

WORLD FAMILY FORUM

THE PLANET EARTH IS OUR ONLY ABODE,
LET'S MAKE IT OUR SWEET HOME

A DIFFERENT WORLD IS POSSIBLE

SAREE WEAVERS

OF VARANASI

THE PLIGHT

OF BIRI

WORKERS

AT KORAON

BEE

KEEPERS

OF ATREJI

ZARI

TRAINING CENTER

BHADOHI

ORGANIC

BANANA

&

BY-PRODUCTS

CHILD HAND

IN BHADOHI CARPET

A BRIEF REPORT ON
FACT-FINDING VISIT BY MR. MANMOHAN SHASTRI

CHAIRMAN
WORLD FAMILY FORUM

NEW DELHI

16 TO 20 APRIL 2006

From the Desk of the Chairman



Manmohan Shastri (Good-Do)
Chairman

It is my privilege to submit this brief report received from World Family Forum Regional Office at Allahabad on my five day visit to Uttar Pradesh. The visit was an eye opener for me. I had never experienced such pain inside me on seeing the poverty and exploitation of our fellow humans. I witnessed some of the most pathetic conditions and saw nakedness, hunger and hopelessness. I saw homeless skeletons... I met desperate people who believed they had no future at all.

Each one of them are human beings. They belong to our race and we feel ashamed when we see our image in those skeletons. It is a fact that we belong to them, we are the same. I most intensely urge you to hold hands so that World Family Forum could begin changing their lives and help them to bring back the dignity they deserve as human beings. That is our dignity and we would certainly like to retain it.

I thank friends and co-workers for organizing the visit, leading to free, frank and open discussion on some of the burning issues.

WORLD FAMILY FORUM



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World Family Forum had decided in early 2005 to depute its Chairman, Mr. Manmohan Shastri (Good-Do) to visit Uttar Pradesh on a fact finding mission. His long-pending visit finally came through on 16th April



2006. The Regional Office at Allahabad, volunteers and people of the districts had long been waiting for this visit.

The objective of the visit was to get the first hand feel of what was needed to be done for the poorest of the poor to help them live in dignity. It helped him get to the ground realities. The plight of the people he visited can be called beyond most pathetic. Some of the observations are so deplorable and heart-rending that we feel it would be unjust to expose their plight to the civilized world. It is unimaginable that human greed could make human beings such inhuman to inflict extreme atrocities on hapless fellow human beings of their own race.

SAREE WEAVERS OF VARANASI

Mr. Shastri was accorded a warm welcome at Varanasi Airport, from where his first lap began to the Carpet City of Bhadohi. A public meeting at village Mamhar, 35 kms from Bhadohi city, was organized with weavers of famous Banarasi

Sarees. The weavers lived in most pathetic conditions in spite of possessing their wonderful art of weaving world known intricate designs of Banarasi sarees. It was shocking to learn that these hapless weavers made only



Exotic Banarasi Sarees

between Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 a piece for their unflinching work, which took weeks to produce. With their earnings, they could hardly afford one meal in two days. What to talk of other basic needs! Their inhumane exploitation at the hands of greedy traders and middlemen was heart-rending. These highly skilled weavers who clothe Indian brides, were themselves half naked as they could not afford clothes. There were 60 weaver families in the village and there were 30 such villages, each having 50 to 60 weavers, facing the same fate. That makes a fairly large weaver community living in extreme poverty having no provision for



Carpet Beauty From Bhadohi

health care, education, housing and necessary utilities, migrating to cities in search of menial labor steadily continues.

The world famous Banarasi Sarees are sold at premium prices in the domestic and

international markets. Today, the need is to lobby for fair price for the weavers, who breathe life into these precision sarees so that they have qualitative and quantitative food on their table besides education to their children, better health care, and security. They must get rid of unnecessary and unscrupulous middlemen. World Family Forum has taken an initiative to organize them into Self-Help Groups. The need is to find a better marketing plan so that some 1,800 weaver families of the area begin to live a better life in dignity.

CHILD HAND IN BHADOHI CARPET

Bhadohi is well known the world over as a Carpet City. The Carpet sellers are, no doubt,



Loom Where Child Labour Was Found

getting richer day in and day out. Mr. Shastri met a master weaver who played a pivotal role in the development of industry. Today his sons, their minor children and family members have no other alternative but to work as bonded labor in the same industry.

