

**Asha for Education
Fellowship Application Form**

SECTION I: Personal Contact Information
Name: GOVINDASWAMY NAMMALVAR
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Email: nammalvar@gmail.com , sadhguru@gmail.com
Nominator: SIDDAMMA
Have you applied to Asha Fellowship Program before? If yes, when? -- No
Do you or your organization receive or has received any other form of financial support from Asha? If yes, please give details -- No

SECTION II: Summary of Work
Name of Project (if any): Movement for Organic Agriculture
Location: Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra and Maharashtra. Village/City/District/State
Which communities will your work serve? Both Farmers and Consumers
Socio-economic background – Agri Graduate, Resigned from Agri-Research station. Worked for different NGOs. In 2005 worked with Tsunami affected farmers in Nagapattinam district. In 2006 worked for a month in Indonesia on Tsunami affected model farms.
Type of work (Select 3 maximum)

Curriculum Development	Environment	Appropriate Technology
Teaching Methods	Health and Nutrition	Right to Information
Educational Reform	Income Generation	People's Struggles
Computer Based Education	Food and Agriculture	Civic and Human Rights
Adult Literacy	Land Reform	Other (Please specify)

SECTION II: Education	
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Degree, Certification or Training Year	Institution	Location
B.Sc (agriculture) - 1963	Annamalai University	Chidambaram – TN – India
Doctorate in Science - 2007	Gandhigram University	Dindigul – TN – India

SECTION III: Experience

Please describe the top 3 most relevant experiences.

- Working with NGO – 38 years, Working on Organic Farming – Designing, Training and Campaigning 27 years.

**SECTION IV:
Organizational
Affiliations &
Memberships**

Organization	Your Role	Dates
Tamilnadu Organic Agriculturists Movement	President	From June 2006

**SECTION V:
References**

Name	Organization	Address/Phone/Email
Oswald Quintal	LEISA Kudumbam	+91-98424-49125
Durai Singam	FEDCOT - Chairman	+91-94433-81816

SECTION Vi: Proposal

Please answer the following questions in the space provided. Please attach any additional documents for clarity and better understanding of your work.

Name of Project (if any): - Promotion of Sustainable and Ecological Food Production in India

Objective: - Transformation of Agriculture into a system of community based self reliant and ecologically sound and sustainable, poison free food production.

Clearly describe the need for your work: - At present Indian farming is facing a crisis. More than 0.15 million farmers are forced to commit suicide due to commercial farming that has become economically unviable. Vast stretches of farm land have become saline due to indiscriminate application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in farming. According to a scientific study, all our food articles are contaminated with pesticides above the limits prescribed by World Health Organization. Citizens are suffering due to pesticide related diseases. Direct benefits of bio-diversity in agriculture lie in the range of eco system services provided by the different bio-diversity components. These include nutrient cycling, pest regulation, pollination and others. (Gunr et all 2003). The conventional industrial agriculture has resulted in negative consequences affecting ecosystem services and agro ecosystem function. The chemical based monoculture farming system has caused rural unemployment, migration and malnutrition. Children are deprived of childhood and education. To the contrary, organic agriculture benefits from decades of using ecological principles based on diversification and traditional wisdom. It will depend on low external inputs, resources conservation, and biological services.

Clearly describe your proposed approach/solution: - 80% of Indian farmers are resource poor, owning land holding of less than one hectare. Most of them are less educated. They need demonstration and practical training in natural and material resource management. "In order to fulfill this object, we need learning centres and trainers of both sexes". Organic seeds and cattle breeds are to be collected and conserved. A number of farms are maintained by NGOs and farmers. They need to be up graded more and more youth are to be trained. Suitable learning materials are to be prepared.

Clearly describe any background work done so far in the location of your work that will help towards your work. – I am at present 70 years old. I am the son of a farmer parents. Till I complete my school studies I lived in the village often attending to the farming activities. It was organic farming. I underwent agricultural course in Annamalai University. My experience for six years in an agricultural research station from 1963 to 1969 enabled me to compare both chemical versus organic farming and I resigned my job in 1969. my work with NGOs from 1969 to till date helped to have a wider net. From 1996 I have been involved in national level organic networks and environmental movements. My participation in seminars & workshops conducted by educational institutions and farmers movement has helped to spread the message. My articles are published in the magazines and I have published a dozen books and a few booklets. All India Radio and Televisions are broadcasting my presentations. Already 50 farms are being used as learning centres by farmers of the region.

What activities will be undertaken for your work? – Establishment of a community based Ecological Research and Training Institute in the farm maintained by Barathi Trust, in Thiruvallur district in Tamilnadu.

