

Honey Bee



Vol 19(4) October - December 2008

Just For Ourselves?



A Voice of Creative Grassroots Innovators and Traditional Knowledge Holders

Contents



Ravjibhai Savaliya: A 'Dropout' Innovator 4



Sixth Traditional Food Festival - Satvik 08 7



Manihar Sharma : A man who would go to sun 9



Tapping the Creativity of Children 11



Tradition to Future 15



Let no Water Come in the Way: Traveling the Amphibian Way 16

Honey Bee Hums

Gujarati	18
Tamil	19
News and Views	21
Dialogue	22

Just For Ourselves?

Ushinara, king of Shibi faced a dilemma. A dove came to him and begged to grant him protection. When the king promised to protect him, a hawk, who was pursuing the dove, asked, "What will I eat then?" The king told the hawk to eat any other dove but this one. The hawk argued that it was unfair – why should other doves be sacrificed so that the king could keep his promise to his dove. The king then requested the hawk to eat any other bird or beast. The hawk argued that it was again unfair – why should other birds and beasts be sacrificed so that the king could keep his promise to his dove. *What did the king do? What else could he do?*

Why should we, the human beings, make a trade-off between our interests and that of other human beings? Would the world be worth living if the other non-human beings disappear one after another? May be we can imagine what the King said, but will we reflect on his answer too?

Tendency to consider the rights of various birds, insects, trees and even natural lakes having numerous unique micro organisms, as dispensable became very dominant with increasing urbanization. Unless children begin to assimilate the consciousness that pervades among all living beings and their habitats, it is difficult to hope for a significant change. But this consciousness can emerge and hopefully will.

Source: <http://www.articlearchives.com/1705334-1.html>

Editor

Anil K Gupta

Editorial Advisers

Riya Sinha, Vijaya Sherry Chand

Associate Editor

Shalini Sharma

Editorial Support Team

Kirit K Patel, Jyoti Capoor, Hema Patel, Ramesh Patel, Mahesh Patel, Deepa Moni Gogoi Tripathi, Vipin Kumar, Nitin Maurya, Vivek Kumar, Rakesh Kumar Maheshwari, Anamika Dey, Ravikumar, Nirmal Sahay

Graphics and Design

Unnikrishnan, Shailendra Goraiya

Cover Design

Pravin Mishra

Illustration

Palash Graphics

Administrative Team

R P S Yadav, R Baskaran, Bhoomi Shah, Daksha Makwana, Devshi Desai

Editorial Address

Honey Bee, C/o Prof Anil K Gupta
Indian Institute of Management
Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380015, Gujarat, India
Phone: 91-79-66324927; Fax: 91-79-26307341

Email: honeybee@sristi.org <http://www.sristi.org>



Honey Bee Regional Newsletter

Aama Akha Pakha (Oriya)
Dr Balaram Sahu
Keshari Enclave, B- Block, Flat No-401
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-12
Orissa
balaram_sahu@hotmail.com

Hittalagida (Kannada)
Dr T N Prakash
Coordinator, HB Network
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Agricultural Science,
GKVK, Bangalore - 560065
Karnataka
prakashtnk@yahoo.com

Ini Karshakan Samsarikatte (Malayalam)
Fr Hubby Mathew & T J James
Peermade Development Society
Peermade, Idduki - 685531, Kerala
pedes@peermade.com

Loksarvani (Gujarati) and
Sujh-Bujh Aas Paas ki (Hindi)
SRISTI, P O Box No. 15050
Ambawadi, Ahmedabad - 380015
Gujarat
loksarvani@sristi.org

Num Vali Velanmai (Tamil)
Mr P Vivekanandan
45, T P M Nagar,
Virattipathu,
Madurai - 625010, Tamil Nadu.
vivekseva@dataone.in

Palle Srujana (Telugu)
Brig Pogula Ganesham VSM (Retd)
C/o Ms. Aruna Ganesham
102, Vayupuri, Sainikpuri Post
Secunderabad - 500 094
Andhra Pradesh
ganeshpogula@hotmail.com

Encroachment, Enclosure and Economy

India has established large number of special economic zones (SEZ) and other infrastructural projects after acquiring public and/or private lands for promoting industrialization. I will not go into the larger critique of the model, in which livelihoods of the pastoralists and other people dependent on such lands, suffer adversely. It is an important issue but needs a separate discussion. I want to focus on our responsibility towards perfect strangers, i.e., unknown and unknowable. There are a lot of non-human sentient and other living beings whose interests are not articulated by various stakeholders while planning major schemes for infrastructure and economic development.

