## IMPLEMENTING THE FUKUOKA'S NATURAL FARMING METHODOLOGIES

The innovative way of cultivation called Natural Farming, created by the legendary Japanese scientist <u>Masanobu Fukuoka</u> and based on clay pellets with minimum impact of man on nature, continues to be used and widespread in different parts of the world.

The <u>Natural Farming Center of Edessa</u> (Greece) is bringing its knowledge to the centres in Chile, Spain, Argentina and in other countries in order to apply this revolutionary way of cultivation. In particular, in the Valaparaiso region of Chile, the Centre of Agriculture and Natural Construction <u>Reverdeciendo</u> implements projects based on Natural Farming and teaches its principles through seminars and courses focused on urban agriculture.



In Spain, the Teaching Natural Farming <u>Granja Escuela La</u> <u>Ilusión</u>, (Alicante's region), realizes courses for young and notso-young people to test new cultivation systems with a smaller human impact. Both Chilean and Spanish centres, quite close to urban areas, try to apply the method in the abandoned outskirts.

The Natural Farming methodology is also promoted by the <u>Guerrila Gardening international movement</u>, who put the clay pellets into the areas to re-vegetate. In its website there are some interesting instructions to produce and use clay pellets.

Rainmarker Project is also using Natural Farming in Kenya. This project is run by a Japanese non-profit organization, the Yokohama Art Project. They are both fighting desertification and reforesting soils. The NGO staff and local people began scattering the clay balls in a one hectare semi-desert area and results were better than expected; not only did the seeds in the clay balls germinate, but also dormant native seeds were activated as a result of the environmental change. A second sowing was carried out in four areas, for a total of eight

hectares and sowing programs continued twice a year just before the rainy season.

In the past, the country where Fukuoka's principles have been more extensively applied is India. The <u>Rural Center in Rasulia</u> (Madhya Pradesh), with the scientific support of Partap Aggarwal, implemented the Natural Farming methodology from 1979 to 1987 in desertified lands, obtaining much better crops than the standard way, based on a chemical-assisted system. Similar results were achieved in India by <u>M.K.Kailash</u>



<u>Murthy</u> who after reading *the one straw revolution*, Fukuoka's masterpiece, turned his acres to Natural Farming, harvesting 3 tons per acre against 1.18 tons of his neighbour who used modern agricultural techniques.

The impressive results of the Uttar Pradesh experience in India were reported by FAO showing the impacting difference between the peas obtained by Natural Farming and those coming from conventional farming. The Indian experiences also show that applying Fukuoka's methodology is possible to reduce soil erosion, a problem as common in India as in many other countries.



## To know more

Natural Farming in Howtopedia

Edessa Natural Farming Center in facebook

Video on the Edessa's Centre

Natural Farming in New Zealand

Fukuoka Masanobu goes to India documentary

Guerrilla Gardening in facebook

Good Earth Centre

How to do clay seed balls

Permaculture and Natural Farming

One straw revolution website

FAO's publication on Organic Farming

The natural way of farming by Masanobu Fukuoka

Urban sustainability research group

Seedball website

**IDEASS Brochure on Natural Farming** 