He was quietly escorted to a dingy carpet factory in a hamlet near village Gyanpur under Bhadohi District where he witnessed 50 child laborers toiling on looms, most of whom were girls. Mr. Ramesh Bind of Pali village informed that there were 50 carpet looms in the village. Five to Six artisans worked on each loom. The employing contractors are paying wages at par with wages paid in 1995. Inflation had made their lives miserable as

their total household earning was inadequate to buy food alone. The public meeting was attended by 100 men, 75 women and 150 children, who tearfully narrated the tales of exploitation by contractors and traders. The contractor takes away the carpet without paying wages on the pretext that there were serious rejections, and pays only after hapless weavers agree to accept half the wages. In order to survive, they have to accept 50% of their due wages.

LOOMS WHERE CHILDREN WERE LABORING

It became evident that the carpet weavers were unorganized and contractors took undue advantage of this. Mr. Shastri motivated them to organize into a Group and operate only through the Group. He assured to discuss the matter with his colleagues to find possible ways to ensure fair wages, enabling better quality of life, education and healthcare.

ZARI TRAINING CENTER BHADOHI

A Zari Training Center in Bhadohi was visited where 250 girls were being trained by Miss Rupali, daughter of a carpet entrepreneur. Mr. Shastri



Intricate Zari Work

promised the girls to provide them design inputs to help them produce world class utility

oriented products that could command prime shelf-space at world's best retail outlets. Provided they mastered the skills to produce quality products, they could be assured excellent revenues through Ethical Mainstream Buyers and Fair Traders.

MEDIA BRIEFING

At Siraj Hotel, media persons



Addressing The Press Corp

from local Doordarshan, Radio Station and News Papers were awaiting for a brief from Mr. Shastri. He shared his observations, what he had seen and experienced. During the interview, it was asserted that if the overall image of India was to be changed for the better, self-employment will have to be provided to people residing in rural India through Small Manufacturing Enterprises, identifying and promoting artisans and producers of excellence.

ALLAHABAD

On 17th April 2006, consultations began with Mr. Gyan Prakash, owner of Kanha Shyam Hotel, where elaborate arrangements had been made free of cost. The core issue was to bring various businesses on a common platform for wider interaction on socio-economic issues. Mr. Shastri also made courtesy call on Rev. Fr. Luis Mascarenhas, Principal of famous St. Joseph's College, Allahabad and appreciated the praise-worthy work done by his college in the field of education, social development and rehabilitation for the upliftment of poor.

VISIT TO WORLD FAMILY REGIONAL OFFICE

Mr. Shastri visited the Regional Office of World Family Forum at Naini, Allahabad. He was welcomed by Mr. Ajay Kumar. Mrs. Shreebhama introduced him to her team of volunteers who had been selflessly working in the area on a number of projects. He later visited Kashi Prasad Inter College, Kathauli, where students briefed him of the condition of the society in general.

A small presentation was made on the dream of a 'world village without boundaries' where there is no social distinction. He talked of child rights and encouraged children for the upliftment of the society. Mr. Ajit Singh, Secretary of the School, thanked him for the visit



Students At Kashi Prasad Inter College on behalf of the student community.

THE PLIGHT OF BIRI WORKERS AT KORAON

Koraon is a small block of Allahabad, where World Family Forum is managing a small School for child laborers rescued from Biri factories. Mr. Shastri met the former child laborers and their local guardians. Their economic



Rolling Biris For Livelihood

condition was most pathetic. They earned between 8 to 10 Rupees (US \$ 0.17 to US \$ 0.22) per day for survival. It was evident that Biri workers were getting poorer each day in spite of various welfare schemes of the State Government and a number of NGOs working there.



The Art Of Biri Rolling

A group of 20 men, 30 women and 50 children narrated their tale of exploitation by the Biri industry. Seeing their awful plight, Mr. Shastri was shocked. He promised to lobby with the Government and Industrialist to ensure that the benefits of official programs reach them and fair wages be paid for their hard work. During the interaction, it



The Biri Worker

was revealed that the same plight is faced by another 20 villages in the vicinity.

