



**Pilot Project to Promote Organic  
Consumption in the State of Rajasthan  
(ProOrganic)**

# **Exposure Visit**



**March 20-23, 2017  
Sikkim, Gangtok**

<http://www.cuts-international.org/cart/proorganic/>

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## 1. Sikkim: An Overview

Situated in the Eastern Himalayas, the beautiful State of Sikkim is situated between the kingdom of Nepal in the West and Bhutan in the East, Tibet in the North and the State of West Bengal in the South. Sikkim is India's least populous state, with 610,577 inhabitants according to the 2011 census. Sikkim is also one of the least densely populated Indian states, with only 86 persons per square kilometre. The sex ratio is 889 females per 1,000 males, with a total of 321,661 males and 286,027 females recorded in 2011. The futuristic vision of Chief Minister of Sikkim Pawan Chamling, Sikkim's contributions to the nation by converting the State to fully organic initiated a new era in the history of organic agricultural movement in the country. Organic agricultural movement, so far spearheaded by the innovative farmers and civil society organisations entered policy planning process.

Pawan Chamling made a historic declaration by announcing a policy to transform Sikkim into totally organic State by passing a resolution in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in the year 2003. With this, Sikkim became the **First** State in the country to enact such a far sighted and visionary policy.

Sikkim is the first State of India to officially announce adoption of organic farming in the year 2003, and the only Indian State to convert entire State into organic. In view of long term sustenance of soil fertility, protection of environment and ecology, healthy living and decreasing the risk of health ailments and many other indirect benefits the decision for adoption of organic farming has been welcomed by all. Currently, Sikkim is recognised as an organic State not only in the country but also at international level.

## 2. Agricultural Scenario of Sikkim

The land of Sikkim is rich in biodiversity having abundant plant species because of which the soil is rich in organic matter and makes the consumption easier. The fragile ecosystem in Sikkim hills demand sustainable farming practices without depletion of natural resources. The State produces varieties of crops due to varied agro-climatic zones-Tropical Zone, Sub Tropical Zone, Temperature Zone, and Alpine Zone. The main agriculture land falls in Tropical, Subtropical and Temperate Zones.

The total geographical area of the State is 7,29,900 hectares out of which farming is conducted in about 10.20 percent area (74,303 hectare) only where the farming activities take place and rest of the area includes forest cover, permanent pastures, cultural waste, barren and uncultivable, land put to non-agricultural usage, various trees growing on the land and groves etc.

The main crops are maize, rice, buckwheat among cereals, urad and beans among pulses, soybean and mustard among oilseeds. The main horticultural crops are orange and pear among fruits; ginger, cardamom, turmeric and cherry pepper among spice crops; and peas and bean, tomato, potato among vegetable crops.

### 3. Sikkim Organic Mission

To implement the programmes of organic farming in a mission mode Sikkim Organic Mission was launched on August 15, 2010. The process of Internal Control System development and certification is in progress as per target and by 2015 the entire State shall be certified as organic (ICS). A working policy was framed in 2004 to start implementation of the programmes of organic farming which includes agriculture related activities only. Animal husbandry is an integral part of agriculture and cow dung is the primary source of plant nutrients in organic system of farming. Therefore, obviously the dung used as manure should be free of chemical residues.

Sikkim Organic Mission (SOM) cell has prepared a simple action-oriented State Policy Organic farming, which may help all the stakeholders of organic farming in their endeavour to make Sikkim a total organic state of India. The major policy vision and mission of SOM are:

- To prepare a clear cut road map of organic farming
- To implement the programmes of organic farming with a systematic approach to achieve the target set by Government
- To develop and explore markets of organic commodities
- To develop linkages between the organic farmers and the market with intervention of certification agencies so as to continue the policy permanently
- To make farming profitable, sustainable and environmental acceptable etc.

### 4. How Sikkim became an Organic State

The major reason of Sikkim became organic State was strong political will and the consistency of their Chief Minister as well. Earlier, the certification process was too lengthy and tough but due to the political will came it became much easy to certify them. On account of certain principles of organic farm, Sikkim became 100 percent organic state. These are:

1. **Health:** Organic agriculture sustaining and enhancing the health of soil, plants, animals, human beings and the planet, as a whole.
2. **Ecology:** Organic agriculture being based on living ecological systems and cycles, working with them and helping in sustaining the same.
3. **Fairness:** Organic agriculture should be built on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.
4. **Care:** Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generation and the environment.

