Organic Farming Association has a new President: Sarvdaman Patel

Outgoing President, D.D. Bharamagoudra hands over charge of the Organic Farming Association of India to Sarvdaman Patel, one of Gujarat’s best known organic farmers, while Claude Alvares, Association Secretary (extreme left), Jayant Barve, Association Treasurer and Bharatendu Prakash, OFAI’s North India coordinator look on and applaud. The election took place at Indore on February 10, 2010 and was unanimous.

The Organic Farming Association of India has a new President. Sarvdaman Patel, one of India’s best organic farmers from Gujarat, was unanimously elected to the highest office of the association at its General Body meeting held in Indore on February 20, 2010.

Elected with him were the Association’s first Secretary (Claude Alvares) and Treasurer (Jayant Barve), both these to second terms. The National Steering Committee was obviously interested in maintaining a strong continuity with the outgoing NSC and the outgoing Managing Committee.

As per the procedures laid down in the byelaws, the new National Steering Committee was first constituted from the elected persons coming in from various states. The new NSC then went into secret ballot to elect the members of the Managing Committee.

The NSC meeting was adjourned to allow the 9-member Managing Committee to elect the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The elections were held freely and were conducted with great enthusiasm. Through the election process a large number of young people have now come into the organization at its highest levels. This can only dynamise the functioning of the association.

Since the next biennial convention of the Association is to be held later this year in Gujarat, it was perhaps appropriate that the new President also hails from the same state.

Sarvdaman Patel, however, does not any longer belong only to Gujarat. He is now claimed by organic farmers from every other state. An outstanding farmer who was trained in biodynamic methods of organic agriculture, he brings to his new task a great (towering) presence, charm, serious commitment to the cause of organic farming and most important of all, fantastic experience, mostly self-taught, in the methods of doing successful organic agriculture.

Like his predecessor, D.D. Bharamagoudra, Sarvdaman Patel is a 100% farmer who spends not less than six hours every day on his farm at Anand. He markets his produce through a shop set up at the farm gate and through green stores in cities like Vadodara. He is a consummate composter, maintains a herd of cows and is a stunning example of what a good organic farmer should be.

He often uses his farm as a training centre for persons who want to know more about biodynamic agriculture.

The Association is pleased to have him at its helm and prays that he will take it to ever great heights in the next three years.

The NSC also bade farewell to DD Bharamagoudra, the first President of the Association who helped build, through his charismatic and dynamic leadership, a strong association in its formative years. DD has recovered from a serious heart-bypass operation last year, but his doctors have advised him not to exert himself at this stage. For this reason he was not keen on taking up another term as President.

DD has been unanimously requested by the NSC to join OFAI’s panel of Advisors. DD has readily agreed to the proposal. That way he retains his close association with OFAI.

[See related report on p.2]
Election of new NSC and Managing Committee of OFAI

The 11th meeting of the NSC-1 (the term of which expired once the new members took charge) and the first meeting of NSC-2 of the Organic Farming Association constituted the same day with the nominations from the Advisory/Steering Committees from different states, was held at the Conference Hall of the Government College of Agriculture, Indore-Madhya Pradesh, on 21 July, 2010 after the successful completion of the three-days second North India Organic Farmers’ Conference (NIOFC-2) at the same campus.

Most of the NSC members attended the meeting, participated in the deliberations and voted for the new Managing Committee to ensure a smooth transition of leadership for the next three years as provided in the rules and regulations of OFAI.

All items of the agenda were deliberated and decided. The minutes of the 10th meeting of NSC held on 21 July, 2009 at Bhopal were first circulated on 26 September, 2009 and also made available to newly elected/nominated members. The minutes were approved without changes.

The report of the South Asia Conference (SAC) had been published in the Living Field Issue Ten and circulated to all OFAI members in October, 2009 and uploaded on the OFAI website www.ofai.org. Printed copies were distributed to new members at NIOFC-2 and uploaded on the OFAI website www.ofai.org. Printed copies were distributed to new members at NIOFC-2 and uploaded on the OFAI website www.ofai.org.

