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## Vedic agriculture

**Dipti Parmar, Piyush Verma, MK Sharma and Amit Solanki**

### Abstract

Vedo akhilo dharma mulam [Ved is the root of all laws (It has very specific details on agriculture like crop cultivation, manuring, classification of herbs and different varieties of plants)]. Vedic Krishi is natural chemical free traditional organic farming technologies [Homa therapy, Astrology] which is free from all poisonous fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, grown by farmers and enjoying vedic consciousness. Vedic sounds – the sounds of natural law to awaken the inner intelligence of the plants, bringing the farmer, the process of farming and the environment in complete harmony with each other. Natural Law is the unseen intelligence of nature. Vedic Krishi will produce Vedic food, the purest, most nutritious and most vital food available anywhere. It brings the intelligence of nature directly into our human physiology to create a mind and body capable of living with full potential of life. Panchgavya and Amritpani both were used largely at vedic time. Agnihotra is the science of healing the atmosphere through pyramid fires to eliminate pollution & contamination. It's written in the Vedas that "HEAL THE ATMOSPHERE AND IT WILL HEAL YOU". The effect of agnihotra is felt on plant, soil, atmosphere, human being, water, animals and agriculture. The ancient practice of studying the movements and positions of the sun, moon, planets and stars in the belief that they influence people, environment and events is astrology. The rishis identified 27 constellations, or "Nakshatras" in which the moon passes through. There are specific actions which should be taken on a particular Nakshatra cycle, in order to receive the maximum benefit to the crops. The medicinal fumes emanating from Agnihotra have been observed by researchers in the field of microbiology to be clearly bacteriostatic in nature. The vaporized products from yagna diffused in the atmosphere are also subjected to photochemical reactions in the presence of sunlight. They undergo decomposition, oxidation and reduction reactions, CO<sub>2</sub> is also reduced to formaldehyde. Formaldehyde, which is a powerful antiseptic. It is also interesting to note that the germicidal action of formaldehyde is effective only in the presence of water vapor, which is also produced in large quantities in yagna. Homa therapy can be practiced easily by anyone irrespective of caste, religion, gender, age or race.

**Keywords:** Vedic, Agnihotra, Havan, Nakshatra

### Introduction

#### Vedic Krishi

Vedic Krishi is natural chemical free traditional organic farming technologies [Homa therapy, Astrology] which is free from all poisonous fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, grown by farmers and enjoying vedic consciousness. Vedic sounds – the sounds of natural law to awaken the inner intelligence of the plants, bringing the farmer, the process of farming and the environment in complete harmony with each other. Natural Law is the unseen intelligence of nature. Vedic Krishi will produce Vedic food, the purest, most nutritious and most vital food available anywhere. It brings the intelligence of nature directly into our human physiology to create a mind and body capable of living with full potential of life.

#### Vedas – the ancient treasure

Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Athrva Veda and Bhagavad-Gita contain very specific details on agriculture like crop cultivation, manuring, classification of herbs and different varieties of plants. Vedas are in singing language, when it is being chanted it produces vibrations, which are soothing to human mind, all plant and animal life. These vibrations also help in spreading specific energy waves in the surrounding atmosphere.

It has been described that good yield is possible in well-ploughed and fertile land-

**यथा बीजमुर्वरायां कृष्टे फालेन रोहति।**

The farmer after ploughing ceremony starts ploughing the field repeatedly with the prayers-

**घृतेन सीता मधुना समज्यता विश्वैर्वैरनुमता मरुद्भिः।**

**ऊर्जीस्वती पर्यसा पिन्वमानास्मान्तीति पर्यसाऽभ्या ववृत्स्व॥**

(May the low lying lands so ploughed and rich with milk and wet with honey and ghee come back to us much fertilized)

