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A Review on Homa Farming – A Vedic Touch to Modern Agriculture

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Abstract: Homa farming is a Vedic discipline which denotes the method of annihilating harmful circumstances of environmental elements and refines the atmosphere by action of flame, outfitted with copper pyramid. Agnihotra is essential flame in Homa farming. It religiously associates living beings on this earth to control energy from space. It is practiced when all hope is gone and has proved to be beneficial in increasing yield of crop , reducing microbial pathogenicity , decontaminating soil and water, against pest and disease infestation. Homa farming is comprehensive method of healing of agriculture and can be used in conjunction with any good organic farming system as it is extremely inexpensive and can be performed by anybody but requires discipline and consistency. In course of time this knowledge has lost because the farming is becoming more modernized with invention of new technologies like GI , GPS , satellite imaging, moisture sensors. Farmers are approaching new methods and practices of farming and they completely relies on chemicals like pesticides, rodenticides, Fertilizers, herbicides to enhance his production. Then it becomes difficult for them to believe in traditional and Vedic type of agriculture as it purely organic in nature and only depends on healing effects of agnihotra. Nowadays this knowledge is being revived by many scientists to give individuals the guidance about how to address polluted conditions of planet. Many scientists have demonstrated the scientific validation of Homa farming methodologies and have conducted experiments to prove the beneficial effect of Homafarming. A famous Scientist named Abhang Pathade, has conducted many experiments to prove that this technique actually works and can be very effective in getting rid of major problems like environmental pollution , disease and pest attack on plants , less crop yield and soil infertility.
Keywords: Gloria Biosol, Homa farming, Agnihotra, Pathogenicity, copper pyramid

INTRODUCTION:

Environmental pollution is a big problem for the whole planet and of course for agriculture also. Not only do humans suffer from pollution but plants also suffer as well. Plants are getting more vulnerable to pests and diseases, photosynthesis is being reduced, soil, water, food, and atmosphere are getting polluted due to modern agricultural practices. One possible solution to all these problems is Homa farming or *Agnihotra* (Berk U, 2020) . Homa farming originated from the ancient Vedas, mainly "Atharvaveda". It was successfully practiced in ancient times by Rishi and Maharishi. Homa farming is performed by a simple technique of *'Agnihotra'*, where 'Agni' means 'fire' and 'hotra' means 'healing'. It is the Chanting of Sanskrit mantra at a specific time in the day before a holy fire (Rana S , 2018) . The basic principle behind Homa farming is "You heal the atmosphere and the healed atmosphere will heal you"(Choudhary et al. 2020). The healed and purified atmosphere is said to have beneficial effects on man, animals, and plants (Paranjpe, 1989). If the farmers adopts this farming system they can get rid of all the worldly problems like poor crop yield, soil infertility, diseases of crop, his cattles and his family members. Ultimately leads to healthy,

happier and prosperous life. In the mid-twentieth century, the Indian teacher Parama Sadguru Shree Gajanan Maharaj and his pupil, Shree Vasant V. Paranjpe, resurrected historic information regarding the pyramid fire of *Agnihotra*. Today, it is mainly practiced by organic farmers in South America and India but is also gaining attention in North America and Europe (Choudhary et al. 2020).

According to experts, Homafarming is a scientific method that accentuates on fumigation of the atmosphere, an important factor for keeping crops healthy from ailments (Shinogi et al. 2016). Homa farming is a method of ancient agriculture in which by the action of flame harmful surroundings is eradicated. It religiously connects living organisms on earth to the energy from space. It is a holistic approach to growing plants in a pure and healthy ambiance. The ecological cycle is maintained by performing yajnas. It is believed that *Agnihotra* helps in gathering nutrients from space and returns to earth in the form of nutritious rain. The ash produced by the fire is accredited with having healing properties and mixed with compost, soil and sprayed on plants and animals to energize them (Choudhary et al. 2020) .It is also dissolved in water and sprayed onto plants, it is said to have to fertilize as well as plant protecting quality. It can be the easiest and most inexpensive method of cultivation for small and marginal land-holding farmers

Homa farming is also related to Panchang farming as it is based on the Panchang calendar. Panchang farming is basically a farming practice based on the Astro-agricultural calendar and astrological phenomenons like planet-Star conjunctions, transits, and planetary reign. The Panchang calendar is published annually and gives information on various aspects of agricultural activities by suggesting region wise and crop-wise strategy based on Astro meteorological predictions, giving auspicious/inauspicious time for undertaking/avoiding various farm activities along with a list of performing religious rites, festival (Yeole S , 2020).

