

**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, Government organisations can apply.

**Course Fee:** Rs. 5000/- per participant. This will cover training costs, accommodation, local travel, resource material in the form of manuals, multimedia CDs, films etc.

**Last year participants:** The twenty eight participants were from Farmers, Farmers' Organisations, Middle Level Personnel in NGOs, Agriculture Officers, serving and retired Professors in Agriculture.

#### **Feed back**

"I have no hesitation to confess that I was immensely benefited by the participation in the deliberations on Sustainable Agriculture organized by the Center of Sustainable Agriculture, Hyderabad. During the last 50 years I have been trying in bits and pieces with my meagre and limited capabilities to help the poor farmers to improve their food security and livelihood, particularly those in the severely affected drought prone rainfed areas, who have been suffering from hunger through generations. After attending the workshop of CSA I reaffirm my faith that the problems of the small farmers in India are not insurmountable through natural resource management and integrated farming with crop-livestock, using low cost organic inputs."

*-Prof. TK Bose, Member Agriculture Commission, Government of West Bengal*

"Lectures were very interesting and well documented. Overall, it was an excellent course."

*-Marius Snauwaert, SEDS*

#### **Send your nominations to:**

Ratna (Training on Sustainable Agriculture)

**Centre for Sustainable Agriculture**

12-13-445, Street No.1, Tarnaka,  
Secunderabad 500 017

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Visit: <http://www.csa-india.org>

**Last date:** 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009

Training course on Sustainable Agriculture

## Training course on **Sustainable Agriculture**

Perspectives, Practices and Policies

**18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010**

Venue

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

Course Director

**Dr. GV Ramanjaneyulu**



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*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.*



India is passing through serious agrarian crisis. Economically, environmentally and socially the crisis is taking away lives and livelihoods of lakhs of people from the rural areas. Given a chance, many of the farmers opt out of farming. Is farming non-remunerative? Except agriculture, in no other industry, output quantity is higher than the input. Still, why crisis is looming large on agrarians?

Technologically, people, industry, scientists claim that lot of advance

in research and yields are improved. Cotton production is on a record high, on various fronts globally our position is improved in production. On the other side, suicide rates are mostly from cotton growing belts. Are production and livelihoods not interdependent? Such are the existing dilemmas.

Many of the initiatives by the government in the last decade have made very little impact. In addition, the ongoing global food crisis has shattered the myths of industrial agriculture as a hope for the future of the human food security. Added to this climate change factor is highly influencing the food production. Agriculture also contributes significantly for the climate change.

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 many 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, clientele and the driving forces. And this farming is giving a hope and way out to fight the climate change.

#### 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 and f) reducing the energy consumption on farm. These models have 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 has 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 with proper support systems.

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 training course on **Sustainable Agriculture: Perspectives, Practices and Policies** from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010.

#### The course broadly covers

1. Understanding agrarian crisis-role of practices and policies
2. Sustainable Agriculture-Perspectives and debates
3. Sustaining Farming
  - a. Cropping Patterns and integrated farming systems
  - b. Community Seed Management
  - c. Non Pesticidal Management-theory and practices
  - d. Organic Soil Management
4. Community Based Organisations-emerging experiences
  - a. Scalingup of sustainable agriculture practices
  - b. Farmers' Collectives-Producer Cooperatives and Producer Companies
  - c. Ensuring Quality: Participatory Guarantee Systems
5. Emerging threats
  - a. Genetic Engineering in agriculture-issues and debates
  - b. Climate Change – contributory role of agriculture – Adaptation and mitigation
  - c. Land diversion to non-agriculture purposes
  - d. Corporatisation / contract farming
6. Sustainable Agriculture Produce Marketing
  - a. Models in agri-business (including alternatives)
  - b. Existing systems and organic certification – issues
  - c. Participatory Guarantee System - Mechanism
7. Understanding Policies impacting farming and farming based livelihoods
  - a. Subsidies and Financial support systems
  - b. Regulating technology: seeds, pesticides and GM crops
  - c. Pricing Mechanisms
  - d. Alternative policy framework
  - e. Advocacy planning
8. Planning Scaling up and Mainstreaming sustainable agriculture practices.



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

PS: participants are requested to come prepared with basic knowledge on the above aspects to enrich the group discussions and interactions

**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 15 lakh acres and is supported through Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. <http://www.csa-india.org>**