अक्षैर्मा दीव्यः, कृषिमिच्छस्व,  
चित्ते रमस्व बहु मन्यमानः । ऋ० १०।३।४।१३

- ( १ ) अक्षैः मा दीव्यः । = ज्ञाया मत् खेले;  
( २ ) कृषिं इत् कृषस्व । = खेती निश्चयसे कर;  
( ३ ) बहुमन्यमानः चित्ते रमस्व । = इस प्रकारसे प्राप्त धनको ही बहुत समझकर आनंद कर ।

(Giving serious attention to my advice, play not with dice and pursue agriculture and be delighted in wealth so acquired)

**माता भूमिः पुत्रोऽहं पृथिव्याः ।**

(Soil is my mother and I am her son)

यद्दनासि यत्पिबसि धान्यं कृष्याः पयः । यदाद्यं यदनाद्यं  
सर्वं ते अन्नमविषं कृणोमि ॥ अथर्व. ८।२।१९

(What u eat and what u drink, is the milk of soil, soil made them poisonless)

नो राजा नि कृषिं तनोतु ।

हमारा राजा कृषिको विशेष रीतिसे बढ़ावे

(May king guide us for agriculture in unique way)

कृषिष्व मे यतेन कल्पताम् ।  
वृष्टिष्व मे यतेन कल्पताम् ॥ ऋग्वेद, 18-9 ॥  
मास्तारव मे यतेन कल्पताम् ॥ ऋग्वेद, 18-17 ॥

These hymns illustrate the importance of Yajna's (इष्टि;Sacrifice) for rain, agriculture, and air or environment and their interrelationship.

धेवानां दाने प्रथा उत्तिष्ठान्कृतवन्निगुरा आम् ।  
इत्यनपि पृथिवीमृषा दा इति वस्तः पुराण ॥ RV,X,27,23 ॥

This indicates that at the start of creation, sun, etc. are created, rainfall causes from sky and the vegetation is created by the combination of cloud, air and sun. The sun extracts water in the form of vapour & air, causes it to form cloud and rain.

Verses (184, 15-17) of Maharashtra state that the plants drink water through their roots. The mechanism of water uptake by plants is explained by the example of water rise through a pipe. It is said that the water uptake clearly reveals the knowledge of ciliary action of soil in movement of water up and down. Viz

पादेः सतितपन्नास्यं वार्धमां चापि कर्षणात् ।  
व्याधिप्रतिश्रुत्वाच्च विधते रसनं ह्ये ॥ MB,XII,184,15 ॥

वस्त्रोत्पन्नानेन यथोर्ध्वं जनमाक्रेत् ।  
तथा पवनसंयुक्तः पादेः पिवति पावसः ॥ MB,XII,184,16 ॥

## Vedic literature

Agriculture (krishi), finds extensive mention in many vedic texts such as Krishi Parashara, Kautilya's Artha-shastra, the Sangam literature of early Tamils, Manusmriti, Varāhamihira's Brhat-Samhita, Amarakosha, Kashyapiya Krishisukti and Surapala's Vrikshayurveda. These texts provide information about agriculture, horticulture, arboriculture and plant biodiversity. Information on agricultural practices in the Vedic literature is mostly sporadic and not in the form of a narrative accounts.

**Type of land in ved:** Urvara, Ushara, Maru, Aprahata, Shadvala, Pankikala, Jalaprayah, Kachchaha, Sharkara, Sharkaravati, Nadimatruka and Devamatruka

**Rigveda mentions four kinds of water used for irrigation purpose:** Divyah, Khanitrimāh, Svayamjah, Samudrārthāh

**The Yajurveda mentions twelve grains:** Vīhi (Rice), Nivāra, Yava (Barley), Godhūma (Wheat), Priyangu (Rai), Anu (Mashua), Śyāmāka (Grass), Māsa, Mudga (Mung bean), Masūra (Lentil), Khalva (Bean), Tila (Sesame)

**The whole process of farming has been described in four part -** Karsana, Vapana, Lavana, Mardana

**Organic input used during Vedic period:** Panchagavya, Amrutpani

## Agnihotra

Agnihotra is the science of healing the atmosphere through pyramid fires to eliminate pollution & contamination. It's written in the Vedas that "HEAL THE ATMOSPHERE AND IT WILL HEAL YOU". According to Vedas most of the nutrient comes from atmosphere. So we should focus on atmosphere.

