Showcasing KSF Products in PKSF’s Development Fair 2013

On welcoming its 23rd Anniversary PKSF’s Development Fair 2013 was arranged in a grand manner from 12th to 16th May in the Bangabandhu International Convention Center (BICC). General public and partners of PKSF from all parts of the country assembled in this huge celebration along with six seminars facilitated and participated by renowned personalities of the country. The fair was an opportunity for KSF to introduce its products to the public and other partners in development. KSF showcased a diverse variety of products including four kinds of sweets and ghee made from exclusively naturally bred cow’s milk from KSF partners, organic saplings of medicinal plants and herbs, organic fertilizers (Vermicompost), 5 different flavors of organic tea from KKT and herbal cosmetics and toiletries from Meena Herbal.

This fair has attracted a huge number of visitors from all over the country. This event was quite successful as most of the customers enjoyed different types of organic sweets. KSF’s sweets pulled a good number of customers who bought about 400 kgs of dairy products during the fair. It was a good opportunity for test marketing of KSF products like organic fertilizer and saplings.
Chairman’s Visit to KSF

In December 2012, the Chairman of Gemcon Group, Kazi Shahid Ahmed visited different projects of Kazi Shahid Foundation (KSF). In the morning he took a tour to Kazi Shahid Shikhan Kendra (KSSK) and spent some delightful time with the 30 students of the center. All these young learners entertained the Chairman by poems, stories and songs. He discussed the role of education in our life and encouraged the students to pursue their activities. He presented the children some winter gifts.

Then he visited KSF’s dairy farming group “Jomuna” of Moynaguri branch. There he met all members who shared their experiences with him. He shared his very favorite story, “his first own cow”. His affection for nature and sustainable rearing of cow charged all members with emotional energy. They looked up and forward. “How a person of this stature recognizes the role of all hard work, even the nurturing of cow in his childhood overwhelmed me. He can feel our sweat and success like one of us”, beams Zohura one group member.

Why Vermi Composting

Vermicomposting is the usage of earthworms to convert cow manure to 100% natural plant fertilizer. Vermi-culture, the breeding of earthworms is the side products of this process. This fertilizer is 100% organic, it does not contain any harmful chemicals. It has many advantages over the chemical fertilizers such as -

1. It fertilizes faster than the chemical ones which takes more time
2. It is richer and contains 5-11 times more nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium
3. It has more micro-organisms and plant growth hormones making the plant more immune to diseases
4. It takes less effort from the farmers
5. It can be produced throughout the year including winter
6. It can be used all the year round as well
7. Plant health is being promoted by long term exposure to nutrients, and
8. The soil condition continues to improve
Organic Farming: Training Program in Savar

Organic farming although is an innate and traditional practice, is still developing everyday and attracting people towards this lifestyle. Continuous training is thus an essential part for this branch of agriculture. A training program on Vermicomposting and organic farming was held from 14th till 15th June 2013. This was organized by KSF in the Bordail Shorkari Prathomik Biddalaya at Savar. 30 participants including members of KSF’s cooperative, farmers and general enthusiasts took part in this program. Assistant Agricultural Officer from Meherpur was the Resource Person.

First four sessions of the program contained detailed knowledge on vermin-compost which was aided by visuals and demonstration. The next four sessions were on organic farming its practices, procedure, use of pesticide, seasonal pattern, advantages and challenges etc.

The training renewed the enthusiasm and interest in organic farming among the participants as more and more farmers were pledging to further their organic farms.

Champions’ March: An Inspiration to Organic Living

“I think organic tea is the most profitable among all crops, once it is ready to harvest and market”, this is how Kazi Aminur, a 48 years old organic tea farmer living in Tetulia, Panchagarh, values organic tea farming. Kazi Aminur is with KSF since 2007 and he is from Mahananda group of Darjipara branch. He is now cultivating organic tea in 4 acres of land.

KSF assisted Aminur all the way from land preparation for tea cultivation to market linkage of green leaf including labor wages for sowing seedlings, organic fertilizer, shade tree, pest control and all sorts of technical support. In primary stage he received regular trainings on organic tea cultivation (2-3 times a year) from KSF. First three to four years of tea farming was very hard for him as he had to spend a lot of his time, resource and labor to nurture tea cultivation. It was quite difficult for him to comply with all the details of organic farming. All his hard work has paid off. He has been awarded with training certification from Lacon, an International certifying agency.

At present Aminur’s monthly income from tea exceeds Tk,50,000 which has made him confident enough to further his tea farming. He would like to cultivate tea in all of his 20 bighas land in near future. Kazi Aminur is an ideal example of organic tea cultivator and an inspiration for the growing number of organic tea farmers of Panchagarh district.

“It’s a pity that so many youths end up as unemployed after spending valuable resources in various higher degrees. Instead, if they join rural entrepreneurship as offered by KSF not only their future would be brighter and strengthened but also the economic landscape of the nation would be changed as well”, says the agriprenue to the youth of the country.
The Torch Bearers of KSF: 
Md. Abdul Zabbar - Assistant Coordinator (Atwary)

"Working and helping the community towards self-sustenance is the most satisfying part of my life " says Md. Abdul Zabbar, Assistant Coordinator, Atwory Branch.

Since 2008, Mr. Zabbar is working with Kazi Shahid Foundation. He started his voyage with KSF from Rowshanpur branch and as time passed by he worked with undivided devotion in several other branches of KSF to improve the livelihood of rural women in Panchagarh. At present he is accountable for managing the Atwary branch with 178 members. He coordinates the Dairy Farming, Vermi Composting and General Composting programs under the branch.

Md. Abdul Zabbar was born in Shibpur, Patuakhali and finished his schooling there. He is the eldest among five siblings. After completion of his higher education from Jagannath University he started his career in development sector. And remarkably, it’s been 18 years in the development sector he is working.

Mr. Zabbar finds reading as one of his most favorite constructive hobbies. His favorite writer is Humayun Ahmed because of his unique prose style which is lucid. He can get completely lost in reading and forgets where he is and what time it is or how much time has passed while he has been reading.

It is been said that- Every man has his own destiny; the only imperative is to follow it, to accept it, no matter where it leads him. Md. Abdul Zabbar followed his heart that leads him to KSF. It has been five significant years he is with KSF, and been able to keep up an outstanding performance in holding up the torch of the organization—the philosophy of building the nation through rural entrepreneurship.

Program Highlights

- Three thousand and eighty two (3082) women and their families were raised out of poverty through first ever contractual dairy farming collectively up to July, 2013.
- After realizing the importance of green grass for cow, coop members have taken initiative to cultivate fodder in their own land. In July, 26 added and in cumulative 573 no. of coop members cultivated fodder in their land.
- So far 52 KSF members are practicing vermicomposting and more than 1100 kg of vermicompost has been collected from them.
- Seven farmers of Bordile village cultivated 5 types of vegetable by applying organic technology in about 2.5 acres of their land during last Kharip-2 season. They are happy with the production and price given by the Meena Bazar.
- To improve the local cow variety artificial insemination program has been initiated and a total of 24 cows were inseminated in July’13. A cumulative of 483 cows was inseminated up to July’13. During the month, a total of 21 cows delivered calf safely.