



In Association with VANAMATI And ATMA

Beejotsav Samuha / बीजोत्सव समूह

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 Beejotsav-बीजोत्सव

 @Beejotsav



Beejotsav Background

Beejotsav has evolved into a movement that has garnered widespread support from like-minded individuals who believe in the cause on one hand, of providing toxin free healthy food for the consumers and on the other hand, ensuring seed sovereignty for the farmers. Originating in Nagpur, the movement has expanded to the districts of Buldhana, Wardha, Gadchiroli, and Chandrapur.

Beejotsav serves as a platform where farmers, organizations, and consumers involved in organic farming come together. Participants showcase and sell their products, engage in discussions about challenges in organic farming, and share insights on experiments, movements, laws, and systems for marketing organic produce. The event also facilitates the exchange of seeds, knowledge, and skills, fostering a community of sustainable farming enthusiasts. It is a common meeting event for people with the same interests.

This initiative has been sustained for over 12 years, with a temporary pause during the Covid-19 pandemic. Its enduring success underscores the growing awareness and collective effort toward sustainable agricultural practices.



Beejotsav

21,22,23 March
Vanamati - Dharampeth

FREE ENTRY



Importance of Seed Festivals

Beejotsav serves as a platform where farmers, organizations, and consumers involved in organic farming come together. Participants showcase and sell their products, engage in discussions about challenges in organic farming, and share insights on experiments, movements, laws, and systems for marketing organic produce. The event also facilitates the exchange of seeds, knowledge, and skills, fostering a community of sustainable farming enthusiasts. It is a common meeting event for people with the same interests.



Beejotsav Journey

Beejotsav was initiated in 2013 by a collective of organic farmers, social activists, and conscious consumers in Vidarbha. The concept is rooted in its name, which signifies "a celebration of seeds." Beejotsav embodies the belief that the journey toward poison-free farming begins with seeds. Preserving pure indigenous seeds is crucial, as recreating them once lost is nearly impossible.



