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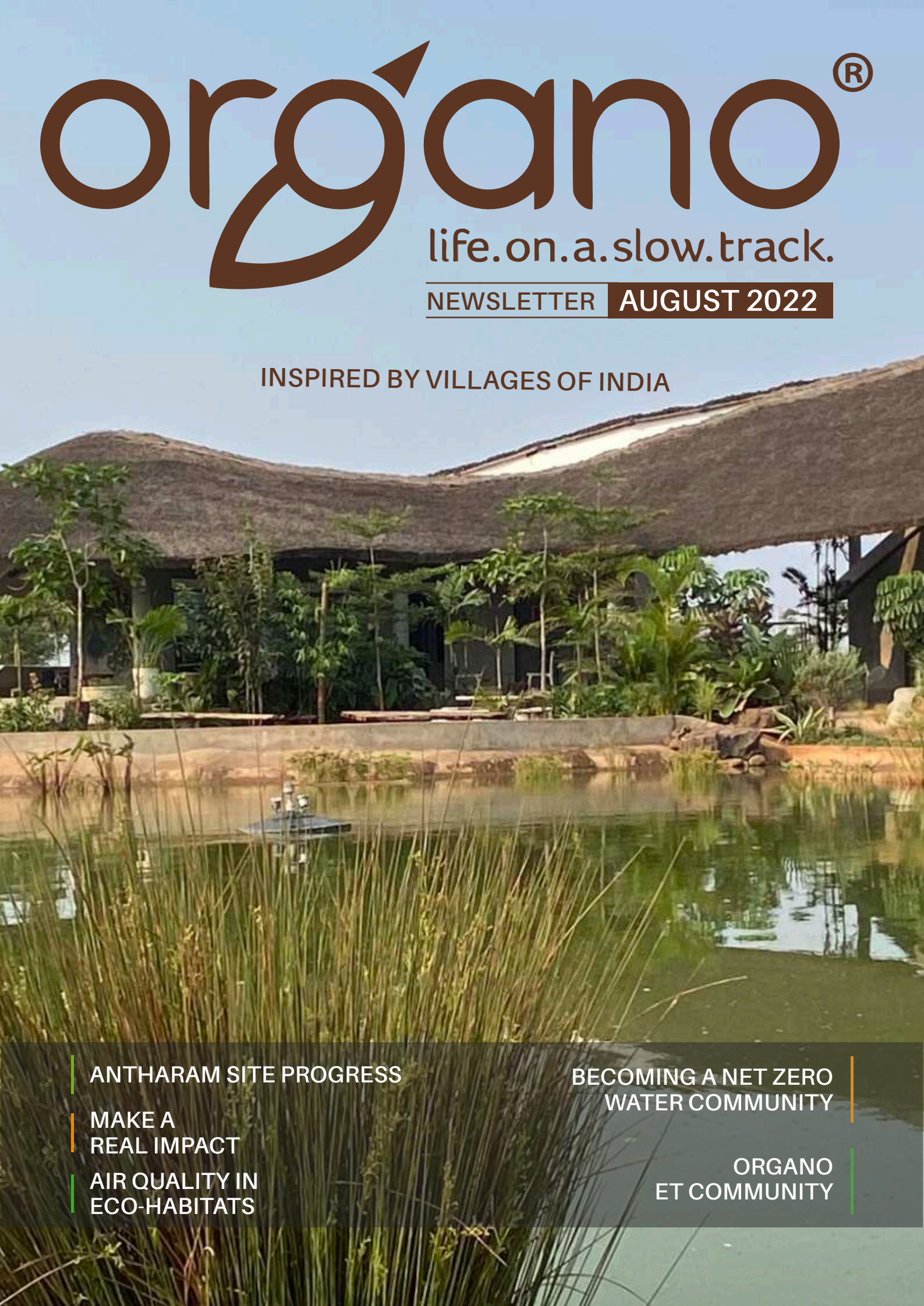
NEWSLETTER **AUGUST 2022**

