



annadana
SOIL & SEED SAVERS

Our Journey



Introduction

Annadana Soil and Seed Savers Network is a decade old, not-for-profit Organization, based in Bangalore, India.

Our vision is to spread the knowledge of chemical free & sustainable farming practices.

We believe that all beings have a fundamental right to safe food. Each of us can make a difference towards the well being of our health and environment.

Ever since its inception, Annadana is actively engaged in safeguarding the interest of marginal farmers, their children & society at large by promoting Organic Farming.

Annadana is actively engaged on a mission to revive traditional seeds, the origin of safe foods.

What made us think...?



- Public Health
 - Health of our society especially children has degenerated beyond imagination
 - Refined processed and junk foods is a poison on our platter.
 - The impact of Genetically Modified (GM) foods stands in heated debates with Europe firmly resisting their use and is in question
- Ecology
 - High input chemical farming has degraded soil, polluted water tables
 - Many species facing extinction. Loss of bio-diversity risks food security
- Economy
 - Ever increasing food prices. Globally connected economy
 - Depleting farm land. Population on the rise
- Farmer
 - At the bottom of the pyramid. At the mercy of climate & market
 - Dependent on Chemical & Seed firms; Government & subsidies
 - Middlemen & pilferage



What's our Objective...?



- Safe Food for All
- Dignity & Autonomy for the Farmer
- Provide education to farmers children
- Conserving Bio-diversity
- Peaceful co-existence with nature





Annadana - journey so far...

- Our journey began in 2001 in Auroville, Pondicherry to promote the conservation, production, multiplication and exchange of organic seeds of traditional heirloom vegetable varieties
- Annadana Soil and Seed Savers Network was registered as a non-profit trust (June 2007, Bangalore; Reg # BYP-4-00027-2007-08). We are neither funded by any government nor private organization
- Annadana's Agro Ecology Knowledge Center was established in June 2010 on a 5 acre farm in Bangalore. Named Ishana. This IMO-certified organic farm serves as a knowledge center facilitating research and innovation of an integrated farming system
- Our Trustees & Advisors have diverse backgrounds and united with a common purpose – Safe Food by means of sustainable organic farming
- Today, a team of 4 experts and 18 farmers empowered as trainers /master teachers are dedicated to developing best practices in organic farming

Our Farm



- Annadana model farm serves as a hands on platform for scientists, researchers, farmers, NGOs & individuals who work together to deliver Knowledge on integrated Organic Agriculture Practices
- Majority of the Farm is dedicated for conserving indigenous varieties of Vegetables wherein we grow them for Seed Production. Our seed bank is situated on the farm
- Our farm is a self contained commune which supports livelihoods of Farmers & their families living on the farm (approx 20 people)
- A small part of the farm is used for cereal production for internal consumption. 'We eat what we grow' Our community Kitchen caters to daily meals every day.