- 1 Publishing 30 booklets (related to eco farming) in three years.
- 2 Publishing one trainer's manual in 2008 and one field workers hand book in 2008-2009.
- 3 Producing 12 video films related to organic farming to be used in curriculum and campaigning.

Clearly describe the expected impact of your work: - Transforming Tamilnadu state into an organic state. Emergence of organic markets in each district, farmers will have a broad based market system. Farmers will have access to knowledge and seeds for organic farmers.

Describe any innovative ideas & approach: - 1. There is a plan to work on field schools for farmers on integrated pest management in the cauvery River Basin which covers 60% of irrigated land in Tamilnadu.
2. Initial steps are being taken to roof water harvesting.
3. Steps are taken to convert city solid wastes into vermin compost involving women self help groups.
4. Indigenous cattle breeds and crop varieties are to be preserved.
5. An All India millet network is being initiated.

Clearly describe why you will succeed: - The Rodale Institute of United states have come out with success out of farming systems trails conducted for 19 years. Indian press is publishing a number of success stories. In the year 2008, with the motivation from the district collector 12 thousand hectares of rice fields have been cultivated in organic way. India is still an agricultural country wherein 65% of population depends on farming and 80% of the farmers own less than 1.0 hectare of land and they are resource poor. In this back ground organic agriculture based on traditional wisdom coupled with today's environmental condition alone will succeed.

[How do you propose to track the impact of your work \(data collection, interviews, etc\)](#)

- We will document the proceedings supported by photos and videos.

What are the intermediate milestones: 1. Training of Trainers – 180 youth and women.
2. Upgrading existing organic farms – 20 Nos.
3. Promoting organic farms – 25 Nos.
4. Publications of 12 Booklets on organic farming case studies and principles.

What learning from this work can be applied elsewhere & where: - Nowadays Environmental degradation like global warming and water scarcity is threatening even meager existence of life on this planet. In this situation organic agriculture is applicable to any place on earth.

List the current financial resources, including any other grants or fellowships, available for the project/work: - At present expenses are met with honorarium given by NGOs for training and travel allowance met by farmer groups.

- List any organizations, including universities, international agencies, NGOs, etc., involved in the work: -
1. Tamilnadu Environmental Council.
 2. LEISA movement in Tamilnadu.
 3. Jeeva Jothi trust, Dharapuram
 4. Sudar Sathyamangalam Erode district.
 5. Venture trust, Pudukkottai.
 6. Barathi trust, Thiruvallur.
 7. Care trust – Sivaganga.
 8. Kudumbam (NGO) – Pudukkottai.
 9. Lead (NGO) Trichy
 10. Voice Trust (NGO) Trichy.
 11. Ahimsa trust (NGO) Trichy.
 12. VCDS (NGO) Thindivanam.
 13. RUC (NGO) Kanyakumari.
 14. CREATE – Athirangam – Thiruthuraipoondi.
 15. Gandhigram university – Dindigul.
 16. Pnadit Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural College – Karaikal, Pondicherry.
 17. Pollution control wing of PWD Coimbatore.
 18. MSSS of Sivagangai, Tirunelveli, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Trichy, Coimbatore, Thiruvanamalai and Pondicherry.
 19. Earth Trust Nilgris.
 20. “Thanal” (NGO) – Kerala.
 21. Centre for Sustainable Agriculture – Andhra Pradesh.
 22. ANTHRA (NGO) – Andhra Pradesh.
 23. Deccan Development Society in Andhra Pradesh.
 24. Organic Farming Association of India.

What level of funding are you requesting from Asha for Education (stipend, project funds, etc.). Please give details about amount requested per month and duration. :-

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|--|---|--------------|
| 1. Personal need – Local Travel and Personal Expenses – Rs.15,000x12 | - | 180000 |
| 2. Printing and publication | | |
| Rs.50,000 | | |
| 3. Meeting and training expenses | | - |
| Rs.30,000x6 | - | 180000 |
| 4. Exposure Visit for Organic farmers | | - Rs.5000x12 |
| - 60000 | | |
| 4. Administration Expenses – Personal Assistant | | - Rs.3000x12 |
| - 36000 | | |

SECTION VIII: Declaration

I am 18 years of age or older.
 I am prepared to commit at **least 80% of my working time** to the proposed work
 I am prepared to commit to a **minimum of 3 years** to the proposed project starting _____
 I am not proposing an academic research project.
 I am not a prior recipient of Asha for Education Fellowship Program funding.
 The proposed project/work is not affiliated with any religious or political organizations.
 The proposed project/work is an independent and autonomous project.
 The idea proposed is my original idea.
 I have attached a resume and other pertinent information to this application.

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I certify that I have answered all questions truthfully. I understand that if I have misrepresented myself or my proposed work, Asha for Education may disqualify my eligibility.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____