

SANKALP



Rooted in the vision of **Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, the Art of Living's Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust (AOL-SSRDP) and Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Trust (AOL-SSIAST) are driving inclusive and sustainable transformation across rural India. Working at the grassroots, AOL-SSRDP strengthens livelihoods, empowers youth, enhances education, and expands renewable energy access through skill training, digitilation of government schools to smart schools, village solarisation, and community development initiatives.

Complementing this work, AOL-SSIAST leads nationwide efforts to scale Natural farming, restoring soil health and improving farmer prosperity through training, research, and institutional partnerships.

In 2025, AOL-SSRDP and AOL-SSIAST expanded their outreach across villages, farms, schools, and institutions, translating ecological wisdom into practical and scalable solutions that build resilient communities and sustainable agricultural systems.

This Annual Newsletter 2025 captures the defining milestones of the year—celebrating the people, partnerships, and grassroots leadership that are shaping a more resilient, prosperous, and sustainable rural India.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



30 lakh+
farmers trained
across 24 states



4.75 lakh
youth empowered
through 147 centres



5.56 lakh+
acres under
natural farming



473+
Smart Schools
benefiting 95,500+
students



100 million+
trees planted



700+ villages
solarised, impacting
1.95 lakh+ lives



25 FPOs
strengthening
18,000+ farmers



74
Government ITIs
upgraded

Building Strong Partnerships for National Impact

AOL-SSRDP Signs Strategic MoU with Techknowgreen Solutions Ltd.

The Art of Living's Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust (AOL-SSRDP) entered into a strategic partnership with Techknowgreen Solutions Ltd. The MoU was formalised by **Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP, and Shri Prasad Pawar, Director and CEO, Techknowgreen Solutions Ltd.**

The collaboration focuses on advancing wastewater treatment, nallah (drainage) management, and environmental restoration initiatives across India, supporting sustainable development and healthier communities.



Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP, and Shri Prasad Pawar, Director and CEO, Techknowgreen Solutions Ltd.



AOL-SSRDP collaborates with Svenska Institute on skilling.

AOL-SSRDP Partners with Svenska Institute to Strengthen Youth Skilling

AOL-SSRDP, under the leadership of **Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, partnered with Svenska Institute, led by Shri Mangesh Vaidya, Managing Director.**

The collaboration strengthens India's skilling ecosystem through advanced training in the infrastructure and equipment sector, focusing mainly on heavy vehicle mechanics, operations, and compactor operator training. The trainees receive hands-on practice and simulator-based learning, enabling **500 youth annually to become industry-ready professionals.**

AOL-SSRDP and NHPC Join Hands for Integrated Border Area Development in Jammu

AOL-SSRDP signed an MoU with NHPC Limited to establish an Integrated Border Area Development Centre in the Jammu district, covering Suchetgarh, R.S. Pura, and Akhnoor. The MoU was signed by **Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman of AOL-SSRDP**, and Shri Anand Kumar Tembhare, General Manager of NHPC, in the presence of Shri Miren Kumar Verma, Head of Department (CSR), NHPC.

As part of the engagement, Shri Prasana Prabhu met Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC, and presented him with a copy of The Art of Living Social Projects, highlighting key initiatives..



Shri Prasana Prabhu and Shri Anand Tembhare formalise NHPC partnership.

AOL-SSRDP Partners with Maharashtra School Education Department to Transform Government Schools

In the presence of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis**, a landmark MoU was formalised between the **School Education Department, Government of Maharashtra, and AOL-SSRDP**.

The MoU was signed by **Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP**, with the objective of enhancing school infrastructure, promoting digital learning, and strengthening capacity-building initiatives across **150 government schools in 10 districts**.



Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis at the MoU signing.

AOL-SSRDP Collaborates with Maharashtra Government to Upgrade ITI Infrastructure

AOL-SSRDP signed a strategic MoU with the Government of Maharashtra to upgrade laboratories in **20 government Industrial Training Institutes**. This initiative modernises vocational infrastructure and equips students with industry-relevant, future-ready skills.



AOL-SSRDP partners Maharashtra Government to upgrade 20 ITI laboratories.

National Leaders Witness a Model of Grassroots Transformation

Hon'ble 14th President of India Visits AOL-SSRDP Centre of Excellence

The Hon'ble 14th President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, visited the AOL-SSRDP Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru and was warmly received by **Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP and AOL-SSIAST**.

The visit stood as a significant moment of national recognition in skill development, strengthening education systems, border village development, prison rehabilitation, and inclusive nation building.

The Centre of Excellence reflects a holistic empowerment model, with large-scale impact in skilling youth, ITI upgradation, government school transformation, and sustainable livelihood creation.



