

# Echoes of Eco



July, 2018

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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## Extracts from the book "Living in tune with Nature"

### A Final Flowering

(Ikuma Dan)

In the southern part of the city of Fukuoka, one of Japan's largest cities, a four-meter street alongside a reservoir had become an impossible bottleneck, reducing commuter traffic to a crawl. So the city of Fukuoka decided to widen the street to 12 meters - which meant that a row of cherry trees standing at the edge of the reservoir would have to be cut down.



One tree, its buds still tightly clasped, had already fallen to the workman's saw. Like its companions, the tree was quite large, probably more than 50 years old. The following day, a poem card - the kind upon which poets of ancient times brushed lines inspired by the cherry blossoms' beauty - was found dangling from a branch of the tree next in line.

On it was written a poem addressed to the Mayor of the city of Fukuoka:

To the Keeper of Cherry  
Trees, the Honorable  
Mayor Shindo  
Take pity on the flowers;

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*Our salutations to Bharat Mata  
whose feet are washed by the  
waves of the Indian Ocean, who is  
crowned by the snowy Himalayas,  
whose illustrious children include  
distinguished sages who have  
attained enlightenment and led  
the nation.*



*"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but of ourselves"*

- Rachel Carson



Please grant them a fortnight's reprieve  
That they may blossom one  
final spring.

News of the poem spread and a short time later a response fluttered from a bough of the tree. On the card swaying in the chill breeze of incipient spring were written the following lines:

The heart that grieves for the flowers  
Is the noble and true heart of Yamato  
May that gentle spirit ever prevail.  
Keeper of the Cherry Trees of Chikuzen  
Kazuma

Kazuma was the pen name of Mayor Shindo. The cutting of the trees was to be postponed. Grateful citizens covered the trees' branches with verses applauding the Mayor's decision.

Later, the cherry trees flowered, blossoming in an effusive cloud of pale pink against the blue skies of Fukuoka, as if pouring a final rush of energy into their last days.

You may think this is a story of minor importance. Yet it recounts a most admirable flowering of communication among people that has been almost forgotten in modern Japan - a heartwarming revelation of trust between human beings. Whoever the gentle soul who wished the trees might be allowed at least one more chance to flower, he did not put on a helmet and organise a demonstration. He merely tied one simple poem to the cherry tree's branch. That is something that gladdens the heart.

It is even more moving for the Mayor to respond in kind with a poem addressed to those saddened by the tree's destiny and grant that final flowering.



But important above all, the petitioner did not demand that the trees remain forever, at the expense of necessary road-widening, but simply that they be granted one last spring. This, I think, is a truly wise and sensitive way to move authority.

Note: Thanks to the exchange of poems, Fukuoka city officials reconsidered their construction plans. The route of the road was changed, the pavement widened and the row of cherry trees left standing.

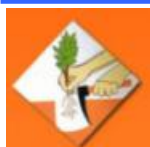






*"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction"*

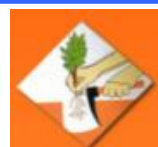
- Rachel Carson



Happenings this month:  
Sustainable Agriculture



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:  
Sustainable Agriculture

Training programme on "Bio-pesticides & Growth Promoters" was held at Technology Resource Center on 28<sup>th</sup> July. 02 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Participants visited pest repellent plants at our J.C. Bose Nursery

Training programme on "Vermi Wash technology" was held at Vivekanandapuram on 28<sup>th</sup> July. 29 participants attended the training. Shri.Manoj D.Gohil was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Agrocel Industries Ltd., Bhuj-Kutch.



Shri.Manoj explaining 'Vermi wash technology'



Feedback from the field

Mrs.A.Mary Pushpam  
Vellapatti  
Melasarakal Post  
Tuticorin District.



Crusted Apple tree is there in front of my house. The tree was attacked partially by Mealy bugs. I requested my neighbor to spray fish amino. After its application the pest disappeared and so my friend thanked me profusely. Thanks to my training by Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep.



Filling of Vermi wash unit with farm waste, organic waste, bottles for aeration etc.

