

Biodynamic & Organic Farming Training Workshop

Dates:

12th January to 15th January, 2014 –Workshop On Biodynamic Farming

16th to 18th January, 2014 –Workshop On Vegetable, Fodder and Dairy Management

Note: The farm will also host the Biodynamic conference under the aegis of the Biodynamic Association of India from 9th January to 11th January, 2014. If participants wish to register for this conference, watch out for the details and registration process at <http://www.biodynamics.in>.

Venue:

Bhaikaka Krishi Kendra, Ravipura [Anand-Sojitra Road], District Anand, Gujarat, Pin Code - 388440.

Website:

www.organichutbkk.com

Contact:

Ravi Koushik (Phone#:9886655015) (ravikoushik@yahoo.com)

Fees:

Rs. 8000/- For Workshop On Biodynamics (12th to 15th January)

Rs. 7000/- For Workshop in Vegetable, Dairy & Fodder Management (16th to 18th January)

Rs. 13000/- If registered for both workshops

This is inclusive of workshop fees, study material, all meals & additional activities but does not include accommodation and transportation.

Note: A need based discount of up to 30% on the registration fees can be availed by small and marginal farmers. Limited to 3 on a first cum basis.

Payment:

Please pay 100% in advance through Net Transfer only. Do not send DDs or Checks. The accommodation charges may be sent in advance along with the registration amount or paid in cash on arrival. The payment should be made as per the details below –

In Favour Of: **Sarvdaman Patel**
Place: **Vallabh Vidyanagar or Anand**
Bank details: **Bank of Baroda, Branch: Vallabh Vidyanagar, A/c No: 07550100005899**
IFSC Code: **BARBOVALLAB**

Seats:

25, on first-come basis. Preference will be given to participants registering for entire workshop

Accommodation:

- I) **Tents** - Rs. 300/- per night per person on a sharing basis (two in the camping type tent and four in the cottage tent).

Note: This is very rustic/basic but clean tent accommodation on the farm itself with shared toilets. This is not recommended for elderly participants. Bedding will be provided. Please do bring mosquito repellent. This type of accommodation is available for only 15 people on a first cum basis.

- II) **Dormitories on the Farm & nearby Farms** – Rs. 350/- per night per person.

Note: Transportation (shared auto rickshaws/taxis) will be arranged for one time early morning pick-up & night drop each day.

- III) **Rooms on the Farm & nearby Farms** – Rs. 650/- per night per person on a sharing basis (two or three based on the room size).

Note: There is limited availability for this type of accommodation. Preference will be given for the elderly or the infirm. Transportation (shared autorickshaws/taxis) will be arranged for one time morning pick-up & night drop each day.

- IV) **Hotels** – Hotels in neighboring towns of Vallabh Vidyanagar & Anand

Note: Participants will have to make their own booking and transport arrangements. For the list of hotels see the 'Hotel Information' page.

General Notes:

- a) If trainees have registered for the BDAI conference & wish to avail the accommodation, please inform in advance and pay the additional appropriate per person per night accommodation charges.
- b) All participants are advised to arrive on the previous evening i.e. 11th January for the first workshop and 15th January for the second workshop. People who have opted for non-hotel accommodation are requested to arrive before 6:00 p.m. on the farm on those days. Dinner will be provided. People arriving after 6:00 p.m. will have to make their own arrangements for that night in one of the listed hotels and come to the farm the following morning after 6:00 a.m.

Workshop Director:

Sarvdaman Patel

Workshop Instructors:

Sarvdaman Patel

David Hogg

Briony Young,

Dr. Regina Sharmila Dass

Workshop Resource People:

Anjali Rudraraju

Ashish Gupta

Dhaval Patel

Jnana Shetty

Ravi Koushik

For additional information on the instructors, see the 'Profiles' page.

Workshop Summary:

Workshop On Biodynamic Farming – The four days (Jan. 12th to 15th) cover the basics of organic & biodynamic farming with many intensive hands-on sessions.

