reexamine the virtue of indigenous agriculture, reflected in vast array of domesticated seeds and cultivars, nature-friendly techniques like no-till agriculture and in-house and in-farm preparation of soil inputs like panchagavya and jeevamrut and a vast array of herbal and medicinal products. Organic business is simply booming. Sales of organic food and organic produce expands every year. So have exports of organic produce.

Organic farming is therefore at a critical crossroads in India. The Chandigarh convention is being organized as a unique event which will celebrate the technical achievements of organic farmers throughout the country; elaborate on the measures to be taken by central and state governments to promote organic farming on incremental basis; and enable farmers to share their expertise with agricultural scientists who are keen to be exposed to the growing of crops without being dependent on chemicals. The convention is being planned in the heart of Chandigarh city in order to provide the citizens of Chandigarh with good organic food, scientific information about safe food and an opportunity to meet innovative and outstanding members of the organic farming community.

## Convention Co-Organisers

### National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR)

Since its inception in 1967, NITTTR Chandigarh (under MHRD, GoI) has made rapid strides in the areas of engineering & technology and emerging areas like IT educational technology, entrepreneurship development, rural development, industry-institute interaction and educational management. Every year, about 80,000 young rural men and women are trained in various vocations through its polytechnic system in the northern region.

The Department has organized six national seminars on various issues of sustainable rural development including one on the prospects of sustainable agriculture. NITTTR also conducts training courses on organic farming, water and sanitation and appropriate technologies for sustainable rural development. ([www.nitttrchd.ac.in](http://www.nitttrchd.ac.in))

### Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA):

ASHA is a large, nation-wide informal network of more than 400 organisations, representing 23 states of India working on issues pertaining to food, farmers and freedom. The network consists of farmers' organisations, consumer groups, environmental and women's organisations, individual citizens and experts who are committed to the cause of sustainable and viable farm livelihoods in rural India.

ASHA lobbies to ensure that productive resources are under the control of farming communities so that they can engage in environmentally sustainable farming and thereby, produce safe, nutritious, diverse and adequate food for all. ([www.kisanswaraj.in](http://www.kisanswaraj.in))

### Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM):

KVM works to create a successful social movement on organic farming in Punjab by raising public awareness around the fallouts of the intensive agriculture paradigm and the need for pro-nature and pro-farmer sustainable farming. KVM has created debate and discourse on sustainable agricultural development amongst farmers, scientists, consumers, academicians and government officials. It has been working for strengthening the capacities of farmers in Punjab through workshops, seminars, trainings, village-level meetings and workshops in schools. It has supported many farmers successfully to shift to organic farming. ([www.khetivirasatmission.org](http://www.khetivirasatmission.org))

## Scheduled events at the National Convention



*Under the guidance of OFAI President, Sarvdaman Patel, fields neighbouring Chandigarh have already commenced growing organic food for the convention's meals and food festival*

### Farmer-to-Farmer Sharing, Learning and Dialogue:

Group discussions, workshops, field trips, live demonstrations and other programmes for exchange of knowledge and solidarity-building will be an important feature of this Convention. This will be enhanced by the technical expertise of NITTTR, Chandigarh through live transmission and interactions with farmers and scientists at 20 other selected 'centres' around the country.

### Live Demonstrations:

Special agricultural plots have been prepared around Chandigarh by the President of OFAI, who is a pioneer organic farmer. Many other farmers and scientists will also demonstrate their skills, knowledge and innovations with ecological practices.

### A Scientific Conference on 'Mainstreaming Agro-Ecology':

The Indian Society for Agro-Ecology along with the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture will hold a scientific conference as an integral part of the Convention. The conference is inviting research papers by scientists in the field of sustainable agriculture.

### Biodiversity Festival:

The success of organic farming depends on the preservation and protection of bio-diversity. A number of farmers and organizations working for agro-diversity conservation and revival will display India's rich crop bio-diversity. This festival will be led by Sahaja Samrudha and Living Farms.

### Exhibition for Innovations:

An exhibition will be set up to make citizens aware of the need for organic farming, various organic practices, inputs, machinery and innovations from farmers and entrepreneurs.

### Kisan Haat:

The Kisan Haat would be an attraction for the Tri-city consumers to interact and procure authentic organic farm produce directly from farmers. It will also open up marketing opportunities for organic producers from the region and organic farmers from other parts of the country.

