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Vedic Krishi: An Ancient Science for Sustainable Agriculture

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Agriculture is one of the most essential aspects of human life. Agriculture and allied activities have been providing subsistence for most of the population, since the ancient period. The system of agriculture started from almost the beginning of the Vedic period in India. Agriculture was an important part of Vedic economy. The **Rigveda** considers agriculture to be a real source of wealth and prosperity. The **Bhagavad-Gita**, **Rigveda** and **Atharvaveda** are veritable treasure of agricultural knowledge developed during ancient ages in India. Various aspects of agriculture are found in many hymns of the Bhagavad-Gita, Rig Veda and Atharvaveda. The **Vedas** are the main source of information regarding agricultural activities practiced by the Aryans.



What is Vedic Krishi?

Vedic Krishi is natural agriculture **free from all poisonous fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides grown by farmers enjoying Vedic consciousness.** Vedic Krishi will produce Vedic food the purest, most nutritious and most vital food. Vedic krishi is the base of **rural economy** because the rural people could maintain their livelihood by engaging themselves in different types of agricultural work. Advancement of any field work depends on the long experience hence the vedic agriculture is the pioneer of modern agriculture in India to provide adequate food to each and every people of this country



Vedas –the ancient treasure

Bhagavad-Gita, RigVeda and AtharvaVeda contains very specific details on agriculture like crop, cultivation, manuring, classification of herbs and different varieties of plants. In Bhagawad Gita Lord Vishnu has identified himself as the tree of Ashawatha(Pipal)

अश्वत्थः सर्ववृक्षाणां देवर्षीणां च नारदः।

गन्धर्वाणां चित्ररथः सिद्धानां कपिलो मुनिः॥

(Bhagawad Gita,Chapter-10,shloka-26)

Means: Pipal is a tree which releases Oxygen even during night time also, while other trees release oxygen during day time(Phenomenon of Photosynthesis)and Carbondioxide during night time (Phenomenon of Respiration).

Vedic Agriculture in Ancient India

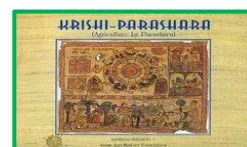
Vedic agriculture in Ancient India had many developments in science, mathematics, civilization, and Agriculture. The Hindu people had strongly followed the traditions and cultures so that every practice of agriculture was associated with these religious customs. The people started the agricultural practices such were ploughing, sowing, reaping and harvesting on auspicious days only. The soil was ploughed several times. The importance of seeds was emphasised and a certain sequence of cropping were recommended. Cow dung manure was used and irrigation was practiced.

Vedic literature

The entire Vedic literature, from the Samhitas to the Sutras, was presumably composed between 1500 BC to 5th century. Agriculture finds extensive mention in many vedic texts such as Krishi Parashara, Kautilya's Artha-shastra, the Sangam literature of early Tamils, Manusmriti, Varahamihira's Brhat-Samhita, Amarakosha, KashyapiyaKrishisukti, and Surapala's Vrikshayurveda. These texts provide information about agriculture, horticulture, arboriculture and plant biodiversity. Information on agricultural practices in the Vedic literature is mostly sporadic and not in the form of a narrative account.

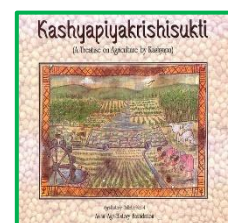
Krishi Parashara

- The first text book on Agriculture logically organized in chapters was given to world by India in 400 BC "Krishi-Parashara". A sanskrit text written by Mah arishi Parashara.
- The detailed description of Agricultural implements, especially the plough along with measurement of the various parts is noteworthy feature of the text.
- Parashara has mentioned several methods for predicting rainfall in the whole year or part of the year.



Kashyapiykrishisukti

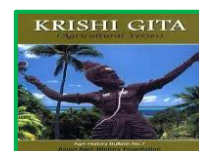
- Approx 1200 years ago old text on Agriculture
- Systemic instructions on various issues of farming
- Growing irrigated rice and other upland crops
- Selecting and managing cattle
- Highlighted importance of good quality soil in Agriculture



Krishi Gita

It is believed that Maharshi Parshuram taught farming to the people of Kerala.

