



GOVARDHAN
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DEDICATED TO

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

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Unfortunately, modern society has devised many means for killing animals in different forms of life. For example, in the agricultural fields there may be many mice, flies and other

creatures that disturb production, and sometimes they are killed by pesticides. Every living entity should be nourished by the food given by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Human society should not consider itself the only enjoyer of all the properties of God; rather, men should understand that all the other animals also have a claim to God's property.

- Srila Prabhupada

ENDOSULFAN BANNED

A call to go Organic!

Its official! Endosulfan, the most toxic pesticide in the market today, has been officially banned by the apex court in India. Endosulfan has caused fatal pesticide poisoning incidents in many countries in the world. In the Indian state of Kerala this pesticide has been aerielly sprayed since the 1970s on cashew nut and mango plantations covering several villages. People noticed the death of many

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Organic Pesticides

Last month we saw the advantages of Organic fertilizers over synthetic fertilizers. This month we focus on the benefits of Organic pesticides.

The usage of pesticides can be traced back to as much as 5000 years back. Many modern historians report the usage of sulphur as a popular pesticide in ancient civilizations like the Mesopotamia. In the recent past, with the invention of DDT, the usage of pesticides has become far spread. However little do most people know that DDT was a product of the disengaged bomb factories post World War II, which wanted to find alternative utility for the chemicals used in missile manufacturing.

Today pesticides don't just help control pests, but according to the Food and Agriculture organization the scope of pesticides has extended to controlling plant growth, regulating defoliation and fruit

ripening and also reducing deterioration during storage and transport. Extending to various subclasses like herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and biocides, pesticides are available in many varieties and several target applications.

Pesticide usage has become an integral part of farming today. However, indiscriminate usage of pesticides is causing great ecological damage to soil and ground water. In India for example, the much hailed land of Punjab, the success story of the so-called green revolution is today a chemical graveyard. Test by independent organizations have shown high levels of chemical deposits in ground water and in soil, all coming about due to excessive pesticide

usage. The chemical residues are also found in produce like fruits and vegetables posing great threat to the consumers. Studies have shown that in the past 50 years, insecticide use has increased tenfold, while crop losses from pest damage have doubled.

Owing to these drawbacks natural pesticides are the way to go for an ecofriendly farming. We at Govardhan Eco Village use organic pesticides to achieve optimum results in farming. Good results have been achieved by using Go mutra (Cow urine), Neem oil and Neem leaf extracts. Other organic pesticides include chilli-garlic extract that are highly effective in many cases.

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ANJANA AND HANUMAN

FARM FRESH

These are the names of the two newest members in our Goshala, who have become the talk of GEV. Born on 18th and 20th last month respectively, these two newborn cute calves have taken the total number in our Goshala family to 59.

Anjana, the chirpy young white calf, is born to Surabhi, a 7 year old Tharparkar* cow. This energetic calf, running hither and thither, is always keeping the goshala staff on their toes.

Hanuman on the other hand is a shy and relatively more sober calf. Born to Nirmala, a 4 year old Gir* cow, Hanuman is a dark brown coated Gir baby bull.

With more newborns expected, looks like the GEV Goshala staff has a huge task up ahead!

* An indigenous breed of cows



FARM FRESH

MID DAY MEAL



Its 2 AM early in the morning and the kitchen at Govardhan Eco Village is ready for the action. As the cooks are ready chopping and mixing, the firewood boiler is going full steam to cook a very special meal – a meal that not only will nourish the belly but also the mind. This special nutritious meal is for the young school students in the Wada region of Maharashtra (India). The ISKCON food relief foundation has been conducting its mid day meal operations from GEV kitchen, supplying delicious hot lunch for over 21,000 school kids everyday. With a variety in the menu, every day the school kids look forward to this special meal that makes their school more exciting.



GEV TEAM VISITS PATHMEDA GOSHALA

Last month a team of 3 members visited the famous Goshala (Cow barn) in Pathmeda, Rajasthan. Famous for its traditional cow care, the Pathmeda trust has over 1,20,000 cows spread over 72 branches in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. In the main branch in Pathmeda, the Goshala houses over 10,000 cows.



The specialty of this Goshala is the personal care that they offer to many sick and disabled cows. Though only 350 cows are milk-yielding cows, the trust is ensuring quality care for the cows.

Inspiring the villagers to take care of cows, each cowherd is given responsibility of 50-60 cows and one milking cow is also given for his maintenance. The Goshala also manufactures many cow products like Gomutra arka, Ghanvati, churna etc. Setting a wonderful example of cow protection this Goshala is indeed an inspiration for the world to follow.



BENEFITS OF MANGO



The king of all fruits and the delight of all kids, Mango is perhaps the most popular fruit. As the mango season arrives let's see some of the benefits we can derive from this heavenly fruit. Rich in vitamins A and C this fruit is well known for being an anti-cancerous and anti-oxidant agent. Also containing bioactive elements like Terpenes, Esters and Aldehydes, Mango helps improve digestion especially those suffering from acidity. Mangoes also help lower cholesterol and the Glutamine acid in it helps improve memory and concentration. Mango can also be consumed raw by steaming and converting into a pulp. This helps fight sunstrokes during summer and also helps fight exhaustion. So add a lot of mangos this summer to your diet and have a healthy mango time!





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Dasaparni, an extract made from 10 different tree leaves, is one of the best organic herbal formulations that achieve good results for pest control and overall crop growth.

The formulation consists of more than 10 herbal products, which are locally and cheaply available in market or farm like Neem, Castor, Custard apple, papaya etc., which are grounded and mixed in

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organisms like fishes, honeybees, frogs, birds, chicken and even cows.

After decades of ignorance many farmers have now discovered the cause of these mysterious deaths to be the aerial spraying of endosulfan in the plantations. This discovery raised awareness among the people who started voicing out their complaints about health problems and environmental damage. Studies later revealed that the damage in the Kasargod district, in Kerala, alone was over 1000 deaths. And that's not all; studies show endosulfan's use in the state's cashew, coffee and cardamom plantations has resulted in terrible health issues impacting young and old, including physical deformities, cerebral palsy, vision loss, and infertility.

The chemical formation of Endosulfan, acts as an endocrine disruptor and a neurotoxin, which causes reproductive and developmental damage in both animals and humans. Whether endosulfan causes cancer is still being researched. Seventy-three countries have phased out or banned endosulfan. India previously opposed the ban citing economic losses. India is one of the largest producers of endosulfan in the world with around US \$100 million annual production. Before we expect more calamities to be triggered from the plethora of hazardous toxic chemical fertilizers available in the market today we could do well by going completely Organic.



water. This concoction is fermented for a month and can be sprayed after filtration. This mixture when sprayed is very effective against all types of leaf worms and viral infections. Dasaparni also helps hormonal growth and increases the quality of produce. At GEV we also use pheromone traps, an effective way to control pest population without spraying any chemicals. By tactful usage of these alternatives, the usage of deadly chemicals can be avoided ensuring purity of the produce today and the safety of ecology tomorrow.