The Hon'ble 14th President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP and AOL-SSIAST

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Visits Centre of Excellence

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Shri Rajendra Shukla**, along with **Shri K. P. Tripathi**, visited the Art of Living International Centre and toured the AOL-SSRDP Centre of Excellence.

The visit offered an insightful overview of the center's state of the art facilities, including the following labs:

- Solar and Electrical Lab,
- Industrial Automation Lab,
- 2 Wheeler EV Training Lab,
- Drone Pilot Training Centre,
- Mobile Training Lab.



Madhya Pradesh Deputy CM visits SSRDP Centre of Excellence.

Skilling the Future, Inaugurating Opportunity

Solar-Powered Smart Model School Sets a New Benchmark in Sikkim

The Art of Living's Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust (AOL-SSRDP), in partnership with **Schneider Electric India Foundation**, inaugurated a Solar-Powered Smart Model School at Government Senior Secondary School, Bariakhop, in the presence of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang**.

Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP, welcomed the dignitaries and presented The Art of Living Social Projects book, highlighting AOL-SSRDP's holistic Smart School vision. Across India, AOL-SSRDP has **transformed 473 government schools**, positively impacting over **1.3 lakh students and teachers annually**.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang and Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP and AOL-SSIAT



Gurudev Inaugurates Skill Development Center in Nagpur

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inaugurated the Skill Development Center in Nagpur, marking a significant step in strengthening youth employability and vocational excellence. The centre features modern facilities for hands-on training, practical exposure, and industry-aligned learning, reinforcing dignity of labour and self-reliance.



Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inaugurated the Skill Development Center in Nagpur

Solar Technician Training Empowers Prison Inmates with Employable Skills

Under **PMKUVA in Maharashtra**, Art of Living's Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust (**AOL-SSRDP**), in collaboration with **MSSDS** and the Home Department, **Government of Maharashtra**, is implementing an integrated skilling and rehabilitation initiative across **12 prisons, benefiting 1,500 inmates** through vocational training and the Prison SMART Program.

Ajit Chandrakant Rane, trained as a Solar Panel Installation Technician at Amravati Prison, is now employed as a Supervisor at Mascot Electronics, Mumbai. He shares, **"I am grateful to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Chairman Shri Prasana Prabhu, Lalit Nanotkar, trainer Ashik Khan Sir, Superintendent Kirti Chintamani and MSSDS for their guidance and this opportunity,"** reflecting how skills combined with inner resilience help rebuild life with dignity and confidence.

Dialogue, Collaboration, and Policy Engagement for Change

Water Conservation and Pollution Mitigation in Ayodhya

Discussions with Shri Rajesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Ayodhya, examined sustainable strategies for water conservation and long-term water pollution mitigation.

Advancing Water Conservation and Pollution Mitigation in Ayodhya



Discussions with Shri Rajesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Ayodhya

Scaling Prison Skilling Programmes Nationwide

Deliberations with Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, focused on expanding vocational training initiatives across correctional institutions in India.

Multi-Sector Skill Development for Nation-Building

Through strategic exchanges involving Shri Prasana Prabhu and Shri Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Advisor, National Skill Development Corporation, the role of multi-sector skill development in accelerating inclusive national growth was explored.

Education and Skilling Pathways in Punjab

Engagements led by Shri Prasana Prabhu with Shri Manish Sisodia, AAP Punjab In-Charge, focused on advancing education reform, expanding skilling opportunities, and promoting green development initiatives.



In an interaction with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta

Yamuna Rejuvenation and School Transformation in Delhi

In an interaction with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Rekha Gupta, AOL-SSRDP showcased its integrated initiatives in Yamuna rejuvenation, skill development, and government school transformation.

Recognised at the National Stage

National Honours for Water Conservation Leadership

The Art of Living received national recognition from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, including the Best Civil Society Award at the National Water Awards and the Best NGO Award at the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Awards, acknowledging large-scale impact in river rejuvenation, water body restoration, natural farming, and afforestation.



The Art of Living received national recognition from the Ministry of Jal Shakti



Shri Prasana Prabhu honoured for river rejuvenation leadership.

Chairman Shri Prasana Prabhu Honoured with Rashtreeya Nadi Sangam Award

Shri Prasana Prabhu, Chairman, AOL-SSRDP and AOL-SSIAST, was honoured with the **Rashtreeya Nadi Sangam Award** for leadership in **river rejuvenation, water conservation, and water pollution mitigation.**

The ceremony was graced by **Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar as Chief Guest**, along with **Shri C. R. Paatil, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Nana Patekar, Dr. Gaurang Das, and Acharya Balkrishna.**

AOL-SSRDP Recognised as Best NGO of the Year

AOL-SSRDP was honoured as Best NGO of the Year at the Global CSR and ESG Awards, recognising its sustained commitment to education, skilling, border village development, prison inmate rehabilitation, and grassroots empowerment.



