



In collaboration with the Associazione per l'Agricoltura Biodinamica Sezione Toscana (Tuscan Chapter of the Association for Biodynamic Agriculture), Agrifound, Gruppo Amico Bio, Rete Semi Rurali, Istituto Internazionale Life Beyond Tourism (International Institute Life Beyond Tourism) and the Museo Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco (Museum of the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation), APAB organizes the first edition of a Summer School in Agroecology.

This year the Summer School in Agroecology offers a curriculum of two weeks, with two tracks of specialization. The first track will focus on the genetic selection of seeds of high nutritional quality. The second track will focus on enhancing the fertility of soils through biodynamic agriculture. Students will work with internationally renowned experts in the best farms and experimental fields. The school's aim is to encourage acquisition of quality skills and knowledge of procedures to create a class of experts and active agents who will improve agricultural practices, the management of companies and engaged research.

First week

School of engaged genetic selection for the seeds of the future

Traditional seeds and new agriculture

Florence and Pisa

10-17 July 2017

With Salvatore Ceccarelli (Honorary Fellow Bioversity International Freelance Consultant), Stefano Benedettelli (University of Florence), Riccardo Bocci (Rete Semi Rurali/ Diversifood Project) and Stefania Gualando (ICRISAT International Research Crop Institute for Semiarid Tropics).

Through the selection and improvement of agricultural genetics, students will learn to work to achieve the genetic enhancement of traditional seeds, to adapt them to modern agroecology.

The objective is to know how to obtain various high value seeds in terms of: quality and food safety, efficiency and adaptment to agricultural work, and in climate and environmental change.

Second week

Management of the agricultural farm and biodynamic agriculture

Recovery and improvement of soils in viticulture, horticulture, and cereal crops

Florence, Caserta and Naples

17 July - 24 July 2017

With Carlo Triarico (President of the Association for Biodynamic Agriculture), Cesare Pacini (University of Florence), Michele Lorenzetti (Enologist), Adriano Zago (Enologist), Fabio Primavera (Agronomist), Enrico Amico (Gruppo Amico Bio), Laura Isolani (Agronomist), Valentina Vignini (Agronomist), Bridgette Olsen (Expert) Raffaella Pergamo (CREA Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi in economia agraria)

PER INFO E ISCRIZIONI: virginia.ricci@apab.it

VISITA IL SITO: www.apab.it/summerschool2017

General Information

The course is intensive and lasts two weeks. It will be held at companies, educational institutes and research institutes. For each week the trips that take place during the course, 14 meals, and 7 overnight stays with breakfast included are covered by the tuition fee.

At the end of the course each student will receive a certificate in: "Specialization in agroecology: engaged genetic selection and biodynamic management of soils."

The two week course is an integrated educational package. It is possible to attend only one week of the course, for particular educational requirements. In this case the student will receive a certificate to reflect their effective participation. The course begins in Florence, where arriving students will be welcomed Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

The Summer School is open to anyone interested in the topics discussed in the courses (farmers, farm owner, students of agriculture or anybody interested)

Costs:

Total cost of enrollment for two weeks: 4,200 euro (400 enrollment, 3,800 tuition)

Cost for one week: 2,300 (400 enrollment, 1,900 tuition)

Last day to enroll: 5 July 2017

For enrollment and payments contact: virginia.ricci@apab.it

First week: Participatory Plant Breeding

Day	Topics
1	<p>Introduction: The problems of the planet – Seeds are central – The monopoly of food, seed and pesticides – The modern age's diseases – Agriculture, Food and Health – Smart Food</p> <p>Definitions: Biodiversity – Agro Biodiversity – Germplasm (Gene Banks) – Varieties and Species – Pure Line, Clones, Hybrids - F_1 and F_2 – Genes and Chromosomes – Genotype and Phenotype – Plant Breeding – Biotechnologies – Genetically modified crops (GE crops)</p> <p>Plant reproduction (where the seeds come from?): Differences between cross-pollinated, self-pollinated and vegetatively propagated crops – how to make a cross – Differences between F_1 and F_2</p>
2	Elements of genetics – Elements of agricultural statistics – Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB): how to organize it, the science of PPB (data collection, data analysis), examples from past and running projects, results (1)
3	Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB): how to organize it, the science of PPB (data collection, data analysis), gender and PPB, examples from past and running projects, results (cont.) Seed Laws
4	Field Visit (an PPB experiment)
5	Evolutionary Plant Breeding – Populations and Mixtures – The science of Evolutionary Plant Breeding - How to use mixtures and populations (population management and selection)
6	Seed Laws Baking with traditional grain flour

Second week: Management of the agricultural company and biodynamic agriculture Recovery and improvement of soils in viticulture, horticulture, and cereal crops

Day	Topics
1	Introduction: the biodynamic agricultural method for soil improvement in viticulture horticulture and cereal crops
2	Biodynamic Viticulture: implementation of the method in Italy and abroad
3	Researches in agroecology (at the university farm in Florence) Implementation of the biodynamic method in Tuscany (at a biodynamic farm)
4	Importance of the use of biodynamic preparations in the agricultural organism
5	Biodynamic horticulture (at a biodynamic horticultural farm of Naples)
6	Researches and future prospects in biodynamic agriculture. CREA (Research Institute for agriculture and analysis in agricultural economics)

Plant Breeding with Farmers

Salvatore Ceccarelli

Rete Semi Rurali



Rete Semi Rurali is the Italian Seed Network established in November 2007, based in Scandicci (FI) and having 38 member associations