Every SEZ occupies hundreds of hectares and in some cases several thousand hectares. All this land was earlier either used for cultivation or grazing animals. In dry regions, most of the animals have to depend upon seasonal migration because of limited pasture availability there. Many pockets of so-called wasteland have provided means of livelihood to such pastoralists in the past. It is not surprising that some of the best dual purpose breed of cattle i.e., for milk as well as for draft purposes, are maintained in such regions. It is also true that many pastures in such regions harbour nutritious grasses and shrubs. Biodiversity of such grasses, herbs and shrubs providing feed for the animals, and shelter for other living beings, has not received much attention from either conservation institutions or from the activists, NGOs or public organizations. Otherwise, it would not have been possible that while devising the SEZ policy not even five per cent of the land in different pockets would have been allocated for the *in-situ* conservation of grasses and other biodiversity and animal breeds.

The policies for *in-situ* conservation outside the forest areas are either absent or extremely weak. Hardly four per cent area is under protected boundaries. How could biodiversity outside these areas be conserved without distributed, locally managed conservation sites? These could be very small, such as a village pond harbouring unique species or these could be hundreds of hectares of grazing lands, or even farming and inhabited areas such as blocks or districts having unique animal breeds. Many years ago, Bhutan had prohibited crossing of domestic cattle with exotic breeds in a specific area where local *mithun* breed was conserved by the local communities. We need such areas all over the country. Genetic pollution whether through introduction of exotic germplasm or other inter-specific hybrids, is a serious problem in the regions which harbour unique, endemic species.

I propose that every SEZ should be required to allocate such an area for *in-situ* conservation. Some part of it may be allocated for *ex-situ* conservation of local diversity that is going to disappear after the industrial plants and related infrastructure come up. We should also ensure that local communities living

around the SEZ have access to these conservation sites. While SEZ owners and managers might find such a request as an encroachment on their privileges [since this was not the requirement while sanctioning projects], however, in the interest of conservation, National Biodiversity Authority ought to take a view in the matter and issue guidelines. So far, NBA has had limited impact, if any on the conservation agenda of local communities. But it is never too late to start an action in the right direction. All infrastructure projects attracting billions of dollars of investment from within and outside the country must make allocations for conservation. Even a highway project must provide for roadside conservatories of various kinds of terrestrial or aquatic species. In many parts of the country, because of lack of cross drainage, the land use patterns have changed and the local biodiversity has been affected adversely apart from similar consequence for agriculture.

While *in-situ* biodiversity conservation in rural areas deserves attention, similar efforts in urban areas are of no less consequence. Every public institution must be persuaded to provide some space for such purpose. It is a pity that while we have reasonably outstanding *ex-situ* gene bank, our contribution towards *in-situ* conservation in agricultural sector or non-agricultural, non-forestry sector has been negligible if not completely absent.

Large numbers of old trees are uprooted while designing infrastructure development projects. There is no policy to design future development around trees beyond 100 years. Likewise, water bodies are being filled up everyday in our hunger for land without realizing the role these bodies play in ecological viability of the adjoining eco systems. It is almost like choking the lungs of various settlements.

King Ushinara was not sure whether he had the right to sacrifice other lives to protect the dove who sought his protection. Are the rulers today behaving likewise? In order to protect their own interests, they are sacrificing the right to exist for large number of other species. If development process continues in this manner, the constituency of perfect strangers – the birds, the insects, and the other animals, whether domesticated or otherwise and the biodiversity rights of unborn human and non-human species – will suffer silently.

Nature does not forgive easily. Whether it is climate change or global warming, the consequences of our action will have to be faced sooner than later. I hope that readers will organize themselves in local conservation communities to ensure that we speak and act for the nature conservation before it is too late.



Anil K Gupta

Igniting Young Minds and Parents

Namitha Deepak
ndind@lycos.com

I appreciate the National Innovation Foundation for having school children on their radar. I just feel that kids should be allowed to be kids. I don't think there can be a better substitute for a parent/guardian knowing the capabilities of the child, and that's the reason I say that the NIF must involve parents also in such a nationwide campaign.

It would be wonderful for the NIF to explore additional non-competitive ways to do the same things you want to do, and give everyone a level playing field. And perhaps if you have some program for parents to understand how to be better parents and gently nudge on their children to be more creative – you will have me as a participant for sure!

(Many many thanks for such a thoughtful response. Parents and teachers mainly seemed to us to be the part of the problem. They make models for kids, they try to use children to fulfill their own ambitions and often stifle the creativity of their children. We therefore thought of keeping them out of the way by announcing separate prizes for them.)