Since the beginning women farmer's participation was exceptional

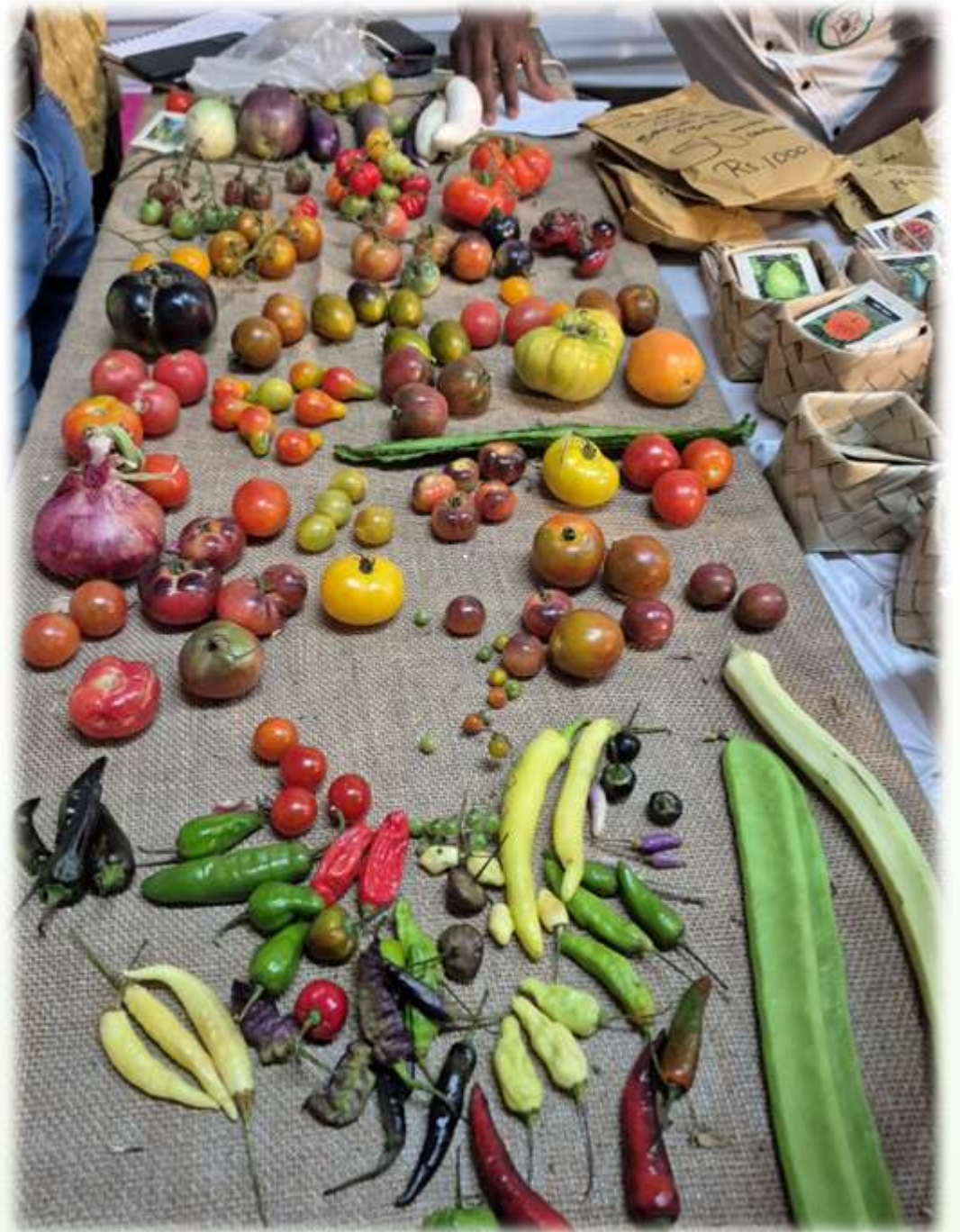
Objectives of the Festival

Promoting Biodiversity

The festival aims to raise awareness about diverse seed varieties, encouraging sustainable farming practices that support ecosystems and promote resilience against climate change.

Educating the Public on Seed Conservation

Through workshops and demonstrations, the festival educates attendees on the importance of seed conservation techniques, highlighting their role in maintaining agricultural diversity and food security.



This Year's Program Schedule



21/03/25 – Friday – Seed Sovereignty

First Session : Inauguration : 11:00

- Introduction : Shri. Anant Bhojar
- About Beejotsav : Dr. Satish Gogulwar
- Future Directions of Beejotsav & Other Details : Shri. Vasant Futane
- Felicitation : Padma Shri Subhash Sharma, By : Shri. Rausaheb Dagadkar
- Inauguration : Smt. Vasumana Pant (IAS, Director, Vanamati, Nagpur)

Felicitation of Seed Conservators by Distinguished Guests

- Hon. Guests –
Shri. Ravindra Thakre (IAS, Additional Commissioner, Tribal Development, Nagpur)
Shri. Umesh Ghatge (Div. Joint Director of Agriculture, Nagpur Division, Nagpur)
Shri. Ravindra Manohare (District Superintendent Agriculture Officer, Nagpur)
Dr. Ajaysingh Rajput (Regional Director, RCONF, Nagpur)
Smt. Sridovi Laxmikootty (Co-founder, Bio Basics, Coimbatore)
Smt. Vijayatai Dhas (President, Dilasa, Yavatmal)
Shri. Anand Deshpande (Managing Director, Persistent Systems, Nagpur)

- Exclusive Interview : Shri. Rausaheb Dagadkar
- Speech by Honored Guest : Padma Shri Subhash Sharma

Lunch Break : 1:00 – 3:00

Second Session : 3:00 – 5:00

- Experiences of Seed Conservators
- Need for Seed Conservation in the Context of Climate Change : Sanjay Patil

Cultural Program (7:00 – 8:00)

Street Play, "Chala Sawall Paruya" – Dance performance, poetry recitation, singing by school children



22/03/25 – Saturday – Farmer-Centric Day

First Session : 10:00

- Panel Discussion : Somnath Gulwe, Maharudra Manganale, Pramod Mahajan, Suvarna Damle & Women Farmer from Makam/Prakriti Institute
- Useful Native Trees for Farm Boundaries and Their Various Uses : Shivshankar Chapule, Madhuri Kanetkar

