16th Annual International Agroecology Shortcourse

Announcement and Course Information

Course Theme:
Agroecology, A Global Movement: Tracing Our Roots and Looking Forward

July 12-25, 2015

Sustainable Living Center, University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)

Organized by:
The Community Agroecology Network (CAN)

Sponsors:
University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS)

Organizing Committee:
Food First, Berkeley Food Institute, Sociedad Cientifica Latinoamericana de Agroecologia (SOCLA); New Field Foundation, The Food Commons, Pesticide Action Network (PANNA); Community Alliance for Family Farmers (CAFF), Claudia Webster, and Swanton Berry Farm.
Description
The 16th Annual Agroecology Shortcourse will explore the roots of agroecology as a global movement as well as a science and a practice. Santa Cruz, California offers the ideal context to examine historical and current issues of social and environmental equity and sustainability that agroecology movements confront all over the world. The course aims to introduce agroecology and strategically connect the diverse and powerful agroecology experiences and movements active worldwide and create a collective overarching view of the current global situation. We will end the course with a vision of how to better facilitate cross-fertilization across agroecology movements and overcome obstacles to convergence.

Course Dynamic and Pedagogy
The course will be an intensive learning and living experience from breakfast through dinner, geared towards knowledge exchange and networking across the different spheres of agroecology. The course pedagogy will consist of a combination of lectures and case study presentations, group activities and discussions, field visits, discussion of readings, and a final group project aimed at identifying synergies and opportunities for building the global agroecology movement. Starting with the theoretical and conceptual foundations of agroecology, the course will explore the meaning of agroecology today, crossing rural/urban and science/practice divides, and addressing the different understandings and usages of the term. We will then use a case study-based approach to delve into current issues agroecology is facing today, including ecologically-sound production practices in the face of climate change; the relationship between race, class, gender and generation and access to small and resource-limited farming; the role of agroecology in international, national, territorial, and local policy regulating the food system; the role of social organizations and movements in facilitating agroecological transformation; and successful experiences of agroecology movement building. Participants will receive key texts, bibliographies, and publications in the field of agroecology both in advance and during the two-week duration of the course. Upon completion of the full course, participants will be granted a Certificate of Participation.

Participant Profile
We prioritize ensuring diversity among course participants. We encourage all to apply: international and US-based students, farmers, aid agency workers, NGO professionals, extension agents, and activists. We especially
encourage and support the application of traditionally underrepresented groups, especially Native American, African American, Asian, and Latino farmers, and farmers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as young “greenhorn” farmers and LBGTQ food system activists and farmers. CAN is actively seeking funds to financially support traditionally underrepresented participants to attend this course. We will post updates on available scholarships as funds become available.

Organizers and Instructors
The course is organized by the Community Agroecology Network (CAN) in collaboration with sponsoring organizations. Led by Dr. Stephen Gliessman, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), the course will include instructors from throughout the world of agroecology– researchers, movement leaders and activists, NGO professionals, farmers, and farmworkers.

Dates
July 12-25, 2015. July 12th is reserved for arrival arrangements to Santa Cruz (airport transportation will be provided), with dinner and room arrangements provided. We will formally begin the course on the morning of the 13th after breakfast. We will conclude the course on the evening of Friday, July 24th with a closing ceremony. Breakfast will be provided on the 25th along with transportation to the airport.

Admissions Requirements
Interested candidates should complete the application form available at www.canunite.org and submit it via email to can.shortcourse@gmail.com. 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.

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 12 through the morning of Friday July 25 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:

Developed country residents: $2200 per person
Students, farmers, farmworkers, and developing country residents: $1800 per person

Scholarships: We are currently seeking funding for scholarships. Scholarship availability will be posted on www.canunite.org as funds become available. If your application is scholarship-dependent, please indicate this in your application in the designated space. We also encourage applicants to seek other sources of funding, and we are happy to provide letters of support for this process.

Payment Options
Once notified of acceptance to the course, participants should pay course fees. Checks are preferred, and may be sent by mail to:
You may also pay by Paypal at www.canunite.org.

Please let us know by email if you prefer to send payment by electronic wire transfer; please add $45 to the wire transfer amount to cover bank fees.

**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 at the US Consulate in your country as soon as possible (please see [http://travel.state.gov/visa/](http://travel.state.gov/visa/)). Please advise us in your application form 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.

**For More Information**
Information on the shortcourse will be continuously updated on www.canunite.org. If you have questions, please email can.shortcourse@gmail.com.