Our Farmer Teachers



Farmer Welfare

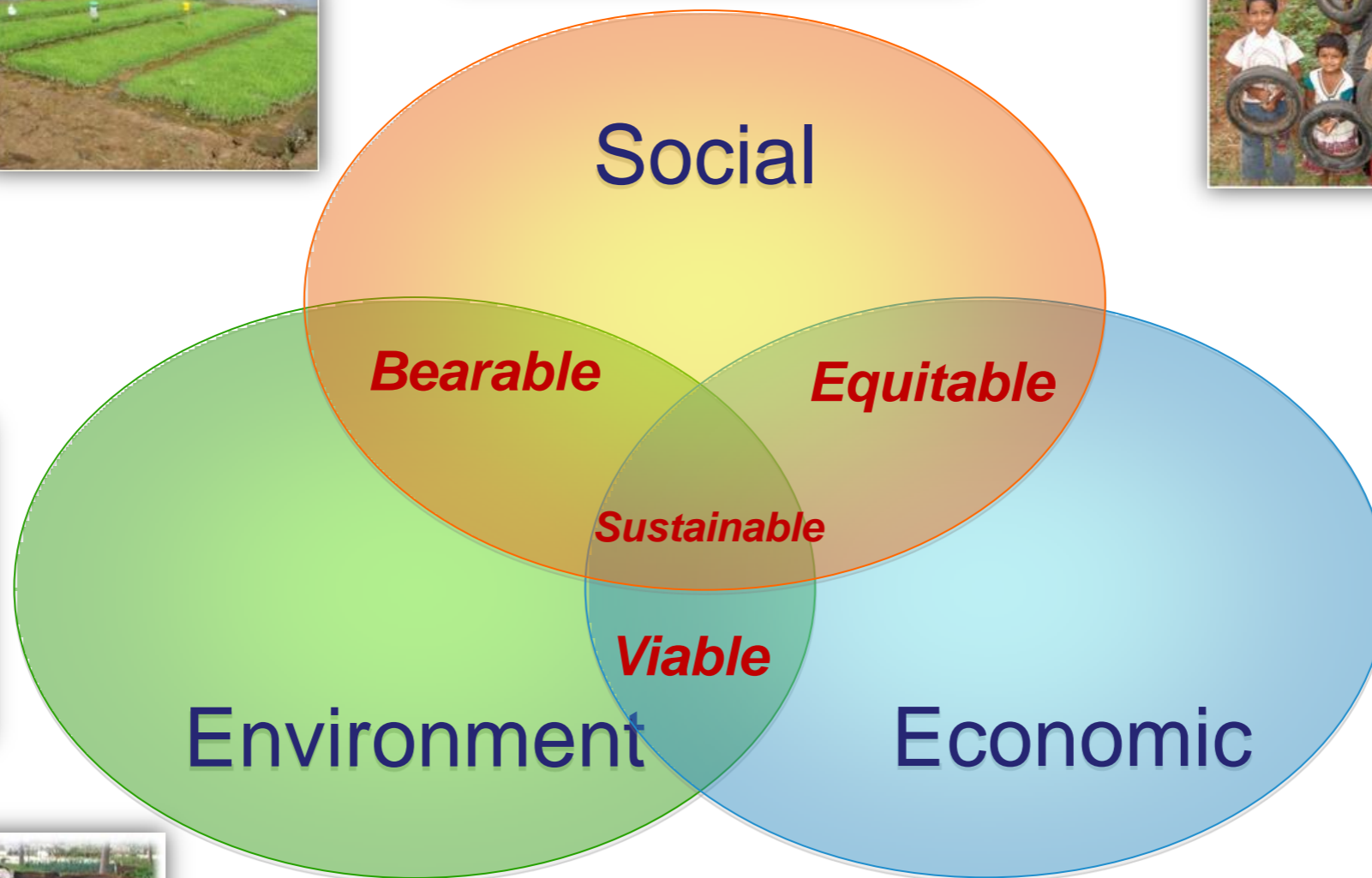


Our belief is that Farmers are the most important stakeholders. We are committed to the welfare of our farmers. To this effect:

- All our farmers are covered for their medical treatments
- All our farmers are entitled for Public Holidays, Sick Leaves & Earned Leaves
- Annual increments and bonus is provided annually
- Education of farmers children are taken care of
- Farm gear is provided for farming purposes
- Strict Health & Safety measures are in place. First-Aid provided on farm
- Space allocated for each farmer to grow vegetables for his/her family's consumption
- Share of Dairy produce is provided to farmers daily
- Cereals produced is shared with farmers
- Annadana has provided employment opportunity to many women & physically challenged persons