BEGINNING OF ORGANIC RICE, WHEAT & LENTILS AT KORAON

At Koraon, 25 farmers had gathered together. They produced Rice, Wheat and other grains. For better yield, they were resorting to synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. These chemicals posed a serious health hazard to consumers. Mr. Shastri shared



Farmers Opting Organic Technology

with them the concept of organic farming and explained how they could fetch a better price for organically produced agro products. It was revealed that a female volunteer had been promoting organic farming in Koraon and the results had been positive. It was agreed to promote organic farming and 25 farmers resolved to bring 100 acres of land under organic farming. It is a small beginning, but will have a long term impact on the society.

BEE-KEEPERS IN ATREJI

15 Kms from Koraon is a small hamlet of Atreji, situated in the border of U.P. & M.P. States. The village is surrounded by dense forest. The residents represent the poorest of the poor. They had great expectations from Mr. Shastri and were waiting for him in spite of hot sun. Mr. Shastri was greatly moved when he was garlanded with garlands made



The Art Of Bee Keeping

from forest flowers. Each one of them had an opportunity to narrate the agony of their subsistence. Even after 58 years of independence of the country, these poor people hardly knew what freedom was!! They earned an occasional wage of Rs. 30 to 35 per day, working in fields. Various projects run by the

Union and State Governments and a number of NGOs are nowhere visible.



Extracting Virgin Honey

Some time back two very small Self-Help groups were formed in the village which has made marginal difference. The lives of the group members are slightly better than the rest of the villagers. This has motivated others to follow suit. The villagers want World Family Forum to help them launch bee-keeping to supplement their incomes. Mr. Shastri appealed to the Government and NGOs to bring these people into the national mainstream. He promised to take up this issue with International Organizations like Emmaus International so that the people may harness their full potential to extract honey and make allied by-products from wax like candles etc. in order to live with dignity.

THE TELL-TALE OF ATREJI

Atreji is the most backward sub division across Yamuna River,



Women At Atreji

situated 80 kms south of Allahabad under Koraon Block. Koraon block has 99 village Panchayats. Atreji village falls under the village Panchayat of Sansarpur, adjoining Kaimoor

hills, about 18 kms from Koraon. The village is located between Gadhwa Rangnath hills in U.P. and hills of Madhya Pradesh. Two elders of the village, Mr. Doodh Nath and Sukh Lal informed that 80 years ago the area was a dense forest. There were no roads. Only three persons lived in huts, which included famous dacoit Zafar Ali, who was greatly feared in Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Raj Bahadur Singh, the Personal Guard of Mr. Harbakht Singh, the cousin of King B. P. Singh and Mr. Sukh Lal, the aboriginal. They cleared the forest land and started cultivation after 10 years of hard labor. Later others came and settled down in the area and found that the hills could be good reservoir of slate for extraction. The slates were quietly extracted and sold. Women began cutting forest wood and sold 50 Kg wood for Rs. 10.00 (US \$ 0.22 Cents of today) for living. Soon the Forest Department began penalizing and beating those who extracted slates. People were forced to cultivate land belonging to the Village Panchayat for their livelihood.

Soon people from Kol caste became dominant and they distributed the title for 3 Bighas of land to all Kols. The Non-Kols were evicted and had to work as farm laborers. The wages was two kilograms of wheat or barley per laborer. The women who brought wood from the forest were paid Rs. 1.00 / US \$ 0.02 Cents of today per bundle.

Atreji village has 100 aboriginal, 3 Kurmi and 3 Muslim families. Landlord Raj Bahadur Singh, rules over the people. Farming, animal tending and wood cutting is paid for with 2 Kgs. of grain. The people neither have land, nor animals. The Forest Department has banned grazing and hence, these people have no alternative but to work as slaves to the landlord. Some young people have run away to cities like Mumbai to work in textile

mills and iron & steel mills as laborers to support their families.

Raja Harbux Singh owns about 500 Bighas of land, which is the highest per capita land holding. 3 Kurmis and 3 Muslims come next, who own 100 to 50 Bighas of land. 10 aboriginals have 2 bighas of barren land, where nothing can be grown. Only rich landlord can dig well as water is available at 60 feet depth. There is no school or health center in the village. Illiteracy rules the roost and when some one gets sick he has to travel 18 kilometers on bicycle to Koraon. Often patients die on the way to Koraon. Often people have to borrow money from landlords in emergencies and in turn are converted into bonded slaves for life. Money borrowed for marriages or other social obligations also turns them into bondage.

