



The National Webinar Proceedings

Realization of Mission Natural Farming among Smallholders



State Project Implementing Unit (SPIU)
Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana
Government of Himachal Pradesh, Krishi Bhawan, Shimla-5 (HP) India



Proceedings of National Webinar on Realization of Mission Natural Farming among Smallholder

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Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y) - A Brief Note

The Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) is implementing a flagship programme 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan' Yojana (PK3Y) to double farmers' income as envisioned by Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. This Yojana includes a significant initiative to sustain farming of mountainous smallholders through adoption of Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) / Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), an emerging set of agricultural practices designed to reduce farmers direct costs, while boosting yields and farm health through the use of locally sourced non-synthetic inputs. This is an emerging agroecological practice that has spread in India, as a form of agricultural system redesign focussing primarily on transformation rather than management of the existing system. Farmers are actively stewarding biodiversity to create systems capable of sponsoring their own soil fertility, crop protection and yield constancy. As a policy driven programme by the GoHP and further developing a 'Showcasing Success' mechanism to peers by early adopters, the practicing farmers expanded in number and spread area in size in different states.

PK3 Yojana is being monitored by an 'Apex Committee' headed by Chief Minister of the state and a 'Task Force' headed by the Chief Secretary approves the action and financial plan of the programme. A 'State Project Implementing Unit' (SPIU) constituted by the GoHP implements and monitors the programme all across the state. Presently, over 1.20 lakh farmers have been trained and are actively practicing SPNF techniques on over 7000 ha land in all agroclimatic zones of the state, which is further targeted to 12000 ha by the end of this year. PK3 Yojana intends not only to sustain farming and double farmers' income but also aims to map 7 SDGs, 15 targets and 18 indicators set up by the UN organisation for human welfare worldwide. The Himachal Pradesh government is thus working very vigorously to make the state a natural state by bringing maximum farmer families under the ambit of this Yojana. Himachal Pradesh intends to earn an unique place on the global map to fulfill the established standards of human prosperity and environmental conservation.

This programme involved massive extension efforts requiring frequent visit to farmers and their fields. However, with Covid 19 pandemic imposing restrictions on mass gathering of the farmers, mega training programmes proposed for farmers were kept on hold for more than one and half year. Therefore, this mega awareness programme was planned in virtual mode across length and breadth of the country to enthuse more farmers under the ambit of natural farming. Mr.Subhash Palekar (Padma Shri awardee and the founder of natural farming in India) was specially roped in to conduct this day long training session and discuss in detail about the specifics of Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF).



Welcome of dignitaries

Welcome of dignitaries- Mr. Rakesh Kanwar, I.A.S, State Project Director (PK3Y) cum Secretary to the Governor and Special Secretary (Finance), Himachal Pradesh Government, opened the meeting by a formal welcome of all the dignitaries attending the Webinar at national and state level. At the very outset, he extended a warm welcome to Mr. Jai Ram Thakur; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, virtually present Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog GoI, Mr. Virender Kanwar, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Dr. Neelam Patel, Sr. Advisor, (Agriculture), NITI Aayog-GoI, Mr. Subhash Palekar; Mr. JC Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dr. Ajay Sharma, Secretary (Agriculture) and over 70,000 farmers who were connected to this event from different panchayats in virtual mode. He briefed the concept of Yojana and the benefits being reaped from farmers' transformation through implementation of Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF). He set the agenda as well as the objective of this National Webinar and shared the progress of PK3Y in the state. He also detailed the day-long programme, which included interaction with Padma Shri Subhash Palekar and experience sharing by two motivated SPNF farmers. Thereafter, he requested Mr. Virender Kanwar, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to share his meaningful insight about the Yojana's implementation and success.





Welcome Address



Address

Mr. Virender Kanwar, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj welcomed Mr. Jai Ram Thakur, Hon'ble Chief Minister, virtually present Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog GoI, Dr. Neelam Patel, Sr. Advisor, (Agriculture), NITI Aayog-GoI, Mr. Subhash Palekar and the virtually participating farmers from different panchayats of the state. Mr. Kanwar thanked the Chief Minister for sparing his valuable time for this event. He reiterated the successful implementation of the Yojana, designed and supported by the Chief Minister. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Rajiv Kumar for providing a meaningful mentorship, without whose guidance and leadership this initiative would not have been possible at this scale. He appreciated the efforts of 'State Project Implementing Unit' (SPIU) for their dedication and focussed approach which helped transform over 1.20 lakh farmers to natural farming practices in a short span of three years. The minister assured that the synergy between a motivated team of officers with our energetic and confident SPNF farmers will ensure enhancement of the income of smallholder farmers by 2022. He informed the participants that the Chief Minister has approved a new scheme to source, conserve and multiply the traditional crops seeds. This will be an important beginning to make the state self-sufficient in seed production, and, in turn, ensure nutritional security. He urged upon the farmers to understand the concept of natural farming, visit the nearby Natural Model farms, discuss with successful farmers and convert their farms to safeguard farming and health of the family.





