

bioRe Newsletter May & June 2007

We would like to share the main news about bioRe® with you as customers and suppliers of bioRe® textiles, as shareholders and investors of Remei AG. Do also visit our website: www.remei.ch. We will be happy to hear your questions and comments.

News from the bioRe textile chain

Basic - our new German customer - starts its organic textiles

T-shirts tell a story of "Naturbursche" and "Naturschönheit"

News of bioRe Tanzania

New organic project in the Meatu region - Busagwa Organic Farming Association

Collaboration with bioRe® Tanzania as a satellite project

Women from the bioRe villages are sewing the cotton bags for the purchase season

An initiative is gaining momentum

News of bioRe India and bioRe Association

bioRe® India clears SA 8000 surveillance audit

bioRe Animation Schools gets Governments recognition

bioRe Family Trainings

Farming - preparation of the season

New appointments in the Association team working on the long-term research

bioRe® work reported in News

Interviews of women receiving trainings at the training center

Basic - our new German customer - starts with organic textiles



T-shirts tell the story of “Naturbursche” and “Naturschönheit”

Read more about the idea behind Basic - the large supermarket chain that aims to provide organic products for everybody: www.basicbio.de.

The T-shirts are available online on the website of **basic**

New organic project in the Shinyanga region - Busagwa Organic Farming Association

bioRe Tanzania is reaching out to collaborate with the first satellite project, the organic cotton project Busagwa Organic Farming Association (BOFA) of Louis Kapanda. This project is situated in the region near Shinyanga, and it is a farmers' association working with the first group of farmers. In May, bioRe management and the ICS staff have visited the BOFA project, to see what are possibilities for collaborating as a satellite project and review the bioRe standards. Louis Kapanda has previously been coordinator at bioRe Tanzania and has started his own adventure in 2004. We are happy to have him back.



Women from the bioRe villages are sewing the cotton bags for upcoming purchase season



The sewing class for ladies at the bioRe Training centre is taking place regularly. This initiative of tailoring is now gaining momentum, as the ladies are getting involved in sewing the cotton bags for the upcoming purchase of seed cotton. The cotton bags will be used during cotton transportation from the bioRe villages to the ginning in Mwanhuzi.

bioRe® India clears SA 8000 surveillance audit

bioRe India successfully clears SA 8000 surveillance audit. Mr. T K Rajeev audited bioRe India's SA 8000 implementation on behalf of RINA and was happy to see the commitment of the management to implement high social standards.

This is in contrast to the fact that the common Ginning operations in India reportedly not following minimum labour welfare practices and bioRe India's Ginning unit is first such unit, which is, certified SA 8000.

bioRe Animation Schools gets Governments recognition

bioRe Associations programme on Promotion of Elementary Education through Animation has reached one of its important milestones when **local educational authority recognized our schools with Government Affiliation as Community Schools.**



This affiliation will recognize our animation schools to teach Government supported curriculum and children studying in animation schools will be directly linked with mainstream education of the state. bioRe Association with the help of bioRe Foundation, Switzerland has announced to build school buildings for our animation schools. Presently our Animation schools are running in bioRe farmers houses or villagers have built shelters for animation school by their own hands.

bioRe family trainings

The training sessions at the training center are continuing. During the month of April 07 we initiated Farmers Family Training programme. Mr. Rajeev Baruah in the Internal workshop suggested this concept this year. bioRe Association is realizing this concept. In the Farmers Family training programme we are inviting 15 farmers families from three different extension areas.

Participation of women in this programme has brought new dimension in the farmer's participation in making different organic and biodynamic preparations. Women are most important stakeholders in the farming families in India. We have provided trainings to more than 300 bioRe farmers families during this month.



New appointments in the Association team



Miss Shweta Mehta and Miss Swapnil Jain joined bioRe Association in April. Both have done their Postgraduate in Agriculture. They will be responsible for the Long-term DOK trials at the Associations new land. These trials are going to be conducted with Fibl Switzerland (**FiBL: Research Institute for Organic Farming**). Miss Swapnil Jain will also assist in Training farm management.

Farming

Farmers are preparing their lands for the next season. Farmers who are expected to sow summer cotton, they are busy in putting up pipelines and drip systems.

bioRe® in News



bioRe India and bioRe Associations work was reported as most positive works done by private and social organizations when the leading Hindi Daily of the state "Naiduniya" placed our work on its Front page special column on positive developments for farmers. This article said how organic farmers are benefiting from bioRe textile chain. It also said that in the time when farmers are betrayed by GMO, bioRe is giving a sustainable option to the farmers.

Interviews of women receiving trainings at the training center

Miss Swapnil Jain conducted interviews of four ladies who had come to attend Family training programme at the bioRe Training center. Mrs Bodi bai, Mrs Kola bai, Mrs Adiya bai and Mrs Shanta bai were interviewed. These ladies belong to Bilali and Nimrani extension centers of bioRe India.

bioReNL: What do you like about this training?

Answer: The training was really very good. We learn every aspects of the training and were impressed with it. Specially compost making was very interesting, by which we could learn to make proper use of our farm waste and raw materials.



bioReNL: What is the reaction of the male members in the family on your participation in this training?

Answer: All male members were convinced to bring us here because the extension workers influenced them. According to the male members these training was meant to give us innovative practices for our farms.

bioReNL: What is your role in decision making at home as well as farm?

Answer: We together take decisions with our husbands on various issues. In house decisions are more influenced by us like storage, cattle's etc. Out house the husbands decide issues.

bioReNL: What is the difference between agricultural practices here and at your farm?

Answer: They all feel that training is beneficiary for us; we will adopt all agriculture practices like organic or Biodynamic preparations, because it increases soil fertility and production, and these practices makes farm activities easily manageable. It tells us how we can manage to make our own inputs in low cost.

bioReNL: Where will you make a difference now?

We are first time being given training on farming. This training is going to be very useful. We have learned how we can improve our farm practices. We will definitely make use of the training. And we would like to visit the training center again.

News from India prepared by
Vivek Rawal

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