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Second Biennial North India Organic Farming Conference (NIOFC-2)

The three day biennial North India Organic Farming Conference (NIOFC-2) was held from February 7 to 9, 2010 at the Government College of Agriculture campus, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. This was a follow up to the first NIOFC held at the National Grasslands & Fodder Research Institute campus at Jhansi on the border with Uttar Pradesh.

Participants arrived at Indore by morning of 7th February 2010 and the program was inaugurated at 1:00 pm sharp by Dr. Ramkrishna Kusumaria, Minister for Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh. Ms. Utsara Bai, the woman nominee of Madhya Pradesh to the NSC, did the invocation with a ballad on organic farming while Dr. Bhutatendu Prakash made the formal welcome speech. The Government College of Agriculture was specially chosen as the venue as it was here that Sir Albert Howard had written thus in his book, "I came to teach organic farming but ended up learning from the farmers of Indore." The presence of dense forests around villages had given the soils sufficient organic matter and heavily dependent on external inputs like fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers have shown in Maharashtra that organic farming can produce same quantities as conventional farming, and with lower external input levels. Organic farming can assure food security. Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttarakhand have Organic Farming policies. Nagaland has a vision of a fully organic state by 2015. Other states like Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are also developing their organic farming policy documents. There is a need to set up an office in Delhi to lobby for central policies to promote organic farming. PGS must be promoted to provide low-cost labeling for organic produce in the domestic market. It is the need of the hour in India. Dr. Yadav complimented Dr. Ramkrishna Kusumaria for promoting organic farming in Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. Vinodlal Shroff, former Dean of Agriculture, stated that there was a need to develop a curriculum for graduate and post graduate courses in organic agriculture in the State Agriculture Universities and colleges. Legume crops inoculated with Rhizobium cultures are more efficient than nitrogen fertilizer factories and cost nothing, he said.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusumaria, a rare Minister for Agriculture with a doctorate degree in Agriculture, congratulated the organic farmers who sustain the nation with healthy food, expecting very little in return, save remunerative prices. He complimented Dr. T.G.K. Menon, an organic farmer and promoter for receiving the ‘Padma Shree’ award from the President of India for his work. He complimented the organizers for making the food at NIOFC-2 organic only. “Once organic food was what we ate routinely; now it is a speciality,” he said calling on the delegates to help reverse the situation.

Dr. Gopal Singh Kaushal, former Director of Agriculture and now the Convener of OFAI-Madhya Pradesh, proposed the vote of thanks. He stated the area under organic farming is steadily increasing and people are adopting organic farming techniques like vermiculture, NADEP composting, panchagavya, etc. He called upon the delegates to also pay attention to creation of awareness of organic food in the consumers.

Farmers in India, with a history and tradition of several thousand years in farming have evolved enormous knowledge and scientific practices for every agro-climatic zone of the country. Not only the agriculture but thousands of seeds of all kinds of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables had been discovered and maintained for centuries. Agriculture in India had been integrated, with agronomy, animal husbandry, pisciculture, poultry farming and agro-forestry being parts of the whole system which helped the soil to maintain its health for all these years. Few decades of ‘modern agriculture’ has led to a loss of many of these systems that conserved biodiversity while providing food for the people. The presence of dense forests around villages had given the soils sufficient organic matter and maintained the rain-pattern which has now been upset because of society’s greed and environmental imbalances created by ill-planning.

The ‘Green Revolution’ backed by application of chemicals as fertilizers and insecticides or other pesticides and introduction of heavy contamination with GM, prohibited in organic agriculture world-wide. There were placards, protests and shouting at Bangalore. In Indore, the organic farmers were at peace and looking for a common Way Forward. Sir Albert Howard had written thus in his book, “I came to teach organic farming but ended up learning from the farmers of Indore.” The book is published in English by Other India Press and its Hindi translation by Mr. Arun Dike of Indore is ready for release.