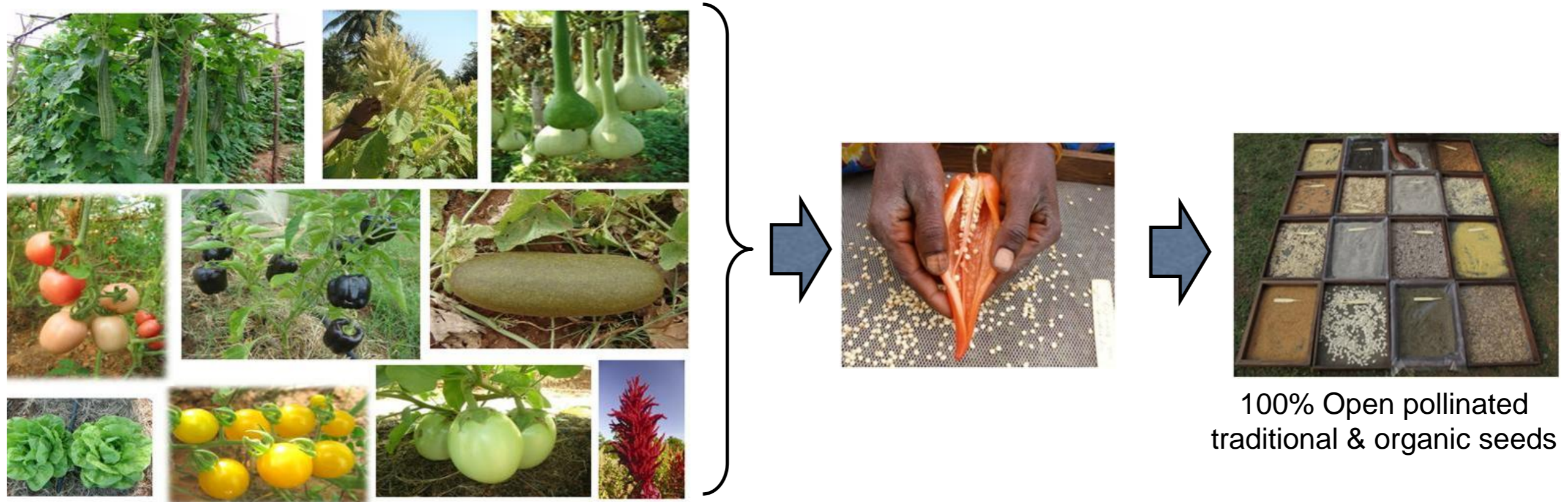


Our Approach



* Based on three pillars of sustainability

Seed Saving - Our core strength



- Seed saving is a missing link in modern agriculture & is a dying skill
- Has a direct relation with Food Security & Conservation
- Annadana has mastered the art of seed saving and revives this skilled art. Farmers, scientists, horticulturists, urban gardeners, students, interns from across the globe avail of our training workshops
- Our seed diversity is made available through our seed catalogue and memberships

Our Seed Bank and Drying station



We conserve over 200 varieties of traditional heirloom vegetable seeds
For instance - we have 31 varieties of tomatoes, 18 varieties of lettuces and more...





Why do we need to conserve our heritage open pollinated seeds...?

- Heritage seeds are genetically diverse nutrient treasures that have been passed from generation to generation. By planting these replicable varieties, we help preserve our horticultural heritage & its diversity which in turn safeguards our health and environment.
- Heritage seeds are farmers legacy but now a handful of seed corporations control seeds to suit their profit -vested interests
- Farmers are therefore made dependent on hybrid and genetically modified (GM) seed corporations which in turn demand chemical corrosive practises destroying with it indigenous diverse seeds
- If we conserve the heritage seeds, farmers will have the autonomy and not made redundant. Hybrid & GM seeds are expensive leading farmers to debts and suicides.
- Healthy Soil = Healthy Seeds = Healthy Plants = Healthy Society

Our Methodology : being earth sensitive





What are our Goals...?

- To bring about safe food awareness among communities
- Encourage Chemical free farming, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Educate Farmers about Low Input Agriculture
- Reduce dependency of Farmers on external factors
- Conserve Local varieties of fruits & vegetables
- Participate in Policy Making process
- Develop efficient Supply-Chain for Organic Produce
- Strengthen Organic Farming Movement in India
- Educate residing farmers children at our sister concern(Parmanand Education Trust)
www.parmanandtrust.org



How do we intend to achieve...?

