

Riṣhi Kr̥ṣhi Śamriddhi Kē Liyē

# NATURAL FARMING

SUMMIT 1.0

9-10 May, 2017

Innovative approach to world  
nutrition and food security



THE ART OF LIVING

Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SSIAST) Trust

# THE NATURAL FARMING SUMMIT 1.0

The Natural Farming Summit 1.0 brings to the forefront natural farming & its role in improving Nutritional, Food & Livelihood security. Through the Summit we will highlight advancements in the natural farming movement & promote networking, innovations & collaboration. Conducted by Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology Trust (SSIAST), under the aegis of The Art of Living Foundation of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji, the Summit will give an institutional push to accelerate adoption of natural farming.

## SUMMIT ATTENDEES INCLUDE

- Agricultural Scientists at Universities & Research Institutions
- Government Agencies
- Producers & Processors of Organic Food, Fruits, Spices, Flowers & Herbs
- Established Agri-based Industries
- Innovative Agricultural Startups
- Agricultural Wholesale & Retail Traders
- Farmers & Consumers

## SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

- Share the ancient knowledge of Indian agriculture
- Bring global focus on natural farming
- Breaking myths around natural farming
- Innovation in natural farming
- Better governance framework
- Networking opportunities

## SUMMIT VENUE

The Natural Farming Summit 1.0 will be held at The Art of Living International Centre, Bangalore. Spread over 65 acres, the Centre is an ideal location for reflection and retreat. It is also a focal point for The Art of Living's many service projects.



"Agriculture is the backbone of human existence. For any civilization to prosper, agriculture has to be healthy & sustainable. We need to get our focus back on agriculture which is the primary industry. Our earth has plenty for everyone. We only have to manage its resources well."

- Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

## THE ART OF LIVING

Founded in 1981 by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, The Art of Living is an educational and humanitarian movement engaged in stress-management and service initiatives. The organization operates globally in 155 countries and has touched the lives of over 370 million people. The programs are guided by Gurudev's philosophy of peace - "Unless we have a stress-free mind & violence-free society, we cannot achieve World Peace."

The Art of Living movement has spread peace across communities through diverse humanitarian projects, including conflict resolution, disaster relief, sustainable rural development, empowerment of women, prisoner rehabilitation, education for all and environmental sustainability.

## OUR PAST CONFERENCES

**World Culture Festival:** The World Culture Festival 2016 was a celebration of The Art of Living's 35 years of service to humanity, spirituality and human values.

3.75 million people from 155 countries gathered in India to celebrate unity in cultural diversity.

**Global Leadership Forum:** The Global Leadership Forum, brings together senior leaders from business, government, politics, science, NGOs, faith-based organizations, sports, academia and media to reflect on the paradigms of leadership needed to manoeuvre in the World of today.

**International Women's Conference:** The International Women's Conference brings together women leaders from various spheres of society such as politics, the arts, business, media, and academia to engage in meaningful dialogue and sessions to create a better world.



## NATURAL FARMING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Adoption of modern agricultural practices in India has led to a deep agrarian crisis. The unsustainable practices which modern agriculture propagates, threatens small-scale farmers, dwindles the local crop variety & eradicates vast areas of fertile land. Rampant use of pesticides has protected crops but introduced harmful chemicals into the food & water chain. Mechanized farming, privatized seeds, expensive fossil fuel based inputs and unequal marketing reach has pushed small farmers to accept predatory lending that has devastated village economies and farming communities.

Natural farming is a sustainable methodology that offers comparable crop yield & protection as modern techniques, at a fraction of the cost & none of the harmful side effects.

## NATURAL FARMING'S IMPACT

Natural farming benefits farmers, the environment, consumers and the planet in many ways.

Its impact is most keenly felt on:

### **Nutritional Security**

Unlike modern farming which uses poisonous pesticides, Natural Farming's greener approach preserves nutritive value & ensures crop purity.

### **Food Security**

With natural farming it is possible to increase farm yield substantially without negatively impacting the environment.

### **Better Farming Economics**

Lower input costs lead to better earnings and have a positive impact on rural economies.

### **Water Utilization**

Natural Farming is not as water intensive as modern agriculture, thus preserving scarce water sources.

### **Protecting Biodiversity**

Since natural farming relies on greener inputs & methods, it maintains the ecological balance and regional crop biodiversity.

### **Climate Change**

Natural farming is unlike the high-input modern farming techniques which rely on fossil fuels & their derivatives.



## NATURAL FARMING WITH INDIAN COWS

Indian (Desi) Cows are at the core of natural farming. They are indigenous to this land and are essential for every aspect of natural farming. Everything these cows produce from their dung to urine to milk benefits farmers, consumers and the environment.

