

Agnihotra:- A Vedic Touch to Modern Agriculture

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Abstract

The intensive chemical agriculture that has been followed after successful green revolution in our country is causing heavy pollution of our soil, food, drinking water and air. The harmful chemicals are ingested into the body when we eat food grown under these conditions. The answer to our problems lies in Agnihotra Organic Farming. Agni means 'fire' Hotra means 'healing'. It's written in the *Vedas* that "HEAL THE ATMOSPHERE AND IT WILL HEAL YOU". The most significant aspect of Agnihotra is that it combines the energies of five elements sun, space, air, water and earth to produce subtle changes in the living organisms and helps to restore the bio-rhythm. Agnihotra is the basic HOMA for all HOMA fire practices given in the ancient Vedic sciences of bioenergy, psychotherapy, medicine, agriculture, biogenetics, climate engineering and interplanetary communication. Agnihotra can be referred as a non-convictional approach as it reduces microbial count and toxic gases in air and improve atmospheric quality. It increases plant growth, yield and quality parameter. Application of Agnihotra ash and biosol improve soil quality by increasing beneficial soil microorganism. It lowers the incidence of pest and diseases as well as heals the atmosphere by preventing it from minimizing the use of chemical fertilizer which are toxic for human, plant and livestock health. Agnihotra ash also work to purify water and make it suitable for agricultural use. So perform Agnihotra daily with any good organic practice will improve the effect of that practice on farm.

Introduction

Homa organic farming has its origin from *Vedas*, it's conjointly called the Maharishi religious text organic agriculture. Since it had been earlier mentioned in "*Atharvaveda*" and it was practiced successfully by rishi and maharishis. Agnihotra is also mentioned in Bhagavad Geeta, Krishiparasara Agnipuran and Vriksha Ayurveda. Principle of homa organic farming states that "You heal the atmosphere and the healed atmosphere will heal you". It's known as

"revealed science". The fundamental side of homa organic farming is that chanting of Sanskrit mantras (Agnihotra pooja) at specific times in a day before a holy fire. The timing is most important. There is no specific agricultural practice related to homa organic farming, however the farm and household it's practiced in, is energized and awakened. The ash that results from the pooja is employed to energize composts, plants, animals, etc. The practice is used to treat the atmosphere, the soil, plants, pests and disease problems. Homa organic Farming is holistic healing for agriculture and might be utilized in conjunction with any smart organic farming system. It's very cheap and simple to undertake however needs discipline and regularity. Agnihotra (Sanskrit: agni means fire, hotra means healing) is that the basic homa fire technique, supported the bio-rhythm of sunrise and sunset, and might be found within the ancient sciences of the *Vedas*. Agnihotra has been simplified and adapted to modern times, therefore anybody can perform it. During Agnihotra, dried cow dung, ghee (clarified butter) and brown rice are burned in an inverted pyramid-shaped copper vessel along with a special mantra (word-tone combination) is sung. These days it's in the main practiced by organic farmers in South America and India however is additionally gaining increasing attention in North America and Europe.

The Science and the Belief Behind it !!

Utilizing the healing fire, holy ash and vedic sounds, the sounds of natural law to awake the inner intelligence of the plant and promote a peaceful healthy life for all who eat them, the chanting of mantras removes negative energies from the environment.



What is Agnihotra?

Agnihotra is a simple healing fire from the ancient science of Ayurveda. Agnihotra is the antidote for all the problems we have created for ourselves and for the whole of Nature.



1. Agnihotra is a process of purifying the atmosphere through a specially prepared fire.
2. The process involves preparing a small fire with dried cow-dung cakes in a copper pyramid of fixed size and putting some grains of rice and ghee (clarified unsalted butter) into the fire exactly at sunrise and sunset to the accompaniment of two simple mantras.

Who can Practice Agnihotra?

Anyone in any walk of life can do Agnihotra and heal the atmosphere in his or her own home. Thousands of people all over the world have experienced that Agnihotra reduces stress, leads to greater clarity of thought, improves overall health, gives one increases energy, and makes the mind fuller of love.

Why Agnihotra?