Dr. Ashok K. Yadav, Director of National Centre of Organic Farming, Govt. of India – which financially supported part of the Conference expenses – said it was very unfortunate that we had forsaken organic farming to pursue modern agriculture. Tamil Nadu had a productivity of 3 tonnes rice per hectare under organic farming, while now the average production is 2.4 tonnes per hectare and heavily dependent on external inputs like fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers have shown in Maharashtra that organic farming can provide low-cost labeling for organic produce in the domestic market. It is the need of the hour in India. Dr. Yadav complimented Dr. Ramkrishna Kusumaria for promoting organic farming in Madhya Pradesh.

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Dr. Subhash Sharma addresses the Indore Conference

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Agriculture.

ment headed by Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria by an Empowered Committee of the Govern
Farming Policy of Madhya Pradesh prepared specifically mentioned in the draft Organic tariat, also spoke on the subject. PGS has been Additional Director of OFAI Central Secre
secretariat for North India and Miguel Braganza,

strong and productive.

Policy changes needed to make rural India
basically based on organic and natural process, based on
India but everywhere, should be transformed into organic and natural process, based on
traditional knowledge enriched with resource conservational researches.

The sessions during the conference included the following:

Experience sharing of farmers from all over
Traditional knowledge of soil management;
The conservation pattern of resources and its sharing;
The rediscovered techniques of Panchaga-

Traditional Seeds and their Role in Food Sover
Challenges of Kerala.” Mr. Rony Joseph of

ONFST did a presentation in the seminar on

On 15th January, 2010 the OFAI Kerala meeting decided to conduct a get together of Kerala OFAI members along with the 5th Organic Fair at Cochin.
The 5th Organic Fair was organised by the Organic Kerala Charitable Trust in association with likeminded groups and organisations. From the very beginning, the OFAI Kerala Chapter is closely associated with this event. This year the Fair was organised from 16th of April to 19th of April 2010. The Fair was inaugu-

rator of Kerala, Mr. Mullakkara Rathnakaran.
Speakers from different areas shared their views on the promotion of Organic Farming and the marketing of it’s products. There was a Seminar on “Food Sovereignty Challenges of Kerala.” Mr. Rony Joseph of INFACT did a presentation in the seminar on “Local Seeds and their Role in Food Sover-

On 18th of April there was a get together of organic farmers. Mr.Johny Mathew, the OFAI NSC member from Kerala, was the key speaker at this get together. Alongwith with the Fair, a three day camp for children was also conducted. Farmers’ groups from different parts of Kerala participated in the Fair and exhibited their farm products.

Under the Banner of OFAI a stall was a stall which contained the farm products of OFAI members was set up and did good sales. Ear-

lier, the State Secretariat had informed all the OFAI members about the Fair and collected their farm products for the exhibition.

Seeds and seedlings of vegetables and medici-

nals, variety products from jack fruit, papaya, banana, chilimppy, tapioca etc., spices, handicraft items from coconut wood and shell as well as juices from ginger-lemon and nutmeg etc., were demonstrated. A leaflet on ‘Preventing pests through Organic Methods’ was also distributed.

Kerala OFAI member’s get-together:
The get-together started with a silent prayer.

Mr. Rajan Nair, the convener of OFAI Kerala Chapter, chaired the meeting. He explained the context of the meeting. Mr.Jose Sebastian and Mr.Johny Mathew OFAI NSC members participated in this get together. The meeting evaluated the functioning of OFAI and decided the following points:

1. Get the green signal from Central Secretariat to proceed with the new PGS Group formation.
2. Each OFAI member must identify genuine organic farmers from their districts and move fast to form PGS Local Groups in their respective districts. They must also study the possibilities of market the organic farm prod-

ucts locally under the PGS label.
3. Since the Govt.of Kerala is planning to publish the final draft of the Organic Farming Policy on 9th of May 2010, we must make necessary steps to include the recognition of PGS groups in the Organic Policy of the Government.

