

**18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SHORTCOURSE**

Special Focus:

**Pathways to Resilience: an agroecological approach**

Organized and Coordinated by:

**The Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC) at the University of Vermont  
and the Community Agroecology Network (CAN)**

**Place:** The University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, U.S.A.

**Date:** July 31 – August 10, 2017

**Description**

Agroecology offers crucial tools for farmers, advocates and planners to transform food systems for sustainability and resilience. The 18th Annual Agroecology Shortcourse will deepen participants' understanding of agroecology's dimensions as a science, practice and movement, with a focus on applications of resilience approaches at local, regional, and international scales. Livelihood frameworks and participatory processes are presented as foundational complements to agroecological principles, which address the complex challenges and power dynamics facing and influencing land managers and social movements in their transition toward sustainability and resilience.

Set within Vermont's vibrant, local food and agriculture system, a dynamic and international teaching team will guide diverse participants through holistic, systems-level approaches to cultivating resilient agrifood systems around the globe. The field of agroecology continues to grow and evolve, and can provide a viable alternative to meet the increasingly complex challenges and questions posed by the intersections of agriculture, livelihoods and environmental health. We present a transdisciplinary approach to understanding the livelihood and ecological dynamics in developing and developed countries from around the world.

**Course Dynamic and Pedagogy**

This course is a 11-day intensive experience in which participants learn, live, collaborate and work each day from breakfast through evening programming. A dynamic and participatory course design balances applied and conceptual work through a transdisciplinary, participatory action research (PAR) approach. Learning modules range from basic agroecological principles to resilience frameworks, and food system transformation. Presentations and facilitated discussions by the core teaching team are complemented by invited specialists, group discussions on assigned readings, hands-on field activities, individual and group presentations, and field trips to local farms and training programs. Participants will receive key texts, bibliographies, and publications in the field of agroecology both in advance and during the duration of the course. This course draws a powerful group of participants from diverse geographies and professional backgrounds, with shared interests in transforming the food system for sustainability, equity and

resilience.

### **Instructors**

This year the course is organized through a partnership between the Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC-<https://www.uvm.edu/agroecology/>), led by Dr. Ernesto Méndez at the University of Vermont, and Dr. Stephen Gliessman and Dr. Rose Cohen from the Community Agroecology Network (<http://www.canunite.org/>). These two groups will provide core instruction for the course, and will be joined by instructors, practitioners and others from our extensive network of educators, trainers, and activists in agroecology and food systems.

### **Eligibility**

We encourage participation from anyone working for change in food systems in Vermont, the U.S. and around the world – whether you are a farmer, teacher, researcher, agricultural professional or representative from governmental or non-governmental organizations, colleges and universities, private institutions or communities. If you are interested in teaching and training in agroecology, the promotion of sustainable agriculture and/or learning and visioning how to transform our food system, you are an appropriate applicant. Enrollment is limited to 25 non-credit, and 15 for-credit participants, for a total enrollment of 40 participants. Instruction and discussion will occur in English, so a working knowledge of English is required for participation.

### **Dates**

July 31st-August 10th, 2017. July 30th is reserved for arrival arrangements to Burlington. To note: dinner and room arrangements will begin on Monday, July 31st. We will formally begin the course on the morning of July 31st, after breakfast. We will conclude the course on the evening of Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> with a closing ceremony. Breakfast will be provided on August 11<sup>th</sup>, along with transportation to the airport.

### **Requirements for Admission**

Interested candidates should fill out this [application form](#). **We will receive applications until the course is filled (40 participants).** Participants will be notified of their acceptance within 2 weeks of submitting a full application. Fees are due upon acceptance (see the deadlines below). Upon completion of the full program of the course, participants will be granted a Certificate of Participation. Please send any additional questions to Claire Wiggin, Course Coordinator, and email them to: [agroecol@uvm.edu](mailto:agroecol@uvm.edu).

### **Fees/Accommodation Options**

The course fee is comprehensive, including all course & lecture materials, expenses for food and lodging (accommodations are either single or double rooms, and three meals per day), field trips and administrative fees. Nights covered start on Monday, July 31st and go through Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. **Fees do not include airfare or stays for the period before and/or after the course.**

**Fee structure**

<b>Applications received by May 31, 2017 Fees received by June 15, 2017</b>	Single occupancy room, meals included	No housing, meals included
Developed country resident	\$2100.00	\$1700.00
Developing country resident	\$1800.00	\$1400.00

\* We will accept these packages until the enrollment reaches 40 participants.

**Scholarships**

We have done our best to control costs for the Shortcourse to make it accessible to all participants. Although we are currently seeking funding for scholarships, at this time we are not able to offer any type of financial assistance to course participants. If your application is scholarship-dependent, please indicate this in your application. We also encourage applicants to seek other sources of funding, and we can write letters of support for this process.

**Payment**

Participants should pay course fees by the dates indicated by bank check or money order in US dollars payable through a United States bank to: **The University of Vermont** and mailed to: **ALC/Mendez**, 117 Jeffords Hall-University of Vermont, 63 Carrigan Drive, Burlington, VT 05405. Let us know by email if you would prefer to pay by electronic wire transfers. Questions regarding the course can be emailed to [agroecol@uvm.edu](mailto:agroecol@uvm.edu).

**Visas**

If you are coming from abroad and require a visa to enter the United States and attend the Shortcourse, it is very important that you check requirements and visa processes for the US embassy in your country as soon as possible (please see <http://travel.state.gov/visa/>). Please advise us in your application if you will require a visa. Once you are accepted into the Shortcourse, we can provide you with an official invitation letter and other materials to support your visa application. We suggest you apply for a visa *before May 10th* to ensure you will have it in time for your travel to the United States.

**For More Information**

Information on the Shortcourse will be continuously updated here:

**Non-Credit:** <https://www.uvm.edu/agroecology/> and

**For Credit:** <http://professional.uvm.edu/learn-more/agroecology> .

If you have questions, please email Claire Wiggin, the 2017 Shortcourse Coordinator, at [agroecol@uvm.edu](mailto:agroecol@uvm.edu).

**We are Grateful to Our Supporters:** UVM Environmental Program, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, UVM Food Systems Graduate Program, UVM Food Systems Initiative, UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UVM Department of Plant and Soil Science, and The Lintilhac Foundation