### Organic Food Festival:

The people of Chandigarh and Tri-city will experience a first-of-its-kind organic, traditional food festival on February 28th and March 1st 2015, to enable them to reconnect with the healthy food traditions of India.

### Urban Gardening Workshops:

Workshops would be organized for citizens to take up kitchen gardening based on organic principles.

### Cultural Programmes:

A wide variety of cultural programmes are planned for each evening of the Convention. Our organic farming community will experience a rich cultural heritage of folk songs, theatre and dances dedicated to Mother Earth.

### Policy Debates:

As part of its technical deliberations, the Convention will host debates for better policy formulation on a variety of themes like seeds, millets, certification, marketing, organic farming policies, promotion of bio-diversity conservation etc.

### Publications:

Training manuals and packages of practices as books and CDs/DVDs in various languages will be displayed and sold.

## Specific Convention Objectives:

- To showcase existing low cost, on-farm-based, nature-based alternatives to deal with the present crisis of agricultural production and high cost inputs.
- Establish policies to promote sustainable agriculture in various spheres and fields.
- Enable meaningful sharing of expertise between organic farmers, and between agricultural scientists, researchers and organic farmers.
- Demonstration and exhibition of innovative techniques to boost soil health, restore farm biodiversity and improve production yields.
- Provide a platform to share information on marketing and allied activities of benefit to the organic farming community.
- Preparation of a road map for sustainable farming for Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with stakeholders of the state.
- Provide exposure to the citizens of Chandigarh to the possibility of safe food consumption and an experience of organic kitchens.

## Participants

Many of the participants at the convention will be practising organic farmers from various parts of the country, including several outstanding pioneers. They form the core of all national organic farming conventions. However, bulk participation at Chandigarh is expected from the farming communities of Punjab, Haryana and Western UP.

Besides, over the past two conventions, significant number of civil servants, planners, agricultural scientists, NGOs involved in sustainable agriculture, organic farming trade and retail, and research scholars have also attended these conventions. This miscellaneous group composition has ensured very good cross fertilization of ideas and sharing of expertise.

Now that organic farming is finally catching the imagination of the nation, several Ministers are also keen to attend. The Bhubaneswar Convention of 2012 was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Odisha.

This is the first time that there will be a separate scientific congress on organic farming, being addressed by agricultural scientists from established agricultural universities and research centres. During the preparatory meetins for the convention, scientists from Punjab Agricultural University expressed their keen interest in organic farming in light of the poisoning of Punjab.

## Important Notes for People Attending the Convention



*If you wish to exhibit seeds or equipment or books, do not hesitate to contact the organisers as soon as possible. Looks like only those who come first will get their space.*

1. Accommodation will be provided from 12 noon of 27th Feb to 9 am on 3rd March, 2015. Those arriving before & leaving after these timings will have to make their own accommodation arrangements.
2. Registration will be done on first-come, first-served basis. Registration Confirmation will be sent via email, SMS, telephone or post. Those do not receive Registration Confirmation before 15th Feb. 2015 after sending registration form and fees within the deadline should approach the convention office immediately.
3. **Those who want to present/demonstrate their experiences/ innovations, perform cultural programmes, volunteer some service, showcase their seed varieties in biodiversity festival, display something in exhibition area, take part in the Kisan Haat and in the food festival are SPECIFICALLY requested to send a 1-page note along with the form mentioning details, incl. any special needs.**
4. Those who need accommodation other than shared dormitories are advised to book their own accommodation through web-booking. No concession in registration fees will be granted to such participants, however.
5. Direct deposit of registration fees in Bank A/c is NOT ALLOWED.
6. On-the-spot registration will not be entertained except for category No. 6 (see below). This condition is necessary for better process and outcome.
7. Those who cannot pay train fare and registration fees may contact OFAI office in Goa where a very small fund has been earmarked for providing financial assistance to such deserving and needy participants.
8. Railway reservation is expected to open approx. around 24th Dec, 2014 for participants to travel to Chandigarh from all over India. To remain on the safe side, participants are advised to book tickets without waiting for registration confirmation.

Participation in the Convention is ONLY by advance registration which closes on February 10th 2015. Forms are available with the Convention office and on [www.organicconvention.in](http://www.organicconvention.in). Only fully filled in forms, along with registration fee as MO, Demand Draft or crossed cheques payable at par in Chandigarh in favour of 'Kheti Virasat Mission Trust' will be accepted.

