

Organic Agriculture Based Livelihoods in a Changing Climate

IFOAM Asia Conference, 17-21 Sep 2018, Bislig, Philippines



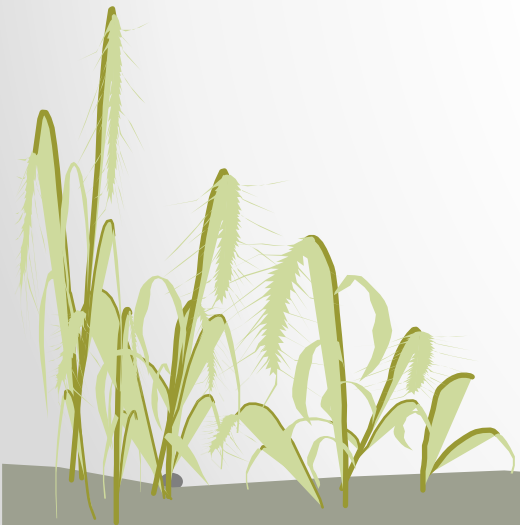
Small Farmers and Food - India

- 650 million farmers in India
- 80 percent own less than 2 hectares of land
- Produces 41% of the nation's food grains, and 51% of fruits and vegetables, from only 33% of the total farm land. (Source: Small Holder Farmers in India, FAO)
- Higher Productivity by small farmers
- Provides livelihood for 480 million farmers
- 250,000 farmer suicides in last 10 years



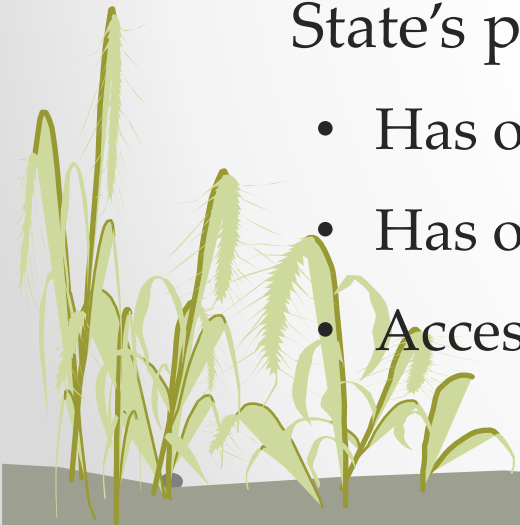
Challenges of the Peasants and Small Farmers

- Decreasing Rainfall
- Unseasonal and erratic rainfall
- Hailstorms
- Pests and Diseases
- Market forces

