

## Herbal Veterinary Healer

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### **SHRI DAYABHAI BHARWAD**

Village - Mithapur  
Taluk - Mendrada  
Junagadh  
Gujarat  
+91 9825758530

Shri Dayabhai Bharwad (45) is an agriculturist owning around five bighas of land. His family consists of his wife and two children, both studying in the village school.

Bharwads are traditionally herd keepers and being a Bharwad, Dayabhai also has quite a few livestock whose proper upkeep is his main work besides agriculture. The animals he owns are the principal source of income generation as he sells the milk obtained from the animals to the village co-operative, *Sugam* dairy. On his agricultural land, the main crops cultivated by him include groundnut, mag and wheat.

He is a famous healer for livestock related problems in his village and nearby areas and gives medication for diseases/conditions like bloat, wound, pyrexia, inflammation, yokegall, diarrhea, debility, indigestion and endoparasite infestation. He collects the plants, which are used for preparation of medicines from his farm and nearby areas. The medication he provides is not at all charged by him and he does this as a social service.

## Herbal Veterinary Healer

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### **Shri Mogjibhai Manjibhai Damor**

Village - Vejma  
Taluk - Santroad  
Godhara  
Gujarat  
+91 9909891739

Shri Mogjibhai Manjibhai Damor (50) lives with his wife and five children. He has around an acre of land adjacent to his house where he grows rice and maize. He owns some cattle and poultry also.

He is a specialist in treating fracture cases and famous in his village and around for the same. He also has developed herbal medicinal formulations for curing bloat and poisoning in animals. He is very confident about his treatment of fracture and mentions that it can be possibly used for treating such cases in humans also. For making these formulations, the plant material is collected by him from farms and nearby forests.

## Protection of Natural resources

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### **Community: Baba Sidh Kathuhara (Dhab)**

Tehsil Doobaldhan  
District Jhajjar  
Haryana

The "Siddh Baba ki Bani", a small forest, spread over a land area of 102 acres, has been in existence for hundreds of years. Being the 'tapasya' (meditation) site of great saints like Baba Natthu Nath and

Baba Bharthu Nath, this place is highly revered by the people. Proper sanctity of the place is maintained and even commercialization activity of any kind is not allowed here. The forest is also a home for thousands of birds and animals, and varieties of plants, especially medicinal herbs, which are frequently procured from here by *ayurveda* experts.

To look after the forest, there is a non-political un-elected body of twenty-one representatives of a community, continuing for hundreds of years, where responsibilities are passed on from generation to generation.

An annual “*bhandara*” (community lunch) is organised every year on the “*chandni chhath*” of the “*bhadon*” month where devotees throng in lakhs to receive the “*prasad*” of sweet rice. The entire event is managed by the villagers without the support of local governance or police. All cash donations are used to improve the facilities in the forest and maintain its proper upkeep.

*Source: Sristi Gyan Kendra, Rohtak*

## Human Calculator

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### Master Surender Singh

Garhi balb village  
Rohtak  
Haryana

Surender, fifteen year old young boy, is a student of class ninth. At an early age he lost his father to alcoholism and his mother subsequently lost her mental balance. His grand father strives hard to make ends meet.

Despite all odds, Surendra has not lost hope and has devoted himself to studies. His command over Maths is excellent and he calculates faster than a calculator. He is able to remember tables up to 1100 and replies instantly when asked about any of it. He also teaches other young students of his village and despite his poor financial condition does not charge any money. No wonder he wants to be a teacher when he grows up and spread the light of knowledge all around. He has become a role model of the entire students in the village.

*Source: Sristi Gyan Kendra, Rohtak*

## Protection of Natural resources

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### Baba Bhundu Ram

Village Katesra  
Rohtak  
Haryana

75 years old, Baba Bhundu Ram is well famous and highly respected man in the region for his single handed efforts to convert the area into a green belt. He has spent his entire life in planting thousands of trees in the area, without any financial or moral support. Not only planting but he has also taken care of them and protected them.

Due to his untiring efforts today Katesra village is known as “*pedon wala gaon*” (a village of trees). Such is his devotion to the cause that even at this age; he does not sleep till midnight until he knows that every thing is all right. He has a team of young volunteers from the village who support him in keeping vigil at all times to take care of the plantations.

*Source: Sristi Gyan Kendra, Rohtak*

## Herbal Veterinarian

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### **Shri Krishan Kumar**

Village Titoli  
Rohtak  
Haryana

Shri Krishan Kumar (33) is a renowned animal healer of the region. He has treated animals, which had been declared incurable by several veterinary experts also. His life has been that of a continuous struggle. Having lost his father early in life, he had to take care of three younger sisters. He came in touch with Noor Mohammed Khan, an animal healer from Ghaziabad, under whose tutelage he learned the herbal practices to cure animals of diseases and slowly started practicing. Increasing his expertise with time and experience, he slowly began to achieve a name for himself and earn a decent living. He fulfilled his familial responsibility by marrying off his sisters also.

He updates his knowledge by reading veterinary books and articles, and meeting learned people. He also maintains a photographic record of all his visits and the animals he has cured. He specializes in animal orthopedics and is well known in the entire region for his knowledge.

*Source: Sristi Gyan Kendra, Rohtak*

## Herbal Veterinarian

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### **Vaid Sukh Dayal**

Village Patwapur  
Rohtak  
Haryana

An illiterate seventy four year old farmer, who settled here after migrating from Pakistan in 1947, Sukhdayal is a famous herbal healer. He lives with his wife in a small house; his children are settled elsewhere. He has a small piece of land and the only source of income is sale of milk got from the cattle.

His father himself was a well known herbal practitioner specializing in treating animal diseases. His father never shared with him the knowledge he had however when he got old, Sukhdev requested him to share his knowledge and experiences with him, who then promptly did that seeing his interest mentioning him that he should not charge anything in return for his services.

The entire area respects him for his life long services and dedication.

*Source: Sristi Gyan Kendra, Rohtak*

## Herbal Practitioner

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### **Smt. Jeet Kaur**

Haryana

Eighty one year old Smt. Jeet Kaur is a herbal healer specializing in women diseases. She was born in 1927 at Sri Ganga Nagar in Rajasthan. Presently she lives alone and has no source of income except the rent for her home. She never went to school but learnt to read and write Punjabi from her mother.

*Profile of Innovators*

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She gained the knowledge about plants and their uses from her guru, who was a blind person but had great knowledge about plants and could feel them through his hands. At a young age of 15 years, she used to help him in preparing medicines. Later she documented the experiences and knowledge of her guru and made a manuscript, which has been preserved by her brother, Mr. Jai Singh who lives in Padam Pur in Sri Ganga Nagar district.

Smt. Kaur is known as infant care specialist in entire community and gives all the medications free of cost to ladies.

*Source: Sristi Gyan Kendra, Rohtak*

## Herbal Practices

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### **Master Aquib Javed Sheikh**

S/o Javed Ahmad Sheikh  
Ro Doru Shahbad PO Doru  
Tehsil Doru  
Anantnag 192211  
Jammu & Kashmir  
09419726551

Aquib Javed is a young student from Anantnag who has great interest in herbal preparations and their applications for solving everyday health problems. His father worked as a ranger in the Forest Corporation. He learnt the herbal preparations from his maternal grand mother (Nani) who passed away a few years ago. He used to observe her making various herbal concoctions and got interested in the same. During the 19<sup>th</sup> Shodh Yatra in Kashmir, he showed us “Gulkand” (a kind of preparation of rose petals with sugar after a few months of fermentation in an air tight container), which when taken with hot water helps clear throat congestion and is also good for health.

He also uses some other herbs from which he makes “Churna” (a powder formed by grinding the dried contents) for indigestion and another for curing worms in the stomach. This knowledge of herbs and their uses make him distinct from others in his age group in his area and for which he is much appreciated. He wanted to do doctorate in botanical sciences and contribute something useful to the society.

## Tiger Mask

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### **Arun Kumar Ram**

Village & Po: Thalia  
Police St.: Jaipur (Amta)  
Howrah-711401  
West Bengal

Arun Kumar Ram is a temporary contract labour in forests. Many years ago, being a keen student of nature, he observed that the tiger seldom attacked from the front. He looked at several other prey–predator relationships and got further confirmed.

He thought of an idea and designed a human mask and tied it on the back side of the head. The thought was that the tiger would get the illusion that it was the front side of the person and hence would not attack. The Forest Department liked the innovation and replicated it in a large scale without attributing any acknowledgement to Arun, the person from whom the idea originated. The result of the experiment was very positive and the number of cases of attack by the tiger came down drastically.

Arun, being quite humble, is happy and content that his innovation has saved so many lives.

# Cotton Fly Catcher

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## Shri Balkor Singh

Address: S/o. Kikar Singh  
Village: Chowk Sadasinghvala (Ramna chowk)  
Post: Logwala, Tehsil: Pilibanga  
Dist.: Hanumangarh, Rajasthan

Shri Balkor Singh is a 60 years old progressive farmer, who has done his studies upto primary school. His prime cash crop is cotton, which is sown in his five hectares of agricultural land. Due to repeated plantation of cotton, the area gets highly affected by cotton insect pests. It has drastically affected the annual turnover of the farmers. Getting inspired from a practical life experience, he himself innovated a device and named it as cotton fly catcher, which costs less and utilizes very less electricity. It is claimed to be a more effective means to kill insects and thus dramatically reduces the cost of using insecticides. This has made him an inspiration for the entire village.

The idea has been taken from the commercially used UV lamps to kill houseflies and insects. The specialty lies in its design of construction, which can trap and kill cotton insect pests. The device is a 20 watt electric appliance made up of about 70 diodes and 12 condensers, with a small grill in the front. The current, which flows through it, is sufficient for small insects but does not harm animals and human beings. One fly catcher is sufficient for an acre of land and costs around two thousand five hundred rupees only. The advantages of this machine is that it not only kills flies but also controls termites and other leaf borers also. The profits also increase because the expenditure on chemical pesticides decreases, at the same time helping in creating organic products.

