



Scorching summers, freezing winters, beautiful but short springs, and heavy rains – the farmers weather all seasons to sustain life. The design of this newsletter is changing seasons dedicated to our farmers.



Nabha Speaks

THE NABHA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

Combating Stubble Burning In The Region Through Paddy Straw Management

The Nabha Foundation Agriculture Program in Nabha & Mansa, Punjab

Stubble burning can have significant environmental air pollution concerns and impact human health. It is time we put an end to it by following the best agricultural practices to rejuvenate the environment, avoid health hazards, and benefit the farmers.

During the harvesting season, we educated and motivated the farmers to implement and adopt paddy straw management practices to address the burning of the paddy residue. Combine Harvesters used by the farmers in Punjab for harvesting rice results in residue accumulation in the field. The farmers do not have enough time between harvesting paddy and planting the next crop and they end up burning the paddy residue. The time constraint and the labor-intensive nature of removing the rice straw have led to the mechanisation of harvesting, which has, in turn, aggravated the paddy residue management issue. The ill effects caused by stubble burning on soil, air, and the environment are being completely ignored. The severity of the problem drove us to educate the farmers associated with the program on the proper management of rice straw and to adopt the recommended best practices, instead of burning the residue.

We held various awareness camps across many villages for the farmers and drew their attention to the deteriorating impact of stubble burning on the soil condition, how it leads to the loss of many soil nutrients



and microbes, and also the damaging effect of residue burning on the health of humans, animals, and the environment. Farmers were encouraged to adopt and implement paddy straw management techniques for managing their farm residue and avoiding the detrimental practice of stubble burning.

We told them about techniques such as bundling for the removal of paddy straw from the fields and how to utilize the residue effectively.

OTHER GREAT READS INSIDE:

- Combating Stubble Burning | 1
- Managing Paddy Straw | 2
- Award for our Farmer | 3
- Talking Through Pictures | 4

WHAT THE STATE AIMS TO DO

➤ Reduce stubble burning by over 50%

➤ Six districts to be made free of stubble burning

INCIDENTS REPORTED

➤ Over 49,900 in Punjab from Sept 15 to Nov 30, 2022

➤ Maximum episodes reported from Sangrur, Bathinda, Firozpur, Muktsar and Moga, accounting for 44% of total fire counts

➤ Total area under paddy | 31 lakh hectares

➤ Expected paddy straw generation | 20MT, of which 16MT is non-basmati

➤ Efforts being made to use paddy straw for industrial and energy generation projects

➤ Expected to manage 11.5MT in situ, 4.7MT ex situ

➤ Straw to be used as cattle fodder

Stubble management

➤ Briquetting/ pelleting plants to be used for mandatory use of 20% as fuel in brick kiln

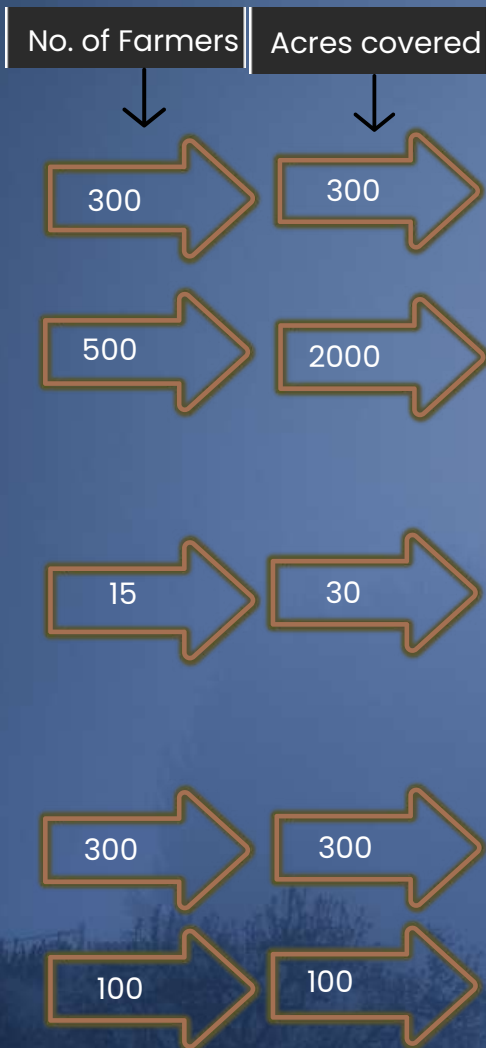
➤ State has 1,17,672 crop residue management machines, 23,000 more to be procured

➤ Bio-decomposer to be sprayed over 8,000 acres



Source: The Times of India Newspaper

How We Helped Farmers Manage Paddy Straw in the Year 2022-2023



Bio Waste Decomposer was distributed to the farmers which is mixed with the fertilizer to accelerate the decomposition of paddy straw in the field itself. Not only is it environmentally friendly, it turns crops into manure and increases the fertility of the soil.