In this context the meeting decided to send a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Kerala for including the PGS into the new policy. The participants requested the Central secre-
tariat/PGS Organic India Council to submit a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Kerala for including the PGS into the new policy.

Mr. Raju Joseph, one of the OFAI members, suggested to conduct a training programme on profitable organic vegetable cultivation. He shared about the meeting with Mr. Shishir Kumar Pariya (407 – Metro Home, damana Chauk, Bhuvaneswar 751006 Mob:09439387733) from Orissa during the SAC at Bangalore.

It was decided to conduct OFAI member’s get-together from the next year onwards in one of the OFAI member’s farm.
A meeting of the PGS Organic India Council was held on 11 & 12, March, 2010, at UMANG, Grassroots, Ranikhet, Uttarakhand state. The President of the PGSOIC elected on 02 June, 2009 at FireFlies, Bangalore, Mr. Joy Daniel, chaired the meeting.


Action Taken Report [ATR] on the minutes of the previous meeting held at Timbaktu Collective, Chennakothapally, Andhra Pradesh, included

1. Activation of new PGS-OFC: The office bearers of PGSOIC visited the Local Groups set up under GREEN Foundation in Karnataka and border districts of Tamil Nadu, interacted with the farmers and staff of the PGS-OFC and guided on the way forward. Four LGs have since been registered under GREEN Foundation.

2. Eligibility Criteria for PGS-OFCs: The new criteria for eligibility to be a PGS-OFC were applied in the case of Maharashtra Organic Farming Federation [MOFF], which had

44 LGs under the aegis of OFAI. In October, 2009 MOFF agreed to function as an independent OFC and was allotted a new OFC Code of D 01. Certificates for LGs MH D01 049 to 055 have since been issued to MOFF directly by the PGSOIC Central Secretariat.

3. Memorandum of Association, Byelaws and Registration of PGSOIC: The Constitution [Memorandum of Association and Rules & Regulations] of the PGSOIC drafted at the meeting at Fire Flies-Bangalore in June, 2009, and discussed at the meeting at Timbaktu Collective in August, 2009, was discussed among the Executive Committee members and changes were made where felt necessary.

4. Status of PGS Local Groups: There has been a significant growth in the number of Local Groups in each PGS-OFC from August, 2009 to February, 2010. There are now 38 Local Groups with 4147 organic farm families participating in PGS across 11 states of the Indian Union.

5. Release of the PGS newsletter ‘ORGANIC News’ Vol. 1 No. 2. Was done at the hands of the Vice Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. P.G. Chengappa, at the South Asia Conference on “Outstanding Organic Agriculture Techniques” at GKVK, Bangalore on 10 September, 2009, in the presence of delegates from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Australia and Unuted Kingdom.

6. Registration of PGSOIC logo for multi-commodity trade.

The registration of the logo will be done by the PGSOIC to own the logo and to permit its member organizations to use it.

7. Requirements of Packaged Commodities Act , organic ingredients for processing. Mr. Ajay Rastogi agreed to collate the information and make it available to the PGSOIC members.

8. Tamil Nadu Agricultural Council Act, 2009: Bowing to the strong protests from farmer groups, VOIs and NGOs, the Tamil Nadu Government has decided not to send the Bill to the Governor for his assent. This was announced on 10 September, 2009, by the Government and made public at the SAC in Bangalore to thunderous applause by farmer delegates and agriculture graduates alike.

9. Contact with other PGS-linked organizations.

As authorized by the PGSOIC at the last meeting, the Secretary has had interactions with MUSE Spirit Ecosphere-Himalachi Pradesh, AVANI- Kumaon-Uttarakhand and the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP)-Andhra Pradesh. MUSE is working in the trans-Himalayan area near Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh where the people harvest Seabuckthorn in Spiti valley for human use. Eco-tourism in summer, solar energy to save forests by reduction of dependence on fuel wood and guidance on PGS – Wild/Natural are areas of interest that it shares with AVANI, represented, Ms. Rashmi Bhatari. The PGS website is a great gateway to connect with other PGS promoters in India and rest of the world. It is hoped that PGS will be centre stage at Organic World Congress 2011 in Seoul-Korea through the good offices of the Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers’ Organizations (INOFo).