With chemical fertilizers and pesticides, it becomes necessary to increase the dosage and strength or alter formulas as years go by. Then a stage comes when nothing grows unless you use them. If you do use them they ruin the soil and subsoil water. The harmful chemicals are ingested into the body when we eat food grown under these conditions. Then a few years later nothing grows at all. These are some of the reasons why several communities started thinking in terms of organic farming and biological pest control. This worked for a while but as the pollution content of the atmosphere increased and things got compounded, organic farmers came into terrific difficulties. The answer to our problems lies in Agnihotra: Homa Organic Farming.

Types of Agnihotra

1. **Agnihotra homa:** It is most important and should be practised exactly at sunrise and sunset time daily.
2. **Vyahruti Homa:** It can be performed at any time except sunrise and sunset. It is also performed when commencing Om Tryambakam Homa.
3. **Om Tryambakam Homa:** It should be performed at least 4 hours every day. It should be performed for 24 hours on full moon and no moon days. The quantity and quality of agricultural crops was greatly improved along with their resistance to unfavourable environmental factors and pests due to Om Tryambak Homa.

Materials Required for Agnihotra:

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1. **Copper pyramid of prescribed shape and size:** Copper pyramid has capacity to all the electricity and others.
2. **Dried cow-dung cakes:** Dried cow dung has been found to be rich in Actinomycetes and treated as medicine in all ancient culture from Indian to North and South America, Scandinavians, Asians and Africans.
3. **100% pure cow's ghee (clarified butter):** It is very special medicinal substance, when used in Agnihotra fire. When cow ghee is burned with rice it purifies atmosphere and also induces rain.
4. **Unpolished, unbroken rice grains:** If the rice is broken the chemical analysis of both pieces may be the same but the subtle energy structure is broken and hence, it should not be used for Agnihotra healing fire.
5. **Sunrise/sunset timings up to seconds accuracy.**
6. **Simple Sanskrit Mantra:**
 - **Morning Agnihotra mantra:**
 - I. *Sooryáya swáhá, sooryáya idam na mama* (add first pinch of rice).
 - II. *Prajápataye swáhá, prajápataye idam na mama* (add second pinch of rice).
(Unto the sun I am offering this offering. This is not mine, this is Thine.)
 - **Evening Agnihotra mantra:**
 - I. *Agnaye swáhá, agnaye idam na mama* (add first pinch of rice).
 - II. *Prajápataye swáhá, prajápataye idam na mama* (add second pinch of rice).
(Unto the fire I am offering all. This offering is not mine it is Thine.)

Procedure of Agnihotra:

A few minutes before the actual time of sunrise and sunset, start to prepare the agnihotra fire as follows:

1. Place a flat piece of dried cow dung at the bottom of the copper pyramid. Arrange pieces of dried cow dung in the pyramid in such a manner as will allow air to pass.
2. Apply a little Ghee to a small piece of cow dung and light it. Insert this lighted piece of cow dung in the middle of the pyramid. Soon all the dung in the pyramid will catch fire. However, do not blow on the fire so as to avoid bacteria from the mouth affecting the fire.
3. Take a few grains of rice in a dish or left palm and apply a few drops of ghee to them.

4. Exactly at sunrise utter the first Mantra and after the word SWAHA add a few grains of rice (as little as you can hold in the pinch of fingers will sufficient) to the fire. Utter the second Mantra and after the word SWAHA add a few grains of rice to the fire. This completes morning Agnihotra.
5. At sunset do the same by using evening Mantras. This completes evening Agnihotra. After each Agnihotra try to spare as many minutes as you can for meditation. You can sit at least till the fire gets extinguished itself.
6. Just before the next Agnihotra collect the ash and keep it in a glass or earthen container. This highly energized ash can successfully be used as organic fertilizer as well as purifying water.

Advantages of Agnihotra

- It is a complete organic farming with assured yield.
- Improves the soil health, healthy flora and Good yield.
- Restores natural taste, colour and flavour of the yield and therefore the cookery quality of rice.
- Reduces the incidence of pests and diseases.
- Poison – free fodder and food, no environmental pollution and ecological disturbance safe to handle by the plant protectors these are cost effective (200-300) less than chemicals so it's pretty much useful to small and marginal farmers.
- Results to sustainable agriculture.

