

NAGPUR SEED FESTIVAL 2013

(For Safe Food, Biodiversity & Environment)

Date: April 26 to 28, 2013. **Time:** 9am to 8pm **Opening :** 5 pm on 26th April 2013

Venue- **Vinoba Vihar Kendra** (Sarvodaya Ashram), Near Bhole Petrol Pump, Amravati Road Dharampeth, Nagpur (3 km away at west from Rly. Station. And 1 km from Maharaja bag Gate.)

Introduction:

Seed is the soul of agriculture. It has taken hundreds of years, dedicated efforts of farmers to develop and conserve crop landraces suitable for local agro-climatic conditions. However, in recent years, agriculture is practiced with high external inputs. Farmer's dependence on external sources like seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides has resulted in steep escalation in input cost, environmental degradation and reduction in the biodiversity. Development of dwarf varieties for higher grain production has resulted in shortage of fodder and biomass necessary to maintain soil fertility. Problems associated with climate change are unpredictable. The agricultural systems all over the world are required to find suitable solutions for food security in the backdrop of above challenges. India has a number of landraces of food crops that are resistant to pests, can grow on poor soils and can sustain under the changed climatic conditions with high nutritive values.

Our farmers have been the conservators of our local seed varieties. The present agriculture system has led to strong genetic erosion. This has considerably narrowed crop diversity and erosion of farmers' knowledge, skills, and culture. The dependence of farmers on external inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, animal stock etc.) has increased. Simultaneously, there have been sustainable efforts by farmers to maintain and restore genetic diversity of our traditional crops. These have resulted in genetic improvement of our crops, conservation of indigenous knowledge systems and cultural practices that are rooted in the farming systems. There is a need to broad' base this culture of rediscovering and conservation.

Some of Innovative farmers, Individuals and organizations in Vidarbha, Maharashtra are genuinely working on conservation and revival of crop genetic resources. There is urgent need to share knowledge and experience and exchange seeds. It is in this context, three days **Nagpur Seed festival** (farmer breeders and seed savers meet, seed exchange and market linkages) is being planned.

Focus Areas of Seed Festival:

- Need and Importance of Indigenous seed diversity
- Impacts of GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) in Indian Agriculture
- Medicinal plants and Tribal Healing techniques
- Production & Marketing of organic food
- Biomass Literacy
- Consumer awareness - Safe food and GMO's

Main Programmes of Seed Festival:

- Indigenous crop diversity exhibition
- Lectures on various topics –GMOs in Agriculture, Participatory seed selection, seed conservation strategies
- Farmer breeders and seed savers meet
- Organic food - Consumers and Producers Meet
- Movies and presentations on Organic farming, seed conservation, GMOs in Agriculture

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

26th April 2013 Friday - 2 to 4.30 Informal Meet

5 pm - **Opening Session**

6 to 7.30 pm - Biodiversity conservation- why & how.

7.30 to 8.30 pm - Film Screening – Poison on the platter. (Genetically Modified Food)

27th April 2013 Saturday-

10 am to 01 pm - Seed savers' and Organic Farmers' Meet.

2 pm to 05 pm - Women Farmers' Meet: Experiences, Their Health Problems and Other Burning Issues

7 pm to 8.30pm- Film screening - Pestering Journey, and other films.

28th April 2013 Sunday-

9 am to 1 pm -G.M. Seed & Food Security

Farmers and Consumers meet: Market linkages

5 pm -Concluding Session

Exhibition will be open on Saturday and Sunday. From 09am to 08 pm.

CONTACT FOR DETAILS

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All are requested to join

Groups Involved –

- Aamhi Aamchya Aarogyasathi. Kurkheda Dist Gadhachiroli.
- Samvad, Rawala Th. Warud Dist Amravati.
- Vista Computers, Nagpur.
- Srujan, Nagpur.
- Academy of Nutrition Improvement Trust, Nagpur.
- Apeksha Homeo Society , Gurukunj Mozari Dist. Amravati.
- Gramin Samasya Mukti Trust, Jalaka Th. Maregaon Dist. Yavatmal.
- Dharamitra, Nalvadi Wardha.
- Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Wardha.
- Dry Land Farming Group C/o Mr. Nanda & Mrs. Vidhyatai Khare, Nagpur.
- Mrs. Shyamala Sanyal, Nagpur.
- Dilasa, Ghatanji Dist. Yavatmal.
- Kasturba Health Society, Sewagram, Wardha.
- Pragatik Yuva mandal, Bhandara.
- Magan Sangrahalay Smiti, Wardha.
- Chetana Samaj Seva Mandal. Yavatmal.
- Vikapa Sanstha, Ladegaon Dist. Washim.
- National Organization for Community Welfare. Wardha.
- GM-Free Maharashtra

For Safe Food, Farms & Environment

Say No To Chemicals & GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)