CRHP Experiential Course in Sustainable Agriculture

WHAT IS CRHP?

The Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP), Jamkhed, works among the poor and marginalized of rural India. Founded in 1970 by Drs. Raj and Mabelle Arole to bring health to the poorest of the poor, CRHP is an organization that empowers people to eliminate injustices through integrated efforts in health and development. Pioneering a comprehensive approach to community-based primary healthcare, known as the Jamkhed Model, CRHP has become a leader in public health and development within India and around the world.

COURSE OUTLINE

CRHP's Jamkhed International Institute for Training offers this experiential course to teach individuals about sustainable farming in drought-prone areas and socio-economic factors related to agriculture. Participants spend the majority of the course at CRHP's Demonstration Farm learning about topics such as watershed development and rainwater harvesting, animal husbandry, tree farming, and organic farming methods in a dry-land context. In addition, participants spend time on CRHP's campus discovering how agriculture fits into the larger picture of health and development, while engaging in village visits and discussions with community groups such as Farmers' Clubs, Women's Self-Help Groups, Adolescent Groups, and Village Health Workers. Individuals of all backgrounds are welcome, and no previous experience in agriculture or development is required.

WHAT TOPICS WILL BE COVERED?

The Jamkhed Model: CRHP's model of empowerment and health for all.

Agriculture and Health: How agriculture fits into the broader picture of health.

Animal Husbandry: Management and care for animals as an alternative, guaranteed income for landless farmers.

Vegetables and Grains: Ensuring a healthy diet by growing rain-fed grains and kitchen vegetable gardens.

Rainwater Harvesting: Water collection methods and storage units.

Horticulture: Benefits of fruit tree farming and intercropping.

Value-Added Production: Increasing the value of primary agricultural produce.

Women's Empowerment: The role of women and gender equality in agriculture.

Organic Farming: Natural alternatives to fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

Herbal Medicine: How local plants are used to complement allopathic medicine.

***Final Project:** The final few days will be spent constructing a water harvesting system at CRHP's Farm.

Additional Excursions

While the majority of the course will be spent at CRHP's Demonstration Farm, participants will partake in several excursions to increase their exposure and gain outside perspectives on agriculture and culture in India.

Mahatma Phule Agricultural University: Visit the largest agricultural research institution in India.

Jaggery Factory: Witness how raw sugar cane is processed and used in daily food preparations and sweets.

Herbal Medicine Institute: Witness the process of making herbal medicines and talk to the practitioners who use them.

Aurangabad: See the Bibi Ka Maqbara ("mini Taj Mahal"), the Daulatabad Fort, and the Ellora caves known for their Jain, Buddhist, and Hindu carvings.

Farm Overnight: Spend the night at the Farm Guesthouse with the staff at the Mabelle Arole Rehabilitation Center.

Village Visits: Participate in exposure visits of our Project and Non-Project Villages with a debriefing session to follow.

Village Overnight: Spend a night in a CRHP Project Village with one of our Village Health Workers.

HOW TO APPLY

Dates for 2015 are July 10-31. For future course dates, please email info@jamkhed.org.

Please send your resume and a brief letter of interest or any questions to info@jamkhed.org.

***University Collaboration:**
For colleges or universities interested in setting up a study abroad course in sustainable agriculture anytime during the year, please email info@jamkhed.org.

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