Uses of Agnihotra Ash (Miracle Powder) in Agriculture:

1) Soil preparation:

(a) For fields irrigated prior to sowing: 5 kg of agnihotra ash per acre spread on the fields.

(b) For fields with no pre sowing irrigation: ash should be mixed with water and solution should be sprayed on the fields 2-3 days prior to sowing.

2) Seed treatment: 20 g Ash + Cow urine + 1 kg seed → Shade dried.

3) Irrigation: During each irrigation, the ash should be tied in a cotton cloth and suspended over the irrigation channel in such a way that the rushing water dissolves the ash and carries it into the field.



- 4) **Crop protection:** 100 L water + 5 L cow urine + 2 kg ash → Stirred 2-3 times per day with stick → 3rd day ash settles down at the bottom → without shaking and disturbing sediment pour off all liquid with a cloth → spread on the crop.
- 5) **Storage of crops:** cereals and pulses can be mixed with ash prior to storage.

Effect of Homa Organic Farming on Soil and Crop

By applying the energetic ash, the soil quality is improved successively from year to year the soil structure very friable, has good water retention capacity and contain ample quantity of essential nutrients. (4 tablespoons of agnihotra ash and up to 4 tablespoons of pulverised, dried cow dung are stirred in approximately 5 litres of water and then applied to plants):

1. Fertility of the soil is also increased, water refined.
2. Some scientists find out that agnihotra ash contain 94 elements.
3. The ash acts sort of a catalyst on plant growth, in homa atmosphere plants develop leaf vein that are cylindrical and bigger than normal because of this water and nutrients are more easily assimilated by the plant. Agnihotra ash will increase the quantity of water-soluble phosphorus available to the plant in the soil this have great impact on growth and reproductive cycle of crops.
4. Homa atmosphere is additionally conducive to the production of chlorophyll in order that they support photosynthesis and respiration this successively promotes the proper oxygen cycle in nature.
5. Useful micro-organisms in the soil is also increased. Earthworms proliferate in these surroundings because of increase in their hormonal production, they distribute moisture in the soil and supply it with humus.

Heschl (2009) carried out experiment in soybean and found that homa organic farming give higher average seed weight per 1000 seeds (g), protein content % in seed, oil content % in seed and less urease activity compare with Conventional Agriculture.

Effect of Homa Organic Farming on Environment and Human Beings:

1. Homa application are a practical contribution to environment protection as a result of the purify the atmosphere and improve the of air, water and soil.

2. The pyramid made up of copper act as a generator of negative ions these ions have a harmonizing result on the atmosphere and a positive impact on people's wellbeing.
3. Cow dung contains the substance similar to antibiotic (penicillin) that incorporates a disinfecting effect and reduces disease causing bacteria and also reduces the radioactive radiation.
4. Bees also are drawn to the homa energies and they fulfil their task of pollinating plants in more effective means.
5. Hazardous effects of agrochemicals on ozone layer, forest as well as on living thing. But Homa Organic Farming helpful in the reduction of pest, hold soil moisture better than conventional farming. HOMA is the way to save our planet from POLLUTION.

Conclusion

- Agnihotra – an age ancient vedic solution to new age challenges.
- Agnihotra reduces microbial count and toxic gases in air and improve atmospheric quality also increase plant growth, yield and quality parameter. The potential of homa organic farming and Agnihotra ash specially to boost the solubility of P and therefore the supply of soil P is clearly visible. Larger the number of individuals engaged within the practice of Agnihotra at a location, greater and quicker shall be the impact. So perform Agnihotra daily with any good organic practice will improve the effect of that practice on farm.
- As a result of Agnihotra a lot of people have stopped drinking alcohol and smoking.

“Considered that Agnihotra neutralises toxicity, modifies the environment touching each the physical and mental state. Thus, HOMA therapy acts sort of a silent Psychotherapy.”

...Prof. Hernandez...

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