

# Our Land Our Life

*A curriculum for children of rural communities in India*



Presented as a contemporary design for a land based education programme, this curriculum addresses the needs of rural children of this large subcontinent. Core academic subjects and farm related modules are offered in a practical combination of syllabi and curricular ideas, complemented by an extensive section on learning resources for each subject/module. Interspersed are voices of practitioners whose spirit and wisdom it has drawn upon.

Spread across a ten year learning period as lower, middle and upper levels, the curriculum is designed such that it:

- ❖ facilitates learning through active participation in the day-to-day activity on a farm
- ❖ frees children from the unnecessary drudgery of the overuse of pen and paper and brings them out of the confining environs of classroom spaces
- ❖ encourages flexibility in the choice of subject as well as level of study
- ❖ draws deeply on local community wisdom
- ❖ provides opportunity for building the necessary skills and knowledge for land-based livelihoods
- ❖ rejects the present day education system's urban bias and presumption that 'one shoe fits all'

This curriculum is an attempt to revisit Gandhiji's vision of Nai Talim and present it in the present context. Coincidentally, 2012 is the diamond jubilee of Nai Talim.

If adopted in the right spirit, this curriculum holds promise of changing for the better the way rural children of this country learn and live.