The participants coming through NITTTR Chandigarh network may send their registration fee in favour of Director, NITTTR, Chandigarh. Registration will include participation in all activities of the Convention along with simple hostel/dormitory type accommodation and organic meals during the Convention.

## The Convention Team at Chandigarh

### Fund raising

Umendra, Kavitha

### Finance & Accounts

Varungiri

### Mobilization

Umendra : Punjab

RR Fuliya/ R Chowdary: Haryana

Kapil: OFAI members, outside Punjab & Haryana

Kavitha: Non-OFAI, outside Pb/Haryana

Neeraj Atri: Chandigarh

### Engaging with students

Arvind Rana

### Delhi Unit

Ashmeet/ Abhishek Joshi

### Liaison and hospitality of

#### Govt officials/ agencies

Umendra

### Session planning

Rajesh/ Claude

### Scientific Conference

Dr. Ramoo

### Live demonstration

Sarvadaman Patel

### Grounds and pandals

Varungiri/ Karanveer

### Exhibition

Manu Moudgil

### Biodiversity Festival

Krishnaprasad/ Ashish G

### Food festival

Amarbir

### Cultural programmes

Poonam Singh

### Film Festival

Rina Gill

### Accommodation

Anoop Kapur

### Food (for convention)

Dr.Sukhdev Kundu

### Media management

Sanjeev Kochar

### Publications

Kapil/Gurpreet

### Documentation

Ashok Malik

### Tours

Gaurav Sharma

### Local Transport

Surendera Bhanot

### Volunteer management

Rina Gill

### Kissan Haat

Gaurav Sharma/Ananthoo

### New Media Team

Hemant Goswami

### Govt. permissions

Raman Mann

# The Organic World Congress 2017

## Why IFOAM's General Assembly Chose OFAI



*Ancient Indian Philosophy transmitted from generation to generation over thousands of years through its rich oral tradition gives us this tremendous concept of Mother Earth being the genesis of all nourishment, physical and mental.*

*Here we have – in the representation of a woman giving birth – Mother Earth herself bringing forth the fruits of her womb for us. She is gloriously depicting our oneness with nature, and harmony between all nations across the world.*

*(The above painting is actually in colour and was painted by Shamika Mone who is in charge of OFAI research wing. She started it and completed it during the days of the Istanbul Conference. All sorts of people stopped by and talked to her of what she was doing. Those inputs also went into her design and the painting was presented to the Director of IFAOM during the GA of IFOAM. On their return, IFOAM staff have installed the painting in the office in Bonn.*

The Organic World Congress is organised every three years. Countries bid to get the Congress to their country. OFAI in 2011 decided it might be a good idea to make the bid to get the Congress to India. This would provide a major boost to organic farming. It would also be useful for other purposes, like getting the government of India and its major agricultural extension and research institutions to take organic farming seriously. The bid had to be made during the General Assembly of IFOAM which is held always immediately after the Congress. The 2014 Congress was being conducted in Istanbul. It was therefore necessary for OFAI staff to gear themselves to make the bid there.

Several other countries also join the bid challenge. These included Russia, China and Brazil. Bidders were allowed only 10 minutes to make their presentation. After that, the GA voted the best bid in by voting.

When OFAI first submitted its proposal for the Congress already in 2011, we had with us a representative of an event manager from north India. However, due to lack of response, we eventually met Pradeep Deviah who runs PDA Trade Fairs. Deviah agreed to join the bid with OFAI. What is more, he

indicated he would not just be event manager, but would also back the bid proposal financially.

This changed the nature of the OFAI bid proposal entirely. Earlier, it had put much emphasis on getting the government to put in financial support. However, government was unable to respond to the proposals submitted by OFAI. Thus, when PDA came in and offered to take care of the financials, the bid became feasible.

The normal preparations were made. PDA and OFAI worked on a feasible budget for the event. They prepared wall charts and brochures. These were taken to Istanbul for display and distribution.

One evening was provided on a boat requisitioned for the purpose by IFOAM, during which OFAI and the Russian, Chinese and Brazilian themes set themselves up to answer any questions IFOAM member might want to ask.

During two days, Shamika decided to do a painting as part of the bid. So our bid presentation began earlier, with people dropping by, asking her what she was painting, and getting interested in India.