A social activist, Mr. Bal Krishan had organized a group of people in which poor men and women were motivated to save Rupee 1 per day to make a fund of Rs. 30 every month since 2004. The group saved a total of Rs. 10,000 and this money was used to help 11 women to venture out with goat-keeping. 14 women purchased one bee box each with this money and extracted 10 to 15 Kgs of honey in four months period from bee-keeping to improve their destiny.

RESCUED CHILD LABORERS

In the year 2005, volunteers of



Rescued Children

World Family Forum have raided factories from where more than 500 child laborers had been rescued. The rescued children were rehabilitated at various centers in Alahabad. Mr. Shastri paid a quick visit to one of the centers to encourage them.

THE PATHETIC CONDITION OF MIRZAPUR

50 km from Mirzapur district is a tiny village named Banjari. It falls under Halia block. There are 50 families living in the village, who are solely dependent on bamboo grown in nearby forests for their



Children Slicing Bamboo

livelihood. They have hardly seen paper money. Barter system is more prevalent. Mr. Shastri was introduced to a lady who had made two medium bamboo woven baskets in 5 days all together. Her wages for two baskets was 5 kilograms of lowest grade Arhar Daal (Pulse) which is usually used to feed animals. There were 30 such villages in the vicinity of the forest, whose only occupation was to illegally cut bamboos, make baskets and exchange them for food grains. Many a times they were caught by forest officials and were punished, but they had no other occupation.

TEARS OF BANJARI VILLAGE

A discussion was organized in the house of Mr. Lalla Dharkar in Banjari village under Halia Block of Mirzapur district. The subject



Read My Cracked Hands

was "promoting bamboo crafts under Ethical and Fair Trade". Mr. Manmohan Shastri spoke at the meeting on 18th April 2006. He saw various articles of daily use made of bamboo by the Dharkars and spoke on possibility of Ethically Fair Trading of bamboo crafts. The artisans informed that they were unable to feed their families with the craft as bamboo is difficult to get and had to be brought



Bamboo Crafts

clandestinely against bribes paid to forest officers. Plastic is cheaper competitor and natural bamboo is expensive, leading to recession. Traders buy whatever is produced at low price to sell at high profits. The artisans have to wear torn second hand clothes and beg for food in temples or streets to live. The Government has paid no attention to their rehabilitation even though the Dharkars number more than 15,000 in strength.



People Of Banjari

250 people work with bamboo in the village Banjari. Bamboo provides livelihood to others in Panwari, Antari, Seekta, Chatriha, Inderwar, Amdah, Madwa, Bhatpurva, Babura Raghunath Singh, Khodaipur, Mudel, Rateh, Patehara, Katra, Gadpada, Sonegarha, Rajpur, Vaidha and Pasriya villages.

58 years after independence the area is yet to witness any development.

The district falls under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme of the Government, yet its fruits have not reached its people. People are poor and live desperately. They are paid in lowest grade of grain for the bamboo crafts. If they sell the grain, it fetches only Rs. 3 per Kg.

Villages carry bamboo crafts on shoulders or on bicycles to towns 35 kms away. They are made to dispose off their ware cheap as it is not desirable to bring back the crafts home from so far a distance. Some time they have to exchange their entire wares for a nights stay and one meal.

THE SORRY STATE OF LEAF PLATE MAKERS

We visited a colony named Mushar just across Mirzapur, which is about a century old, where food is a luxury.



The Hunger Pangs

Even after working hard long hours, the leaf plate makers are unable to provide a meal to their children. They collect leaves from the forest, dry them and hand stitch them to make leaf-plates and cups. Even though



Leaf Plates Makers

they have been issued Ration Cards by the Government for Below Poverty Line schemes, they are deprived of food grains due to extreme poverty.

DURRIE WAEVERS FROM NATWAN

The students of Samta Vidya Mandir gave Mr. Shastri warm welcome. These students hailed from Durrie weaver's and labor families. Soon after, a meeting of Durrie weavers was organized in the same school where the victims narrated how they were



Loom In Action

being exploited by the contractor lobby. Mr. Shastri explained the concept of Ethical and Fair Trade. He asked them to eliminate the middlemen as much as possible so that weavers could be assured of Fair Wages in time. He also assured that World Family Forum would extend all help at its level including marketing of their finest crafts to overseas buyers to ensure they had better quality of life.