- Scholar Govind Warriar compiled and edited the Krishi Gita in the 15th



century.

- In this book, information about 124 types of rice is available for soil and crop management in coastal Kerala.

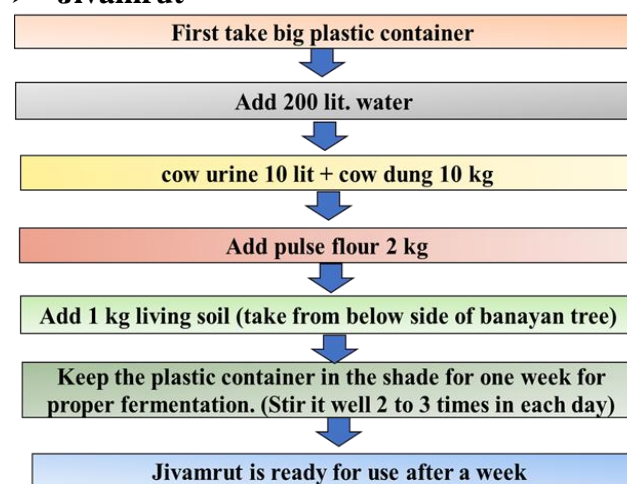
Manures are used in vedic krishi

➤ Panchgavya

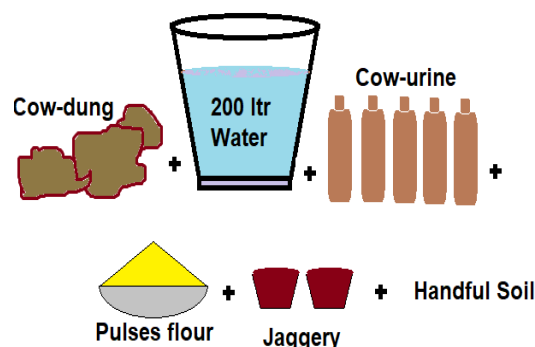
- In Vedic farming, the cow and farm life were deeply connected. The “original organic fertilizer” was called “**Panchakavya**” (**Panchagavya**) meaning five substances [cow manure, cow urine, milk, curd and ghee].



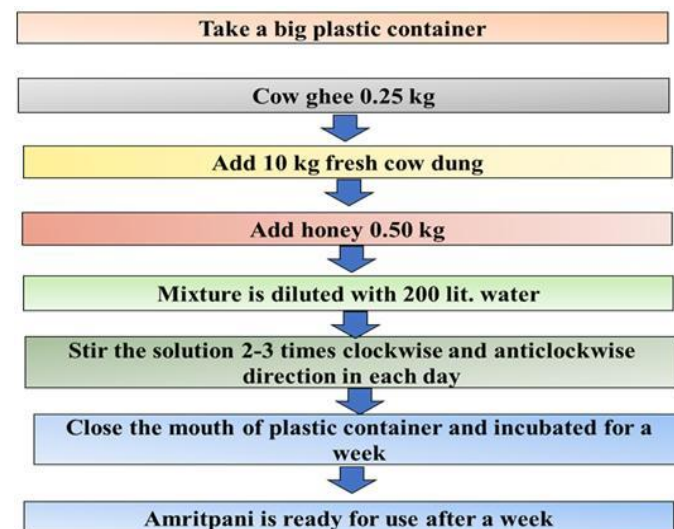
➤ Jivamrut



JEEVAMRUT PREPARATION



➤ Amritpani



➤ Matka Khad

- 15 kg cow dung, 15 liters cow urine and 250 g black jaggery are mixed
- Kept for fermentation for 8 days in an earthen pot (*matka*), diluted in 200 liters of water
- 2 to 3 spray of the mixture has been found very effective for growth, flowering and fruiting of vegetables



Biodynamic agriculture in vedic Krishi

Biodynamic Agriculture: Biodynamics derived from two Greek words, bios (life) and dynamos (energy). The name “Biodynamic” refers to a working with the energies which create and maintain life. It is a method of farming that aims to treat the farm as a living system which interacts with the environment, to build healthy living soil, and to produce food that nourishes, vitalises and helps to develop humanity. Biodynamics agriculture refers to the agriculture science that recognises basic principles at work in nature and applies this knowledge of life forces to bring about balance and healing in the soil. Two types of BD (1) Field BD - BD 500, BD 501(2) Compost BD - BD 502, BD 503, BD 504, BD 505, BD506, BD507 and BD 508

BD 500 Cow Horn Manure: BD 500 is basically fermented cow dung. This is fundamental biodynamic preparation for field spray. It is the basis for soil fertility and it will improve status of degraded soils. Apply BD 500 when the dew is falling (the earth breathes in) i.e. late afternoon or evening – descending moon.