*Source: Shri Sundaram Verma, Danta, Sikar, Rajasthan*

# Traditional Herbal Healer for Animal Health

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## Shri Bodon Bora

Address: Silsako  
North Guwahat  
Dist: Kamrup  
PIN – 781039  
Assam

Shri Bodon Bora is around 70 years old and is educated upto the 9<sup>th</sup> standard. He has a very pleasant personality and loves to work for the welfare of the society. He practiced agriculture but always had a keen interest in herbal veterinary medicines also.

His father Late Shri Soruram Bora was an herbal healer and used to treat different common ailments in animals. He got inspired by his father and learned to make these herbal preparations and administer the medicines. He started practicing in his spare time apart from his regular work of farming.

Shri Bora gives herbal treatment for various ailments in animals like abscess, wound with maggots, tympani, agalactia, gid, mastitis, bone fracture, joint dislocation, medicine for loosening and shedding of teeth etc., in his locality and nearby villages. He claims to have treated more than 400 domestic animals successfully, which made him grow in confidence and make more effective formulations by doing some research himself. He often keeps himself busy in these activities. Apart from them, he loves attending religious functions also. Because of his knowledge in herbal medicines he is very popular among the villagers.

## Organic Farming, Herbal Preparations & More.... 13

**Shri A. P. Chandrashekhar**

*Indraprastha Agriculturist, Village: Kalawadi, Post:Uddur, Mysore. Pin: 570008, Karnataka; Phone No.: 0821-2597936*

Shri Chandrashekhar is a farmer from Mysore. Though he is a graduate in Mechanical engineering, he practices agriculture. In his family, he has his wife and two children. Apart from agriculture he also practices herbal medicines. He is an innovative farmer and keeps on experimenting in his fields. He has some interesting practices to his credit, which include preparation of different types of jaggery, cultivation of Star fruit and control of bleeding in coconut. For the preparation of jaggery, he cultivates sugarcane without using chemicals. He prepares four types of jaggery viz. Jam type, Mold type, Powder type and Ayurvedic jaggery, where he adds ingredients like pepper, nutmeg, asparagus, cinnamon, curry leaf etc.

He has also started cultivating Star fruit (*Averrhoa carambola*) and has developed its fruit processing technology so that he can make juice or jam from it or use it in combination with other food items like honey, pulses, fruits like banana and papaya, etc.

For the control of bleeding in coconut, he suggests smearing of leaf extract of some plants like vanilla, tulsi (*Oscimum* sp), neem, honge (*Pongamia*), Lakki (*Vitex negunda*), Lantana camara, Panchapathre, Kasarka, garlic, etc., which can be grown by the side of coconut plants.

*Source: PRITVI team, Karnataka*

## Ground Water Recharge – A Novel initiative 14

**Shri Channabasappa Shivappa Kambali**

Kakolu, Ranebennur(T)  
Haveri (D), Karnataka  
Ph. No.: 08373-253504  
Mobile: 9845890411

Shri Kambali is an agriculturist and has studied up to intermediate. He has been actively involved in social development activities in the region and is also a member of gram panchayat. His village, Kakolu has more than 1000 houses and agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the village.

About a decade ago, beetle vine gardens were abundant in the area, which was also known for chilli and brinjal cultivation. The gardens were irrigated through open wells using traditional and sustainable method of irrigation called kapali. But with time all the open wells dried up and the beetle vine plantation got discontinued. Shri Kambali decided to do something about it. He visited various sites of projects of NGOs in and around the taluka and came up with the idea of reviving these open wells through recharging of ground water.

With the participation of the community, twenty-two open wells situated on 300 acres of watershed were covered for recharge. Diversion channels were made to harvest excess run-off water, which was in turn directed to the open wells. Two to three open wells were linked vertically to harvest excess runoff water, which otherwise flowed to the drainage line. Field trench and bunds were made whenever required. In the upper catchments of watershed, a farm pond was excavated to harvest water from 30 acres. These efforts resulted in reducing soil erosion and overcoming the drought. The ground water table was also recharged in the process.

He and most of his village people have realised the damages caused by using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, they are now practicing organic farming only. Under his leadership they have formed association called '*Naisargika Sampannamoola Abhivrudhi*' (Natural Resources Development Association) in Kakol village.

Source: PRITVI team, Karnataka

## Seed drill for rain fed crops and seed treatment methods

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### Shri Chennakesavan

Chinnamalaikundu,  
Ettaiyapuram Tk,  
Tuticorin Dt  
Tamil Nadu

Shri Chennakesavan (48) has been practicing agriculture for more than thirty years. Apart from it, he also has experience in sheep rearing and farm shed construction works. To facilitate his work in the fields, he designed a hand-operated seed drill in 1982 for crops suited for dry lands like sorghum, cumbu, gram seeds, which became quite popular among the farmers in his area. The total weight of seed drill is about 20 kg and two persons are needed to operate it. Its capacity is one acre per hour.

He also devised methods for the treatment of seeds separately for wet lands and dry lands. Seeds used in wet lands, are soaked in water mixed with *panchagavya* while for seeds used in dry lands, they are coated with a paste of acacia gum in water. The advantage of the process is that seeds only germinate when sufficient quantity of water is available, they are protected from ants and birds also.

Source: SEVA, Madurai

## One Family Four Trees Movement

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### Shri Arunbhai L. Trivedi

Main post- Bhadiyad, Taluka- Dhandhuka  
District Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Fifty years old, Shri Arunbhai Trivedi, a commerce graduate, works as a clerk in State bank. His family includes his wife and his son. The area he lives in is not suitable for plantations due to the presence of alkalinity in the soil. Arunbhai thought of changing the landscape so that the living conditions may be improved for all. He thought of growing such plants/trees that could survive in such conditions.

He selected small trees that provide flowers, fruits, vegetables, wood and shade such as pomegranate, drumstick, neem and karanj that can be grown in this area. This led to the start of a movement in Dholera–Dahandhuka area, in August 2006, where each family was supposed to grow four trees that could serve the above mentioned functions of providing flowers, fruits, vegetables, wood and shade. A trust, Bhanumala Trust was established to take this movement forward with a target of 15,000 trees in Dholera district in the areas of Bhangadh, Milgalpur, Jhankhi, Rajpur, Mahadevpur, Mundi and Pachchi. Every member of a family in the village of Dhandhuka- Dholera taluka takes care of the trees planted in that area.

This movement has been well received by the society and even school children, parents and teachers have been actively participating in this. Arunbhai states that the aim of growing trees is to keep the people and environment healthy. Besides this, the trees are also grown in Jambuda village of

Dhandhuka taluka, which is recognized as Anand Ashram. Such plantation has also been done in Kumarshala No.3-4 of Ahmedabad (Ellisbridge). Their future plan is to plant more trees and spread awareness among the people by putting slogans in theater halls, schools and colleges.

## **Safe Wood Cutting Machine**

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### **Shri Kishanlal Jangid**

Vill. & Post: Nechhwa

Dist.: Sikar, Rajasthan

Phone No.: 01570220260

Shri Kishanlal Jangid comes from a traditional carpenter family, which has been engaged in business of making windows, doors, showroom furniture, wooden agricultural equipments, etc. for the past two generations. Initially, he used to go around and do the job work but later managed to start a shop of his own at Nechava. Since then he has gradually expanded his business and bought new machines also. His son has also joined him in their traditional business.

The wood cutting machine they had, required a worker to have his hands very close to the cutting blade. Also, the saw dust generated led to breathing problems. Hence the father and the son came up with this improved wood cutting machine.

The machine consists of 2 HP motor as a prime mover, and has a self-made frame, rotating platform, saw blade and power transmission mechanism. The job is mounted on a platform and hence the risk of accidents due to carelessness has been reduced. Mounting and cutting can be done at any desired angle. If one needs a similar cut for multiple purposes, fixtures can be fixed at desired position and the machine operated, which can perform repeated operation without resetting. Further, the attachment of a scale has made the process of turning the wood into equal pieces easier and in a very less time.

*Source: Shri Sundaram Verma, Danta, Sikar, Rajasthan*

## **Automatic Jewellery Chain making machine and other machineries**

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### **Shri Madan Mohan Verma**

Shastri Nagar

Delhi

Shri Madan Mohan (50) has been engaged in jewellery making since the age of eleven and because of which he did not study beyond fifth standard. Being a jewellery maker he needed to replicate several designs but the only way possible was to do it manually requiring a lot of time and effort.

In order to help him in this work, he divided the entire process into parts and tried to automise them separately. Once he got the opportunity to see an automatic chain making machine in an exhibition, which costed over rupees five lakhs and was beyond his reach. He decided to develop the machine himself and started working on it and after four years of tireless efforts managed to make it spending around one lakh seventy thousand rupees.

This automatic chain making machine has been designed to suit his requirements and could make chains of 5-6 designs ranging from 4 grams to 30 grams. The machine carries out sixteen operations simultaneously in a single round and can produce a chain (having 750 links) in 3-4 minutes *i.e.* about 250 links in one minute. It is also possible to alter the design of the machine and add attachments to perform other operations in jewellery making.

Apart from this machine, he has also developed a small surface grinder, rolling machine and a

winding machine for high speed, precision motors, which are a part of his workshop. He mentions that he likes challenging tasks. He regularly gets orders for developing tools/dyes for various customized operations required in jewellery making.

Source: GIAN N

## Traditional Herbal Healer of Human Health Ailments

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### Shri Madansingh Rajpurohit

Vill & P.O- Pilwani via Khiwada,  
Dist: Pali, Rajasthan- 306502  
Ph: 02934-243076, 9982546376

Seventy two years old Shri Madansingh Rajpurohit retired from the Hindustan Aircraft Limited (HAL) Company. Presently he is living with his wife, three daughters and a son. At a very young age, he learnt about the uses and benefits of *Gomti vidya*, a medicine prepared from cow dung, cow urine, milk, curd and some other herbs, for different human health problems. He left his job and started learning more about the same.

