

## INFACT's initiatives

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Azolla Promotion Group (APG)</b>
<b>Summary</b>	Azolla is a bio-feed for live-stock and bio-fertilizer is a floating fern plant having an endo-symbiont (a partner within) 'Anabaena Azollae', a blue green algae. It assimilates atmospheric Nitrogen and produces variety of nutrients which can be grown in our backyard or on terrace. Field trials have shown substantial improvement in quantity and quality of milk meat and egg production.
<b>Objectives</b>	To promote production and use of Azolla as a sustainable source of nutrients for crop and livestock for small and marginal farmers.
<b>Approach</b>	Discussion on clarity of concepts, training for stake-holders, exposure visits, experimental units, decentralized nurseries, documentation, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of seeds and information are focus areas. Also have an effective linkage with panchayathi raj institutions (PRIs).
<b>Important learnings</b>	<p><b>Positive results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farmers reduce expenses through reduced purchase of external inputs - feeds and fertilizer.</li> <li>▪ The scope of Azolla as a supplementary feed is very big in our local areas</li> <li>▪ Azolla is the only plant having a combination of rare and vital nutrient content with maximum biomass yield.</li> <li>▪ PRIs give them support for spreading concepts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Negative results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The lack of information regarding the negative side effects from its use</li> <li>▪ Lack of proper dissemination of the idea and concept clarity</li> <li>▪ The climatic conditions and the insects that used Azolla promoted to make more attention on its cultivation</li> <li>▪ Lack of systematic and useful data collection and documentation</li> </ul>
<b>Future plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spreading up of the Azolla in two districts of Kerala namely Kottayam and Alappuzha</li> <li>▪ Systematic and useful way of documentation and dissemination of experiences on Azolla promotion.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact</b>	Azolla Promotion Group, c/o INFACT Kizhathadiyoor P.O. Pala - 686 574, Kottayam District Kerala, India Phone: 0091 (0) 4822 21 19 97 e-mail: ktm_infact@sancharnet.in

