

NATURAL FARMING CENTER
KLISOHORI, Municipality of Edessa, 2nd Km of the road Edessa-Aridea
(Across from the nursing home)
Tel 011-30-23810-27312

The Natural Farming Center was created in 1998 by a group of volunteers who organized seedings in Greece to revegetate the bare mountains of the country. It is located in Klisohori, two kilometers from the city of Edessa, and is housed in a 5,500 square meter site.

Aims of the Natural Farming Center:

1. Establishment of natural farms and gardens in Greece, the Balkans, and in third world countries.
2. Seeding for the revegetation of the whole Mediterranean region.
3. Establishment of natural farms and vegetable gardens in the Balkans.
4. Practical classes on natural farming for the pupils of the Elementary and Secondary Education.

Natural farming is a method of farming in which we do not use fertilizers and pesticides, we do not till the soil no weeding is done. Masanobu Fukuoka, the man who has inspired this method, a farmer philosopher and ex plant pathologist calls it do nothing farming.

Natural farming differs radically both from scientific chemical farming And organic or biological or traditional farming because it has as a philosophical starting point the view that nature is perfect in contrast with human knowledge which is imperfect and limited. The basic aim for the natural farmer is to serve Nature, to create a fertile soil then strong, healthy plants and last to be rewarded economically. It has a holistic point of view and is based on intuitional nondiscriminating knowledge.

Nowadays, natural farming has reached the point of greatest simplicity. We can establish farms, revegetate barren hills and mountains and deserts, change the earth into a great paradise, just by covering seeds with clay and making clay balls. We sow a big variety of more than a 100 kinds of seeds of forest and fruit trees, vegetables, grains and green manure plants, before the rainy season spring starts (Autumn-Spring). We sow a big variety in order to create harmony and solve the problem of diseases and insect pests.

NATURAL FARMS

Today even the defenders of chemical scientific farming have recognized the fact that it has completely failed.

The promising Green Revolution not only did not solve the problem of the hunger in the world, but on the contrary it has made it worse by destroying and desertifying enormous stretches of land. At the same time, the heavy application of pesticides and fertilizers polluted irreparably the underground and the surface waters, the seas, the rivers, the air and poisoned the health of human beings. Last it has failed even on an economical level leading to the shrinking of the agricultural population. It is responsible for the extinction of the small farmers and has established agribusiness. The cost of production skyrockets, the price of the products remains very low and the small farmers are dying.

Natural farming has zero cost of production spends no energy practically, does not use machinery, chemicals etc. and therefore the farmer has profit no matter what the prices are. Moreover the fertility of the soil increases constantly and the productivity of the land as well. On the contrary the application of chemical farming creates deserts and the land is abandoned. Ten

million hectares of land yearly comes unsuitable for farming due to the high concentration of salts from the heavy application of fertilizers and irrigation.

Natural farming is the only answer to the problems accumulated because of chemical farming. It respects the environment, and man, contributes to the improvement of the soil and does not consume energy.

Seedings for the revegetation of the Mediterranean region

The efforts for the revegetation of the Mediterranean region is a strategy for the creation of a green barrier from Portugal up to Iran-Iraq in order to check the expansion of the desert to the rest of Europe.

Soil erosion, floods, landslides, lowering of the underground water, decrease of the oxygen in the atmosphere, gradual increase of the temperature of the planet and change of fertile land into deserts, is the price for the "forest being lost". The expansion of the deserts becomes more and more a serious threat all over the world. As Fukuoka says, "While standing in an American desert; I suddenly realized that rain does not fall from the heavens; it issues forth from the ground. Deserts are not born because there is no rain; rather rain ceases to fall because the vegetation has disappeared. Building a dam in the desert is an attempt to treat the symptoms of the disease, but is not a strategy for increasing rainfall. First we have to learn how to restore the ancient forests.

The efforts for revegetation started in 1993 from a group of volunteers and up to 1998 we organized successful seedings though on a small scale. **In** 1998 we organized a big seeding over an area of 5000 hectares near the Lake Vegoritis.

Unfortunately we could not protect the place from the sheep and goats and the seeding has failed. Nevertheless, the last two years we sowed with very good results 1000 hectares on the mountains around Athens. Small seedings have also been organized in Portugal, Spain, Italy, India, China, Tanzania, and other countries.

Establishment of Natural Farms and vegetable gardens in the Balkans.

One of the basic activities of the Natural Farming Center is the establishment of natural farms and vegetable gardens in the countries of the Balkan region, and in third world countries, aiming at the self-sufficiency in food of the people who have been suffering all these years due to the war and the political turmoil. Humanitarian aid is not the answer to the problem of food and self-sufficiency will be a decisive step for the establishment of peace.

In the very sensitive Balkan region where war and bombardments dealt a heavy blow on the environment, polluting irreparably soil, air and underground and surface waters, affecting the health of the people of this generation and the generations to come. An agriculture based on pesticides, chemical fertilizers and genetically modified seeds will deal the final blow to it.

On a national level, all the countries, if they adopt chemical agriculture they will not be in a position to have their own agricultural policy and their products will not be competitive since chemical agriculture is based on petroleum.

At the same time, on a farmers' level the modern tendency for agribusiness will lead to the disappearance of small farms, millions of farmers will be without land, to the mercy of unemployment and hunger and the governments will have to face the problem of social unrest that will take place as a result.

The Natural Farming Center, in the context of the establishment of natural farms and vegetable gardens in the Balkans, and third world countries, will not only give emphasis to the applications of natural farming but gathers seeds of vegetables, grains and live stock plants in order to offer them free for the people of the Balkan countries.

The Balkan countries, having as a base the philosophical view of natural farming that All is One, whatever happens around us is of utmost importance to us, it is connected with survival itself and our quality of life, they should unite their efforts and being orientated to natural farming protect the environment, produce plenty of tasty and healthy product, become self-sufficient and establish peace.