As part of the bid, each country had to either put up a cultural event or supply some special food items from their country. OFAI at first decided that it had no money for the purpose. However, at the last moment, the team going to Istanbul decided to take along with them laddoos (made from ragi and wheat) and kakras. These were laid out for the participants to sample. Each one got one laddoo and one kakra. But people came back for more. Within the hour, all the kakras and laddoos were over, testimony to the universal affection for spicy Indian food!

The Russian team put up a dance performance. They flew in more than a dozen people for the purpose.

The Chinese tried to attract people by presenting them with toy Pandas. The Chinese bid came from a municipality which has created a huge organic food production centre.

Both China and Russia were eliminated in the first round. The final round was between Brazil and India.

OFAI had been impressed by the fact that organic farmers were constantly absent from the Organic World Congress. Apparently, like organic food, the Organic World Congress too had become an event only for those who could afford it.

OFAI therefore came with a scheme that would bring large numbers of organic farmers to the Congress. This it hoped to achieve by exploiting India's advantages as a low-cost destination. OFAI promised it would bring 1000 organic farmers from India, another 500 from across Asia, Africa and South America, and still keep 1500 seats for the rest of the world.

It also proposed to enable organic farmers to make at least 75% of the presentations at the 2017 Congress, thus bringing organic farmers firmly on the global stage.

When the final round of ballots were counted, India (and OFAI) were overwhelmingly in the majority. The chairperson declared the decision without even counting the vote since it was so obvious.

The entire Indian team of Ashish Gupta, Shamika Mone, Rohit Jain and Anuradha Sarang played a key role in the preparation and presentation of the bid.

Pradeep Deviah from PDA Trade Fairs was also part of the bid-presentation.

After the Chandigarh convention, OFAI will get ready to host the Congress. It will need all the help it can get from its members.

## IFOAM-INOFO-OFAI Collaboration Project

The Intercontinental Network of Organic Farming Organisation's (INOFO) Capacity Building for the Organic Farming Leadership Programme 2014 really took off with the first face-to-face training at Bengaluru, India, in the last week of July 2014.

The five day training was held at a small NGO-maintained facility called Visthar. The setting was rural, with trees and organic cultivation, small decentralised buildings, meeting halls open to the natural environment, and very little need for equipment that one often thinks is mandatory for workshops.

The low cost facilities including excellent food, modest but clean accommodation, and great ambience. All the participants went away happy.

There were 12 persons from Africa, 5 persons from Asia and 7 persons from India (total 24). It was interesting for OFAI, since it was local organiser and host, but it also had people associated with the organisation or working with it enrolled for the programme.

Day one began with a session by Konrad H, Program Manager at IFOAM, on remembering the pioneers of Organic Agriculture. An exercise to recall each one's personal role model within the organic farming community (whether Indian, African or international) was an exciting episode for everyone.

The second session was focussed on "defining" organic agriculture: from its principles to applications. Understanding the limits in drawing such definitions and their complexity was a challenge for the budding leaders. (Example: If faced with the example of a farmer in Europe who has a huge acreage and therefore must use mechanized equipment, with corresponding monocrop yet grown with zero chemicals, would this team of budding leaders accept him/her as an organic farmer within their understanding and experience?)

The third session, on advocacy and lobbying, was educative as it helped clear the differences between the two terms.

Thereafter, mock group discussions were initiated to enable one group to prove the benefits of organic agriculture, say, to policy makers who criticize organic production on various grounds. Subjects chosen: "Organic foods are not healthier than non-organic foods," "Organic agriculture is not better for the environment than chemicals," "Organic farming cannot feed the world," and "Consumers are paying too much for organic food."



*Padma, of Annadana, Bengaluru, explains the systems Annadana uses to multiply and conserve open-pollinated seeds to the participants of the INOFO training project.*

Day two started with a session by Claude Alvares (OFAI) on understanding indigenous knowledge systems. After this session was over, we conducted a very revealing exercise: analysing in groups how much of our present life is indigenous, including food, clothing, shelter and organic agricultural practices and how much of it was westernised. It was fascinating to know and note that the indigenous component for all participants ranged from a low of 10% to 80%. One participant who was fond of coca-cola, thought that she and her lifestyle were 80% indigenous! By this time, those who had spoken least during the first day of the workshop, had begun to speak up with confidence and raise their points. The workshop was humming by now, there was good group work and a sense of purpose emerging.

Day three began with an introduction to the Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS) by Samraj from Keystone Foundation (he was a participant, but became the teacher for this session because of his experience in conducting PGS trainings on behalf of the PGS Organic Council (India).

