

EARTH DAY

22nd April 2016

Organized by



SAFE

South Asian Forum for Environment



THE AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

In partnership with



EARTH DAY NETWORK



BITM, Kolkata

Occasion	:	EARTH DAY
Date	:	22nd April 2016
Time	:	10AM - 1:30PM
Venue	:	The Agri-Horticultural Society of India , 1No. Alipore Road. Kolkata
Topic for the Event	:	Tree above treeline: Urban gardening workshop with gen-next

With seven billion mouths to feed, human agriculture and gardening exerts a tremendous toll on the planet especially given to the growing population, urbanization, pollution, energy use and consequently habitat loss.

Every nook and corner of India is a clear display of increasing population. According to the Indian census carried out in 2011, India has already crossed the 1-billion mark. This increasing population has given rise to the need for basic amenities like habitation and food.

Further, according to a survey by UN State of the World Population report in 2007, by 2030, 40.76% of country's growing population is expected to reside in urban areas. Consequently, a plethora of high rise buildings have come up as one of the ways to accommodate people leading to a large scale deforestation and shortage of space for agriculture and gardening.



Dr. Sukanta Biswas in between the training session with school students



Students receiving training from Mr. S. L. Rahman, Joint Secretary, AHSI

Other benefits of urban farming include adding greenery to cities, reducing harmful runoff, increasing shading, and countering the unpleasant heat island effect. Rooftop and patio gardens create peaceful places for relaxation or contemplation, and they can attract tourists, urban farming can bring jobs to underserved and depressed urban areas.

Given to the momentum the mentioned change has gained over time, this growing concern needs immediate attention to counter the consequent and inevitable climate change and resulting environmental impact. The growing set of solutions includes organic agriculture to urban gardening, the horticultural techniques whose benefits are still to be widely recognized and explored by the masses and especially the young generation.



Ongoing plantation training workshop at AHSI

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Therefore, on the occasion of International Earth Day, South Asian Forum for Environment-SAFE in collaboration with The Agri-Horticultural Society of India and in partnership with Birla Industrial & Technology Museum, BITM & Earth Day International Network organized a workshop with the following objectives in mind:

- *The objective to preserve the urban micro-environment and create learning opportunities for the urban youth with innovation.*
- *Urban gardening green coefficient only brings low water intensive concrete greenery that reduces heat radiation and urban emission.*

Participants: School Children from Sarat Chandra Pal Girls High School; Representative from a Nursery

The 'Tree above treeline', workshop included crucial parameters of specific plant selection for urban gardening, basic nursery and horticulture techniques, that makes your concrete space green helping to reduce the heat island effect. An additional gain was a tour of the Agri-Horticultural Garden by the specialists. The expert panelists for the workshop included:

1. Introduction by : Mr. Chiranjeet Chatterjee, Program Director, SAFE
2. Key note : Nirupom Sen, Secretary-cum-CEO, AHSI
3. Technical session : Dr. SK Basu, AHSI; Mr. Nirupam Sen
4. Gardening skills : Dr. Sukanta Biswas

We gratefully thank the Agri-horticulture Society of India, AHSI for giving the hands on training and the outfield learning by doing helped the students develop keen interest on plants and nourished their sensitivity towards environment.

SAFE acknowledges our partners Birla Industrial Technological Museum, BITM, & Earth Day Network International, for your consistent support and partnership.

Reported by-

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Students after the plantation workshop



The entire team of AHSI, SAFE and Sarat Chandra Paul Girls' High School



SAFE

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