

Regenerative Agriculture with Jairo Restrepo

A 6 day course 29th June - 4th July 2017

Ragmans Lane Farm, Forest of Dean, Glos GL17 9PA

Limited residential option available

Synopsis

This course combines the theoretical and practical basis for [Jairo Restrepo's](#) Regenerative Agriculture. The main focus of Regenerative Agriculture is the health of the land and the quality of the food produced on the land. Jairo's teaching style makes clear the how and why of regenerating biological fertility and mineral agricultural soils; and how this enables the viable production of healthy food that is affordable to consumers and profitable for farmers. His methods allow farmers to disengage from a dependence on external inputs.

The course has a very practical approach including practical workshops and encouraging sharing between participants whilst providing an opportunity to reflect on the principles, objectives and strategies of Regenerative Agriculture.

The practical work covers production and application of organic fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, minerals, and micro-organisms (the 'wines' and 'flours' of Regenerative Agriculture) with a focus on producing these from locally available resources.

Examples from Jairo's work provide the evidence base for successful transition from conventional approaches to an organic agriculture approach.

Who should attend:

Farmers and independent small-scale growers, food producers, food retailers, technicians, students. Anyone interested in sustainable rural development and environmental protection; and students, experienced growers and technicians looking to update and acquire 'new' knowledge and methodologies for promoting sustainable development in rural areas.

For a You Tube video on Regenerative Agriculture with English subtitles click [here](#).

Course Objectives

After the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify the principles, objectives and basic strategies of Regenerative Agriculture.
- Discuss the process of transition from a conventional approach to an Regenerative Agriculture approach, taking into consideration the conditions and the state of the resources, time and space available.
- Identify opportunities to adopt a practical transition to Regenerative Agriculture in different areas.
- Recognise the factors and resources available/needed for applying Regenerative Agriculture principles
- Encourage and support the sharing of such information with other farmers/growers, e.g. via campesina

- Share appropriate practical tools and methodologies for sharing knowledge about Regenerative Agriculture

Course Outline:

- * Introduction: A vision to rescue agriculture. More than 30 years of the farmer's movement in Latin America and the tools that have been used.
- * Crop nutrition as a tool to prevent pests and diseases.
- * Theory and practice of trophobiosis.
- * Regeneration of our soils. The concept of the 3 M's
- * Using rock flour for re-mineralization
- * How to make adapted bio-fertilizers
- * Hot and cold mineral broths
- * Plant protection and stimulating plant health
- * Quick to build new floor (Bokashi) Composting
- * Reducing the use of copper
- * Seed protection
- * The role of micro-organisms in soil and plants
- * The use of micro-organisms for the regeneration of soil fertility
- * The use of micro-organisms for combating pests and diseases
- * How to identify which micro-organisms are essential for our crops
- * How to produce native micro-organisms
- * The course also includes 2 days on Chromatography

Please note: this course will be delivered in Spanish with a translator

THEORETICAL CONTENT

- Regenerative Farming: the being and knowing, doing and having
- Basic principles of ecology and bio-geochemical cycles, chains and food webs and their interactions with organic production
- History of agriculture over time and modernization
Industrialized agriculture: impacts and environmental, socioeconomic, cultural, health, education crisis, etc.
- Agriculture: holistic, systemic, biological and energetic approach.
- Principles, objectives and strategies of organic agriculture.
- Eco-evolution between insects and plants in their environment.
- Nutritional balance of plants and plant protection mechanism. Relationship: soil-plant-insect-climate (Principles of trophobiosis).

- Life in the soil, conservation and recovery.
- Importance of organic matter in soils and green manure in organic production.
- Calculations of nutrients in organic materials for agricultural production.
- Retrieving 'climate identity'.
- Organic production and inputs, costs and benefits.
- Processes of transition from conventional farming to regenerative farming techniques and some design considerations for the production of organic production systems.
- Development of sustainable livestock systems associated with organic vegetable production.
- Manure handling and facilities for animals: pigs, cattle, worm, goats, poultry, etc.
- How to maximize the collection and management of manures, fertilizers for high quality flour enriched rocks
- Opportunities and challenges to be overcome to develop criteria for a program of regenerative farming.
- Personal and specific experiences of organic production in Latin America and Europe.
- The reality of marketing and consumption of organic production worldwide.
- "Certification, a new colonial tax".
- The nutritional quality and consumption of organic production.
- The moon and its influence on agriculture.

PRACTICAL CONTENT

Key to Jairo Restrepo's Regenerative Agriculture success are organic fertilisers, 'broths' and 'wines'. This course will demonstrate how to prepare these inputs using local resources, usage and application of these products.

Preparation of fermented fertilizers:

- How to make them
- How to apply
- How to preserve
- How to speed up your development
- How to improve quality

- The functions of each ingredient
- Possible replacements for some of the ingredients

Development of nutritional mineral broths and applications for nutrition and disease control.

How to build a bio-fermenter of micronutrients and minerals

- Development of bio-fertilisers (chelates) with minerals, implementation and maintenance
- Use of waste trails - manure and rumen contents
- Calculating nutrition

Building local micro-organism production

- Micro-organisms in a wild forest
- Preparation and breeding
- Application forms and conservation of micro organisms

Calcium, building bones and preparing phosphates

- Calcination of bones
- Preparing phosphates from rice husks (mortar)

Jairo Restrepo is a champion of peasant farming, offering a radical and political approach to growing food and sustainable care of the land. Throughout the course he will incorporate ideas around

- the loss of biodiversity and the kidnapping of seeds.
- the importance of solidarity and common ground.
- sustainability and human development projects.
- The impacts of welfarism and paternalism project.
- Biocolonialism through regenerative farming.

Note - the use of the term organic in this document refers to natural substances/systems. Jairos work is also known around the world as '*Organic Agriculture*', this is not the same as certificated organic farming systems.