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Panchagavya: Nature's Gift for Sustainable Living

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ABSTRACT

Panchagavya, a traditional Indian formulation derived from five key cow-based components—cow dung, urine, milk, curd, and ghee represents a sustainable approach to environmental and agricultural practices. This study investigates the preparation and diverse applications of Panchagavya-based products, including Panchagavya fertilizer, neem-infused Panchagavya pesticide, solid and liquid variants of Panchagavya pesticides, Panchagavya vilakku, Sambrani, Utupatti, tooth powder, soap oil, and soap. These innovations are utilized in organic farming, household applications, and personal care. Panchagavya has been shown to enhance soil fertility, improve crop growth and yield, reduce reliance on chemical inputs, and contribute to environmental sustainability. Furthermore, it strengthens plant immunity, making crops more resilient to pests and diseases. This research highlights the multifaceted benefits of Panchagavya as a viable solution for promoting organic agriculture, human health, and ecological conservation, while calling for further scientific studies to validate its efficacy and expand its global adoption.

Keywords: Panchagavya, homemade products, sustainable agriculture, organic farming

1. Introduction

Panchgavya, an age-old Indian tradition, leverages the therapeutic and agricultural benefits of five cow-derived products: milk, ghee, urine, dung, and curd. Celebrated in Indian culture, the cow is venerated as "Gaumata" and "Kamadhenu" due to its vital contributions. Panchgavya has been extensively utilized in Ayurveda for its medicinal properties in addressing various health conditions. In addition to its significance in traditional medicine, Panchgavya has gained recognition in organic farming as an effective natural bio-fertilizer and pesticide, highlighting its holistic and sustainable applications in health and agriculture [1].

Traditional agriculture has long been regarded as a collaborative endeavor between humans and cattle. In recent years, there has been growing interest in the utilization of individual animal products and their formulations. Among these, Panchagavya has gained significant attention as one of the most prominent and widely discussed preparations. The term "Panchagavya" refers to a blend of five products derived from the cow-milk, curd, ghee, urine, and dung. This formulation, deeply rooted in Ayurvedic tradition, is celebrated for its diverse applications in agriculture, medicine, and sustainable practices [2].

This article aims to promote the use of "Panchagavya Therapy/Chikitsa" as an alternative prophylactic and therapeutic approach for improving livestock and poultry health, as well as human well-being, while honoring the sacred role of the cow in the ecological chain [3]. Panchagavya products have demonstrated effectiveness in treating various human ailments and enhancing immunity, thereby boosting the body's resistance to infections [4]. The article discusses the composition, functions, health benefits, and medicinal properties of Panchagavya products, supported by available scientific evidence [5]. Additionally, Panchagavya is highlighted as an economical, eco-friendly solution with no known side effects, making it a sustainable choice for health and agriculture [6].

This study emphasizes the diverse applications, benefits, and significance of Panchagavya in daily life, supported by established scientific evidence. The primary aim is to explore and develop Panchagavya-based products, including natural bio-fertilizers and pesticides, to enhance crop productivity, promote biodiversity, and improve soil fertility. These innovations aim to provide farmers with cost-effective and eco-friendly solutions, contributing to sustainable agriculture and better livelihoods. Additionally, the research focuses on creating household products such as soaps and Sambrani, offering environmentally friendly alternatives for human use while supporting ecological well-being.

2. Materials and Medods

Materials of Panchagavya

Cow-derived products include dung, urine, milk, curd, and ghee.

Methods of Preparing Panchagavya

Collection: Gather fresh and high-quality cow-derived products, ensuring their purity and cleanliness for optimal effectiveness.

Mixing: Combine the collected ingredients—cow dung, cow urine, cow milk, curd, and ghee in precise proportions to achieve the desired composition and balance.

Fermentation: Allow the mixture to undergo fermentation over a specified period, creating an environment for the growth of beneficial microorganisms that enhance its properties.

Straining: Once fermentation is complete, strain the mixture to remove any solid residues, resulting in a nutrient-rich liquid ready for use.