The practices of organic farming are based on the following principles:

- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Disease Management
- Water Management

## **Reasons for Adoption of Organic Farming in Sikkim**

- Farming during rains has low productivity
- Sikkim farmers are traditionally organic
- The soil is rich in organic matter
- Very low consumption of chemical fertilisers and pesticides
- About 15,000 Hectare area under cardamom where fertilisers have never been used
- Tourism spin off-To promote tourism through organic village concept only 10.20 percent of the total geographical area of the State is under agriculture and 89.80 percent of the area has been untouched and therefore free from chemical adversities.

Besides this the strategy, which was used by Sikkim Government was to adopt **Internal Control Development (ICS)**, which is a process to be undertaken by Service providers in field prior to inspection and certification. It is a step by step process showed as following:

- Village meetings and awareness programmes
- Baseline surveys
- Identification of clusters
- Registration of farmers and agreement
- Farmers' diary maintenance
- Global Positioning System (GPS) data recording of each them
- Farmer's meetings and orientation programmes
- Internal inspection
- External audit by certification agency
- Issue of scope certificate by certification agreement

## **5. Objective of the Exposure Visit**

The main purpose was to understand how Sikkim becomes 100% organic state and what strategy they adopted for this. Also to get exposure of various working patterns adopted by farmers of Sikkim, whose efforts made Sikkim, the first Indian state to be 100 percent organic state. The exposure visit to Sikkim was organised for the project team members comprising George Cheriyan, Director; Deepak Saxena, Assistant Director; Dharmendra Chatturvedi, Programme Officer; Rajdeep Pareek, Project Officer; Renu Beniwal, Assistant Programme Officer; and Nimisha Gaur, Project Officer from CUTS CART respectively and Madan Lal Keer, Project Coordinator from CUTS CHD and O P Pareek (a district partner in the 'ProOrganic' project from Dausa district of Rajasthan.

## 6. Meetings with the Officials during the Visit

### Day-One Activities

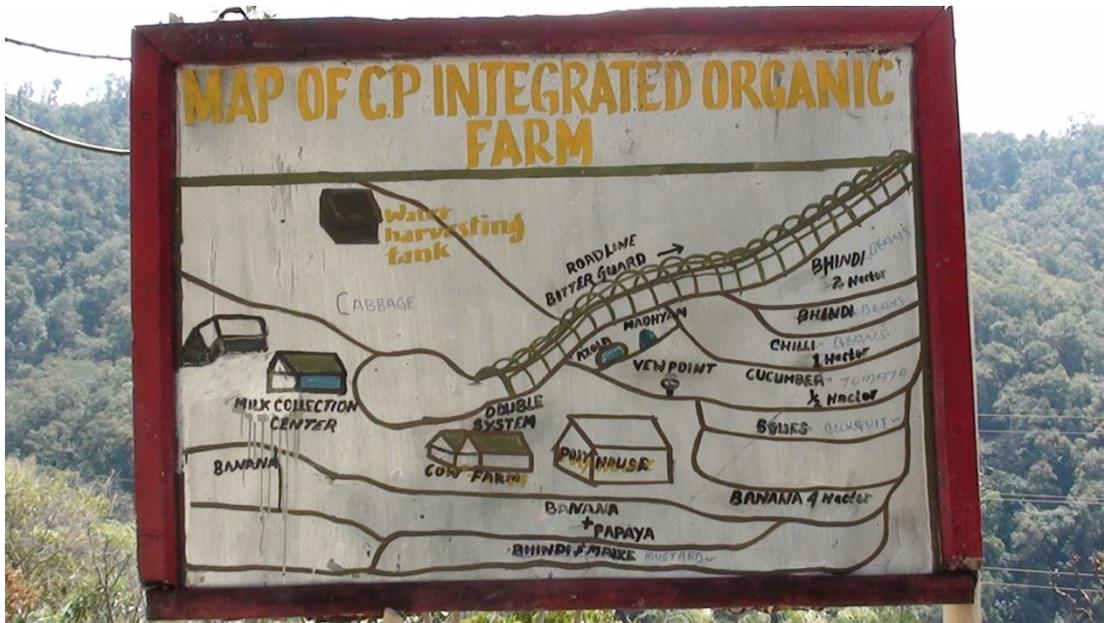
On March 21, 2017 two liaisoning officials Bikash and Subhash from Sikkim Organic Mission office were appointed to guide us for our two days exposure visit. On first day team along with the liaisoning officers visited Integrated Organic Farm at C P Bhattarai *Kameray* village located in Eastern side of Sikkim and observed vermi-compost unit, madhyam compost, low cost vermi-wash production and vegetable garden. An open discussion was also held with the progressive farmers and government officials at the farm itself.

Bhattari informed about farmer school, which is supported by *ATMA Yojna* (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) where training programme is being conducted to teach and inform the farmers and nearby localitiy people about the cultivation and production of organic farming. The faculty who teaches there is from the State Horticulture Department and around 25 members are part of the event there.



