#### A 10 acre farm

Dr Sreekumar.S & Dr Sreekala.V Holistic Veterinarians ISKCON Belgaum

#### Resources

- Sunlight
- Rainfall
- Soil
- Green cover
- Live stock
- Family labour

#### To retrace our steps bear in mind

Natures dictates and confirm to her imperious demand

- 1. For the return of all wastes to the land
- 2. For the mixture of animal and vegetable existence
- 3. For the maintaining of an adequate reserve of feeding the plant (Biodiversity)

#### Characteristics of natures farming

Mother earth never attempts to farm without live stock

- Raises mixed crops-Biodiversity
- Preserves the soil-no soil erosion
- Process of growth and decay balance one another-mixed animal and vegetable converted to humus-no waste
- Greatest care is taken to store the rainfall-Effective rainfall

#### Why farm

- Real Water
- Real Food and fibre
- Good association -Subhasitam

#### Food for livestock (Cows)

- It should all be grown in this land itself
  - Grass
  - Crop and crop residues.
  - Water

#### Strategy

- Rain fed agriculture
- Soil is the biggest reservoir of water-Effective rainfall
- Harvesting Rainfall, sunlight, Dung and urine
- Increase in productivity by Fertility farming-
  - Water cycle
  - Mineral cycle
  - Energy flow
  - Community dynamics

- Planned grazing
- Using local breeds of livestock
- Keeping cows in the farming land during non growing season

#### Sustainable Agriculture:

- 1. Reduces inputs.
- 2. health.
- 3. Strengthens rural and urban communities.
- 4. Produces viable farm income.
- 5. Promotes healthy family and social values.
- 6. Brings the consumer back into agriculture.
  Uses ecological pest and weed management
- 7. strategies.
- Cycles nutrients back into the soil for fertility

#### Stocking rate

- The no of animals to be kept in the farm
  - Without inputs from outside
  - If there is a programme for donation of excess ,only then can cows be kept, otherwise only bulls shall be kept
  - Considering there is only one spell of rain and hence only one growing season.

#### Stocking rate

- A 400 kg bull is allotted 50- 75 sqm of grass land per day for grazing initially (1/3 rd of grass)
- Thumb rule of 2.5 acres per cow
  - 2-4 bulls can be kept initially
  - As the productivity of the land is understood /increased more can be kept

#### Stocking rate

- A 200 kg bull (Dwarf )is allotted 25- 40 sqm of grass land per day for grazing initially (1/3 rd of grass)
- Thumb rule of 1.25 acres/cow
  - 4-8 bulls can be kept initially
  - As the productivity of the land is understood /increased more can be kept

# Crops –Grass, perinneal trees, Annual crops

- 6 month grazing plot is reserved for grazing
  - will need 5-7 acres
  - Perennial trees shall be planted at > 30 ft gaps and in the space in between they shall be grazed
  - In Remaining land also trees shall be there and in the space in between annual crops shall be grown

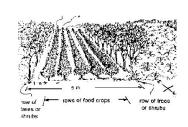
#### Agroforestry

- It is an efficient, integrated and sustainable land use system that combines Agricultural crops, Forest crops and or Livestock together on the unit of farmland at the same time or sequential manner
- Here there are both ecological and environmental interactions between the various components

#### Agroforestry



#### Alley farming

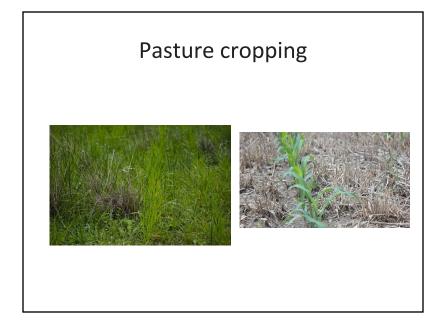














- 6 months of planned grazing
- Remaining 6 month on dry grass, crop and crop residues

# Cycling nutrients





# Protecting the young trees



# Planned grazing



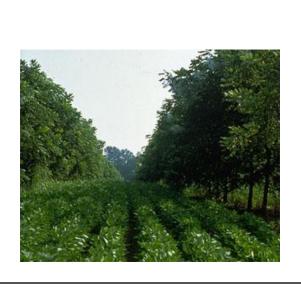


#### Animal Treated Crop Field

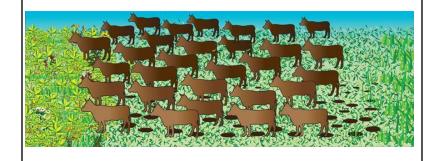


#### Grazing and pasture management

- At the right place
- At the right time
- For the right reason



# Stocking density





#### But this model is only for those

Whose goal in life is to be a part of the whole
Who understood that there is no competition in
nature

Who understood there is only collaboration /Co-operation in nature

# Thank you

- For the Opportunity
- For patient hearing
- For being a part of the campaign to integrate cows in farming
- To remove the cows from a present status of welfare recipients
- To the status for real life and food providers
- To help cows to perform their Functions