



Echoes of Eco

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Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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Extracts from the book "Living in tune with Nature"

Abraham Lincoln's letter to a Headmaster

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States of America (1861 - 1865) is one of the World's great Statesmen for all time. His remarkable literary artistry, his profound sense of the importance of Government, by, for and of the people and the manner of his life and death, have carved for him a niche in history. Here is a letter written by Abraham Lincoln to the Headmaster of a school in which his own son was studying, a letter so typical of the man who bore malice towards none and had charity for all.

This letter will be read with interest by teachers and students as another new school year begins.

"He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, all men are not true. But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero; that for every selfish politician, there is a dedicated leader... Teach him that for every enemy there is a friend. It will take time, I know; but teach him, if you can, that a dollar earned is of far more value than Five found... Teach him to learn to lose...and also to enjoy winning.



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I do not desire for kingdom, heaven or end of rebirth. My only desire is that all those beings which are afflicted by misery be happy

- Shrimad Bhagvat



"When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to be heard in the purity of the silence"

- Sri Aurobindo



Steer him away from envy, if you can, teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest to lick... Teach him, if you can, the wonder of a book... but also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hillside".



**Teaching emotional awareness,
conflict management,
and social responsibility encourages
students to become better
human beings.**

"In school, teach him it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat... Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.....

Teach him to be gentle with gentle people, and tough with the tough.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the band wagon... wagon... Teach him to listen to all men...; but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth, and take only the good that comes through".

"Teach him, if you can, how to laugh when he is said... Teach him there is no shame in tears. Teach him to scoff at cynics and to beware of too much sweetness... Teach him to sell his brawn and brain to the highest bidders, but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul. Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob... and to stand and fight if he thinks he is right".

"Treat him gently, but do not cuddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel. Let him have the courage to be impatient...; let him have the patience to be brave. Teach him always to have sublime faith in himself, because then he will always have sublime faith in mankind".

"This is a big order, but see what you can do... He is such a fine little fellow, my son!".





"Our actual enemy is not any force exterior to ourselves, but our own crying weaknesses, our cowardice, our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our purblind sentimentalism"

- Sri Aurobindo



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture



Happenings this month:
Construction
technologies



Happenings this
month:
Holistic Health

Training programme on "Bio-pest repellent & Growth hormones" was held at Technology Resource Center on 7th April. 12 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Camp participants seeing the live model of Bio-pest repellents at J.C.Bose nursery

Training programme on "NPK rich Bio-manure preparation" was held at Technology Resource Center on 28th April. 07 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony and Smt.S.Premalatha were the resource persons.



Camp participants observing the grinding machine at J.C.Bose Nursery



Camp participants standing for a Universal prayer

Training programme on "Ferro-cement technology" was held at Technology Resource Center on 18th April. 26 members attended. Sri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

30 students from Vivekananda College visited J.C.Bose Nursery on 10th April. They learned different methods of farming technologies.



Students at our Vermi yard

Shri.Sreenath Pillai from SPJIMR, Mumbai attended Internship programme from 8th March to 6th April at our Green Rameswaram project.

Green health home worked for 5 days and treated 178 patients.

Workshop on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting Practices" was held at Technology Resource Center from 9th and 10th April. 47 Vaidyas attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



Dr. V.Ganapathy interacting with the Vaidyas



Shri.Suhas Joshi from Bayer India visited our Center on 18th and 19th April. He interacted with the staff and went round the campus to see various projects.

Shri.Pandiya Rajan from Gandigram University, Dindigul attended Internship programme from 5th March to 18th April at our Green Rameswaram project.



" The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught "

- Sri Aurobindo



Visions of Wisdom



Managing the Eco-system

"Man, like other organisms, is affected by the environment in which he lives, for no single living thing exists independently in Nature. The component of his ecosystems - light, air, water, soil, plants, animals, and man are closely linked, and any disturbance in one sets up a chain reaction that affects others. Man cannot afford deleterious chain reactions, not only because the resources of the earth are not inexhaustible, but also because the massive growth of the human population demands even more wisdom and skill in managing the resources we have. Man must pay careful attention to his ecosystem as a whole and hope to achieve an equilibrium that will allow his own survival"



Cow - Milk producing machine?

The Indian Dairy cow today ceases to be an individual with a personal name and idiosyncrasies, but is a milk producing machine with a number and year tag, rather like an industrious convict. And what of the famous Milch Breeds of India? The Gir, Red Sindhi, the Kankrej and others?

The best Gir herd in existence today is in Brazil. The next best is in Florida, USA. Why then do we call the Gir an Indian Breed? It is of great significance that the Government of Brazil feature the Gir cow in both its paper and metal currency. They even have a series of postage stamps featuring the noble characteristics of the Gir. Surely, if they find economic stability in the Gir, we could do the same. And yet, we persist in our foolish crossbreeding programme.

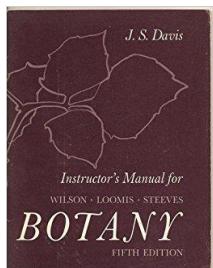
Different components of Integrated Farming System

- Field crops
- Crop production
- Vegetables
- Fruit cultivation
- Poultry farming
- Livestock integration
- Duckery
- Aquaculture
- Agroforestry
- Bee- keeping
- Mushroom cultivation
- Bio-gas plant



Desired Direction

Thus, farmyard manuring; composting of plant, animal and human wastes and their application on the fields to improve soil organic matter; culture of nitrogen-fixing algae, ferns and trees; excavation of ponds, in the drop-fields to capture the run off top soil and recycle it to the crop lands; creation of permanent forest belt in every village as the foster mother of agriculture; inter/mixed cropping; simultaneous algal culture, fish culture, poultry farming/duck breeding; wind mill for power for irrigation; desilting of rivers and deepening of canals and tree lining their banks; biogas plants in every household; generation of electricity in villages from solar ponds and by other devices; manufacture of solar cooker, solar heater and drier in the villages as cottage industries; dairy production; agro-industries and small industries for production by the masses for their own consumption - all these are related to the principles of recycling, symbiosis and antibiosis. These have the potential of providing full employment while improving the production base.



Wilson, Loomis & Steves
Authors of Botany Text book



S. A. R. Acharya
Former Director,
International Sarvodaya center,
Bangalore



Sailendranath Ghosh
Thinker, Writer and Technocrat