INSPIRED BY VILLAGES OF INDIA



ANTHARAM SITE PROGRESS

MAKE A REAL IMPACT

AIR QUALITY IN ECO-HABITATS

BECOMING A NET ZERO WATER COMMUNITY

ORGANO ET COMMUNITY

SITE PROGRESS
AUGUST 2022

organo® ANTHARAM
Inspired by Villages of India

Entrance Pavilion

Water Treatment Plant

Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

Pedda Baavi

China Baavi

House of Activity

Rurban Hive

Cluster Aerial View

Cluster Club

GANDHAM PALLE

MODUGA PALLE

CHAMPAKA PALLE

VELAGA PALLE

Internal Roads

Cluster Entrance

Cluster Club

Electrical Main Cable laying

Estate Manager Office

Passive Health Care Center

Project Compound wall

WATER CHANNELS

Becoming a Net Zero Water Community

Picture: Dug well at our upcoming rurban community- Organo Antharam

Our upcoming communities are being designed to be Net Zero Water (NZW). A NZW community relies minimally on external water sources and depends heavily on rainwater and treated wastewater to meet the overall water demands. An ideal net zero water building uses on-site alternative water sources to supply all the building's water needs.

There are three primary sources of water consumption envisaged in our upcoming communities such as domestic consumption for homes and common amenities, irrigation for farming and landscaping and animal husbandry.

The domestic water requirements are catered through rainwater stored in the dug well and municipal water. The rainwater collected is further treated through a water treatment plant and most part of the community's water demand is for farming and landscaping, which varies from season to season. The landscaping requirement in the eco-habitat is completely offset through treated wastewater. The water for the farming is sourced from the large dug wells that are constructed within the community.

Zero Discharge Community

The wastewater generated from homes and common spaces is diverted into a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and treated to tertiary level. In Rurban communities, the treated wastewater is directly used for landscaping due to high demand, instead of diverting it to flushing water in homes. The treated wastewater is rich in nutrients and improves soil fertility. Also, the sludge generated as by-product of this process is sun dried and mixed with soil.

Dug Well

Water resilience is a big goal we are trying to reach.

To accomplish this, we are looking at various ways in which surface rainwater run off can be tapped.

Although ground water sources can be reached if we go deep enough, we do not want to do that.

At 1000 feet below the ground, we reach confined aquifers. These acquirers are blocked by rock layers above and below. Any water that is taken out of these aquifers are not easily replenished. It takes decades for the water to reach these deep reservoirs.

One way to recharge these deep aquifers is to put water back in the same borewells or similar borewells from which we are pulling water out.

Although this creates a somewhat sustainable solution, there is no guarantee that the water we put in will come back to us as these underground aquifers are spread across hundreds of acres of area.

There may come a time where the surrounding farmers continuously pull water out and we don't reap any benefits from our efforts.

To become drought resilient, the best option is to capture as much rainfall as possible within the boundaries of our community.

This is where our dug wells come into picture. They act as a buffer - a battery bank for water.

During times of extreme drought, the community shall manage water better using this reserve which is non-existent in other communities. During drought, depending on the severity, strategies are being formulated on how to use this water.

Make a Real Impact

Youth from nearby villages in a skill development class

At Organo, the impact of building an eco-habitat is carefully thought out and closely monitored. Some of the impact can be directly measured in terms of numbers such as water conservation and reuse, energy production etc., and some of the impact is intangible and can be felt over a long period of time such as a positive impact on the health and well-being of the residents, improved economic conditions and livelihood opportunities for the people from the nearby villages etc.

The villages near our projects are co-opted as part of the eco-habitat social outreach boundary. The intent of social outreach is to create a bond between the residents of eco-habitats and the villagers residing in the surrounding villages. This bond is pivotal to ensure that the eco-habitats have a symbiotic relationship with their surrounding villages, and everyone lives in harmony.