THE PROBLEMS FACED BY CARPET WEAVERS OF NAIPURWAN (BAARI) DITT. BHADOHI

A meeting was held with carpet weavers from village Naipurwan (Baari) under Post Office Dashrathpur in Block Gyanpur,

District Bhadohi, U.P. Their principal occupation is either farming or carpet weaving. The village has a population of 1,100 consisting of 400 male and 150 female laborers working on approximately 150 carpet looms. The remaining population is engaged in farming they sheared the following problems face by them :

1. The carpet weavers are unable to invest capital and hence, they are forced to work as labor for rich and influential traders and contractors.
2. Government and Non-Governmental assistance is not reaching the villagers.
3. Unscheduled deductions in payments, lowest rates, scarcity and untimely delivery of raw materials, long waiting period of months after completing the work.
4. Low rates resulting in poor quality leading to drastic deduction in wages.
5. No provision for education of weaver's children, insurance security, preventive health-care and medical care.

THE EXPLOITED BANANA FARMERS

Kushinagar is strategically



A Rich Harvest Yielding Poor Returns



Farmers Contemplate Alternatives

situated at the north-eastern tip of Uttar Pradesh, near the Bihar-Nepal Border, and is popularly know as the terai (foot'hill) region. The earth here is so productive that without fertilizers it can produce all kinds of food grain. Principal crops are Banana, Litchi, Potatoe, Mint, Sugarcane and Groundnut.

Farmers were anxiously waiting for Mr. Shastri to arrive since early morning of 19th April 2006. The visitors reached the spot at 1 p.m. as they had lost the way to the village and had driven toward a wrong direction at a junction. Many farmers had returned home, but more than 150 farmers were still waiting. Mr. Ambika Yadav and other farmers welcomed Mr. Shastri. Mr. Hari Prasad Gupta, a Banana farmer, who also happened to double up as a local journalist



Mr. Daleep Kumar Singh Making A Point presented vivid description of problems faced by the farmers in developing banana farming. Mr. Daleep Kumar Singh, Director, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India was also present in this meeting. He informed that he was born in the same village and was working on a research project on primary education. He also informed that only 10-15% of girls as against 20-25% of boys were going to school.

Yet, the people yearned for development and on their own they have developed banana farming to help themselves. however, in the absence of remunerative market, they were suffering constant losses and a majority of farmers were in most deplorable condition. They invest Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 per plant, but recover only Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 from banana contractors and traders. The area is highly fertile and people are laborious and honest. If they are given proper guidance and inputs, they have the potential to transform their villages at least



Banana Farmers

the Terai area (foot'hill), to massive prosperity.

Mr. Manmohan Shastri praised farmers who have been farming bananas organically and advised others to follow the same. He extended his hand of co-operation and guidance. He informed that globally people are becoming conscious against chemical based synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides used in farming, extremely harmful residual affect on human bodies. It is important that farmers move away from such inputs and adopt organic farming for overall development. He assured the farmers that he would lobby on their behalf with some well meaning people attached to Ethical & Fair Trade Movements, World Family Forum and return back with concrete proposals.

Mr. Shastri also held detailed meeting with banana farmers who decided to grow bananas on organic farming technology in village Narkahwan under Tehsil

Chitauni in Kushinagar on 19th April 2006. 320 persons participated in the Deliberations.

REPRESENTATION MADE BY MR. JAI KARAN, SON OF MR. RAM DULAR, AGE 40

Highlighting the above issues, Mr Jai Karan pleaded as under:

1. Arrangements be made to educate the children of the weavers.
2. Weavers be insured against accidents.
3. Make raw material available at Fair Prices so as to ensure payment of Fair Wages to weavers and freedom from exploitation.

These measures, he believed, will improve the destiny and direction of the carpet weavers.

EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FOR WORLD FAMILY

World Family has been proposed for the membership of Emmaus International with its Secretariat at Alfortville (Paris), France. The Emmaus International Board Member Prof. Shyam S. Sharma who also happen to be the President of Fair Trade Forum-India and Chairman of Tara Projects Advisory Board, told in a meeting here at New Delhi that for at least for one year World Family Forum will remain under active observation to prove the potentiality for Emmaus membership.