Fig. 2.1. Components of Panchagavya

Table 1. Ingredients And Preparation of Panchagavya Products

No.	Materials		Methods
1.		Ingredie	nts And Preparation of Panchagavya Fertilizer
	Cow dung	- 2 kg	
	Cow ghee	- ½ kg	To create Panchagavya fertilizer, begin by combining 2 kg
	Cow Urine	- 2 litres	of cow dung with 0.5 kg of cow ghee in a wide-mouthed clay
	Cow milk	- 1 litres	pot. Place the mixture in a shaded area and cover it with a wire mesh or plastic mosquito net to prevent contamination by
	Cow curd	- 1 litres	houseflies. Allow the mixture to ferment for 7 days in the
	Water	- 2 litres	shade, stirring it twice daily—once in the morning and once in
	Jaggery	- 1 kg	the evening.
	Sugar Cane	- 1 kg	After the initial fermentation period, transfer the mixture
	Tender coconut		to airtight containers and store them in a cool, shaded place.
	water -1 litre Well ripened poovan banana - 12 nos.		Open the lid every two to three days to release gases formed
			during ongoing fermentation. Separately, mix 2 liters of cow
			urine with 2 liters of water and allow this solution to sit for 15 days, stirring it regularly, morning and evening.
			After 15 days, add the following ingredients to enhance
			the fermentation process and minimize any unpleasant odor: 1
			liter each of cow milk, cow curd, and tender coconut water; 1
			kg of jaggery; 1 kg of sugarcane; and 12 fully ripe Poovan
			bananas. The Panchagavya stock solution will be ready for use
			after a total of 30 days.

2.	Ingredients And Preparation of Panchagavya Herbal Fertilizer			
	Cow dung - 2kg Cow urine - 2lt Cow milk - 1lt Cow ghee - 500g Cow curd - 1lt Lantana camara -500g Pongamia pinnata - 500g Datura metel - 500g Adathoda vasica -500g Vitex negundo - 500g Calotropis gigantea- 500g Jatropha curcas - 500g Leucas aspera - 500g Azadirachta indica - 500g	To prepare the Panchagavya solution, mix the following ingredients: 2 kg of cow dung, 2 liters of cow urine, 1 liter of cow milk, 500 g of cow ghee, and 1 liter of cow curd. Additionally, collect 500 g each of the following plants: Lantana camara, Pongamia pinnata, Datura metel, Adathoda vasica, Vitex negundo, Calotropis gigantea, Jatropha curcas, Leucas aspera, and Azadirachta indica. Plant extracts are prepared by soaking the foliage of these plants in cow urine in a 1:1 ratio for 10 days. Once fermented, the extracts are filtered and added to the Panchagavya solution at the rate of 1 liter of each extract to 5 liters of the solution. The mixture is then left to ferment for 25 days, with regular stirring to ensure uniform blending. After 25 days, the Panchagavya solution is filtered to remove solid residues, preventing clogging in sprayer nozzles. The resulting herbal fertilizer is ready to be applied to plants and used as a foliar spray.		
3.		Preparation of Panchagavya Vilakku		
	Cow Ghee - 10 g Cow dung - 500 g Cow urine - 250 ml Cow Milk -100 ml Cow Curd - 100 ml Cotton wick	To prepare the Panchagavya Vilakku, gather the following ingredients: 10 g of cow ghee, 500 g of cow dung, 250 ml of cow urine, 100 ml of cow milk, and 100 ml of cow curd. You will also need a cotton wick. Start by cleaning and preparing the lamp. In a separate container, mix 1 part cow ghee with 2 parts powdered cow dung to create the base for the lamp. Add a few drops of cow urine to the mixture and stir thoroughly. Once the base is ready, pour in the cow milk and curd, filling the lamp to about three-quarters of its capacity. Place the cotton wick in the center of the lamp. Finally, light the wick, and the Panchagavya Vilakku is now ready for use.		
4.	Prepara	ntion of Panchagavya Panchagavya Sambrani		
	Cow dung - 500 g Cow urine - 250 ml Cow milk - 100 ml Cow ghee - 10 g Cow curd - 100 g Sambrani - 50 g Karpuram - 50 g	To make Panchagavya Sambrani, gather the following ingredients: 500 g of cow dung, 250 ml of cow urine, 100 ml of cow milk, 10 g of cow ghee, 100 g of cow curd, 50 g of sambrani, and 50 g of camphor (karpuram). Begin by drying the fermented LP mixture. Once dry, combine it with turmeric powder, neem oil, or neem leaves to boost the effectiveness of the Panchagavya Sambrani. After thoroughly mixing, store the preparation in an airtight container to maintain its potency. The Panchagavya Sambrani is now ready for use.		
5.	Prepara	tion of Panchagavya Neem – Based Pesticides		
	Neem leaves /seeds Panchagavya Water	To prepare a Neem-Based Panchagavya Pesticide, begin by gathering 1 kg of fresh neem leaves. Wash the leaves thoroughly, dry them, and grind them into a fine powder. Next, combine 100 g of the neem powder with 1 liter of liquid		

