

bioRe Newsletter July 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 Remei

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T-shirts are available to promote this initiative

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Critical rains at training center in June

Land for life - an organisation supporting land rights in India

The Swiss group "Land for life" is organising a solidarity march from Berne to Geneva (25. September to 10. October) which will draw attention to the large Land rights campaign taking place in India (Janadesh 2007).

The initiative "Land for life" is creating awareness on the land rights situation in India and engages non-violently alongside the activists in India.

For further information, visit the website at www.landforlife.ch

Order T-shirts with the logo "Land for life" info@landforlife.ch (at 18.- CHF). Out of the sale of the T-shirts the money will be forwarded to supporting the Indian march Janadesh 2007.



T-shirts for men and women, carrying the message of a large land rights movement.

What is JANADESH 2007

Janadesh 2007 stands for a long march organised by the social movement Ekta Parishad in India. It is a popular non-violent movement, and fights for the rights of land-less peasants and the indigenous people in India. The leader of Ekta Parishad is Rajagopal P.V., and he acts on two levels; in supporting the oppressed populations, and also acting as a political pressure group on a national level. Thus, to encourage the government to take notice of the problems of access to land, violations of human rights and environmental damage and pollution. The Janadesh 2007 (the will of the people) will entail a walk of 25,000 marchers from Gwalior to Delhi 350km.

Are you interested to walk on the footmarch in Switzerland? It is now possible to apply for the "Land for life" footmarch, register at www.landforlife.ch.

Purchase season for organic cotton has started in Tanzania



On 25th of June the purchase of seed cotton has started in 11 villages where bioRe Tanzania is working.

This year we are expecting a bigger yield compared to last year, because the weather conditions have been much more favourable. Rather surprising is the high purchase price as of now.

Altogether we purchase organic cotton from 1531 farmers. This season the premium price for bioRe farmers was increased; the premium price for cotton in conversion is at 45 Tsh/kg and for the organic cotton it is at 60 Tsh/kg.

Trainee Kathrin Wagner arrived in Meatu

Also on time for the busy purchase season, Kathrin Wagner has come to Meatu where she is doing her traineeship for three months. She will work and support in the purchase processes, and also she is conducting a survey on the income development of farmers in the region.



Filmteam of ARTE TV visited Meatu

Between 3rd and 6th of July, the German film producer Holger Riedel visited us. He is working in the area around Shinyanga in order to make a documentary film on witchcraft. Together with a staff of bioRe Tanzania as translator he visited farmers and their routine of the day. As the film maker was excited about the bioRe project, he recorded the camp and made interviews with Niranjana Pattani and Karl-Heinz Lindner. The documentary will be broadcasted at the end of the year on ARTE, under the name of GEO 360°.



Short report on the Research of FiBL and bioRe

Ms Christine Zundel from FiBL visited bioRe, where she held discussions and worked together with the team members in planning the field trials. Dr. M.P. Sharma (Senior Scientist, Microbiology) from National Research center of Soyabean visited bioRe during this period as well. Land preparations are completed and the trial plots were ready for sowing on time.



Fields are ready for the trial comparison research.

Developing Self Help Groups in rural India

bioRe Association has started Clusters Development Project with objective to expand its activities, to reach out to more people from organic farming communities and to build capacities of the local people by creating and promoting village level institutions. Under this project 6 Young boys from bioRe communities have been appointed to spread the work of the Association at the grassroots. These boys have been given residential training on community mobilization and Rural Development. Each of them will look after 5-6 villages and work like a facilitator between Association and Farmers.



Under the clusters Development Project the bioRe Association has formed 35 self-help groups in the last month. These groups are formed by male and female members of bioRe families.

More than 300 bioRe farmers and the female members of their families are members of these SHGs.

The aim of these 35 SHGs is to save approximate amount of 3000 USD per annum. These groups will take up some small income generating activities later on, which will provide additional livelihood options to the bioRe families thus increasing their purchase power.



Social work students on Block Placements to support the Cluster Development Project

6 Social work students including two girls have come to work with bioRe Association under their academic requirement for Post Graduation of Social Work. These students will help in promotion of village level institution under our new projects on Social Clusters Development. These trainees live in bioRe area and have opted to work with bioRe for two months during their block placements.

Farmers Family Training

The family trainings were initiated in April this year. More than 440 families have been given training up to June. On this basis the Farmer Field School project is starting in the various bioRe Extension areas. Interested families will participate in the Farmers Field School Project of the Association.



bioRe Association is now implementing the project on developing Farmers Field Schools in different extension centers. These Farmers Field Schools will promote continuous education and training to help bioRe farmers develop effective farming practices as well as to provide exposure to other interested farmers of the respective area who are willing to do organic farming. During the month of June we have started 4 farmers Field schools in 4 bioRe Extension areas.



Farmer Field Schools are organised at farm level.

28 students enrolled at the Coop Computer Center

The Computer Center at bioRe Trainingcenter is full of students in the summer time. Many students are enrolling for short term and long-term courses due to summer vacations. There was fall of students in last three months due to Annual Academic examinations of the children. At present there are 28 students enrolled in the Coop Computer Center.

New appointments in the Association team

Mr. Jitendra Jain joined bioRe Association in May. He will work in the Coop Computer Center. Mr. Jain had worked with a Public School before joining bioRe.

Critical rains at training center of bioRe India with devastating effect

In June, the bioRe Training center and its surrounding areas had a terrible rain storm in the first days of the Monsoon. There had been a lot of loss of property at the training center. Big Mango and acacia trees (local name Babool) around the area have been uprooted from their roots and have fallen on the road. It took us some time to get back to normal work.



Life is strange where there grief there is also joy. It has been a difficult month at bioRe India.

Our Manager Extension of Nimrani center Mr Ashok Singh lost his son while they were at their village during their vacation.

We were also grieved at the loss of one of our farmers Chamar Singh from Balakwada who passed away this month.

Our staff member Sanjay Yadav was blessed with a baby boy this month.

We at bioRe India thank all those who sent us their good wishes and shared our difficult moments. It carries a lot of value to know that we are not alone.

Thank you for your support.

News from India prepared by
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