Lunch Break : 1:00 – 3:00

Second Session : 3:00 – 5:00

- Man-Animal Conflict: Challenges Faced by Farmers and Pastoralists Community Near Forest Areas : Praful Kalokar, Yadav Tarte Patil
- Young Farmers' Conference : Pratap Marode, Mandar Deshpande, Chinmay Futane, and others

Cultural Program (7:00 – 8:00)

– Poetry Reading, Singing



23/03/2025 – Sunday – Consumer-Centric Day

First Session : 10:00

- The Farmer-Consumer Movement for Chemical-Free Food – A Ray of Hope: Yuktachar Group, Pravin Deshmukh, Ashwini Aurangabdkar, Varsha Bhojar
- Impact of Agricultural Chemicals on Human Health : Prof. Dr. Ulhas Jaju (MD, Medicine)

Lunch Break : 1:00 – 3:00

Second Session : 3:00 – 5:00

- From Farm to Plate : Gurudas Nulkar, Pune
- Current Situation of Indian Villages & Youth Issues : Ashutosh Joshi, Konkarn
- Book Introduction : Ecology, Colonialism and Cattle : Central India in the Nineteenth Century (Studies in Social Ecology and Environmental History) by Tejindersingh Rawal
- Closing Ceremony : Presentation by Beejotsav Committee & Future Roadmap

Parallel Sessions

Urban Sketchers Group : Live Sketching Exhibition

Green Nagpur Group : March for Tree Conservation, Poetry Reading, Singing



बीजोत्सव २०२५



Beejotsav

बीजोत्सव
SEED FESTIVAL





Day 01

Inaugural Function And Felicitation of Seed Savers



Inauguration at the hands of Shri Raosaheb Dagadkar and Padmashree Subhash Sharma

Vasantbhau Futane, Vijay Jawandhiyaji and others are accompanying



01

Padmashree Subhash Sharma, Yavatmal



02

Smt. Sridevi Laxmikooty (Co-founder, Bio Basics, Coimbatore)



Highlights of the day

The programme began with the felicitation of Padma Shri Subhash Sharmaji, who was honoured by the Government of India recently for his years of successful experiments with natural farming.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Ajaysingh Rajput, Regional Director, RCONF, Nagpur, Smt. Sridevi Laxmikooty, Co-founder, Bio Basics, Coimbatore, Smt. Vasumana Pant (IAS), Director, Vanamati, Nagpur and others.

Padma Shri Subhash Sharma highlighted critical issues confronting agriculture and society at large, urging for collective action to address these pressing challenges.

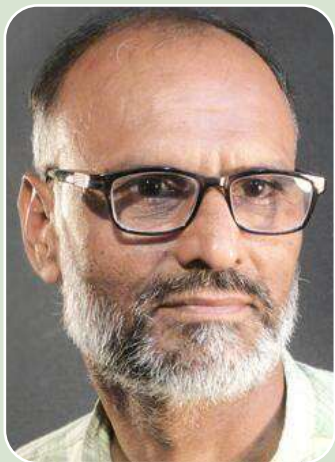
Sharma ji emphasized that Beejotsav serves as a vital platform to reflect on the future of agriculture, the sustainability of seeds, and the quality of food and water for generations to come. He identified four major challenges that humanity faces today:

1. Climate change
2. Depleting soil nutrition
3. Falling groundwater levels
4. Imbalance in nature

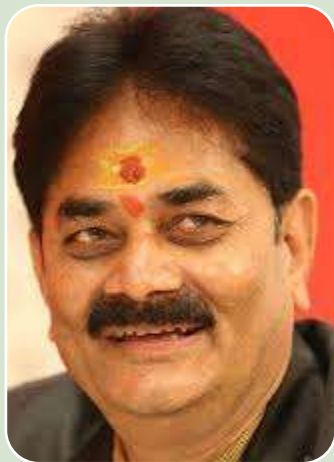
In his thought-provoking speech, Sharma ji called for a paradigm shift in agricultural practices, stressing the importance of learning from "a scientist called Nature," which has sustained the fertility of land for millennia without human intervention. He underscored the need to restore the environment's water quality and quantity to confront the challenges of the future.