Completed Vermi wash unit is ready for use  
Capacity - 6 cum







*"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life"*

*- Rachel Carson*



**Happenings this month:  
Holistic Health**



**Happenings this month**



**Happenings this  
month:  
Holistic Health**



*Practical demonstration on Varma in the natural surroundings*

**Workshop on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting"** was held at Technology Resource Center on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. 42 Vaidyas attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



*Camp participants trained on Varma Kalari*

**Green health home worked for 5 days and treated 239 patients.**

**"Mass Green Health Camp"** was held at Green Rameswaram building, Mangammal Chatram, Rameswaram on 17<sup>th</sup> July. 498 patients were benefited. Medicines given for 15 days. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team helped in organizing the camp.



*Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team treating patients*



*Varma treatment for a lady patient*





**"Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species -- man -- acquired significant power to alter the nature of the world"**

**- Rachel Carson**



**Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy**



**Happenings this month:  
Networking**



**Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy**

**Training programme on "Bio-methanation - Multiple Usage" was held at Technology Resource Center on 28<sup>th</sup> July. 11 participants attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.**



**Shri.V.Ramakrishnan interacting with the participants during Bio-methanation training**

**Training programme on "Bio-methanation technology" was held at Vivekanandapuram on 13<sup>th</sup> July. 61 students attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Govt. of Polytechnic, Konam, Nagercoil.**



**Shri.V.Ramakrishnan talking about the uses of Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plant**



**"Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plants" conquers Kashi (Banaras) Portable type 1cum - 12 nos. sent by Railway**

## Fish Amino

*A useful biological option*

S Premalatha

Farmer groups in Tamil Nadu found a successful solution in Fish Amino for enhancing the soil fertility. Rich in nitrogen, Fish Amino not only reduced the requirement of nitrogen fertilizer, but also served as a growth promoter enhancing yields. Being produced from wastes which hitherto resulted in health problems, Fish Amino also served as a means to reduce pollution in the region.

Enhancing farm productivity by chemical inputs like fertilizers, pesticides succeeded in increasing overall productivity and helped in achieving food security. Prolonged application of the chemical inputs gradually hijacked the natural systems. Several species of soil micro and macro flora and fauna like blue green algae and azolla which were abundant and were an integral part of the farming system are being replaced with exotic weeds like *Silvina*, making the water bodies almost biologically dead. Indiscriminate use of chemicals and pesticides not only killed pests, but also the predators leading to a resurgence of pesticide resistant strains. These chemicals also deteriorated the health and longevity of livestock and humans, causing a variety of new generation diseases like cancer.

Like animals, plants also need amino acids. They cannot be synthesised or may not be synthesised in sufficient quantities in plants. This is also the case with amino and organic compounds like table and petrol compounds etc., which are very vital for vegetative growth, flowering and productivity. These compounds, which are required in very



*Fish Amino, rich in nitrogen serves as a fertilizer*

small quantities, often become a limiting factor for the growth and the productivity of important crops. These compounds produced out of enzyme activity and fermentation from fish and meat waste can be given as a foliar spray.

During the post-monsoon season, huge quantity of fish waste and non-edible fish related waste is generated. The fish processing units too generate a lot of waste. With no proper disposal systems, it often results in environmental pollution and epidemics. If this waste is properly processed in time, besides solving the problem of pollution, it will also serve as a wonderful growth booster. This growth booster is rich

*Thamara Ismail shows how vegetable garden using fish amino*



*Thamara Ismail shows how vegetable garden using fish amino*



*Fish Amino, rich in nitrogen serves as a fertilizer*

bioactive, without no harm. Mix this material well with organic (Foliar spray) and use it for 3-5 days. Keep the waste covered with plastic sheeting. After 5-6 days, add organic material, made from 200g sugar dissolved in 1 litre of water to each 100g of waste. Jaggery helps in preventing the growth of algae and bacteria, which is mainly responsible for the oxidation of the culture containing protein and evolution of bad smelling gases like hydrogen sulphide. Moreover, jaggery promotes the growth of more fungi like *Trichoderma*, which break down protein into amino acids and carbohydrates into alcohol and ketones. In this process, the waste also gets degraded and get degraded into phosphate and calcium compounds.