Address

Padma Shri Subhash Palekar - welcomed the Chief Minister, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Sr. Advisor (Agri.) NITI Aayog, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Rural Development, Secretary (Agri.) GoHP and other dignitaries and farmers virtually attending this Webinar. He recalled the former Governor of HP Acharya Dev Vrat for his foresightedness to understand the significance of natural farming for the farmers having smallholdings in the country, in general, and in the mountain states, in particular. He recognised the interest and intent of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh to launch 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan' Yojana with the sole objective to convert the entire state into natural farming practices with a defined timed approach. He expressed specific concern on lower productivity of various crops, including apples, in the state and exhorted the farmers to understand the concept of natural farming and impressed upon them to visit Natural Farming models across the state and direct their understanding and energy for improving the yield, productivity and health of farm and family through adoption of this nonchemical, low-cost and local resource based farming. He assured that this farming practice has the potential to enhance the income of farmers to double or even more. He



conveyed his gratitude to the Government of Himachal Pradesh to officially opt the SPNF practices under the Yojana to bring the farmers having smallholdings out from the miseries of present day farm practices. He said he was happy to be with the farmers of Himachal Pradesh after a long time and added that the Covid-19 pandemic had restricted his physical movements. He thanked the organisers for the Webinar

and said it provided unique opportunity to address over 70,000 farmers and highlight emerging

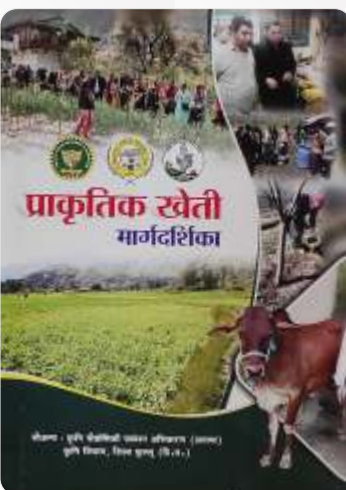
issues related to agriculture and environment. He specifically emphasised upon working towards attaining the objective of higher productivity, particularly in apple, by lowering cost of cultivation by giving-up the use of chemicals and other external input dependent farming practices. He expressed his satisfaction over the progress made by the state government to implement the programme and the keenness and hardwork of the farmers and the orchardists to demonstrate and successfully prove the worthiness of this low-cost, non-chemical and climate resilient natural farming practice on ground. He advised the farmers to focus on traditional seeds and warned against the use of market supplied seeds. He added that we have to work on our traditional and locally available seeds now so that the farmers are no no more dependent on the private sector for seeds. He appreciated the new initiative of the state government on 'Sustainable Food System Platform for Natural Farming' (SuSPNF) aimed at creating direct linkage between farmer and consumer based on trust and transparency.

Release of Kisan Diary for SPNF farmers

On this occasion, Chief Minister, Mr Jai Ram Thakur released Kisan Diary prepared by 7 districts of the state, i.e. Solan, Shimla, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Mandi, Kullu and Kangra. These Kisan diaries contain information about various monthly field activities to be carried out under natural farming of



various crops in the respective agro-climatic situations of different districts. These dairies will also enable farmers to maintain their monthly farm operations schedule, necessary guidelines from officers and peers, and further maintain their crop related information as well as seasonal expenditure income statement. The best practicing farmers across these seven districts will get these diaries free of cost.





Address

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, GoI, Praised the Natural Farming initiatives in Himachal Pradesh and thanked Padma Shri Subhash Palekar for spearheading this very pious campaign of natural farming across the country and specifically helping Himachal Pradesh with his innovative techniques and ideas. He appreciated the dynamism of Chief Minister of the state to launch 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan' Yojana having imaginative elements to ensure doubling farmers' income. He reiterated his confidence on the potential of Natural Farming as propounded by Shri Subhash Palekar to rebuild farmers' confidence in farming. He was satisfied with the performance of the state in transformation of the farmers into natural farming practices and building a fast growing confidence of farmers by showcasing the strength of these non-chemical practices over conventional ones. He said that the two states i.e. Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have taken this natural farming initiative as a government driven policy programme. The NITI Aayog



comprehends a greater role for Himachal Pradesh to leverage its success showcased by its smallholders across the country. The empirical data generated by the state provides a clear evidence of the fact that this Palekar method of natural farming has the potential to cut farmers' dependence on external market for inputs, thereby reducing cost of cultivation of farmers upto 54 per cent in apple and upto 42 per cent in other cereal and vegetable based farming systems. He said that the cost of cultivation has plummeted sharply and soil fertility has been going up gradually. Our country faces a growing crisis of land degradation accounting for nearly 30 percent of its land area through deforestation, over-cultivation, soil erosion and depletion of wetlands. Prime Minister, Shri



