



NEWS LETTER



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July- Sept 2023

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the quarterly news bulletin from the ASPEE Agricultural Research and Development Foundation (ARDF). This edition primarily highlights the notable research, training, and agricultural activities conducted during the Kharif season. We believe you will find this issue full of valuable insights and information.

Thank you for being a part of our journey!

ARDF Orchards: Cultivating Excellence through Fertilizer Application.



This is an integral growth nutrient part of our orchard management. We carefully consider the specific timely needs of each orchard, conducting soil tests and assessing fertilizer management. We apply fertilizers formulation and application rate during the rainy season to bestow health of trees. Proper fertilizer management promises elevated fruit yields, enhanced fruit quality, and the enduring sustainability of your orchard.

New Mango Plantation: Cultivating a Fruitful Future

This year, the ASPEE Foundation planted 600 new mango trees within the Tansa farm premises. Planting mango trees represents a sustainable and environmentally friendly contribution to the well-being of our planet, offering tangible benefits to communities in terms of food security and economic opportunities.

Paddy Transplantation Work

This, Kharif season ASPEE Foundation successfully transplanted 31 acres of land with paddy seedlings. We introduced the GR-21 rice variety at our farm, enhancing our



commitment to innovation in agriculture. We used both the traditional manual method as well as specialized machines for paddy transplantation, and we observed benefits such as labor and time savings, precise planting, heightened productivity, and cost efficiency as well as yield on completion.

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Empowering Agriculture: Mechanized Paddy Transplanting at Tansa Farm



Advancements in technology are making machine transplanting increasingly popular for rice cultivation worldwide. This year, we conducted comparative trial of paddy transplanting in some areas using specialized machines, and we observed benefits like labor and time savings, precise planting, heightened productivity, and cost efficiency. After cultivation, we will also compare its yield.

Research Work: Four Research Trials for Paddy: Layout, Planting, Observations, and Treatment Application



This year, our R&D staff conducted four distinct research trials on paddy. The findings from these trials may offer valuable insights to enhance rice cultivation practices, leading to improved yield, quality, and sustainability also contributing to food security and environmental conservation.

ARDF Initiative to Focus on Farming Skill Development for Agricultural Engineering Students: Training in Paddy Cultivation, Dairy Management, Mango Grafting, Soil Testing, and Organic Farming

This year, we provided in-plant farm training to two each undergraduate students from Lokbharati University, Sanosara and Navsari Agril.University, Navsari. Apart from this, technical support for Research Project was provided to a PhD scholar from ICAR-NARI Delhi.

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This encourages hands-on learning, and nurture valuable skills relevant to farming and sustainable agriculture. Student farm training can be a rewarding and educational experience, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of agriculture inspiring future generations to pursue careers in farming.

Disaster Management Training at ARDF: Preparing for Uncertain Times



ASPEE Foundation organized Disaster management training at Bhiwali, Tal-Bhiwandi, Dist-Thane on 2nd September 2023. The training was provided by experts under supervision. It was aimed to preparing individuals and communities to effectively respond to and recover from natural or man-made disasters. Such training equips participants with the knowledge and skills needed to minimize the impact of disasters and save lives.

Decomposition of shredding material Trial



Using shredded mango branches as fertilizer or mulch can be an effective and sustainable way to recycle organic materials in mango orchards and cost-effective practice that can improve soil health, conserve moisture, and provide slow-release nutrients to mango trees and other plants. After complete decomposition of shredded material we are going to analyses the nutrient status of this ready material.

Utilizing Dewatering Liquid as Fertilizer in Paddy Plots: A Sustainable Approach to Enhance Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrition



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As part of our extensive research, we are applying dewatering liquid as a fertilizer in paddy plots. This approach may be an effective and sustainable way to enhance soil fertility and provide nutrients to rice crops. However, it is being properly processed, applied at appropriate rates, and integrated into a comprehensive nutrient management plan to maximize its benefits while minimizing potential environmental issues.

Forage Testing : Napier and Super Napier Fodder Trial



Remove 5 plants from selected Napier and Super Napier fodder crop.



Kept samples in oven for 12 hours to estimate dry matter %



Sample cutted and keep ready for analysis of dry matter % and Crude Protein %

This year, our dedicated research team is focusing on the quality of fodder (Napier) provided to our dairy animals at Gaushala in ARDF premises. This trial aims to assess the nutritional value and suitability of the feed we offer to our milch animals. Fodder testing emerges as a crucial tool for livestock producers, empowering them to make informed decisions regarding animal nutrition, health, and farm management. Results may help us in optimizing the food content and its nutritional values.

In-Plant training at ARDF: For Undergraduate & Post Graduate students



Undergraduate students are mandated to undergo in-plant training as part of their curriculum. The training module is designed to provide students with practical exposure to real-world industrial processes and operations. As you may be aware, ARDF has Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various universities in Maharashtra and Gujarat to promote research and academic activities. Our expert scientists and field workers provide proper training, guidance and instruction to such students. In September, Mr. Omkar Sonvane, a student from MPKV, Rahuri, successfully completed his one-month in-plant training at Aspee Foundation's Tansa Farm.