## Agnihotra homa

It is most important and should be practised exactly at sunrise and sunset time daily.

## Agnihotra mantra at sunrise

सूर्याय स्वाहा सूर्याय इदं न मम ।  
प्रजापतये स्वाहा प्रजापतये इदं न मम ॥

(Unto the sun I am offering this offering. This is not mine, this is Thine)

## Agnihotra mantra at sunset

अग्नये स्वाहा अग्नये इदं न मम ।  
प्रजापतये स्वाहा प्रजापतये इदं न मम ॥

(Unto the fire I am offering all. This offering is not mine it is Thine)

## Vyahruti Homa

It can be performed at any time except sunrise and sunset. It is also performed when commencing Om Tryambakam homa.  
Bhooḥ swāhā agnaye idam na mama  
Bhuwah swāhā wāyawe idam na mama

Swah swáhá sooryaya idam na mama  
Bhoor bhuwah swah swáhá Prajapataye idam na mama  
(Put one drop of ghee into the fire at each "swáhá")

### Om Tryambakam Homa

It should be performed at least 4 hours every day. It should be performed for 24 hours on full moon and no moon days.

Om Tryambakam yajámahe  
Sugandhim pushti vardhanam  
Urvárukamiva bandhanán

Mrutyor muksheeya mánrutát swáhá  
(Put one drop of ghee into the fire at each "swáhá")  
(This Homa is especially beneficial to plant life)

### Astrology

The ancient practice of studying the movements and positions of the sun, moon, planets and stars in the belief that they influence people, environment and events. The astrologers say that the best planting is done in the signs of SCORPIO, PISCES, TAURUS or CANCER. You can plant all the things that yield above the ground in the increase of the Moon & plant all the things that yield below the ground when the Moon is decreasing.

### Almanacs in Indian astronomy and astrology (Panchangs) (Yearly)

“An almanac is a books or table containing a calendar of the days, weeks and months of the year, a register of ecclesiastical festivals and saint’s day and a record of various astronomical phenomena, often with weather prognostications and seasonal suggestions for countrymen”

### Part of panchang

1. Tithi – Total of thirty tithes in a lunar month, fifteen in each fortnight
2. Vara or week day – Seven varas, (Monday-Sunday)
3. Nakshatra (or) asterism (or) constellation – 27 nakshtras
4. Yoga (or) time during which the joint motion of the sun and the moon covers the space of the nakshatra (27 yogas)

The rishis identified 27 constellations, or “Nakshatras” in which the moon passes through. There are specific actions which should be taken on a particular Nakshatra cycle, in order to receive the maximum benefit to the crops. Thursday, Friday, Monday and Wednesday are the auspicious day for sowing seeds.

### Forecast of annual monsoon rains

In Krishi Parashara, details techniques of forecasting of rain is mentioned. Technique used is based on the positions of the Moon and the Sun in the sky. According to varahamihira, the formation of clouds (or) *garbhadharana* takes place 195 days before their birth (or) delivery of rain (or) *garbhaprasava*. Clouds were grouped as –

Abartak (Avartak)	Rain will be received in certain places in that year
Sambartak (Samvartak)	Rain will be received in all of the country
Pushkara	Quantity of rain will be very less
Drona	Will receive abundant rain water

### According to the ruling planet of a year, overall rainfall of

### that particular year should be anticipated as follows

Sr. No.	Ruling planet	Rainfall
1	Sun	Moderate
2	Moon	Very heavy
3	Mars	Scanty
4	Mercury	Good
5	Jupiter	Very good
6	Venus	Good
7	Saturn	Very low (Stormy wind)

### Organizations work in India for Vedic agriculture awareness

- Sri Sathya Sai organization (Nilgiri, Tamilnadu)
- Asian Agri-History Foundation (AAHF) (Dr. Y. L. Nene)
- Indian Foundation for Vedic Science

### Experimental study of Agnihotra homa

Ram and Pathak (2009) <sup>[10]</sup> at Lucknow, India studied effect of integration of organic farming practice on yield and quality of guava and observed that only homa therapy treatment is beneficial to increase average fruit yield.