Sharma ji also highlighted the profound wisdom of natural systems, which have allowed countless species of plants and animals to thrive over thousands of years. He urged for a collective effort to rebuild the interconnection between soil, water, and nature, which he deemed essential for a sustainable future.

Touching upon the design of future farms, Sharmaji asserted that financial investments alone are insufficient. "The human society must actively engage in building these systems," he said. He further appealed to the government to collaborate with society in creating a new agricultural paradigm and supporting the farmers of today in their journey toward sustainability.



Shri Anant Bhoyar described the ideology and purpose of Beejotsav. He introduced Beejotsav to the audience.



Dr. Ajaysingh Rajput's, (Regional Director of RCONF, Nagpur) address was a passionate call to action, encouraging everyone to prioritize seed conservation and sustainable practices to build a resilient agricultural future.



Smt. Sridevi Laxmikooty (Co-founder of Bio Basics, Coimbatore), highlighted the importance of urban consumers in supporting seed conservation, urging them to adopt the mantra "Consume to Conserve."



Dr. Satish Gogulwar (Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi) explained the journey of Beejotsav and what it has achieved over the last 12 years.



Shri Futane, a prominent voice in sustainable agriculture, emphasized the need for collective action to bring about "Parivartan" (change) during his address at Beejotsav. He highlighted the importance of providing accurate information to farmers, pointing out that misinformation is currently widespread.



Shri Vasant Futane then interviewed Shri Ravsaheb Dagadkar, a senior natural farmer from Amravati district, who had laid the foundation of natural farming in the Vidarbha region in 1990s.

Felicitation of the Seed Savers from across the country by giving Letter of Gratitude and Tokari of Organic goods



Experience Sharing by Seed Conservators



Pradipkumar of Tamilnadu Seed Saver Group
And Mauli Jadhav



Pramod Mahajan and
Chinmay Futane, Wardha



Asawari Poshettivar, Chandrapur



Shri Sanjay Patil of BAIF spoke on the topic: "Need for Seed Conservation in the Context of Climate Change."



Bhushan Neve, Maharogi Seva Samiti, Somnath Prkalpa

Seed Diversity Showcased in Beejotsav

Sorghum - 10 varieties

Paddy – 200 varieties

Pulses – 20 varieties

Wheat – 7 varieties

Cotton – 10 varieties

Vegetables – 500 varieties

Corn – 20 varieties

Milletts – 40 varieties

Indigenous tree seeds – 230 varieties

Also, Wild Honey, Turmeric, Medicinal plants etc.





Day 02

Farmer Centric





The morning commenced with “Anandmayee Shetee” (Happy and Satisfying Farming), a session anchored by young farmer Pratap Marode, featuring Maharudra Manganale, a 65-year-old journalist-turned-farmer. Manganale passionately articulated that farming is not merely a profession but a lifestyle.



Shivshankar Chapule and Madhuri Kanetkar, alongside ecologist Prachi Mahurkar, presented “Useful Native Trees for Farm Boundaries and Their Various Uses.” Chapule, renowned for his dedication to collecting native seeds in remote regions, underscored their ecological value and contribution to biodiversity. Kanetkar and Mahurkar provided a comprehensive overview of native plants that enhance soil fertility, provide fodder, and act as wind barriers, promoting sustainable agricultural practices.



Pastoral Communities and its association with Jungles – Praful Kalokar. Kalokar emphasized the critical role of pastoralists (pashupalaks) in maintaining ecological balance, advocating for grassland preservation and government support to safeguard this vulnerable community.

Suvarna Damle of Prakriti Institute highlighted the transformative impact of sustainable farming on small-landholding women farmers, showcasing their increased confidence and improved livelihoods.

Yadav Tarte Patil presented alarming statistics on human and animal casualties, linking forest degradation to increased conflict. He stressed the urgent need for forest conservation, highlighting the interconnectedness of forests, rivers, and agriculture, also addressing the impact of changing cropping patterns.



