



Igniting Young Minds

Combating Residue Burning

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Young minds of children are like blank slates, very active to grasp new ideas, information and concepts. Molding them to follow healthy lifestyle will certainly result in healthy society. Students learn discipline, good behavior and duties towards society in schools and what they learn at schools have a lasting impact on their minds. Therefore, catching these young minds at school level itself was considered an important component of Campaign against Residue



Burning. School children can prove to be great assets when it comes to spreading messages about the social welfare issues.

Recently, in the states of Punjab and Haryana, one of the main health concerns has been the problem of stubble burning which has led to severe air pollution. Moreover, burning crop residues in the fields affects adversely the soil health. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Punjab delivered lectures

in schools, organized poster making and slogan writing competitions, conducted rallies in the villages with school children during harvesting season. Many students participated in the rallies enthusiastically and raised slogans to spread awareness about the bad effects of burning residues and educated people about alternative residue management strategies through the distribution of pamphlets.

Awareness Rally/ Chetna pheri

Krishi Vigyan Kendras, across the state of Punjab, organized awareness rallies to sensitize people from all the sections of society about the harmful effects of residue burning. KVKs collaborated with rural schools involving students in the Campaign against Residue Burning. Students raised slogans, held banners and delivered messages to stop residue burning.



KVK, Faridkot, along with the students of Govt. Senior Secondary School, organized

Chetna rally in the village Sher Singh Wala and Dhabh Sher Singh Wala in which more than 150 farmers and school children participated. The objective of the programme was to sensitize the rural folks about the deleterious effects of straw burning. Similarly; KVK, Moga organized a students' rally in village Budh Singh Wala to highlight the issue of residue burning and make the rural people aware regarding various resource conservation technologies and residue management techniques. Further; KVK, Ropar, as a part of Campaign against Residue Burning, organized a rally with slogan “No to straw Burning and Save Environment for



Future” with the students of Govt. high school, Jhallian. The students were also made aware about ill effects of residue burning and available machinery and recommended techniques for residue management. Likewise; KVK, Hoshiarpur also organized a rally with the school children of Govt. Sen. Sr. School, Isspur against crop residue burning.

Furthermore; KVK, Fatehgarh Sahib organized a one day seminar in Government Senior Secondary School, Badali Ala Singh in which entire staff and more than 150 students participated. Moreover, a rally was also taken

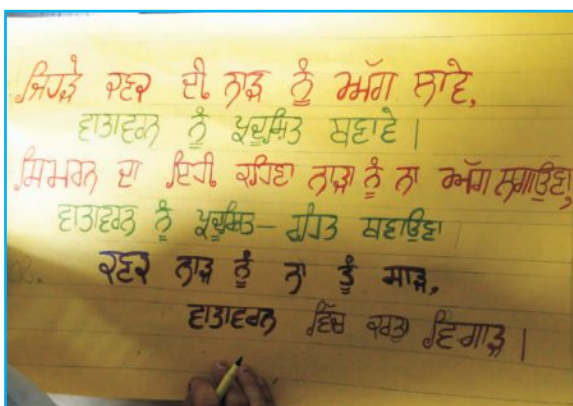


out in the village to appeal to the farmers not to burn the residues. KVK, Ludhiana organized a rally with raising slogans to spread the message of not to burn the straw and to save environment for the future. Likewise; KVK, Muktsar organized students' rallies in the villages of Akalgarh, Mann and Chak Gilje Wala. KVK, Sangrur organized Chetna rally with the students of Government Senior Secondary School, Chatha Nanhera and Sidhu Memorial Public School, Sheron respectively in which more than 170 students participated enthusiastically. The students raised the slogans “Kanak de naad nu aag na lagao, bhoomi ate vatavaran bachao” to convince the farmers to stop this life-threatening practice, which results in loss of

organic matter, kills the beneficial insects and also emits poisonous gases that pollute the environment. Dr. Mandeep Singh, Programme Coordinator, KVK Sangrur with his team motivated the students to spread this message in their villages and also to convey the harmful outcomes of stubble burning to their parents and relatives. He also urged the students to convince their parents to use PAU recommended technologies to curb this curse of farming. Besides, progressive farmers of the village also participated in the rally with full enthusiasm.

Essay and Slogan Writing Competition

Various competitions were organized by the KVKs for school children to allow them to express their ideas and understanding about the menace of residue burning. Essay writing competition was meant to let the student synthesis their concept of environmental damage done by residue burning and possible strategies to control the damage. Similarly,



slogan writing competition was to encourage students to come up with effective ideas for sensitizing farmers about the ill effects of residue burning.