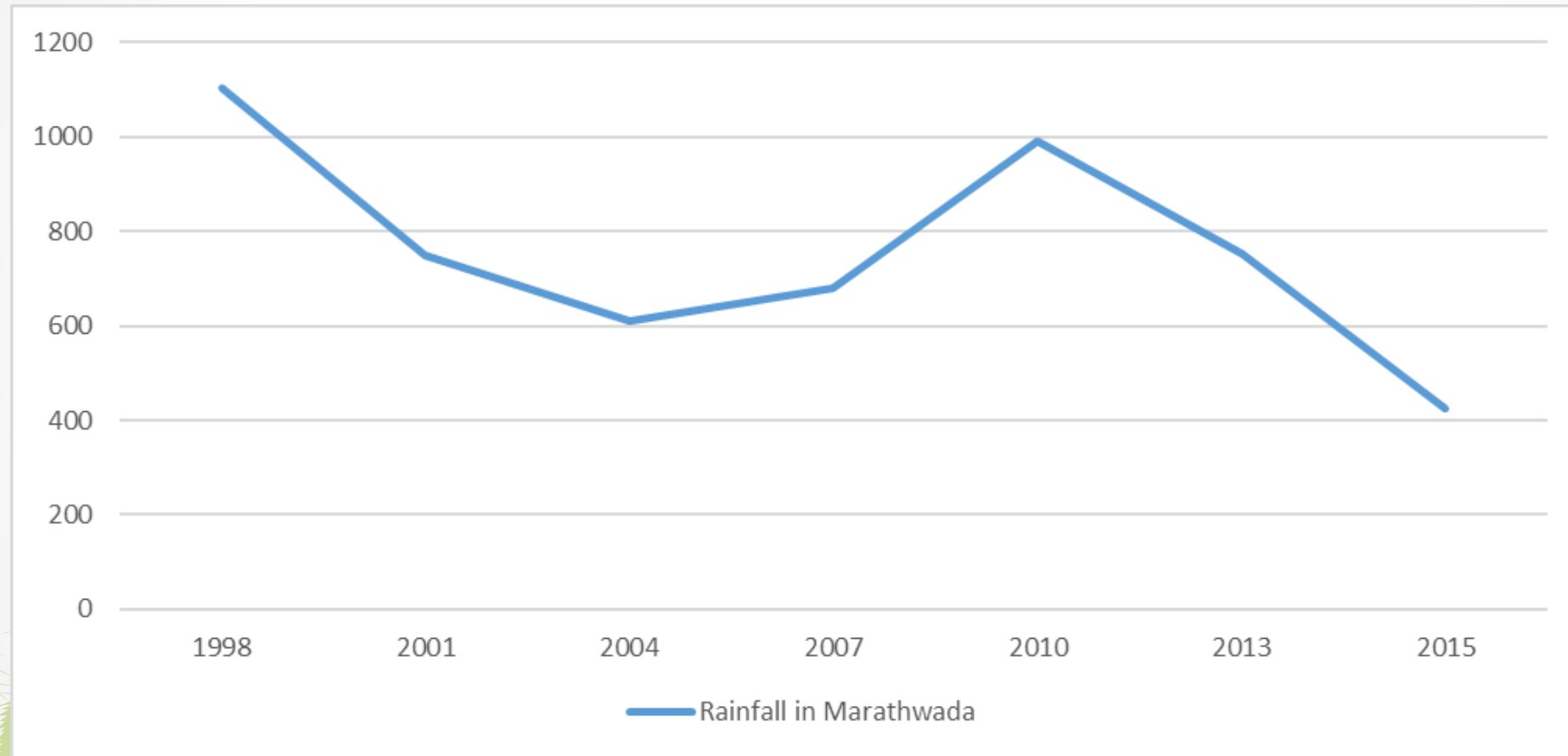


Marathwada – the region

- Central part of India. Part of the Maharashtra state
- Mostly rainfed
- Most people rely on agriculture and per capita income less than 100,000 INR per year.
- Millets and cotton are the main produce.
- Accounts for 31% of the State's cropped area and 17% of the State's population and yet
 - Has only 7% of the enterprises in the state.
 - Has over 30% of the people below poverty
 - Accesses less than 14% of the water resources



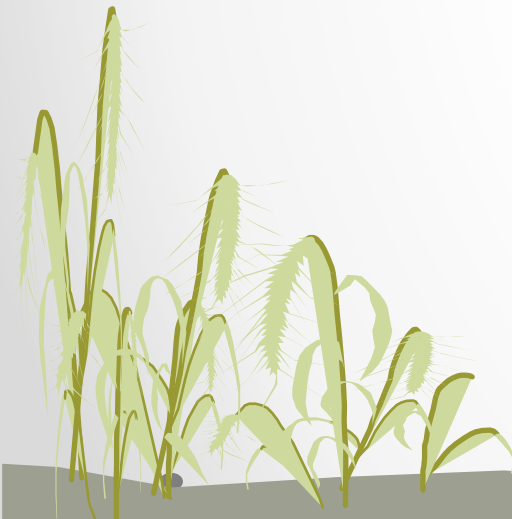
Rainfall Trends in Marathwada



The Suicides in Marathwada



The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is titled "Marathwada: India's emerging farmer suicide capital" and the URL is "indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/marathwada-indias-emerging-farmer-suicide-capital/". The browser's address bar also contains the text "farmers percent marathwada". The page header features "The Indian EXPRESS" logo and navigation icons. The main content area displays the article title "Marathwada: India's emerging farmer suicide capital" and a sub-headline: "As many parts of the country reel under a back-to-back drought, Kavitha Iyer reports from the region that's at the centre of the crisis." Below the text are social media sharing options for Facebook (79 shares) and Twitter (222 tweets), along with a "Comments (14)" link. An "ABOUT AUTHOR" section identifies Kavitha Iyer as an Associate Editor with The Indian Express. A large image of cracked, dry earth is centered on the page. To the right, there is a "RELIANCE Mutual Fund" advertisement for "Invest in ELSS (Equity Linked Savings Scheme) Mutual Funds". The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates "Waiting for s.wp.com..."