The day concluded with a dynamic panel of young farmers from across India. Pradipkumar of the Tamil Nadu Seed Savers Group shared his transition from mechanical engineer to organic farming champion, emphasizing that organic farming is about slowing down and prioritizing a sustainable lifestyle. Pramod Mahajan discussed his successful cultivation of desi cotton and innovative jaggery production. Pratap Marode reiterated the challenges and rewards of organic farming, emphasizing happiness over monetary gain. Chinmay Futane spoke of his journey supporting aspiring natural farmers, and Prachi Mahurkar highlighted her fulfillment in fulfilling her family's food needs through her own farming efforts, after leaving a corporate job.



Day 03

Farmer-Consumer Connect and Sustainable Food Systems





Hemant Mohrir introducing "Yuktahaar – relationship beyond transaction," an initiative aimed at establishing direct, year-round relationships between consumers and organic farmers. Mohrir emphasized the need to move beyond transactional exchanges, advocating for community-driven models that ensure stable incomes for farmers and consistent access to quality produce for consumers.



Organic farmer Ashwini Aurangabadkar shared her experiences, highlighting the challenges of meeting inconsistent consumer expectations and the necessity of urban citizens acting as intermediaries between farmers and consumers.



Dr. Ulhas Jaju addressed the impact of agricultural chemicals on human health, stressing the need for societal recognition of the laboring class's contributions.

Dr Nagapure, ENT with Sewagram hospital, supported Dr Jaju's logic by giving his own example. Dr Nagapure himself has been supporting 3 farmers for over 30 years by taking care of their health, child education and other needs which gives him total dedication from the three farmers.



Varsha Bhojar , a farmer from Katol , showcased her innovative approach to creating and selling value-added products, demonstrating the potential for rural entrepreneurship.



Dr. Gurudas Nulkar emphasized the importance of biodiversity in diets and the benefits of traditional seed varieties, urging consumers to prioritize direct relationships with farmers.



Ashutosh Joshi, a young advocate for sustainable living, shared his experiences traveling across India to understand the challenges of rural communities.



Dr. Tejindersingh Rawal reviewed the Marathi book "Kapus Kondyachee Gosht," highlighting the historical impact of colonialism on Vidarbha's natural resources.

At the end of the closing ceremony, Shri Vasantbhau Futane outlined the future roadmap for Beejotsav, encouraging youth participation in the sustainable agriculture movement. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prachi Mahurkar, underscoring the collective effort towards building a healthier, more equitable food system.

Beejotsav 2025 served as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, reinforcing the crucial role of consumer awareness and farmer empowerment in creating a sustainable future.





We believe that learning is a continuous process



Children's Activities and Learning Sessions in Beejotsav

Evening cultural activities attracted the visitors. Children were engaged in fun, educational activities about plants and seed diversity. The organizations like Rope Skipping Association, Vrudawan group, Urban Skecher's group, Saving Dreamz Foundation participated in various fun / cultural activities.



Children's Activities and Learning Sessions

Engage children in fun, educational activities about plants and ecology, encouraging curiosity and understanding of nature to nurture future generations of environmentally conscious citizens.





Soulful Meal is the Major Attraction of Beejotsav



This year

Stalls	76
State representation	10
Farmers visited	1000
Consumers visited	3000

Organizations involved

VANAMATI, Nagpur	Center for Sustainable Development, Pune
ATMA, Nagpur	Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi, Gadchiroli
Gram Seva Manal, Gopuri, Wardha	Dharamitra, Wardha
Dilasa, Yavatmal	Bharat Beej Swaraj Manch
Aaroha, Nagpur	Vinoba Vichar Kendra, Nagpur
Prakriti, Nagpur	BIAF, Pune
Meraki Theatre, Nagpur	Prayas, Amravati
Devrai Foundation, Pune	Green Nagpur Group
Urban Sketchers Group, Nagpur	Punarnava, Nagpur
Learning Companion, Nagpur	Sakarkar Yuktahar Pilot Project, Nagpur
FEED, Nagpur	S. M. Zade Foundation
Book Club, Nagpur	Nagpur Rope Skipping Association
PAN (Pesticide action networks)	Saving Dreamz Foundation, Nagpur
Yuktahar Group, Nagpur	Entujn Food Tech Pvt Ltd.

Well Wishers of Beejotsav

Anand Deshpande
Gurudas Nulkar
Sharad Mahurkar
Ketaki Ghate
Vaishali Bezalwar
Pradyumna Sahasrabhojane
Rishi Saraf
Lakshmikant Kapashikar
Manasi Paranjape
Amit A.

