



BIO DYNAMIC FARMING

SPIRITUAL FARMING IN INDIA

- Steiner's Bio Dynamic Farming has found fertile ground in India.
- 500 farms across the country have implemented Bio Dynamic Practices
- Principles of Bio Dynamic Farming mesh seamlessly with Vedic agricultural practices.
- Harmony of the Five Elements or the Panch Bhuta in Vedic Philosophy
 - *Vayu* or Wind
 - *Apa* or Water
 - *Agni* or Fire
 - *Prithvi* or Earth
 - *Akash* or Sky or Ether
- Farmers respond instinctively to the planting calender and cosmic rhythms and their influence on plants.

OUR JOURNEY

- Selimbong Tea Garden was one of the first in Darjeeling to be Demeter certified in 1994, followed by Putharjhora Tea Garden in the Dooars region in 2003.
- Demeter farming practices are followed in 6 gardens and 5 small farmer groups for generation of
 - Compost
 - CPP
 - Application of humus
 - Silica preparation (BD500, 501)
- Potong Tea Workers Welfare Committee - a small farmer group producing 50 tons of Darjeeling tea is under process to be "Demeter certified" in 2016.





BENEFITS

- Improves the water holding capacity of our soils, resulting in deeper rooting systems. This in turn has proved beneficial in regions that are facing severe climatic variations and top soil erosion.
- A major pest in tea - Red Spider Mite is being successfully combated by spraying the Cow Pit Pat in it's second stage.
- BD 501 (Silica) has been found effective against a fungal disease know as Blister Blight.
- Homeopathic dosages of sprays such as CPP has provided a practical solution in naturally nourishing tea gardens.

CHALLENGES

- Limited market share of Bio Dynamic certified products.
- Cost of certification.
- Cost and availability of inputs.
- Under Darjeeling conditions growing of BD flowers (e.g. Valerian and Yarrow) is very difficult.
- The farmers are sensitive towards the use of animal parts for Bio Dynamic preparations.
- Absence of technical support and availability of literature in local language.
- Absence of impact studies on Bio Dynamic practices in tea.

Thank you!

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