



A Report from Rural Development Wing(RERF)  
on



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP11), October 8-19, 2012

Sixth Meeting of Parties (MOP6), October 1-7, 2012

Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, India

The agenda of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties is very wide-ranging, reflecting the programme of work the Conference of the Parties has established for itself. The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University in the capacity of an 'NGO' actively participated at the meetings, dialogues and exhibitions to showcase its green initiative to promote biodiversity through the Sustainable Yogic Agriculture Project and plantation projects promoted by the Rural Development Wing (RERF) as well as explaining the importance of non-conventional sources of energy for conservation of biodiversity.

### Sustainable Yogic Agriculture Project:

**Sustainable Yogic Agriculture is an additive cultivation practice to organic agriculture. This is for growing clean and positive vibration based crop produce. Cultivation mechanism followed by giving pure, powerful and elevated thoughts to the seeds, water, land and microbes in the field/garden/orchard/forest and to the animals for the betterment of agro ecosystems.**

The success achieved in phenomenal growth in food production during the past few decades is generally attributed to the "green revolution". The imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in recent years has received severe criticism and now it has been realized by technocrats, as well as by policy makers that this jump in agricultural production was basically achieved at the cost of natural resources, soil health, and the environment as well affecting biodiversity and human health. The ever growing environmental degradation has triggered a global alarm, resulting in a search for ecologically sound, socially viable, and a sustainable farming system. Organic farming which targets co-operation rather than confronting nature is the only answer to many of our present day ills.

Yogic Agriculture is a step ahead of organic farming. Sustainable Yogic Agriculture is a process of making the atmosphere pure and powerful through meditation. As yogic farming is non-specific in nature and mainly acts in the form of metaphysical energy for making the seed, land, water and associated metabolic processes powerful. This can be clubbed together with any form of ecological or organic farming practices. Positive thoughts have been found to change water quality, seed germination, growth and development of crops and plants which has influence on associated species. This unique aspect of using meditation as an intangible asset of Indian heritage can contribute to bringing clean, economic, and social benefits to small holder agrarian communities in India. This helps to improve the value systems and quality of life of farmers. Knowledge of meditation helps in managing the energy of the mind as we become cognizant of the relationship between thoughts and behavior, while maintaining a healthy relationship with nature to protect biological diversity. This unique method is now being tested at various state agricultural Universities.

Research data indicate statistically significant effects on seed quality/crop quality and yield. Meditation practices designed for each phase of the agrarian cycle, that is, from seed to harvest are increasing farmers' self esteem and helping to reduce social violence in villages.

Not a single case of suicide has been observed in the farmers who have been practicing Yogic Agriculture.

<b>Events associated with BK's at the convention</b>			
<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>
Interactive Fair and Exhibition Stall	Booth No. 123, Hall-2 HITEX	1st – 19th Oct 10.00 am – 5.00 pm	Yogic Farming Sustainable Energy Spiritual Empowerment
Kiosk	No.5, Ground Floor HICC, HITEX premises	1st – 19th Oct	Environment activities
Exhibition Stall	Shilparamam Near Main Lawn	1st – 19th Oct 11.00 am – 8.00 pm	Environ - Consciousness Yogic Farming Meditation
Special Side Event	Shanti Sarovar Global Peace Auditorium	4th Oct 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm	Living in Harmony with Nature
Special Side Event	Shanti Sarovar Global Peace Auditorium	14th Oct 10.30 am – 1.00 pm	Inter-Faith Meet
Parallel Side Event	CEPA Fair, HICC	17th Oct 10.00 am – 11.30 am	Sustainable Yogic Farming & Awakening Biodiversity Consciousness
Parallel Side Event	CEPA Fair, HICC	17th Oct 11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Solar Energy - Alternative energy for Sustainable Development
Parallel Side Event	HITEX Room 1.10 (level 1)	17th Oct 6.15 pm – 7.45 pm	The Power of Human Awareness & Thinking in Safeguarding Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
Presentation at Mayors Conference	Pragati Herbal Resorts	17th Oct 1.00 pm	Values & Environment
+ Participation in several UN official events and Side events of other international NGOs			
+ Field visits of interested delegates to Shanti Sarovar campus to view Yogic Farming, Tree Plantations, Water Harvesting, CowFarm, Museum, Meditation rooms etc.			

Participants on behalf of Rural Development Wing: Bro. BK Raju (HQ. Co-ordinator), Sis. BK Sarla (National Co-ordinator), Sis. BK Sunita (State Co-ordinator, AP), Sis. BK Arundhati (Executive Member), Bro. BK Rajesh Dave (Executive Member), Bro. BK Balasaheb (Executive Member), Bro. BK Rajender (Executive Member), Bro. BK Sumanth, Sis. BK Harsha, Sis. BK Janki, Sis. BK Swati, , Bro. BK Ganesh, Sis. BK Pratibha Patil, Bro. BK Jaikishan, Bro. BK Vineet and Bro. BK Khodabhai.