So far as competitive spirit is concerned, I understand and empathize with what you say. We will have to word it in a way that we can say that while some ideas might find better application than others, but every idea would matter: Ed.)

First Contact

Manuel Karg
manuel.karg@googlemail.com

I read an article in a German magazine about your project in India. And I'm fascinated. I believe that ideas like yours can make our life better. The way of life in the western part of the world is not the best. I'm a German student of International Economics in Ingolstadt, Bavaria. As I read the article about the Honey Bee project, I had the feeling that I want to support this great Idea. Maybe we can find a way to push your idea in western countries. This could help the whole world, even if many big companies would say, it's a danger for their business. I think it is one of the biggest chances for the whole world. In my opinion, I think small fields are not the problem, but the inefficiency in the agriculture is.

(We always look forward to engage young people in our mission. Your idealism should not be dissipated: Ed.)

Winning with Honey Bee Ideas

Olivia
olivia@comberti.com

I recently learned of your organization, Honeybee Network, whilst taking part in the Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) 2008 sustainable design competition (Sandals project).

The methods that you use to generate new innovations, by discovering them first-hand, the issues faced by your potential users inspired me greatly. For the competition my team and I designed grey water recycling wash basin, inspired by the brief to create a sustainable, globally inclusive product that could improve the lives of residents of a village in the south of India. We were awarded joint first prize for the competition and made honorary fellows of the RSA.

(I am very happy to hear about your award and the Honey Bee Network connection to it. Congratulations: Ed)

Award for Emerging Innovative India

Vijaysree
v.vijaysree@gmail.com

I am a Boston-based science journalist. Recently, I did a story for the Christian Science Monitor which was picked up as one of the best science stories of the day by the Knight Science Journalism Tracker. The work you do is very significant. I would like to highlight the work of indigenous innovators from India in the print media.

(The mission of Honey Bee Network is to demonstrate that knowledge rich economically poor people can and will

solve many problems without outside help. There is so much discussion on bottom of pyramid but obviously these innovators are not at the bottom of knowledge or innovation pyramid. They might be at the bottom of economic pyramid. While I do appreciate a few innovations developed at MIT but then what we have is a very large variety and number, Neil Gerhsensfeld, director, CBA at MIT can tell you more about some of these ideas: Ed.)

IP Upliftment

Shruti
shruti@aii.amity.edu

I would like to congratulate you people for the efforts and pains you are taking for the IP Upliftment of those who really need and deserve. I am of the opinion that if we have gained so much from the wealth of our country, we must pay back to the society to further develop that. I would like to extend my services towards that goal. I am a Patent agent by profession and currently associated with Amity University as IP Manager.

(So nice to hear from you. We do need massive help from IPR attorneys. We would appreciate any initiative that you wish to take in your individual capacity, such as mobilizing students to help in scouting innovators, in and around Delhi: Ed.)

Creative Learning

Vijoy Prakash
Principal Secretary,
Dept of Co-operation, SC, ST, BC & EBC Welfare, Bihar,
vijoyprakash@gmail.com

I was really impressed by your conviction of identifying, documenting and patenting. In fact one of the serious problems of our society lies in the non recognition of the fact that knowledge is generated in all sections of society and is not confined to the upper strata of society

only or in urban centers. It would really be great if we can establish that every person is creative and is potential source for creation of knowledge. It would be a great empowerment process particularly for the underprivileged sections of society whose knowledge has not so far been recognized. It would also help us in injecting a better intellectual life to rural areas.

(I do share your concern that the traditional knowledge of the society should be properly recognized and documented. We should all collaborate to see that this documentation is done properly, swiftly and with accountability towards knowledge providers. Ed.)

Promoting Environmental Stewardship

Lipps, Andrea
LippsA@si.edu

I am writing on from the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, where we are preparing for our upcoming 2010 Design Triennial, Why Design Now? As part of our effort to gather the most innovative design projects since 2007 that are addressing human and environmental problems, we have been contacting prominent people, such as you, who have been tackling these critical issues. We are curious to know about people at a grassroots level, developing new methodologies and solutions that promote environmental stewardship, prosperity, and health.

(I am very happy to hear about your initiative and Honey Bee Network will be very happy to cooperate because we have perhaps the world's largest database of grassroots green innovations developed by local communities, individuals without any professional degrees or often any support from formal agencies.

We have a large number of grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge examples given at www.sristi.org and www.nifindia.org. Like that, there are many other examples where grassroots innovations have found applications in various countries including USA: Ed.)