Narendra Modi has already exhorted the country's commitment to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, during the High-Level Segment Meeting of the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Dr. Kumar impelled that land restoration is the cheapest solution for sustaining productivity, mitigating climate change and reversing biodiversity loss. He desired that Himachal Pradesh should take the lead to guide other states in their transformation towards natural farming. He assured that the NITI Aayog will be more than happy to extend all support to mentor this noble programme of natural farming instituted by the government of Himachal Pradesh. The Vice Chairman expressed his satisfaction that over 1,18,000 farmers of the state have benefited from Natural Farming practices and are reaping its benefits in the form of reduced costs and remunerative income. He was delighted to know that around 10 percent of farmers, including orchardists, have started practising Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) on varying portions of their land in the state in a short span of two and a half years. He hoped that this farming practice would be an effective means



to achieve the Prime Minister's goal of doubling farmers income. He conceived great scope in addressing many agricultural problems like desertification and water scarcity through natural farming practices. He said that it is not our tradition to conquer nature and we are people who tend to harmonise with nature. He expressed his special gratitude to Padma Shri Subhash Palekar for his immense contribution, which has yielded into outscaling of Natural Farming across the country and even beyond its boundaries. The special attention he has been paying to Himachal Pradesh has paid rich dividends to the smallholders of the state. He added that NITI Aayog has been doing its best to spread Natural Farming across the country to leverage its socioeconomic and environmental advantages for boosting farmers' welfare, consumer health, food security and nutrition. He stressed the need to rope in agricultural universities to take forward this initiative and conduct studies to validate the results based on scientific evidence and logic. He appreciated the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister and role of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Rural development and Panchyati Raj, Secretary (Agriculture) and the State Project implementing Unit of this Yojana for their dedicated and limitless efforts to make this dream project a reality on the ground and to bring cheers in the life of small and marginal farmers. He further urged the Chief Minister, Sh. Jai Ram Thakur to focus on popularising natural farming in the state through various populist campaigns. At the end, the Vice Chairman appreciated the 'State Project Implementing Unit' of this Yojana for organising such a mega programme of farmers through virtual mode and thanked the state government for inviting him and providing him an opportunity to speak to such a large gathering of farmers.



Address

Sh. Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh- welcomed Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog for acceding the request to grace this mega event as a 'Guest of Honour' with his distinguished presence. He thanked Dr Rajiv Kumar for laying out the concept of Natural Farming all across the country and extending its outreach to various international platforms. It was only his continuing mentorship that led to this noble movement taking a pride position in the state. He greeted Padma Shri Subhash Palekar for accepting the state's invitation to attend this Webinar as a 'Guest of Honour' and to stay with officials and farmers of the state for the whole day. The Chief Minister memorialized the contribution of former Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Acharya Dev Vrat for bringing in the concept of natural farming in the state and taking all painstaking efforts to lay out a systematic campaign on natural farming through a series of events. It was only on his behest that Mr. Palekar made several visits to the state. It was his initial efforts which triggered the preparation of a blueprint and launching of the Yojana early. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Palekar for the special time he devoted to Himachal Pradesh since the inception of 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan' Yojana by his government, despite his very busy schedule. His love and affection for the farmers of this state has resulted in a massive response from our innovative and enthusiastic farmers to adopt natural farming practices. The Chief Minister also greeted Dr. Neelam Patel, Sr. Advisor (Agriculture), NITI Aayog, senior officers from the government, SPIU and the farmers all across the state and other parts of the country for attending this Webinar. Mr. Thakur revealed that after assuming the office of the Chief Minister, he promptly announced a new Scheme 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan' and expressed his commitment to fulfill the dream of Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi to double farmers' income. He informed that a very strong administrative back has been provided to the Yojana and he himself has been regularly monitoring the progress of this initiative as a head of the Apex Body constituted





to observe its timelined objectives and outcomes. A dedicated 'State Project Implementing Unit' (SPIU) has been constituted as an independent structural body to plan, implement and monitor the Yojana activities across the state and further coordinate with various national and international organisations/institutions. He said during the early phase of this Yojana implementation, he was also apprehensive about its success. This distrust was owing to the fact that he had seen a huge demand for various fertilizers and pesticides by the farmers during the main crop seasons. He had also seen many booklets having comprehensive lists of pesticidal sprays recommended by farm Universities to protect the farm crops from various insects-pests and diseases. He had seen farmers struggling to have these chemical inputs at subsidized rates from the government departments. However, the motivated and successful farmers have shown the ways and proved that they can grow any crop with better productivity potential without any external chemical input support. This was made possible by the innovative farm practices developed by Mr. Palekar, who recommended