Sis. BK Sarla, National Co-ordinator, Rural Development Wing receiving memento from Bro. Chakrapani, Chairman, AP Legislative council at a program conducted by Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board during COP-11 for her contribution to the society through Sustainable Yogic Agriculture Project. BK Sunita, AP State co-ordinator, Rural Development Wing and Bro. Ishwaraiyya are seen in the photo.



14/10/2012, Hyderabad: Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, *executive secretary* of the UN Convention for Biodiversity COP-11, receiving godly gift from BK Kuldeep, Director, Shanti Sarovar and BK Sarla, National Co-ordinator, Rural Development Wing during a side event held at Shanti Sarovar, Hyderabad. BK Mruthyunjaya, BK Raju, BK Julia, BK Sunita, BK Vamshi and Bro. Srinivas, Member, AP Biodiversity Board are seen in the photo.



## News at the Exhibition:

Hitex Exhibition stall at the main venue drew the attention of delegations from ministries, universities, government authorities, corporates, NGO's, students and communities with thousands of delegates representing various countries at the convention to know the Role of Rajyoga Meditation in Agriculture.



BK Kuldeep, BK Sunita and BK Harsha with the Korean University officials



BK Pratibha and BK Anthony meeting with Corporates



BK Kavitha explaining Biodiversity consciousness to the delegates



BK Sumanth narrating Yogic farming experiments to the scientists





BK Janki with the Journalist Group



BK Sumanth meeting Srilankan environment ministry officials





BK Andrea (Finland) interacting with the visitors



BK Brigida (Brazil) giving awareness on Biodiversity to the students





BK Caludia (Costa Rica) sharing on Yogic Farming with an interested group

#### Side Events:

1. Living in Harmony a Special Side Event & Field visit for cop11-mop6 was arranged at Shanti Sarovar Complex on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2012



Prof. Dr. Kewalanand gave insight of the Sustainable Yogic Agriculture Project promoting Agrobiodiversity, BK Anthony Strano (Greece), Ruth Liddle (UK) and others on the stage



2. Interfaith for Biodiversity a Special Side Event and Field visit for cop11 including spiritual leaders, senior authorities of Government of Andhra Pradesh and Brahma Kumaris representatives was arranged at Shanti Sarovar Complex arranged by Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board.



3. Applied Biodiversity consciousness: Sustainable Yogic Agriculture and Solar Thermal Power Plant on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 from 10.00AM to 13.00AM at CEPA Fair venue for delegates of COP11



BK Maureen (UK) addressing the side event with BK Rajesh Dave and BK Dr. Sunita Pandey

Brahma Kumari Sister Maureen Goodman said that the Sustainable Yogic Agriculture Project (SYA) has made a considerable contribution in bringing the benefit of positive lifestyle thereby improving the quality of thinking of farmers for helping them to improve the quality of produce. As regards Biodiversity, We see that the variety of rice in India and world varies from geographical region to region which is a reflection of Biodiversity existing in those places. There are four aspects wherein a sustainable ecosystem can be influenced upon by our mind power. The same is reflected in SYA to enable better harvest and quality crops.

These aspects are: 1. Respect 2. Integration 3. Compliment 4. Exchange

1. Respect: We must have respect for all those we are involved with in our daily transaction. Whatever we do or wherever we interact we must be conscious enough about our thought process and the due respect emerging from our behavior for all living beings in and around us. This awareness will make the impact and the result will be positive. And the same when applied to biodiversity stands true.

2. Integration: One must integrate all the elements and living being to co-exist and include them with every activity for their conservation and security. This will create a better environment including all the creatures for their involvement in sustaining eco-system.

3. Compliment: One must compliment the other for their support, co-operation and favor given for living a better life. Biodiversity is all about complimenting and networking all the living beings for nurturing each other and co-exist.

4. Exchange: We must be aware about the exchange between seen and unseen. Positive attitude for self and world. Healing happens when we have positive attitude.

Thus the concept of Biodiversity can be served much better in the world with the above four aspects. This awareness creates happiness for a longer time.

Further, four qualities were also explained which are fundamental in nature. These are Compassion, Wisdom, Patience and Respect.

Biodiversity consciousness involves us to behave with inner qualities like peace, love, happiness and truth which will be reflected through our holistic attitude and behavior. Inner change must be reflected by external change.

The participants were given a practical demonstration of Rajyoga Meditation which involved the application of Mind-Power for Biodiversity and SYA.