Emmaus, founded by Abbe Pierre, is a world-wide developmental organization working at least in 75 countries at present. Its biggest fight is against extreme poverty and therefore works for the suitable development of most needy all over the world without any distinction of caste, creed, race, religion, region etc. Emmaus International 'World School against Extreme Poverty' is in the offing and World Family Forum has already been working on the concept under the supervision of Dr. Shyam S. Sharma, to make the school take an appropriate solid shape.

REPRESENTATION MADE BY MR. CHINTAMANI, SON OF MR. RAJMANI, AGE 40

Mr. Chintamani asserted that loom owners deduct wages payable to weavers on the pretext of poor quality of work at will. They take away the carpet claiming bad quality, but never return for correction. They only wish to deduct money and do it. The raw materials given in rainy season is collected in summer. Due to varying moisture contents in different seasons they always take the higher weight and penalize the weaver for weight difference.

REPRESENTATION MADE BY MR. SHYAM LAL, SON OF MR. MATA SARAN, AGE 45

Mr. Shyam Lal complained that he made a 9' x 12' size carpet, but he had not yet been paid Rs. 1,200 due to him for labor for the last two months. Due to his daughter marriage, he had to borrow money from money lender at 10% compounded interest. He had been burdened with the interest payment, while he is visiting endlessly the loom owner for recovery. The owner asserts that he will pay only after the carpet is sold. Shyam Lal has been struggling for his daily bread.

REPRESENTATION MADE BY MR. SHYAM NARAIN BIND, SON OF MR. RAJ KARAN, AGE 36

Mr. Shyam Narain narrated that he made a 2.3 x 12 carpet for a carpet trader. The owners measured the carpet in his presence and took it away, instructing him to collect his money on the bazaar day. When he went to make the collection, he was told the measurement was incorrect and there will be deductions and the account will be settled after one month.

After one month he went there again and requested to deduct the money and pay him the balance, he was told that the weaving was defective resulting in loss of materials. He was neither willing to return the bad carpet nor pay any money whatsoever. Till today, he is awaiting justice.

EVALUATION & CONCLUSION

A final evaluation and conclusion meeting was held at Hotel Adharsh, Gorakhpur on 20th April 2006. The entire visit from 16th to 20th April was evaluated. It was pointed out by members of the visiting team that many donor agencies, NGOs and the Government had invested a substantial amount of money for these hapless people, however, no development work was physically found in the area during the last 12 years. It is high time that donor agencies rigorously scrutinize the actual



World Family Forum Volunteers work and find genuine partners for overall development.

The Chairman pledged that World Family Forum will mobilize its well wishers and friends to co-ordinate an action plan so that the dream of a global village is accomplished to alleviate poverty in the rural areas.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Rajnath to Usha Exim Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi for sponsoring the entire cost of the visit and expressed his gratitude for all the assistance extended to make the visit remarkable.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY RAJNATH WITH SHREE BHAMA, PRASHANT, AMBIKA YADAV, BALKRISHAN, LALTA, ASHOK KUMAR AND DINESH KUMAR AT ALLAHABAD.

**DO I RESEMBLE
YOUR DAUGHTER?**



**I TOO NEED FOOD,
BOOKS & TOYS.**

AGRO-SCIENTISTS LISTEN TO BANANA PRODUCER'S PROBLEMS
Chitauni, Kushinagar

Green skinned bananas and its organic by-products grown and processed in north of Kushinagar district will spread its sweet smell all over the world. On Thursday, a team of agro scientists inspected banana farms and made important suggestions.

Mr. Manmohan Shastri, aka Good-Do made a two day tour and visited the farms of banana producers. Mr Daleep Singh, Director, Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment also accompanied who is conducting studies on general poverty in Eastern U.P. and recommend viable solutions. The team included Mr. Raj Nath and Prashant. Mr. Shastri was given a first hand information on production, marketing and technical problems related to banana by the farmers. Mr. Hari Prasad Gupta, Mr. Vasudev Yadav, Mr. Radhey Shyam Sharma, Mr. Ambika Yadav, Mr. Hari Narain Singh, Mr. Raghav Kushwaha, Mr. Surender Kushwaha, Mr. Narender Gupta, Mr. Budhi Ram Prakash and Mr. Brijesh Gupta expressed concerns that July to August crop gets good response, but there is deep rooted problems for crop reaped in September and later as they can not find good market and rates too are very low. Under these circumstances, the farmers have to suffer huge financial losses and cannot even recover their input costs.