Application of BD 500

- 25 g BD 500/acre in 15 litres pure warm water (15-20°C).
- Stir for one hour alternately clockwise and anti-clockwise forming a vortex.
- Spray four times a year during the beginning and after rains, i.e. February, May, November & December.



BD 501 Cow horn silica

BD 501 is made in ascending period of moon by filling the horns with mealy silica powder. This is finely ground quartz crystals specially prepared and the crystal should be of good quality, shape and clear. It is buried in a similar manner to preparation BD 500 but this time it is buried during the **summer** time (buried in April/May and lifted in September). This is the period when the earth is breathing out and the cosmic light energy is most active.



Application of BD 501

- Apply BD 501 only after one or two applications of BD 500. Apply when the dew is rising (the earth breathes out) i.e. early morning 6-8 a.m. at sunrise during ascending moon or moon opposition Saturn.
- 1 g silica in 15 litres of warm quality water and dissolve silica in water, stirring it for one hour before sunrise, alternatively clockwise and anti-clockwise forming a vortex.
- Spray the plants using a low-pressure knapsack sprayer. Spray into the air to fall as a gentle mist over the plants.



Biodynamic compost

- Biodynamic compost is a fundamental component of the biodynamic method.
- Biodynamic compost is unique because it is made with BD preparation 502-507.
- Making quality compost is very important as a way to maintain humus in the soil.

- Mixture of protein rich and carbon rich raw material at 60% protein and 40% carbonaceous material.
- Biodynamic compost is made in traditional manner.
- Make five deep holes in the side of the compost heap and put 1 g each of the BD 502 - 506 preparations as 1 BD/hole.
- BD 507 is applied to the outside layer of the compost windrow by spraying.
- Sprinkle the remaining half BD 507 evenly round the heap in a clockwise direction.

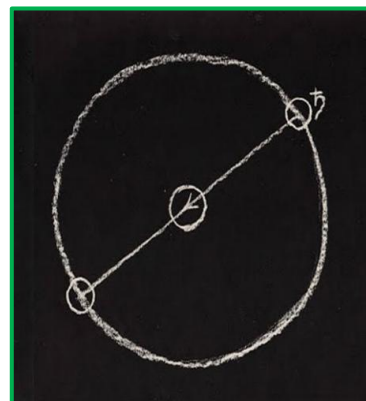
New Moon-Full Moon

- When the moon is close to the sun and almost invisible. As the moon moves away from the sun we see it more clearly.
- Just over 7 days later it reaches first quarter, followed by full moon which is about 12 times as bright. After approximately **29.5 days** the rhythm begins again.
- The element most affected by the moon energies is **water element** (e.g., sap in plants).
- 48 hours before full Moon is suitable time for **sowing seeds** and applying **liquid manures**.
- Avoid sowing seeds in New Moon day.
- The rishis identified 27 constellations, or “**Nakshatras**” in which the moon passes through. There are specific actions which should be taken on a particular Nakshatra cycle, in order to receive the maximum benefit to the crops.



Moon Opposite Saturn

- The Moon and Saturn are on opposite sides of the earth and their respective forces are raying into the earth from opposite directions.
- It's simply when Moon and Saturn are standing opposite side to earth at 180° .
- The Moon forces bring in the calcium processes (earthly), while the Saturn forces bring in the silica processes (cosmic).
- The balancing effect of these two influences streaming into the earth produces very strong plants from seed sown at this time.
- This position occurs once in 27.5 days. Seed sowing, transplanting and BD 501 (horn silica) spraying at early morning are recommended. It is auspicious day for all important agricultural activities.



