

Organic Terrace Gardening Workshop

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Urban farming is practiced differently around the globe. Though the concept is not new, there is enhanced emphasis in recent years to 'grow your own food'. Industrialization, especially boom in information technology and biotechnologies, has led to people concentrating around cities. It is time for all of us including the law makers, nutritionists, civil engineers, architects, industrialists, businessmen, farming scientists, to realize that just industrialization is not the progress. Something beyond that is required to lead a healthy and peaceful life in cities. Concerted efforts are to be planned and implemented in and around cities to grow healthy food, to nurture our nature and environment and so to keep the place livable for our children and future generations.

Terrace gardening as a type of urban farming is a simple but definite step towards increasing our green cover and is a more sustainable option for our food needs, irrespective of space restriction. It is with the basis/principle of 'Grow what you Eat and Eat what you Grow'. While the commercial viability of crop production is expected, the major targets seem to be fresh, safe and functional (organic) food (vegetables and fruits) required for a family or for local needs, to develop greenery and to reduce pollution in urban areas. It is also to have a space and place for physical exercise, to relax from pressures of urban living and to get the extraordinary pleasure of growing crops, to convert the household wet waste into compost to use for growing crops and having green natural ambience and surroundings to the dwelling place.

The Workshop is to provide basic understanding about the following

1. Need and necessity of urban farming
2. Concept of organic vegetables
3. Practices of growing vegetables in containers
4. Waste segregation and home composting
5. Safe grey water practices and recycling of domestic water for gardening
6. Plant care in container gardening

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Rajendra Hegde is a doctorate in Agricultural Entomology from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, specialized in integrated pest management. He has worked at various capacities, involving in both urban and rural agriculture activities, in corporate as well as development sectors. With 20 years of experience behind, he has published 50 research/extension papers apart from many popular articles.

He is one of the founder Trustees of Garden City Farmers (GCF) and closely worked with Dr. B.N.Vishwanath, who pioneered Organic Urban Foodscapes and Terrace Gardening in the Country. He is actively involved in promotion of Urban Gardening through various activities. He is part of the Workshops and other promotional activities of Organic Terrace Gardening in Bengaluru since 2005. At GCF, the OFYT-Oota from your Thota (Food from your Garden) is being organized quarterly since 2011 to promote urban farming and to organize materials for terrace garden farming.

Presently he is a consultant at IDF- Initiatives for Development Foundation, Bengaluru, which is into promotion of sustainable and ecofriendly agriculture practices among less privileged small and marginal farmers through various interventions.

He is one of the Co-founders of Biological Research Innovation Centre and Solutions LLP (BRICS LLP, www.bricsbio.com) at Bengaluru which is into Safe grey water concepts, botanical pesticides along with organic farming, container gardening and so on.