

FAMU StateWide Small Farm Programs, PGG, Local Small Farmers, and Community Collaborators have worked together to provide this important capacity building session focusing on **Agroecology, principles and implementation for Sustainable Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems.**

Critical times require critical knowledge, skill and change. This 2015 Sustainable Development Session will address the following:

The crisis of industrial Agriculture

- Impacts of transgenic crops/GMO crops and the effects of glyphosate on agriculture and environment.
- How to “learn from nature” - Agroecology: concepts and principles,
 - Successful agroecological strategies for building biodiversity.
 - How to suppress pest, pathogens and weeds with ecological methods,
 - Which organisms should we encourage in our farms and gardens - examining key roles and functions in soil fertility and plant protection –
 - How to enhance soil quality adding organic matter and enhancing soil biological activity.
- How to transition farms from monocultures to diversified farms that produce a variety of crops without depending on external inputs (crop-livestock mixtures, agroforestry systems, polycultures, etc.)

Sustainable Farming Systems - Redesign

- Agroecological strategies that enable healthy sustainable thriving farms and gardens,
- Discover how to know if your farm is healthy and what to do to make it more sustainable - Assessing the sustainability of farms,
- Discover how to prepare your farm/garden to resist and recover from extreme weather events such as drought, heavy storms, - Agroecology and climate change, etc.

Participants will:

- Gain Knowledge about the principles of agroecology and their application for the design of biodiverse, productive and resilient farms
- Discover soil enhancing techniques: Bokashi, organic soil management, composting, compost teas, green manures, cover crops, etc,

- Examine ecologically based pest management techniques (biological pest control, crop diversification, rotations etc) and agroecological conversion strategies (how to go from monocultures
- Gain methods to assess and strengthen sustainability of farms, gardens and local food sovereignty.