

## **Organic Farmers and Farms in Himachal Pradesh**

### THE SYLVAN HEIGHTS BIO-DYNAMIC AND VEDIC FARM

Batamandi, Paonta Sahib - 173 025, Himachal Pradesh

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The farm is within the dense Sal forests along the Yamuna River in Doon valley of the Shivalik mountain ranges. The entire farm area is 25 acres of which ten acres are mango orchards. The mango varieties grown here are Langras, Dassehris, Chausa and Ram Kelas. Cultivation of paddy, wheat, adzuki beans, soya beans, pulses and fodder for the farm animals is done on the rest of the land. Many varieties of tulsi are grown in the sunny parts of the orchard and turmeric and ginger are grown in other suitable portions.

The farm uses various wild growing plants like lantana, bhang, congress grass etc for making liquid manures and compost after adding biodynamic preparations in homeopathic doses. CPP (cow pat pit) is made from dung of the farm cows. CPP is used for a stem paste and for spraying on the crops. Preparations 500 and 501 are made by introducing cow dung and silica in cow horns which are buried underground and taken out in March and September.

Cow urine is used as a spray to combat pests, and as a plant nutrient. Sprays based on bhang, garlic, ginger etc., are used to control pests on the farm.

Agnihotra (Homa), as prescribed in the Vedas is performed at sunrise and sunset, for purifying the environment and marshalling the cosmic forces for plant and soil vitality. This farm is certified by INDOCERT. The name of private enterprise run through this farm is 'Farm Fresh Foods Pvt. Ltd.'

Certified organic products: Products include Kasturi brown basmati rice; Kasturi white basmati rice; Dehradun white basmati rice; Dehradun brown basmati rice; turmeric (haldi) powder; wheat; wheat atta (flour); maize flour(atta); wheat porridge; soybean; soybean flour (atta); groundnut; ginger; garlic; fruits; vegetables; spices and pulses.

(Source: Brochure)

HIMALAYAN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
(HIMOARD)

Khaneri Rampur Bsr. 172001, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

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Contact: Dr. R.S. Minhas, Chairman

HIMOARD provides many services for the promotion of organic horticulture in the state of Himachal Pradesh. It works in all the 12 districts of Himachal with over 2000 registered members. Its activities include: Educating farmers to undertake crop diversification.

- Spreading awareness of the concepts of IPM/ INM (Integrated Nutrition Management) in order to assist farmers to adopt organic farming practices
- Facilitating certification and marketing of produce
- Supporting medicinal, aromatic and herbal plant production including processing for value addition
- Providing advisory services at farmer clinics and to Kisan Call Centers@1551, a free service provided by Ministry of Agriculture GOI.

‘Divya Himachal’ is a newspaper published from Dharmashala and Chandigarh every Tuesday. MAP (herbals) was started by the organisation keeping in view the rich medicinal and aromatic heritage of these plants in Himachal Pradesh. It promotes the cultivation of these heritage species as intercrops in orchards that have been organically maintained, supplies germ plasm, identifies outbreak of disease and follows up with suggestions for preventive measures.

Certified Products: Apple, almond, kiwi, plum, apricot, walnut, cherry, offseason mango, litchi, pears, peach, nectarine, chilgoja, pomegranate. Pulses like rajmah, mash (urad), mung, kulth, masur, soyabean, organic wheat and maize. All types of traditional grains like koda, kaoni, opla, Fhapra, chillai, bathu, ropa (lalchawal) nauri nut, basmati rice and exotic vegetables and medicinal plants that grow in hilly regions.