The eligibility criteria for an organization to be a PGS-OFC are:

1. Membership to be proposed by 2 OFC’s (Application Form to be filled by applicant.)

2. Visit by PGSOIC representatives to the Applicant organization.

3. Ratification by PGSOIC at meeting or by email.

Mr. C.K Ganguly aka Bablu stated that PGS is based on trust and a value system. Some proforma can be prepared to be filled by the applicant and countersigned by an existing PGSOIC member.

Criteria for PGS Wild/Natural and Processed fruits/fibre: The Guidelines for wild harvest have been prepared and printed by Keystone Foundation. In Uttarakhand, Soap nut (Sapindus sp) and Amla (Emblica sp) trees are stamped by state dept. of horticulture. CCD does collection of wild fruit like Wood Apple, Agle marmellos. Honey of rock bees Apis florea in Indonesia is being certified as “Organic” through TPS. Feed back from PGSOIC to Snells draft on PGS-Wild standards has come from only few.

Fabrics [Organic Cotton, Tasar silk, etc] and non-food processed item as well as FPO items need protocols. Responses for procedure for fibre processed into cloth needed. CCD can add to the information from its experience. AVANI is interested in wild silk like Tasar, Eri and Muga silk. This range and market of PGS Wild may be bigger than PGS for cultivated produce. A link of the PGSOFCS to the end-user of PGS Organic logo could be through a Memorandum of Understanding or some agreement. (Prepared by: Miguel Braganza, Secretary PGSOIC, Goa)
New OFAI Projects

The NSC of OFAI has approved the idea of the following new projects that will be taken up shortly by the Central Secretariat:

**OFAI Project Proposal on Carbon Sequestration**

Organic farming, or farming the natural way, comes on top of the list of CO2 sequestration projects that will be beneficial for the people and the ecosystem together. Since organic farmers use biomass like cow-dung and farm residues that are also rich sources of CO2, naturally their soil will store more organic carbon. Even though conventional farms also use biomass, introduction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides disturbs the soil microbes that digest the carbon contained in the biomass. Several studies conducted in Europe and North America reveal that organic farms remove CO2 from the air and store it in soil as soil organic carbon (SOC). According to one estimate, soils under eco-friendly farm practices can sequester 14% of the current annual CO2 emission.

However, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) has not recognized soil carbon sequestration as eligible under the Kyoto protocol.

For years, the organic farmers have been removing CO2 from the atmosphere, besides providing safe food to the consumers and maintaining the soil health. They have not been compensated for the eco-system services rendered by them. This should be facilitated under the protocols of either verified emission reduction, a private initiative or certified emission reduction of UNFCC. This payment will also help the victims of chemical farming to revert to organic practices. This pilot study aims at quantifying the soil carbon gain in organic farms in comparison to conventional farms in India.

OFAI now proposes to measure soil carbon sequestration on the farms of its members. There will be 25 pairs of organic and non-organic farms selected for the study. Both the farms in the pairs will be from the same micro-region, preferably the same village. The crop will also preferably be similar in nature. Soil samples will be collected before the preparation of land and after the harvest.

The study team will include V.T. Padmanabhan as principal investigator on behalf of OFAI. He will be assisted by Miguel Braganza, Addl. Director, OFAI, who is a professionally trained agricultural scientist.

OFAI will provide practical assistance in the identification of organic and chemical farms and regions for the said study. OFAI will use its own staff at the State level and train them in the methods of collection of samples and their packaging and dispatch to the laboratory selected to carry out the sampling.

The project which will commence in May 2010 will conclude in six months.

All OFAI members who wish to participate in the study should contact the OFAI central secretariat by phone or email.