1957 onwards, he started practicing herbal medicines for treating different human health problems like sugar, blood pressure, ear problems, skin diseases, acidity, indigestion, labour pain etc. using *Gomti vidya*.

These days he is engaged in the clinical evaluation of his treatments on various human diseases and disorders under the supervision of doctors . He does not charge any fee for the treatment except the amount incurred on the preparation of the medicines. People have great faith and respect for him.

He has also prepared a *kheer*, which he has made from barley, cow urine, milk etc. named *Satvik Aahar*.

## Herbal Practitioner for Bone Fracture

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### Shri Mathura Phonglo

Address: House No. 8  
Vill.: Doyapur, Dhansiripar  
R.D. Block, Dimapur-797 112  
Nagaland

Popularly known as 'doctor', Shri Mathura Phonglo is a sixty year old ex-service man. He resigned from the services in 1970 and returned to his native village Doyapur to take up agriculture.

Late Thangbandao Phonglo, father of Mathura Phonglo, discovered a herbal preparation for bone fracture, which he taught to his son. During his father's time only the people from Dimasa tribe (one of the minority tribe in North Cachar hills) came for treatment but today people from other neighbouring places particularly from Assam and Nagaland also come to him for treatment. It is mentioned that the numbers of patients treated by Mathura may have crossed a thousand.

Shri Phonglo uses a combination of herbs in this preparation. A cotton cloth soaked in the formulation is tied around the injured part usually with a bamboo frame for support. The plaster is kept for three days and subsequent treatment continues up to one month. The formulation dries in to a thin sheet after three days and reduces pain and prevents further infection.

## Singing Lantern

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### **Jb. Ghulam Mohammad Mir**

S/o Jb. Mohammad Hassan Mir  
Tungpawa (Sagam)  
Anantnag  
Ph: 09906776677

Born in a farmer's family, Mir was a naughty yet studious boy. His interest in all kinds of mechanical and electronic devices since his childhood made him take up an ITI course after his matric. He wanted to make a career out of it, but he could never get a job. He returned home to take care of his land but continued experimenting with all he could do. He claims to have made a small toy helicopter many years ago, which flew away never to return. He also made a battery charger and modified many other items of daily use including the traditional wooden load carrier by incorporating lights and brakes in it. The commonly used lantern intrigued Mir. He used to think why it could not be used for some other purpose as well. A person walking in the night or working in the light of the lantern needs some entertainment. This thought prompted him to make some changes in the traditional lantern and he came out with his 'Singing Lantern'.

The innovation has retained the body of a normal lantern. The kerosene system has been replaced with a battery which lights the bulb and also operates the circuit that works the in-built radio circuit. The battery and the circuit are present at the bottom of the lantern. Mir claims that using a solar cell this can also be operated from solar energy.

*Scouted during 19<sup>th</sup> Shodhyatra: Zubin Nadeem*

## Traditional Herbal Healer

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### **Shri Meghnath Musahari**

Vill.- Ward No.-10  
Nr. ASTC Bus Stand  
P.O. & Dist- Kokrajhar  
Assam  
Ph: 03661-275006

Shri Meghnath Musahari, fifty eight years old school teacher is a graduate in Hindi. He has a wife, three daughters and two sons in his family. His father and uncle had good knowledge about herbs and their medicinal uses and naturally he also developed the liking for the same.

Shri Musahari specializes in the herbal preparations for bone fracture and burning sensation during urination. He learnt the herbal preparation for bone fracture from his uncle in 1981 when a child, who had broken his right hand while playing, came to his uncle for treatment. He became astonished to see his uncle cure the child with the help of medicine prepared from some local herbs. His fascination grew and he started giving medicines specifically for bone fractures, sprain and some other common ailments.

He has treated around 6000 patients suffering from both bone fractures and sprain. In case of bone fracture he asks the patient to get the X-ray of area and after observing the X-ray report, he gives the herbal preparation to the patients. The practice for the treatment of burning sensation during urination was learned from his father using which he has treated more than fifty cases successfully.

The fee for the medicines is not mandatory and he accepts whatever is given to him. People have great faith on his treatment, which gives him satisfaction, inspiring him to learn more about various diseases and their treatment.

## Herbal Healer

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### **Mrs. Yanung Jamoh Lego**

Colony of Gramsevak Training Centre (GTC)  
Arunachal Pradesh

M. Sc. in Agricultural Extension, Mrs Yanung Jamoh Lego (50) serves as an agricultural extension worker. For the past thirteen years, she has been actively engaged in herbal studies and in her leisure, she is fully devoted for treatment of various human ailments. She lives with four children, and her husband Mr. Gumin Lego, who does not take much interest in her works though helps in collection of herbs from the forest in times of need.

Her mother was a traditional healer and her father was a socially aware person, who worked to preserve the bio-resources of *Adi* community. Mrs. Jamoh has taught her herbal knowledge to close to two dozen people. She contacts them and conducts meetings and informal learning campaigns from time to time.

She is an expert in curing malaria, jaundice, gastritis, acidity (more than 2000 patients), appendicitis, piles (about 500 patients), asthma, cancer, rabies, kidney stones, asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, cough, sinusitis, tonsillitis and hepatitis B etc. Mrs Lego says that herbal treatment is tedious & hard but it gives permanent cure, provided the physician diagnoses the ailment correctly and gives the correct doses of medicine at the right time. At the same time, the patient should be ready to comply with the healer's instructions with full faith.

## Herbal face Pack/wash

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### **Smt. Shilpa Chandrakant Mistry**

C-309, Gautam Apartment  
Gohar Bag, Beside Gaurang Apt.  
Bilimora  
South Gujarat  
Ph: 9427706600

Smt. Shilpa is a housewife turned entrepreneur. Her husband is engineer by education but is engaged in business. As a child she learnt many herbal uses from her grandfather. When she grew up she opened a beauty parlour and tested these on her customers, who were satisfied with the results. Encouraged, she recently launched her range of face packs and face washes on a small scale in the market, the response to which has been encouraging.

She basically manufactures face creams, face packs and hair growth gel from Aloe vera. The ingredients used by her are completely natural and include harad, haldi, mindal, tulsi etc. These products are useful in removing the dead skin, making the face appear smooth and bright. The product is safe for all skin-types and is also helpful in cases of acne, pimple and black heads.

*Source: GIAN W*

## Social Service

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### **Shri N.T. Suresh**

Vishwa Theertha Girls High School,  
Kammardi, Shimoga District 577125.  
Ph: 09448964636.

Shri N.T. Suresh, a school teacher by profession, is a socially aware and responsible person. He

believes that children are an investment to be made in today for a better tomorrow. He is instrumental in establishing and running a model high school exclusively for girl students involving local youths totally on voluntary basis without taking any remuneration for the past ten years. The excellent results of his school, achieved consistently over this period where most of the students scored above ninety percent, bear a testimony to the efforts of his team and his guidance.

He also has had a very close relation with the Honey Bee Network for a long time and has helped enormously in organizing biodiversity contests, native food festival, shodhyatra and several other activities/programs. His contribution in the conservation of biodiversity, and promotion of indigenous knowledge and grassroots innovation in the Western Ghata region in Karnataka is praiseworthy.

*Recommended by: Dr TN Prakash, PRITVI*

## Herbal veterinarian

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### **Smt. Thavudammal**

Krishna Goshala Trust,  
Kakkivadanpatti,  
Sivakasi via,  
Virudhunagar District  
Tamil Nadu.  
Ph: 04562 – 237373.

Smt. Thavudammal (62) is a very well known and respected herbal healer in the entire region. She has been maintaining a *goshala* (cow farm) of 250 cattle in Kakkivadanpatti village (Virudhunagar District) for more than four decades.

She is extremely knowledgeable about herbal practices for various animal diseases and ailments, which include foot and mouth disease, black quarter, sprains, constipation, haematuria, indigestion, cataract/eye pain, mastitis, infertility, diarrhoea *etc.*

*Source: SEVA, Madurai*

## Various agricultural practices

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### **Mr. P. R. Subramanian**

4/98, Pattakaran Pudur  
Annur Mettupalayam Post  
Annur (Via),  
Coimbatore  
Tamil Nadu 641 653

Mr. P. R. Subramanian (49) is an active member of the farmer's discussion group in his village and is actively involved in developing low cost agricultural practices and dissemination of the same to other farmers. Some of his prominent contributions include technique for de-suckering in banana, control of weeds in paddy field, herbal pesticide for controlling Eriophyid mite in coconut *etc.*

**De-suckering in Banana :** This is a method to arrest the growth of side suckers in banana where an iron rod, tied with a cloth dipped in kerosene, is inserted on the selected rhizome region of the sucker where the sprouts of germination will emerge. The cloth is lit up, which injures the area preventing the germination of sprouts and hence the occurrence of suckers. This results in production of heavy bunch and rigorous growth of the plant.

**Herbal Pesticide for Eriophyiid mite:** Eriophyiid attack in coconut is a menace to coconut growers making the nuts shriveled and making husking difficult because of the development of a hard coat on the nut. To control this he mixes dry chilly powder, dry tobacco leaves powder and dry leaves of another plant in equal proportion and dusts it over the bunches when the spathe emerges.

The same herbal formulation with little modification can be used for control of earhead bugs and fulgarid attack in paddy. Also for the control of weed in paddy fields, *calotropis* is incorporated into the soil before puddling. For control of nutgrass, he has experimented by applying neem kernel powder at the time of ploughing and before sowing, which he has found to be very effective.

Source: SEVA, Madurai

## Pyramid Pandal

28

### Shri S. Veluchamy

J. Mettur, Kodai Road (via)  
Nilakkotai (T.k)  
Dindigul (D.t),  
Tamilnadu

Shri Veluchamy (52) has voluntarily retired from Police Department. He has developed a solution to adequately utilize land available to a farmer to obtain more productivity by using the aerial space optimally.

For many centuries farmers have raised *pandals* for growing grapes, lab-lab, snake gourd etc, which have climbing tendency. *Pandal* systems have the advantage of proper circulation of air, and also prevent plant damage due to trampling and keep the undersurface always in moist condition but there is always a competition for sunlight resulting in more twinning.