the use of only locally sourced inputs and indigenous cow dung and urine based other decoctions. He said the state government has been providing assistance in various forms to help and motivate the newly transformed natural farmers. A provision has been made by the state government to provide sufficient funds every year for the continuance of this Yojana. He said many farmers have met him from all across the state and have apprised him about the success of their natural farming based success stories. The Chief Minister shared that farmers' confidence and narrative has convinced him that our mountainous state has the capability to transform into a natural farming state. He expressed his satisfaction that out of 1,28,000 trained farmers, 1,18,000 had adopted this farming



practice and there has been a significant reduction in the cost of cultivation for farmers. He urged to prove the mettle of natural farming vis-a-vis chemical farming in a scientific way by generating comparative field data. The Chief Minister expressed his resolution and assured the Vice Chairman NITI Aayog that under the able guidance and mentorship of NITI Aayog, the state

government will lend all support to make this dream of natural farming a reality. He requested Mr. Palekar to plan his visits to the state immediately after downswing in the Corona situation. He also rendered an invitation to Dr. Rajiv Kumar to visit Himachal Pradesh and further guide them in this noble endeavour. In the end, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to everyone and thanked them for joining this meeting and wished a great success to the day-long training programme.



Vote of Thanks

Dr Ajay Sharma I.A.S., Secretary (Agriculture) to GoHP extended thanks to Chief Minister, Mr. Jai Ram Thakur, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Padma Shri Subhash Palekar, Sr. Advisor (Agriculture), Dr. Neelam Patel, Mr. J.C. Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, virtually present officials and farmers from the state and beyond to grace the occasion. He detailed the programme and timelined plan, which is being followed strictly to implement the Yojana activities. These activities are strictly monitored by a State Level Apex Body headed by the Chief Minister and a Task Force under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary. Based on his experience through various field visits, he shared instances of how our innovative farmers are eager to convert their panchayats and villages to complete natural farming practices. He added that an 'Innovative Self Evaluation Certified System' has been approved by the State Level Task Force of PK3 Yojana and will be launched very shortly to address the biggest problem of natural produce marketing. He expressed his gratitude to all the dignitaries and other participants for joining in this National Webinar.



Highlights of various technical discussions of Mr. Subhash Palekar with farmers

- Nature provides water, solar energy, cosmic energy and carbon free of cost and 98.5 percent of resources are recycled back to nature. Human beings play no role in this process. Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis and burning releases carbon back into the atmosphere
- Nitrogen makes up 78 percent of the air. Phosphorus is present in unavailable form in the soil and fixation of nutrients is done by N-fixing and phosphorus solubilizing bacterias. Mycorrhizae permits the plant to obtain additional moisture and nutrients. This is particularly



important in uptake of phosphorus, a major nutrient required by plants. When mycorrhizae are present, plants are less susceptible to water stress. Hence, 'Mother Nature' is Goddess as it has not given any responsibility to anyone and is performing all the duties herself.

- Humus is the storehouse of all the essential elements and humus itself

is 'Annapurna', the Goddess of food and nourishment. Dung of desi cow contains abundant



Experience Sharing on SPNF

microorganisms. Application of jeevamrit and ghanjivamrit increases the microbial count in the soil.

- Healthy food (chemical free and nutritious food) acts as a vital power for instilling innate immunity. The innate immune responses are the first line of defense against invading pathogens and we get this power indirectly from natural farm produce. Humus provides innate immunity to plants, whereas chemical sprays destroy this humus. Application of synthetic chemicals on farms adversely affects ours as well as animals' health when they consume produce/fodder from those farms.
- Aachhadan, jivamrit, ghanjivamrit together constitute humus. As a result, humus allows field resistance to plants to avoid or minimise attack of any disease or pest. Aachhadan avoids moisture evaporation from soil surface, absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and adds to the soil. It creates conditions in the soil favourable to the microbes and earthworm, does not allow weeds, absorbs surface water and finally adds carbon to the soil. Rainfed agriculture occupies about 51 percent of the country's net sown area and accounts for nearly 40 percent of the total food production.

