



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



REACH FELLOWSHIP 2026-27

THEMATIC AREA 'LIVING TRADITIONS'

- Ajarkpur Chapter
- **Soil Probiotics Chapter**
- Gond Chapter
- Warli Chapter

REACH-2

Traditional Fermented organics and Probiotics

Residential Fellowship with **Living & Learning Lab**- K J Somaiya Applied Agricultural Research (KIAAR), Bagalkot District, Karnataka, Bharat.

Eligibility / Academic Requirement

Applicants must be alumni and should have completed their postgraduation in any of these disciplines: Microbiology, Biotechnology, Environmental Sciences, Life sciences and related fields

Applicants **must be proficient in Kannada (Read, Write, and Speak) and resident of Karnataka** as the fellowship requires extensive interaction with local communities and documentation of regional knowledge systems.



The REACH Fellowship offers Fellows an opportunity to undertake immersive, field-based work with traditional sugarcane farming communities in Sameerwadi, Karnataka, to document indigenous soil fertility and organic farming practices. The Fellow will work closely with progressive farmers to understand traditional approaches to soil health management, sustainable farming systems, and locally developed agricultural knowledge associated with sugarcane cultivation.

The primary task of the Fellow is to document indigenous agricultural organic formulations, fermented mixtures, and biologically active preparations traditionally developed and used by farmers, particularly those linked to cow-based systems and local ecological knowledge. This includes documenting jeevamrut, beejamrut, microbial and botanical formulations, composting practices, vermicompost systems, and soil management approaches by recording ingredients, preparation methods, fermentation processes, application regimes, seasonal variations, and associated ecological knowledge through field interactions and interviews with farmers and practitioners.

The fellowship will involve visual and narrative documentation through photographs, sketches, process illustrations, field notes, and records of farming practices and community interactions. The Fellow will also undertake an in-depth literature review and comparative study of indigenous formulations and their regional variations across India in relation to soil fertility, microbial ecology, regenerative agriculture, and sustainability practices.

Deliverables

Indigenous Formulations Technical Compendium

A structured documentation of farmer-developed indigenous formulations, fermented mixtures, composting systems, and probiotic preparations, including ingredients, preparation methods, fermentation processes, application practices, and associated ecological knowledge.

Visual Process Atlas & Knowledge Repository

A curated archive of photographs, botanical sketches, process diagrams, field notes, interviews, oral histories, and community interaction records related to natural dyeing traditions.

Comparative Literature & Practice Dossier

A comparative field- and literature-based dossier documenting regional variations, preparation practices, ingredient adaptations, ecological contexts, and application systems of indigenous agricultural formulations across India.

Why Join REACH?

The Fellow will gain skills and exposure in:

- System thinking and codesigning approach
- Immersive field research and community-based learning
- Documentation, interviewing, archiving, and research communication
- Knowledge synthesis, baseline data generation, and repository building in indigenously developed traditional fermented organic products for agriculture
- Collaborative research networking across sustainability, biodiversity, regenerative practices, and traditional knowledge systems