AOL-SSRDP was honoured as Best NGO of the Year at the Global CSR and ESG Awards

ADVANCING NATURAL FARMING ACROSS INDIA

Guided by the vision of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, The Art of Living's Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Trust (AOL-SSIAST) continued its nationwide efforts in 2025 to strengthen Naisargik (Natural) Farming, restore soil health, and improve farmer livelihoods.

Throughout the year, AOL-SSIAST worked across villages, schools, institutions, and policy platforms to translate nature-based wisdom into practical, scalable action. This annual newsletter captures the key milestones, people, and partnerships that shaped the journey of 2025.

Agriculture is the backbone of human existence. For any civilisation to prosper, agriculture has to be healthy and sustainable

-Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



NATURAL FARMING PROGRAMS & TRAININGS | 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Natural Farming in Correctional Institutions

The year began with a transformative Natural Farming initiative at **Paithan Jail, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra**, where over **100 inmates participated** in structured lessons on nature-based agriculture.

A demonstration plot developed within the **jail premises** enabled hands-on learning and **skill development**, offering a constructive pathway toward self-reliance and reintegration.



Natural Farming training empowers inmates at Paithan Jail.



Farmers receive certificates after completing Natural Farming training programs.



Statewide Farmer Trainings

Natural Farming awareness camps and training programs were conducted across **Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Karnataka**.

Farmers received practical training in:

- Chemical-free cultivation
- Soil rejuvenation
- Preparation of astras and amrutas
- Bio-enzymes and pest management
- Desi seed conservation

Notable programs were held in **Dhule, Satara, Nanded, Nagpur, Pune, Bahadurgarh, Koraput, Surat, Asansol, Nandyal, Gujarat Ashram, and Vidarbha Ashram (Nagpur)**, with participation from farmers, Agri Teachers, and **officers from Government Agriculture Departments**.

FARMER EXPERIENCES & FIELD OUTCOMES

Across regions, farmers demonstrated encouraging results through the adoption of Natural Farming practices.

Odisha | Expansion Through Naisargik Practices

In Udulguda, Koraput district, Agri Teacher Mrs Mamta Mishra expanded her Malaysian Broom plantation from 15 acres in 2022 to 52 acres by 2024, using only naisargik techniques. This resulted in a threefold increase in production, reinforcing the economic viability of nature-aligned farming.



Agri Teacher Mamta Mishra expands Malaysian broom cultivation through Natural Farming.



AOL-SSIIST farmer Rajnikant Sankhe grows premium green chillies through Natural Farming

Maharashtra | Market-Ready Chemical-Free Produce

In Palghar district, farmer Shri Rajnikant Sankhe cultivated high-quality green chillies on his eight-acre natural farming land. Grown without synthetic fertilisers, the produce stood out for its vibrant appearance, natural flavour, and strong market acceptance.



Farmers adopt diversified cropping systems through Natural Farming.

Diversified Cropping Systems

Farmers across several districts successfully adopted diversified cropping systems, cultivating tomato, potato, onion, green chilli, cauliflower, and other crops on living soils restored through Natural Farming practices.

PUNJAB | SONAMOTI WHEAT SUCCESS STORY

In a compelling example from Punjab, Sonamoti wheat demonstrated that natural farming cultivated using traditional seeds and chemical-free methods by farmers such as Harpal Singh Bhatti, the crop delivered yields of up to 10 quintals, depending on soil health and climatic conditions.

Sonamoti wheat commands premium market prices of ₹8,000 to ₹15,000 per quintal, owing to its pearl like grains, high nutritional value, and naturally gluten free composition, making it suitable for gluten sensitive consumers.



Punjab farmer Harpal Singh Bhatti showcases Sonamoti wheat success.

SRI SRI KIDS GARDENING & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Engaging children and youth remained a key focus area in 2025.

School-Based Gardening Programs

Sri Sri Kids Gardening programs were conducted at:

- Nanded City, Pune
- Ramnagar School, Maharashtra
- SSRVM Surat, Gujarat
- Gyan Mandir, Ahmedabad

Thousands of students participated in experiential learning covering seed sowing, soil preparation, composting, enzyme making, and seed-to-sapling growth.



Students learn seed-to-sapling practices through Sri Sri Kids Gardening.

These programs were guided by dedicated educators including Ms Suvarna Kadam, Dr Yugandhara Barge, Ms Raginee Ji, and Ms Tejal Andhariya Ji, nurturing curiosity, responsibility, and respect for nature.

Seed Ball Making for Environmental Stewardship

A large-scale Seed Ball Making initiative at SSRVM Surat engaged nearly 1,000 students, who collectively created around 10,000 seed balls using Desi seeds such as papaya, guava, drumstick, and imli.



