

## Homoeopathy in agriculture

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### Abstract

*Homoeopathy medicines have found recognition in healing human beings. Some application is also done in Animal Husbandry. Applied Homoeopathy Research in agriculture is also finding place. The mode of action of homoeopathy remedies and simillinum of drug pictures for use in agriculture; basic principles of Homoeopathy and drug administration are being discussed. Significant results have been observed using Homoeopathy medicines Silecea 12, Dulcamara 30 and Sulphur 6c to fight stress caused during wet weather and also during hot and dry conditions. Research results in improving germination and growth; to control pest, disease and viral infection, etc. on various crops have been reported. Plants are unique when compared to humans and animals and need different approach. The science of Homeopathy has great potentials and could give a new direction that requires attention of the researchers in alternative agriculture. Constructing a Material Medica for Plants is inevitable.*

### Introduction

The fall back of traditional agriculture had been mainly due to two advantages demonstrated by Chemical Agriculture:

1. Chemical fertilizers being water soluble, plants could take them immediately, leading to faster growth. Micronutrients are used in traces to restore nutritional disorders.
2. They being concentrated, *small quantity* could be applied in larger area, in comparison to organic manures, which are required in bulk quantity.

Chemical agriculture dominated traditional organic farming with these two advantages only. But, over a period of time, we started experiencing damaging effects of chemical applications.

Farmers and researchers started working on renovation of organic farming techniques. Out of many initiatives, "Biodynamic Farming" incorporated the *principles of Homeopathy*, which is based on use of, *minimum doses*.

Triturated Biochemic medicines are used to cure diseases caused due to biochemical imbalances. Homoeopathy remedies stimulate the immune system to fight disorders.

### Material and methods

**Theory:** In Biodynamic Agriculture, special BD preparations are made and are used in *minimum doses*, Incidentally, it must be realized that, even in chemical agriculture, there are substances like plant growth regulators and plant protection chemicals that are used in very small quantities, with one exception that, they are *diluted* but **not** "*dynamised*" to "*potentise*" the substance that is being used. Dynamisation or potentisation is unique aspect of the science of *Homeopathy* as experience reveal that simple dilution, at higher levels is not effective but becomes so, after undergoing the process of trituration or succussion.

The law of "*minimum doses*" is applied in Homeopathy which could be achieved by:

1. Increasing the dilution and "*potentised*" to "*arouse the latent powers*" of the substance being used and released into the "*organism*" (i.e. on human beings, or animals and now – on plants) to release their *forces* to heal.
2. Application of *single dose* and allowing its action to be exhausted, before administering subsequent dose, if at all required.
3. Reducing the frequency or increasing the time span, before next dose is administered.

The difference between the small doses applied in Chemical agriculture and *Homeopathy* in Agriculture

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Is, whereas in chemical agriculture, the substance is used to restore “*material imbalance*” administered in “physical” doses, but in Homoeopathy, the **mode of action** of small, but potentised substance is to stimulate the organism’s *intrinsic defensive mechanism* and re-establish the balance of ‘*vital forces*’ within it that is capable of fighting the disorder and *restore health*. Because of triggering effect set by the medicine, it does not require frequent application. The frequent administration, rather may arrest the progress of the healing action and may also counter the benefits achieved, sometimes worsening the problem.

Disease is ultimately an affair of the reactions of protoplasm, and in the response of protoplasm to stimuli, would find, if anywhere, material for generalizations upon disease and treatment. Considering only the behavior of ‘*protoplasm*’, we should be left to argue that since in disease the cells specially attacked are the cells specially in need of a stimulus (since their life activities are threatened), that stimulus will be found in a small dose of the agent which in large dose can damage or destroy precisely those particular cells. Drugs given to “*organism*” in health will influence certain cells and tissues according to their individual “affinities”; when by symptoms thus produced, we know that a drug can damage this or that set of cells, then we can use a small dose of the same drug to stimulate the same set of cells if opposed by disease. The response of protoplasm to stimuli would justify the recommendations:

- a. Test drugs on the healthy and note the symptoms.
- b. When treating disease, look for a drug which has produced similar symptoms on the healthy, for only thus can there be any confidence that it will influence the tissues affected.
- c. Give a small dose.

