



The start of 2021 was very similar to the end of the previous year, with lots of restrictions and measures to combat COVID-19. Despite the challenges, many activities and training courses were still organized to ensure the farmers and their families had continued security and support during this difficult time.

The farmers have now sold their rice to our cooperative, a total of 2,054 tonnes of paddy rice. 60 new farmers have already registered and will also sell their 2021 harvest to Oasis.

Water – still an expensive commodity! In order to promote the effective use of this resource, a number of workshops were organized, giving 35 farmers information and training on the various projects. These infrastructure improvements took place:

- 12 solar-cell systems installed
- 3 new water basins
- 4 water basins renovated
- 5 new water pumps

The creation of the new water basins was guided and supported by Oasis.

In order to keep the quality of the rice high, small-group seminars and training courses were held. This time around, 16 farmers participated, 9 of whom were female.



Inspecting the water basin



Water resources training



Rice quality training



India, Nature Bio Foods

India, too, is sadly still very much affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nature Bio Foods has done a lot to help the farmers there. They gave out soap and masks to the farmers so they could adhere to the hygiene guidelines, to protect themselves and their families. In order to reduce the farmers' financial burden, subsidized seed was also distributed. This helped the farmers increase their income during the economic crisis.

In Ramnagar the farmers and their crops are susceptible to attack by wild animals as the villages are located within the national tiger reserve. To provide protection and security to both the farmers and the wild animals, electric fences powered by solar cells were erected around two villages. This prevents conflict between man and beast and keeps the inhabitants safe.

Many training courses are still being run online. To keep up the social contact with the farming community, sessions are also being held in small groups so the farmers can talk to each other about the specific difficulties they are facing, and exchange expertise.

As part of the project a team of agricultural consultants, who the farmers call "organic farming doctors", regularly interact with the farmers, visit their farms, suggest measures that could be implemented, offer training, and help the farmers at every stage of the harvest. As it is important to monitor the farms regularly, these "organic farming doctors" are located directly in the relevant villages and are available around the clock.



Solar-cell fences
Protection from wild animals



Giving out soap and masks



Distributing seed