With the rapid urbanization, there is a growing trend of people from the villages migrating to the cities in search of livelihood opportunities. Most of them work in the unskilled sectors where the wages are low, and they live in shanty homes with poor living conditions. In villages near the

city the trend is that people commute to work in the city on a daily basis and come back home which takes away a good chunk of their earnings. Some of them leave their families behind and go to the city in search of work.

The presence of eco-habitats built on the idea of Rurban living, with their emphasis on localization, the aforementioned issues of livelihood related migration can be mitigated to a considerable extent. The eco-habitats provide avenues for the villagers to get upskilled and find livelihood opportunities in various facilities management related roles right from farming, animal husbandry, MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing), hospitality services, housekeeping etc.

This has a multiplier effect such as improved income generation, stable livelihood, skill improvement, etc.

Apart from this, interested residents of the eco-habitat also get an avenue to participate in social outreach programmes with focus on education of primary and secondary school children in the villages, farmers in the villages who are willing to adopt natural farming methods etc.

A farmer interacting with Organo team to learn Natural Farming methods

Children from nearby villages in the evening Tuition classes conducted by Organo appointed teacher

With a considerable number of rural youth and people willing to upskill and work in the eco-habitats the economic and social benefits to the villages cannot be emphasized more. This impact is not based on charity but on necessity which ensures that both the villagers and the residents of the eco-habitats engage in a dignified partnership with each other and help support one another in living a holistic life.

Air quality in Eco-habitats

Lung spaces such as the above help improve Air quality

In recent times, there has been a paradigm shift in the way we perceive health. Not only is it limited to the food we eat and exercise we do, but a major part of human health is related to the air we breathe. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of good air quality

Air is of utmost importance to the health and well-being but often overlooked or given less priority.

In all the communities built by us, a lot of lung spaces are created within the community to ensure sufficient oxygen is generated within the community. Below are a few strategies that are followed to improve air quality:

1. Bio fencing – Bio fences reduce soil erosion through wind and rain and protect the community from air borne dust by acting as an air barrier.

2. Lung space through afforestation areas – with 20% of the land utilised for afforestation, there is a lot of oxygen that is generated within the community. This not only helps sequester carbon dioxide and produce oxygen but also holds the soil in place during heavy winds.

3. Weed management to reduce plants that cause allergens – Some weeds like parthenium down.

Parthenium cleaning drive underway

4. Ventilation inside homes to get rid of Volatile Organic compounds – The homes are designed to enable cross ventilation which removes volatile organic compounds that are produced from surface, furniture, paints within the house.

5. Usage of bio pesticides – A lot of the pesticide that is sprayed in the farms becomes air borne. Using chemicals as pesticides reducing the air quality. Using bio pesticides is a great way to ensure these chemicals don't enter our lungs.

6. Reducing dust and converting it to soil with biodiversity through natural fertilizers, mulching, composting, and letting the fallen leaves be also reduces a lot of dust from becoming air borne.

7. Car-free areas in front of the home are built to pedestrian friendly walkways. Cars running idle in front of the house increase pollutants in the air which travel through homes. Ensuring that there are no cars in the walkway is a good way to minimise pollutants in the air that we breathe inside the home.

By employing the methods mentioned above, the Air quality is maintained in all the eco-habitats built by us.

Launching OES Workshop "Farm to Fork Cooking"

Organo Et School (OES) is happy to bring another interesting workshop "Farm to Fork Cooking workshop" where the participants will learn to connect with mother earth. As they say, the best way to connect with mother earth is to harvest the vegetables. Then prepping them for cooking a meal in a mud pot, the food which is least processed yet most flavorful and aromatic. This signifies Slow Food.

This is special because here we will harvest fresh vegetables on the farm and use these to cook a delicious blend of flavors. It covers making delicious dishes from locally available ingredients, using traditional methods of cooking in clay pots and wood fire.

