

Dedicated to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada,
Founder Acharya of International Society for Krishna Consciousness



ABOUT US

Govardhan Eco Village is an ISKCON Chowpatty initiative under the inspiration and guidance of Radhanath Swami. It is a Farm community spread over a scenic landscape of 58 acres in Galtare, Wada; and situated 110 km North of Mumbai.

Since its inception in the year 2003, Govardhan Eco Village has made steady progress in Organic farming, Cow protection, Gurukul, Sustainable living, Alternative energy etc. In the scenario where environment crisis is on the rise, this community is an example of living in harmony with nature.

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GOSHALA @ GOVARDHAN ECO VILLAGE

The ancient civilizations of the world were largely agriculture based economies with cow protection forming an integral part of traditional farming. Cows give double value, they provide the soil with essential nutrients and they give milk, completing the human dietary needs. Vedic civilization treated cows and bulls as sacred and hence protecting cows is an important step for our survival in future. Cow protection is not limited to protecting them from being slaughtered but giving them love and care. With the principle of expressing our gratitude for the wonderful gifts that cows have given to human society, the Govardhan Eco Village (GEV) nurtures a beautiful Goshala, not as a superstition but on the grounds of firm moral & practical considerations.

The Goshala at GEV was started in 2003 with only 9 cows & bulls, which gradually flourished to the present the number of 50 and are expected to reach 100 in next few years. In order to accommodate the increased numbers a new Goshala is planned with rope free zones, fresh water and other necessary amenities for the cattle. To cater to their diet requirements, green fodder like corn & millet are being grown in abundant quantity. Nutrition is provided in the form of kadamba, brought from Beed. Napier grass, Yeshwant grass, Paragrass, and Corn grown in our Eco Village provide very good nutrition for the cows and the bulls. Traditionally cows are treated as one of the family members and due care is given to them. To ensure proper medical care a veterinary doctor regularly visits the Goshala and is available on call for all emergency situations.

The purpose of Goshala is to demonstrate the principle of cow protection and how they can be suitably utilized in our day to day life. In order to demonstrate their utility bulls have been engaged in variety of activities like ploughing the fields, extracting oil in a mill, flour mill, in-farm transportation etc. A recent addition to our Eco Village is ADPM or Animal Driven Prime Mover, which is being utilized for pumping water. The bulls are tied to a contraption and made to walk around. By a simple gear arrangement, a high speed pump is driven, there by pumping up to 8000 litres of water in an hour!

Apart from meeting the daily requirements of milk for the community, the cows are utilized by using their dung as manure for most farming needs. Many lifestyle consumables like soap powder, toothpowder, Go-arka (Distilled cow urine), ghanvati and incense, all chemical free and purely based on cow products, are also manufactured. GEV also houses a 30m³ biogas plant that can generate up to 30 units of electricity. Plans of expanding the capacity of the plant to five times the present capacity are already under way.



Cow protection means feeding the brahminical culture, which leads towards God consciousness, and thus perfection of human civilization is achieved.

- Srila Prabhupada



Obedience to Nature

Nature supplies us impartially with innumerable natural gifts such as grains, vegetables, fruits, rivers, jewels and minerals. The laws of nature entail one to positively take advantage of these natural gifts and lead a satisfactory flourishing life. Modern technology, when engaged properly, could help one in efficiently utilizing these gifts of nature. For instance, nature is providing us water through the agency of rains, rivers etc. Modern man invented artificial reservoirs, filtering systems, water transportation systems that ensure convenient supply right to our door step, saving time and valuable human energy, which can be engaged for other constructive activities. But when human selfishness overpowers his nobility, exploitative tendency creeps in and man gets overwhelmed by the propensity to lord over the material nature. An example of which we see today in the form of gigantic industrial enterprises releasing their toxic wastes into rivers, metropolitan sewages dumping abominable filth into water bodies destroying the purity and serenity of natural reservoirs of water. To undo this ecological disaster, various governments are forced to invest the tax money of hard working citizens in setting up alternative systems for sustenance. Bangalore, the silicon capital of India, was once the home to over 250 natural lakes, which owing to rapid expansion has now reduced to a meagre 6!! The acute water shortage there has now forced the government to setup a 'toilet to tap' system for meeting the basic water necessities of the citizens.

Srila Prabhupada, the Founder Acharya of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness comments on this exploitative propensity of human beings to satisfy their selfish motives. He says that human prosperity flourishes by natural gifts and not by gigantic industrial enterprises. The more we go on increasing such cumbersome industries to squeeze out the vital energy of the human being, the more there will be unrest and dissatisfaction of the people in general, although a few only can live lavishly by exploitation. The more we attempt to exploit material nature according to our whims of enjoyment, the more we shall become entrapped by the reaction of such exploitative attempts. Minerals are produced in the hills, and the jewels in the ocean. If the human civilization has sufficient grains, minerals, jewels, water, milk, etc., then why should it hanker after terrible industrial enterprises at the cost of the labour of some unfortunate men? All the natural gifts are dependent on the mercy of the Lord. What we need, therefore, is to be obedient to the laws of the nature and not exploit Mother Nature with our self-centred proclivities, rather try our best to live in harmony with nature.

EAT NICELY, LIVE HEALTHY...

Our farm projects are an extremely important part of our movement. We must become self-sufficient by growing our own grains and producing our own milk, then there will be no question of poverty. So develop these farm communities as far as possible. They should be developed as an ideal society depending on natural products, not industry. Industry has simply created artificial independence from nature, because they think they can manufacture everything that they need.