In order to overcome this, a pyramid *pandal* structure was designed by Shri Veluchamy to increase the surface area of foliage in a given land area. By making the *pandal* in a pyramid shape at an angle of 50°, one can easily increase the canopy of the foliage by 1.5 times for the fullest harvest of sunlight. In a 3600 square feet area, a pyramid *pandal* system yields two to three times more income than that of normal *pandal* system. Other advantages of the system include reducing the heat in the *pandal* because of the foliage shade, availability of more land to the farmer, reduction in labour costs, provision for shelter for goats and sheep and their food in form of fallen leaves, amongst others.

Source: SEVA, Madurai

## Micro Light Aircraft

29

### Shri Saji Thomas

Address: Alakanal House  
P.O.:Thattakuzha, Karimanoor  
Idukki-685 581, Kerala

Shri Saji Thomas is a 35 years old person, who could not study beyond seventh standard due to poverty. Deaf and dumb by birth, Saji could achieve his aim of designing a micro light aircraft by sheer will power and belief in himself. Though initially, the venture sound utopian, Saji's wife Sherin and parents Thomas and Mary stood by him. His friends Subhash, Jojo, Joly and Aji lent him a hand in assembling the craft.

Saji developed interest in aircrafts in his childhood seeing the helicopters, which were used to sprinkle pesticides in rubber estates. He got in close contact with the pilots of these helicopters and learned about the vehicle. He visited many aircraft-manufacturing units in the country and went through various journals regarding the manufacturing of aircraft before designing his own. He began to collect the machines and other parts for making the aircraft with the money earned by repairing electric and electronic machines in his neighborhood, apart from generous contributions from a few local people working in Gulf.

The machine he designed and assembled was a helicopter in 1991, which was shown to the then Prime Minister Shri Rajeev Gandhi. Buoyant by the success of his first endeavour, he made up his mind to make a micro light aircraft. He toiled for six years before succeeding. Powered with a 26.5 HP Yamaha engine, the vehicle has 6000 ERM to steer clear in the skies. Aluminium pipes and metal sheets have been used for the frame. The single seater craft weighs 200 kgs.

Shri Saji says, "It is my life long desire to fly in my own aircraft. For that I need the permission and one km runway. I am confident enough to do the same with the help of God. Hope I will get a chance to work out my inner thirst to fly over this earth".

*Source: Peermade Development Society, Idukki, Kerala*

## **Jhoola Pump**

**30**

### **Shri Sukhdeo Mahato**

Vill. Lochar  
Po. Hevai Block Keredari  
Hazaribagh  
Jharkhand

Sukhdeo Mahato (40) is a farmer from Village Lochar, Hazaribagh. He has constantly tried to develop solutions to everyday problems faced by farmers like him. Though his poverty restricts his investment in his ideas, yet he manages to squeeze out some money from the earnings of his wife, who works as a daily worker. His wife, unconditionally, has supported his beliefs both morally and fiscally.

His innovations include '*jhoola pump*' to pump water from source to a higher level, new designs of ploughs, windmill operated water lifting device etc. Though he has received encouraged from many places yet he is waiting for financial support to completely develop his ideas into innovations.

## **Herbal Practitioner**

**31**

### **Shri Jagdeo Singh Bhogta**

Jagdeo Singh Bhogta  
Vill: Kajri PO Tavin  
Dist: Hazaribagh  
Jharkhand 825336

Jagdeo Singh (40) is a farmer and a herbal healer from Jharkhand. The output from his field is only sufficient for his family's daily needs and he supplements it through earning wages as a daily labourer.

He has been administering herbal medicines to the villagers for human health problems. Though he is poor but does not charge any money in return of his services. The blessings of people who get cured from his medicines are his reward he mentions. He gained this knowledge from his father, who also used to practice herbal medicines. Among many medicines that he administers, people come to

him most for the medication he has for stomach ulcers.

## Supporter of Honey Bee

32

### **Ms. Subarnamala Bishoyee**

Address- Ms Subarnamala Bishoyee  
Principal, Sri Maa Sri Aurobindo Integral School  
Block Colony, Chhatrapur, Dist-Ganjam, Orissa

Sixty years old, Ms. Subarnamala Bishoyee is a retired school head mistress, who has continued her passion to teach young students even after retirement. Ms. Bishoyee, who has been awarded with Rastrapati award, State award and numerous other awards for her contribution to the field of education, has dedicated her life to generate environmental awareness among children and impart them proper education. From time to time, she also organizes various exhibitions to further her cause.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> Shodhyatra in Koraput region, she was instrumental in spreading the Honey Bee philosophy in the region and rendered her unconditional help in organising the yatra. She also arranged a student's science exhibition and a traditional animal healing exhibition in her school during SY.

Even at this age, Ms. Subarnamala Bishoyee is still active and is dedicated to the cause of children's education, environment and biodiversity conservation.

## Traditional Implements Museum

33

### **Shri Akshyaya Kumar Pattnaik**

Bolagarh, Nayagarh, Orissa

Living with his wife, son and his family at Bolagada in Nayagarh district, Akshyaya Kumar Pattnaik is a noted organic farmer, innovator and social engineer who has devoted his life in spreading the message of science among the masses. Though an engineer by education, he earns his living by cultivation. One of his interesting innovations is an earthen made water filter candle meshed with cow dung beads.

For a man in his sixties, Shri Pattnaik is quite active and is presently working on a project to supply water to farmers at minimum cost. He has also been associated with Ama Akhapakha magazine.

Shri Pattnaik is also a curator and possesses a good collection of old equipments, watches, radios, coins, and agricultural implements including varieties of tractors, water pumps, wooden ploughs, daggers etc. The number of such artifacts collected by him runs into thousands. The idea behind starting this collection was to inculcate in the mind of farmers, students and the people in general, a sense of appreciation for innovations and their development over a period of time.

## Traditional Oriya Cake

34

### **Smt Tara Das**

HIG-236, Phase-7  
Sailashri Vihar, Chandrasekharpur  
Bhubaneswar-751023

Smt. Tara Das of Bhubaneswar is renowned for her relentless efforts to revive and popularize a traditional Oriya cake called as 'Aarisha Pitha'. After the untimely death of her husband, who was an Indian Forest Officer, she was left with little funds to support her family as most of the savings had been used up in providing medications for her husband.

Being a good cook and possessing knowledge about the traditional foods, she decided to start working on 'Aarisha Pitha'. This traditional cake is made from rice flour, ghee and gur, which once prepared has a shelf life of months without any appreciable decrease in quality or taste. This cake is mostly prepared by agricultural families during the crop harvest celebration as well as during marriage ceremonies. As it has happened with many other traditional recipes, under influence from the modern 'instant' dishes, people had been slowly forgetting the taste and liking for this cake. But Smt. Tara Das who could see the potentiality in this traditional cake, added a minor crop sesame to it that made the cake more crispy, tastier and healthier. It is claimed that having sesame as an ingredient, it is effective in controlling blood pressure also.

Her hard work paid off and she managed to give the "Aarisha" cake the required popularity in Orissa, which has now become for its flavor, taste, and medicinal value. Interestingly now the cake is being exported to many countries including UK, USA and Canada through various channels. She has been awarded by many organizations and felicitated by local print media for her unique endeavor.

## **Organic Farming Writer**

**35**

### **Sri Arjuna Biswal**

B/66, Krishna Garden, Phase-II  
Jagamara, P.O. – Khandagiri  
Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Hailing from Jagatsinghpur district, Arjuna Biswal (38) is a reporter in a renowned local daily, 'Sambad' and a supporter of the Honey Bee Philosophy. Through his columns he disseminates information about the activities of the network and Ama Akhapakha in Orissa. Biswal, who is a strong believer in organic farming and traditional herbal knowledge, regularly writes on the local knowledge systems.

Earlier, he also covered the 17<sup>th</sup> Shodhyatra held in Koraput district of Orissa. For his contributions previously he had been also been awarded the prestigious Dr Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Memorial Fellowship instituted by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

## **Dedicated Teacher**

**36**

### **Shri Prafulla Kumar Puhana**

Head Master, Manpur High School  
P.O. Gobardhanpur, Dist-Jajpur, Orissa  
PIN-755019

Fifty three years old Prafulla Kumar Puhana, headmaster, and English and Maths teacher is also a serial innovator and has more than thirty innovations to his credit some of which are pedaling grinder, water operated fan, paper rolling machine, calculator with difference, multipurpose machine, and machine for reusing used water, school computer etc.

Coming from an agricultural background, Puhana had great interest in science. He is a humble and dedicated teacher and guides students to prepare projects for their science exhibitions and inspires them to be original.

## Multipurpose Agricultural Machine

37

**Shri Guru Charan Pradhan**  
At/P.O. Talita, Via Bonaigarh,  
Sundargarh, Orissa

Shri Gurucharan Singh Pradhan comes from Sundargarh district of Orissa. An Intermediate in Arts (IA), he took a Certified Teacher (CT) training to mentor young minds and taught history to students for thirty seven years.

After retiring from the school, he completely devoted himself to agriculture, to carry forward his father's legacy. Lack of labour to work in the field prompted him to think about a multi-functioning machine that would help him save energy and work more efficiently. Working hard for years he finally came out with a machine, which could do the following ten tasks viz. water pumping, chaff cutting, electricity generation, grinding/sharpening, sawing/wood cutting, coconut peeling, winnowing, paddy threshing, groundnut threshing and grass (soft cattle feed) cutting. His efforts in developing this ten-in-one machine are highly commendable.

## Herbal Healer for Human Health

38

**Kumari Tabassum Jaan**  
D/o Jb. Abdul Gani Ganj  
Verinag Telwani Pora  
Doru, Anantnag  
J&K 192212

Eighteen years old Tabassum discontinued her studies after class tenth to help her mother in her day to day work. In childhood, she developed an interest in embroidery and started devoting her time in it. Along with it she also started learning traditional herbal practices from her elders.