According to the ayurvedic medical practitioner and scientist Priyadarshini, Purification of the environment with Homa leads to an increase in life energy. Prana is a Sanskrit word that means "life force". Plants in a Homa environment are thought to produce cylindrical veins (vascular tissue or bundles) that have a diameter that is larger than the typical plant, allowing water and nutrients to circulate more quickly, promoting plant growth and development overall. In addition, photosynthesis is boosted, and also plant respiration which boosts overall oxygen levels and improves the air in the atmosphere. Homa treatment is thought to improve soil quality by increasing water holding capacity, increasing the amount and solubility (plant availability) of macronutrients and trace minerals, and stimulating earthworm activity (Paranjpe , 1989). According to the findings, Homa farming has a lot of promise for enhancing plant performance while being environmentally friendly. However, detailed scientific documentation based on repeatable and accurate tests is required before this method may gain widespread support. While the majority of the above-mentioned effects of Homa treatment have yet to be scientifically explained or proved. Preliminary research into nutrient solubility in two Colorado soils found an increase in P solubility when the soils were treated with *Agnihotra* ash (Lai TM , 2007). In vitro experiments conducted on *Vigna radiata* (Moong daal) show faster germination when seeds of moong were treated with agnihotra ash as compared to normal ash (Abhang et al. 2015). Based on findings, it is suggested that farmers should follow Homa farming along with other organic techniques to increase the productivity of crops and income (Kumari et al . 2018).

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Method to perform Agnihotra:

Agnihotra is performed every day twice a day during sunrise and sunset.

Prerequisite:

1) **Copper pyramid**: For agnihotra fire, only copper and gold pyramid containers are used because they act as an antidote to all our problems.

2) Dried cow dung: It is the purest form of all the animal waste in the world. It has antiseptic, anti thermal, and anti-radioactive properties.

On burning it produces six types of gases that retards the growth of harmful microorganisms present in polluted air and makes the atmosphere clean.

3) Pure ghee: Cow ghee acts as a natural disinfectant and reduces toxicity in the air. It was found that when cow's ghee is burned with rice it produces some gases like propylene oxide, ethylene oxide, and formaldehyde which inhibits the growth of harmful microorganisms (Shinogi et al. 2016).

4) Unbroken and unpolished rice or brown rice: Polished rice loses nutritional value so brown rice is used. The only unbroken rise can be used in *agnihotra* because if it is broken the subtle energy structure is disturbed and hence does not fit for healing.

5) Mantra: The pronunciation of mantras should be clear and without hesitation. vibrations created due to the chanting of mantras cause subtle energy in the atmosphere and in the human mind.

Fig 1 : The meaning of mantras [Department of Agronomy, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, India].

Agnihotra mantras

(सूर्योदय)

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

Sooryáya Swáhá Sooryáya Idam Na Mama
Prajápataye Swáhá Prajápataye Idam Na Mama

(Put brown rice mixed with ghee into the fire at each "swáhá")

(सूर्यास्त)

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

Agnaye Swáhá Agnaye Idam Na Mama
Prajápataye Swáhá Prajápataye Idam Na Mama

Meaning: Unto the sun I am offering this offering. This is not mine, this is Thine.

(Put brown rice mixed with ghee into the fire at each "swáhá")

Meaning: Unto the fire I am offering all. This offering is not mine it is Thine.

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Along with agnihotra mantra it is advised to chant Tryambakam mantra because it generate string of vibrations and protects plants , animals and humans against negative forces. Tryambakam mantra is as follows:

Om Trayambak Yajamahe , Sugandhi Pushtee Vardhanam
Urvarukmeva Bandhanan, Mrityoh Mrukshiya Maamrataat.

Meaning: Om . I adore and worship you the three eyed lord Shiva ,the one who is fragrant and has nourished all beings . Like the fruits falls off from bondage of stem, may we be liberated from fear of death and mortality [https://isha-sadhguru-org]. When it is sung at the time of sunrise, the fires, ethers, electricities, exquisite energies emerge from the sun and are extended all over the earth and produce a more effect at the coordinates where the sunrise and purifies everything that comes in its path and destroying what is impure.

