



# Farming the City

## A People's Convention on Urban Agriculture in India

**April 11-12, 2020**

**Venue: IRD Conference Hall, IIT Delhi, Hauz Khas, Delhi-16.**

### Call for Participation

**People's Resource Centre (PRC)** and the **Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS)** are hosting a two-day intensive, in-person gathering on April 11-12, 2020 with the following objectives:

- ❖ To initiate a grassroots-oriented discourse on the role of urban agriculture (UA) in relation with systemic issues including, but not limited to, food security, public health, degrading environment, energy security, social harmony, land use and relations of production, and so on
- ❖ To connect the UA practitioners with community organizers, researchers, and other stakeholders and create a knowledge-sharing framework to augment the knowledge-oriented potential of UA
- ❖ To seek the possibility of building and strengthening a collective organization (network, confederation, platform etc.) of city- and neighborhood-level urban agricultural practices

We invite urban farming practitioners, research institutions and organizations working in the fields of health, food, energy, urban ecology, political economy of resources, urban alternatives, etc., students, media professionals, writers, and other enthusiasts to participate and contribute in the programme.

#### Expected Activities

- ❖ Panel discussions/participative discussion (discussion papers)
- ❖ Talks, informative lectures, DIY workshops
- ❖ Field visits and community interactions

We request the participants to evoke and enrich the discussions at the gathering by presenting research/discussion papers, case studies, posters, book reviews, documentary films, paintings or photo exhibition, play or any other cultural medium, or any other mode of expression that one might prefer on any of the themes listed below:

## Themes

- A. **Framing the farming:** ideating UA particularly in relation with food-energy-waste linkages, social ecology, livelihood and meaningful work, circular and shared economy, pluralism in agroecology, gender and other structures of power, decentralized participatory governance, self-sufficiency, right to the city and other liberatory ideas of urbanism, working-class solidarity, and so on
- B. **Vulnerable in the city:** Assessing the challenges of UA in the current social, political, economic and legal environment, and amidst the ongoing contestations over land, water, natural resources
- C. **UA and the global food chain:** making a case for greater localization of urban food system against the globalized and industrialized food system
- D. **Relation between urban and rural agriculture:** from conflict to complementarity, from hierarchy to mutuality, from insecurity to sufficiency
- E. **That growing feeling:** Cultural, emotional and sensual orbits of the UA
- F. **UA and the making of future cities:** contrasting the concepts of technocratic 'smart city' with a humanistic 'self-reliant city'
- G. **Rising up for the farming city:** forging alliances, building solidarities with ongoing rights-based urban and rural movements
- H. Any other topic of your choice, that may relate UA with other worldly affairs and contribute to a greater collective understanding.

## Submission guideline

- The writings and the audio can be in any language but the participants presenting in language other than Hindi/English are kindly requested to provide a Hindi/English translation of full or summarized presentation.
- The word limit for full (research/discussion/case studies) paper is 10000 words. Abstract should be limited to 500 words. To accommodate more and diverse presentations, maximum duration of films/play is 90 minutes. You can send a small clip (of less than 10 minutes) as preliminary submission.
- Please send your abstracts/summaries/clips on **idsinitiative@gmail.com** latest by January 15, 2020. Confirmed participants are requested to send their full papers/films/presentations by February 15, 2020. Please write 'submission' in the subject-line.
- For queries related to registration, accommodation and travel etc., please write to **idsinitiative@gmail.com** with 'Query' in the subject-line.

Details on the programme, speakers, schedule etc. will follow soon.

## Organizers

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**People's Resource Centre** aims to build new infrastructures of solidarity with the valuable fragments of learning derived from collective actions everywhere and the possible alternatives imagined by all people. The initiative seeks to explore the possibilities of bringing the resources back into the people's powerful control, and to understand whether and how that can eradicate the most persistent problems such as hunger, homelessness, ambient pollution, and social injustices based on caste, gender, and religion. PRC engages with movement groups and communities in the places with the ongoing or potential struggle over resources, and regularly undertakes policy monitoring, research and documentation, and grassroots networking to generate resources for collective resistance and creative action.

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**Institute for Democracy and Sustainability** has carved out a niche for itself among the people-centric organizations while working actively on the issues of social transformation including sustainable urban transport, equal road rights, right to livelihood and urban agriculture for the last three decades. IDS believes that providing opportunities for employment, housing and education based on the quality and egalitarian ethos is the prerequisite of developing an environment-friendly, socially inclusive and eventually, a throbbing city. IDS believes that it is pertinent to accord priority to local and decentralized production and distribution systems. IDS is a constituent member of National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM), Sustainable Urban Mobility Network of India (SUMNet), Car-free Network and is associated with several national and international forums.

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## Technical Support

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**Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP), IIT Delhi** is an interdisciplinary programme focusing on the reduction of adverse health effects of road transport. TRIPP attempts to integrate all issues concerned with transportation in order to promote safety, cleaner air, and energy conservation. Faculty members are involved in planning safer urban and inter-city transportation systems, and developing designs for vehicles, safety equipment and infrastructure for the future. Activities include applied research projects, special courses and workshops, and supervision of student projects at post graduate and undergraduate levels. Projects are done in collaboration with associated departments and centres at IIT Delhi, government departments, industry and international agencies.

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