



We were again able to acquire new farmers for the new 2021 year of production. 60 farmers (26 women and 34 men) took part in the "correct handling from seed to harvest" training session. In addition, 59 new farming families were registered for organic cultivation. As demand for red rice has increased, 117 farmers cultivated red jasmine rice. This covers an area of 237 ha (corresponds to approx. 11.25% of the entire production area)

It was finally possible to hold the farmer's discussion meeting in person again in June. 525 farmers (204 men and 321 women) discussed their upcoming planting activities, varieties and quantities for the new harvest.

29 farmers tested their own seed production and germination of the rice on an area of 47 ha. This yielded a positive result of over 80% usable seed, which is very gratifying. To make it easier to get the seed into the fields, a seed sowing machine can be purchased or rented (image below). This makes sowing easier for farmers and allows for targeted and orderly seeding, which also affects the rice yield.

The Fairtrade audit takes place every year. In June this year, the documents, the use of funds and the rice fields themselves were inspected again. Talks were held with groups of farmers and individuals to discuss their satisfaction with the project, the challenges and the cooperative. Only when all points are satisfactory does Fairtrade issue a new certificate with a validity of one year.

The farmers have relied on aid during the pandemic, and have received it from our cooperative and from Fairtrade, whether in the form of food or protective materials for the pandemic (masks, disinfectants)



Training



Seed sowing machine



Seed germination test



India, Nature Bio Foods

As part of the project, a major initiative was undertaken to propagate organic basmati seeds. To reduce their dependence on seed supplies from other areas and safeguard quality, the decision was taken to tackle seed propagation on a project level themselves. The seed produced in the project area, which is acclimatized to the local climatic conditions, leads to a better yield and better quality. In collaboration with Pantnagar University (GBPUAT), the seed was inspected, and the most suitable quality was distributed as an initial product for selected farmers in the project. Gradually, the aim is for all of the seed to be produced in the project areas themselves. This initiative will not only improve the yield and quality, but also provide an alternative source of income for the farmers working as seed producers.

On 1 August 2021, a digital mobile van was put into operation as part of the project to enable training to be provided to all farmers. The training sessions and the required instructions are taught locally. It is equipped with audiovisual devices, WLAN and IEC material. This innovation makes it possible to reach all farmers locally and conduct mobile training sessions.

One of our main objectives in 2021 is to further expand the school development programme. We are improving the learning environment in the state primary schools in our project villages so that the farmers' children can benefit from this. In the Ramnagar and Uttar Pradesh project, three schools have already been adopted by Nature Bio Foods and Reismühle Nutrex through the Fairtrade premium. In the period May-July 2021, one additional school was adopted in the Betalghat region in Uttarakhand. The project continues to work on changing the existing infrastructure to improve the quality of the education provided. Thanks to the project, the children can now use computers and digital classrooms, sit on benches, wear appropriate school clothing and use hygienic toilets for boys and girls. Furthermore, approx. 3 hectares of land was leased for a vegetable garden to provide the pupils with nutritious meals. In the coming months, we plan to provide the same kind of facilities in the new school we are taking over.



School in the project



Farmer in the project



Mobile training van