In the end, Bhattari explained about the **integrated organic farm model** i.e. entire organic farm management system, which aims to deliver more sustainable agriculture. It is a dynamic approach. This approach can be applied to any farming system around the world. It involves attention to detail and continuous improvement in all areas of a farming business through informed management processes. Integrated farming combines the best of modern tools and technologies with traditional practices, according to a given site and situation. The same model is also being used at *Kameray* village of Sikkim for cultivating many crops like, cabbage, bitter guard, papaya, banana, tomato, cherry pepper, turmeric, ginger etc.

## Integrated Organic Farm Model



Another important discussion was held with the farm owner of *Kameray* village about the *ajolla* (native water plant), which has been used in agriculture. *Azolla* is one of the waterborne blue green algae or fern, which is mainly used as organic fertiliser in rice field in many parts of world. Besides, *azolla* has micro leaves, fibrous roots as body parts and these small reduced leaves appear greenish from above and are whitish on the inner side.



*Azolla* has abundant amount of proteins and vitamins. It consists of 25 to 35 percent proteins as well as Iron, Copper, Magnesium in better proportion than that of ordinary fodder grasses. If *azolla* is used in feed of milch animals then milk production will obviously be high. If EM solutions are used (effective micro-organisms) along with *azolla* then this will also increase milk production.

## Exposure to the Organic Farms



## Meeting with the Government Officials



Thereafter, the team visited *Krishi Bhawan* and met Dr S Anvalagan (Executive Director Sikkim Organic Mission), Khorlo Bhutia (Principal Director cum Secretary), Dr P D Lajja (Additional Executive Director) and M K Pradhan (Joint Director) and discussed about promoting organic production by the State Government. They informed that organic farming has been a traditional way of farming in Sikkim, which was adopted by farmers since ages. The total geographical area of the Sikkim State is 7, 29,900 hectares out of which 10.20 percent of area is exclusively under farming.

The reasons for making Sikkim an organic State are as following:

- The State has rich biodiversity and adequate availability of organic manure, which is the main component in the organic farming
- The soil has not absorbed much of the chemicals because of very low consumption of chemical fertilisers and pesticides
- The soil is also rich in organic matter content, which ranges from 2-7 percent organic carbon
- Sikkim farmers traditionally adopt organic modes of farming
- Out of the total land 89.80 percent of the area has been untouched and therefore it is free from chemical effects



Furthermore, Khorlo Bhutia also discussed about the marketing strategy of Sikkim, which they decided to be fixed with the identification of crops on the basis of demand. Because of the small place ecology, environmental concerns the cultivation of crops were limited and only demandable crops were cultivated here. These include ginger, turmeric, chilly, maize, rice and buck wheat.

### Day-Two Activities

On March 22, 2017, the team along with the liaisoning officers (Subhash and Bikash) visited *Shimkharka* village of South Sikkim and observed the agriculture farm of Tulsi. The details of the concerned persons met during the visit are:

- Enchang Bhutia, Horticulture Development Officer
- Tulsi Rai, Owner of Nursery at *Simkharka* village
- Badripradhan, Horticulture Inspector
- Kalpana, Field Officer, Morarka
- Phurba Sherpa Lhamu, Block Technical Manager

In addition, the team also visited the nursery, flower garden and vermi compost unit. The owner of nursery garden shared his experiences with the visiting team and informed them that he is fully involved in cultivation of large cardamom and ginger. He mentioned that he uses vermin-compost and cattle urine in cultivation and flower garden. Rai also informed about the women participation in agriculture, which was nearly equal to men and they were offered ₹300 as wages. Morarka Foundation has also been working there for promoting organic farming and production.



Team also visited to The Temi Tea Garden in Ravangla, established in 1969 by the Government of Sikkim, located in South Sikkim in the northeastern Indian state of Sikkim. It is the only tea garden in Sikkim and considered one of the best in India and in the world.



## 7. Key Learnings

- The participants became aware of the marketing strategy of farmers of Sikkim that contributed in making Sikkim – an organic State.
- Consistency in Sikkim’s people on the part of the State Government and rigorous follow-up and re-visit of policies by the government officials, and support from farmers and localities of Sikkim.
- Support of departments other than agriculture, which contributed in making Sikkim 100 percent organic State.
- The most advantageous feature of Sikkim is women actively working in the State and rendering their maximum contribution/involvement in agricultural fields
- Healthy environmental concept.
- Farmers’ education level and awareness regarding organic farming was recorded on the higher side, which helped them to adopt the organic farming.
- Support, dedication and devotion of farmers with 100 percent cooperation regarding organic farming and their immense level of honesty.
- Fine and charges levied for entering any chemical fertilisers and pesticides from other states into Sikkim was one of the causes that turned Sikkim into an organic State.