Samraj's session was followed by a revolving table discussion with a new range of topics: this time, one person had to educate and convince visiting "policy makers" on various topics: mainstreaming PGS in the Philippines; organic, but not for export; organic is more safe than conventional, etc. The Hansalim model from Korea was discussed to stress on alternative models of marketing and to ensure a direct link between rural and urban areas.

Day four was dedicated for everyone to come up with their ideal or model organic farm within the framework of sustainabil-

ity. Each group had their own priorities on different aspects. The second part of the day was dedicated for achieving clarity on the development plans of each participant and where he or she could identify or find a role to play in the organic movement.

Day five was dedicated to understand the mapping exercise and to come up with a template to achieve efficient and meaning information standardised for all the participants in the group.

Though some crackling disagreements emerged during the workshop, overall it did serve to re-charge and strengthen the intercontinental network of organic farming Organisations (INOFO).

One measure of success of the workshop was in the successful ability of participants to know the full forms of IFOAM, INOFO, OFAI, NOGAMU, etc and also remember each other's personal names with all their local nuances and spellings.

By the end of the workshop, courage was supreme to take on the most daunting tasks. There was a 20 metre deep dry well on the Visthar campus. Even those with extremely deep personal fears and anxieties overcame them to descend into the abyss using a circular staircase that looked intimidating from above, but was found easy to negotiate once one commenced the descent.

The exercise was symbolic in a way for the INOFO workshop as well. So intimidating to commence on such a long journey uniting the organic farmers and farming associations of all the continents of the world. But as the people who were ready to undertake that journey met each other and shook hands and ate together and laughed and gestured, it didn't look that difficult after all.

## 5th National Organic Farming Convention

Dates : 28th Feb to 2nd March, 2015

Place : NITTTR, Sector : 26, Chandigarh

### REGISTRATION FORM

For office use only
Received on : _____
Amount Rs: _____
Receipt No.: _____
Registration No.: _____
Accommodation Details : _____

1. Fully filled in form should be sent to: Organic Farming Convention Office, 1st Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR), Sector: 26, Chandigarh : 160 019 so as to reach before 25th Jan. 2015, with due registration fees (details of registration contribution at the end of this form).
2. This form is meant for general participation as a delegate only. Those who want to book a stall in Food Festival / Exhibition and table space in Kisan Haat (to sell their own farm produce) need to send additional details. Those who want to participate in the scientific conference may get more details from [www.organicconvention.in](http://www.organicconvention.in)
3. You will receive Registration Confirmation via email, SMS, telephone or post. Please do contact Convention Office immediately if you do not receive Registration Confirmation before 15th Feb. 2015. Kindly visit [www.organicconvention.in](http://www.organicconvention.in) for more details.

1. **Full Name** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** : \_\_\_\_\_

Village/PO : \_\_\_\_\_ Taluka : \_\_\_\_\_ Dist : \_\_\_\_\_

State : \_\_\_\_\_ PIN : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : (0 \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile : \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

2. Profession : \_\_\_\_\_ Age : \_\_\_\_\_ Sex : \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you need accommodation (only simple, sharing basis in a dormitory available)? YES  / NO

4. Source of information about this convention : \_\_\_\_\_

5. Category (tick clearly on the appropriate category) :

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| (a) Organic Farmer <input type="checkbox"/> | (b) Non-Organic Farmer <input type="checkbox"/>          | (c) Scientist <input type="checkbox"/>      | (d) Student <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| (e) Consumer <input type="checkbox"/>       | (f) Policy maker <input type="checkbox"/>                | (g) Govt. officer <input type="checkbox"/>  | (h) NGO-Rep <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| (i) Media Person <input type="checkbox"/>   | (j) Input Dealer <input type="checkbox"/>                | (k) Certifier <input type="checkbox"/>      | (l) Processor <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (m) Retailer <input type="checkbox"/>       | (n) Exporter of Organic Produce <input type="checkbox"/> | (o) Medical expert <input type="checkbox"/> | (p) Any Other:.....                    |

6. If you are an organic farmer, please provide more details:

a. Total land operated: \_\_\_\_\_ Acres      b. Land area under Organic Farming \_\_\_\_\_ Acres

c. Do you farm yourself, or get it done by others?