- Empower Consumer in terms of Awareness
 - Ill-effects of conventional, chemical based farming
 - Importance of taking control of what you eat
 - Benefits of consuming the Organic produce



- Empower Marginal Farmers
 - Providing technical know-how for Organic Farming
 - Reducing dependencies
 - Helping set up efficient supply chain



Organic Food Chain



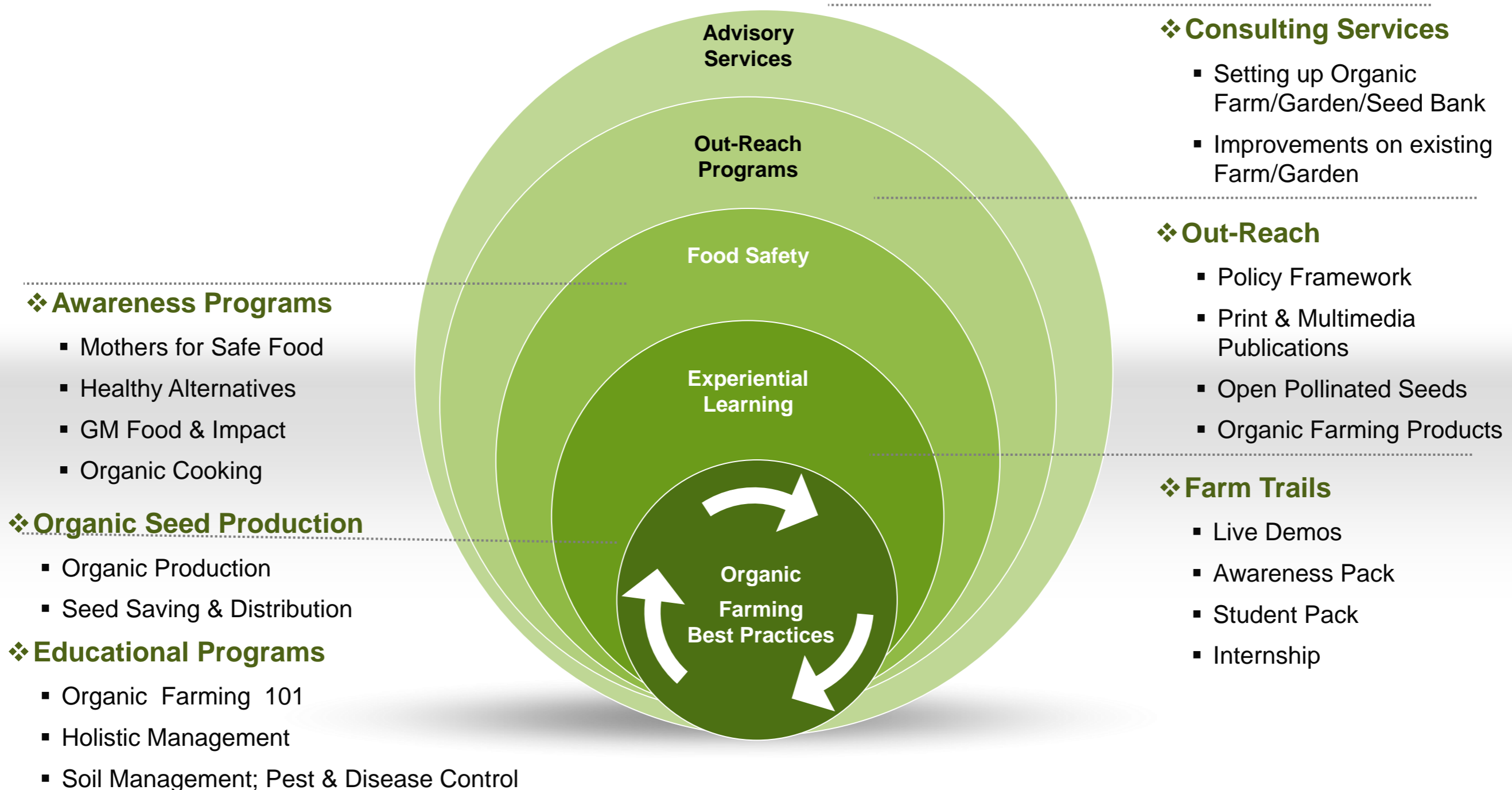
What is our Plan...?