## 8. Media Coverage

### जैविक राज्य बनाने की दिशा में कट्स का प्रयास

एग्रो रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

सिक्किम की तर्ज पर राजस्थान को जैविक राज्य बनाने के लिए कंज्यूमर यूनिटी एंड ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) की ओर से 6 जिलों में प्रोओर्गेनिक परियोजना पिछले 3 वर्षों से चल जा रही है। इस परियोजना के तहत 6 जिलों जयपुर, चित्तौड़गढ़, प्रतापगढ़ में जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किसानों और विभिन्न गतिविधियों को जागरूक किया जा रहा है। इसे 10 जिलों तक

### सिक्किम की तर्ज पर राजस्थान को प्रोओर्गेनिक बनाने के प्रयास

#### इस साल जैविक खेती से 10 जिलों को जोड़ने का प्रयास

वाणिज्य संवाददाता

जयपुर। सिक्किम की तर्ज पर राजस्थान को कुछ सालों में ही फ्रीसदी जैविक राज्य बनाने के लिए कंज्यूमर यूनिटी एंड ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) द्वारा जैविक खेती और उसके उपभोग को बढ़ावा देने की पहल जोर-शोर से शुरू कर दी गई है। इस पहल के दौरान इस साल राज्य में करीब 10 जिलों में इस खेती को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा। जबकि राज्य के छह जिलों में जयपुर,



किसान सी.पी. भट्टाराय और शिम्बरका गांव में तुलसी राम किसान के अध्यक्ष के साथ सिक्किम की तर्ज पर राजस्थान को जैविक राज्य बनाने के प्रयास के दौरान।

मुख्य सचिव खोरलो न. कार्यकारी निदेशक एवं सहायक निदेशक ने मुलाकात की और नीतियों के बारे में

### राजस्थान को जैविक राज्य बनाने के लिए 'कट्स' का सिक्किम दौरा

जयपुर कासं। सिक्किम की तरह राजस्थान को भी आने वाले वर्षों में शत प्रतिशत जैविक राज्य बनाने के लिए कंज्यूमर यूनिटी एंड ट्रस्ट सोसायटी (कट्स) द्वारा जैविक खेती व उसके उपभोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक परियोजना (प्रोओर्गेनिक) राजस्थान में छह जिलों में पिछले तीन वर्षों से संचालित की जा रही है। इसी प्रयास को आगे बढ़ाते हुए परियोजना दल द्वारा सिक्किम राज्य का भ्रमण 21 व 22 मार्च को किया।

परियोजना के तहत छह जिलों, जयपुर, दौसा, कोटा, चित्तौड़गढ़, प्रतापगढ़ एवं उदयपुर में जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किसानों एवं उपभोक्ताओं को विभिन्न गतिविधियों के माध्यम से जागरूक किया जा रहा है। परियोजना को 2017 में छह जिलों से दस जिलों में बढ़ाया जा रहा है। 21 मार्च को दल ने सिक्किम के कामराय गांव में किसान सी.पी. भट्टाराय के जैविक फार्म का भ्रमण कर वर्मी कम्पोस्ट, माध्यम कम्पोस्ट, वर्मी वाश के बारे में जानकारी

प्राप्त की। इसके बाद परियोजना दल ने सिक्किम के कार्यकारी निदेशक डॉ. एस. अनवल्गन से मुलाकात कर वहां की कृषि नीतियों के बारे में जानकारी ली। वहां के प्रमुख सचिव खोरलो भूटिया ने बताया कि सिक्किम को प्रदूषण रहित एवं साफ सुथरा बनाने के मिशन के अन्तर्गत जैविक खेती को अपनाया गया।

यह मिशन 2003 से शुरू हुआ व 2016 में सिक्किम को शत प्रतिशत जैविक राज्य घोषित किया। परियोजना दल ने सहायक कार्यकारी निदेशक पी.डी. लज्जा एवं सहायक निदेशक एन.के. प्रधान से भी मुलाकात की। 22 मार्च को परियोजना दल ने दक्षिण सिक्किम के शिम्बरका गांव में तुलसी राम किसान के खेत का भ्रमण किया। जहां वह 0.29 हेक्टेयर जमीन पर जैविक खेती कर सालाना दो लाख रुपये की आमदनी कर रहा है। उसके बाद दल ने टेमी टी गार्डन जो कि सिक्किम सरकार द्वारा अधिकृत है, का भ्रमण किया जिसमें जैविक विधि से चाय का उत्पादन किया जा रहा है।