A culinary experience that will take you very close to the roots is planned under the expert guidance of Mrs. Himanshu Kapoor. She specializes in offering customized fitness counseling across lifestyles. She is the founder of 'C Green Future Foods', a healthy food brand. She is widely traveled across the country and abroad and has rich cross-cultural culinary experience. She is also part of the international Slow Food movement and

conducts cooking workshops with the philosophy of local, seasonal, and sustainable foods.

Expert Instagram Handle: https://www.instagram.com/himanshukapoor_cgreen/?hl=en

The ingredients that are traditional and locally available will be used by our expert, which have many nutritional benefits, especially in this season. These work wonders for issues like asthma and bronchitis. These are rich in micronutrients like calcium, iron, zinc and potassium. They improve digestion and regulate bowel movement along with maintaining electrolyte balance.

Clay rendition workshop at Organo Et School Children's Farm Campus

OES is proud to organize a Clay Rendition workshop as part of our Sapthapatha (Earth Strand) series:

"Pottery Without Wheel"

by Manpreet Singh Nishter, a renowned ceramic artist, will lead this workshop.

During this experiential workshop, each participant will be given a work area and asked to follow the expert, while working with clay individually.

They will work with clay using rolling pins, pin needles, leaves and stones to create designs and textures on the clay.

At the end of the workshop, you will take the clay works back to your homes to air dry them.

So, be prepared for some fun with mud and clay.....this Sunday. Rains are ideal for having this clay activity!!

organo Et School

A day's session Designing Be a Farmer Program for Teens

OES organised a very productive daylong session for teenagers at Organo Naandi. The session was chaired by Ms. Meena Murugappan, Director-Organo Et School (OES). There were 15 Participants, who were all bright teenagers in the age bracket of 15-17 years. All of them were keen to take part in this interesting design thinking and planning workshop, to collaboratively redesign the Be a Farmer program for teenagers.

Currently OES is successfully running Be a Farmer program, designed to create awareness about soil and farming among young children in the age bracket of 6-12 years. These programs are conducted at OES Children's farm campus, Kesaram.

During the redesigning workshop, participants were divided into groups to suggest strategies for a Be a farming program to be conducted for Teenagers, keeping present course curriculum as reference. During the day they were taken through a holistic experience of connecting with soil and nature with workshops and activities. All of them learned how to grow microgreens of Wheat (Wheat grass) and Fenugreek (Methi 2-3 inches long plants) microgreens through a DIY workshop, conducted by Ms. Meena. They also participated in another DIY workshop of making Jeevamrutham a biofertilizer made by natural ingredients. The touch experiences this activity gave were overwhelming for a few participants. It helped shed a lot of apprehension amongst these teenagers.

After a few engrossing discussions regarding the marketing and communication plans for talking to and reaching a larger teen audience, some valid pointers emerged. As they progressed deeper into the session, it was interesting to note that they all were putting in their thoughts to design this program for the teens. So, the advantage this program has is that it is designed by teenagers for the teenagers to dive into the farming world through this new Be a Farmer program. The session concluded with each team presenting the new curriculum to OES panel and farm coaches for review and feedback, followed by a Q&A session.

The workshop had strategically placed breaks for food and refreshments cooked with locally produced vegetables and other safe and witnessed ingredients. Post session each participant was presented with a microgreen starter kit with a growth tracker sheet, 1 lit. Bottle of Jeevamrutham, they made earlier during the day and a certificate of participation.

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BAF Monsoon Batch - Stakes tomatoes, learns pest control

On 31 July 2022, Sunday morning all the 'Be a Farmer' participants came to the OES Children's farm. After wishing their farm coach Shilpa Teja and Venkatesh Nallamilli, ran up to their farm patches.

