

Shri Bhaskar Heeraji Save

Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development-2000

Date of Birth : 27th January 1922

Educational Qualification : Vernacular final

Shri Bhaskar Save's contribution in the sphere of organic farming has been phenomenal. He has practiced and developed natural and organic farming and has undertaken waste land reclamation.

His is a multi-sided personality. He trains students of agricultural colleges and universities in organic farming, arranges exhibitions and demonstrations and gives wide publicity to organic farming through the press and other media. He is adept in the maintenance of quality and viability of seeds without administering any medicine. He is a great believer in increased productivity of agriculture and that too at a lower cost and has ensured this in actual practice. He is a great propagator of organic farming not only for its value but also for its profitability. He is an environmentalist to the core and has been awarded as 'Person of the Year' in 1993 by Limca Book of Records and 'Nisarga Bhushan' Prize in 1993 by Nisarga Pratisthan, Sangli.

At Umbergaun in Gujarat State where he lives he has developed a 14 acre chickoo and coconut orchard. It is a wonderful model of natural farming. He has not used any fertilizers or pesticides for the last 38 years, not has he tilled his farm, yet he reaps a record harvest year after year.

Several farmers in the vicinity of his farm have taken advantage of Shri Save's vision, knowledge and experience and have started to farm as per his guidelines and philosophy.

Besides being cost effective, Shri Save's method of farming also reduces the consumption of water, thereby preserving the water table. Moreover, preservation of the environment is also maintained by enriching soil nutrients and purification of air which creates a green zone which in turn preserves the earth's precious ozone shield.

Each coconut tree in his farm appropriately named Kalpavruksha, yields 350 to 400 coconuts a year as against the normal yield of 100 to 150. The only nutrient in Kalpavruksha is dead leaves and organic waste. He uses neem, curry patta and tulsii as insect repellents. It was when Shri Save realised that chemical fertilizers were killing micro-organisms which enriched the soil, that he turned track and refused to use chemical fertilizers and thus successfully increased the yield and stabilised it. Today people from far and near come to take a leaf from his book and these visitors include Agricultural Scientists from all over India and abroad.

Mention in particular should be made of the remarks of the internationally reputed Japanese Agricultural Scientist Masanobu Fukuoka whose tribute to Shri Save runs as follows:

"Shri Save is the second Gandhiji of India. No where in the world one can see the type of work done by Saveji. I see people who receive inspiration from him and take organic farming".

After Fukuoka's visit to India in October, 1997, he said, "I need not visit India again. Bhaskarbhai's farm will speak for me.