



Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute

(Registered under The Societies Registration Act XXI and the Bombay Public Trust Act of 1950)

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Center for Sustainable Development (CSD)

In today's materialistic world, greed is one of the most crippling diseases that society suffers from. For this reason Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) a nonprofit organization situated in rural Maharashtra, has decided to setup a center with a difference. The aim of the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) is to create an environment where high technology in agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable development together with holistic living are taught and practiced with the vision of creating a model society. The motto of the center will be sustainability and simplicity and the theme will be to promote simple living and high thinking.

The major difference between this sustainable center and other existing centers will be the central role of technology within its philosophy. The implementation of ecologically friendly technologies, such as solar power, power generation from biomass, rainwater harvesting, together with organic agriculture and internet will be a part of the working, teaching and research practices of the CSD. In the past technological development and holistic living have been considered as incompatible and this is a view that the CSD will aim to rectify. The focus of the center will be to create a model whereby a simple, satisfying and suitable life style could be produced from the land. Thus the focus will be to optimally produce food, fuel and fertilizer from the same piece of land with the use of best tools of science and technology. These products will then be used to power a life style, which is holistic.

NARI has done pioneering work in developing technologies for sustainable development. Besides it has developed a new paradigm of development, which is, based on the principle that spirituality, sustainability and technology go hand in hand. Recently a book on this subject has been published by NARI. (<http://education.vsnl.com/nimbkar/thought.html>). All these ideas will form the basis on which this center will work. The center will have lectures, discourses and discussions from leading experts in the area of agriculture, renewable energy, sustainable development and holistic living. This will be coupled with actual hands on experience on sustainable technologies being developed and used at NARI.

The participants in this program will be individuals who will be agents of change. Thus they will be CEOs of companies, technologists and NGO leaders who will be able to blend high technology and spirituality. It is hoped that they will try to use and implement the information learned in the program in their organization. The center will be a fully residential place and we hope to have maximum participant strength of 30. The courses/workshop will be of a week's duration. The details are enclosed.

We are looking for funding for the center from philanthropic and other organizations. The amount required is about **Rs. 100 lakhs** for buildings and initial working capital to start the center. Subsequently the fees and agricultural produce will help it run on a sustainable basis. **We welcome contributions of any amount for the center. The contributions from profit making companies are 125% tax deductible (for the rest 100% tax exempt) under section 35(i)(ii) of I.T.Act.** They can be sent to the address listed on the letterhead.