How to Prepare Agnihotra Fire

Smear a few cow dung chips with ghee (arrange them in the Agnihotra pot in such a way to permit free passage of air). Begin the fire a few minutes before sunrise/sunset while uttering the agnihotra mantras (after the word swaha add a few grains of rice grains coated with ghee to the fire). Agnihotra will be completed within 10 minutes and it is preferable to sit quietly or meditate until the fire goes out. (Don't use any mineral oil or blow through your mouth to create fire). The ash residue left after the performance of agnihotra is collected on a daily basis in a cloth. The fine sieved ash is "the miracle powder" employed in homa farming as a growth promoter and pesticide (Choudhary et al. 2020).

Resonance point:

Homa farming is an advanced farming method that creates a healthy environment for plants and animals by incorporating the science of resonance to transform the negative effects of pollution. A special configuration of 10 copper pyramids is installed on a farm and this installation magnifies, maintains, and accelerates the healing vibrations by the performance of *agnihotra* fires. The special pyramid configuration is known as a Resonance point. Homafarmer can create a nutrient-rich microclimate in an area of up to 200 acres by using this setup. It is necessary to perform Om Tryambakam Homa along with *Agnihotra* fire at resonance point to increase its healing effects [(https//:agnihotra.pl.)].

Agnihotra can be performed in two simple huts i.e Agnihotra hut and Tryambakam hut which can be built by using locally available and affordable materials like wood , bamboo , mats , stone and stick . Four resonance columns are also installed in each of four directions on boundary of farm. The Hut safeguards the person performing agnihotra from extreme weather conditions like rain , fast blowing wind , sun and also from animals. Agnihotra hut is the main hut where agnihotra is performed daily during sunrise and sunset and it is suggested to build this hut in centre of farm and size must be 3 × 4 meters approximately . The longer side is lined up with east/west direction and entrance must be from west . While performing agnihotra the face of person should be facing towards east. Tryambakam hut is also known as healing hut whose size is larger i.e 4 × 5 meter as compared to Agnihotra hut. In this type of hut, two pyramids are installed on small column of mud . Pyramid placed on left is for agnihotra and one which is placed on right is used for Om Tryambakam Homa . Om Tryambakam homa should be performed daily for minimum 4 hours but on full moon or new moon it should be performed for 24 hours or maximum number of hours to get significant results [https://homatherapyindia.com/resonance-point/].

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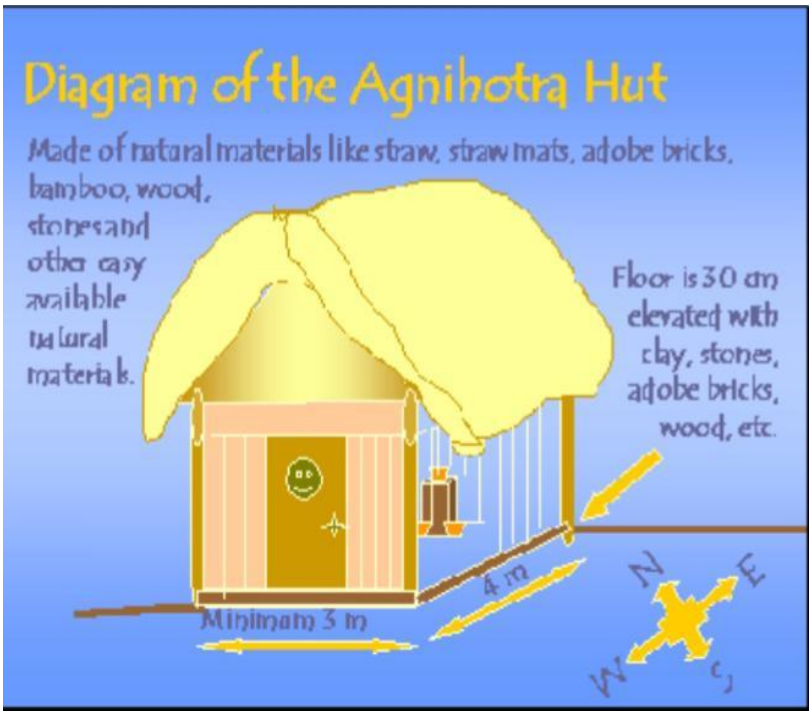
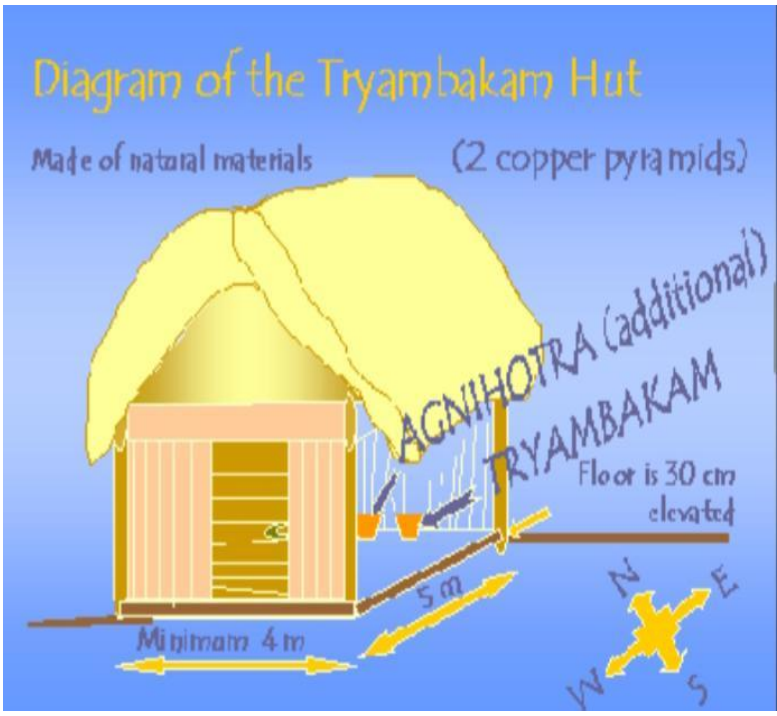
Fig 2: Diagram and layout of Agnihotra Hut and Tryambakam hut [https://homatherapyindia.com/resonance-point/].