Generally 300 days are required for grape seeds and cuttings to germinate with the use of modern technology like use of hormones, scarification, stratification etc. Agnihotra treatment reduced this period drastically to 21 days when studies were conducted by Dr. B. G. Bhujbal, Research Officer Maharashtra State Grape Growers’ Association at M.J.P. Agricultural University, Pune with chanting of mantra “Tryambakam” and homa continued for 2 hours. After which the samples were treated with Agnihotra ash.

Gocher *et al.* (2017) <sup>[6]</sup> at Bikaner studied effect of Gibbrellic acid and Homa ash on plant height (cm) in Cape gooseberry (*Physalis peruviana* L.) at different days after transplanting (DAT) and observed that 400 ppm GA3 is beneficial for plant height and yield but 200 mg homa ash is also showed at par result and economical and more purest.

Limaye observed in his own field in 2017 that the number of flowers produced by plant had increased with increased exposure to vapour in lemon. Proliferation of leaves was observed mango, red tinged leaves were seen on a number of plants with use of agnihotra vapour.

Tripathy and Dutta in 2019 <sup>[12]</sup> at Jharkhand studied the effect of agnihotra on brinjal and observed that highest growth, yield, quality parameter and benefit cost ratio was observed with use of homa treatments.

Limaye observed in his own field in 2020 that in some plant flowering was there but very less and those flowers when turned into fruits, were shed at the stage when it was very small. But exposure to agnihotra vapour had not only increased flowering in mango but also the formation of fruit in large numbers. The study highlights the effects of Agnihotra vapour providing strong evidence for involvement of phyohormones (Brassanolide) for manifestation of physiological effects of plant growth.

Outbreak of nut infesting eriophyid mite in coconut plantations of South India in 1999. First time reported in any Asian country. Extremely small sized fruits. Heavy crop losses due to immature nut fall. After 6 months treatment with Homa Therapy, got control over falling immature nuts (Farm of Shri Chinnaswamy Devansapudur, Pollachi, Dist: Coimbatore, TN).

Pears were attacked by Grapholita insects. The infection was successfully controlled by homa therapy which yielded good

quality, tasty and bigger size fruits (Chile, South America). Termites on grapes were reported. Insecticides able to kill adult termites but larvae continued burrowing into the plants. Agnihotra ash solution was used for disinfections. Termites disappeared totally.

At the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Peru. The approximate yield of a mango variety, Haden without agrochemical was 10,000 kg per hectare, it was 30,000 kg per hectare with agrochemicals and with homa treatment alone, it was 84,000 per hectare.

A lemon variety Sutil gave approx. 7,000 kg per hectare fruit yield without agrochemicals, 15,000 kg per hectare with agrochemicals and 17,200 kg per hectare with homa farming alone at Peru, South America.

Generally, coffee produces fruits only after one and half years. With homa treatment it started flowering in the eighth month and produced fruits within one year (Ministry of Presidency of the Republic of Peru).

Fifth generation of Isla variety of Banana had 70% infection from fungi Fusarium and 40% from moco Pseudomona solanace. Generally, this variety has small bunches, lowest yield, 6-7 off springs and requirement of 8.5 months for harvest. With homa therapy, it produced disease-free 120 bananas per bunch, 12-13 off springs, fruits of bigger size and only six months for the harvest. This variety was found to heavily infected with Sigatoka at many places in the republic (Ministry of Presidency of the Republic of Peru).