- To reach out to 50 thousand farmers directly in the next five years (2013-2018), by providing access to open pollinated heritage seeds and technical know-how that forms the basis of sustainable agriculture
- To encourage urban gardening and raise awareness of chemical-free foods
- To facilitate profitable farming and assuring local steady supply of fair-priced organic produce to benefit farmers, consumers, economy and environment.
- To raise agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes
- To provide vocational training to farmers children



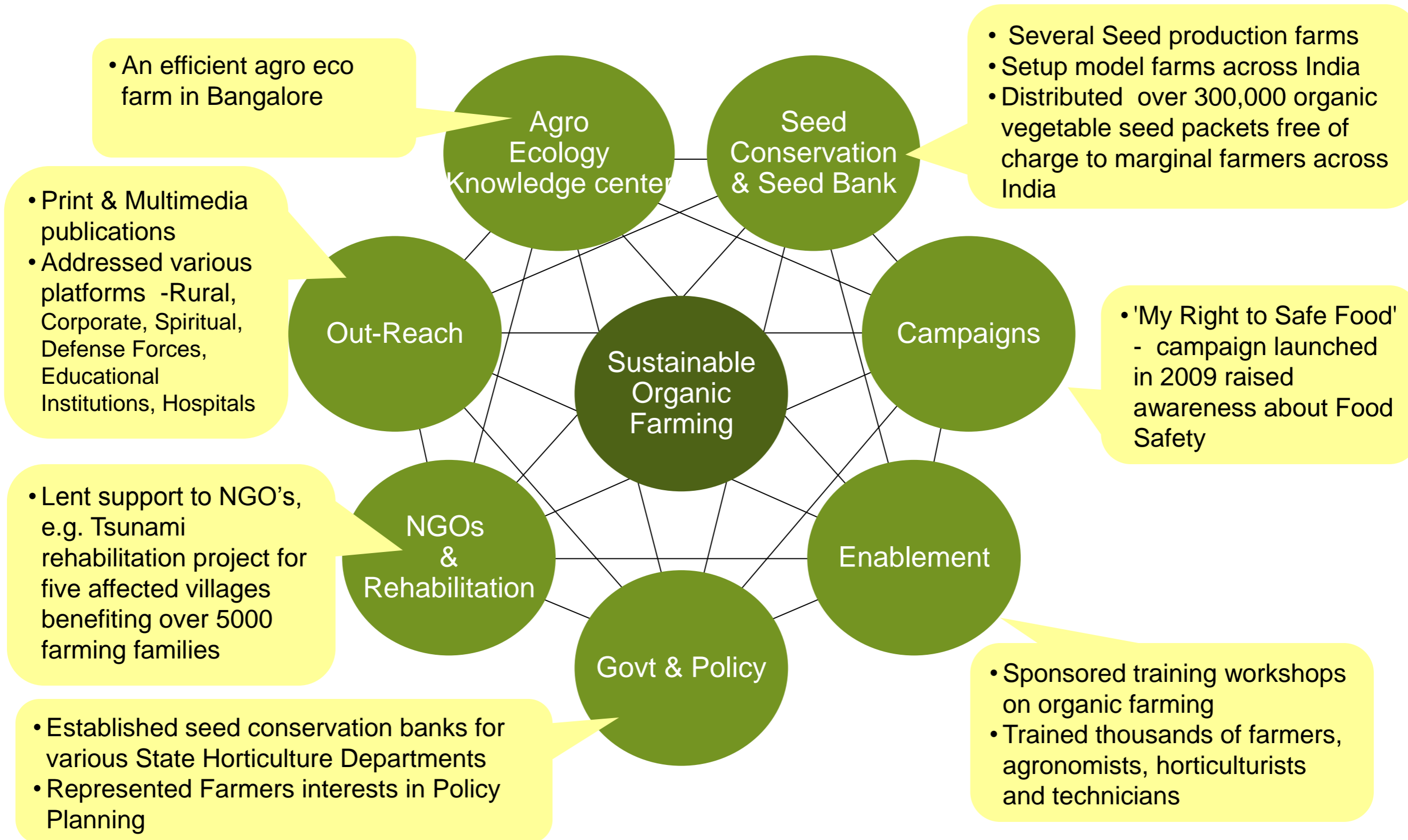
How are we sustaining...?

Annadana's provides a range of services to sustain itself
Revenues are ploughed back to reach out to more farmer communities





Our Achievements so far...



