SOFA – An introduction

The Sittilingi Organic Farmers Assn [SOFA] had been just an idea sprung out of the cry of the tribals for a solution for their farming which was running them into steeper debts every year. Tribal Health Initiative [THI], the mother organisation, was looking for solutions to health outside the conventional outlook and conducted a padyatra through all the 21 tribal villages it was working with. When the villagers expressed their need, meetings followed in each village and from a small start of 4 farmers, we are a big family of 500 certified organic farmers...and fast growing to bigger numbers.

The aim of SOFA is not to generate profit alone – it is to have a healthy tribal society, as far as possible independant for their resources and to empower women.

For this, we not only grow our food with traditional seeds, we also encourage biodiversity and optimal water utilisation. Women groups buy the produce and value add so that you get ready to cook ...and now ready to eat healthy food.

Your visit will not only expose you to the finer aspects of organic agriculture, but also familiarise you to the lives the farmers lead – how they overcome their hurdles and how, in spite of the drought, floods, fluctuating markets, they still keep their optimism and good humour intact. Immerse yourselves in the farms and their daily routines – and go back richer, not only in knowledge, but with that elusive philosophy which binds all organic farming.

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