She has good knowledge about herbs and their medicinal uses. She gives herbal medicines for anaemia, memory loss, stomach ache, ear pain and other conditions. Her parents, specially her father who owns a meat shop, are quite supportive of her and encourage her.

## Herbal Healer

39

**Dr. Tejomoy Roy**  
Netajee Corner  
P.O. Tufanganj Newtown,  
Dist: Cooch Behar,  
West Bengal- 736160  
Ph: 09232528290

Dr. Tejomoy Roy is a fifty year old practicing homeopathic doctor. After an advance course in Homeopathic medicine and surgery from Calcutta University, he also undertook a clinical training in ophthalmology. He has his wife and a son and a daughter in his family.

His father, himself a homeopathic doctor, was an inspiration for him to serve the people and the society. After completion of his education in 1986, he started practicing in his locality and nearby villages. For his medicines he has always charged a very nominal fee. He is also involved in a social group of Gram Panchayat, where he treats patients free of cost. Apart from his clinic work he also does some research work and has developed health tonics, herbal hair oil, face cream with astringent,

and even a herbal oral liquid contraceptive. He also has an idea to make a safety bed using which back pain and joint pain occurrence may be reduced.

## Community Award- Water Conservation

40

### **Sarpanch- Pranjivanbhai Madhubhai Kella on behalf of the community**

Village- Vejalpur

Taluka- Mandiya

District- Rajkot

Mobile- 9904728970

Resi – 02829-287838

In Mandiya taluka area the soil is loamy ('Tas' soil, which is suitable for cultivation of groundnut) with limited water holding capacity. The only pond in the village was used by the villagers to cater to all their needs viz. drinking purpose, washing, bathing animals etc. There was a constant fear of an outbreak of diseases. Though underground water was available but there was no proper source of getting potable water. It was thought of to increase the depth of the pond as it would facilitate more accumulation of water during the rains. Also it was decided to divide the pond into two parts, one to be used to obtain drinking water and the other part for domestic uses.

In the year 2001, under the guidance of the then sarpanch, Shri Dhirabhai, with community participation, the depth of the pond was increased to 27 feet as a result of which there has been an average collection of 22-23 feet water year after year. A wall was constructed to separate the two parts of the pond. Also rules regarding the usage of water were laid down so that the part of the pond from which the potable water was being taken was not spoiled in any way. The rules are put up on a board near the pond so that everybody including the people coming from other places can know about them and follow them.

Shri Ganeshbhai Nanjibhai Kella who lives near the pond takes care of it. A nominal fine is also imposed on the person breaking the rules and the money collected as a result is used to clean and de-silt the pond every year. A flight of stairs have been built to facilitate drawing of water. The water is also supplied to the village with the help of three pumps and tap connections. This community initiative has helped them to solve their water problem to a large extent. Inspired by them, the process of construction of such a pond has been started in neighboring Kumbhariya village also.

## Traditional Herbal Healer

41

### **Shri Yadram Gurjar**

Village- Rambagh Post- Bahtana,

Tahsil- Deeg, District- Bharatpur,

Rajasthan

Phone no. 09252218385

Popularly known as '*Bhaga*', Shri Yadram Gurjar is a fifty one years old man, who has been working as a cattle guard in the Bharatpur bird sanctuary since 1985. Shri Gurjar, who is educated up to the primary level, has his wife and two sons in his family. Both of his sons have studied up to matric and are now engaged in farming, which is their main source of income.

Apart from his work as a cattle guard Shri Gurjar is also actively involved in giving medicines to people for various ailments. His repertoire consists of treatment for more than sixty ailments like rheumatism, impotency, jaundice, typhoid, stomach disorders, cough, urinary disorders, etc.

He mentions that he has had this interest in herbal medicines since childhood. He used to interact

frequently with saints and other elder people of the area and try to imbibe knowledge from them. He narrates that during his school days he came across a saint who taught him medicinal practices for treating various diseases like typhoid, fever, jaundice, bile, delivery complications, etc. That interaction was so educative for him that whenever he meets any saint, he discusses with him, the information about diseases and treatments. He has been administering medicines to people since then. Even though many times he has to spend some money from his own pocket to purchase certain raw materials for making the medicines, yet he has never charged any money for his medicines from anyone. Sometimes patients coming from far off places have spent a night or two at his place too.

On his accomplishments, Sri Bhagat proudly proclaims, “*main dava se wo kaam kar sakta hoon, jo doctors chiraphadi se karte hain. Main wo hi dava rakhta hoon jinka mujhe porna vishwas hai*” (I can do those things with my medicines, which doctors can not even do with operation. I give only those medicines on which I have full faith).

He acknowledges the fact that the people in general have supported him and have had faith in his healing and he wants to help them in the best possible way.

*Source: Sundaram Verma, Sikar, Rajasthan*

## **Tree Plantation and Environment Protection**

**42**

### **Shri Bhramarabara Sahoo**

VPO-Bhanarapur  
Via-Harichandanpur  
Police station-Harichandanpur  
Block- Harichandanpur  
Dist- Keonjhar, Orissa

A gentleman to the core, Shri Bhramarabara Sahoo (68) is an environmentalist, campaigning for the plantation of trees. Starting in 2002, Shri Sahoo has till date planted over 200 trees along the roads in his locality, around ponds and in barren lands.

Whenever he plans a plantation drive along a road, he consults the Block Office so that the trees he plants are not uprooted when road widening is done by the government. The choice of trees is those, which give shelter and fruits like jamun, mango and jackfruit. He has covered the areas viz. Chasatangiri, Bhanarapur, and Golabandha and plans to move to other areas. In his endeavour to plant and protect trees, he has largely been unsupported and has been continuing solely because of his inner motivation.

*Source: SHRISTI, Bhuvaneshwar*

## **Herbal Healer**

**43**

### **Shri Nityananda Mahanta**

Kaliabeda  
Raghunathpur  
Keonjhar 758014  
Orissa

Shri Nityananda is an agriculturist by profession. He has been educated till class seventh and has been practicing medicine using herbs for the past fifteen years.

He has been treating the patients for diseases like piles, dysentery, diarrhea, cough cold, fever etc. He is a well acknowledged man because of his expertise and people, from his village and nearby areas, come to him with their problems.

*Source: SHRISTI, Bhuvaneshwar*

## Herbal Practitioner

44

### **Shri Damodara Panda**

Nimpal, Durgapur  
Mitrapur  
Balasore  
Orissa

Shri Damodara Panda (37), a graduate, is an employee in Birla Industries. He has a son and a daughter in his family apart from his wife. He also has keen interest in farming, animal husbandry and forestry. In his free time, he likes to spend time in these activities. Catching fishes is another of his favorite past times.

He has to his credit many useful agriculture practices, which have been well received and adopted by the local farmers. Apart from it, he also has many formulations for various poultry diseases. He owns a poultry farm and experiments with herbal medications in it.

*Source: SHRISTI, Bhuvaneshwar*

## Herbal Healer

45

### **Mohammad Bhola Miyan (Bhola Mastan)**

Village Jamla, post Surha  
Motihari  
East Champaran  
Bihar

Forty five years old Bhola Mastan is a *hakim* by profession. Having six members in his family including three sons, two daughters and his wife, it becomes difficult for him to make ends meet. He has been practicing herbal medicines for more than ten years now and people from as far as Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh come to him for medicines. Motihari, being a border town, most of his patients are migrant Nepalese.

The herbs he uses generally are procured from fields nearby. He uses them to treat various diseases like leucorrhea, piles, arthritis, bleeding from nose, menstrual problems, leucoderma, eczema, gastric problems, *etc.*

*Source: Azhar Hussain Ansari, Bihar*

## Nutritional Food for animals

46

### **Shri Pramod Stephen**

Christian Church  
Near Railway Gumti  
Sugaoli 845456  
East Champaran  
Bihar  
9939827520

Shri Pramod Stephen, who is fifty years old, is a social worker and has been rearing animals for the past thirty three years. His family consists of his wife and five children, who also take active part in taking care of the animals.

He is an animal activist and believes that to improve the productivity, animals have to be given proper balanced diet. They should have a clean and hygienic place and their immunization should be timely. He has made a low cost nutritional food supplement for animals using paddy husk, which has been tested by N.D.R.I, Karnal Panjab. He mentions that the day he received a satisfactory report from the institute he was quite elated and satisfied.

*Source: Azhar Hussain Ansari, Bihar*

## **Social activism for handicapped persons**

**47**

### **Shri Yogendra Prasad Kanaujiya**

Mohalla: Nakchedtola, Hanuman Garhi  
PO Motihari  
East Champaran 845401  
Bihar

Shri Yogendra Prasad (51), a physically challenged person, is a teacher by profession and belongs to a poor family. His family consists of his wife and seven children, all of whom are school going.

Being physically challenged himself, he understands their problems. He has been closely associated in the welfare activities for the handicapped persons and his contribution has been praiseworthy. He is engaged in social work and has raised voices in favour of the rights of the handicapped people at various fora both regionally and nationally.

*Source: Azhar Hussain Ansari, Bihar*

## **Herbal healer**

**48**

### **Shri Prameshwar Singh**

VPO Jiyar  
Nalanda  
Bihar 803107

Shri Prameshwar Singh (55) is a herbal healer, whose main source of income is the sale of the herbal medicines. He lives with his wife, daughter and the families of his two sons. He spent most of his life in the company of saints and sages, and learned a lot of things from them, which he uses now for his living.

He has good knowledge about herbal preparations and their uses in various diseases and disorders. People from his village and neighbouring areas visit him for treatment and many times other healers also call upon him for consultation.

*Source: Dr. Ambedkar Sansthan, Bihar*

## **Herbal healer**

**49**

### **Shri Mano Singh**

Vill. Kabla,  
Po. Budhauri,  
Dist. Navada,  
Bihar

Shri Mano Singh is a simple man who has dedicated his life to the cause of the poor people who cannot afford doctors or their prescribed medicines. He has very good knowledge of herbal

formulations, which he learned while interacting with elders and other learned people he met. Due to his passion to serve the people, he is mostly on tour sometimes for a continuous stretch of eight to ten days due to which his family life gets disturbed. Though his wife advises him to charge some money in return of his services, he refuses to do so inspite of their poverty.