Experience Sharing by Shri JC Sharma I.A.S., Horticulturist, Orchardist

Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Mr. JC Sharma, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister and also a Progressive SPNF Orchardist greeted Shri Palekar in the Webinar. He narrated his journey of natural farming by partially transforming to SPNF during the onset of 2019 apple season on 39 high density apple plantations (HDP). After experiencing successful results of SPNF technique in comparison to his chemically grown apples, he adopted natural farming practices on all 1400 high density plants in his orchard. Mr. Sharma shared his two years' experience of

practicing on Natural farming (SPNF) and addressed the queries raised by Mr. Palekar about performance of rootstocks vis-a-vis seedling raised apple plants, high density plantation, pollinizers etc. in apple orchards. He elaborated that his orchard management cost was very high due



to use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and many of his plants were found encountering the frequent incidence of pests like canker, wooly aphids, powdery mildew, mites etc. before adoption of SPNF. He now found that the soil has become more friable, plant health is better and water requirement has reduced. There is no reduction in yield, rather it has increased. The spurs are healthy and the colour of fruits is also very good. He earlier found a small size of the fruits, but later



on this problem was also addressed by the application of Saptdhanyankur ark. Agniaster solved the problem of shot hole borer and root borer. The powdery mildew infestation on newly grown leaves and buds was resolved by application of Sonthaster. He advised all farmers and orchardists to



immediately shift to Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) practices without any fear and prejudice on all apple plantations, whether these are seedling based or raised on rootstocks for sustained yield and long run upkeep of their orchards. He also clarified the dilemma of colour problem in naturally grown apples by citing his own experience of

having quality apples through SPNF practices. He advocated HDP apples and SPNF technique combination over mainstream apple cultivation practices for assured crop yield and sustainable apple economy in the state. He revealed that HDP apple orchards can produce approx. 2000- 2500 boxes and generate income of upto 30-40 lakh per hectare land. This will certainly attract the youth towards farming, as the government is also lending full support for modernisation of fruit production in the state. He projected the apple economy to reach 10 thousand crore with the help of SPNF technique. Challenges like labour intensive operations and lack of designated market were highlighted by him as the main problems associated with SPNF apple production.

Highlights of technical discussions

- He advised farmers to undertake sowing operations when the temperature is about 20 degree Celsius and to apply Jeevamrit and Achhadan for controlling soil and air temperature. He further asked farmers to plant marigold as it attracts friendly insects and also improves



the pollination. The diversity of crops in the field improves the microbial species in soil because roots of different crops attract different microbial spp.

- He advocated the use of leguminous crops as Achhadana option in the apple orchards.
- Soil is an ocean of nutrients but these nutrients are not in the form required by plant roots. He advised farmers that these nutrients are transformed by different microbes into desired



forms by plant roots. The dung of indigenous cow is a very rich source of such microbes.

- He suggested the creation of Vafsa in all cultivated crops to minimise the use of irrigation water and suggested to apply water only in the Vafsa furrows for irrigation to enhance the water use efficiency.
- He strongly recommended to start work on indigenous seeds. He opined that the first line of defense will be only provided by the indigenous seeds to all crops and fruit plants. Hence, it should have been the first priority to plan and implement seed sourcing and multiplication strategy based on indigenous seeds conserved either by the farmers on their own or sourced from the institutions like ICAR- NBPGR. The natural farmers should also be encouraged to multiply and use their own seeds.
- He also emphasized on promoting natural farming based Agritourism since Himachal has earned fame across the country having a significant number of Natural Farming families in all agro-climatic zones of the state.
- He specifically urged the state government to develop a systematic producer and consumer linkage ensuring the true cost of natural produce to farmers and at the same time make this natural produce available to the aspirant consumers with first priority to the state.

Experience sharing by Mr. Ajay Rattan, a Progressive SPNF Farmer

Mr. Ajay Rattan, a progressive SPNF farmer hailing from district Bilaspur of the state also shared his journey of natural farming. He narrated that after leaving his job as an Engineer, he came across the



officials of ATMA (Agriculture Technology Management Agency), of the Department of Agriculture. They took him to a 6 days training programme on Subhash Palekar Natural Farming at Palampur (Kangra). Fortunately, the inventor and promoter of natural farming, Mr. Palekar took all the training sessions for six days. This training programme changed his perception

about farming. Immediately, after coming back from the training programme, he decided to practice what he was taught at Palampur. 'Although it was not an easy decision to shift to the concept, which was unbelievable', said Mr. Rattan. However, after garnering confidence and support from the ATMA officials, he decided to work on the concept and follow the principles of natural farming in letter and spirit. 'I am very happy to announce from this platform that I take 9-10 crops at a time. My SPNF farm has become a resource centre for various visitors, including dignitaries from Government of Himachal Pradesh, Farm Universities, Media and new SPNF aspirants, besides consumers from surrounding areas,' he said.

