

GOVARDHAN ECO VILLAGE NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 2010



www.ecovillage.org.in

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

Ṛáin̄ Ṛáin̄, Cómé Ágáin̄... **Vedic techniques for rainfall prediction**

Will it rain? If so, how much? If not now, when?

A lot of energy of the farmers goes in such futile anticipations. Due to the unpredictable nature of rains, agriculture in India today suffers, in spite of its fertile lands. Apart from the disturbances created by chemical farming, poor water management techniques have added to the farmer's woes. The result has been devastating, leading to unprecedented number of farmers' suicide.

Modern weather prediction systems have helped the farmers to a considerable extent in predicting the rainfall. It normally give an estimate of the rainfall for a larger geographical area. However, rainfall in any small area is so specific that it could vary significantly even between two regions of close proximity. Just as the fertility of the soil varies between two nearby regions, similarly the rainfall pattern also varies. Here is a Vedic alternative for the modern rainfall prediction systems that helps the farmers predict the rainfall in their own region.

Unlike the modern systems that predict the rainfall based on the Solar calendar, this Vedic method predicts the rainfall based on *Panchanga* or Vedic almanac. Each *nakshatra* or a star, has its own characteristics, and allows only certain amount of rainfall. For

example the *Hasta nakshatra*, which occurs after the rainy season, allows good amount of rainfall; It is for this reason we often observe that there is rain even after the monsoon ends. Recently Mr. Vikram Bhat, an agriculturist from Pune, Maharashtra visited GEV. He is credited of reviving this ancient technique after a detailed analysis of the metrological records of past 127 years. This technique has been studied for 11 years (1998-2009) under direct observation and found to yield good results in successfully predicting the rainfall specific to small regions, and thus helping the farmers. The beauty of this ancient technique is not only its accuracy but also its ease, which even a layman can predict rainfall in his region. 'Vedic Rainfall prediction' is an art of predicting the time and amount of rainfall expected in the coming year, by observing some signs from living and apparently nonliving things in the nature. Vedic scriptures describe that just as a mother conceives a child, Mother Nature also conceives Rain. Just as a doctor can estimate the expected date of delivery of a pregnant lady by observing the signs and symptoms of her body, one can also predict the day and amount of rainfall in a particular region based on some signs in the nature.

For more details about this ancient science please visit www.ecovillage.org.in

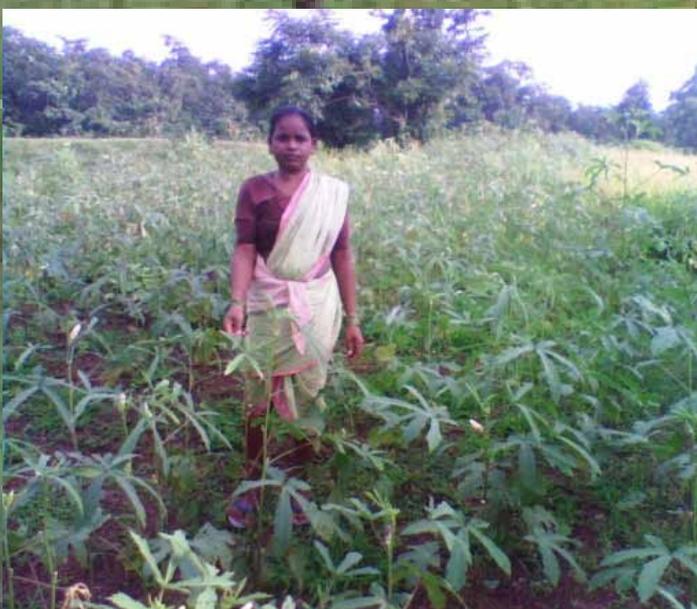
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT @ GEV

Community development in rural areas is one of the areas of prime focus for Govardhan Eco Village. As part of this, GEV has been supporting the project "A Holistic Development Program for Rural and Tribal communities in Wada Block of Thane District" since its inception in April 2009. This project is being organized by Maharashtra Institute of Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (MITTRA), a development organization promoted by BAIF. The aim of the project is to benefit 500 tribal families over period of five years. The project activities started with 7 tribal villages located around GEV in Galtare in Wada block of Thane District. The villages Ghore, Ghuir, Galtre, Hamrapur, Nane and Sange are proposed under this project. The overall objective of the program is to improve the standard and quality of living of the poor tribal families through a holistic and enabling program approach. This can be achieved by helping the tribal families to develop productive assets to enable them to earn substantial and sustainable livelihood over a long period. They include 'Wadi' (integrated farming system comprising of horticulture, agriculture and dairy) and other non-farm enterprises. Simultaneously, there is a need for a thrust to tackle the root causes of poor health and improve the quality of living, particularly of women. The proposed program thus primarily aims at the following:

- Food Security and Poverty Alleviation
- Improving the health status of the community
- Increasing the asset base of the tribals
- Empowerment of women

The project activities begin with conducting meetings that are aimed at understanding the views of the families and their status in agriculture. This is followed by exposure visits to some developed villages by the tribals. This helps the families of the village to get firsthand experience of seeing the developmental activities benefited by tribal families and share their experiences with the farmers of developed villages. The exposure visits are very productive and the tribal families are motivated to see the tree based farming system developed.

For the complete details about the activities of this project and the quarterly report, please visit www.ecovillage.org.in



Most people find School learning a boring process. Wouldn't it be nice if kids could play and learn simultaneously? In an attempt to make the process of school learning an enjoyable experience, the Lady Northcote Hindu Orphanage (LNHO) at Govardhan Eco Village is implementing novel teaching methods. Imbibing the wisdom of ancient teaching methods and simultaneously adopting the curriculum and practices of modern teaching methods, a unique 'school learning' concept is being developed in LNHO. One of the main teaching methods adopted is to provide holistic experiential learning opportunities in the

LEARNING IS FUN

form of field trips. Kids like to play and learn. So by organizing field trips with various educational activities learning can be made pleasurable.

In a recent field trip to Pune, the students got hands on experience in various fields like physics, history, animal science, art, music, culture, vocational education and spirituality,

IMAGES:

1. Visit to IUCAA.
Inset: Dr Mr Jayant V Narlikar
2. An alligator in Pune Snake Park
3. An inspiring talk by the staff at Jnana Prabhodhini
4. An LNHO staff feeding cows in a Cow barn in Ullas Nagar
5. Original compositions of Saint Tukaram in Dehu
6. Kids posing at Shivaneri, a historical fort near Pune

Read more about the tour and an analysis of modern and Vedic teaching methods on www.ecovillage.org.in



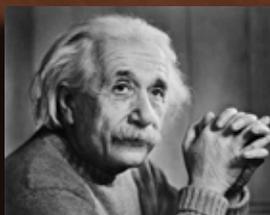
Vedic Living - Sustainable Living

Sustainability, in any walk of life, naturally comes about when all its aspects or features are rightly balanced. Present day solutions dealing with problems of stress, relationship etc., revolves around this principle of living a balanced lifestyle. However, the circle of influence of these methods is limited by the unexplored aspects of nature.

The visionary sages of the yore received the Vedas or knowledge from a higher realm, primarily by the method of submissive aural reception called as '*sabda brahman*'. These ancient Vedic literatures give a very extensive explanation of this nature, how it came about and what it constitutes of. While explaining the anatomy of life, Vedas primarily divide it into 8 elements. Earth, water, fire, air and ether constitutes 5 gross elements and mind, intelligence and ego are the 3 subtle elements.

The legacy of '*sabda brahman*' handed down by an unbroken chain of spiritual preceptors offers impeccable solutions for striking the right balance in life. Chanting of Vedic hymns, mantra meditation and study of Vedic scriptures primarily dealt with harmonizing the subtle elements namely mind, intelligence and ego and the Vedic lifestyle, which was based upon the acceptance of a Universal controller and proprietor of nature, automatically balanced the grosser elements. Thus one is trained from the very beginning to live simple and accept only that which is necessary automatically for his survival and not create an imbalance in nature by unnecessary accumulation.

In the world today people are becoming more aware about the predicament of planet earth and are working towards it. However, over a long run, we need to take guidance from the Vedic model and make an all round solution to all our problems.



"Problems cannot be solved at the same level of awareness that created them."

- Albert Einstein

ADDRESS

Govardhan Eco Village, Galtare,
Hamrapur (P.O.), Wada (Taluka),
Thane(District) - 421303,
Maharashtra, India.

Website: www.ecovillage.org.in
Email: contactus@ecovillage.org.in
Telephone: +91 99301 41781,
+91 91672 04666