

What can we Learn from Nature Systems

18th May 2011

Workshop 2



WHAT TO DO

- 1) **Stimulate the activity of soil organisms** with organic manures and avoid harming them with chemical pesticides.
- 2) **Use Mulch and cover crops** to prevent *soil erosion*.
- 3) Try to keep **pests and diseases at a level** which does not cause economical damage.
- 4) Focus on supporting the **health and resistance of the crop**.
- 5) **Promote beneficial insects** by offering them a habitat and food.
- 6) If pests reach critical levels, **use natural enemies and herbal preparations**.
- 7) **Grow several crops** including, trees, either as mixed cropping or in rotation

Learning from the Forests

Forest systems are well ordered space. Besides producing high quality goods and services, nature also replenishes the quality of the soil, filters the water and accommodates a rich biodiversity.

Soil and its fertility both together constitute the centre of this natural ecosystem. Trees and other plants take up nutrients from the soil and incorporate them in their biomass (leaves, branches etc.). The nutrients go back to the soil when leaves fall or plants die.

Forests host a high diversity of plant varieties of different size, root systems and requirements. Animals are also part of the system.

Pests and diseases do occur in natural ecosystems, but they rarely cause a big damage. Due to the diversity it is difficult for them to spread

We too can manage Organic Nutrient based on biodegradable material, i.e. plant and animal residues which can be decomposed. The Nutrient Cycle becomes complete with the help of :

- composting,
- mulching,
- green manuring,
- crop rotation etc.

Farm animals can play an important role in the nutrient cycle:

- their dung is of high value and its use allows to recycle nutrient provided with the fodder.
- If carefully managed, losses of nutrients due to leaching, soil erosion and gasification can be reduced to the minimum.

**ARE YOU FARMING IN A
HIGH NATURE VALUE ENVIRONMENT?**

KNOW YOUR HNV INDEX NUMBER

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES
IN THE NORTHERN RANGE**

**THE CROPPER FOUNDATION
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