Homeopathy signifies, “**Similia Similibus Curantur**”. The aim of the homoeopaths is to discover the *simillimum* for the disease while it expresses itself in such preliminary symptoms, and this he is most likely to find among drug pictures gradually build up by administration of small doses during a considerable time than in the overwhelming effects of large quantities. Tissues once destroyed cannot be reintegrated. It is thus essential to identify the *drug picture* and find out the *similarity* of the symptom. The remedy which shows the similarity is best used to achieve the desired response.

Hahnemann inferred that, the more poisonous and destructive a poison is, in its crude form, the more curative and constructive virtues it has at its fine stage. That, “All existing poisons, either organic or inorganic, on the earth are health givers, to mankind or to all lifeful bodies. The worst poison is the best medicine in quite small and even in far far lesser than microscopic (molecular or atomic) doses for the disease resembling to its poisoning or toxicological effects”. The curative actions of the medicine are only on those parts of the body which are affected adversely or are damaged during the poisonous action by large cumulative and toxic doses of the same medicine.

Adverse weather could cause stress to plants making them vulnerable to diseases. Reference to Biodynamic Calendar can give an insight to kind of weather to be expected, which is also influenced by the position of the planets, particularly the transition of Moon through the path of *12 Zodiac constellations*.

Experiments have been conducted to fight stress caused during monsoon season. In both the following cases, 10 drops of Homeopathy preparation was diluted in 13 liters of water and sprayed on the leaves. I think, simply diluting the potencies in a volume of water and watering or spraying is not going to be effective. It is essential that all Homeopathy preparations are “Dynamised” for at least one hour, clockwise and anti-clockwise, in rhythmic way, as followed in Biodynamic Agriculture practices for making BD preparations, before application.

Leaves could be considered as to be the tongue of the plants. As plants too are made of cells which could get stressed and becomes diseased, the remedies are better sprayed. Homeopathic influence may lose effect if administered through roots due to contamination of soil and energetic forces present within the soil.

## Results

**Case 1:** An advance study of the BD Calendar In May, 2007, the planetary position during the last three days of August, indicated the weather to be wet and moisture laden. On the predicted days the weather indeed was wet with 90% humidity and no air circulation, for at least 3 consecutive days. This situation is not favourable for chrysanthemums. Usually *BD prep 501* (a *silica* preparation could be advisable to increase the immunity to fight stress conditions caused due to wet condition). In its absence, Homeopathy preparation *Silesia 12C* was selected.

Two weeks prior to predicted weather in August, 500 potted *chrysanthemums* were sprayed with Homeopathy medicine *Silesia 12C* and 500 pots were untreated which served as Control.

**Observation:** It was observed that 82% of the plants under control wilted and subsequently died. But all 500 plants treated with *Silesia 12C* remained unaffected and maintained their healthy growth. They grew to their full term and yielded quality blooms, without any disease or stress.

**Case 2:** It has been observed every year, during every monsoon, often the sky remains clouded and there is continuous shower for even seven days. This affects the vegetative growth of the *Chrysanthemum*. The leaves lose their elasticity, develop necrosis and black spot and eventually die. There is no remedy for such conditions in any other sciences.

Homeopathy remedy *Dulcamara 30C* is sprayed on the leaves. The subsequent doses are applied at an interval of 3 or 4 days, when the action of the medicine seems to be exhausted. Maximum 3 doses were required to restore health.

**Observation:** The plants regain their turbidity (spring action) and resist the black spot infection. All Plants treated show 100% success while all untreated plants grow sickly and eventually succumbed to death.