In his repertoire of treatments, he has herbal medicines for more than two dozen diseases. People from neighboring thirty-fourty villages come to take medicines from him.

*Source: Dr. Ambedkar Sansthan, Bihar*

## **Herbal Healer**

**50**

### **Shri Parshuram Das**

Vill: Banuchapar, Po. Betiya  
West Champaran,  
Bihar

Sixty one years old, Shri Parshuram Das has retired from government service. Poor financial condition during his childhood did not allow him to study beyond matriculation. By chance he came in touch with an ascetic who changed his life by giving him the knowledge about herbs and their medicinal properties. He moved all around with him and learned everything.

Later he started giving herbal medicines to the people, without taking any money in return. He has herbal cures for various diseases like asthma, heart disease, diabetes, sciatica, menstruation problems, fever, gastric troubles, etc. He also has knowledge about some of the lesser known herbs and works for their conservation also. Apart from being a good and respected healer, he is also an expert technician and a mechanic.

*Source: Dr. Ambedkar Sansthan, Bihar*

## **Motorized stationary chaff cutter with clutch brake arrangement**

**51**

### **Shri Kamruddin Saifi**

Vikas Fabrication Works,  
Delhi-Meerut Road,  
Near Thana Muradnagar  
Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh – 201206

Shri Kamruddin Saifi (60) is an expert technician with more than thirty years of experience. He has come up with some very interesting solutions to everyday problems one of which the chaff cutter with brakes.

The commercially available stationary powered (by motor or engine) chaff cutters do not have arrangement to stop the cutter immediately after discontinuing power. Before stopping the blade/roller rotates a few rounds due to inertia of the heavy flywheel to which the blade/roller is attached. Sometimes accidentally the feeder's hand gets inside and gets crushed because the flywheel stops its movement only after certain rotations.

Shri Saifi thought over this and developed a mechanism, by employing which a safe chaff cutting can be ensured. The innovative mechanism consists of combination of simple mechanical clutch and brake, which is actuated by a foot operated lever. When one presses the lever, flywheel of chaff cutter

instantaneously gets locked and disengages the power source from the chaff cutter. One needs to re-open the lock to operate the chaff cutter again.

*Source: Scouted during 18<sup>th</sup> SY*

## **Modified Two cylinder Engine**

**52**

### **Shri Malkiat Singh 'Zero'**

VPO Kandhala Jattan  
Hoshiarpur  
Punjab 146116  
94630 11006

Fifty six years old, Shri Malkiat Singh is a graduate in arts and a mechanic by profession. He has his wife and three sons in his family. He has traveled a lot and even worked abroad in a multi-national company as a mechanic. He is adept in repairing all types of machineries and specializes in automobiles.

He has modified the two-cylinder engine so that clarity of voice and firing has increased, and diesel consumption and emissions have decreased considerably. This modified engine can be used in cars, multi cylinder motorcycles and generators. The idea was conceived by him way back in 1982 but it took him more that two decades to finally come to a point where he is planning to launch manufacturing as soon he obtains a process patent and design registration for the technology.

*Source: GIAN N*

## **Herbal Veterinarian**

**53**

### **Shri Makwana Dhirubhai Ramjibhai**

Village- Mathavada,  
Post- Sathara,  
Taluka- Tadaji,  
Bhavnagar, Gujarat  
Phone: 9925487998

Shri Dhirubhai Ramjibhai Makwana (32) has done B.R.S B. Ed course and is working as a teacher in Primary school in Hajipur. His wife is also a teacher. Other members of the family include his parents and a son. They have some land where do the regular farming. Apart from it they also own some cattle. Shri Makwana has good knowledge about herbs and treats his cattle himself in case of any ailment. His herbal practice using a particular plant for worm infestation in animals is specially noteworthy though there are a few others also who know about its use.

## **Innovator and Curator**

**54**

### **Shri Karimbhai Bachubhai Pathan**

Village- Punjapadar,  
Taluka – Liliya,  
Amreli, Gujarat  
Phone: 9723321956

Only Muslim family in a Hindu village in the state of Gujarat, infamous for its communal divide, may sound strange. But Karimbhai, a secularist to the core, has survived and won the love and affection

of all with his ingenuity and appeal. Owing to poverty, he could not study much and took up the work of polishing diamonds, which two of his sons are also engaged in. A fateful incident forced him to be out of work for months and later he had to leave it and take up electrical repairing and light decoration as a job.

While he was recuperating, he started thinking of new ideas and that gave birth to the new Karimbhai, the innovator. His long list of innovations include wind mill based mobile charger, theft alarm alert on mobile, flood alarming system, automatic trip off system for water tanks, sensor based street lights, door alarm. He has also made a Gandhi temple where if the lamp is lit, the charkha starts automatically, flowers are offered and national song gets played. Working on the same idea, he has made a system where as soon as the door of the Ganpati temple opens the *aarti* begins.

For the last eight years he has been displaying his innovations in various science exhibitions and fairs across Amreli, which have been much appreciated by the people. He has converted his house into a museum where he has his own innovations and apart from those, he also has articles of historical antiquity like artifacts dating back to Harrappa civilization, volcanic residue, old coins etc. School children take special interest in his activities and experiments and he hopes that they actually learn something from him and use it for public good.

## **Customised handicapped tricycle**

**55**

### **Shri Asjadbhai Ibrahambhai Dhukka**

Post: Kamalpur, Taluka – Palanpur

Disrtict – Banaskantha.

Gujarat

Necessity is the mother of all inventions hold true in Asjadbhai's case also. A desire to help his father who suffered a paralytic attack prompted him to look for solutions that would address his father's specific needs of mobility. And he came out with a customized tricycle.

This simple tricycle is battery operated and has a two gear system to give it uniform speed and enabling it to move on sand too. Ergonomically designed, it has a comfortable seat with push back system. It also has a safety break for preventing backward motion. This is a user friendly model of battery operated tricycle, which gives good assistance and comfort to the disabled and handicapped person.

## **Organic Farming and Protection of 'Gir' cow**

**56**

### **Shri Purushottambhai Ranchodbhai Sidpara**

Main village-Jamka, Taluka- Mendarda,

District- Junagadh

Gujarat

Phone: 0285-2687563

Shri Purshottambhai Sidpara has been engaged in organic farming for many years now. In his endeavours he is ably supported by his circle of friends, who are engaged in what they call, 'Cow dependent farming'. They are running the 'Gir Cow Movement', which is an initiative to save the Gir breed of cows from extinction.

Due to his efforts and that of his friends, now around 150 people of the village keep 'Gir' breed of cows. He himself has sixty cows in his farm, which has been visited by around three lakh people till date. His efforts in saving the Gir breed of cows and the experiments in organic farming have won him many admirers and followers.

## Protecting Royal Witness: A 500 years old Tree 57

### **Shri Ajitsingh Himmatsingh Rathod**

Village- Paal (Darbargadh),  
Taluka- Vijaynagar ,  
District – Sabarkantha  
Gujarat  
Phone: 02775-272542

In Darbargadh of Paal village is a huge tree named *Gorakhamlo* believed to be at least 500 years old and, which has been there since the time of the Rathod kingdom. It is a big shady tree with the circumference of its main trunk being more than forty feet. The tree is associated with the fertility cult and it is widely believed in the nearby villages that the yellow fruit of the tree when eaten can actually help a woman conceive.

The erstwhile royal family and now their descendants have been taking care of the tree. A watchman has been engaged specially to take care of the tree and to see that nobody damages it in any way. Earlier Raj Mata used to personally take care of the tree but frail health prevents her now from doing so. Shri Rathod Ajitbhai Himmatbhai (58) has been taking care of the tree for many years now. He is a retired teacher and resides in Udaipur.

## Herbal Veterinarian 58

### **Shri Damor Uddabhai Dhudabhai.**

Village- Bhagatdhesra,  
Post-Jharni,  
Taluka- Simalvada,  
District- Dungarpur,  
Rajasthan- 314403.

Shri Uddabhai Dhudabhai Damor (55) is a well known veterinary practitioner in his village as well as in the neighbouring villages. He has been doing this for more than fifteen years now and believes must have treated at least 400 to 500 animals for different diseases. The main diseases for which gives medication are diarrhea, worms in stomach, swallowing of iron, fracture, increasing milk production, wound, treatment of weakness, treatment of broken leg, etc.

Besides the people from his village, the people from the neighbouring villages like Dhunka, Bhachdiya, Kesarpur, Punavada also call Uddabhai for the treatment of their animals.

## Herbal healer 59

### **Shri Katara Kachurbhai Kababhai**

Village- Gohliya, Post- Mandali,  
Taluka – Simalvada,  
District- Dungarpur,  
Rajasthan-314403.

Shri Kachurbhai Kababhai Katara aged sixty five is renowned for his expertise in treating cases of diseases in humans in his village and also in the neighbouring villages. For the last thirty years he has been engaged in this profession. At any given day he has atleast two or three patient to take care of. The major diseases and ailments he treats using his herbal formulations are diarrhea, poisonous bite of animals, acidity, and asthma among other diseases. He also treats fractures and sprains.

Apart from this, he also has some interest in organic farming.

## Women Entrepreneur

60

### **Smt. Hirbaiben Lobi**

Village – Jambur,  
Taluka – Talada,  
District – Junagadh.  
Gujarat  
Phone: 02877-223221, 284729

Smt. Hirbaiben Lobi (47), a mother of two sons and an entrepreneur is a woman of substance. Her sons are doing a two years agriculture course at the Krishi University, Junagadh. She is working for the upliftment of the women in her society and helps them to become self-dependent. She is the President of Adivasi Mahila Sangh, Chairperson of Samajik Nyay Samiti and the producer of Panchtantra Sendriya Khatar. She established self-savings groups, for generation of livelihood, which have been preparing compost manure from cow dung for the past last seven years. The members of her society are spread over nineteen villages, covering a total population of 5000 chiefly comprising people from Sidi community.