It was a delight to see them start weeding on their own, each Sunday as they come to tend to their farm patches. Shilpa called them all to brief them about the day's activities. They all learned to stake and support the tomato plants growing in their farm patches. This is done to prevent the small tomatoes from touching the ground and getting spoilt. Jute ropes and bamboo sticks are used for staking process. Some of the kids tried to dig holes in the ground using crowbars and bamboo sticks by themselves. Once all of them tied horizontal ropes across the ground, parallel to the row of tomato plants, they all started supporting the plants along these ropes, by making them stand up straight.

Having seen their tomato plants look up nicely, they asked Shilpa about the next activity. She was prepared for this with sticky patches, to be installed in each farm patch. All the participants enthusiastically

agreed to do so. They attached the sticky patches to the bamboo poles they had erected for stakes. The sticky patches are used for preventing flying insects from reaching and harming the crop. This is a widely used pest prevention method in natural farming.

This brought the kids to the most interesting activity for the day, harvesting. All of them ran to the OES Polyhouse Farm to harvest a few Beetroots and Okras from there. Each of them got to harvest 5-6 beetroots to give to their moms for making a salad of these fresh veggies. As they filled their bags and bid goodbye to the farm and their coaches, they went into their respective vehicles and headed back to the town.

Organo Et Community Celebrates Independence Day with Keerthi Richmond Villa Residents

As part of the 75th Independence Day celebrations on 15th August 2022, the Organo Et Community organized an event at Keerthi Richmond Villas. Organo Et School, Organo Farm Store, and God's Own Office Café jointly set up stalls and conducted workshops as part of this independence day program on Sunday afternoon.

This Independence day it was Organo's effort to bring awareness about Sapthapadha -the 7 strands of sustainability, by showcasing Organo Et School programs being run in Hyderabad. These are intended towards developing interest amongst young children and adults about sustainable living and natural farming methods.

Organo Et School participated in this event by organizing experiential workshops for children and parents. Three interesting workshops were conducted on Monday at Keerthi Richmond Villas, Suncity.

1. Snakes awareness program – "Living in a Biodiverse Habitat",

Illustrations in Art"

3. A DIY workshop - "Jeevamrutham making".

The OES stall was set up to spread awareness amongst the residents of Keerthi Richmond Villas about the various initiatives, events, and workshops organized by OES. The stall also had a wide variety of local vegetable seeds which were given to the residents as free give-away, along with a manual to encourage residents to take up kitchen gardening in their backyards. OES team members spoke about the importance of imparting education on sustainability to kids and parents.

These nature-oriented activities for children were conducted at the clubhouse at Keerthi Richmond Villas. The event started with FOSS's (Friends of Snake Society) workshop. At OES, we believe it is important to learn how to understand snakes, appreciate their contribution to biodiversity, confront & overcome our fear of snakes, and learn how to react empathically to our slithering friends if we had a chance to meet them. FOSS's team covered important topics such as identification of common snakes, distinguishing between venomous and nonvenomous snakes, the importance of snakes in nature, myths, snake bites, first-aid, etc.

This workshop was followed by botanical illustrations in art. Ms. Anurag Dahiya, an Artist & Botanical Illustrator, used vegetables, leaves, flowers, and even stones to help children create beautiful art illustrations while sitting at a beautiful open-air venue. All the kids enjoyed painting with paint and stencils made by cutting vegetables.

Parallelly, kids joined the Jeevamrutham making a DIY workshop. Jeevamrutham is a biofertilizer made from cow dung, cow urine, gram flour, jaggery, and water. All the ingredients were given to each child along with an instruction manual to ferment and use the soil elixir. OES Farm Coach, Mr.Venkatesh Nallamilli conducted the workshop by educating the kids about the importance of using natural fertilizer, followed by a live demonstration of the process. The kids were apprehensive about touching the ingredients for the first few minutes, but as Venkatesh guided them gently, they were soon seen making the Jeevamrutham on their own. At the end of the workshop, all the participants were given glass bottles to store the mixture and leave for fermentation, once back home.