The farmers wanted a fool-proof marketing of banana so that they get a fair price in order to lead the nation in banana production. Weather conditions, soil and water here are most suitable for banana plantation.

At this occasion, Chairman Mr. Shastri spoke of the need to convert the farms into organic system and informed that his visit was targeted to help farmers by looking into potentials of ancillary processing units. He informed that banana could be diversified into chips, jam, fabric and paper. He promised to raise this issue at world meet of businessmen in London next month to promote these ancillary industries. Mr. Shastri informed that his father, Dr. Shyam Swarup Sharma, has founded World Family Forum in the sixties.

कृषि वैज्ञानिकों ने सुनीं केला उत्पादकों की समस्याएं

चि.प्र./किसी, कुशीनगर

कुशीनगर जिले के उत्तरी क्षेत्र में उत्पादित हरीछाल केले और उसके बायो प्रोडक्ट की रूढ़िभू विदेशों में भी केलेगी। इसी कड़ी में कृष्यसिंधुवार को आगे कृषि वैज्ञानिकों की टीम ने केले के उत्पादक किसानों के प्लांट का निरीक्षण कर महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव भी दिये।

दो दिवसीय दौरे पर आये बर्लॉ फेमिली फोरम के चेयरमैन मनमोहन शास्त्री उर्फ गुडडू भैया ने इस दौरान केला उत्पादक किसानों की प्लांट को पूरी टीम के साथ निरीक्षण किया। इस अवसर पर केन्द्रीय सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिक मंत्रालय के निदेशक दितीप सिंघ जो सम्प्रति पृथिवील की गरीबी कारण और निवारण सम्बन्धी शोध में लगे डॉ. की उपस्थिति उल्लेखनीय रही। इसके अलावा उनकी टीम के वैज्ञानिकों में राजनाथ प्रसाद के साथ यहां

पहुंचे श्री शास्त्री ने किसानों से केला उत्पादन व विपणन तथा तकनीकी दिक्कतों की संविस्तर जानकारी ली। इस दौरान केला उत्पादकों में हरी प्रसाद गुप्त, वासुदेव यादव, राधेश्याम शर्मा अम्बिका यादव, हरि नारायण सिंह, रामन कुशवाहा, सुरेश कुशवाहा, नरेश गुप्ता, बुद्धि राम प्रसाद, ब्रजेश गुप्ता आदि ने पूर्ण जानकारी के साथ बताया कि जुलाई अगस्त तक तैयार होने वाले केले के विपणन में तो दिक्कत नहीं आती है परन्तु सितम्बर के बाद तैयार होने वाले केले हेतु न तो अच्छा बाजार मिलता है और न ही अच्छा रेट। ऐसी स्थिति में किसानों को भारी दिक्कतों के साथ कभी-कभी फूली में घाटा उठाया पड़ जाता है।

किसानों का कहना था कि अगर केले के हर सम्भ जन्मे दलों पर विपणन व्यवस्था हो जाए तो यहां के किसान केला उत्पादन में देश ब्या

प्रणवर्ग by-product Committed to education for children and healthcare in addition to welfare of farmers.

Aaj
Gorakhpur, Sunday, 23 April 2006 7

BANANA BY-PRODUCTS TO USHER IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR FARMERS

Chitauni(Kushinagar
The region's progressive banana farmer, Mr. Ambika Yadav organized a conclave of banana farmers at Jal Nigam Complex at Chitauni suburb.

Creation of a banana marketing outfit, installation of equipments for producing banana by-products and use of organic farming technology were the key issues at the Conclave. Mr. Manmohan Shastri, Chairman of World Family Forum was a special guest at the deliberations.

Mr. Shastri emphasized that it will be grossly wrong to construe that farming of bananas alone could solve the agonies of farmers. He said until banana is diversified into a multi-

industry, it is not going to work. Each banana plant costs Rs. 50 to Rs. 30 as inputs and maintenance, while 1,500 to 1,800 plants per acre can be grown. The market is saturated and marketing is hap-

proned by-product Committed to education for children and healthcare in addition to welfare of farmers.

