

HOMA ORGANIC FARMING IN POLAND

MIRACULOUS SUCCESS IN ACIDIC SOIL

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In 1995, the Homa Therapy Foundation of Poland purchased 3 hectares of land in the southern, hilly region of Poland, 50 km from the Tatra Mountains. This area is covered with pine forests. Therefore, the condition of the soil is very acidic. The soil in the region is also rock hard with high clay content, making it extremely difficult to farm normally.

In September, 1996, we built an Agnihotra shala and began performing daily sunrise/sunset Agnihotra on the land. A couple of years later, we started performing Om Tryambakam Yajnya for 2 hours daily. We also planted a vegetable garden alongside the existing 50-year-old apple and plum orchard.

We plowed the land heavily at least 3 times with a small tractor and horses. Plowing was very shallow, about 5-10 cm deep, because of the sticky, hard condition of the clay. To this we added a truckload of compost over an area of 2500 square metres.

At the same time we purchased a cow, so we could have cow dung for the Homa Therapy fires and manure for the garden. In spite of the small amount of compost, everything grew very well the first year—cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, broccoli, tomatoes, capsicum, etc. Each following year we grew more and more varieties of vegetables and expanded the garden to 5,000 sq. metres. We also increased the Yajnya to 4 hours per day.

No one in the Foundation had any experience in farming or gardening, except for myself who had limited experience gardening in vastly different conditions in Australia, which is a temperate climate.

By 2003, we had a great diversity of vegetables, including Jerusalem artichokes, snow peas, Brussel sprouts, broccoli, tomatoes, and a wide variety of herbs. All of this success we attribute to performance of Agnihotra and Om Tryambakam Homas and regular use of Agnihotra Ash mixed into the compost, soil and the water which we used to spray on the plants. We used Agnihotra ash for transplanting and for seeding as well. We were troubled by weeds and cabbage White Butterfly larvae. We solved the problem, not by using chemical or even natural insecticides and pesticides, but by attracting Nature's predators—frogs, lizards, ladybugs, dragonflies, beetles, birds, etc. within a few years, the problem had completely disappeared, as Nature began to bring itself into balance. We also made a liquid manure from nettles, fresh cow dung and Agnihotra Ash which we allowed to ferment. This was then used to fertilize the plants.

Though we had no gardening experience and lacked professional farming skills, all the vegetables, herbs and fruit produced excellent harvests free of all diseases.

On May 14, 2003 we had a chemical analysis done on the soil by the Agricultural Centre in Krakow to find out exactly what was missing in the soil. As can be seen in the attached charts, the overall acidity of the soil was very high, pH of 4.85, and the worst was the cultivated garden area

at pH of 4.4. As is commonly known, it is impossible to cultivate anything in such acidic pH conditions, except for acid-loving fruits like berries and pine trees, which grew dominantly everywhere in the region.

Table 1. Chemical Agricultural Centre, Krakow Branch, results for orchard soil analysis:

Analysis results:

No. of sample	Depth cm	Category of soil	pH w KCl	Element content mg/100g			Ratio of K:Mg
				Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Magnesium (Mg)	
1	0-20	III	4.85 - v. acidic	5.4 - (high)	9.8 - (high)	15.0 - (high)	3.3p

Table 2. Results of pH reaction and resources of soil samples taken from the agricultural farm Fundacja "Terapia Homa"/Wysoka 151.

No. of sample	Category of Land	Category of soil	Acidity pH	Lime requirements	Contents in mg/100g soil and valuation		
					Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Magnesium (Mg)
2	cultivated	medium	4.4- v.acidic	ne cessary	4.2 (low)	18.0 (medium)	11.7 (high)
3	grass meadow	medium	5.1- acidic	recommended	1.0 (low)	20.0 (medium)	15.0 (high)

Table 3. Request for research on levels of acidity of soil samples and suggested dose of lime.

No. of sample	Area in ha.	Category of land	Category of soil	pH	Lime requirement	Dose of CaO in t/ha.	Dose of CaO in t/ha.
1	-----	orchard	medium	4.8- v. acidic	needed	1.50	-----
2	-----	cultivated	medium	4.4- v. acidic	ne cessary	4.50	-----
3	-----	grass meadow	medium	5.1- acidic	recommended	1.00	-----
TOTAL	3.01 ha						7.02
Average recommended dose in t/ha.							2.33

Since that time we have added some lime to the soil and we are now growing every kind of vegetable and grain under the sun, including corn, squashes, tomatoes, sweet peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, Florence fennel, lettuce, arugula, cucumbers, carrots, beetroot, celery, chard, beans, celeriac, potatoes, radish, pumpkin, and specialty grains like spelt, which is totally impossible in this area. The only crops that local farmers grow in this area are rye, wheat, oats, potatoes, beans, apples and plums. Even these crops provide only enough to feed their families, not enough for commercial sales. This is because of the poor acidic condition of the soil and the short 6 -month growing season.

Below are the impressive photos of the different varieties of crops growing here since we started our gardens over ten years ago.

In the garden at Bhругu Aranya



Abundant Nature



Circular garden beds



Our miraculous Homa tomatoes



Rory picking apples



Parvati, Asia and children in the garden



In the greenhouse