



Our Green Farming Initiatives: Reducing Stubble Burning and Promoting Water - Efficient Paddy Cultivation

Combatting Stubble Burning: Paddy Straw Management, Mansa, Punjab

Agricultural residue burning, particularly of paddy straw, has long been a major environmental and health concern, contributing to air pollution and degradation of soil quality. To address this challenge and promote sustainable farming practices, **the Paddy Straw Management Campaign in Mansa** was launched. The campaign aimed to create awareness among farmers, provide practical solutions for residue management, and foster community participation in reducing stubble burning.

The campaign effectively engaged over **3,795 farmers** and covered **28,183 acres of farmland** through a series of structured, high-impact activities. With a commitment to **promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing stubble burning**, the initiative combined awareness, capacity-building, and technology-driven solutions. Key actions included **awareness camps, street plays, school rallies, poster-making competitions, focused farmer interactions, and machinery/input support**. In addition, **widespread vehicle announcements** ensured extensive outreach across villages.



In this Newsletter

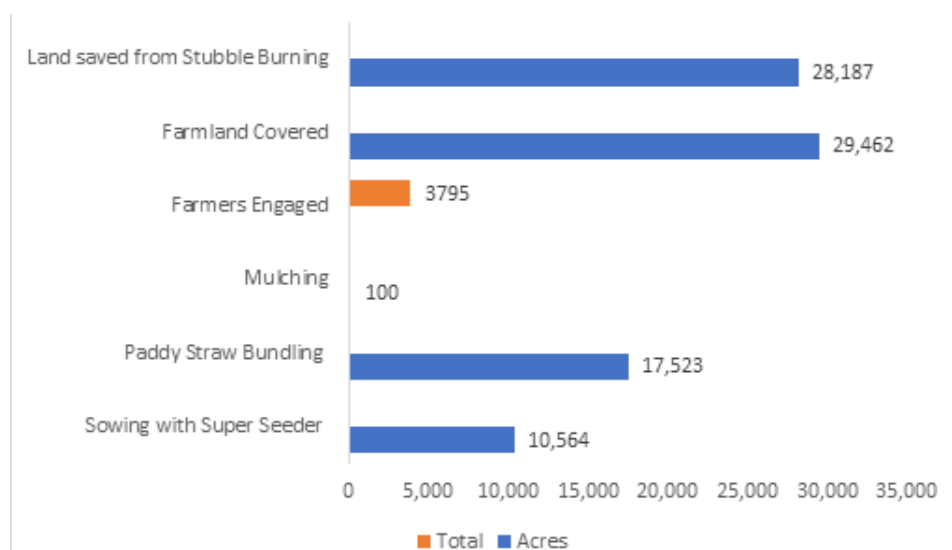
Green Farming Initiatives| 1
Acres Saved Through Paddy
Residue Management| 2
Mega Awareness Camp – Raipur
Village| 3
Sustainable Paddy Cultivation in
Nabha| 3
Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) Success
in Nabha|4

Key Initiatives Included:

- 1. Awareness Campaigns:** Conducted a series of awareness camps across 10 villages, directly engaging 242 farmers at the grassroots level to promote sustainable straw management practices.
- 2. Mass Community Event:** Organized a large-scale awareness event in Raipur village, successfully reaching 274 farmers and strengthening community-wide participation.
- 3. Student & Youth Engagement:** Held interactive activities such as school rallies and poster-making competitions across 5 schools—Makha, Chahalanwala, Kamalu, Gharagna, and Behniwal—to inspire environmental responsibility among students.
- 4. Public Outreach:** Enhanced awareness through vehicle announcements and widespread distribution of pamphlets, ensuring the campaign message reached a broad audience.
- 5. Technical Training & Demonstrations:** Conducted practical demonstrations of PUSA decomposer technology to educate farmers on eco-friendly straw decomposition methods.
- 6. Farmer Support & Consultation:** Carried out extensive field visits and door-to-door meetings, providing farmers with personalized guidance and solutions for paddy residue management.
- 7. Infrastructure & Machinery Access:** Facilitated access to essential machinery and equipment to support farmers in adopting sustainable alternatives to stubble burning.



Acres Saved Through Paddy Residue Management



These interventions significantly reduced crop residue burning and supported cleaner, more sustainable farming practices across the region.