	G / 1 · C	D 1	
	Soap / emulsifier	Panchagavya.	
	Storage containers	Add 10 ml of soap or another emulsifier to the mixture and stir well to ensure all ingredients are fully blended.	
	Sprayer / drencher	Once prepared, transfer the pesticide to an airtight	
		container to maintain its effectiveness. The Neem-Based	
		Panchagavya Pesticide is now ready for application.	
		i anchagavya i esticide is now ready for application.	
6.	Preparation of Panchagavya Solid Panchagavya Pesticide		
	Cow dung - 500 g	To prepare Solid Panchagavya Pesticides, begin by	
	Cow urine - 250 ml	gathering the following ingredients: 500 g of cow dung, 250	
	Cow milk - 250 ml	ml of cow urine, 250 ml of cow milk, 25 g of cow ghee, 100	
	Cow ghee - 25 g	ml of cow curd, 50 g of neem powder, and 25 g of turmeric	
	Cow curd - 100 ml	powder.	
	Neem powder - 50 g	Start by mixing 100 g of neem powder with 1 kg of solid	
	Turmeric powder -25 g	Panchagavya. Then, add 50 g of turmeric powder and 20 g of	
		red chili powder to the mixture. Stir all the ingredients	
		thoroughly until a uniform blend is achieved.	
		Finally, store the prepared Soil Panchagavya Pesticides in	
		an airtight container to maintain its potency and effectiveness.	
7.		Preparation of Panchagavya Uthupatti	
	Cow urine	To prepare Panchagavya Uthupatti, begin by gathering	
	Cow dung	fresh cow urine, dung, milk, ghee, and curd. Dry the cow dung	
	Cow milk	in a shaded area and grind it into a fine powder. Boil the cow	
	Cow ghee	milk and allow it to cool.	
	Curd	In a mud pot or ceramic container, combine 1 liter of cow	
	Water	urine, 1 kg of powdered cow dung, 1 liter of cooled cow milk,	
		100 g of cow ghee, and 100 g of curd. Add 2 liters of water to	
	Wooden spoon	the mixture.	
	Mud pot / ceramic	Heat the mixture on a low flame, stirring continuously,	
	container	until it thickens and reduces to a quarter of its original	
		volume. This step is essential for the preparation of	
		Panchagavya Uthupatti.	
		Once the mixture has cooled, transfer it to an airtight	
		container to preserve its potency.	
8.	Pro	eparation of Panchagavya Tooth Powder	
	Cow dung	To prepare a natural tooth powder, begin by drying cow	
	Cow urine	dung in the shade and grinding it into a fine powder. In a	
	Cow milk	separate bowl, mix cow urine, cow milk, cow ghee, and curd.	
	Cow ghee	Add the powdered cow dung, neem powder, turmeric powder,	
	Curd	triphala powder, and salt to the mixture.	
	Neem powder	Thoroughly blend all the ingredients until a uniform	
	Turmeric powder	consistency is achieved.	
	Triphala powder	Next, allow the mixture to dry in the shade for 2-3 days to	
	Salt	eliminate excess moisture. Once fully dried, sieve the powder	
		to remove any lumps, resulting in a smooth and effective	
		natural tooth powder.	
9.		Preparation of Panchagavya Soap	