He suggested that banana can be converted into chips, jam, fiber and paper to usher in prosperity to the farmers. He informed that the Forum was initiating action to

Mr. Shastri informed that World Family Forum was a social organization

(Verbatim translation of published news)

अमर उजाला

इलाहाबाद शनिवार 6 मई 2006

मंच गठित करने का निर्णय

नेनी। समाज के पिछड़े व गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जीवन यापन कर रहे लोगों को स्वरोजगार करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के उद्देश्य से वर्ल्ड फेमिली फोरम ने एक मंच गठित करने का निर्णय लिया है। फोरम के सदस्य राजनाथ ने बताया कि संस्था के चेयरमैन मनमोहन शास्त्री इस उद्देश्य से गरीबी को इलाहाबाद में मधुमक्खी पालन भदोही में साड़ी व कॉर्पेट मिर्जापुर में बांस निर्मित वस्तुएं तथा कुशीनगर में केला खेती से जोड़ने का निर्णय लिया है।

राष्ट्रीय सहारा

गोरखपुर रविवार 23 अप्रैल 2006 11

केला उत्पादक किसानों की गोष्ठी संपन्न

सहारा न्यूज ब्यूरो

छितौनी (कुशीनगर), 22 अप्रैल। छितौनी उपनगर स्थित जल निगम परिसर में क्षेत्र के प्रगतिशील किसान अम्बिका यादव के सौजन्य से केला उत्पादक किसानों की एक गोष्ठी आयोजित की गयी। जिसमें किसानों ने केले के विपणन के लिए एक प्लेट फार्म बनाने, केले के सह उत्पाद तैयार करने हेतु संयंत्र लगाने रासायनिक उर्वरकों के जगह जैविक खादों का प्रयोग आदि बिन्दुओं पर चिन्ता व्यक्त किया। गोष्ठी में बर्लॉ फेमिली फोरम के चेयरमैन मनमोहन शास्त्री बतौर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित थे। श्री शास्त्री ने कहा कि केवल केले के उत्पादन से किसानों का मला नहीं हाने वाला है। जब तक केले के सह उत्पादन को उद्योग से नहीं जोड़ा जायेगा।

AMAR UJALA

Allahabad, Saturday, 6 May 2006

Decision to organize a Front

Naini, World Family Forum has decided to organize a Front to motivate backward and poor below poverty line of the society to self-help. Mr. Raj Nath, a leader of the Forum informed that Mr. Manmohan Shastri, Chairman of the Forum is on an whirlwind tour of Allahabad, Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Kushi Nagar to promote honey, saree, carpet, bamboo crafts and banana for the benefit of poor and needy.

(Verbatim translation of published news)

Rashtriya Sahara

Gorakhpur, Sunday, 23 April 2006

Conclave with Banana Producers - Sahara News Bureau

Chitauni (Kushinagar), 22nd April. A conclave with the banana producers was organized in Chitauni suburb at the Jal Nigam Complex by the region's progressive farmer, Mr. Ambika Yadav. Various issues including creation of a common platform to marketing of banana, installation of equipments for producing banana by-products, and organic farming were discussed.

Mr. Manmohan Shastri, Chairman, World Family Forum, was heading the deliberations as the chief guest. Mr. Shastri pointed out that producing bananas alone was not going to address the woes of the farmers. It has to be developed with banana by-products.

(Verbatim translation of published news)

केले के सह उत्पादन से होगा किसानों का आर्थिक विकास

गोरखपुर रविवार 23 अप्रैल 2006 7

छितौनी (कुशीनगर)। छितौनी उपनगर स्थित जल निगम परिसर में केले के प्रगतिशील किसान अम्बिका यादव के सौजन्य से केला उत्पादक किसानों की एक गोष्ठी आयोजित की गयी।

जिसमें किसानों ने केले के विपणन के लिए एक प्लेटफार्म बनाने, केले के सह उत्पाद तैयार करने हेतु संयंत्र लगाने रासायनिक उर्वरकों के जगह जैविक खादों का प्रयोग आदि बिन्दुओं पर चिन्ता व्यक्त किया।

गोष्ठी में बर्लॉ फेमिली फोरम के चेयरमैन मनमोहन शास्त्री बतौर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित थे।

श्री शास्त्री ने कहा कि केवल केले के उत्पादन से किसानों का मला नहीं हाने वाला है। जब तक केले के सह उत्पादन को उद्योग से नहीं जोड़ा जायेगा।

केले के सह उत्पादन से होगा किसानों का आर्थिक विकास

केले के सह उत्पादन से होगा किसानों का आर्थिक विकास



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