Community Seed Fair cum Food Festival

Seed Festival 2024 was organised at Kasdol block of Balodabazar district of Chhattisgarh on 03rd December 2024 where 784 farmers came together in the big seed festival and seed sharing event. The main purpose was to create awareness and to share the knowledge of conservation practices of traditional lost crops. Secondly to conserve different indigenous seeds and promote lost and sustainable farming practices. People from different discipline, representatives of the CSOs, Govt. officials, donor bodies and other stakeholders were invited to the program. The seed festival also organised for a seed exhibition for the purpose of seed exchange and for exchange of knowledge and ideas KALP has been working for agroecological and climate resilient agriculture practices and protection of indigenous seeds for last three years. Every year organizing seed festival is being regarded as a one step towards it. This event recognizes the efforts of tribal communities to protect the diversity of their indigenous seeds. Hundreds of farmers from 33 forest villages have participated, showcasing native varieties of paddy, pulses, and vegetables. Women farmers who have conserved and preserved indigenous seeds brought and exhibited by showing their love towards mother earth and their rich culture towards biodiversity.

The event witnesses talk on agriculture, sharing of experiences, and felicitations of farmers, witness several tribal rituals, folk music and dance at this event. Mr. Jafar president of KALP initiated the day's proceedings with a warm welcome for all the dignitaries and stakeholders present. He said KALP is working in different parts of Baloda bazar district to raise awareness about the organic farming, diversity of seeds and the need to conserve them. It works towards the conservation and advocacy of traditional varieties of crops. Every year seed festivals and food festivals are organised in intervention villages. Mr. Yadaw founder member of KALP, Mr. Sunil Naik Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr. Dhananjay Sai Agriculture Extension Officer, Ms. Chanchal Verma Program Officer, NREGA, Sunil Khandekar Block Extension officer of agriculture, Mr. Patel official of NREGA, Mr. Harish official from Horticulture department, NGO representatives, had participated in the festival.

On the other hand, the response of farmers, particularly women farmers, was very significant. It has helped farmers to creates a platform for farmers to come together to share their indigenous knowledge and exchange their seeds, ideas and experiences. Several farmers, including women leaders who have embraced sustainable practices, shared their agricultural knowledge during the event. This seed festival sees farmer showcase more than 30 types of indigenous varieties of paddy, indigenous verities of pulses, millets, sorghum, maize, roots, tubers and 72 types of vegetable seeds which was arranged with the help of participants coming from thirty-three villages. The seed festivals drive home the importance of indigenous seeds among farmers, the benefits of local varieties and the need to conserve. In this festival a Seed exhibition was organised mainly for the purpose of seed exchange the event included exhibitions of millet-based products and discussions on their nutritional benefits and market potential. Seed savers, and organic farmers from over have participated in the event which also offers an array of traditional foods like mahuva laddoos, mahoova achhar and porridge and dishes made of lost traditional recipes. The event included exhibitions of millet-based products and discussions on their nutritional benefits and market potential. It has been observed that once communities realized the loss that effects on their livelihood, they take several efforts to protect the indigenous seeds on the fields.

The efforts that KALP organization has been making for indigenous seed protection have been widely appreciated, particularly as these have also been accompanied by efforts to spread natural

farming practices and to improve the self-reliance and resilience of particularly tribal communities. A Seed exhibition was organised mainly for the purpose of seed exchange. This is an effort to revive some of the traditional varieties of crops that are on the verge of extinction or have been neglected by the farming community. Special guest and dignitaries highlight the importance of local food systems to sustain people and nature in a diversity of rural and urban contexts. Deputy Director of Agriculture Mr. Naik was invited to put forward his views on sustainable agriculture and indigenous seeds.

