



Radio Pard Vaanoli

Students discuss healthy soils

A Discussion on Healthy Soil and Traditional Farming by Ms. J.Jomi Abikail, Ms. P.Jeenath Begam and Ms. J.Jeevitha, Final year students of Agriculture at Tamil Nadu Agricultural College, Horticultural College and Research Centre, Periyakulam, Tamil Nadu, India

Station ID

Jeevitha: Hai Jeenath, how are you? It is long time that I see you.

Jeenath: I am alright. How are you? I am going to meet Jomi who studied with us. Would you like to come with me?

Jeevitha : Yes I am coming with you. Hai Jomi How are you?

Jomi: I am fine. How are you all?

Jeenath: What food you are going to prepare for today?

Jomi: As usual. What we can do as the vegetables are very costly in the market.

Jeenath: It is not only costly but it is also chemical mixed...

Jomi: What you say?

Jeevitha: Yes it is not only affecting the human being also the animals...

Jomi: Yes. Do you know in earlier days how the agricultural activities took place?

Jeenath: What you know about the farmer activities in earlier days?

Jomi: In earlier days, with a pair of cow agricultural activities were carried out.

Jeevitha: What you say? With one pair of cow?

Jomi: Yes. With one pair of cows. The cow dung and the urine were directly applied to the farm as fertilizer and this method got a good yielding. Soil was healthy and the plants were not affected by the insects or diseases. And our grandparents were healthy.

Jeenath: In earlier days, if they wanted to remove the weeds, they used to take a tool to remove it but now the farmers are carrying sprayer and chemical pesticides.

Jomi: Yes. The strength of the older days are not like the present one.

Jeevitha: Yes, true.

Jomi: The Chemicals applied now affects the micro organs in the soil. These micro organs were living in the soil to get nutrients for the plants.

Jeenath: Yes it is true.

Jeevitha: People now realized this and now they prepare Pancha Kaviam, Jeevamirtham and Pijamirtham. All these are prepared with the cow dung and the urine of cow. Because of this that soil is healthy.

Jeenath: What? The soil is healthy because of this? Can you tell me how these can be prepared?

Jeevitha: Pancha Kaviam is prepared with 5 kilogram of cow dung, 5 liter of urine, 2 liter of milk, 2 liter of curd, half a liter of ghee, tender coconut water, jaggry, banana. All these are mixed in a tank and covered with a gunny bag for thirty days. Every day, morning and evening, we stir with a stick in the clockwise. After thirty days, 600 ml of this solution can be mixed in 20 liter water and be applied on one acre of land. The seeds can be soaked in this solution before planting to make it stronger and amplify the germination power.

Jomi: OK Jeevitha, I am telling how to prepare Jeevamirtham. Mix in a tank 10 kg of cow dung, 10 liter of urine, 2 kg of flour and stir it with a stick in the clockwise. Micro organs necessary for the plants will grow in this solution. After seven days, the solution can be mixed with water in 1:10 ratio. Jeenath do you know anything like this?

Jeenath: Oh yes, I know green fertilizer. Do you know about green fertilizer?

Jomi: What is it?

Jeenath: There are a few varieties of plants. Seeds of these plants can be sowed in the land and let grow with they have flowers just plough the land so that the green plants will strengthen the soil. There is also a method called Plant Rotation. Have you heard about it? If we cultivate the same plant in the land, the yield will decrease and also the soil wealth will be reduced. To avoid this, if we cultivate plants in rotation basis, we can get good yielding.

Jomi: OK Jeenath. Do you know about bio fertilizer?

Jeenath: Bio Fertilizer? What's that Jomi?

Jomi: There are some nutrients in the air which the plant cannot utilize it directly. These bio fertilizer can take it and give it to the plant.

Jeevitha: Can you tell us how we can use bio fertilizer?

Jomi: Yes Jeevitha. Seed preservation can be done before planting the seeds. 10 Kg of seeds can be soaked in 200 gram of ryanolam and rice water. Then, the solution is dried in a shadow place and then planted. Before planting the seeds the land should be prepared with ploughing.

Jeenath: Ok, how can we know about the soil and its contents?

Jomi: I also hear about soil test.

Jeevitha: Soil test has to be conducted with soil sampling. With soil test, we can find out what is the nutrients level in the soil so that we can reduce spending for fertilizers. And also, soil test can reveal us what sort of fertilizer we have to apply in the soil. This will reduce our investment in farming. Soil sampling has to be taken in 12 places in a land as soil nature is different from place to place. For Soil test, a piece of soil has to be taken cut in V shape for 15 cm depth. The soil is then taken to the soil test laboratory for testing and later, we get the findings.

Jeenath: So what you want to say now?

Jomi: It is just that we have to return to our earlier days to make our soil healthy and get the yield to become us health.

ALL: Let us use Bio Fertilizer and Lead a Healthy Life with Healthy Soils.