Cow dung - 500 g Cow urine - 250 ml Cow milk - 250 ml Cow ghee - 25 g Cow curd - 100 ml Neem powder - 50 g Turmeric powder - 25 g	Start by mixing 1 liter of Panchagavya with 1 liter of distilled water. Heat 500 g of coconut oil to 40°C. In a separate container, dissolve 100 g of alkali in 200 ml of distilled water. Gradually add the alkali mixture to the heated oil, stirring gently. Next, incorporate the Panchagavya mixture and blend thoroughly. Add a few drops of essential oils for fragrance and additional benefits. Finally, pour the mixture into a soap		
10.			
Cow dung Cow urine Cow milk Cow ghee Curd Coconut oil Palm oil Olive oil Lye (sodium hydroxide) Distilled water Essential oil	Preparation of Panchagavya Soap Oil Begin by preparing the Panchagavya mixture. Dry the cow dung in a shaded area and grind it into a fine powder. In a bowl, combine cow urine, cow milk, cow ghee, and curd. Add the powdered cow dung to the mixture, stir well, and allow it to sit for 24 hours. Next, prepare the oil blend by mixing coconut oil, palm oil, and olive oil in a separate bowl. In another well-ventilated area, mix lye with distilled water, stirring until the lye is completely dissolved.		

3. Results

In this study, various Panchagavya-based products were developed, including Panchagavya fertilizer, herbal fertilizer, lamp (vilakku), incense (sambrani), incense sticks (uthupathi), tooth powder, soap, and soap oil. The research further investigated their potential applications, therapeutic benefits for human health, eco-friendly nature, and significance in fostering sustainable agricultural practices. The composition, functions, health benefits, and medicinal properties of each Panchagavya product are detailed in Plate 1 & Table 2.

Table 2. Composition, Functions, Health Benefits and Medicinal Effects of each Panchgavya Products

Sl.	Materi	Functions	Composition	Health benefits	Medicinal effects
No	als				
		Soil condition and	Minerals, Vitamins	Increase Soil Fertility,	Antifungal,
		fertilizer, Improve soil	Nitrogen,	Promote worm	Antibacterial, Skin
		structure and water-	Potassium, oxygen,	Growth, Organic	tonic,
1.	Cow	holding capacity,	Cellulose,	manure Gobar Gas	Antimalarial, Anti-
	Dung	Supports beneficial	Hemicellulose,	Plant Preparation of	TB, Increase
		microorganisms,	Mucus, Lignin	Herbal Tooth Paste	Vision, Treat Boils
		Provides essential			and heal rashes,
		nutrients (NPK and			Treat psoriasis and

		micronutrients)			Eczema
2.	Cow Urine	Antibacterial and antifungal properties, Stimulates plant growth and developments, Enhances soil fertilities, Repels pests and diseases, Provide essential nutrients (NPK and micronutrients)	Urea, Uric Acid, Creatinine, Enzymes, Vitamins A, B, C, D, E, Hormones, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus	Enhances immunity, detoxifies body, improves digestion, boosts metabolism	Antibacterial, Antifungal, Anticancer, Antioxidant, Antimicrobial, Treats skin diseases, Anti- diabetic
3.	Cow Milk	Provide essential nutrients and amino acids, Stimulated plants growth and water-holding capacity, Supports beneficial microorganism, Provide essential nutrients.	Proteins, Carbohydrates, Fats,Vitamin A, B12, D, Calcium, Potassium, Magnesium, Phosphorus	Promotes bone health, improves vision, enhances immunity, strengthens muscles	Antacid, Anti- inflammatory, Improves gut health, Treats dehydration, Enhances brain function
4.	Cow Ghee	Soil conditioner and fertilizer, Improve soil structure and water-holding capacity, Support beneficial microorganism.	Essential Fatty acids, Omega 3 & 9, Vitamin-A, D, E, K, Short Chain fatty acids	Improves digestive system Immuno modulatory, Prevent CVD, Beauty enhancer, Memory enhancer, Blood purifier	Enhance Vision, Wound healing, Immuno- stimulant, Treat Skin Disease, Anti-asthmatic, Anti-neoplastic, Antiinflammatory Anti-cholinergic
5.	Cow Curd	Provide essential nutrients and amino acid, Stimulates plants growth and developments, Enhance soil fertility	Water, Proteins, Vitamin-A,B,D,E, Ca, P, Mg, Zn	Improves digestive System, Enhance Immune System, Improves Quality of Hair	Antifungal, Anti HIV, Treats Digestive ailments, Decrease obesity, Prevent Piles