Though much support has not been forth coming from various quarters yet Smt. Hirbai is hopeful of establishing a Foundation with all the necessary facilities of computers, proper education for the children and which will be a place where women can learn to be self-reliant.

## SOLAR SPRAYER PUMP

61

### **Shri Abdulbhai S. Shersiya**

Main Post- Chandrapur, Taluka – Vankaner,  
District – Rajkot- 363621  
Gujarat  
Phone: 9898365990, 02828-223739

Shri Shersiya Saheb is working as a teacher in a primary school in Chandrapur. He is an experimental teacher and likes to explain to his pupil things in a very attractive way so that they can remember the concepts very easily. Once just to illustrate and give proper information about a galaxy, he made a galaxy on an umbrella to make it easy for the students to understand. He has made many innovations for students to make mathematics an interesting subject and also helps and guides them in their science projects.

He also owns a farm in his village where he cultivates some crops. To get rid of the problems of the farmers he invented a solar sprayer pump the specific advantages of which are; not moving the handle with the hand resulting in less fatigue, as the solar panel is kept on the head, there is shade on the head of the farmer, the face is covered with a plastic sheet so there is less chance of poison inhalation for the farmer, can also be used to charge mobiles or chargeable lights, facility of light in the pump so one can spray pesticides even at night, and integration of a FM Radio with the pump so that the farmer can listen to the news from his country and abroad and stay updated. The songs and music also may help as stress busters.

## Organic Farming

62

### **Shri Manharbhai Chotubhai Patel**

Main Post- Uimbhed, place- Tower Fadiyu,  
Taluka – Kaamrej, District- Surat  
Gujarat  
Phone: 9909593924

Fifty nine years old Shri Manharbhai Patel completed his graduation in 1969 in Botany. He was fascinated with the subject and took to agriculture to further his liking. He started with planting groundnut in 1989 in his fields. Though the groundnuts plants that grew were good morphologically but the pods were not well developed and the yield was also low, which made him realize that the soil may be spoilt due to more fertilizers etc and after that he started farming without chemicals since 1990.

He received 'Sardar Patel Agriculture Research' award from government of Gujarat in 2001. Apart from that he received 'Gold Jubilee Memorial Trust Excellence' award from Gujarat Chambers of Commerce and Industry in 2003-2004, and was honoured by DDO and the Collector of Surat in 2005. Besides agriculture he has been involved in many other social service projects also.

## Check dams

63

### **Vikhaliya Village**

P.O- Vikaliya, Ta: Gadhada, Dis: Bhavnagar.  
Phone: Deepakbhai- 9909399388, Dasrathbhai-9978440635

- (1) Jivarajbhai Madhabhai Singara.
- (2) Kanjibhai Merambhai Der
- (3) Late. Mohanbhai Jadavbhai Singara.

Dudhiben and Ambaben

In Saurashtra, Vikhaliya village is located at the border of Gohilvad and is situated in Gadhada, Bhavnagar. Though there are three small rivers flowing near the village yet there was always a shortage of water except during the monsoons. Water was available only for four months in the rivers and after that the even the availability of drinking water was a question mark. In fact, there was no water available in a 500 feet bore well.

This led to mass scale migration to industrial centres in search of better opportunities. But in 1997, the news of Khopara Village of Gadhada taluka, where the villagers had started a water resource depletion prevention movement called 'Svajaldhara kranti', reached them. This made the villagers sit up and take notice. It was planned that they would be doing something similar to make their village self-reliant in water.

Check dam construction was then started in 1990 and for which Smt. Ambaben donated 1,00,011 rupees following which Smt. Dudhiben donated 61,000 rupees for the same. Both the check dams were named 'Amba sarovar' and 'Dudhi sarovar' after them. Since then 101 check dams have been constructed with the combined efforts of the villagers and help from the government. 20,000 Neem trees have also been planted near the check dams.

Water, which was not even available at 500 feet of depth is now easily available at 40 feet. In the village, before 1999 farming was possible only in the rainy season but now it possible in all the three seasons resulting in good crop yield and eventually, prosperity of the village.

## Plant oil stove

64

### **Shri Shantibhai Lavjibhai Hirpara**

Block No. 500/3010,  
Gujarat Housing board,  
Bapunagar cross roads,  
Nikol Road,  
Ahmedabad-380 024

Seventy seven years old, Shri Shantibhai Hirpara is a 'young' old man. At this age also he manages to work for long hours continuously. Though he is illiterate but understands English very well. After working for Tata Textile Mills for twenty-two years, he shifted to a local power loom after the closure of the mill.

Analysing the problems of locally available stoves like wastage of kerosene, loss of heat, maintenance costs and the chances of explosion, prompted him to think about an alternative more than twenty five years ago. He toiled hard and came up with a stove, which has been using for past two and a half decades.

In his stove, the fuel (kerosene, diesel, crude, etc) is made into vapours by using electricity and these vapours are then enflamed for cooking. It is a portable device and can be moved anywhere easily. Safe to use it cooks food faster also.

## Herbal healer

65

### **Shri Tulsibhai Bhabdubhai Pawar**

At Chinchvihar, Po Pipaldevi  
Ahawa, Dang  
Gujarat

Shri Tulsibhai lives in one of the very backward village of Dangs. The village is surrounded by dense forest. He is primarily an agriculturist but some part of his total income is also derived from the produces of the animals he keeps.

He has good knowledge about herbs and has been practicing herbal medicine for more than twenty five years, for both humans and animals. Apart from treating patients in his village, he also goes to surrounding villages for the same. He treats animal ailments like bloat, lack of heat in animals, retention of placenta, indigestion, etc. apart from medicines for skin diseases in humans.

## The Bird Perch

66

### **Manibhai Kachrabhai Patel**

At Tajpur, Tal. Prantij,  
Dist. Sabarkantha,  
Gujarat  
Phone: 02770-255094

Manibhai Patel (65), an agriculturist, is an avid animal lover. He loves feeding the birds and other animals. Manibhai recalls that once the old bird perch (*chabootara*) in his village broke down, there was nobody to get it remade. He set aside some money too for the same but other villagers did not contribute. But determined as he was, he spent lakh rupees from his own pocket and got the perch remade. During the harvesting season of wheat he moves around in his vehicle collecting wheat from the villagers as donation towards the bird perch. The wheat is then sold in the market and

the money is put on interest. From this interest, seeds like maize, pearl millet and sorghum are bought for the birds, who have ample to eat during the monsoons but little thereafter. The same is used to feed them when food is scarce.

Similarly for other stray animals too. In winter when new puppies are born in the village, early morning he would move around and feed the litter with chapattis. Now as he has grown old and cannot move much, he has requested the grocer to give the requisite amount of flour and other things to the family, near whose residence the bitch has given birth to the puppies, so that the litter gets its feed. He has also been able to motivate his family members to work for this cause and contribute.

When asked about the conditions today he lamently remarks that British Raj was good, at that time there was no money but the cultural values were preserved; now there is money but no cultural values.

## Environmental Awareness Generation

67

### Shri Yogeshkumar Bachubhai Mistry

At Po Tal Shinor, Nagarwada,  
Vadodara-391115  
Gujarat  
Phone: 9909204566

Shri Yogeshkumar (51) is a primary teacher with formal education up to PTC, B. Ed. He has his wife and two sons in his family; his daughter is married. Though he does not have any land but being associated with an organisation working in agriculture, he has good knowledge of organic farming and usage of herbal pesticides. He is an avid reader and regularly shares his knowledge with other farmers.

His interest in organic farming increased when he visited the '*Vriksha Mandir*' of one Shri Pandurang Shastri. Realising that the best way to disseminate information is to use the methods of mass appeal, he started writing *bhajans* related to organic farming. His first song on organic farming was published in the organic farming special edition of *Loksarvani* magazine published by SRISTI.

After getting in touch with SRISTI and JATAN his knowledge has improved a lot. He has also started participating in environmental awareness programs, science fairs, agriculture fairs, etc. He has also written a book named '*Geet Gunjan*' to generate environment awareness. He has regularly been sharing his knowledge about traditional knowledge, organic farming and *ayurvedic* medicines to SRISTI through his letters.

## Herbal healer

68

### Shri Khushaldas Balakdas Bapu Ramanandi

Keshod Meghna Society, Daleshwarnagar,  
Near railway station, Keshod  
Junagadh  
Gujarat  
Phone: 9374659743, 9925461118

Shri Khushaldas Bapu (55) is well known in Keshod taluka as a '*Manav Vaidya*'. His wife is an *Aganwadi* teacher and his three sons are in business. He has been treating people with herbal medicines for the past ten years and mentions that he may have treated more than 800 people for various diseases like chikungunia, piles, diabetes, acidity, etc. Though he does not charge any fees for the treatment, but if someone willingly pays him the fees, he takes it and uses it for various social causes.

His patients give a positive feedback about the medicines he administers and also about him. Talking about future he mentions that he still feels he has not learned enough and wants to learn about many more herbal formulations so that he can serve the society with that knowledge.

## **Organic Farming: the experiments documented** **69**

### **Smt. Sudhaben Harshadbhai Patel**

Motibaug, At Post Gandevi,  
Gandevi,  
Navsari.  
Gujarat  
Phone: 02634-262458

While the experiments done in a research farm can boast of meticulously laid down experimental records, it is rather surprising to hear of a farmer family maintain such records and that too for more than twelve years. Sudhaben and Harshadbhai were one such couple. After the untimely death of Harshadbhai in 2001, Sudhaben has continued to do what they learned and did together.

They have kept punctilious records of all the experiments they did in organic farming. They also prepared pest control formulations for their crops themselves, Sudhaben mentions that stopping the use of chemical pesticides automatically decreases the problem of pests. They also experimented with fermented buttermilk to increase the yield successfully. According to her, the use of marine algae in increasing the yield, quality and controlling fruit dropping is also good. Out of the various types of marine algae, the black and green algae are found to be useful for agricultural purpose.

The couple, for long, had been the advocators of organic farming and their success has inspired many in the region to try and take up these experiments and even after the death of Harshadbhai, the work has not stopped.