He a discussed various problems related to agriculture like prices of previous seeds and now the sky rocketing prices of present seeds and how it has affected on the farmers agriculture. He shared insights on the potential of millets to improve rural livelihoods, enhance food security and nutrition. In his speech he shared number of subsidy schemes of millets and for other crops for farmers. Agriculture extension office Mr. Dhananjai Sai said "Today as much as the soil degradation is a disaster, so is the life and welfare of the farmers. Traditional seeds require less amount of water for growth but the hybrid variety requires more water." They urged the farming community to adopt sustainable practices that will heal the ecosystem damaged by chemical farming. Adding to this MS Chanchal Verma program officer NREGA explained the role of NREGA in agriculture and rural development. She urged farmers to take up the works of the farm pond, land leveling, recharge pit for agriculture and water conservation as the water level have got down. Fascinating displays of seed diversity, foods, and interact with seed savers from different regions. They highlight the importance of local food systems to sustain people and nature in a diversity of rural contexts. Sunil Khandekar agriculture extension officer appreciated the organizers for the show and bought a seed basket for backyard gardening. With a smile said, 'Back yard gardening an easy contribution to



Lastly few of the farmers were invited to the stage to share their ideas regarding their experience of agroecological farming, and the conservation of variety of seeds, various farmers and those with specialized knowledge of various seed varieties took turns to speak, giving useful information about these indigenous seed varieties as well as regarding the urgency of protecting land and indigenous seeds. IFS model farmer Manuiram Pradhan from Devtarai added "Since last six years I have shifted to

experience, since last two years I have developed 2 diversity plots where 30 types of indigenous seeds are there. Due to IFS model, I have started taking rabbi crop growing vegetables on the boundary of the farm pond presently I have lalbhaji, barre bahji, kaddu, and seasonal vegetables."

Santoshi bai from Dhadhakhar farmer said "Previously ash was used as a fertilizer by our four fathers, which was environment friendly; but now various chemical insecticides and pesticides are being used resulting diseases so we must start using organic manure once again."

Kanhaiya Paikara from podi was proud to share the skills he has acquired to preparers biopesticides and using in fields. He was very happy to have a nutrition garden where he grows organic spinach, leaf amaranth, eggplant etc which he keeps for his consumption.

Krishna Kumar Kashyap shared that he is practicing organic farming since 2017 said "I sell some of the produce and the rest I keep it for my family. I have started organic farming after being destroyed by chemicals." Krishnakumar become the master trainer in organic farming and act as a resource person in the training programmes.

Amrika Bai from Alda village, a village which is set on the top of mountain and whose roads goes via forest said "I came from Alda. I have nutrition kitchen garden, and I also preserved seeds of lady's finger, papita, spinch muli egg plant, gauv, sitaphal. I get seasonal fruits and vegetables along with nutrition, I am thankful to KALP for this."

Smt Santoshi bai another IFS farmer from Dhadhakhar who is doing farming since 2018. Said "Before 2018 I used to do chemical farming, but now im totally switched to organic farming now I take wheat in rabbi season, practice relay crop of Tivra and Sarso and also having vegetables like taroi, doka, barebhaji bitter gaud, beans etc." Domar singh farmer from Ghirghol village said, "Every year the chemicals are destroying the land and the crops. It's a high time to combat with this situation, hence I started organic farming and preparing organic biopesticides I even have a nutrition garden and preserved seeds of all the corps." Laxmibai Chauhan from sandi village felt proud of being a part of this programme.

Farmer Shivkumar from Bitkuli village added that I'm practicing organic agriculture from 2018. Initially I started in small 50 decimal of land and now my whole 4 acre of land have come under organic agriculture practices. I have developed diversity plot where there are 25 types of indigenous seeds. Now I don't depend only on one crop but I do mix cropping and take millets crops."

In his thank you note Secretary Mr. Abhishek addressed the farmers and praised their efforts to return to traditional agricultural methods and said farmers who are practicing traditional methods and saving seeds are already seeing the benefits of switching back to traditional ways, which he noted benefit nature, community health, and the local economy. He urged to connect more and more farmers to bring them towards sustainable livelihood. This event saw Millets food stalls, display of indigenous heirloom seeds, organic farming information counter, felicitation of farmers system of rice intensification (SRI) information counter and indigenous cultural events. The event happen to be an exciting excursion for farmers, various community stakeholders, NGO representatives, Government officials and representatives etc to interact with farmers, see diverse seed collection and to enjoy food diversity in the form of different recipes.

Conclusion-



Seed festival 2024 ended with a lot of inspiration among the participants to conserve traditional variety of seeds. They even understood the importance of the traditional variety of seeds and agriculture. The overall aim of the seed festival was to create awareness and advocacy among the farmers, stakeholders and community about the seed diversity and support the conservation of seeds, practice agroecology. The seed festival

cum exhibition became fruitful due to active participation of farmers and community.









कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था के द्वारा 50 गांवों में मनाया गया बीज उत्सव।



कसडोलः

50 से अधिक गांव से लगभग 1000 पुरुष महिला किसान शामिल हुए। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के तौर पर जिला बलौदाबाजार से कृषि विभाग के अधिकारी दीपक नायर एवं कसडोल ब्लॉक से धनेश्वर साय शामिल हुए। साथ ही जनपद पंचायत कसडोल के मनरेगा विभाग के अधिकारीगण, पशुपालन विभाग, मतस्यपालन विभाग, वन विभाग कसडोल और अजीम प्रेमजी फाउण्डेशन से अधिकारी शामिल रहे कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था छतीसगढ़ राज्य के कई जिलों में कार्य कर रही है। जांजगीर और बलौदाबाजार जिले में प्रमुख रूप से कल्प द्वारा गांव और लोगों की मदद के लिए अपनी क्षमता अनुसार कार्य किया जा रहा है। कल्प मुख्य तौर पर आजीविका, स्थास्थ्य, महिला सशक्तिकरण, साम्दायिक गतिशिलता और शिक्षा के विषयों पर कार्य किया जाता है।

वर्तमान में कसडोल में ब्लॉक स्तर का कम्प्यूटर प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र भी इसके द्वारा संचालित किया जा रहा है, जिसमें कि नेत्रहीन एवं अल्प दृष्टि वाले बच्चों को निःशुल्क कम्प्यूटर प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है। बीज उत्सव कार्यक्रम में जैविक खेती और सब्जी उगाने के तरीके चरण तो किसानों को बताए ही गए, उसके साथ ही साथ जैविक विधि से उगे हुए फसलों की प्रदर्शनी भी लगाई गई थी, जिसमें 130 प्रकार के देशी धान के बीज और उनके उपज और सब्जी में लौकी,

धिनया मिर्ची, भिण्डी, जीमीकंद, कोचाई और हरे पत्ते वाली बहुत सी सब्जियाँ। कार्यक्रम का संचालन संस्था प्रमुख मोईन जाफर एवं अभिषेक यादव किया गया। अतिथियों के स्वागत, उद्बोधन के साथ ही साथ ग्रामीण अंचल से आए किसानों द्वारा अनेक प्रस्तृतियाँ भी दी गई।

साथ ही अनेक किसानों ने अपने अनुभव भी कार्यक्रम में शामिल किसानों से साझा किया गया, किसानों ने बताया कि किस तरह से जैविक विधि से कृषि कर रहें हैं और उनको क्या फायदे हो रहे हैं। रसायनिक कृषि से हो रहे नुकसानों के बारे में भी किसानों के बीच चर्चा रही, किसानों ने स्टेज से कार्यक्रम में शामिल अन्य किसानों को जैविक खेती के फायदों को बताया, जिससे कि दूसरे किसान भी जैविक कृषि करने को सामने आए और जैविक दृष्टिकोण से खेती को करें कार्यक्रम में शामिल अतिथियों द्वारा कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था के इस प्रयास की सराहना की गई एवं कृषि विभाग के शासकीय कार्यक्रमों से भी जुडकर जैविक खेती को और अधिक बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया, मुख्य अतिथि महोदय द्वारा शासकीय योजनाओं में हम किस प्रकार से मिलकर किसानों को और अधिक फायदा दिला सकते हैं इस बारे में कहा। कार्यक्रम में शामिल जनपद पंचायत के अधिकारियों ने महात्मा गांधी नरेगा के विषय में किसानों और कृषि के उपलब्ध योजनाओं को बताया, साथ ही योजनाओं के लिए आवश्यक दस्तावेजों के बारे में भी पूर्ण रूप से किसानों को जानकारी दी। कार्यक्रम में कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था के समस्त कार्यकर्तागण और अधिकारी शामिल रहें, मोईन जाफर, अभिषेक, महेन्द्र, कविता, मनोज, गोरेलाल, दिगम्बर, रूपसिंग, कृष्णकुमार, मोहित, सुनील और अन्य सभी साथी शामिल रहें।

कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था द्वारा मनाया गया बीज उत्सव

