



ECO-Vrindaban Board Meeting Minutes 12/22/2019

Mission Statement: ECO-Vrindaban promotes cow protection, local agriculture, and above all, loving Krishna, as envisioned by Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON New Vrindaban's Founder-Acharya.

Participating Directors: Anuttama, Chaitanya Mangala, Jamuna Jivani (board secretary), Makara (chair), Ranaka, and Vraja.

Participating Advisors: Allegra, Kalakantha, and Kripamaya

1. Ranaka's Monthly Report

Ranaka reported on the previous month's projects:

- Lalita Gopi (Temple Barn)
 - There are eight mothers giving milk; Sita, Sriya, Parijata, Cintamani, Vamsika, Jaya Radhe, Surabhi, and Subhadra.
 - There are five calves at the barn: Dhruva, Narada, Prahlad, Yasoda, and Satyabhama. Dhruva and Prahlad have undergone castration by the vet.
 - The cows are producing 20 gal of milk daily.
 - Anandavidya makes butter twice a week, approximately 30 lb total. The new cook in the temple kitchen does not use much yogurt, so the extra milk is made into curd. Venkata helped for a few weeks.

- Ray
 - Spread loads of limestone on the approach to the Valley high tunnels and around Vidya's high tunnel.
 - Transported hay to the Temple Barn and Nandagram weekly
 - Scraped Valley Barn pads daily and the aisles weekly, along with stocking feed aisles with hay.
 - Finished the greenhouse roof connected to Vidya's basement.

- Wet, cold conditions on the farm have not been conducive to much work
- Caitanya Bhagavat (Nandagram)
 - Daily general cow care and monitoring the herd numbers for the five cows, 10 steers, and one bull
 - Arranged and facilitated veterinarian visits.
 - Maintained and repaired the fence lines
 - Built a geriatric facility for Priya Darshana in the main barn.
- Suchandra
 - Teaching Garden
 - Pulled marigolds, dahlias, and cannas
 - Cleaned up beds and took cages down
 - Laid plastic over beds to keep the weeds out
 - Pulled weeds in some of the worst areas
 - Valley High Tunnels
 - Planted lettuce in Valley High Tunnel #1
 - Tried new weeding tools in Valley High Tunnel #1.
 - Community Garden
 - Cleaned up cucumbers, green beans, and some tomato plants.
 - Started the process of cleaning everything out of the Community Garden and delivered some tools to Valley High tunnels
- Analaksita
 - Vidya's High Tunnel
 - Weekly harvests for the Deity offerings at the temple.
 - Planted four new bulbs to grow stem flowers for vases in the temple: hyacinths, tulips, narcis albus odorates, and narcis pheasant's eye
 - Spent a day cleaning, weeding, seeding (spinach, radishes, and beets), harvesting, fertilizing, and moving rosemaries and ferns into greenhouse.
 - The bottom of the high tunnel doors were both insulated with a temporary barrier of sandbags and foam insulation to keep out the cold. The plants inside were covered with white ground cloth on extremely cold nights to protect them from frost.
 - Placed a seed order with Vidya for what will be planted this spring, which starts February 1 for high tunnels in West Virginia.
 - Daniel has been helping with the work being done
 - Vidya High Tunnel harvest totals for November 2019:
 - Carnations - 100

- Green beans - 1 lb
 - Beets bunches – 5
 - Kale bunches – 6
 - Lettuce heads – 9
 - Radish bunches – 9
 - Spinach bunches - 9
- Vidya's Outdoor Garden
 - pulled and cleared all plants in the outdoor gardens
 - started pulling back plastic, adding manure, tilling, and recovering beds to prepare them for spring
 - Covered the fig tree
 - Placed a layer of compost on the peonies to protect them for the winter.
- Valley High Tunnels
 - One high tunnel was mainly prepped and now has kale, beets, and radishes growing in it. We have been preparing both high tunnels for planting which will begin February 1.
 - Created a floor plan to maximize the growing space. There will be 2,025 sq ft of gardening space in each one.
 - Removed rocks and added and tilled in manure to work the soil and create a favorable growing environment.
 - Began cleaning the inside of the building next to the high tunnels and installed a lock on the doors for storing garden tools and equipment.
- New Systems
 - The weed-free, plastic-free, no-till (we are working towards becoming no-till) system created by Conor Crickmore (Owner of Never Sink Farms in New York) is working fabulously. These new methods save the environment, money, and valuable resources.
- Lila (Nandagram Garden)
 - Closed for the winter season.
- Ranaka
 - The septic tank and risers have been installed in relation to the Bahulaban apartment project. Also, 400' of leach field has been dug with 200' to go. Wet ground has made the job more challenging.
 - The herd count remains at 66.

2. Farm Conference & Amish Study Report

ECO-V, INV, and IMCPA hosted the 3rd North American ISKCON Farm Conference October 4-6 in New Vrindaban. This was in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of cow protection in ISKCON, which began in New Vrindaban. Approximately 40 devotees participated in the conference from the U.S. and Canada, including presenters from around North America and other delegates from Australia and the U.K. ECO-V featured prominently in the weekend's events:

- Lalita Gopi showed participants around the Temple Barn and presented on the dairy operations
- Ranaka gave a tour of the Valley Barn, new high tunnels, and surrounding land, describing ECO-V's agricultural activities and recent innovations.
- Kacey showed off the new flower high tunnel at Vidya's garden by presenting on high tunnel agriculture.

The 2020 North American meeting is slated to be held in Canada.

Prior to the conference, Jamuna Jivani joined a group of devotees organized by IMCPA in Gita Nagari for a study on the Amish. The purpose of this study was to examine this faith group, which subsists largely by vaisya activities, to see what practices within their way of life could support ISKCON's ideal. This group visited the home of an Amish family for an informal Q&A session. The group later debriefed on the discussion and identified key principles that align with Srila Prabhupada's vision for his society. These findings will be published in a booklet by IMCPA.

4. External Funding Request: \$7.5K for IMCPA

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to support cow protection and agricultural activities throughout ISKCON.

RESOLVED: The Board approves a grant up to \$7,500 to ISKCON Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture for 2020.