Baler Machines – farmers were encouraged to use baler machines to compress and bundle various crop residues that have industrial and other uses.

Mulching – Good Management of paddy straw by adopting stubble mulching has improved the soil quality manifolds and the farmers are getting a good yield and quality. One of the examples is mulching paddy straw on potatoes, this not only manages the paddy straw but consumes less water, makes the soil rich in nutrients, and provides effective control of weeds.

Smart Seeder Machines – We introduced this highly efficient agriculture machine and farmers save 70% of the time in comparison to traditional methods.



Fodder – Farmers were encouraged to use paddy straw as fodder for the cattle and this is in high demand in the region.

Collaborative Impact of Navi Disha Program and Farmers to Combat Crop Burning

Zero burning on 2,730 acres of land in Kharif Season 2022 in Mansa Region

No burn of 5,460 tonnes of paddy straw resulting in:

NO EMISSION OF 16,380 KGS OF PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)

NO EMISSION OF 327,600 KGS OF CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

NO EMISSION OF 7,971,600 KGS OF CO2

NO EMISSION OF 10,86,540 KGS OF ASH

NO EMISSION OF 10,920 KGS OF SO2

Due to this initiative 2730 acres of land in 26 villages were declared free of stubble burning. We have miles to cover and our work will continue till the entire region is declared free of stubble burning.



Holistic Farming Brings Award for Farmer Narinder Singh

We are delighted to share that our farmer Sardar Narinder Singh Tiwana, belonging to the village Ditupur of tehsil Nabha, district Patiala, has been conferred with the “Sardar Dalip Singh Dhaliwal Memorial Award” for 2023 by the Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Mann for being environment-conscious and saying no to stubble burning since 2007.

Farmer Narinder Singh is a member of our Sustainable Farming Program and has been regularly using the best agriculture practices and techniques recommended by our team of experts. He is presently growing sugarcane, mustard, turmeric, vegetables, and pulses on three acres using organic methods.



Best Agriculture Practices Introduced to the Farmers



How Farmers like Nardev Singh are Benefitting from this Program

Farmer Nardev Singh cultivates paddy and wheat. When the time comes for wheat cultivation, paddy straw needs to be disposed of. Due to a lack of awareness, Nardev Singh has been disposing of the paddy straw by burning it even though it is tough on the health. He says “It is difficult to breathe when the burning takes place and the fumes last for days”. When he visited the nearby village adopted under **The Nabha Foundation Sustainable Agriculture Program ‘TSPL Navi Disha’ in Mansa Punjab, Vedanta-TSPL CSR Initiative**, he learned how other farmers were managing paddy straw. He attended one of the ongoing training sessions by our team where he not only learned the best practices on paddy straw management done on the field itself but also how the residue can give an extra income. During the session he also learned about the straw management system in straw bailer, direct wheat sowing through happy seeder, compost making and making bundles of paddy straw, etc.

He liked the idea of direct seed sowing and in November 2022 he again contacted the Navi Disha team and asked for our guidance for initiating direct wheat sowing through Happy Seeder. The team arranged a demonstration of sowing wheat with the help of a super seeder and the usage of a waste decomposer at the neighbouring village. After the demonstration, he was highly motivated and immediately replicated the best practices in his field, during cultivation in the Kharif season, he used direct sowing of rice on 1 acre of land and saved Rs. 4000 per acre. Our team encourages farmers like Nardev Singh and ensures all support to them so that they imbibe the best agriculture practices for life for a thriving environment.



TALKING THROUGH PICTURES



The Nabha Foundation Agriculture Program in Nabha & Mansa, Punjab

Partner with us - Donating to the Nabha Foundation means gifting quality education to underprivileged children | Joining hands with the small & marginalised farmers to build a sustainable future and restoring mother Earth| Health and hope for communities battling drug addiction, diseases like HIV/AIDS & effects of poor sanitation | A new lease of life to a dying craft and livelihood for women | Job-oriented skill training courses for the youth - Your financial help makes all this happen, and more. Do write to us at info@thenabhafoundation.org. All donations are exempt U/S 80 G of the Income Tax Act of India.

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