With the help of local agricultural and social experts the Sangam plans to improve the present facilities and offer training programmes for villagers. Knowing about the difficulties of changing farming methods, the Sangam also wants to support farmers when converting to organic farming.

**Get involved**

To maintain the existing organic fields and to further promote sustainable organic methods in the region, a solid financial base and your support is required.

**Kindly make a contribution in order to help us to achieve sustainable agricultural development in the region.**

All donations to the Ecumenical Sangam will qualify for deductions under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961 (50 % Income Tax Deduction).
About Ecumenical Sangam

Founded in 1993, the Ecumenical Sangam is a non-profit Health and Community Development Organisation aiming to empower the poorer sections of society by the provision of healthcare, education, awareness raising and long term skill-building activities. In Bamhani village, 35 km south of Nagpur, the Sangam runs a Base Centre which includes an Agricultural Model Farm, a Training Centre for Technical and Sewing Classes, a Kindergarten school and a Rural Village Health Centre.

Through the Base Centre and three Sub-centres in Shedeshwar, Gondwananagar and Narayanpur, the Sangam is working in 45 villages south of Nagpur.

Water Management

Demand for water has risen constantly resulting in exploitation of the groundwater resources and in pollution of the surface water. This situation has been aggravated by farmers who are mostly dependent on deep-bore wells, since rainfalls are highly volatile in the Vidarbha region. Furthermore soil degradation decreases the land’s productivity. The farmers insufficient knowledge of appropriate land usage and heavy dependency on artificial agro-products often leads to huge debts causing them to commit suicide. In order to remedy these problems, the Sangam has developed a model farm at its Base Centre in Bamhani to educate the farmers about water saving agriculture. The Sangam presents easily feasible Water Management Measures like farm ponds, trench lines, bunds, gully plugs, contour lines and drip irrigation. These methods provide the cultivators with a long-term effective way of overcoming their problems.

Sericulture

To give an example of a financial hedge, the Sangam runs a sericulture project at its Base Centre. Farmers can take advantage of the still growing silk market in India and thus become less dependent on rather risky agriculture. Moreover, growing silk worms is economic, as can be seen in the Sangam’s sericulture shed. Although only 18 square metres in size, 24,000 worms can be farmed there. As to their food, half an acre of Mulberry, the leaves of which they eat, is sufficient to nourish one generation of worms. Given these figures, the corresponding yield is about 40 kg of cocoons monthly, which earns approximately Rs. 4,000. The State of Maharashtra pays about Rs. 90-125 per kilogram, depending on quality. The Sangam also offers regular sericulture training sessions with the help of the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur.

Silk worms as a reliable source of income, despite the growing unreliability of the monsoon rains, can be seen in the Sangam’s sericulture shed. Although only 18 square metres in size, 24,000 worms can be farmed there. As to their food, half an acre of Mulberry, the leaves of which they eat, is sufficient to nourish one generation of worms. Given these figures, the corresponding yield is about 40 kg of cocoons monthly, which earns approximately Rs. 4,000. The State of Maharashtra pays about Rs. 90-125 per kilogram, depending on quality. The Sangam also offers regular sericulture training sessions with the help of the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur.