

CSA is a professional resource organization engaged in establishing models of sustainable agriculture working in partnership with NGOs and Community Based Organizations by scaling up the successes and challenging the establishment for a policy change.

# Master's Training course on Sustainable Agriculture (Theory and Practice)



21st – 25th August, 2012

Venue  
**St. Ann's Generalate,  
Tarnaka, Secunderabad.**

Course Director  
**Dr. GV Ramanjaneyulu**

India is passing through a serious agrarian crisis. The economic, ecological, and social crisis has taken away lakhs of lives and crores of livelihoods from the rural areas. Many of the initiatives by the government in the last five years have made very little impact. In addition, the ongoing global food crisis has shattered the myths of industrial agriculture as a hope for future of the human food security.

In this background, sustainable models of agriculture which are based on sound ecological principles making effective use of local resources and natural processes are gaining importance. Across the Indian states lakhs of farmers are now switching over to adopt these agro- ecological practices to sustain their livelihoods. These initiatives are called variously as ecological farming, natural farming or organic farming based on the main focus, philosophies, clients and the driving forces.

**Characterising the new revolution:** The main objective of this new ecological revolution is internalising the inputs and is based on principles of the ecological farming viz., a) locally adopted cropping systems, b) based on crop and genetic diversity, c) locally adopted seed, d) improving soil and crop ecology to have ecological balance of insects and microbes, e) effective use of local knowledge, skills and resources. These models evolved over a period by reinterpreting the traditional farming knowledge with modern scientific learnings and contemporary innovations. This is not just romanticisation of the past practices, as many sceptics argue.

Similarly the new generation Cooperative Movement have broken the traditional institutional, social and economic barriers forming new Community Based Organisations (Women Self Help Groups and their Federations, Producer Cooperatives, Common Interest Groups etc) which seek to empower the community to have more direct access and control over the resources. The emerging experiences show that the ecological farming models can be effectively scaled up through the CBO platforms.

All this calls for a paradigm shift in the policy framework which supports sustainable models of agriculture.





CSA was involved in designing and handholding Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh from 2005-06 to 2007-08 wherein more than 7 lakh acres in 1800 villages were brought under sustainable agriculture benefiting more than 3.5 lakh farmers. Today the program is managed by Federations of Women Self Groups in more than 35 lakh acres and is supported through Mahila Krishi Saktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) <http://www.csa-india.org>

Sahaja Aharam marketing initiative has brought organic farmers cooperatives together to market their produce <http://www.sahajaaharam.in>



Against this backdrop Centre for Sustainable Agriculture is organising a training course on **Sustainable Agriculture-theory and practice from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2012.**

### The course broadly covers

1. Understanding agrarian crisis-role of practices and policies
2. Sustaining Farming
  - a. Cropping Patterns and integrated farming systems
  - b. Managing seeds
  - c. Non Pesticidal Management-theory and practices
  - d. Organic Soil Management
3. Community Based Organisations-emerging experiences
  - a. Scaling up of sustainable agriculture practices
  - b. Farmers' Collectives-Producer Cooperatives and Producer Companies
  - c. Ensuring Quality: Participatory Guarantee Systems
4. Planning Scaling up and Mainstreaming sustainable agriculture practices

The participants will visit the Organic village, farmers' seed cooperative and participate in the '**Farmer Cooperative Mela**' organised by CSA and partners.

The training would be in the form of lectures, discussions, case studies, interactions and field visits to organic villages and producer cooperatives.

**No of Participants:** 30

**Medium:** The entire course would be in English. Translation into English would be arranged during field visits.

**Participants:** The course is designed for development professionals working to promote ecological farming/ organic farming/sustainable agriculture. Senior staff working with farmers from NGOs, Farmers' Movements, and Government organisations can apply.

**Course Fee:** Rs. 10,000/- per participant. This will cover training costs, accommodation, local travel, resource material in the form of manuals, multimedia CDs, films etc.

**Earlier participants:** The last year participants were from Farmers, Farmers' Organisations, and Middle Level Personnel in NGOs, Agriculture Officers, serving and retired Professors in Agriculture representing states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Orissa and West Bengal.

**Last date:** 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2012

Send your nominations to:

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