Students prepare seed balls using indigenous seeds at SSRVM Surat.

AGRI TEACHER TRAINING & ECOSYSTEM STRENGTHENING



Agri Teacher Training programs held at Gujarat and Vidarbha Ashrams.

To ensure long-term impact, AOL-SSIAST continued focused investment in Agri Teacher development.

Agri Teacher Training programs were conducted at Gujarat Ashram (6–12 January 2025), District Pune, and Vidarbha Ashram, Nagpur, bringing together committed participants from across regions.

The training integrated spiritual practices including pranayama, Sudarshan Kriya, meditation, Agnihotra practices, senior faculty sessions, exposure visits, and interactive learning, under the leadership of Shri Sudhir Chapte, National Teachers Coordinator, along with dedicated SATC teams.

INSTITUTIONAL & GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENTS

A courtesy meeting was held at The Art of Living International Center with the **Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Maharashtra, Manikrao Kokate, and MLA Rajesh Vithekar.**

The delegation witnessed demonstrations of multilayer farming, indigenous banana cultivation, and cow-based Natural Farming initiatives at the gaushala, along with skill-development facilities including solar training units, drone spraying training, and mobile training centres.

STRATEGIC MOUS & COOPERATIVE STRENGTHENING



AOL-SSIAST partners with BBSSL to strengthen indigenous seed systems.

The Art of Living's Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Trust (AOL-SSIAST) has taken a significant step toward strengthening sustainable agriculture in India through strategic partnerships with National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) and Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL). Signed in the presence of Shri Ashish Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, these MoUs aim to empower farmers while reviving India's traditional agricultural wisdom.



AOL-SSIAST partners with NCOL to expand markets for Natural Farming produce.

The collaboration with BBSSL focuses on preserving and promoting indigenous seeds through community seed banks, farmer training, research initiatives and awareness programs supporting the National Mission on Natural Farming. Meanwhile, the partnership with NCOL will help streamline aggregation, certification and marketing of organic produce grown by AOL-SSIAST trained farmers.

Together, these collaborations aim to build stronger value chains, protect biodiversity and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for farmers across India.

RESEARCH & TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION

Natural Farming Research & Training Centre, Madhya Pradesh

A major milestone was achieved in November with the establishment of the Natural Farming Research and Training Centre at Basaman Mama Gaushala, Vanya Vihar, Simaria, Madhya Pradesh.

Inspired by Gurudev's vision of Annadata Sukhi Bhava, the Centre focuses on farmer-centric research, structured training programs, and field-based demonstrations.



AOL-SSIAST launches Natural Farming Research Centre at Basaman Mama Gaushala

DEMONSTRATION FARMS & GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION



Shri Amit Shah inaugurates the Rewa Model Farm Project, boosting Natural Farming in Madhya Pradesh.



Shri Prasana Prabhu showcases multilayer farming practices to Shri Amit Shah at Rewa Model Farm.

Rewa Model Farm Project

The Rewa Model Farm Project, developed in collaboration with Basaman Mama Gaushala and the Government of Madhya Pradesh, was dedicated as a live demonstration and capacity-building hub in the presence of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Hon'ble Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, and Shri Prasana Prabhu.

The project now functions as a dynamic training centre showcasing multilayer farming, horticulture, medicinal crops, and comprehensive farmer capacity-building models.

PRODUCT INNOVATION & SOIL REGENERATION

Another significant development in 2025 was the introduction of **Sri Sri Naisargik PROM**, a patented, 100% organic fertiliser designed to restore soil life, reduce chemical dependency, and support India's transition away from imported fertilisers, while also promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible agricultural practices for long-term soil health.



Sri Sri Naisargik LLP and Unique Organic Inputs sign an MoU to bring Sri Sri Naisargik PROM organic fertiliser to farmers across India.

LOOKING AHEAD JOIN THE NATURAL FARMING MOVEMENT

The journey of 2025 reaffirms a simple yet powerful truth:

When farmers work in harmony with nature, prosperity follows naturally.

As AOL-SSIAST moves forward, the focus remains on expanding farmer trainings, strengthening grassroots partnerships, advancing research, and nurturing future generations of natural farmers.





*Guided by the vision of **Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, **AOL-SSRDP** and **AOL-SSIAST** are helping youth build livelihoods, farmers return to natural farming, and villages grow stronger. Across skills, education, renewable energy, and agriculture, the journey continues, supporting communities to stand on their own feet while caring for the land that sustains all of us.*

Donate to support AOL-SSRDP and AOL-SSIAST in reaching many more farmers, youth, and villages with natural farming, skills, and opportunities for a better future.

Skill a Youth



Empower a Farmer



Donate to Empower Rural India

(80 G Tax exemption available)