KVK Faridkot organized a poster making and oration competition on theme “*Not to Burn Crop Residue*” at the school. Prizes to the winners and runner ups were distributed at last. Similarly; KVK Moga conducted a slogan writing competition for the students of Government Elementary School, Tarewala. KVK Ropar also organized essay writing competition on “No Residue Burning”. Further; KVK Ferozpur held different competitions on environmental conservation at Govt. Sen. Sec School, Bazidpur in which more than 150 students participated. KVK Hoshiarpur organized essay writing competition to shun the practice of residue burning for B. Sc. (Agri.) students of SGGS Khalsa College, Mahilpur. A similar poster making competition was organized by KVK

Amritsar at school level to show the disadvantages of straw burning and winners were awarded prizes to appreciate their efforts. Likewise, KVK, Ludhiana also conducted essay writing competition on “No Residue Burning and Save Environment”. Similar, essay writing competitions were held by KVK, Muktsar in Sen. Sec. School, Chak Gilje Wala and Sen. Sec. School, Goneana. The poster making competition was conducted by KVK, Sangrur on the theme- Stop crop residue burning in Government Senior Secondary School, Chatha Nanhera.

Motivational Lectures

Scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendras delivered lectures to the school children to make them aware about the seriousness of the issues of residue burning and different ways to manage crop residues.



During an awareness program, Dr. Jagdish Grover, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Faridkot apprised students of GSS

School, Sher Singh Wala, District Faridkot about various measures regarding crop residue incorporation. He discussed in detail about the various government schemes regarding crop residue management. He also administered pledge to the students regarding not to burn crop residue and to discourage others who are burning residues. Similarly, Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Asstt. Prof. (Home Science), KVK, Ropar discussed the ill effects of residue burning on human health. Dr. V.K. Rampal, Programme Coordinator encouraged students to participate actively in such events to create awareness among the society and be motivated for natural resource conservation. Further in Amritsar, lectures were delivered to inculcate the values of environment conservation among school children by motivating them towards emphasizing on their families, the urgent need to practice zero burning of straw in fields. The focus of the program was on creating awareness about the hazards of straw burning at fields after harvesting wheat and rice. Elocution contest was also organized where students shared their views about different ways to save the environment from pollution at various levels. The Principal of the school urged the students to take an oath to not let their families indulge in straw burning.

In similar program organized by KVK Fatehgarh Sahib, Dr. Manisha Bhatia gave inputs on the impact of crop residue burning

on the environment and importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around homes. Dr. Ajay Singh gave detailed information on the ways and means of managing agricultural waste. Likewise, in a program by KVK, Ludhiana, Er. Karun Sharma delivered lecture on wheat straw management. He discussed various methods and techniques for managing straw. Further, Dr. Mandeep Singh, Programme Coordinator, KVK Sangrur with his team motivated the students to spread the message of “No Residue Burning” in their villages and also to convey the harmful outcomes of stubble burning to their parents and relatives. He also urged the students to convince their parents to use recommended technologies for residue management.



Way Forward

Today's students are tomorrow's citizens and nation builders. The energy of school & college going children and youth must be well directed to reap expected benefits for the nation as a whole. These young minds

influence the decisions of their parents, schools & college managements etc. Moreover, these young minds will become teachers, parents, mentors, guides etc. and influence future minds. They will become researchers, policy makers, government servants, politicians etc. and influence the way not just the India but the entire world will be driven.



School and college students will be specifically targeted as potential stakeholders under mass campaign against residue burning. KVKs will motivate students to influence their farmer parents, neighbors and villagers to give up the practice of residue burning and adopt different residue management technologies. Moreover, concerted efforts will also be made to sensitize students to adopt and follow a climate friendly lifestyle for sustainable development.

CLASS X STUDENT LODGES COMPLAINT AGAINST FATHER FOR BURNING RESIDUE

School going children are very sensitive to social and environmental issues. Specific impact of teachers and schools makes them have a strong opinion about the issues and will to take tough steps to have a stand. One such exemplary incidence was reported in Jind district of Haryana. Sonali Sheokand, a 16 year old girl of Dhakal village lodged complaint against her own father for burning residues on his farm. The authorities acted fast and Sonali's father Shamsher Singh Sheokand was fined Rs. 2500/- for burning paddy straw.

Sonali, a Class X student of RE Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Narwana was aware about the ill-effects of crop residue burning which she learnt from her teachers. Moreover, everyday newspapers reported incidences of burning and their impacts on human and animal health.

Uncomfortable with the situation that her own father was burning crop residues in his fields, she tried convincing her father to give-up the hazardous practice of residue burning. Ignoring her request Shamsher Singh continued to set his fields on fire to get rid of paddy residues. Left with no choice, Sonali registered complaint against her own father with the local Agricultural



Development Officer (ADO). Shamsher Singh was angry on Sonali in the beginning; but now, he is a proud father who motivates other farmers against residue burning.

Honoring such outstanding acts would certainly give boost to the Campaign against Residue Burning. Therefore, Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR honored Sonali Sheokand during ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ICAR-ATARI), Ludhiana organized “Stakeholders' Meet on Residue Management” on 17 October 2017. Dr. Mohapatra congratulated Sonali and her father for being the role models for other school children and farmers

