

AUROVILLE

ECOLOGICAL

HORTICULTURE

COURSE 

Contents

2.1 Fundamentals of Plant Maintenance

- Plantation and aftercare
- Composting – making and application
- Pest and disease control
- Pruning

2.2 Tool and Machinery

- How to maintain, sharpen and repair hand tools
- How to use and maintain power tools (chainsaw, strimmer, lawn mower and tractor)

2.3 Nursery Management and Plant Propagation

- Propagation through seeds, transplanting, cutting, layering and grafting
- Managing sapling stocks through the growing cycle
- Maintaining stock sheets
- Sales

2.4 Project Management Tools

- Report writing
- Photography
- Project planning
- Financial book keeping
- Site safety – General procedures in case of accidents and First Aid

2.5 Fundamentals of Biodiversity Conservation

- What is native and exotic?
- Why is there a need for plant conservation?
- Plant identification – nomenclature, classification, herbarium
- Practical approaches to conservation projects large and small scale
- Communicating the message through education

2.6 Fundamentals of Eco-restoration and Afforestation

- Local site survey – gathering information relevant to the local context – species, soil, rainfall patterns, local stakeholders
- Setting the program aims
- Sourcing the resources – financial and biological
- Project management and monitoring

2.7 Basic Landscape Design and Development

- How are landscapes formed?
- Understanding the project site
- Laying out a design and developing project aspects such as: drainage, plantation, irrigation, lighting, pathways and roads
- Small constructions – pergola, bench, gazebos
- Understanding working drawings, contour line, sections and BoQ's

2.8 Organic Preparations and Composting

- Plant nutrition – basics
- Micronutrients
- Compost production
- Biochar and Effective Microorganisms (EM)

2.9 Vegetable Gardens and Seed Preparation

- Preparation of vegetable beds
- Green manures and how effective they are
- Pollination of flowers
- Harvest and preparing seeds

2.10 Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF)

- Understanding an ecosystem
- Assessing the conservation needs of the forest and its components
- Learning the species and their ecological characteristics

2.11 Special Areas of Interest

- Waterbodies
- Cactus
- Orchids
- Fruit trees
- Medicinal plants
- Databases – Plantekey
- Animal conservation