Workshop On Vegetable, Fodder and Dairy Management – The three days (Jan. 16th to 18th) cover the art & science of growing Vegetables, Dairy & Fodder Management. This workshop will be conducted by Sarvdaman and his senior apprentices Ashish, Jnana & Ravi

Note: See the 'Workshop Structure' (pages 5 and 6) for the detailed workshop content.

How to Register:

Print and fill out the 'Registration Form'. Make the required payment by Bank Net Transfer. Please send the duly filled registration form to the following address –

Attn:: Ravi Koushik,
Voluntary Nature Conservancy,
101, Radha Darshan (Behind Union Bank)
Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120
District Anand,
Gujarat, India
Mobile: +91 9898142170

Or simply email the same details to ravikoushik@yahoo.com with subject line 'BD_BKK_JAN_2014_REG'.

You will receive an email/phone confirmation upon receipt of the registration form and the payment.

Last date for registration is 12th December, 2013

Refund Policy:

Before 12th December 2013 – Full refund minus administration charge of Rs. 200/-

Before 28th December 2013 – 50% refund

No refund after that

Getting to the Venue:

The training centre, Bhaikaka Krishi Kendra, is located at Ravipura village (opposite to Kashiya Kuva Bus stand , on Anand-Sojitra Road, 13 kms from Anand (well known for AMUL – the milk brand). Anand is well connected by train on Ahmedabad – Mumbai rail line. From Anand railway station catching an auto will be the best option. Charge should be about Rs. 150/- to 250/-. See the 'Transportation Information' page, for phone numbers of auto drivers who know the venue. See <http://www.organichutbkk.com/contact-details.html> for map etc.

Workshop Structure (12th to 15th January)

Day 1

6:30 to 7:30 - Farm Walk to Dairy with Sarvdaman

7:30 to 8:15 – Breakfast

8:30 to 12:30 – Morning Session

- Introduction to the Course & the Facilities - Sarvdaman
- Recent History of Agriculture - David
- Overview of Biodynamic Agriculture - Briony

12:30 to 13:15 – Lunch

14:00 to 17:30 – Afternoon Session

- Soil Fertility - Regina
- BD500 Theory – David
- BD500 Practicals (Making Cow Horn Manure & Application) – All

17:30 to 17:45-Tea

18:30 to 19:15- Star Watch – Ravi

19:15 to 20:00 – Dinner

Day 3

5:30 to 7:00 – BD501 Application - All

7:30 to 8:15 – Breakfast

8:30 to 12:30 – Morning Session

- Cosmic Rhythms & Planting Calendar - Ravi
- CPP – Theory & Practicals – David/Jnana

12:30 to 13:15 – Lunch

14:00 to 17:30 – Afternoon Session

- Liquid Manures & Tree Pasting – Theory & Practicals – Sarvdaman/Jnana

17:30 to 17:45-Tea

18:30 to 19:15- Star Watch – Ravi

19:15 to 20:00 – Dinner

20:00 Onwards – Movie

Day 2

6:30 to 7:30 - Farm Walk to Nursery & Vegetable

Area With Sarvdaman

7:30 to 8:15 – Breakfast

8:30 to 12:30 – Morning Session

- Introduction to Cosmic Rhythms - Ravi
- BD501 Theory & Practicals (Making Cow Horn Silica) – David/Regina
- BD502 to 507 Theory - Briony

12:30 to 13:15 – Lunch

14:00 to 17:30 – Afternoon Session

- Compost – Theory & Practicals – Ravi

17:30 to 17:45-Tea

18:30 to 19:15- Star Watch – Ravi

19:15 to 20:00 – Dinner

20:00 Onwards - Movie

Day 4

6:30 to 7:30 – Bird Watching With Dhaval

7:30 to 8:15 – Breakfast

8:30 to 12:30 – Morning Session

- Cropping Principles – Crop Rotation, Inter-Cropping etc. - Sarvdaman
- Integrated Pest Management – David
- Organic Movement – Kapil Shah

12:30 to 13:15 – Lunch

14:00 to 17:30 – Afternoon Session

- Feedback, Q&A, & Certificates
- Interaction with Snakes - Dhaval

18:15 to 19:00 – Dinner

Workshop Structure (16th to 18th January)