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Attention All OFAI Members

All individual members of OFAI who have not yet renewed their membership are requested to deposit their annual fees at Rs.100 only in favour of “Organic Farming Association of India” payable in SB A/c No.180010100029917 at Mapusa-Goa branch of AXIS Bank. Do not forget to intimate OFAI-Central Secretariat by email to myofai@gmail.com or call Reshma on 0832-2255913 during normal office hours. The expenses in printing and posting are quite heavy and we would appreciate some support in the form of renewed membership or donations. Thank you!

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OFAI now proposes to measure soil carbon sequestration on the farms of its members. There will be 25 pairs of organic and non-organic farms selected for the study. Both the farms in the pairs will be from the same micro-region, preferably the same village. The crop will also preferably be similar in nature. Soil samples will be collected before the preparation of land and after the harvest.

The study team will include V.T. Padmanabhan as principal investigator on behalf of OFAI. He will be assisted by Miguel Braganza, Addl. Director, OFAI, who is a professionally trained agricultural scientist.

OFAI will provide practical assistance in the identification of organic and chemical farms and regions for the said study. OFAI will use its own staff at the State level and train them in the methods of collection of samples and their packaging and dispatch to the laboratory selected to carry out the sampling.

The project which will commence in May 2010 will conclude in six months.

All OFAI members who wish to participate in the study should contact the OFAI central secretariat by phone or email.

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Attention All OFAI Members

All individual members of OFAI who have not yet renewed their membership are requested to deposit their annual fees at Rs.100 only in favour of “Organic Farming Association of India” payable in SB A/c No.180010100029917 at Mapusa-Goa branch of AXIS Bank. Do not forget to intimate OFAI-Central Secretariat by email to myofai@gmail.com or call Reshma on 0832-2255913 during normal office hours. The expenses in printing and posting are quite heavy and we would appreciate some support in the form of renewed membership or donations. Thank you!
Organic Farming News

Organic growth for organic farming

The National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF), an undertaking of the Union ministry of agriculture, plans to take the total cultivated area under organic crops to 15 million hectares by the end of 2010, making it a little over 1% of the total area under the plough in India. At present, 12 lakh hectares of cultivated land is covered under this practice of farming, apart from some 90 lakh hectares of minor forest areas, said the centre's director Dr A K Yadav. Dr Yadav was addressing a meeting on organic farming at the Vidarbha Industries Association (VIA).

During 2003-4, the total area under cultivation stood at around 42,000 hectares, whereas wild growth of produce from forests stood at only 10 lakh hectares. The three major organic crops remain tea, honey and cotton, while growing medicinal plants is a new emerging area, said Yadav.

The exports of organic farming during the last year stand at Rs 561 crore as against Rs 450 crore in the year before, said Yadav. The organic farming sector fared well despite the economic slowdown by clocking a substantial growth of 21%. Yadav said. He added that though the average growth tally remained at 18%, the performance was much better than other sectors.

Regarding the situation in Vidarbha, Yadav said the region indeed has good scope for organic farming, as it was from the farmers of this region that he learnt a lot during his initial period at the centre.

ICC launches organic farming sensitisation in NE

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Northeast Chapter has launched initiatives to boost organic farming in Northeastern states in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

APEDA officials here today said since organic farming had become a major thrust area in agriculture in Northeast for its huge reserves of biotic resources, they had been trying to sensitise the farmers for commercial farming of organic agricultural products. Organic farming was seeing unprecedented activity in Northeast by default and it had tremendous potential of progress in the segment, ICC officials said.

Dr Yadav was addressing a meeting on organic farming at the Vidarbha Industries Association (VIA).

APEDA was asked to export indigenous varieties of rice - Komal Chawal, Bora Chawal, Bao Chawal (red rice), Joha and black rice - produced with organic farming methods to the foreign markets, which had export potential, officials added. The APEDA has been trying to explore the organic products in the major markets at international level but considering the perceptible sensitivity of the buyers in developed countries like the US and Western Europe, it laid stress on research and development activities to make the products acceptable to those buyers.

