



Farming the City 2021

A People's Convention on Urban Agriculture in India

April 16-18, 2021

Call for Participation

People's Resource Centre (PRC), in collaboration with the **Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS)** and with technical support from **Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP)**, **IIT Delhi** are organising the second edition of the annual convention on urban agriculture (UA) on April 16-18, 2021:

- ❖ To continue and build on the discourse initiated by Farming The City-2020, with an increased focus on social and ecological issues. This will include discussion on the degradation of the urban and global environment, food sovereignty and food security, public health, waste, the role of women, labourers, and land use.
- ❖ To update ongoing debates on urban agriculture by bringing together UA practitioners, community organisers, researchers, and other stakeholders
- ❖ To further expand the Urban Agriculture Community

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

Expected Activities

- ❖ Panel discussions
- ❖ Talks and informative lectures
- ❖ 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, or paintings/photo exhibition on any of the themes listed below:

Themes

- A. **Framing the farming:** ideating UA particularly in relation with food-energy-waste linkages, climate change, infrastructure, livelihood and meaningful work, sustainable farming using methods like agroecology, gender, policy, social ecology, decentralised participatory governance, local self-reliance, right to the city and other liberatory ideas of city, and working-class solidarity.
- B. **Rural-urban divide:** Growing distance and alienation between producers i.e. farmers and the consumers i.e. city dwellers, commodification of food in relation to the ongoing farmers' movement; urban agriculture as a radical political activity.
- C. **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 and natural resources, with special attention to riverfront development projects.
- D. **Changing the map of the city:** Focusing on interlinkages between development projects aimed at the concretisation and restructuring of the city like riverfront projects, expressways, Ganga pathway, etc. and its effect on urban agriculture, ecology, and communities.
- E. **UA as a means to food sovereignty:** Making a case for greater localization of urban food system against corporate control, culturally and ecologically appropriate food.
- F. **Conceptual debates:** Connecting UA to concepts like urban commons, production of space, collective memory and amnesia, etc.
- G. **UA and the making of future cities:** contrasting the concepts of technocratic 'smart city' and 'global city' with a humanistic 'self-reliant city' or 'ecological city'.
- H. **Rising for the farming city:** forging alliances, building solidarities with ongoing farmer movement, the urban agriculture community and expanding the scope of urban agriculture to include aquaculture, fisheries and cooperatively organised agricultural markets and supply chains.
- I. Any other topic of your choice that may relate UA with other topics

Submission guideline

- The writings and the audio can be in any language, but the participants presenting in languages

other than Hindi/English are kindly requested to provide a Hindi/English translation of full or summarised presentation.

- The word limit for a full (research/discussion/case studies) paper is 5000 words. To accommodate more and diverse presentations, the maximum duration of films is 30 minutes.
- Please send your full papers/films/presentations by March 20, 2021, to **prc.india@yahoo.com**. Please write '**submission**' in the subject line.
- For any queries, please write to **prc.india@yahoo.com** with 'Query regarding Farming The City' in the subject line.

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

Organizers

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.

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.

Technical Support

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 postgraduate and undergraduate levels. Projects are done in collaboration with associated departments and centres at IIT Delhi, government departments, industry and international agencies.