Agnihotra hut. Om Tryambakam Hut

Existing farming v/s Homa farming:

In Homa farming, the atmosphere is regarded as the most important source of nutrition as 75 % of the nutrition in plants comes from the atmosphere, whereas in normal farming practices the environment is completely ignored.

The quantity of harvest per hectare will be greater than that grown by any other method. Products from Homa farming have a longer shelf life than that grown by any known modern method. The cost of production is much less compared with other methods. Homa farming shows a drastic increase in yield of guava with high quality as compared to normal farming and other organic farming systems (Ram and Pathak, 2005). In a study conducted by (Kumari et al. 2015) in which comparison was done between effect of agnihotra fire and normal fire on bacterial count , one plate containing bacteria was placed in agnihotra room and other placed in control room next to agnihotra room at some distance. It was observed that bacterial count reduced significantly as compared to normal fire and bacterial count was also reduced to some extent in plant placed in control room (near agnihotra room) (Berk and Dubey , 2020).

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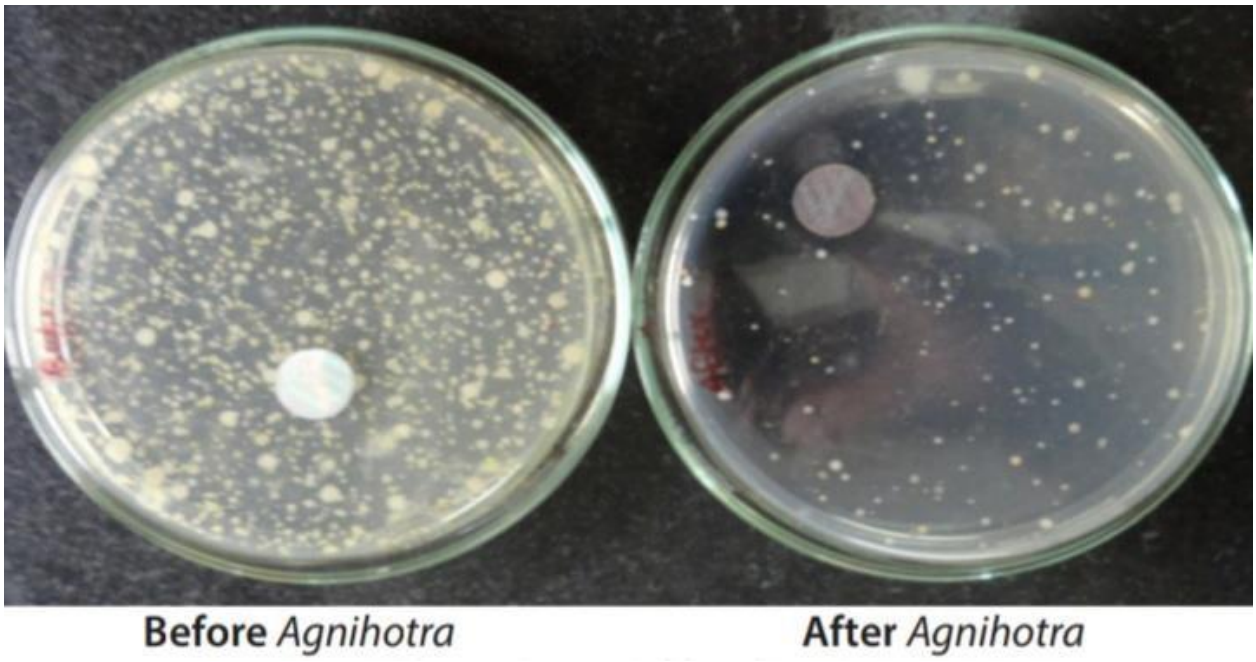
Fig 3: Bacterial load in air.