Creating Knowledge Networks

Shekhar Kolipaka
shekhar_k_s@yahoo.com

I am working on a project that aims to create knowledge networks between people involved in various zoos working on animal breeding projects. The goal is to create a network where by people

in South Asia Zoos can interact with people working in European Zoos and exchange information. It was very interesting to know that your organization has attempted to create one such knowledge network and I wish to know a few things related to this attempt.

(We have induced people mainly by sharing strength of one with other, appreciating unique contributions, keeping transparency; nobody should ever get a feeling of having been used or taken advantage of. It is always useful to build upon others' ideas and some times give them credit for the ideas which you might have triggered but they actually gave shape to: Ed.)

Harnessing Students' Energy

Deepa Lakshmi
deepa235@gmail.com

I am final year MBA student at NITT. Clubs like Rotaract/NSS/Leo etc can help in creating awareness and having a larger reach. By creating awareness and educating college students who are already volunteers of NGOs/clubs and those who are in noble professions like Medicine & Social, can work for National Innovation Foundation, helping in deploying the organization's mission and purpose at a larger scale.

(I greatly appreciate your suggestions and I agree that many of these must be tried. Do you think you can volunteer for experimenting with some of these ideas?: Ed.)

Disseminating Agricultural Opportunity

Liz Gilbert
gilbert@phww.org

I was very interested to learn about your agricultural publication, Honey Bee. I work for a small non profit based in Portland, Oregon called

Progressive Health Worldwide. I would love to connect with you and would like to get more people involved in the field as well.

(You may also study the Honey Bee database online for getting lot of ideas based on farmers' innovations for use in your project, see sristi.org and also nifindia.org: Ed.)

Volunteering Spirit

Hemant Patel
hemant.iit@gmail.com:

I have done masters from IIT Kanpur in mechanical engineering and I am presently working as manager in Pipavav Shipyard Ltd. I visited honeybee network and associated sites like gian, indiainnovates etc. The effort honeybee and associated organizations are putting in is a great step. I also want to be part of the movement to bring small innovation to broader platform.

(Most welcome to Honey Bee Network, you can contribute in many ways. You can help in product design, give feedback on various technologies, use your social network and connect innovators with entrepreneurs and if nothing else, mobilize subscriptions for honey bee, sujh bhuj and lok sarvani magazines. Please do let us know how you wish to help in spreading grassroots innovation movement. Volunteers are the soul and spirit of this network: Ed.)

Thanks to our Readers

We appreciate all our readers and patrons for encouraging us. Thank you Arthur Schmitt from Helen Hamlyn Centre, London, Parna Mukherjee, Law Faculty, Nirma University, Rejish Koruthi from Electrosteel Group, Barbara Soalheiro from Colors Magazine, Pramod Parajuli from Prescott College, Kollery Karthikeyan, Bangalore, H Vanlalhruaia, Univ of Hyderabad, Priyanka Tandon and others who wrote to us.

IGNITE 2009 has begun.....

SRISTI YuvaYantri Award/Young Technologist Award

School children may send their ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices to ignite09@nifindia.org

Technology students (B Tech/B Sc, M Tech, Ph D) can send their outstanding ideas, innovations and projects, full or summary, ideas and innovations to innovation09@sristi.org, innovationsristi09@gmail.com



Subscription Rates for *Honey Bee*

Category	South Asia* (Indian Rs)	International (US \$)
Annual		
Individual	150	20
Supporter	500	50
Institution/Library	2,500	200
Life (15 Years)		
Individual	1,500	250
Institution/Library	10,000	800
Other Publications		
Spirit of Sustainability	50	10
Nature Heals	150	20
Profiles of Innovators	175	25
Back Issues of Honey Bee (1990-2007)		
Hard Copies (Postage Extra)	1,500 Individual	50
	5,000 Institution	200
CD	250 Individual	20
	1,000 Institution	60

*includes: India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Please send your contributions through bank draft/cheque in favour of A/c **Sristi Innovations** at the editorial address: c/o Prof. Anil K Gupta, Editor, *Honey Bee*, Indian Institute of Management, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380 015, India. Phone:91-79-66324927;Fax: 91-79-26307341. Email: honeybee@sristi.org. You can also subscribe HB through Pay Pal facility: http://www.sristi.org/cms/membership_information

Registered Newspaper

Regd no : 62082/q5
ISSN no : 0971-6624

Book Post

If undelivered please return to

Prof. Anil Gupta

Editor, Honey Bee

Indian Institute of Management

Vastrapur, Ahmedabad 380 015, India



Advertisement Rates for *Honey Bee*

Half Page Back Cover	Rs 10,000
Quarter Page Back Cover	Rs 5,000
Inside Full Page	Rs 8,000
Inside Half Page	Rs 4,000
Inside Quarter Page	Rs 3,000