Plates 1. Home Made Panchagavya Products



A. Panchagavya fertilizer B. Panchagavya Herbal Fertilizer C. Neem-based Panchagavya pesticide D. Panchagavya Soap Oil E. Panchagavya Velakku F. Panchagavya Sambrani G. Solid Panchagavya Pesticide H. Panchagavya Tooth Powder I. Panchagavya Soap J. Panchagavya Uthupathi

4. Discussion

Cowdung is antiseptic and possesses antibacterial and fungicidal components. It contains beneficial microbes such as *Saccharomyces, Lactobacillus, Bacillus, Streptococcus*, and *Candida*, which contribute to its effectiveness [7]. Fungal diseases pose a significant

challenge in agriculture, but cow dung can help mitigate issues caused by pathogens like *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Fusarium solani*, and *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* [8]. Its use in agriculture is vital for maintaining soil health, as it enhances earthworm populations, particularly *Eisenia andrei*, which facilitate nitrification and improve soil fertility [9]. Cow dung also contains essential nutrients such as minerals, vitamins, potassium, nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, cellulose, hemicellulose, mucus, and lignin. Its filtrate, prepared by mixing cow dung with water, is a key ingredient in ointments for treating severe skin conditions like psoriasis, eczema, and gangrene [10]. Additionally, dried cow dung cakes serve as an ecofriendly fuel source for cooking, reducing dependence on alternative energy while purifying the air and eliminating airborne pathogens in rural India. Biogas plants utilize cow dung to produce methane gas, which is used for cooking and electricity generation [5]. Furthermore, cow dung's microbial richness makes it effective for degrading waste from urban and hospital environments [7].

Cow urine, commonly known as "Gaumutra," is a non-toxic liquid excreted by cows and holds significant importance in Ayurvedic texts. Recognized for its medicinal properties, it is traditionally used to treat over 3,000 ailments and severe diseases, enhancing overall quality of life [2]. It has been utilized in addressing conditions such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, asthma, psoriasis, eczema, ringworm, heart disease, artery blockage, arthritis, thyroid issues, ulcers, constipation, and various gynecological disorders [10],nephroprotective property [7], analgesic activity [11], Anti-haemorhoid effects [12,13], Antimicrobial activity [14], free radical scavenging activity [15], Anti-cancer effects [13], antineoplastic agent [13,16]. In addition to its therapeutic uses, cow urine mixed with neem leaves serves as an effective biopesticide. Composed of 95% water, 2.5% urea, and 2.5% enzymes, hormones, salts, and minerals, cow urine helps boost the immune system. It also contains essential vitamins, including A, B, C, D, and E, further enhancing its health benefits [2].

According to Ayurveda, cow milk provides unique nourishment that is unmatched by other food sources. It is valued for its extensive medicinal and health benefits, and is often used as a substitute for breast milk in infants. Cow milk plays a crucial role in the development of teeth and bones [17], supports heart health, and has a wide range of therapeutic effects [10]. approximately 4.6% lactose, 4.65% fat, 0.54% minerals, 3.4% proteins, and 86% water. The proteins in cow milk include 27% beta-casein, 9% gamma-casein, 36% alpha-casein, and 27% peptides. Casein constitutes about 3% of the milk and is found in a colloidal form, along with pigments like xanthophyll, carotene, and riboflavin [18].

In addition to these proteins, milk is an excellent source of essential fatty acids, calcium, and phosphorus, and contains phospholipids such as cephalin, lecithin, and sphingomyelin. It also provides vitamins A, B2, B3, and K [18,19]. Cow milk helps inhibit the growth of harmful gut bacteria while promoting beneficial gut flora [20], Milk enzymes like xanthine oxidase, lactoperoxidase, and lysozyme have antibacterial properties, and peptides such as beta-casomorphins, exorphin and seraphim are known for their anti-diarrheal effects [21], Cisisomer of linoleic acid present has antineoplastic activity. Additionally, the cis-isomer of linoleic acid found in milk has antineoplastic activity, and milk has shown anticancer properties against skin, colon, and breast cancers [22].