Source : (Berk and Dubey , 2020)

Table 1: nutritional value of tomatoes grown by different farming practices.

Type of farming	Dry matter	Sugar total	Sugars reducing	Organic acids
Conventional farming	6.67	5.00	3.46	0.40
Organic farming	6.86	4.91	3.65	0.42
Agnihotra farming	7.87	5.03	3.77	0.51

Source : (Berk , 2020)

Role of Homa farming in enhancing the crop yield

Due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers, the soil is depleting and nutrient content in it is also declining. Some scientists reported that *agnihotra* ash contains 94 elements that can be used to increase soil fertility (Choudhary et al.2020). All these elements act as a source of macronutrients and micronutrients for crops resulting in an increase in

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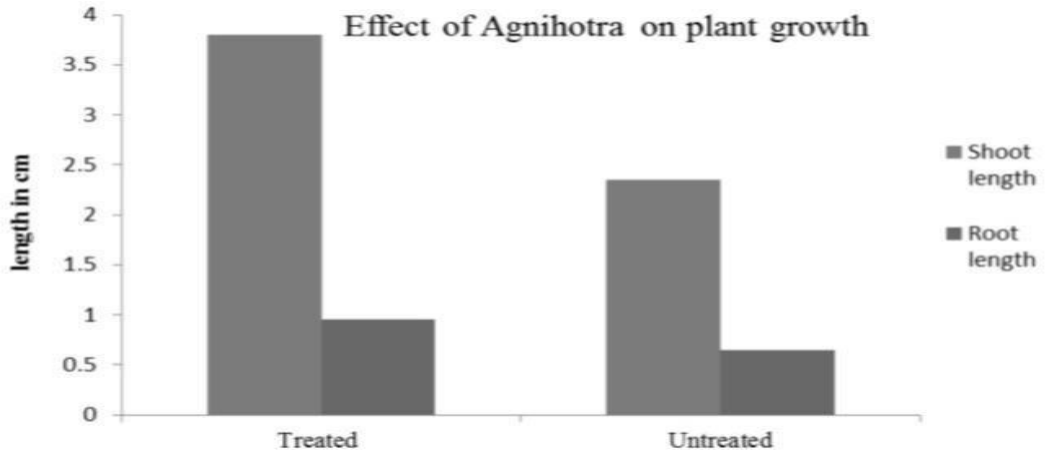
plant growth and ultimately increasing the productivity of crops (Abhang et al. 2015 ; Richa , 2019). *Agnihotra* ash increases the nutritive value of soil which might be responsible for the increase in yield and productivity along with the quality. of crops (Abhang et al. 2015). Fumes emitted by the combustion of *agnihotra* materials contain signal molecules and alter metabolic activities of plant cells and hence break dormancy and accelerated seed germination rate in grapes when it was cultivated in the environment of *agnihotra* (Richa , 2019). Mixing *Agnihotra* ash with yellow soil enhances the yield of Maize by regulating its growth *(Zea mays*) (Sharma et al. 2012). Medicinal fumes produced by agnihotra materials are responsible for the healthy growth of plants. Phosphorus is present in the soil but most of it is not insoluble. Phosphate solubilizing bacteria get increased by application of *agnihotra* ash on soil and hence increase soluble phosphate content in the soil. The addition of *agnihotra* ash to the straw substrate during mushroom cultivation increased carbohydrate, amino acid, and protein content of fruiting bodies along with the size and weight of mushrooms. The Time required for harvesting spawns also got reduced (Indira et al. 2010). Remarkable effects of Homa farming have been demonstrated in vegetables like tomato, brinjal, cucumber and in fruits like mango, banana, guava. Vegetables and fruits of homa farming are superior in quality in terms of texture, color, taste, and size. The Scientists conducted an experiment on grapes' farm in Maharashtra observed that in an agnihotra environment seeds germinated in 21 days instead of normal 6 months (Berde et al. 2015). In experiment conducted by Abhang in 2014 , he took 10 seedlings of moong (*Vigna radiata*) with same root and shoot length and planted in two separate pots . One pot was kept in *Agnihotra* room and other was kept in normal room , they were provided with same amount of water , light and other atmospheric conditions. After 5 days , he found root and shoot of seedlings which were placed in Agnihotra room was 3.8 cm and 0.95 cm respectively whereas root and shoot length of seedlings placed in normal room was 2.35 cm and 0.65 (Abhang et al. 2015). Another experiment conducted on seeds of Vigna acontiifolia and Vigna unguiculata proved that when Agnihotra ash water was used to germinate seeds , germination becomes faster as compared to grown with tap water and control ash water (Pathade and Abhang , 2014).