Natural Farming has transformed not only his sustenance but made him a privileged farmer of the



district. He has since been awarded by Agriculture University Palampur and Zee Media. His success story has been published by the FAO Rome Newsletter. He owes this success to the practices developed by Mr. Palekar and the ATMA team for their regular handholding and wholehearted support. He requested the farmers and other aspirants to visit his Natural farming Model in his native village to get convinced that farming can be done without any agro-chemicals.

He claimed that his expenses on seed and chemicals, previously amounting to approximately 40,000 to 50,000, are now minimum after adoption of natural farming. Mr. Rattan is preparing all the inputs of natural farming on his farm and his earnings from farming stand around 6 to 7 lakh per annum now. He further informed that shelf life, taste and quality of his produce have also improved. Mulching has reduced irrigation requirements and has improved the soil texture.



Vote of Thanks

Dr Ajay Sharma I.A.S., Secretary (Agriculture) to GoHP extended thanks to Chief Minister, Mr. Jai Ram Thakur, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Shri Subhash Palekar, Sr. Advisor (Agriculture), Dr. Neelam Patel, Mr. J.C. Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, virtually present officials and farmers from state and beyond to grace the occasion. He detailed the programme and timelined plan which is being followed strictly to implement the Yojana activities. These activities are strictly monitored by a State Level Apex Body headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister and a Task Force under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary. Based on his experience through various field visits, he shared instances of how our innovative farmers are eager to convert their panchayats and villages to complete natural farming practices. He added that an 'Innovative Self Evaluation Certified System' has been approved by the State Level Task Force of PK3 Yojana and will be launched very shortly to address the biggest problem of natural produce marketing. He again expressed his gratitude to all the dignitaries and other participants for joining in this National Webinar.





Closing Remarks



Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Executive Director, SPNF- PK3Y

Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel detailed the proceedings of the National Webinar. He informed the audience that 70,721 farmers spread across 3,498 panchayats in the state attended this virtual program. The importance and outreach of this Webinar could be determined by the fact that it was attended by dignitaries like Mr. Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh; Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, GoI, Mr. Virender Kanwar, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, GoHP, Mr. Subhash Palekar; Dr. Neelam Patel, Sr. Advisor (Agriculture) NITI Aayog, GoI and many others from bureaucracy. He thanked the Chief Minister of the state for lending all support to this mission on Natural Farming and for sparing his valuable time to inaugurate the virtual Webinar. He conveyed his gratitude to the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to make it important to address this mega event and expressed his happiness over the success of the Natural farming initiative of Government of Himachal Pradesh. Prof. Chandel said that the acknowledgement conveyed by Dr. Kumar will certainly go a long way in creating a



Sustainable Food System in Himachal Pradesh as envisaged by the UN-FAO. He thanked the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, GoHP for his valuable remarks on the occasion and for providing a leadership to this mission. Prof. Chandel expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Palekar to address

the farmers for the whole day in this National Webinar and to provide a trigger to them during this tough time of Covid-19. The farmers of the state were eager to listen to him for a long time. The benign presence of Dr. Neelam Patel, Sr. Advisor, (Agriculture), NITI Aayog-GoI, has been a matter of great pride to each one of us. Prof. Chandel thanked her and recollected her regular guidance and



support to Natural Farming programme from NITI Aayog's end. Prof. Chandel said that the programme owes success to the astuteness of Dr. Ajay Sharma, Secretary (Agriculture) and the leadership of Mr. Rakesh Kanwar, State Project Director (PK3Y) and Secretary to the Governor who guided us to plan and ground this mega event. He expressed his gratitude to them. He also acknowledged the courage and spirit shown by Mr. JC Sharma a senior bureaucrat and presently placed as Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, a passionate horticulturist, who took a chance to understand the science behind the philosophy of natural farming. Immediately after one year of his understanding, he dared to transform all his 1400 high density apple plants to natural farming practices as advocated by Mr. Palekar. Prof. Chandel specially expressed his deep gratitude to Mr. JC Sharma for his successful adoption and further spearheading the campaign of Natural Farming based high density apple cultivation across the country. Last but not the least, he remembered how initially the challenge of Natural Farming was accepted by the brave farmers, who made it possible. The present global presence of Himachal Pradesh in Natural Farming is indebted to the commitment, faithfulness and hard work of our smallholders. He duly acknowledged them and conveyed the gratitude of SPIU for their presence and further requested to continue with this euphoria. Prof. Chandel also recalled the hard work put in by the SPIU team at state level and ATMA functionaries at districts who visited each nook and corner of the state and made the programme a great success.



