Reg. No: EIA-PT 13444/07

STRAWBERRY FIELDS ECOLODGE, [SFEL] KONSO, ETHIOPIA

72 HOUR PERMACULTURE CURRICULA [PDC]. 1 to 13 Dec. 2008.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Introduction to SFEL. Course outline, references, materials and housekeeping issues.
1.2 Why learn the Permaculture concept?
1.3 Historical background to Permaculture, worldwide, relationship with African indigenous agriculture and indigenous knowledge systems (IKS)
1.4 Characteristics, ethics and principles of Permaculture.

2.0 Ecosystems Blocks

2.1 Permaculture base is ecology.
2.2 Water cycle, mineral cycle, energy flow, cycle of matter, succession and limiting factors to energy flow.

3.0 Resource Assessment

3.1 Why resource assessment
3.2 Water management and harvesting techniques, A-Frame construction and practicals.

4.0 Principles of Design

4.1 Procedures skills and techniques.
4.2 Observations, sectors, zones, deductions, maps, etc.
4.3 Taking advantage of different macro-climates in design.
4.4 Reduction of risks, energy use and selection of appropriate plant and other elements to implement on the design.
4.5 Observing different microclimates and creating various microclimates.

5.0 Soils

5.1 Traditional soil classification.
5.2 Observation of various soils and relates plant and animal life.
5.3 Types of soil erosion damage and types of soil repair.
5.4 Water in relationship to soil and soil rehabilitation.

6.0 Plants Uses in Permaculture

6.1 Nurseries propagation methods theory and practice.
6.2 Plants multiple functions in Permaculture design.
6.3 Forests and guilds as air-conditioners, food, diggers, mulches, windbreaks, etc.
6.4 Designing food forests by mimicking natural forest.

7.0 Nature Patterns

7.1 Creating highly productive designs/landscapes by integrating nature patterns e.g. spirals, linear circles, etc.

8.0 Productive Landscapes/ Designs

8.1 World climatic zones, appropriate and situational approach for the designer.
8.2 IKS of soils, water use and nutrients have always been sustainable.

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8.3 Homebuilding and sitting with productive landscape, comfort, health, energy consumption in mind.
8.4 Food gardens for the city and countryside.
8.5 Keeping water and soil in productive state and developing self-sufficiency.
8.6 Orchards as chemically food forests. Protective fertilizers, firewood species in the food forests. Use of small animals in food forests; chickens, ducks, turkeys, bees, guinea fowls, guinea pigs, and pigs.
8.7 Alley cropping and integrating large animals like cattle and game.
8.8 Dry land farming techniques- principles of erosion control – strategies, bunds, minimum till, port-holing, tied ridges, tied furrows, mulch farming, mixed and intercropping, etc.
8.8 Natural forests creation for provision of firewood, oils, dyes, bark, incomes, etc
8.9 Conserving remnant forests to build up corridors and various ways of promoting their growth.

9.0 Productivity and Sustainability

9.1 Weed management to acceptable levels.
9.2 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – insect classification, structure and life cycle. Role of predators.
9.3 Vegetable and herb gardens – mandala garden design and construction, keyhole beds, organic materials and mulches.
9.4 Aquaculture production systems- fish, plants water plants, tortoise, etc.
9.5 Designing for natural disasters – drought, fire, war, storms, floods, etc so that the landscape recovers speedily.
9.6 Waste disposal-effluent systems animal waste, manure. Recycling pruning timber and composting.
9.7 Biotechnology and its effects today including GMO information.

10.0 Self-sufficiency

10.1 Building self-sufficient communities:-country skills e.g. weaving, crafts, small scale excess food packaging and processing
10.2 Ethical investments
10.3 Access to production base, the Land for the disadvantaged members of the community and legal protection for land ownership.
10.4 Preparing management and development action plans including monitoring and evaluation for the Permaculture design.