During the event, 75 parents visited the OES stall and over 12 kids participated in the art workshop as well as the Jeevamrutham workshop. This is the second time that OES organized workshops in a community and the response was very encouraging. Some of the parents showed interest in enrolling their kids in OES 'Be A Farmer' program for the Monsoon batch to be held at OES Children's farm campus, Kesaram, later this month.

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Kids apply Natural Biofertilizers to their farm patches

As BAF participants came to the OES Children's Farm Campus on 14 Aug 2022 in a cheerful manner, pleasant weather welcomed them.

Kids were keen to weed out the weeds from their farm patches, as soon as they arrived.
Weeding the unwanted weeds, all of them surrounded Shilpa to know what the day's session held for them.
Shilpa happily explained the plan for the day. They were told of 3 activities soil loosening, neem cake powder application, spraying waste decomposer near the roots and harvesting beetroots.

Shilpa demonstrated how to do soil loosening near the base of the plants, after removing the mulch to the side and loosening the soil with a raking tool, and rearranging the mulch back to cover the loosened soil. Having followed the procedure at their respective patches of loosening the soil, they helped in aeration of the soil and better absorption of water and nutrients by roots. Secondly, they applied neemcake mixture to the soil near the roots of vegetable plants. Lastly they sprayed the waste decomposer near the roots of the plants, this will help in decomposing the brown matter, adding to the nutrient supply to plants.

Once they finished tending to the plants in their patches, they all went ahead and harvested some beetroots to take back home. This brought the 6th session of Be a farmer, 2nd Monsoon batch to a close.

About Organo Et School (OES)

We recognize that for any positive impact to be sustainable, it must be long-term and inter-generational. Organo Et School strives to create an apt learning environment that will support and empower families as well as individuals to embrace sustainable living mindsets and habits.

Organo Et School is a learning initiative set up by Organo in 2017 and has been facilitating field visits and workshops for Schools and Interest Groups. Organo Et School has had over 25+ schools, 6000+ students and 2500+ adults participate over the last 4 years.

We believe in connecting children & adults with nature. Connecting children with the natural world at a young age is the first step in creating responsible stewards for our collective future.

If you or your children are interested in future Be a Farmer programs, please contact us at **oes@organo.co.in** and by phone **9154100775** today! You can also click here to express your interest. We will keep you posted on our future farm cycles.

Follow OES on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/organo_et_school/?hl=en

Subscribe to our channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVe5InTKtgyGsGgNVNZ5sOw

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Inspired by Villages of India