PK3Y - Current Stats

Components	Total
SPNF Trainings (Nos)	4,000
SPNF Trained Farmers (Nos)	1,40,222
SPNF Practicing Farmers (Nos)	1,22,486
Panchayats Covered under SPNF (Nos)	3,128
Area under SPNF (ha)	7,130



Programme Schedule

Time	Programme
10:00-10:03	Welcome - Shri Rakesh Kanwar, SPD (PK3Y)
10:03-10:13	Address - Shri Virender Kanwar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Animal H & RD, HP
10:13-10:28	Address - Padma Shri Subhash Palekar
10:28-10:43	Address - Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Gol
10:43-11:05	Address - Shri Jai Ram Thakur, Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP
11:05-11:10	Thanks - Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and other Dignitaries by Dr. Ajay Sharma, Secretary (Agri.)
11:10-11:30	Tea etc. (For farmers) - At respective places
11:30-01:30	Session - Padma Shri Subhash Palekar
01:30-02:15	Lunch (For farmers) - At respective places
02:15-02:25	Experience Sharing - Mr. J.C. Sharma, Addl. Chief Secretary to Hon'ble CM & Progressive SPNF Orchardist
02:25-04:30	Session - Padma Shri Subhash Palekar
04:30-04.40	Experience Sharing - Mr. Ajay Rattan, SPNF Farmer
04:40-04:45	Thanks - Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Executive Director (PK3Y)
04:45-Onwards	Tea etc. (For farmers) - At respective places

Participants Detail- Inaugural Programme

Sr. no.	Name	Designation/Organisation/Institute
1	Mr. Jai Ram Thakur	Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh
2	Dr. Rajeev Kumar	Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Gol
3	Mr. Virender Kanwar	Hon'ble Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister, Himachal Pradesh
4	Dr. Neelam Patel	Sr. Advisor (Agriculture) NITI Aayog, Gol
5	Padma Shri Subhash Palekar	Founder, Subhash Palekar Natural Farming
6	Mr. J.C. Sharma, I.A.S.	Addl. Chief Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister and Innovative SPNF Farmers
7	Dr. Ajay Sharma, I.A.S.	Agriculture Secretary, Himachal Pradesh
8	Mr. Rakesh Kanwar, I.A.S.	State Project Director PK3Y, GoHP
9	Prof. Rajeshwar S. Chandel	Executive Director, PK3Y, GoHP
10	Mr. Ajay Rattan	Innovative SPNF Farmers, Distt. Bilaspur, HP



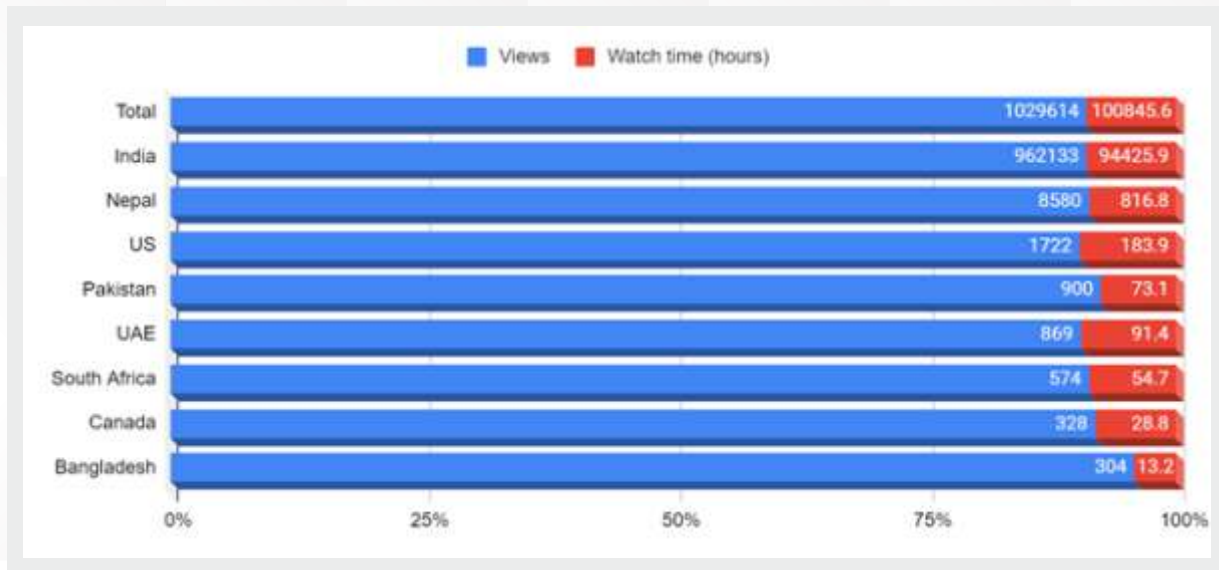
Participants Detail - Farmers Connected Virtually