## PROTECTING THE QUALITY OF MILK

People all over the world rely on milk for their nutrients. Unfortunately, they are fed on a poisonous diet of milk from mixed breed cows. Popular breeds such as Holstein, Friesian and Jersey cows are cross bred so heavily for greater milk production, that they have more mutations than cows. While these cows offer great yields, it comes at an immense ecological cost. These cows produce toxic A1 milk which is nowhere close to the benefit of A2 milk which is produced by desi cows.

### A1 Milk

- Contains toxic casein protein, B TAC morphine 7, B7 and BCM7
- Associated with Type 1 diabetes, MLS, Parkinson's, obesity, schizophrenia and other diseases
- Associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)  
Through the conference, we hope to highlight the important role of desi cows and how adopting them is beneficial to mankind.

### A2 Milk

- Consists of micro nutrients such as cytokine which enhance immune system
- A2 milk has qualities which protect human body from cancer, heart disease, diabetes, migraine and more
- A2 milk has proteins, minerals, vitamins, calcium and milk fat that are easily digestible by children

# THE SEVEN ELEMENTS OF NATURAL FARMING

To accelerate adoption of Natural Farming, we need to tackle issues at the grassroots as well as the organizational level. At the Natural Farming Summit 1.0, the conference sessions are designed around seven critical components to ensure natural farming's widespread success.

## **Soil**

Improving soil fertility & reclaiming once fertile lands devastated by modern farming

## **Water**

Focusing on natural farming yield enhancement through water management

## **Pest Management**

Promoting natural replacements for deadly chemical pesticides

## **Climate**

Helping the global fight against climate change through risk mitigation & crop insurance

## **Farmers**

Training farmers in natural farming techniques and creating a grassroots level training program

## **Governance**

Involving legislators and government agencies for policy adoption and budgetary allocations

## **Sustainable Technology**

Supporting & promoting innovative technologies that enhance natural farming practices



## FACES OF NATURAL FARMING

### Lavanya, Telangana

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Lavanya Reddy's story is one of immeasurable hardship, that was defeated by her indomitable spirit. Married off to a debt ridden farmer, turned away from her maternal home and with infertile land as her only asset, she is today a successful farmer. With the right natural farming techniques, she has been able to farm chillies, paddy, pulses, groundnuts and more with great success.

The Art of Living honored this hard working woman farmer with Krishi Ratna during the World Culture Festival, New Delhi in March 2016.



### Swadesh Choudhary, Farmer & Trainer

SSIAST Agri Teacher & farmer Sri Swadesh Choudhury has been working on finding a way to make Ghan Jivamrita scalable which is one of the key components of natural farming. He wants to help other farmers like him increase their yield & adopt natural farming practices which are more beneficial for the ecosystem. He created a 'Desi wormy compost' pit using farmyard manure, crop waste materials & Ghan Jivamrita powder. Not only has he used this to secure the health of his sugar cane crop, he has also shared this technique with other farmers.



### Varun, Student & Farming Entrepreneur

SSIAST's Agri Clinic & Agri Business Program (ACABC) draws a variety of people interested in agriculture & one such person was Varun. After his training session, he gained the confidence to start a nursery selling ornamental plants & pepper plantlets. After expenses he is now left with about Rs. 15,000 every month. Buoyed by this success, he has branched into mango cultivation too. His first crop of Raspuri mangoes has been a hit due to its better quality, taste & the fact that it was grown through organic farming.



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

The Conference, to be held on **May 9th and 10th, 2017** will include sessions on the following topics:

- **Holistic Approach** – To Food and Nutrition Security
- **Water Harvesting** – More Crop Per Drop
- **Cow-based Agriculture** – Soil Reclamation, Fertility & Plant Nutrition
- **Pest Management sessions** – Focusing on Biopesticides, Pheromones, Color traps, Trap crops, Pest resistant varieties, Ancient / Traditional Practices
- **Drought Proof Farming / Climate Resilient Agriculture / Crop insurance**
- **Agri-tech Innovations/Startups** – Farmer friendly technologies in Agriculture, Food Processing, Logistics and Marketing Innovations
- **Soil Management** – Natural farming Subsoil technique, conversion of Saline soils to fertile soils & technologies for cultivation of marshy lands
- **Government Policy** – Legislation for minimum 25% of conversion of agriculture land to organic farming all over India by 2020
- **Natural Farming** – Success stories
- **Panel Discussion** – How to grow crops with available water resources
- **Roadmap 2025 for India** – The Natural/Organic Grainary of the World
- **Signing of the MOUs** – The State Governments for farmer training



“Annadata Sukhi Bhava” means ‘Those who are providing me with this food, let them be happy’.  
So, when you say “Annadata Sukhi Bhava” every day, you are praying for the person who cooks the food to be happy; you are praying for the merchant to conduct his business in a fair and just manner (not out of greed), and you are wishing the FARMER a happy life. If these three people are happy, then the society is happy.”

- Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar





Venue: Vishalakshi Mantap, The Art of Living International Centre

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