ENJOY CO-WORKING SPACES AMIDST NATURE

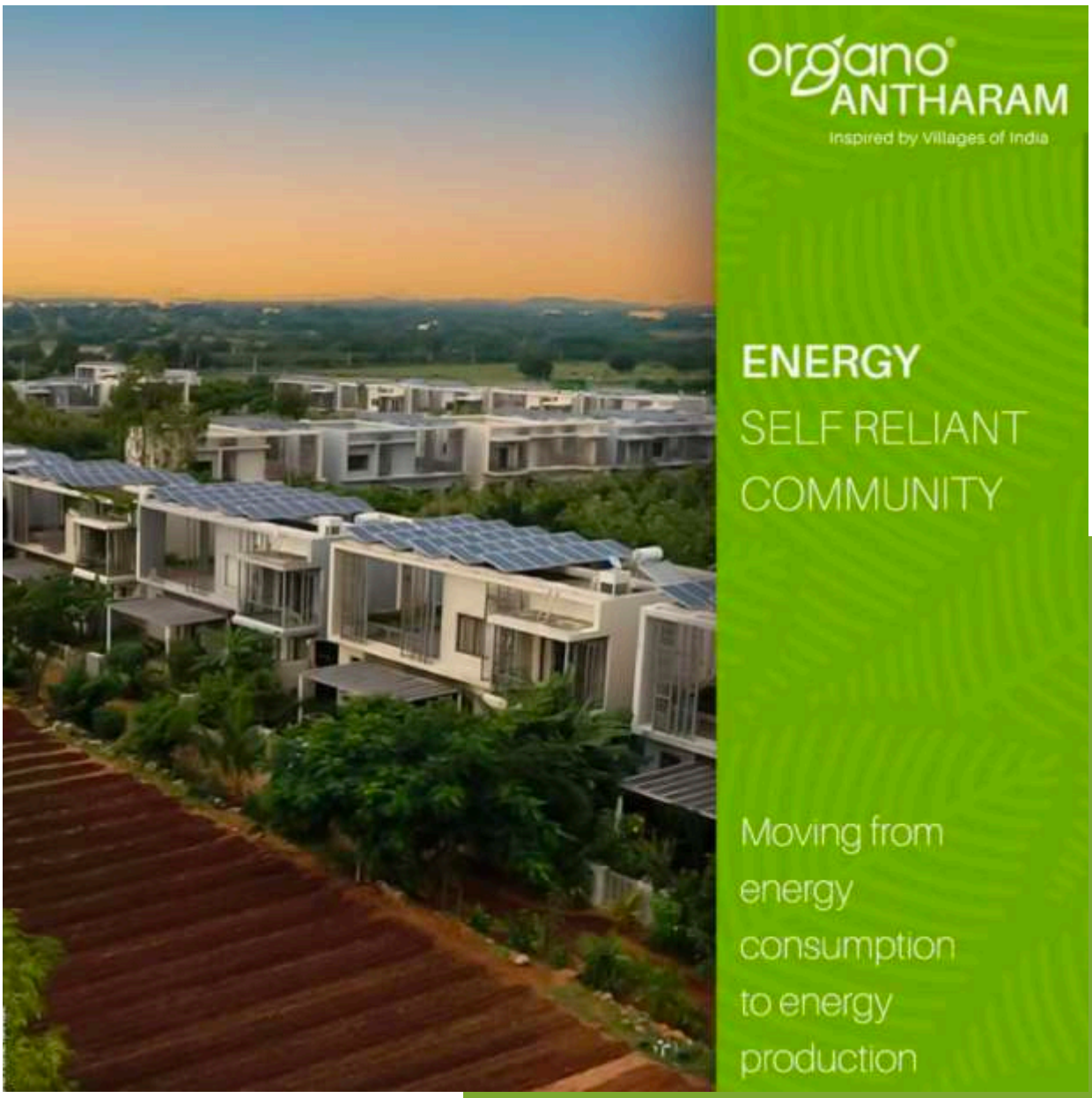
Rurban Living @ ORGANO Antharam

Redefine the work from home culture! Now explore seamlessly integrated co-working spaces amidst the fresh farmscapes and nature within the community.

Where the air is pure;
Where the sky is azure;
Where the earth is clean;
Where the food is safe;
Where farming is at the core;
Where family is at the centre;
Into that community, my mother, let my country awake.

