



Training course on **Sustainable Agriculture**

Theory and Practice

22 - 24 September 2013

organisers
ASHA & CSA

ASHA (Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture) is an alliance to promote practices and policies that make Indian agriculture ecologically sustainable, ensure dignified livelihoods to its farmers including the small and marginal, preserve their control over agricultural resources like seed, land and water, and ensure adequate, safe food to all citizens.

CSA (Centre for Sustainable Agriculture) 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.

sponsored by
Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture
contributions are welcomed

Training course on Sustainable Agriculture

Theory and Practice

22 - 24 September 2013

Venue: Nai Talim, Gauri Bhawan, Bapu Kuti, Sewagram, Wardha, Maharashtra

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. As per the National Crime Records Bureau, from 1995 to 2012, 2, 84, 694 farmers have committed suicides. Sixty eight per cent of the suicides were in just four states (Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh). Many of the initiatives by the government in the last decade had 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. Against this backdrop Centre for Sustainable Agriculture is organising a three days **training course on Sustainable Agriculture - theory and practice from 22nd Sep 2013 – 24th Sep 2013.**

The course broadly covers:

- Understanding agrarian crisis.
- Basic understanding of Pests & Diseases and management through Farmer Field School approach.
- Basic understanding of Soil Fertility Management.
- Basic understanding of Seeds Management.
- Importance of Institutions / Institutional building.

The participants will visit the field – do the FFS, observe various preparations.

The training would be in the form of lectures, discussions, interactions and field visit.

Note:

- Participants are requested to bring their own blankets.
- Participants are requested to book their tickets to Wardha / Sewagram.
- People, who are arriving the previous night / previous day, please inform to Vijay Kumar, CSA, phone No: 040-27017735/27014302 in advance so that local accommodation could be arranged.
- **Seats/No of Participants:** 30
- **Medium:** The entire course would be in Hindi.
- **Participant:** The course is designed for development professionals working to promote ecological farming/ organic farming/sustainable agriculture. Persons that need technical exposure in the organisations working in agriculture field can apply.

Send your nominations to:

Mr. G. Chandrasekhar

Ph: 040 - 27014302 / 7735

Email: training@csa-india.org

Last date: 25th August, 2013

Centre for Sustainable Agriculture

12-13-445, Street No.1, Tarnaka, Secunderabad 500 016

Phone No: 040-2701 4302 / 7735 <http://www.csa-india.org>; csa@csa-india.org