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SUSTAINABILITY
INSTITUTE
explorers



COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN REGENERATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS INDIA

21 August - 2 September 2017

www.sustainabilityinstitute.net



Comparative studies in regenerative food systems: an Indian learning journey

2 weeks applied learning, site visits and lectures in food system sustainability and knowledge cogeneration. This will be based at a rural development organisation in Wardha, Maharashtra State, central India.

21 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER 2017

This course will explore the links between soil, agricultural practices, poverty, economics and well-being. The lectures will be globally relevant, while the field trips will be used to provide gritty, practical insights and experiences at a grassroots level. Participants will be encouraged to share and compare experiences from their own countries to deepen all participants' understanding of the issues as the manifest across a range of contexts. India is a rapidly developing global economic powerhouse and the stories playing out on the ground in India will have profound impacts on the rest of the world for centuries to come. Participants will develop a feel for life at the coalface of this transition in a small town in northern Maharashtra State where the ruptures and tensions of this transition are present in every facet of life.

Participants will also explore some of the innovative research methodologies grappling explicitly with the practicalities of knowledge-cogeneration in the food system. An important focus is the lessons Africa can draw from India's agrarian revolutions and food market structures. This will entail being based on Dharamitra's research farm, undertaking a range of site visits, contact with local practitioners and scope for engagement with local researchers.



CONTACT AND APPLICATION

For queries or to request an application form, email Etai at: etai@sustainabilityinsitute.net

COURSE FEES

Please contact us for the course fee. The course fee covers all food, transport and accommodation while on the course in India. The price excludes international flights, internal travel to and from the course, cost of visas and mandatory travel insurance.

RECOGNITION OF LEARNING

Students will receive a certificate of attendance from the Sustainability Institute.



WATCH AFTER THE GREEN REVOLUTION

'After the Green Revolution' is part of a series of short films that profiles innovative approaches to research and the co-creation of knowledge as a key to the transformation of the African food system.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Students, academics and community partners.

COURSE CONTRIBUTORS

Lectures and site visits will be led by Dr Tarak Kate, an Indian academic, Ashoka Fellow and Extraordinary Professor at Stellenbosch University’s Agri-Sciences Faculty. He founded the NGO, Dharamitra, which will be hosting the course at their experimental farm.

Additional faculty from the Sustainability Institute Food Systems Centre, will also present on the module.

The highlight of the module is the many farmers, business people and non-governmental staff members who provide teaching on the various site visits during the two weeks.

DISCLAIMER

Please be aware of the context you will be immersed in. The accommodation at Dharamitra is comfortable but basic. All females will be required to share a room, as will all male students. There is no air-conditioning on the farm. Food will be vegetarian almost exclusively, as this is a Hindu area. It will not be possible to provide other types of food. The local people are extremely open and hospitable, but openly practice their Hindu religion (e.g. decorating statues of their gods each day). This is always done unobtrusively and no one will ever be forced to participate. The course operates on a minimum of 10 students and a maximum of 14.



“It’s an experience I could never have imagined myself having. This farmer’s land isn’t even accessible by road – you have to wade through knee-deep soy plants and ankle deep sucking mud that tries to swallow you to get there. This kind of contact, exposure and interaction is invaluable.

So much boils down to this. In all human stories there is the macro and the micro, and standing on the farm is standing at the intersection of the two. He represents the huge socio-political-economic forces that are shaping our century: the legacy of modernisation in agriculture but also in cultures generally, the question of food security and social justice in the context of growing inequality both between countries and within countries. Theory can only come so close to the truth.” (2013 course alumni)



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