Our Trustees



Board of Trustees

Name	Background
Sangita Sharma	Chairperson of Annadana, who shifted her energies from the corporate in 2001 to understand the source of chemical free food. She is a prominent safe food campaigner, an eco warrior & organic farmer. She contributes to various policy decisions, publications. She is also a member of various Organizations connected with Organic Farming & Safe Food Movement in India.
Ashok Kamat	Ashok Kamat is managing Trustee of Annadana. He is a multi-faceted hands on engineer and a self styled architect using innovation in all spheres of construction. Annadana seed bank's design is courtesy Ashok.. It is unique and insulated. Ashok is the founder of Young Indian academy which is a vocational training center for economically weak students.
V. Damodaran	Founding trustee at Annadana, V Damodaran is a practicing Chartered Accountant with over 25 years of experience. A member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, he has worked in the corporate sector. He is associated with various social, religious and educational bodies as chief advisory and trustee.
Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail	Dr Ismail is India's leading authority on earthworms. He is Managing Director of the Eco Science Research Foundation in Chennai, Director (Research), Dr MGR Janaki College, Chennai since 2003 . He is the chief resource person in India on composting technology to several Government and Non-Government agencies through out the country. He has authored several useful books and many academic papers. He is also the recipient of several national and international awards and honors
Lakhan Kaushik	Lakhan is a student of environment sciences. He teaches and practice energy healing modalities for clients and students of Maitreya (Dharamshala). Lakhan is also studying for a degree in Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

Project – Executed - 2004-2007



Land rehabilitation project for Tsunami affected farmers- Tamil Nadu

Project

5 different Tsunami hit villages were adopted by Annadana to revive agriculture in association with Children of the world(CWI) project funded by French Red Cross

Situation

- The production capacity of the affected agricultural rice land where sea water had stagnated up to 30 days vastly incapacitating & lowering the soil conditions with saline deposits, sand casting and salination of the ground water and irrigation water. Also the standing rice crop was totally destroyed putting farmers in jeopardy and unable to resume cultivation.
- The aim of the project was to rehabilitate 500 acres of Tsunami affected agricultural rice land, to bring support and relief to about 4000 beneficiaries (small marginal farmers) whose livelihoods were dependent on incomes derived from the farming and agricultural activities.

Solution

- Re- established the land production capacity and crop yield to pre- tsunami level or more and help farmers access a basic immediate income to sustain their family through - donation and production of agricultural inputs.
- Capacity building and training of 2 categories land farm owners and landless farmers cash for work
- Educational materials in Tamil : 7 booklets related to soil health, organic paddy cultivation practices were documented and 2375 distributed

Benefits

- Inputs production and distribution: 2200 tons of enriched compost, 61 tons of certified paddy seeds, 10 tons of certified green manure seeds, 66 tons of bio pest control cakes, 7 tons bacterial bio- fertilizers, 55,000 liters of organic growth promoter, pH reducer (efficient micro organisms) and plant extract

Result

- After just two years of implementation of our program, the average yields of rice increased by 45 % according to beneficiaries - post Tsunami yield record and the agricultural official records for these villages. Beneficiaries' cost of production reduced by 60% through Annadana's time tested package of practices and donations of organic inputs. Beneficiaries learnt new high yielding sustainable cultivation techniques and adopted them permanently.



Beneficiaries



- Annadana's mission is to work towards welfare of Indian Marginal Farmers & spread awareness about Sustainable agriculture which would ensure Safe food for our Society
- In realizing the above, Annadana has worked with various Organizations, Governments (State, Central & International), NGOs, Corporate sector, etc. Some of the mentions are –

- Indian Government & NGOs
 - Ministry of Human Resource and Development, National Horticulture Mission,
 - Department of Horticulture (State of Karnataka), Armed Forces, Various NGOs
- International
 - European Commission, Red Cross, NGOs
- Trusts & Private Individuals
 - Trusts, Commercial farms and plantations, Eco – resorts
- Private Sector
 - Corporate, Educational Institutions, Hospitals, etc