Volunteers are the driving force behind every public movement. From the very beginning, they serve as its backbone, ensuring its growth and success.

To name the few:

1. **Akash Navghare** was the central figure of Beejotsav for several years. He is also a Chevening Fellow from London.
2. **Kirti Mangrulkar**, Professor turned farmer, is part of Beejotsav for last 11 years.
3. **Rupinder Nanda** and her team is well known for their communing farming project in Nagpur
4. **Shaymala Sanyal**, an industrialist and a conscious farmer/ consumer always supported Beejotsav in her capacity
5. **Ashwini Aurangabadkar**, CA by profession is a fulltime farmer
6. **Vinay Futane** – “Ballavacharya” of the Beejotsav
7. **Anant Bhojar** – Hardcore farmer, artist by heart is a member of the group since its inception

Dr. Satish Gogulwar and Vasantbhau Futane are the guiding force of the group.

‘रसायनमुक्त अन्न हे लक्ष्य बीजोत्सवामुळे नक्की गाढले जाईल’

लोकसत्ता विशेष प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर: हवामानात होणाऱ्या मोठ्या बदलांसाठी कारणीभूत अनेक कारणांपैकी रासायनिक शेती हेही एक कारण आहे. हळूहळू बदलाचा सामना करावयाचा तर सेंद्रिय शेतीशिवाय पर्याय नाही. हे कठीण असले तरी अशक्य नाही. बीजोत्सवाच्या दमकपूर्तीत हे जुळवून आले आहे आणि येत्या काही वर्षांत हा समूह आणखी मोठा होईल. रसायनमुक्त अन्न हे लक्ष्य बीजोत्सवामुळे नक्की गाढले जाईल, असा विश्वास ‘बीजोत्सव-राष्ट्रीय बीज महोत्सव’च्या संयोजकांनी व्यक्त केला.

पद्धती बदलली आणि त्याचे दुष्परिणाम शेतकऱ्यांसोबतच सामान्य लोकांवर देखील जाणवले. शेतकरी बाजारावर याचा दुष्परिणाम झाला तरीही त्यातून शेतकऱ्याला बाहेर पडता येत नाही, त्यांना यातून मार्ग काढता यावा यासाठी बीजोत्सवाची संकल्पना आहे. लोकसंख्या वाढत आहे आणि शेतजमीन कमी होत आहे, त्यात हवामान बदलाची भर पडली आहे. त्यामुळे सेंद्रिय शेतीच यातून बाहेर काढू शकिल. फक्त त्यासाठी एका



बीजोत्सवाच्या या पर्वात सेंद्रिय शेती करणारे १८ राज्यातील शेतकरी सहभागी होत आहेत. सुमारे ९०० प्रकारच्या धान जाती आणि मिलेद सवे वेगवेगळे प्रकार हे या बीजोत्सवाचे वैशिष्ट्य असेल. जवळजवळ ४० संस्था आणि नेटवर्क सोबत बोलणी झाली आहे. यावर्षीचा बीजोत्सव हा केवळ एक कार्यक्रम नाही तर सामाजिक चळवळ म्हणून समोर येईल, असा विश्वास या भेटीत व्यक्त करण्यात आला.

मंचावर येऊन काम करावे लागेल. आधाने अनेक आहेत. बीजोत्सव लाहानलाहान स्वरूपात ठिकठिकाणी होत आहे. त्यातून लोकांना विवाच्यांचे महत्त्व पटायला लागले आहे. रसायनमुक्त अन्नधान्य च भाजीपाल्यामुळे गेलेली चव रसायनमुक्त अन्नधान्य च भाजीपाल्याने परत येत आहे. त्यामुळे यावर्षीपासून बीजोत्सवाचे दरवर्षीवर्षीकरण करण्यात येणार असल्याची माहितीही संयोजकांनी दिली.