Sr. No	Districts	Total No. of Panchayats	Event organising Panchayats	No. of Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Bilaspur	176	173	2004	1489	3493
2	Chamba	309	247	2979	1932	4911
3	Hamirpur	248	248	2500	2460	4960
4	Kangra	814	811	6010	10258	16268
5	Kinnaur	73	70	789	456	1245
6	Kullu	235	232	2765	1958	4723
7	L & S	45	34	437	219	656
8	Mandi	559	559	5855	5698	11553
9	Shimla	412	382	4415	3389	7804
10	Sirmour	259	259	3469	1709	5178
11	Solan	240	240	2720	2080	4800
12	Una	245	243	2606	2021	4627
Total		3615	3498	36549	33669	70218

Social Media Outreach Analytics

Total Subscribers	Total views	Date of Joining		
24,500+	1,008,700+	8 Jan, 2019		
Viewer gender	Views (%)	Avg. view duration	Avg. percentage viewed (%)	Watch time (hours) (%)
Female	9.45	0:06:00	13.7	10.06
Male	90.55	0:05:36	20.93	89.94
Viewer age	Views (%)	Avg. view duration	Avg. percentage viewed (%)	Watch time (hours) (%)
13–17 years	1.35	0:06:37	16.33	1.57
18–24 years	13.65	0:05:25	19.45	13.01
25–34 years	30.01	0:05:16	18.77	27.8
35–44 years	26.45	0:05:52	19.86	27.28
45–54 years	16	0:06:00	21.07	16.89
55–64 years	9	0:06:06	22.35	9.65
65+ years	3.54	0:06:06	24.26	3.8
Video title	Video publish time	Views	Watch time (hours)	Impressions
National Webinar Realization of Mission Natural Farming Among Smallholders	Jun 30, 2021	53802+	13830.5+	130089+

Countries wise reach to Youtube channel



Programme Photo Gallery





किसानों की आय को दोगुना करने के लिए प्राकृतिक खेती को दे रहे बढ़ावा: जयराम

मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार प्राकृतिक खेती को प्रमोशन करने के लिए एक नया विचार करने का प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

किसानों की आय दोगुनी करने के लिए राज्य में प्राकृतिक खेती को दिया जा रहा बढ़ावा: जयराम

मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

हीरापुर में राष्ट्रीय वेबिनार को किया संबोधित किया



मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

किसानों की आय दोगुनी करने के लिए प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

प्राकृतिक खेती से आर्थिकी पर प्रभाव का डाटा तैयार करें : डॉ. राजीव कुमार

मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

Efforts on to make HP 'natural farming' state

The state government is promoting natural farming in a big way so as to double the income of the farmers by end of 2022, said Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while addressing the National Webinar on 'Realization of Mission Natural Farming among Smallholders'. Thakur said to promote natural farming in the state, the government was implementing the Prakritik Kheti Pradesh Yojana. He said that this would not only boost the yield of the crops but also reduce farming inputs. He said 9.61 lakh farmers of the state were being encouraged to adopt natural farming so that Himachal could become a natural farming state of the country. As many as 1.28 lakh farmers have already been trained in natural farming and were motivating others to adopt the same. The CM said NITI Aayog had also appreciated the steps taken by the state government for promoting natural farming and added that during the first budget presented by the state government in 2018, a provision of Rs 25 crore had been made to promote natural farming. The CM said the land holdings in the state were limited and most of the farmers fall under small and marginal categories. Natural farming not only gave a better yield but also fetched a good price to farmers. He said that the government was also endeavouring to evolve a mechanism for the certification of natural products so that they could fetch better prices. Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr Rajiv Kumar said that NITI Aayog would provide all possible help to the state to promote natural farming. Padamshri Subhash Palekar virtually detailed various benefits of natural farming over chemical and organic farming. —TNS

हिमाचल
सबसे में प्राकृतिक खेती के प्रमाणीकरण की कवायद तेज
मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

वेबिनार में जुड़े 3493 किसान
मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

किसानों की आय दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य : मुख्यमंत्री
हिमाचल में प्राकृतिक खेती पर जोर
मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

हमीरपुर के किसानों ने ली प्राकृतिक खेती की जानकारी
मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।

राष्ट्रीय वेबिनार में हमीरपुर के किसानों ने लिया भाग
प्राकृतिक खेती पर वचुअली वेबिनार आयोजित
मुख्यमंत्री जयराम ठाकुर ने कृषि विभाग की प्राकृतिक खेती सुरक्षात्मक किसान योजना को राज्य परिवहन निगम के लिए प्रस्ताव देते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्य सरकार प्रयास कर रही है।



State Project Implementing Unit (SPIU)
Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana
Government of Himachal Pradesh, Krishi Bhawan, Shimla-5 (HP) India