Mega Awareness Camp – Raipur Village, Mansa

On 14th October 2025, a Mass Awareness Camp was held in Raipur Village under the Paddy Straw Management (Navi Disha Program). Dignitaries from Vedanta Powers TSPL including Mr. Pankaj Sharma, Mr. Vinay Kumar Mr. Shyam Choudhary alongwith Mr. Kamaldeep Singh (Chief Agriculture Officer, Mansa), Mr. Kamaldeep Singh (Block Agriculture Officer, Jhunir), Mr. Chamandeep Singh (Deputy Director, ATMA), Mr. Amritpal Singh (Agriculture Development Officer, Mansa), and Mr. Prabhdyal Singh (Fisheries Development Officer) addressed the issue of stubble burning and encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable alternatives.

The camp provided farmers with expert guidance and practical demonstrations of bio-waste decomposers, helping them manage paddy residue effectively. The event saw 274 farmers from 15 villages participating.

Farmer Recognition

We honored farmers who avoided stubble burning, celebrating them as role models to inspire the wider community.

Mass Public Awareness

Through street plays and vehicle announcements, 461 farmers were educated on the dangers of stubble burning and encouraged to adopt sustainable practices like mulching, composting, and using the Happy Seeder.

Community Engagement

We engaged students, local leaders, and farmers to promote sustainable farming. School rallies in five villages reached 426 students, while poster competitions reinforced awareness about stubble burning. Door-to-door meetings with Sarpanches and Panchayat members across 26 villages built community support, and farmers received Waste D-Composer and Speed D-Composer for eco-friendly residue management.



“Navi Disha,” the Sustainable Agriculture Program of the Nabha Foundation, is an initiative implemented in Mansa, Punjab, under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandate of Vedanta Power’s TSPL. Through its community-focused initiatives, the program has positively impacted numerous lives across the region. In Punjab, the Navi Disha program promotes sustainable farming to curb stubble burning, improve agricultural practices, and positively impact the region’s farming communities.

Promoting Sustainable and Cost-Effective Paddy Cultivation in Nabha

Promoting Dry Puddling: A Sustainable Approach to Paddy Farming

A total of 34 farmers across 12 villages in Nabha successfully piloted the Dry Puddling technique on 170 acres. Promoted by Dr. Daler Singh, former District Agriculture Officer, dry puddling is a water-efficient transplanting method. The process involves pressing the soil with a heavy plank, leveling the field, releasing water, and transplanting paddy without traditional puddling. Initial standing water controls weeds, followed by irrigation every 3 days, and then weekly after 15 days.

The pilot produced excellent results with no yield loss, pest, or disease issues. Farmers saved on pesticide and fungicide costs (approximately ₹2,500 per acre) and reduced irrigation water usage by 20–30%, demonstrating the method’s efficiency and sustainability.



Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) Success in Nabha – Cultivating More with Less Water

A total of 27 farmers across 15 villages piloted the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique on 125 acres of paddy land. DSR is a water-efficient and labor-saving method of paddy cultivation. By sowing seeds directly into the field without traditional puddling, DSR reduces water usage, lowers input costs, and maintains crop yields, making it a sustainable alternative for farmers.

Water Efficiency of DSR

Traditional paddy cultivation requires 72,000 liters of water per acre per irrigation, with 10–12 irrigations per crop cycle, totaling approximately 7,20,000 liters per acre.

- DSR uses 70% of the traditional water requirement, saving 30% per acre.
- Water saved per acre: 2,16,000 liters
- Total water saved across 125 acres: 27,000,000 liters

DSR not only reduces water usage significantly but also saves labor and input costs, making it a sustainable alternative for paddy cultivation.



The Nabha Foundation's Sustainable Agriculture Program in Nabha & Mansa

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.

Thank you for reading!

THE NABHA FOUNDATION
WWW.THENABHAFOUNDATION.ORG

DELHI ADDRESS
THE NABHA FOUNDATION
KHEMKA HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR, 11
COMMUNITY CENTRE
SAKET, NEW DELHI 110017
TEL : 011-46034800
EMAIL:
INFO@THENABHAFOUNDATION.ORG

Editorial Team:
Shubhra Singh
s.singh@thenabhafoundation.org
Vimmi Lekhi
v.lekhi@khemkafoundation.net
Mansi
mansi@thenabhafoundation.org

Nabha Address
The Nabha Foundation
Moti Bagh, Street no 2, Opposite
Defence Colony,
Cantt Road, Nabha Punjab
147201
Tel: 01765-228119