Natural Resource Management

- Farmer Groups
- Seed Banks
- In-situ conservation of landrace varieties
- School education programme on biodiversity and environment.



Organic Agriculture

- ❑ Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for certification of organic farming
- ❑ Knowledge base in organic farming
- ❑ Forums/ Platform for sharing of organic resources

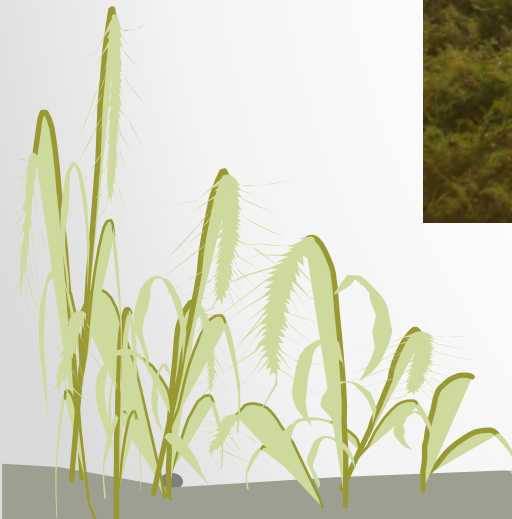


Farmer Cooperatives and Organic Bazaar

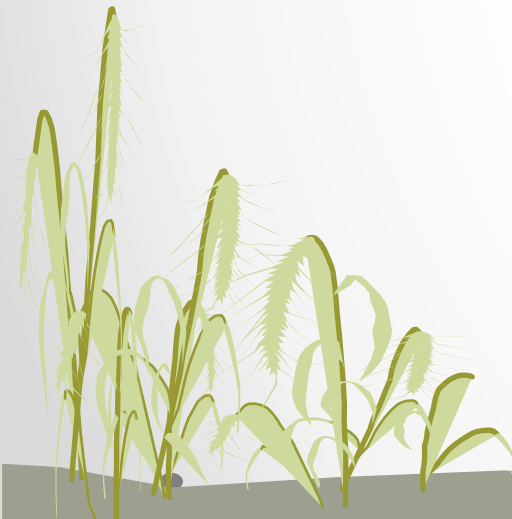
- ❑ Farmers cooperative focused on organic farming
- ❑ Organic Bazaars
- ❑ Japanese University research found Organic Bazaars improve incomes of small farmers significantly



Farmers Practicing BD



CPP – as Micro-enterprise for the Peasants

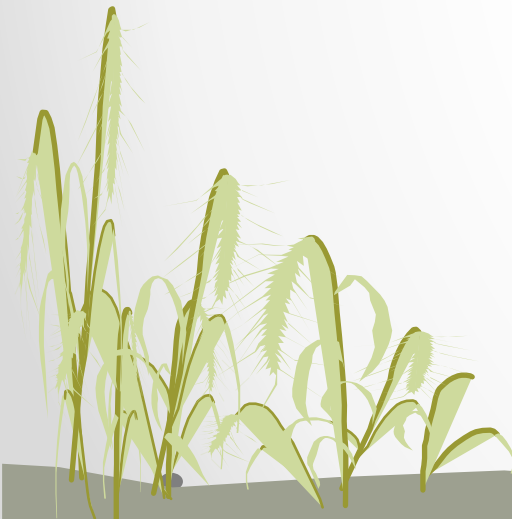




Mahagreen



- Mahagreen – Farmers cooperative or Farmer Producer Company
- Inclusion of small and marginal women farmers.



