

Developing a natural farming action plan in Jharkhand [19th and 20th April 2022]

National Coalition for Natural Farming NCNF in collaboration with Jharkhand CSO forum conducted two days' workshop on "developing a natural farming action plan" in Saptarishi Seva Bhawan, Tupudana, Ranchi on 19th and 20th April 2022. This workshop was attended by more than 50 CSO partners, Active Farmers from different districts, Agriculture Scientists, Researchers, Individual members and Media representatives. During the workshop farmers shared their journey of two years in the practice of regenerative farming and how their income and nutritional status has improved and its impact on other farmers who are engaged in chemical farming. In these two days, thorough discussion on the present status of farming in Jharkhand, potentials and scope of natural farming in Jharkhand,



potential challenges and scope of intervention and strategic development of action plan, Vision for upcoming 10 years was thoroughly discussed. Mr. Nityanand Dhal from PRADAN, Mr. Rohit from NCNF, Mr. Prem Shankar from PRADAN, Mr. Sabyasachi Das from RRAN and Mr. Vivek Roy from Jharkhand CSO Forum were the session moderators for two days. Dr. Siddhaarth Jaiswal from Birsa Agriculture University, Dr. Sushant Nayak from ICAR and Dr. Sudarshan Biswas from Ramakrishna Mission were the key resource person for the discussion to understand the current scenario and potential of regenerative farming in the Jharkhand at state level.

with a mission to strengthen the natural farming in the state of Jharkhand, a Two days' workshop was organized in Ranchi, which was participated by more than 50 CSO partners, Active Farmers Researchers, Academicians, Agriculture Scientist, Individuals and media representatives. Intense discussion on learning of previous two years, challenges faced, scope of scaling up and Jharkhand vision for the next 10 years was done and facilitated by the organizing committee.

Objective of the Workshop were:

1. Understanding Natural Farming in Jharkhand and building a form of working definition.
2. Building Vision/ common minimum definition (an also on non-negotiable / conflicting themes).
3. Roadmap for scaling Natural farming and preservation of Soil health.
4. Working together, Key values, principles, constituents, Governance, funded projects.

Various Core committees were made and below are some of the vision statements shared by partners for the upcoming 10 years:

- I. Recognize Farming as a dignified occupation.
- II. Chemical free farming village, block and state.
- III. Saturation approach to be taken, building the state's identity as a Natural Farming state.

- IV. Promotion and scaling up of multi-layer farming/ mix cropping across the state.
- V. Policy advocacy with the state for promotion of natural farming in the state and making Jharkhand as a natural Farming state. for the same data collection, surveys, reports, research to be mobilized, shared, analyze and make a promising and concrete evidence-based report for strong policy advocacy. Baseline survey has to be conducted and periodical evaluation is required to monitor and evaluate our work, intervention, input, output, outcome etc., for scaling up and successful intervention.
- VI. Govt. Schemes and programmes aligned with Natural Farming for which policy advocacy is a key.
- VII. Equity of women farmers and their empowerment and representation at all levels.
- VIII. Integration of all potential stakeholders and engagement to make Jharkhand a natural farming state.
- IX. Market linkages and promotion of Natural farming ensure premium pricing of organic produce and fair price guaranteed for the organic produce and ensure the safety and income security of farmers.