Our Bhagavad-gita philosophy explains that men and animals must have food in order to maintain their bodies. And the production of food is dependent on the rain and the rain of course is dependent on chanting Hare Krsna. Therefore let everyone chant Hare Krsna, eat nicely and keep their bodies fit and healthy. This is ideal life style. We do not condemn modern civilization but we don't like to get it at the cost of God Consciousness.

AGRICULTURE IN THE POST PETROLEUM ERA



Oil is the lifeblood of industrial economies and modern agriculture throughout the world. But oil is also a finite, nonrenewable resource that is being rapidly depleted by Western societies and less developed countries that aspire for higher consumption levels. The consequence, oil companies are compelled to tap into oil deposits that are less accessible, leading to sharp price increases and painful adjustment costs, particularly for those who are strongly attached to the amenities provided by petroleum-based production and transport systems. Although technological optimists maintain that we are unlikely to experience a global catastrophe precipitated by growing energy constraints, faith in technological solutions may not be realistic in the face of shortages of essential natural resources, and may even be counterproductive if such faith leads to complacency about the future. Agriculture is particularly vulnerable to rising costs of petroleum. Agricultural productivity rose sharply in the 20th century with the advent of the green revolution, which draws heavily on mechanization, petrochemicals, and biotechnology. The adoption of the high yielding seed varieties (products of biotechnology), whose productivity depends strongly on chemical fertilizers, has only intensified our dependence on petroleum. It may come as a surprise to many that alternative energy sources, cannot easily substitute for petroleum products even in the operation of farm machinery and transport equipment.

The size and severity of the energy challenge is growing ever more daunting due to the spread of modern agricultural practices that use land to convert petroleum into food. However, we do not appear to be moving quickly towards a technological solution to the growing energy constraints. The human race gambled by building economic and social systems that depend critically on nonrenewable energy. Time is rapidly running out and yet there is no comprehensive substitute for oil. Individuals will always have the choice to keep gambling until everything is lost. But rather than defining human progress in terms of technological advances, it is far more practical to recognize that true progress means improving the quality of life. The quality of life can only be refined and improved through a more spiritually oriented society, employing traditional practices of farming and living. If there are to be any winners, they are likely to be self-sufficient farmers that use their own labor, draft animals, and robust time-tested native seeds that can be replanted year after year. Many farm communities around the globe, are now maintaining the necessary knowledge on traditional agricultural practices, thereby demonstrating a sustainable alternative to industrial agriculture. In wake of this impending crisis, it's about time we all looked towards farm communities as the only sustainable solution.



WEEE: DARK SIDE OF DIGITAL AGE



These days, it's often cheaper and more convenient to buy a new PC than to upgrade an old one. Ever wondered what happens to those old computers once they've been abandoned for newer models? The refuse from discarded electronics products, also known as e-waste, often ends up in landfills or incinerators instead of being recycled. Public perception of e-waste is often restricted to a narrower sense, comprising mainly of end-of-life information- & telecommunication equipment and consumer electronics. However, technically, electronic waste is only a subset of WEEE or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. Any appliance using an electric power supply that has reached its end-of-life would come under WEEE.

When incinerated toxic substances like lead, cadmium and mercury that are commonly used in these products contaminate the air. Landfilling, one of the most widely used methods of disposal, is prone to hazards because of leaching, posing a much greater danger of releasing hazardous emissions in land and water. "The fruits of our high-tech revolution are pure poison if these products are improperly disposed of at the end of their useful life," said Ted Smith, founder of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. The United States generates more e-waste than any other nation, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. More than 4.6 million tons of it entered U.S. landfills in 2000, and that amount is projected to grow fourfold now. India also produces approximately 1.46 million tons of e-waste every year. The booming economy may bring in rapid progress in technology, but at what price? So think twice before you feel like upgrading to the new version of your favorite electronic gadget!



Krsi-go-raksya-vanijyam - that is essential, agricultural and cow protection. And vanijyam. Vani-jyam means trade. If there is excess milk product, if there is excess grain product, then you can sell to others. Nowadays the trade is that you take as much milk as you can, and then kill the animal and sell the flesh to other countries. That is going on. No. Go-raksya. Go-raksya. Cow protection is very, very essential in human society because it gives the milk, the miracle food. You can prepare hundreds and thousands of preparation, all not only delicious, but brain-maintaining. You can get good brain. Therefore go-raksya, cow protection is especially recommended, not that animal protection.

Experience LIFE, the NATURAL way !!!



Presenting, an exquisite collection of cow products to suit your various life style needs. Prepared in the most authentic and scientific way, our product line includes Bath powder, Distilled Cow Urine, Tooth powder, Incense sticks, Ghee and many more. All the products are made from pure and natural ingredients, and are absolutely chemical-free! Come, Experience life, the Natural way!!!

Available in the Matchless Gifts shop in Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Temple.



For more information about these products or about eco living visit www.ecovillage.org.in

BENEFITS OF UBTAN (SOAP POWDER)

- Anti Dandruff
- Effective in skin diseases
- Relief from bad odour
- Makes skin soft

BENEFITS OF DANTAMANJAN (TOOTH POWDER)

- Protects teeth & gums
- Keeps mouth fresh
- Protection against all oral infection

In Vedic culture, the welfare of the cows and the welfare of the brahmanas are essential. Without a proper arrangement for developing brahminical culture and protecting cows, all the affairs of administration are useless.