BK Rajesh Dave delivering techniques of Yogic Farming



Bro. Rajesh Dave, Executive Member, Rural Development Wing (RERF) while highlighting the role of Sustainable Yogic Agriculture (SYA) in safeguarding the Biodiversity indicated many significant aspects of inclusion of Agriculture as a prime mover of Biodiversity preservation since 70% of the people of INDIA are involved in Agriculture. The integrated lifestyle of Rural India already reflects their close association with nature. Coexistence is mooted through awareness on ancient methods of agriculture which extends respect, love and security to entire living beings and organisms existing into farming system. Ethos and Ethics of Indian Civilization has already been reflecting the fraternity of farmers with the 5 elements (Earth, Water, Fire, Space, Air), animals, birds etc. It was specifically mentioned that the close relationship nurtured in rural lifestyle involved the Sun, Moon, Earth, Fire, Trees, Animals, Micro-Organisms etc. While talking on safeguarding the biodiversity, a wonderful experience sharing co-existence by farmers with papaya cultivation and supplementing the same by extending the need of rabbits to protect the crop, was presented. The positive effect of Mind power in SYA was emphasized by showing two experiments of mind power application on seeds germination (Worlds Great entertainer - Yuri Geller) and effect of love and care on water (Tokyo Experiment) convinced the participants on the application of Mind-Power and thought energy on elements, vegetation and animals. Various aspects of SYA operations involving preparation of liquid organic manure, bio-insecticides, bio-pesticides, bio-growth promoters were explained in detail. The participants were given the knowledge about SYA being done by 500 Yogic farmers in India and the improvement in the results showing the parameters like Vitamin C, Energy Value, Protein Content and Carbohydrates in the processes were also discussed. Finally emphasizing the reduction in the cost of cultivation at the same time not sacrificing the production, productivity and quality of farm produces were also deliberated benefiting the participants in the event. The need for involving positive thought energy by learning the art of Rajayoga Meditation of Brahma Kumaris for the benefit of all the farming community across the world was mooted. Thus the application of Biodiversity consciousness is closely associated with SYA was established during the talk.



Emphasizing the importance of Solar Energy for conserving biodiversity is Bro. M. Sahoo, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Bro. Golo Pilz (Germany) and BK Rajesh Dave



Delegates interested in listening to the Applied Biodiversity consciousness and initiatives of Brahma Kumaris

4. The Power of Human Awareness in Safeguarding Biodiversity & Sustainable Development on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 from 06.15PM to 07.45PM at Room No. 2.01 (Level 2).



BK Maureen (UK) imparting knowledge of values for promoting Biodiversity Consciousness





BK Sonja (Denmark) highlighting aspects of BK Green Initiatives which was followed by scientific presentation of Yogic farming by BK Dr. Sunita Pandey at the experimental level.

Services at other side events:



BK Janki meeting Bro. Hoshino Kazuaki representative of Ministry of Environment, Japan



BK Brigida briefing Dr. Rajendra on Living in Harmony with the Ecosystems



BK Sunita meeting Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to give information on Yogic Agriculture Project





BK Sunita inviting the delegates to BK Side Events



BK Ruth (UK) giving interview at COP-11

Group Photo of the BK Delegation:



BK Raju, BK Sarla, BK Kuldeep, BK Usha Jeevan, BK Julia and others



BK Maureen, BK Sunita, BK Julia, BK Rajesh Dave, BK Vamshi with others at the exhibition stall



Sustainable Yogic Agriculture Project received a wide Media Coverage during COP-11:

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/sci-tech/climate/yogic-agriculture-sparks-interest-cop-11-878>

<http://syedakbarindia.blogspot.in/2012/10/sustainable-yogic-agriculture-brahma.html>

<http://www.thehansindia.info/News/Article.asp?category=5&subCategory=1&ContentId=91333>

<http://www.nripress.com/readmore2.php?ca=11>

[http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report\\_dna-at-cop-ii-meditate-for-better-agri-yield\\_1753887](http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_dna-at-cop-ii-meditate-for-better-agri-yield_1753887)

<http://www.skyscrapercity.com/showthread.php?t=1515923&page=20>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/cities/hyderabad/tad-spirituality-too-biodiversity-meet-419>

[http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=103686769685856&story\\_fbid=273695709417932](http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=103686769685856&story_fbid=273695709417932)

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/286534/now-farmers-can-meditate-boost.html>

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

<http://www.religiousindia.org/church-in-india/living-in-harmony-with-creation>

<http://www.haaram.com/AuthorPosts.aspx?FeedID=16240%20&ln=>

[http://article.wn.com/view/2012/10/19/Now\\_farmers\\_can\\_meditate\\_to\\_boost\\_crop\\_production/](http://article.wn.com/view/2012/10/19/Now_farmers_can_meditate_to_boost_crop_production/)

Qualified bodies: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/information/cop-11-inf-47-en.pdf>

<http://www.cbd.int/cepa/cepa-fair/2012/cepa-fair-2012-dk-brahma-consciousness.pdf>

[www.cbd.int/cepa/cepa-fair/2012/cepa-fair-2012-programme.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/cepa/cepa-fair/2012/cepa-fair-2012-programme.pdf)

CEPA fair webcasts are uploaded: <http://www.cbd.int/cepa/fair/2012/>

Maureen and Rajesh: <http://vimeo.com/52487627>

Ruth: <http://vimeo.com/51041897>

Golo: <http://vimeo.com/52488911>

#### Acknowledgement:

Thanks to the Almighty for making this event most successful! BK Mohiniji (Chairperson, RDW) for being a source of inspiration. BK Kuldeep for hosting the event. BK Sunita (State Co-ordinator, RDW, AP) for leading the team. BK Vamshi, BK Arundhati and BK Anjali for active co-ordination. International Team for their guidance and participation.

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