The conventional cocoa farming in 10 hectares of land was destroyed by motiniasis and witches broom. The few remaining plants hardly showed and signs of flowering and fruiting. After the home treatment, those few remaining cocoa plants rejuvenated, no diseases were observed, leaves were very healthy and shiny with throughout the year harvest of big and healthy fruits. The yield rise to unbelievable 400% (Ministry of Presidency of the Republic of Peru).

Papaya takes generally 8-9 months for harvest. Attack by various organisms is very common reducing the yield to about 75 metric tons per year. With homa treatment, plague and disease-free fruits could be harvested in just 6 months and the yield was recorded 150 metric tons per year (Ministry of Presidency of the Republic of Peru).

Orange plants were raised on extremely poisoned soil due to serial spray of strong chemicals to eradicate cocoa plants. Due to homa treatment, the plants registered 1 cm growth per day. The plants were lush green and were free from any diseases (Ministry of Presidency of the Republic of Peru).

The coconut plants were attacked by ants and fungi. Immature fruit drop was rampant and the yield was 5 coconuts per bunch. With homa therapy, the ants and fungi problem was controlled 100% and round the year yield was obtained with 25-35 coconuts per bunch (Ministry of Presidency of the Republic of Peru).

Study taken by Ian Carlos Andrade, Peru, South America in 2020 and observed that Homa farming speeds banana plant growth. Normally the shoot begins to emerge between 15, 18 and 22 days, depending on the vegetative material used. The plant sprouted after 5 days with the use of Agnihotra ash. Growth advantage that is 3-4 times faster. That is his experience.

Jesus Tineo Raimundo at Peru, South America in 2020 studied on Homa farming in banana and observed that fruit is stronger and controls of pest is easy.

Arul Kartikeyan is a bio-dynamic farmer in Coimbatore

district. The whole turmeric crop was affected by an insect infestation. After only one spray treatment with Agnihotra ash water solution, the disease on the leaves cleared up completely. (Farm of Shri Arul Kartikeyan Pollachi, Dist: Coimbatore, TN)

### Experimental study of organic input

Yallesh *et al.* (2008) <sup>[13]</sup> at Belgium studied germination characters of mango stones as influenced by various pre-soaking treatments and observed that panchagavya (3% for 3 hr.) is best for all the parameter.

Duragannavar *et al.* (2009) <sup>[4]</sup> at COH, Karnataka studied influence of bioformulations on yield and quality parameters of papaya and observed that Panchagavya + Amrit Pani is best for all the parameters.

Dwivedi *et al.* (2014) <sup>[5]</sup> at Lucknow studied effect of organic amendments of first bud initiation, first flower opening first fruit set and number of fruits in cape gooseberry and observed that Amrit pani is best for number of fruit per plant.

Ram *et al.* (2014) <sup>[11]</sup> at CISH, Lucknow studied response of different treatments on number of fruit and yield of guava cv. Allahabad Safeda and observed that Rhizospheric soil of *Ficus benghalensis* (250 g/tree) + 5% Amritpani + organic mulching is best for number of fruit per plant and yield.

Bagul *et al.* (2018) <sup>[1]</sup> at NAU, Navsari studied effect of pre-sowing seed treatments on different parameters of papaya seedlings and observed that panchgavya (3%) is best for all the parameters.

### Farming using the moon

- From the past 16 years, Sarvdaman Patel has been using biodynamic (BD) techniques on his farm in Gujarat's Anand district
- BD cultivation calendar is based on the moon's movement
- Farmers who practice biodynamic farming don't only follow astronomical signs; they also rely on natural composts-BD 500 to 508 is recommended

### Conclusion

- The texts gives a clear picture of Vedic agricultural system
- Agnihotra is ancient Vedic farming technique promises an increase in crop yields with minimal input costs
- The practice is used to treat the atmosphere, the soil, plants, pests and disease problems
- Improvement in quantity and quality of produce
- The medicinal fumes emanating from Agnihotra have been observed by researchers in the field of microbiology to be clearly bacteriostatic in nature
- Homa therapy can be practiced easily by anyone irrespective of caste, religion, gender, age or race

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