Day 1 – Vegetable Production

6:30 to 7:30 – Farm Walk to Vegetable Beds With Sarvdaman

7:30 to 8:15 – Breakfast

8:30 to 12:30 – Morning Session

- Nursery Management
- Raising seedlings for transplants
- Preparing the potting mix for starting transplants in trays
- Soil Block Technology
- Making raised beds
- Seed Preparation
- Direct sowing on raised beds
- Hooking up the irrigation system (Drip & Porous)

12:30 to 13:15 – Lunch

14:00 to 17:30 – Afternoon Session

- When to grow what
- Crop Rotation, Companion Cropping in Vegetables
- Seed Production and Plant Breeding
- Transplanting Practicals

19:15 to 20:00 – Dinner

Day 2 – Vegetables (Contd.) & Dairy

6:30 to 7:30 – Farm Walk to Dairy With Sarvdaman

7:30 to 8:15 – Breakfast

8:30 to 12:30 – Morning Session

- Picking, Packing & Marketing of Vegetables - Practicals
- Animal Housing
- Feeding
- Milking
- Breeding
- Herd Management
- Animal Health
- Poultry Management from Dairy point of view

12:30 to 13:15 – Lunch

14:00 to 17:30 – Afternoon Session

- Types of Winter Fodder
- Types of Summer/Monsoon (Kharif/Rabi) Fodder
- Types of Perennial Fodder
- Preparing the Beds - Cultivation
- How to Sow – Broadcast, Line Sowing
- How & When to Weed
- How & When to Irrigate
- How & When to Fertilize
- Surface Irrigation for Cereals & Fodder
- Picking & Harvesting
- 19:15 to 20:00 – Dinner

Day 3

6:30 to 7:30 – Farm Walk to Fodder Areas With Sarvdaman

7:30 to 8:15 – Breakfast

8:30 to 12:30 – Morning Session

- Practicals – Cultivating & Preparing the land, Making Ridges, Sowing, Giving the Basal Dose of Organic Fertilizer, Harvesting/Cutting

12:30 to 13:15 – Lunch

14:00 to 17:00 – Afternoon Session

- Hay
- The process of making Hay
- The theory behind Hay Making

Day 3 (Contd.)

- Storing the Hay
- Practicals – Making Hay
- Silage
 - The Silage Pit
 - The Process of Making Silage
 - Theory Behind Silage Making
 - Silage Benefits
 - How to Use & How Much to Use
- Practicals – Participate in an ongoing Silage process (Both the Start & Finish Part)
- Wrap-up & Certificates

Farm Profile

The Bhaikaka Krishi Kendra is a 40 acre integrated, holistic Organic & Biodynamic farm that incorporates all aspects of farming like vegetables, cereals, fodder, animals, agro-forestry, water harvesting, orchards, etc. The main focus of the farm is the dairy of nearly 100 animals & the production of a rich variety of fodder to feed these animals. The farm produces about 300-350 liters of milk every day and has been catering to 85 customers and a 500 bed hospital in Vallabh Vidyanagar for last 25 years. The farm also produces a variety of fruits like chikoo, mango, custard apple, litchi, papaya, mosambi, lime etc. Over 40 different vegetables are grown mostly in the winter months. Carefully designed trenches & ponds ensure that all the rain water is harvested. A variety of cereals & pulses like oats, bajra, barley, wheat are grown. This farm is prominently featured in the internationally acclaimed movie 'One Man, One Cow, One Planet' where Peter Proctor who is considered the Father of Indian Biodynamic Agriculture says that this is one of the best Biodynamic Farms in the world that he has seen. A prominent goal of the farm is to disseminate the art and knowledge of sustainable farming to small & marginal farmers. The farm also conducts regular training courses in organic and biodynamic farming with the help of renowned experts like David Hogg. The third biennial OFAI (Organic Farming Association of India) conference took place amidst the farm's verdant bamboo groves & hosted over 700 farmers from all over India. This farm has become a pilgrimage for farmers interested in learning about ecologically safe & sustainable methods in farming. You can get more information about the farm, the farmer and upcoming activities at <http://www.organichutbkk.com>.