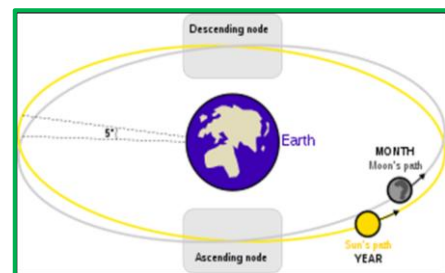
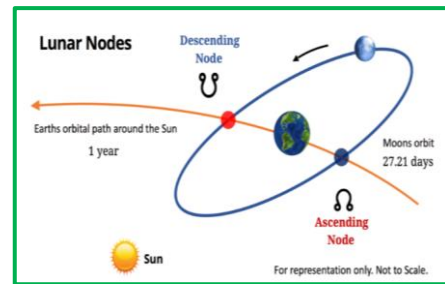
Ascending and Descending Moon

- When the Moon moving in an arc from east to west and we see these arcs getting higher in the sky every day, the Moon is *ascending*. The distance between Moon and Earth increases day by day for 13.6 days approximately.
- Sowing seeds in direct seed sowing methods or raising the seedlings, spraying liquid manures as foliar spray, spraying BD 501 (horn silica) up to 10.00 a.m., harvesting leafy vegetables, fruits and transplanting the seedlings.
- When we see the arc of the Moon path getting lower every day the Moon is *descending*. The distance between Moon and Earth decrease day by day for 13.6 days approximately.

- Making compost, compost application to the field, ploughing, BD 500 (horn manure) + CPP, liquid manure application in the soil, harvesting bulbs and roots can be done.

Moon nodes

- As it ascends and descends, the Moon crosses the path of the Sun (the ecliptic). The crossing points are called nodes and are the only places and times where eclipses can occur.
- The ascending or north node is where the Moon crosses from south of the ecliptic to north of the ecliptic.
- The descending or south node is where it crosses from north of the ecliptic to south of the ecliptic.
- The Moon makes one complete nodal cycle every **27.2 days**, so there is a node approximately every 14 days, which is two nodes every month.
- Biodynamic farmers avoid important agricultural activities to due to its negative influence works into the soil.