Non-GM Breakthroughs Leave GM Behind

GM Watch: http://www.gmwatch.org

Many organic successes including the return to organic cotton to avoid the BT cotton trap, FAO’s initiatives to promote Organic Agriculture to feed the world abound but do not find mainstream media space. Although drought-prone Zambia is still facing problems, huge improvements have been reported in its maize harvests, its main staple crop. Production is reported to have changed dramatically when President Levy Mwanawasa promoted innovations such as mixed farming and conservation farming after he took over from Frederick Chiluba in 2001. Mwanawasa rejected GM maize and encouraged the growing of non-GM maize, resulting in bumper harvests for the past three years. Ironically, when the Zambian government rejected GM maize in 2002, there were calls from the US Ambassador to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization for its leaders to be tried “for the highest crimes against humanity in the highest courts of the world”, non-GM crop science gets 13 million pound sterling boost in the UK

GM Watch: http://www.gmwatch.org

UK crop scientists have been awarded a 13.3 million pounds in funding to carry out research aimed at delivering benefits for farmers and consumers. Researchers say they will not be producing GM crops. Prof. David Pink at University of Warwick, Coventry, whose team has been awarded GBP 1,000,000 to identify genes in broccoli that will extend its shelf life and maintain its nutritional value longer, said, “We are not going down that (GM) route because GM is not acceptable at the moment, and not accept- able to our plant breeding partner.”

New Organic Farming Sourcebook

The Organic Farming Sourcebook is written and edited by Claude Alvares with the assistance of Nyla Coelho. The book contains almost everything connected with organic farming in India, including a vast directory of organic farmers. Packed with pictures, the book now includes new chapters on GM seeds, farm animals, especially indigenous cows, and a comprehensive list of green or organic stores from all the different states.

Members of OFAI have the good fortune of ordering the book for Rs.350 (including post and packing free). Please contact the Central Secretariat for your copy. You will have to quote your OFAI ID number. DD/Cheque may be drawn in favour of “The Other India Bookstore”, payable at Mapusa, Goa.

For your copy call 0832-2255919 (Reshma) or email: myofai@gmail.com or simply write a postcard to:

OFAI Central Secretariat, G-8 St Britto’s Apts., Feira Alta, Mapusa 403507 Goa.
The Organic Farming Association of India

(A society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)

Registered address:
G-8, St. Britto’s Apartments, Feira Alta, Mapusa 403 507 Goa, India
Tel.: 91-832-2255913. Tel./fax: 91-832-2203305
Email: myofai@gmail.com Web: www.ofai.org

Membership form of the Association
(This form may also be filled, signed, scanned and emailed)

I, ................................................................., aged ................

male/female, desire to become a member of the Organic Farming Association of India. My membership fee is enclosed herewith.

My complete and correct address (with phone and email data, if available) is provided below:

I would qualify to be a member of the Association under one of the following categories (please underline the chosen category):

a) Organic Farmer
b) Company/Society/Trust involved in organic food production
c) Green Shop (applicable only to shops marketing organic produce)
d) Green Trader (also includes suppliers of organic farming inputs)
e) Organic Farming Promoter
f) Organic Consumer

Name and signature of applicant

Details for applicants:
Membership fees as per bye-laws of the association:
Individuals: Rs.100 per year. Non-profit organizations: Rs.1,000 per year. Companies and partnerships: Rs.5,000 per year. This amount can be sent by DD or MO or deposited directly in favour of “Organic Farming Association of India” at any UTI/AXIS bank branch anywhere in the country in account No: 18001010010029917 Mapusa branch, Goa State, and intimation given to OFA-CS, Goa.

All members are entitled to free issues of either The Living Field or Shyashaya Shamala newsletters.

( Please note: Since OFAI state secretariats are managed by NGOs, membership may be required to be paid in the name of the NGO concerned and not OFAI. Receipt may also be given by the concerned organization. However, the applicant will get a membership certificate from OFAI, after the fee is transmitted to the central secretariat of the organization by the state secretariat concerned.)