राघवेंद्र सिंह

बलौदाबाजार/दैनिक अमर स्तंम्भ। कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था द्वारा सामुदायिक नेतृत्व समारोह सह बीज उत्सव मनाया गया, जिसमें कसडोल ब्लॉक के 50 से अधिक गांव से लगभग 1000 परूष महिला किसान शामिल हए। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के तौर पर जिला बलौदाबाजार से कृषि विभाग के अधिकारी दीपक नायर एवं कसडोल ब्लॉक से धनेश्वर साय शामिल हए। साथ ही जनपद पंचायत कसडोल के मनरेगा के अधिकारीगण. पशपालन विभाग, मतस्यपालन विभाग, वन विभाग कसडोऔर अजीम प्रेमजी फाउण्डेशन से अधिकारी शामिल रहे। कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था छत्तीसगढ राज्य के कई जिलों में कार्य कर है। जांजगीर और बलौदाबाजार जिले में प्रमुख रूप से कल्प द्वारा गांव और लोगों की मदद के लिए अपनी क्षमता अनुसार कार्य किया जा रहा है। कल्प मुख्य तौर पर आजीविका, स्थास्थ्य, महिला सशक्तिकरण, सामुदायिक गतिशिलता और शिक्षा के विषयों पर कार्य किया जाता है। वर्तमान में कसडोल में ब्लॉक स्तर का कम्प्यूटर प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र भी इसके द्वारा संचालित संचा किया जा रहा है, जिसमें कि नेत्रहीन एवं अल्प दृष्टि वाले बच्चों को नि:शुल्क कम्प्यूटर प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है। बीज उत्सव कार्यक्रम में जैविक खेती और सब्जी उगाने के तरीके चरण तो किसानों को बताए ही गए, उसके साथ ही साथ जैविक विधि से उगे हए फसलों की प्रदर्शनी भी लगाई गई थी, जिसमें 130 प्रकार के देशी धान के बीज और उनके उपज और सब्जी में लौकी, धनिया मिर्ची, भिण्डी, जीमीकंद, कोचाई और हरे पत्ते वाली बहुत सी सब्जियाँ । कार्यक्रम संचालन संस्था प्रमुख श्री मोईन जाफर एवं अभिषेक यादव किया गया। अतिथियों के स्वागत, उद्बोधन के साथ ही साथ ग्रामीण अंचल से आए किसानों द्वारा अनेक प्रस्ततियाँ भी दी गई। साथ ही अनेक किसानों ने अपने अनुभव भी कार्यक्रम में शामिल किसानों से साझा किया गया, किसानों ने बताया कि किस तरह से जैविक विधि से कृषि कर रहें हैं और उनको क्या फायदे हो रहे हैं।



रसायनिक कृषि से हो रहे नुकसानों के बारे में भी किसानों के बीच चर्चा रही, किसानों ने स्टेज से कार्यक्रम में शामिल अन्य किसानों को जैविक खेती के फायदों को बताया, जिससे कि दूसरे किसान भी जैविक कृषि करने को सामने आए और जैविक दृष्टिकोण से खेती को करें। कार्यक्रम में शामिल अतिथियों द्वारा कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था के इस प्रयास की सराहना की गई एवं कृषि विभाग के शासकीय कार्यकर्मों से भी जुडकर जैविक खेती को और अधिक बढाने पर जोर दिया, मुख्य अतिथि महोदय द्वारा शासकीय योजनाओं में हम किस प्रकार से मिलकर

को और फायदा दिला सकते हैं इस बारे में कहा। कार्यक्रम में शामिल जनपद पंचायत के अधिकारियों ने महात्मा गांधी नरेगा के विषय में किसानों और कृषि के उपलब्ध योजनाओं को बताया. साथ ही योजनाओं के लिए आवश्यक दस्तावेजों के बारे में भी पर्ण रूप से किसानों को जानकारी दी। कार्यक्रम में कल्प समाज सेवी संस्था के कार्यकर्तागण और अधिकारी शामिल रहें, मोईन जाफर, अभिषेक, महेन्द्र, कविता, मनोज, गोरेलाल, दिगम्बर, रूपसिंग, कृष्णक्मार, मोहित, सुनील और अन्य सभी साथी शामिल रहें।