



12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SHORTCOURSE

ANNOUNCEMENT AND COURSE INFORMATION

Course Theme:

***Agroecology and the Transformation of Food Systems:
The California Model***

July 10-23, 2011

Sustainable Living Center, UCSC campus, Santa Cruz, CA

Organized by:

**Community Agroecology Network (CAN) • University of California, Santa Cruz
(UCSC) • Program in Community and Agroecology (PICA)**

Sponsors:

**Roots of Change (ROC) • Ruth and Alfred Heller Endowed Chair in Agroecology
(UCSC) • Stonyfield Organic**

Description

The theme of the 12th Annual International Agroecology Shortcourse is the transformation of food systems to the agroecological model from field to table, utilizing California food systems as a working case study of challenges and successes. California is a place where most investment in agriculture has centered on increased production as the main priority, and where local food systems, urban access to healthy food, and labor, water, and poverty issues are often considered to be secondary. At the same time, the state is also home to an incredibly diverse and vibrant sustainable foods movement, full of people who seek to change how food is produced and consumed. The course will bring together the various components of the California food system to mobilize its transformation to an inclusive system that addresses multiple needs and goals. We will also learn from similar models of change from around the world.

The course will be organized around the series of steps necessary to complete what we call the agroecological transition. The steps are organized into four levels that move a food system towards agroecological sustainability. The first level involves improving current practices to reduce the need for expensive and damaging inputs. The second level moves beyond this to totally substitute conventional inputs and practices with alternative and environmentally benign practices and inputs; organic agriculture is an example of this. In the third level of the transition, the focus is on the redesign of the entire agroecosystem so that it functions on the basis of a new set of ecological processes that provide resistance to the production problems encountered at both levels 1 and 2. Finally, in the fourth level of conversion, we recognize that we cannot achieve sustainability without addressing the entire food system, including socioeconomic and cultural contexts and relationships. There is a need to re-establish more direct connections between those that produce and those that consume food, thus achieving the transformation of



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the entire food system. The shortcourse will provide a solid introduction to agroecology, and then move through the four levels of transition to an agroecological food system before exploring how to implement such food systems within and outside of California. The course's location in Santa Cruz, California allows course participants to explore firsthand some of the most developed examples of food system transformation in the US.

Course Dynamic and Pedagogy

The course will be an intensive work and living experience from breakfast through dinner and afterwards. The course is organized from an interdisciplinary, participatory action research (PAR) approach that balances applied and conceptual work. It is organized into modules that range from basic agroecological principles to transforming food systems. Activities will include presentations on specific topics given by invited specialists, group discussions on assigned readings, hands-on field activities throughout the food system, individual and group presentations, and field trips to local farms and training programs. Participants will receive key texts, bibliographies, and publications in agroecology and food systems.

Participant Profile

Everyone working for change in food systems in California and around the world – this means farmers, students, academics and researchers, policymakers, government functionaries, nongovernmental organizations, and everyone else willing to engage in two weeks of intensive learning and visioning of how to make the transformation of our food systems a reality. Enrollment will be limited to 40 participants. Instruction and discussion will be in English, so a working knowledge of English is required for participation.

Dates

July 10th-23rd, 2011. The 10th is reserved for arrival arrangements to Santa Cruz, with dinner and room arrangements provided. We will formally begin the course on the morning of the 11th after breakfast. We will conclude the course on the evening of Friday, July 22nd with a closing ceremony. Breakfast will be provided on the 23rd along with transportation to the airport.

Admissions Requirements

Interested candidates should send a short resume and cover letter (preferably by email, or by post) explaining their background, current work, and reasons for wanting to participate in the course. Applications will be received until the course is filled (40 participants); early applications are strongly recommended. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance within two weeks of their application submission. Fees are due upon acceptance (see deadlines below). Upon completion of the course, participants will be granted a Certificate of Participation. Please send resume and cover letter, addressed to Dr. Steve Gliessman, to shortcourse2011@canunite.org. If you prefer to mail hard copies of your application materials, please mail them to:

Agroecology Shortcourse 2011
c/o Community Agroecology Network
PO Box 7653
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-7653
USA



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Fee Options and Accommodation

The course fee is comprehensive and covers all tuition, course and lecture materials, accommodations, three meals per day, field trips and administrative fees. Fees do not include airfare or stays for the period before or after the course. Fees cover single-occupancy accommodation beginning the night of Sunday July 10 through the night of Friday July 22 at The Village housing on the UCSC campus. The rooms are simple with shared bathrooms. Linens will be provided. Course fee packages are the following:

Early Admissions Package:

Application received by April 1, 2011

Fees received by May 1, 2011

Developed country residents: \$2000 per person

Students and Developing country residents: \$1500 per person

Normal Admissions Package:

Application received after April 1, 2011

Fees received by June 1, 2011

Developed country residents: \$2250 per person

Students and Developing country residents: \$1750 per person

Scholarships: Although we are currently seeking funding for scholarships, we are not able at this time to offer any type of financial assistance to course participants. If your application is scholarship-dependent, please indicate this in your cover letter. We also encourage applicants to seek other sources of funding, and we can write letters of support for this process.

Payment Options

Once notified of acceptance to the course, participants should pay course fees indicated by bank check, money order, or personal check in US dollars payable through a United States bank to: **Community Agroecology Network**, and mail it to the address listed above. Please let us know by email if you prefer to send payment by electronic wire transfer.

Visas

If you are coming from abroad and require a visa to enter the United States and attend the shortcourse, it is very important that you check requirements and visa processes for the US embassy in your country as soon as possible (please see <http://travel.state.gov/visa/>). Please advise us in your application cover letter if you will require a visa. Once you are accepted into the shortcourse, we can provide you with an official invitation letter and other materials to support your visa application.

Organizers and Instructors

The Lead Instructor and organizer of the 2011 Shortcourse is Dr. Stephen Gliessman. Other instructors will include researchers from Dr. Gliessman's Agroecology Research Group (www.agroecology.org), as well as key figures in Sustainability Science, Agroecology, Social Justice in Agriculture, Organic Agriculture, and Food Systems.

For More Information

Information on the shortcourse will be continuously updated on www.agroecology.org and www.canunite.org. If you have questions, please email Heather Putnam, the 2011 Shortcourse Coordinator, at shortcourse2011@canunite.org.