Cow curd, also known as yogurt or "Dahi," is a valuable by-product of cow milk, consumed globally for its rich nutritional content and health benefits. Recognized as one of the healthiest foods, it is made by fermenting cow milk with microorganisms such as Streptococcus, Acidophilus, and Lactobacillus [23]. Curd is packed with essential nutrients, including water, proteins, and vitamins A, B, D, and E. It also contains important minerals like calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and zinc [24]. A significant source of probiotics, curd contains beneficial microorganisms that offer various health benefits when consumed. Lactic acid bacteria in curd produce metabolites such as cyclic dipeptides, phenyl lactic acid, and antifungal compounds. These bacteria also contribute protein-rich compounds and 3-hydroxylated fatty acids, further enhancing its nutritional and therapeutic properties [5,25].

In Ayurveda, cow's ghee is regarded as the most beneficial type of fat for human consumption. Traditionally prepared cow ghee is rich in nutritional value, offers medicinal benefits, and supports overall health. The preparation process involves heating butter derived from cow milk at a high temperature until all moisture is eliminated [26]. It is especially beneficial for individuals with high blood cholesterol, as it is packed with essential nutrients. Regular consumption of cow ghee enhances physical and mental strength, supports bodily health, and promotes vitality. Additionally, it helps detoxify the body and improves eyesight, supports tendon and muscle health, and keeps bones strong yet flexible [10]. Cow ghee, when combined with Aegle marmelos leaf extract, has shown to significantly accelerate wound healing within eight days [27,28]. When combined with Aloe vera, it also demonstrates wound healing potential within 21 to 24 days. Cow ghee is effective in addressing Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS), a condition causing eye dryness, burning, itching, and redness. Thanks to its vitamin A content and lubricating properties, cow ghee helps maintain moisture on the eye's surface, preventing dryness and vision impairment [11].

Panchagavya is widely used as both a liquid and solid fertilizer, as well as a biopesticide in agriculture, significantly enhancing crop growth and yield. It promotes beneficial soil microorganisms around the plant roots, improving soil fertility by increasing organic matter, macro and micronutrient levels, and nutrient uptake by plants. This helps maintain overall soil health [29]. Spraying panchagavya on plant leaves leads to the growth of larger leaves and a denser canopy, boosting photosynthesis and enhancing the production of metabolites and photosynthates [30]. Additionally, it improves the shelf life, taste, and quality of fruits, grains, and vegetables, while encouraging side shoot development from the trunk, resulting in more fruit-bearing branches. The treatment also strengthens root systems, helping crops stay fresher longer while absorbing more nutrients and water [31].

From an environmental perspective, Panchagavya helps reduce the reliance on chemical inputs, improves soil health, and supports biodiversity. It enhances ecosystem services, reduces water pollution, and contributes to climate change mitigation. Socially, Panchagavya-based products promote food security, improve nutrition and health, empower rural communities, foster social inclusivity, and help preserve traditional knowledge. However, the benefits of Panchagavya should not be confined to ancient texts; scientific research is essential to validate its biological activities, ensure safety, and establish standardized guidelines. Rigorous experimentation is necessary for each product to confirm its composition, chemical properties, pharmacological effects, safety, toxicity profile, and the mechanisms through which its active components function. Additionally, it is crucial to raise public awareness and promote Panchagavya products to garner global recognition of India's rich traditional practices and knowledge.

5. Conclusion

In this study, several products were developed using Panchagavya, a traditional organic formulation. These products include Panchagavya fertilizer, herbal fertilizer, lamps, incense, tooth powder, soap, and oil. Panchagavya-based products are not only environmentally friendly but also show potential for therapeutic applications, benefiting both human health and the environment while promoting sustainable organic farming practices. Overall, this article highlights that integrating organic farming with traditional inputs like Panchagavya provides a viable, sustainable alternative to conventional farming, supporting healthier food production and contributing to environmental preservation.

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