Fig 4: Root and shoot length of *vigna radiata* seedlings with and without treatment of *Agnihotra*



Source : (Abhang et al. 2015).

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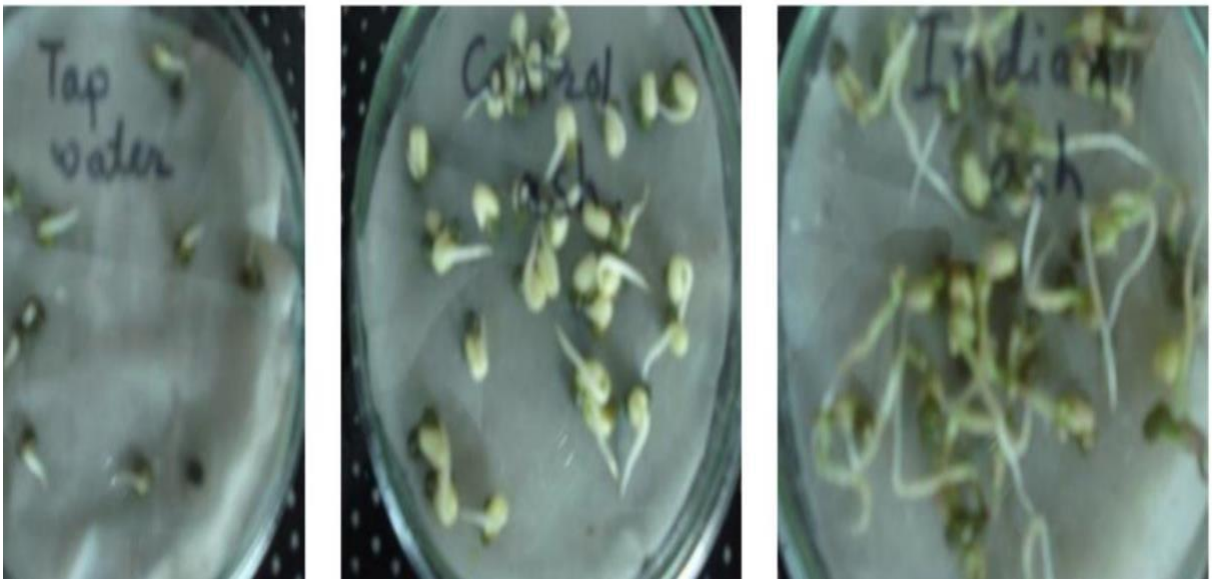
Fig 5: Germination of seed by using different water



Tap water. Control ash water. Agnihotra ash water

Source : (Pathade and Abhang , 2014)

Role of Agnihotra in alleviating Soil, Water, Pest and Disease problems:

Agnihotra ash is beneficial for soil treatment, water treatment, and seed treatment. According to a report by FAO, soil salinization affects 160 million hectares of cropland and affects 160 million hectares of cropland worldwide [https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/agriculture-soils-degradation-FAO-GFFA-2022/en]. Experts estimated that soil erosion could lead to a 10 percent loss in crop production by 2050. The degradation of the world's soils has already released up to 78 gigatonnes of carbon into the. To bring degraded soil back to healthy soil, Homa farming is a valuable tool. It activates different kinds of beneficial microbes like bacteria, fungi, algae, and viruses, Thus creating healthy microflora and microfauna. In trial conducted by Karin Heschl under guidance of Dr R K Pathak at Krishi at KVK , Virendra nagar , UP , India. The pH of soil on which trial was done was 9.86 (Sodic soil) . In that soil , wheat was planted in three different plots .1 plot was treated with agrochemicals , second with vermicompost alone and third with Vermicompost + *Agnihotra* ash . After harvesting of wheat crop , pH pf soil was again tested. It was found that Treatment of soil by a combination of *Agnihotra* ash and vermicompost lowers the pH of the soil, increasing potash and phosphorus content in the soil . (Table 1) (Berk , 2020). A study was conducted at Gogate college in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, to examine the effect of *Agnihotra* ash on the soil. It proved that the addition of 1% *agnihotra* ash in the soil increases the effective soil bacterial flora like nitrogen fixers and phosphate solubilizers and reduction in fungal flora (Berde et al . 2015).

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An Agriculture University, Dharwad, Karnataka conducted a study and found that there is a 20 - 40 % reduction in disease and pest attack in tomatoes cultivated in homa environment compared to organic and normal farming practices. A study shows that there is a significant reduction of disease and pest incidents of Powdery mildew (19 - 36%), Alternaria leaf spot (30-57%), fruit bore (16-38%) on Okra plants (Berk , 2018). Scientists designed an experiment to examine the effect of *Agnihotra* on polluted water taken from the Narmada river. The bottle containing polluted water was kept in the *Agnihotra* room where agnihotra has been performed for several years regularly at sunrise and sunset. After 5 days it was observed that coliform bacterial count was reduced by 50% as compared to the laboratory room (where the same water was kept for 5 days (Berk , 2020). Homa farming increases the water retention in soil by increasing its ability to retain moisture.

Table 2: Effect of *Agnihotra* ash on pH of alkaline Soil

Soil treatment	PH of soil
With agrochemicals	9.86
With vermicompost	9.06
With vermicompost and Agnihotra ash	7.67

Source : (Berk , 2020).

Agnihotra: An ancient solution to modern pollution

Environmental pollution in today's world seems so intense that it is easy to feel hopeless as it has a direct influence on all living as well as non living organisms. Wide range of pollutants are emitted into the atmosphere by both natural and anthropogenic means. Ecological imbalance caused by deforestation , industrial wastes, ozone layer depletion , radioactive ways have resulted into many disasters causes threat to human survival. and Agnihotra is possible solution to this problem , since it creates a pure , medicinal and nutritional atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is an important source of greenhouse effect but it is believed that the CO2 released during burning of wood during agnihotra is readily absorbed by surrounding vegetation and CO2 cycle gets strengthened. CO2 produced during yagya is not always free CO2 but it remains mixed with other antiseptic products and aromatic oils (Sharma et al. 2014) .An indoor experiment was conducted under Central pollution control board , Delhi , to study the impact of yagya on air microflora and the results were mesmerizing. It was found that there was reduction of pathogens to 100%, 67% , 87% and 93% respectively which supports the fact that agnihotra renders the atmospheric bacteriostatic and inhibits the growth of harmful microorganisms in the atmosphere (Sharma et al. 2014) . Another Experiment was conducted by Pathade and Abhang pranay in 2014 to study the effect of microbial load in the atmosphere . They kept the plates containing sterile nutrient agar open for 5 mins at a distance of 10 feet from the agnihotra room and incubated it for 30 hours at a temperature of 37 degree celsius. After 30 hours they found that microbial colony was reduced to 70% i.e from 171 CFU/m3/min to 52 CFU/m3/min [Abhang P, Patil M & Moghe P