Micro-enterprises and Income Generation Activities

- ❑ Facilitated establishment of 600 dairy enterprises from 2013-2017
- ❑ Collaborated with Government and other institutions to support 300 vermicompost units
- ❑ Established more than a 5000 Biodynamic compost units
- ❑ Facilitated about 300 micro-enterprises related to poultry and goat-rearing.
- ❑ Established more than 700 small and micro-enterprises related to value addition/ processing of farm produce – flour mill, masala units, chilly powder, neem pulvarizer, etc



Water Conservation and Management

- ❑ Water conservation and management activities at 20 villages of 5 districts in Marathwada.
- ❑ Promoted drip irrigation among at least 1500 farmers.
- ❑ Facilitated preparation of Village action plans in 20 villages and implementation of them.
- ❑ Water Campaigns to promote organic farming, soil conservation, and water management.



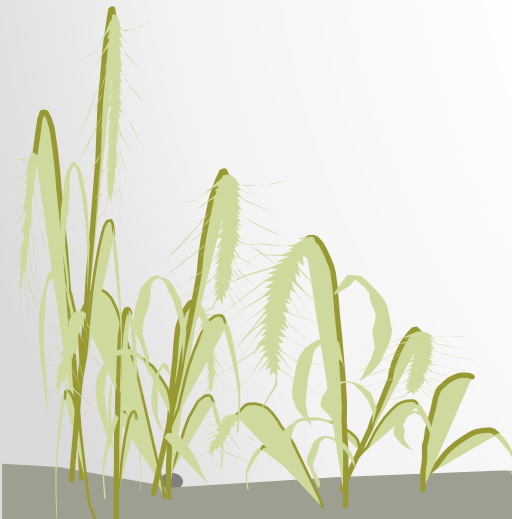
Green College

- ❑ Aims to build agriculture related skills among the rural youth
- ❑ Observed increased incomes of at least 20%
- ❑ Certified courses on –
 - Backyard Poultry Management
 - Goat rearing
 - Bio-input preparation and application
 - Cattle Rearing and Dairy Farming
 - Nursery Management
 - Food Processing of farm products
 - Organic Agriculture
 - Water Conservation and Management



Green College Impact on Livelihoods

- Increased incomes
- Reverse migration from urban jobs to rural jobs
- Increased work places



Embedded Philosophy

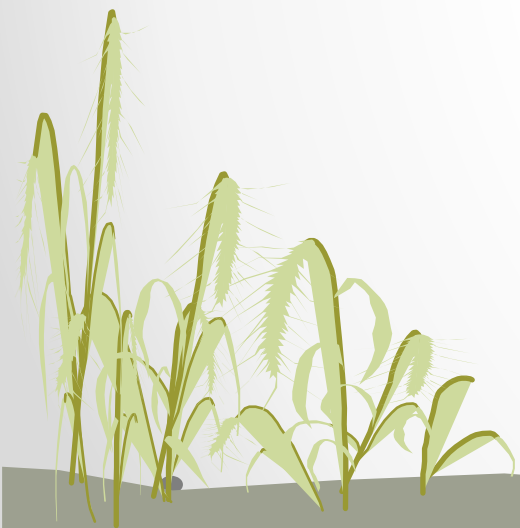
- “Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius — and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.”
- "The purpose of work is to give people a chance to utilize and develop their faculties; to enable them to overcome their ego-centeredness by joining others in a common task; and to bring for the goods and services needed for a becoming existence."
 - Ernst Friedrich Schumacher, German Economist and Philosopher, best known for “Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered.”



IAASTD Recommendations

The interventions are in the direction of the IAASTD Recommendations -

- The IAASTD study emphasized the need to focus on small scale organic farms, increased biodiversity, consumption of local foods, and rural enterprises that keep people on their lands for a food system that can address climate change and food crisis.



Organic 3.0 and Livelihoods

- The measures to promote inclusiveness of the small farmers and peasants and a holistic approach on sustainable food systems follows the overall approach and the goal of Organic 3.0 –

“Through the new Organic 3.0 understanding and strategy, the organic movement wants to showcase its ability to have impact on issues of critical importance to billions of people – e.g. ensuring climate change mitigation, resilience and adaptation, access to capital and adequate income, availability of land, water, seeds, adequate and healthy diets, and avoidance of waste in production and consumption (Organic 3.0 for truly sustainable farming and consumption, 2nd updated edition, 2016).”



Thank you

Joy Daniel

Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD)

India

Email: jdaniel@iird.org.in