d. Crops that you grow organically? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

e. For how many years have you been practicing Organic Farming?: \_\_\_\_\_ Years

6.1. Are you happy with organic farming ? Yes  / No

6.2. Challenges in organic farming (mention top three according to you):

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

7. If you are **NOT** an Organic farmer, please describe your work / activities in five sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2015 is the International Year of Soils

At the coming Organic Farming Convention, look for the OFAI manual of  
“SOIL RECIPES”

*The manual provides detailed instructions of how to prepare several soil nutrients – from panchgavya to amrutpani. Profusely illustrated.*

8. Describe your planned participation/role in the Convention. You may tick more than one category mentioned below :  
(PLEASE DESCRIBE ON SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER IF YOU WANT TO PRESENT / DEMONSTRATE ANYTHING OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEED/ BIODIVERSITY FESTIVAL, KISAN HAAT, CULTURAL PROGRAMME etc. DESCRIBING ALL RELEVANT DETAILS)

- a) Listener / Viewer / Learner   
 b) Presentation of experiences: Successes / Failures / Lessons : Oral  / PPT   
 c) Presentation of techniques in organic farming :

Any particular requirement? (Organizers will try but cannot guarantee to provide. Describe such requirement like cow urine, cow dung or tools/implements like spade, bucket etc. in quantity and numbers):

- d) Participation in Seed / Biodiversity Festival, through display of agro-diversity :   
 e) Participation in Food Festival as a stall-holder :   
 f) Participation in Kisan Haat to sell YOUR OWN farm produce :   
 g) Participation in Cultural Programme:  describe item : \_\_\_\_\_ and Duration in \_\_\_\_\_ min  
 h) Participation as a Volunteer (there is no exemption for volunteers in registration fees)  If yes, specify your skills please:

9. Please fill full details of persons accompanying you (in addition to yourself). To register more than 5 participants please use the table below on a separate sheet.

No.	Name of Participant	Category (please refer table at the bottom)	Age	Sex	Accommodation needed? Yes or No	Registration Contribution in Rupees
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
Total Registration Contribution in Rupees, in words:					Total	

10. Details of Payment:

- (a) DD or Cheque No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Bank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch : \_\_\_\_\_  
 (b) M.O. Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of the Post Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date :

Signature

#### Registration & Contribution

Actual per head expense of three days convention is about Rs. 2500/- . All participants are urged to contribute generously to make this event self sufficient and successful.

No.	Category	Rs./person Before 25th Jan	Rs./person Between 26th Jan-10th Feb
1.	Male Farmers	700/-	850/-
2.	Women Farmers	350/-	450/-
3.	Children of Organic Farmers (below 15 years)		as you please
4.	Students & Research Scholars	700	850
5.	Other Participants	1500	1700

**6. On the spot registration for local (Haryana, Punjab & Himachal Pradesh) farmers:**  
 Under this category maximum 200 local farmers will be registered daily on first-come, first-served basis @ Rs.200/- per person per day to cover cost of lunch & access to proceedings only. They will not be provided Registration kit, breakfast, dinner and accommodation.

#### -: REGISTER TODAY :-

Participation in the Convention is ONLY by advance registration which closes on February 10th 2015. Forms are available with the convention office and on [www.organicconvention.in](http://www.organicconvention.in). Only fully filled in forms, along with registration fee as MO or Demand Draft or crossed cheque payable at par in Chandigarh in favour of 'Kheti Virasat Mission Trust' will be accepted. The participants coming through NITTTR Chandigarh network may send their registration fee in favour of **Director, NITTTR, Chandigarh**. Registration will include participation in all activities of the convention along with simple hostel/dormitory-type accommodation and organic meals during the convention.

#### CONTACT :

(Office Timing : 9 am to 1 pm & 2 pm to 6 pm)

**Organic Farming Convention Office**  
 1st Floor, Multipurpose Hall,  
 National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR)  
 Sector 26, Chandigarh - 160 019.  
 Phone: 07087412288 / 07087432288  
 Email : [organicconvention.2015@gmail.com](mailto:organicconvention.2015@gmail.com),  
 Website : [www.organicconvention.in](http://www.organicconvention.in)

## The Organic Farming Sourcebook (5th edition)

Pp. 460 Rs.500

This, and several other titles on organic farming, will be available during the Organic Farming Convention. The Convention bookstore will have the largest collection of books on organic farming, in all Indian languages.

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 Editor: Claude Alvares