The HIMOARD farmers’ group has on their list 132 apple growers with land holdings of 0.1 acre to 15 acres, producing anywhere between 70 to 5000 boxes of organic apples per season. Chairman HIMOARD is the National President of Stone Fruit Growers Association of India, promoted by Ministry of Agriculture GOI

(Source: OFAI Members, Brochure and Websearch)

## DEPARTMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

CSK Himachal Pradesh KrishiVishvavidyalaya

Palampur, Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh

Contact: Head of Department - Dr. JP Saini

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- Carry out multidisciplinary research, training and extension aimed at creation and dissemination of scientific knowledge of organic agriculture based on principles of ecology, health, fairness and care.
- Evolving organic management strategies for major insect-pests, diseases & nematodes of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, potato, medicinal plants etc.
- Standardization of organic fertilization for various crops of the region for yield maximization
- Training of human resource for expansion of organic farming in the state
- Advisory services on organic farming to officials, farmers and entrepreneurs

(Source: Brochure/website/OFAI interaction)

## DR.Y.S.PARMAR UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURE AND FORESTRY

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(Source OFAI interaction)

#### SH. RAMESH GANERIWAL

Village Kotla (near Bhitulu) V.P.O. Kutharna (via Charri) Tehsil  
Dharamshala District Kangra, H.P. 176217.  
Ph: 09418150451; Email: [ramesh@ganeriwal.us](mailto:ramesh@ganeriwal.us)  
Website: <http://www.ganeriwal.us/>

Ramesh ji is an organic farmer practicing permaculture techniques in a quaint village next to the GajRiver near Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The farm called Niramayam is a 14 acre haven of biodiversity following the philosophy of Fukuoka and Alan Chadwick. Many varieties of local rice, vegetables, oats are grown the year round at this farm. It also sees many volunteer come through the WWOOFF network.

#### SMT. RAJNI AND VIKRAM SINGH RAWAT

Kalasan Nursery Farm,  
VPO Marothi, Tehsil Karsog, Dist- Mandi, 175046, Himachal Pradesh  
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Vikram and Rajni run the Kalasan Nursery Farm which is predominantly an apple growing farm. They also cultivate many vegetables, legumes and maize using organic practices. The farm is well known in Himachal Pradesh for organic cultivation techniques in apple as well as developing and introducing new varieties from around the world in apples. The farm also has a fully functional laboratory for experimentation of tissue culture techniques as well as developing clonal rootstocks of apples. They have conducted successful trials with various techniques such as Biodynamic methods, Panchgavya etc.

#### PGS GROUPS DHARANI AND JAGRITI

As the first PGS certified organic farmers group in Karsog tehsil of Himachal Pradesh, the farmers of the group have successfully demonstrated a small scale marketing initiative for fruits, vegetables, legumes and dry fruits. A small shop has also been opened in the village to promote these crops.

Contact: Chandra Sharma and Kolti Sharma – Ph: 09418978522

#### GRAM DISHA JAIVIK FARMS

Village Baag VPO Pangana, Tehsil Karsog,  
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Ashish Gupta, OFAI MC Member runs this new developing natural farm. The farm is relatively new but has successfully demonstrated (natural cultivation, Fukuoka methods) in vegetables, maize and rice. The farm also sustains local crafts person by using building techniques using in-situ materials and earth construction systems. In addition, local crafts person such as iron smiths and stone masons integrate in providing farm implements.

## JAGRITI

Ms. MamataChander  
Ph: 09816474832; Email:[mamta@jagritikullu.org](mailto:mamta@jagritikullu.org)  
Website:<http://www.jagritikullu.org/>

A community based organization and a fully functional society, in Kullu district works on empowerment of rural poor and hill women. Primarily operating in various valleys of Kullu, they work on reviving traditional crops and also developing tools to reduce farm drudgery for women.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCE CENTRE FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ICCOA)

ICCOA is active in and have worked in the areas of research & technology, cluster development, capacity building, certification and linking to markets. Therefore ICCOA provides:

- Consultancy services
- Collects, analyses, documents and disseminates information and knowledge
- Builds capacity of individuals and institutions; conducts trainings and workshops
- Advocates for and popularizes organic agriculture
- Network and mobilise stakeholders on specific issues

Executes projects on Organic Farming in J&K and Himachal Pradesh  
For more information visit <http://www.iccoa.org/projects>