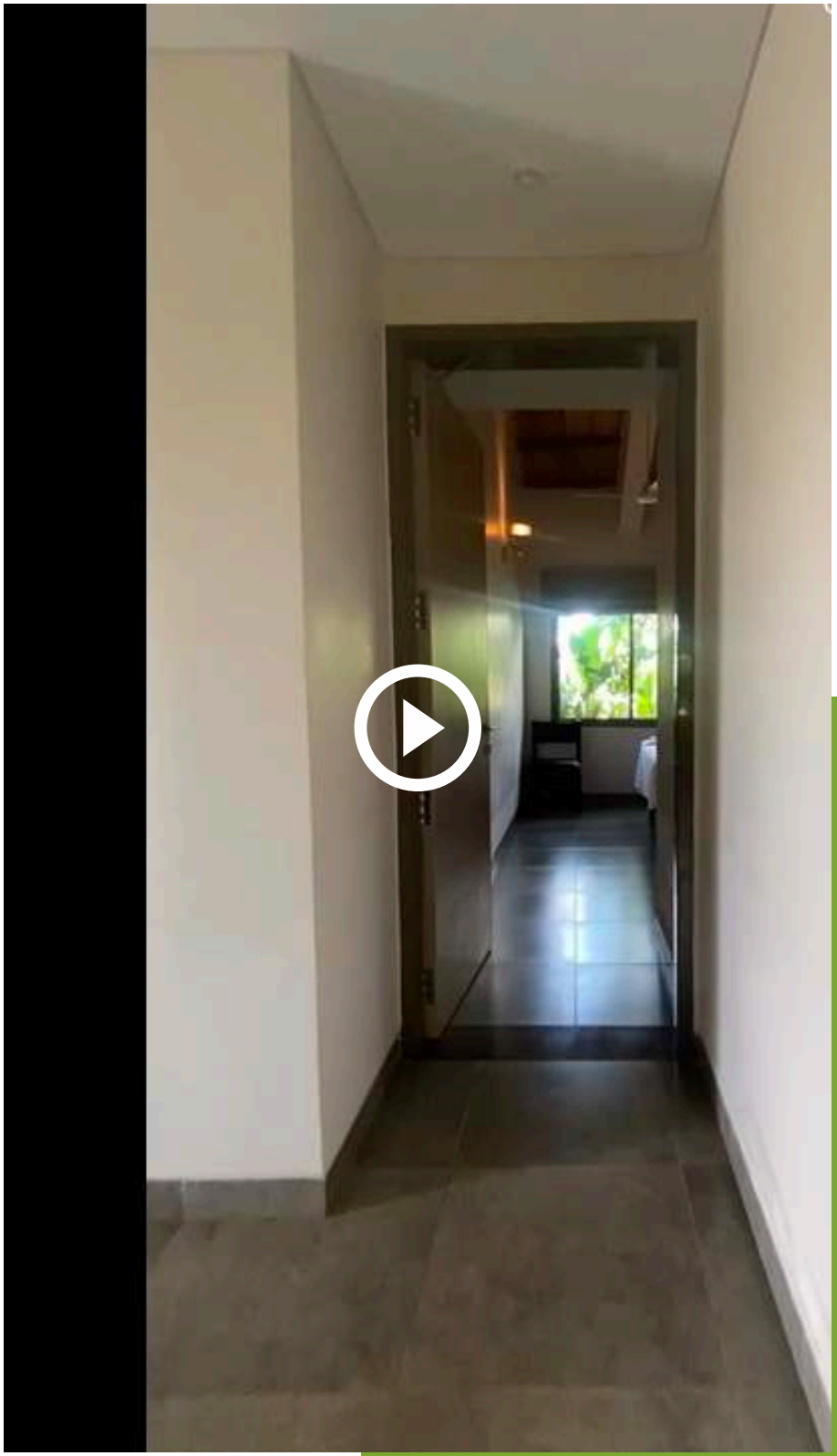
At Organo eco-habitats freedom comes with the responsibility to co-exist, care and a fair share for all beings.

Happy Independence Day



Responsible living with a renewable energy based community! Move to net zero energy community producing more than half a megawatt of renewable energy through Solar power generation at Organo - Antharam

Working from a farm amidst buds & blooms, shrubs & herbs, greens & hues is the best therapy in more ways than one. Just walk in to nature's lap as you step out of your home. All you need to carry is your notebook. Live this reality at Organo Antharam.



How about a relaxing therapy in a plush spa right within your community? We have one such luxury in Organo eco-habitats.

A session at our dairy Incubation centre about desi cows and Western cows, by dairy technologist Yugandhar Nath Reddy.Fat content in Sahiwal cow milk is more than in Gir cow milk.

On-site photographs at **Organo Antharam**

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