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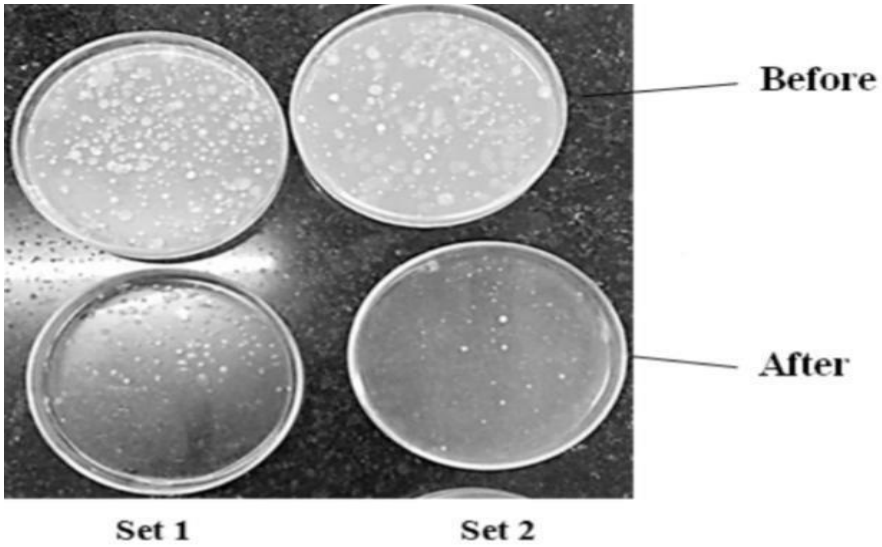
2015]. In an open air experiment , it was noticed that the level of Sox and NOx in the atmosphere were considerably reduced to almost 51% and 60% respectively by performing agnihotra (Sharma et al. 2014).

Fig 6 : Sterile nutrient agar plates opened before and after Agnihotra .



Source : (Abhang et al. 2015).

Gloria Biosol an effective Biofertilizer

.Homa Biosol is a liquid bio-fertilizer based on Agnihotra ash and prepared under anaerobic conditions using bio-digester. This biofertilizer was first developed by Gloria Guzman Mendez in Peru, South America, Hence the name Gloria Biosol. Agnihotra Ash has a significant positive effect on all the materials used in the preparation of Biosol (Shinogi et al. 2016). It is prepared by mixing vermicompost , cow urine , agnihotra ash, copper shree yantra disc , fresh cow dung and water . After preparation it is then diluted at the ratio 1:15 [homafarming.com/homa-biosol/)] .It is used as foliar application to nourish plants or can be applied directly to soil. It is superior to vermiwash as it contains a large number of beneficial microbes and energy of the homa process (Rana, 2018).

Method to Prepare Gloria Biosol : All the materials (Fresh cow dung , vermicompost , cow urine, agnihotra ash and water) are mixed in a large tank (200 , 500 or 1000 ltr). One copper shri yantra disc is placed at the bottom of the tank. The tank is then sealed for 20 to 30 days. After 30 days, all the materials are completely digested and slurry is then removed from it. It is then diluted with agnihotra ash water solution in a ratio of 1:10 or 1:15. Prepared Biosol can be applied at an interval of 15 days on any type of crop before sunrise or after sunset (Rana, 2018).

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Table 3 : Materials used in preparation of Gloria Biosol for 500 litre tank.

Raw materials used in Gloria Biosol Preparation	Quantity required
Earthworm casting	80 kg
Cow urine	1 litre
Agnihotra ash	250 kg
Fresh cow dung	80 kg
Water	200 litre
Copper shree yantra disc	1 unit

Source : (homafarming.com/homa-biosol/)

Conclusion:

Homafarming is a holistic approach of growing plants in pure and healthy environment .Plants grown on homa environment will germinate faster , mature early , shelf life will be longer and yield will be higher because while performing homa we make the plants happy and all their energy is utilized to increase their yield. . Homa farming is effective farming practice that enhances production by 25 – 30% . It diminish the microbial load in air , water , reduces Sox and NOx level in atmosphere and is sustainable organic farming practice. *Agnihotra* ash act as miracle powder which when treated with row material decrease conductivity , hardness , microbial count and Biological oxygen demand of water. Agnihotra ash act as anti fungal compound that inhibits growth of fungal hyphae and soil borne pathogens . Agnihotra fumes not only control microbial load but also heals the atmosphere and purifies the air. It is Suggested that Homafarming should be tried at multilocational trials so that this practice may be recommended as technology and large group of farmers get aware about this technique and adopt it in their daily farm practice to get significant results . It needs to be propagated worldwide in the concern of national economy and farmer benefit perspectives.

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