Proper fermentation by a combination of water, jaggery and bacteria will convert the fermentation within 15-20 days. The extract can be prepared by adding 2-5 litres water to the final product and some. The solution is prepared in plastic, preferably in a 100 litre capacity. The extracted part, if any, can be used for soil application as manure.

Production cost comes to about Rs.30/- per litre while the return can easily sell it for Rs.50/- per litre.

**Spread of the technology**

Vivekananda Kendra - Nagercoil training centres and self-help group members in preparing fish amino. Farmers have started using up this technology. Presently, a small tractor owned Fish Amino training in the month of Feb 2018. Six hundred preparing and packaging fish amino for the fishermen are provided and now supply to get 100-200 more yield, (see last)

Presently, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, as well as AARD, are also processing this technology through their popular programme, Capacity Building in Technology (CBT).

Fish Amino helps not only in making healthy soil waste, but also helps in reducing the pollution and waste in a green production. Results in the field are highly encouraging. Production increases by 15-20% and the time taken to reduce the requirement of nitrogen fertilizer. Moreover, farmers dependence on the market is reduced.

**S Premalatha**

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**Famous LEISA quarterly magazine, Bangalore gave coverage to our article - "Fish Amino - A useful biological option" written by Smt.S.Premalatha, Research Asst.**





*"A rainy day is the perfect time for a walk in the woods"*

- Rachel Carson



## Visions of Wisdom



### Living in tune with Nature

Living in tune with Nature, implies, living in tune with the higher human Nature, the law of Love, according to which the whole creation moves. Swami Vivekananda has in his words which are music, as proclaimed by Romain Rolland, expressed the truth thus: "Unattached, but shining in everything is Love, the motive power of the Universe, without which the Universe will fall into pieces in a moment". In the inspiring words of Buddha. living in tune with Nature means:

"Love every ray of the Sun, Love every grain of sand, Love Plants, Love Animals, Love everything".

All the five elements of Nature -ether, air, fire, water and earth had their use for human beings and so were worthy of worship as givers of grace, profit and -prosperity. They could also turn into terrible enemies in the form of tempests, floods, fire, etc. if we do not love the Nature.



### Development destroys Social structures

Today's technological achievements are indeed very impressive. For instance, technology can enable man to fly to the moon. But so what? Man has never suffered from not flying to the moon. The truth is that most of the problems that confront us and even threaten our very survival, are of a non-technological nature. They are due to the breakdown of natural systems. Thus, in the present-day West, there is an epidemic of crime, delinquency, drug addiction and alcoholism. This is unavoidable as a society develops, because development destroys social structures and cultural forms and people are made to live in a void, without a family, a community, a culture, without beliefs and without a goal structure. In other words, their fundamental psychological and social needs cease to be satisfied.



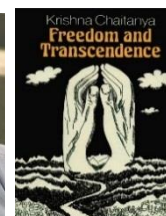
### Humanity losing control over technology

You are quite right in saying that technology cannot restore the family and its deep bonds which have enabled man to survive all the cataclysms of history so far. But I shall go further in my criticism to say that technology cannot guarantee even that which it primarily set out and claimed to do. For example, production to raise everybody above poverty. In fact, it has created poverty. And we now seem to be shackled to it. The Indian idea of Karma can be applied in a new am context. Do you remember Jacques Ellul's revealing study, The Technological Society? He proved that if you allowed your instrumentation or technology, to rise beyond a certain level of power, you lose your control over it. It will cease to be your instrument and the determinants of autonomous technology will become the inevitabilities of soon as your fate.



**Late Prof. K.N. Vaswani**  
A great Gandhian & Vice  
President of Vivekananda  
Kendra, Kanyakumari

**Edward Goldsmith**  
Anglo-French  
environmentalist,  
writer and  
philosopher



**Krishna Chaitanya**  
Author of several  
books on culture,  
literature and art