

## Annadana Soil and Seed Savers

Ishana in Gopathi farms, Village Singapura

Post Vidyananyapura, Bangalore-560097

Karnataka, India

Phone +91 80 23254400

[www.annadana-india.org](http://www.annadana-india.org)



## Who we are:

Annadana is a registered non-profit organisation dedicated to pioneering seed conservation through research and outreach. We neither funded by any government nor private organization. For over a decade now, we have conserved India's rich heritage of bio-diversity of vegetable seeds by applying integrated organic principles. Our time-tested techniques are scientifically researched, documented and shared.

Set on 5 acres in Bangalore city, our vision is to spread the knowledge of chemical free & sustainable farming practices. For over a decade now, Annadana has conserved more than 200 traditional varieties of vegetables; distributed approx 3,00,000 packets of seeds free of cost to marginal farmers across India; instrumental in setting up seed banks at various States of India; rehabilitated farmers in Tsunami hit areas; imparted knowledge on Organic Farming to people from all walks. **Our agro ecology certified organic farm offers comprehensive programs serving a range of people, from farmers to educators to policy makers to gardeners to children**

- We are a knowledge farm, demonstrating best growing practices - the mastering of temperate and tropical agro climatic crops in organic agriculture.
- Training and capacity building on sustainable organic agricultural methodologies.
- We raise awareness on the benefits of organic food for human and environmental health.
- We demonstrate through our farm projects that our research results work on a commercial scale

## How we got started:

Annadana Projects was founded informally in Auroville in 2001 by like minded individuals with initial technical support from Kokopelli, an International Seed Savers Network based in France. For further expansion, a legal entity was registered in 2007 in Bangalore by Founding Trustees - Ms. Sangita Sharma, Mr V. Damodaran and Stephan Fayon to conserve India's rich and diverse seed heritage. Efforts of a decade was consolidated and translated to the ground at Ishana Farms – a 5 acre agro eco knowledge farm in 2010. Time-tested practices researched and documented assist farmers, policy makers, institutes, students and consumers from across the country to adopt sustainable, chemical-free agricultural practices.

Sangita Sharma is the Chairperson and the driving force of Annadana. She shifted her energies from the corporate to understand where the food equation was going wrong. The pesticide residues in her food had her thinking. She decided to take charge of her food. She is self-taught and a self contained organic farmer today. Her belief is "Soil is like an expectant mother into which seeds of life germinate healthy, when nurtured with care and devotion". Her team of 18 farmers and 5 experts are engaged in continuous research and development of best farming practices through an integrated, sustainable, environmentally-safe, economic approach. The motto followed here is: Healthy Soil = Healthy Seeds = Healthy Plants = Healthy Society.

## **Annadana Soil and Seed Savers**

Ishana in Gopathi farms, Village Singapura

Post Vidyanarayapura, Bangalore-560097

Karnataka, India

Phone +91 80 23254400

[www.annadana-india.org](http://www.annadana-india.org)



### **What we're working on:**

We are dedicated to developing best practices in integrated organic farming that ranges from soil fertility management, seed saving, recycling, zero waste management, bio gas to low cost applications.

Our on-going farm activities include:

1. **Seed Conservation** - Each season comprising of four months, we conserve an average of 20- 25 vegetable heritage seed varieties in just 2 acres. Our Seed Catalogue 2013 offers a diverse collection of heritage organic vegetable seeds with scientific data such as yield, origin and nutrition
2. **Annadana Seed Bank** – is probably the only best managed seed bank in India. It is unique insulated and aerated (50 sq mtr) which is termite proof. Low cost teak wood racks ( 3 no's) with 20 – 25 trays conserve a diversity of 40 vegetable varieties. Selection of healthy fruits harvested for their seeds are cleaned and graded. The extracted seeds are shade dried using precision methods and then packed in air tight containers and stored in freezers.
3. **Integrated farming** – Diverse crops from cereals, millets, herbs, fruits are grown based on seasons for food production. Fodder is grown in house to serve our indigenous cattle ( Halikar)
4. **Innovative low cost farm applications** – From Fertigation tanks using drip irrigation that saves on farmers time and efforts, to renewable energy using bio gas for cooking for our commune of farmers to Dynamising water using 'jharna' flow forms for drinking and enhance plant growth to making bio pest repellents using weeds like parthenium and medicinal plants. We provide affordable and demonstrative solutions to marginal farmers in our farm.
5. **Agricultural Supported Commune**  
Our farm is a self contained commune which supports livelihoods of Farmers & their families living on the farm (approx 20 people). Farmers children ( 10 nos) are educated in our sister concern Parmanand Education Trust to [www.parmanandtrust.org](http://www.parmanandtrust.org). Our community Kitchen fuelled by Bio gas caters to meals every day. A farm share program - farmers working at Ishana Farms are entitled to receiving a seasonal "share" of dairy and organic produce.

*Our belief is that Farmers are the most important stakeholders and we are committed to their welfare. Annadana has provided employment opportunity to many farmers especially destitute women & physically challenged persons.*