 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



PATANJALI



JUNE
ECOVILLAGE & SPA

**LEIS
INDIA**



Testimonials



It was really great to be here at Ishana farms and your home. It was invigorating and I'm truly inspired by your team work and all that you have achieved here - Sarojini V. Rengam, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) Penang

Happy to have visited a self sustained farm with a variety of crops and enterprises. Seed storage indigenous technology is very encouraging which could be replicated by concerned farmer stake holders. Best wishes to team Annadana. Dr K. Narayana Gowda, VC, GKVK

Thank you for this lovely visit. Your presence to the agriculture world is very inspiring. May it radiate to all humankind. Kind regards Benoit Aquin, a renowned Canadian photographer, award-winning work on The Chinese Dust Bowl 16.05.2012

It was my dream that farmers should grow their own seeds to be sustainable. Fortunately Annadana has come as a gift from God to help us. We need at least 10-15 farmers to take this holy job to produce and distribute vegetable seeds, to keep all the foreign seed companies out of Karnataka and from India. I take an oath to join this holy task of seed multiplication immediately. - Dr Narayana Reddy, Veteran award winner organic farmer.

Dear Seed Saver and Food Safer!
Wonderful, wonderful, such inspiring work - I wish that your message reaches idiots like me and hope that we can collaborate fully to grow the idea of autonomy - Poonam Kasturi,
Daily Dump

Thank you for sharing your vision with us and with India. The work you are doing is so important for India and the world. You can be a model for both. I hope we will keep in touch - Claire Kremen, University of California, Berkeley

An oasis in the midst of the bursting city of Bangalore. I hope that I can be back here many more times. - Lakshmi Pratury, co-host of TED India 2009 and founder of Inktalks & Ixora Media.

Today on 14.09/11 I visited Ishana farm. I am happy that you all are doing a very good work to conserve biodiversity. I appreciate the efforts made by you. I assure you full co-operation and any type of help from my institute. I am thankful for inviting me to tour your farm. I hope you will keep up your efforts and ideas - Dr A.S Sidhu, Director, IHR, Bangalore

Media



- Youtube: Bench Mark Lecture (Seed Conservation) by Sangeeta Sharma
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIm0TePdY0Q>
- Talking cranes: There's a fish in my tomato
<http://www.talkingcranes.com/lifestyle/there-s-a-fish-in-my-tomato>
- From flying to farming by Mini Joseph Tejaswi | TNN (issued on The Times of India from Bangalore dated 25th April 2009)
<http://epaper.timesofindia.com/Default/Scripting/ArticleWin.asp?From=Archive&Source=Page&Skin=TOINEW&BaseHref=TOIBG/2009/04/25&PageLabel=20&EntityId=Ar02001&ViewMode=HTML&GZ=T>
- Consumer can keep GM foods out by Malvika Tegta DNA June 14th 2009 ...
<http://epaper.dnaindia.com/dnabangalore/epapermain.aspx?queryed=20&username=&use ...>
- Sangita's swades yatra (Posted On Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 12:02:03 PM) - by Mahalakshmi Prabhakaran
<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/index.aspx?page=article§id=10&contentid=2009012720090127120203562b42e89d3§xslt=>
- Protest fast on January 30th at Gandhi statue. « GM Free Karnataka 1 Feb 2010 ... Sangita Sharma, My Right to Safe Food, taking initiative encouraging ... United voices: We dont want Gm crops, We dont want Bt Brinjal. ...gmfreekarnataka.wordpress.com/.../protest-fast-on-january-30th-at-gandhi-statue/
- Wellsphere: TITLE www.wellsphere.com/organic-food-article/...can.../766662. Biodiversity is mankind's heritage, not the right of multinationals or seed corporations.
- A shift in consumer attitude is the need of the hour, Sangita Sharma, director, Annadana Soil and Seed Savers and practitioner of low-cost sustainable farming applying organic principles -26th July 2009
http://www.dnaindia.com/bangalore/report_seeding-a-revolution_1277228
- A walk down memory lane - Aug 22, 2012, DHNS
<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/273168/a-walk-down-memory-lane.html>
- The Parmanand School, Bangalore, Rahul Mansigani ; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgEuRqAoQRk>



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SOIL & SEED SAVERS

We have the Power to heal our planet

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Thank you.