२०१३ चा बीजोत्सवाची सुरुवात झाली तेव्हा परार कुणी बोलत नव्हते, पण आता लोकांना नैसर्गिक शेती, रसायनमुक्त राखण व भाजीपाला याबे बढतच कळायला लागले आहे.
- आद्यपरा नरकारे

बीजोत्सवाचा परिणाम असा झाला की फक्त कुटुंबांनी एका शेतकऱ्याला द्यायचे नसून तो त्या कुटुंबासाठी नैसर्गिक शेती करून त्यांचे रसायनमुक्त अन्नधान्य च भाजीपाला पुरवत आहे.
- प्राची माहूरकर

पारखाली फेडस कॉलेजी परिषद काही वर्षांपूर्वी एका पट्टीक जमिनीवर आग्नी काळशेख पालाघावोव, शेणशेत टासूकून भाजीपाला उभयला. या प्रयोगामुळे शहरी शेतकऱ्यांची संख्या वाढली.
- स्वर्णदर नंद

एखाद्या सर्वसामान्य अजायब रसायन कॅरेंजेन घसस्त आहे आणि त्यासाठी रसायनमुक्त अन्न कारणीभूत आहे. कॅरेंजेनसारखे प्रकार टाळावचे असतील तर रसायनमुक्त अन्नाची गरज आहे.
- स्वामिनाथ सन्याल

नैसर्गिक शेती करणाऱ्यांनी एकत्र होऊन त्याची याचला हवे आणि या कळवतील सातत्यही हवे. त्यातूनच बीजोत्सवाचा उद्रेक साध्य होईल.
- डॉ. जयेश काडू

बीजोत्सवासारख्या उपक्रमात पालकांनी त्यांच्या मुलांना वेळून जायला हवे. यातून विवाच्यांचे वैविध्य त्यांना पालयला मिळेल आणि त्याचवेळी रसायनमुक्त शेतीचे महत्त्वही कळेल.
- वसुंधरा मंगळकर

8. **Prachi Mahurkar** – An Ecologists and organic grower
 9. **Pratap Marode** – An Agri graduate young farmer is a innovative thinker
 10. **Tanmay Joshi** – Gram Art Project, Paradsinga
 11. **Mandar Deshpande** – Madani, Wardha
- Apart from that below members spare their time as and when required – Ganesh Birajdar, Atul Prajakta, Kalyani Kolhe, Amitabh Pawade, Shalini Arora, Ravi Mahajan, Harshal Awachat are some of them.
- New members of this year-** Rohan Raut, Aradhana Tathe, Preeti Patel, Aniket Pundalike, Avinash Bhingare, Chinmay Futane, Bharati Zade, Vaishali Bezalwar etc.

Beejotsav Action Plan

1. Formation of Study Groups

- Create small, focused study groups on organic farming, seed preservation, and sustainable agriculture.
- Develop a schedule for regular knowledge-sharing sessions.

2. Search and Visit Genuine Organic Growers

- Compile a database of authentic organic farmers.
- Organize field visits to learn best practices directly from experienced growers.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between new and experienced farmers

3.. Conduct Bi-Monthly Training Sessions

- Develop a curriculum covering seed preservation, contour bunding, organic farming techniques, and ecosystem management.
- Invite experts to conduct hands-on training.
- Use interactive methods like workshops, Q&A sessions, and practical demonstrations.

4. Field-Based Demonstrations

- Organize live demonstrations on composting, natural pest control, and soil enrichment techniques.
- Encourage community participation by involving local farmers and volunteers.
- Showcase successful case studies of sustainable agriculture.

Beejotsav Action Plan

5. Knowledge Repository

- Develop a digital and physical library of resources, including research papers, manuals, and videos.
- Document best practices, indigenous knowledge, and farmer experiences.
- Provide open access to the repository for community learning.

6. Establishment of Seed Banks

- Identify locations for community seed banks.
- Collect, preserve, and distribute heirloom and indigenous seeds.
- Train farmers in seed-saving techniques and sustainable seed management.

7. Organizing Seed Festivals at Different Places

- Plan annual and seasonal seed festivals to exchange and promote indigenous seeds.
- Involve local communities, farmers, and seed conservators.
- Include awareness programs, exhibitions, and workshops on seed diversity.

8. Soil Conservation Initiatives

- Promote sustainable soil management techniques like contour bunding, mulching, green manuring, and contour plowing.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of soil health.
- Implement pilot projects demonstrating successful soil conservation methods.