Instructor Profiles

Sarvdaman Patel

Sarvdaman Patel is one of the most renowned & respected agronomists in the country. He is one of the pioneers of the Organic & Biodynamic movement in India & his unique contribution is to demonstrate that Organic Farming can be practiced without sacrificing productivity. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture & Animal Husbandry. He proceeded to do his Masters in Agronomy at University of Wisconsin, Madison USA & worked for 18 months in 3 different dairy farms in America. In spite of getting a Green Card & the opportunity to settle down in the USA the pull of his sacred land was too great and he came back to start his own farming enterprise on this 40 acre land. Presently he is also the President of OFAI and his knowledge is widely sought out at expert panels and training programs.

David Hogg

David Hogg is the Country's premier experts & practitioners of Biodynamic farming. He is an expert coffee grower & herdsman. He marshaled the Biodynamic movement in India, for many years as the Secretary of BDAI. David currently heads the sustainable livelihoods project at Naandi foundation where he has successfully helped thousands of tribal families convert to a sustainable way of living and farming. He is a gifted teacher unrivaled in his passion, eloquence & knowledge of farming & nutrition – just to name a few.

Briony Young

Briony has a diploma in Biodynamics from Emerson college in England. She lives and works at Tablehurst Community Farm - a Biodynamic farm in the UK - for most of the year & in winter heads to India, her spiritual home, where she spends time on different farms prodding them along in their Organic & Biodynamic quest. Her infectious energy & passion, gallons of patience added to a deep understanding & appreciation of Biodynamics make her an invaluable resource at all the training programs. She also teaches Yoga, Shiatsu and Reflexology and has a deep interest in 'holistic health' in the widest sense possible.

Dr. Regina Sharmila Dass

Dr. Regina Sharmila Dass is an Assistant Professor, Microbiology, at Pondicherry Central University. She was the coordinator and instructor at BASIL (Sustainable Living) academy for more than 5 years which has trained more than 500 farmers & farming enthusiasts in Organic & Biodynamic farming best practices. She combines her enormous knowledge in soil microbiology with a great love for farming to help convert many a skeptic to a sustainable way of farming. Her quest for safe food alternatives have influenced the choice of her research areas – study of mycotoxigenic fungi which are a serious threat to animal & human health, analysis of biodynamic composts & their environmental significance etc.

Hotel Information

1. **Hotel Favourite Regency**, Near Railway Crossing, Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120

Ph: 02692-230884 Contact Person Dr. Fulsinhji Chauhan, MD-Partner

Tariff: Rs. 624 to Rs. 728 Double Room

2. **Hotel Surabhi Regency Jay Tower**, Amul Dairy Road, ANAND- 388001

Ph: 02692-242018, 242279,242601,

254054 email: hotelsurabhiregency@yahoo.co.in.

Web: www.hotelsurabhiregency.com

Tariff: Rs. 1300 to Rs. 1600 Double Room

3. **Motel Sanvaria Regency**, 2nd Floor, SHILP, Opp. to Bhaikaka Statue, Vallabh

Vidyanagar 388120

email: motelsanvaria2007@yahoo.in web: www.motelsanvaria.com

Ph: 02692-235090, 235091

Tariff: Rs. 1322 Double Room

4. **Hotel Rama Residency**, Shree Rama Arcade, 3rd floor, Old Gopal Cinema, Station

Rd. Anand 388001 Ph: 02692-266446, 266447

email: booking@hotelramaresidency.com web: www.hotelramaresidency.com

Tariff: Rs. 1500 to Rs. 3500 Double Room

5. **Hotel La Casa Inn**, Near Ganesh Crossing, Anand Sojithra Road, Anand 388001

Ph: 02692-264801/02 email: reservations@lacassainn.in web: lacasainn.in

Tariff: Rs. 2000 to Rs. 10,000 Double Room

Transportation Information

Auto Rickshaw Driver Contact Numbers:

Abdulbhai – 07600135013

Babubhai - 09824646850

Sirajbhai - 8460092752