## **Organic Farming: experiments unlimited** **70**

### **Shri Hirjibhai Bhikhabhai Bhigradiya**

At. Panchvatibaug (Malpara), via Dhasa gaam, Taluka: Gadhdha  
District: Bhavnagar  
Phone: 93275 72297

Shri Hirjibhai Bhigradiya (63) is an agriculture graduate and an innovative farmer. After the death of his father in 1967, he took to farming and made the best of his education by using it practically in the fields and getting positive results. A leader by nature, he got elected to the post of *Sarpanch* of his native village at the young age of twenty four and served on this post for eleven years. Then in 1982, he migrated to Malpara village and became the trustee of the Lokshala and at present is serving as the head of this institution.

He has been guiding the people in the field of organic farming for more than a decade and a half now. His efforts were acknowledged when he was awarded by the Bhavnagar Snaktak Mitra Mandal with the '*Dhartiputra Award*' in 1993, which was followed numerous other awards at different points of time. He has also published many articles about organic farming in many dailies, magazines and some have even been published in books. Another preferred mode of awareness generation for him is organising seminars and workshops in his orchard, which also gives the participants a first hand account of what he talks about. In all his works, he is ably supported by his wife, Smt. Godavariben, who apart from farming is interested in food processing and making different varieties of food and also teaches the same to others.

All the experiments done and taught by him have not only remained just experiments but have very

well been adapted by the farming community in and around Bhavnagar.

## Herbal healer

71

### **Shri Hemaji Lalaji Talar**

At Jitpur (Navi vasahat),  
Po Ambaliya, via Modasa,  
Taluka: Malpur  
Sabarkantha- 383 345  
Gujarat  
Phone: 9428963415

Shri Hemaji Lalaji Talar is a seventy years old illiterate man with vast experience and knowledge. He owns a bigha of land where he cultivates crops like groundnut, cotton, paddy, and various pulses.

In more than three dozen villages around his, he is well known as a '*pashu and manav vaidya*'. Unlike many others he does not offer his services for free but charges a nominal ten rupees for his patients. In humans he treats ailments like kidney stone, asthma, tuberculosis, toothache, ear ache, arthritis, malaria, diarrhea, hair fall, lice in hair, cracks in feet, body pain, etc. For animals his treatments include for the diseases like foot and mouth disease, prolapse of uterus, retention of placenta, bringing animal to heat, sprain, poisonous animal bite, wound healing, maggot wounds, tapeworm infestation, constipation, bloat, etc. He claims to have treated over two thousand of animals and human cases till date.

He dabbles in agriculture too and has made herbal formulations for pest control, leaf curl disease, etc. He is a multi faceted person and knows carentery too and can also do rainfall predictions.

## Inspiring teacher and innovator

72

### **Shri Hasmukhbhai K. Parmar**

At & Po Idar, 51, Laxminarayan Society,  
Tal. Idar,  
Sabarkantha  
Gujarat  
Phone: 9428964813

Thirty nine years old Shri Hasmukhbhai Parmar has had his formal education up to graduation. Presently, he is employed in a school as a teacher. His interest in science has been since his childhood and something, which has only increased with age. He is a very thoughtful and helpful guide to his students. Drawing inspiration from him, his students are motivated to participate in various science fairs and exhibitions, where his support in conceptualizing the experimental setup and setting it up is praiseworthy.

Apart from his interest in teaching, he is also an innovator and has come up with a very interesting design of a *chulha* with four burners so that four different things can be cooked at the same time using the same amount of fuel.

## Herbal medicines and Herbal drink

73

### **Shri Kaushikbhai Upadhyay**

At & Po Amrad, via Ranavav  
Tal. Porbandar,  
Junagadh  
Gujarat  
Phone: 9879482061

Shri Kaushikbhai Udadhyay is a sixty two year old physically challenged person. His father, Shri Devrambhai was a teacher and an *ayurveda* practitioner from whom he inherited the knowledge of *ayurveda* and herbal treatment. Though he does not have any land of himself but his interest in medicine prompted him to grow *ayurvedic* herbs in the orchard of Shri. Hamirbhai. He has many herbal formulations and cures various diseases like dysentery, rheumatoid arthritis, fever, cancer, blood pressure, diabetes, etc and does not charge any fees. He is famous for curing heart/blood pressure related problems and dysentery.

He has also developed an organic drink using wheat seeds, coffee senna (*Cassia occidentalis*) and seeds of an another plant. Tasting like Bournvita, this coffee like drink has no side effects. He has also developed an herbal hair conditioner. Shrikant Ayurvedic Hospital, Keshod and Arogya Raksha Parivar Trust honored him in 2007 for his herbal exploits.

## Herbal Healer

74

### **Shri Fatabhai Bhurabhai Maliwad**

At Kadishelo Po Bhadran  
Tal. Khanpur  
Panchmahal  
Gujarat

Shri Fatabhai is seventy five years old and has spent all his life in serving ailing animals and humans. He cures various human diseases like cough, body pain, kidney stone, asthma, breathlessness, tuberculosis, etc without charging any money. People from at least a dozen nearby villages come to him for medications.

With a desire to serve the society in a better manner, Shri Fatabhai also shares his knowledge with anybody who is interested in learning it for the public good.

## Mehndi

75

### **Smt. Smita Shah**

8, Shri Parshva Apartment, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Shri Rang Society  
Fateh Nagar, Paldi  
Ahmedabad 380007

Fifty four year old Smt Smita Shah has started her own small scale setup to promote her *mehndi*, which she has made from vermilion, jaggery and wheat flour. This is quite different from the *mehndi* prepared from plants in terms of results. In normal *mehndi*, it takes many hours to show rich colour and once the colour is there, it gradually becomes black with time. In Smt. Shah's *mehndi*, the colour comes within two hours and does not turn black.

The same *mehndi* can also be used on hair. On the hair its effect is good and it makes the hair soft and prevents hair fall too. She has earned quite a reputation for herself for making this product and has trained numerous women too who, in their respective places, have started doing their own work.

## Herbal Healer

76

### **Smt. Yamunaben Vavjibhai Chauhan**

At Samgahan, Gutiyamahar,  
Ahawa, Dang  
Gujarat

Smt. Yamunaben is a forty five years old widow. She lost her husband to alcoholism. While he was alive she donated her land for building school. Abandoned by her only son, to earn for her living, she started learning and practicing medicine using herbs, something she had interest about but could not develop earlier. She has been practicing for the last ten years and has been learning through experience. Her patients include people from her village and around.

Yamunaben specializes in treating women gynecological problems like problems during pregnancy, menstrual problems and problems related to infertility though she also takes care of some animal diseases. As there is no primary health care centre in nearby ten villages, people generally call her during emergencies.

## Maths and Fund !!!

77

### **Prof A. R. Rao**

D-7, Shreyash Appt  
Shreyash Tekara,  
Ahmedabad  
Gujarat

Prof A. R. Rao, an eminent mathematician, who turned hundred on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, is a teacher par excellence. Despite his age, his desire and enthusiasm to share all that he has learned in his life is extremely praise worthy. He has established his mathematics laboratory in Vikram Sarabhai Community Centre, where he takes classes every day. Every body is invited who shares a passion for the subject. His class is a mix of young and old alike. It is his skill that has made the subject interesting for even those people who once used to run away from it.

Age has had some effect on his hearing and he is not able to understand his student's queries. The students write their questions on a slate, Prof Rao reads it and replies accordingly. He says it is enough for the teacher to understand what a pupil wants; reading or listening does not matter. Every Saturday his home becomes a classroom when he takes classes for Projective Geometry, where all are invited. His son mentions that though his father is old, he is full of energy; mere mention of mathematics puts a lot of energy in him and he becomes ready for a discourse.

## Herbal Healer

78

### **Shri Ananda Kumar**

Sivamayam  
13/75. School Street  
Village Agastheeswaram  
Kanniyakumari  
Tamil Nadu

Shri Ananda Kumar (42) is an employee in an agricultural farm attached with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. He has only studied till class eleventh. He has been an active Honey Bee Network member and has contributed immensely by documenting more than 200 practices in his region.

He also worked among the Kaani tribals and documented many of their practices and identified important medicinal plants used by them. He has also developed a medicinal plant garden in Pechi parai village in a forest area. He is regularly publishing articles in Tamil journals on the uses of different medicinal plants also.

*Source: SEVA, Madurai*

## Organic farming and Soil conservation practices 79

### **Shri Nandakumar,**

Kondegoundanpalayam,  
Pollachi taluk,  
Erode district.  
Tamil Nadu.

Shri Nandakumar is an innovative farmer owning twenty-five acres of land. In his dry land, he is practicing unique water harvesting through digging of farm ponds, raising many indigenous trees species in the black cotton soil area, practicing organic farming and coconut plantations.

He has also been maintaining traditional varieties of Sorghum, *Naripayaru*, field beans and horse gram. He also prepares herbal pesticidal formulations for the various crops himself so cut down the recurring costs. Because of his initiatives and experiments, he has become a well known personality and a role model for others in and around the area.

Shri Nandakumar has been associated with the Honey Bee Network for over twelve years now. He has been hosting network meetings in his farm and has been instrumental in motivating people and bringing them in fold.

*Source: SEVA, Madurai*

### **Shri Soorappa Naicker**

Koil Natham, Thamarai Karai Post,  
Burgur Via,  
Anthiyur Block,  
Bhavani Taluk, Erode District.  
Tamil Nadu

Soorappa Naicker is an expert herbal healer specializing in medicines for the animals. He studied only up to the primary level and learned the herbal practices from his grandfather, who had very good knowledge of these.

He is famous in the entire area because of animal healing skills. The major diseases he gives medicines for are diarrhea in calves, ectoparasites, boils, swellings, oozing of puss from earlobes, black quarter disease etc.

*Source: SEVA, Madurai*

# Profile of Innovators

## SRISTI Samman Award 2007



SRISTI



Honey Bee Network

**SRISTI**

**Society for Research & Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies & Institutions**

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