This has been practiced for more than 8 years now with full success. There is no solution to this problem, either in chemical or organic practices. The solution is found only in Homeopathy.

**Research:** (Betti et. al. 1997) laboratory experimental results showed, using 45x potency of *Arsenicum album* on wheat germination and stem growth was statistically significant. (Khanna and Chandra 1976) demonstrated, *Natrum Muraticum 200C* controlled fungal attack causing fruit rot on post harvested tomato and mango and increased shelf life. (Kayne 1991) used four homoeopathy sprays on rye grass to determine if any significant effect on growth could be achieved comparing application of nitrogen fertilizer, and a control. But, at a particular dosages and strengths chosen, no such effect was perceived. (Kolisko and Kolisko 1978) reported the results of their 20 years of numerous experiments and research. They observed that, growth was promoted by lower potencies, then inhibited with higher potencies and finally stimulated at even higher dilutions. (Wannamaker 1966, 1968) tested the effect of *Sulphur* and *Boron* potencies on the growth of onions and found significant improvement in weight and dimensions. *Sulphur 6c* may prevent or remove 'stresses of the plants, especially in hot dry summer weather. (Pelikan and Unger 1971) provided statistically significant evidence that potentized substances do influence the plant growth. (Sinha 1976) observed *Tabacum 30c* when applied on virus affected papaya plants, the leaves began to spread open within four days. (Baumgartner et. al. 2000) reported their findings on the dilutions and their possible role in organic production. (Garbim et. al. 2013) reported *Arsenicum album* and *Sulphur* on the development of wheat seedlings (*Triticum aestivum*). Both remedies stimulated the development of seeds in a positive manner. *Arsenicum album* stimulated shoot and radical length compared to control in 12CH, 30CH and 60CH dynamisations. *Sulphur* stimulated radical length in 12CH, 60CH and 200CH.

## General Advice

- a. Use exclusive watering can or backpack sprayers, for applying homoeopathy medicines.
- b. Clean rain or spring water should be preferably used to prepare the medicine. Do not mix homoeopathic medicine with anything other than water. The pH of water should be neutral, if possible. Acidic or Alkaline water may affect the efficacy of the medicine.
- c. No commercial plant protection chemicals or fertilizers should be used for at least 10 days after administrating the medicine.
- d. Use 6x potency of any remedy.
- e. Rate of application: use 1 ml in 10 litres or 125 ml in 500 Ltrs per hectare.
- f. Stir clockwise and anticlockwise for at least one hour, before application. It must be realised that small stimuli encourage life activity, medium to strong stimuli tend to impede it, and very strong stimuli to stop or destroy it.

## Discussion

Research needs to be conducted to find out the drug pictures, as has been done on human beings. It is important to study the right substance, the right potency and the right doses. Blind tests needs to be carried out. It is also important to study the method of application, i.e. either through roots or through the leaves by spraying and how to prepare the medicines for larger area.

It is also necessary to realize that *plants are unique when compared to humans and animals and may need different approach*. It needs to be tested if *healthy* plants will exhibit any symptoms, which can be cured in a *diseased* plant, exhibiting the *same symptoms*.

Use of different Homeopathy medicines in different potencies to develop immunity in plants, control pest and disease and influence plant growth opens new vistas for further research in Applied Homeopathy in Agriculture.

A suitable **Materia Medica for plants** with proper **Repertory** is required to be prepared. However, (Vaikunthanath Das 2006) took an initiative to present his work in the format of Materia Medica, but the efficacy of all the drugs referred to needs to be established in line with the Materia Medica of the Masters of Homoeopathy.

Investigation is also needed to find the best and suitable mode of administration i.e. through foliar spray or soil application.

Numerous papers are published during the recent International Conferences on Homeopathy in Agriculture (2011) and (2013). Pooling of experience can lead to cheap and effective way of controlling disease and pests as well as stimulate growth and specially "*vitality*". One can share their experience on <http://www.considera.org>.

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