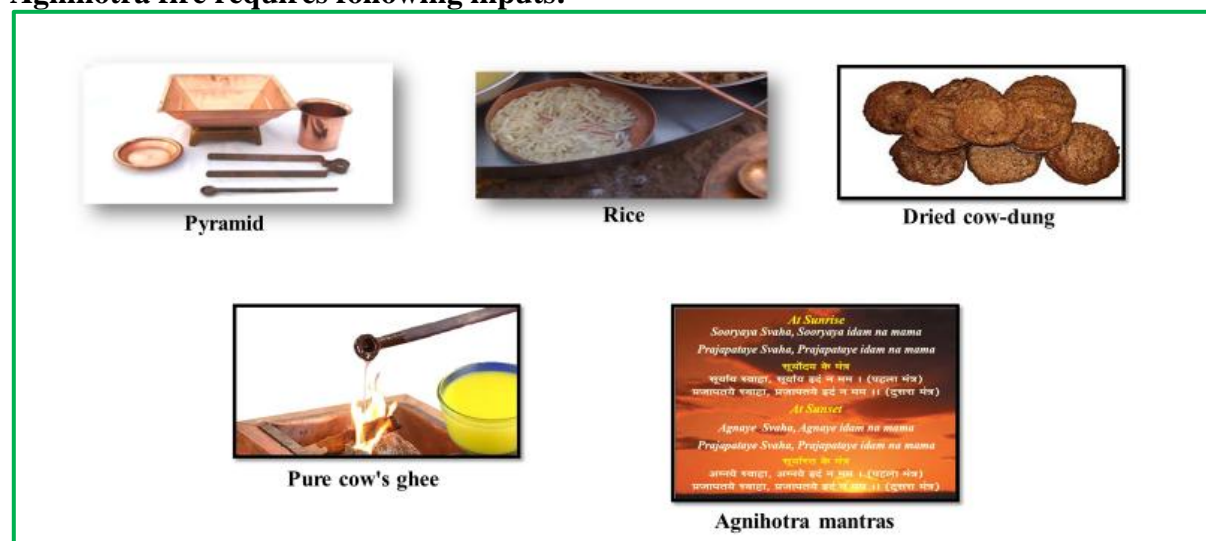
Homa Farming: Vedic Wonder

Homa Therapy means healing the environment, the atmosphere, and all of life using the ancient Vedic Science of Yajnya or Havan. When Homa Therapy is applied to agriculture it is called Homa Farming. Agni means fire Hotra means healing. The great saints of Saraswati Indus civilization (9500 years ago) performed Agnihotra yajna in order to purify the environment, as detailed in Rigveda (oldest of Vedas). Agnihotra is also mentioned in Bhagavad Geeta, Krishiparasara Agnipuran and Vriksha Ayurveda. It's written in the *Vedas* that "HEAL THE ATMOSPHERE AND IT WILL HEAL YOU". This is a process which is known to purify the surrounding atmosphere. The most significant aspect of Agnihotra is that it combines the energies of five elements Sun, space, air, water and Earth to produce subtle changes in the living organisms and helps to restore the bio-rhythm.

Who can practice Agnihotra?

Agnihotra can be practised easily by anyone irrespective of caste, religion, gender, age. Anyone in any walk of life can do Agnihotra and heal the atmosphere in his or her own home.

Agnihotra fire requires following inputs:



Agnihotra mantras

(सूर्योदय)

सूर्याय स्वाहा सूर्याय इदं न मम ।
प्रजापतये स्वाहा प्रजापतये इदं न मम ॥

Meaning: Unto the sun I am offering this offering. This is not mine, this is Thine.

(सूर्यास्त)

अग्नये स्वाहा अग्नये इदं न मम ।
प्रजापतये स्वाहा प्रजापतये इदं न मम ॥

Meaning: Unto the fire I am offering all. This offering is not mine it is Thine.

What happens during Agnihotra?

- It should be emphasized that the purpose of Agnihotra is not to burn the substances that are added in the form of oblations, rather it is to vaporize them, *i.e.* to heat them just to the extent that they are transformed into vapor phase.
- The fumes/vapors from the burning components rise high up in space.
- When all the volatile substances are diffused in the surrounding atmosphere, these are further subjected to photochemical reactions in the sunlight.
- The aroma can be experienced easily in the surroundings when Yagya is performed due to diffusion of substances like terpinol, eugenol, ammonia, indol, formalin *etc.*
- Thereby, these substances diffuse into the surrounding air and transform the air quality favorably.

Agnihotra ash

Collect the **cooled** Agnihotra ash from the copper pyramid and pass it through a **fine sieve**. Store this finely powdered ash in a container made of natural material like **glass, earthenware, clay, paper or wood**. Do not store ash in plastic or in metal. The bigger, **harder parts** that remain in the strainer can be given to plants, **put in water sources** like rivers or lakes, or put in the compost pile. Wherever Agnihotra ash is placed, it gives healing energy.

**Direct use of Agnihotra ash in agriculture****Treatment of seeds and seedlings**

Mixture of cow urine and water in a ratio of 50:50, **4 tablespoons** of Agnihotra ash per **5 litres** of solution are added and stirred.

Seeds and seedlings should soak in this solution for **30-40 minutes**.

cow urine has antibacterial effects and provides a **protective coating** around the seeds and seedlings .

They should be dry enough to spread, but moist enough so that the core of the seed doesn't dryout. Seedlings may be **planted immediately** after being treated with the solution.

Benefits of Agnihotra in Agriculture

- Plants grown in Yagna atmosphere evolve networks of veins that are cylindrical and larger than normal, permitting water and nutrients easier movement to all parts of the plant.
- This helps growth and reproduction cycles of plant.
- All the energy of the plant goes towards yield because by performance of Homa make the plants happy.
- This gives the plant the ability to maintain maximum growth and yield levels.
- By practice of Agnihotra much of the nutrition, taste, texture, colour, size of fruits become excellent and giving satisfaction and health to humanbeings.
- In the rejuvenated soil different types of microorganisms, starting from the level of viruses, bacteria, fungi, algae, thrive. Thus, a healthy microflora and microfauna are created.
- This gives rise to a micro environment or microsystem which is comparatively less toxic to the growing plants.
- The soil which has now become a living soil because of the presence of microorganisms has all the chemical components useful for life in the form of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen.

