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Original Article

Ghanajeevamrit: Preparation, Application, and its Role in Natural Farming

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INTRODUCTION

Natural farming involves a set of sustainable approaches to crop production and comprehensive practices that help to utilize naturally available resources and biological processes to support optimum productivity, soil fertility, and economic advantage. Different on-farm components are used within natural farming systems, including Beejamrit for seed treatment and Jeevamrit, a liquid solution for the development of soil biological activity. Ghanajeevamrit is an important solid bio-input for nutrient management under natural farming and differs from liquid Jeevamrit. Ghanajeevamrit is prepared from organic, locally available materials, and the process allows components to undergo microbial activity and develop gradually before field application. Being a solid preparation, Ghanajeevamrit is easy to handle, transport, and apply uniformly in the field. The method of preparation of Ghanajeevamrit plays an important role because the quality of the final material depends on proper mixing, moisture management, and microbial activity during the preparation to obtain the final solution.

GHANAJEEVAMRIT

Ghanajeevamrit is a biofertilizer and soil life booster for crops grown under natural farming. Farmers use Ghanajeevamrit as a soil amendment that can be stored and applied like manure or compost. It contains similar beneficial microbes and organic matter as liquid Jeevamrit, but in a more stable form for longer term -soil enrichment. The standard formulation preparation includes desi cow dung (150 kg) and jaggery (1 kg), pulse flour (2 kg), virgin fertile soil for microbial culture (50 - 100 g), and desi cow urine as required. The individual ingredients used in Ghanajeevamrit have a specific role in its preparation. Cow dung acts as the main organic material; jaggery provides a source of energy for microbial activity, pulse flour adds organic nutrients, and fertile soil helps in the natural production of microorganisms. Cow urine is required, depending on the method of preparation.

Table No. 1: Materials required for the preparation of Ghanajeevamrit

S. N.	Materials	Quantity
i.	Fresh desi cow dung	150 kg
ii.	Jaggery	1kg
iii.	Pulse flour	2kg
iv.	Virgin fertile soil	50-100 g
v.	Desi cow urine	As required accordingly

Plate no. 1: Raw material used for Ghanajeevamrit preparation, CPRS, Jalandhar.**METHODS OF PREPARATION:**

The different methods of preparation are mentioned below

Method 1: Mix well cow dung, jaggery, pulse flour, and soil. Add a little bit of cow urine to it as needed. Dry the mixture in shade for 2-4 days. Use in the field after drying and grinding well into small aggregates. It can be stored and used for 6 months.

Method 2: Take 1-1.5 quintals of well-rotted desi cow dung manure and sprinkle 8-10 liters of Jeevamrit on it. Mix well and use by broadcasting uniformly in the field. After preparing, keep it covered in shade. It can be used for 6 months.

Method:3: Take 1.5 quintals of dry biogas slurry, a kilogram of jaggery, 2 kilograms of pulse flour, and a handful of virgin soil. Mix these well and broadcast uniformly in the field. Ghanajeevamrit can also be prepared by sprinkling Jeevamrit solution on this slurry as per requirement. If Ghanajeevamrit is prepared by adding Jeevamrit solution, then there is no need to add jaggery, pulse flour, and soil separately

Method 4: (Best quality method): Make a pile of fresh cow dung, partially up to 3-4 days old, up to a height of 1.5 feet. The size of the pile might be as per convenience (say 12 x 3 feet). Make holes

with a wooden log about 1 foot deep and fill up these holes with already prepared Jeevamrit. Turn the dung pile up and down after one week. Then again make the holes and fill up these holes with Jeevamrit and turn up the pile again after one week. This way, this process is repeated 2-3 times. The Ghanajeevamrit will be ready in 30-35 days. Then, after pounding it into small-sized particles, it can be broadcast uniformly in the field or stored in shade after covering it with gunny bags.

BENEFITS OF GHANAJEEVAMRIT:

a. Enhanced soil fertility: It enhances soil fertility by enriching it with beneficial microorganisms.

b. Better health of consumer: due to the absence of chemical residues the produce is safe for the consumers and improve their health.

c. Disease suppression: The presence of beneficial microorganisms in Ghanajeevamrit can suppress soil-borne pathogens, reducing the incidence of diseases in vegetable crops.

d. Improved plant growth: The application of Ghanajeevamrit promotes root development, nutrient absorption, and overall plant growth. It stimulates the production of plant growth hormones, such as auxins, cytokinins, and gibberellins etc.

e. Nutrient enrichment: Ghanajeevamrit contains essential macronutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) and micronutrients (iron, zinc, copper, etc.), which are crucial for the healthy growth and development of vegetable crops.

f. Improve soil conditions: The use of Ghanajeevamrit improve the soil properties. It increases the water holding capacity of soil (Kumar. S, 2023).

FIELD APPLICATION: The prepared Ghanajeevamrit can be applied uniformly to the field as a solid organic microbial input. Generally, it is recommended to use 800 to 1000kg per acre of land as a basal dose. So, this can be applied as top dressing also, as per crop duration.



Plate no: 2: Application of Ghanajeevamrit in Maize field, CPRS, Jalandhar.

Table Number 2: Effect of Ghanjeevamrit in various vegetable crops.

Name of Vegetable crops	Ghanjeevamrit Application	Benefits	References
Broccoli (<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>italica</i>)	GhanJeevamrit used in integration with cow manure	Improved soil health and nutrient uptake with sustainable broccoli production	Shukla <i>et al.</i> (2025)
Leaf lettuce	Ghanjeevamrit 1t ha ⁻¹ +Jeevamrit drenching 15% + Saptdhanyankur 3% + sour buttermilk 3%	Improved growth, yield, quality, nutrient uptake, and profitability	Thakur <i>et al.</i> (2026)
Coriander (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L.)	Ghanjeevamrit 250kg ha ⁻¹ + Jeevamrit 500L ha ⁻¹ twice /month, with Beejamrit	Improved productivity, soil health, quality, and sustainability	Lal <i>et al.</i> (2006)
Brinjal (<i>Solanum melongena</i> L)	Ghanjeevamrit 1000 kg ha ⁻¹ +Jeevamrit 1500 L ha ⁻¹	Improved plant growth, fruit development and yield under natural farming	Nagar <i>et al.</i> (2006)

NATURAL FARMING OF CAPSICUM: A CASE STUDY FROM SOLAN

Solan, Himachal Pradesh, is emerging as a promising hub for natural farming of commercial capsicum, particularly under protected cultivation. A successful farmer, Shailendra Sharma, has cultivated coloured capsicum naturally for seven years using mulching, intercropping, and the application of various natural inputs like Jeevamrit, Ghanjeevamrit, Agniastra, Brahmastra, Dashparni Ark, and Saptdhanyankur Ark. His polyhouse recorded only 4–5 thrips per flower compared with 40–50 under conventional farming, along with healthier and larger fruits. Natural farming also substantially reduced pest-management costs while maintaining yield and quality. The case demonstrates the potential of natural farming as a sustainable, low-input and commercially viable approach for high-value vegetable production.

CONCLUSION

Ghanjeevamrit is a solid formulation prepared in natural farming, and the materials used are easily available on the farm. The different methods provide flexibility depending on the resource availability. Proper mixing, management, and preparation help to develop the proper formulation. The prepared Ghanjeevamrit can be applied to the field as part of natural farming practices. It also helps in making use of farm-available organic materials instead of leaving them unused. Further field studies are needed to understand how different preparation methods and application rates influence soil properties, crop growth, and yield under different farming conditions. Overall, the natural farming can be a commercially viable and sustainable approach for high-value crops like capsicum and other crops.

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