



India Women, Food and Climate Change Training Program

A Collaborative Initiative of Women's Earth Alliance, USA, & Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, INDIA

Application Form

The India Women, Food and Climate Change Training Program is a year-long capacity building and training program initiated by Women's Earth Alliance (WEA), USA, and Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG), India. The goal of the training is to equip rural women leaders with appropriate solutions, knowledge and networking support to manage climate change and environmental crises to improve their food and economic security, while also ecologically managing their farms and natural resources. This training is based on the foundation of sound gender and ecological principles to create a holistic curriculum to benefit rural women farmers. The Training will be imparted over 3 phases in 2011, starting with a main 6-day training in April 2011, followed by two shorter 3-day trainings in the months of September and November.

Goals of the Training:

- Create a safe space for rural women to share their experiences with climate change, as well as indigenous solutions to tackle such environmental crises
- Build a cadre of informed and empowered rural women leaders who will spread the knowledge with other women to transform their livelihoods and environment
- Diversify and improve the food and economic security of rural women
- Educate women on climate change and its impact on farming livelihoods and women's health by demonstrating climate change mitigation and coping practices
- Demonstrate climate change mitigation and coping practices
- Provide hands on training on ecological farming and NRM practices
- Create a powerful alliance to strategically collaborate on policy campaigns and other like-minded initiatives
- Document and promote women's traditional knowledge systems, including seed saving and other ecological farming and NRM practices

Who Can Apply

We seek grassroots Indian women leaders who are promoting the rights of women farmers and are working to improve their food and economic security by practicing ecological farming and natural resource management practices. This is a **training of the trainers**, so we especially encourage women farmers who are master trainers and others who belong to women's self help groups, farmer clubs and other people's institutions to apply. **The Training will be conducted in Hindi.**

Through an application process, **40 women in teams of two will be selected from the states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Bihar**. During the course of the first 6 day-long training program, each team of two women will work in partnership to develop an action plan for launching a project in their community related to sustainable agriculture, food security or climate change adaptation and mitigation practices that will benefit other women and their communities. **All applications must be received by the midnight of March 15, 2011.**

The Team: Teams of two women (one each from the following two groups) will participate in the training. The same team will participate in the three trainings:

- **Grassroots woman representative:** A woman farmer who is active in her community around grassroots advocacy, women's empowerment and/or community organizing around issues of farming livelihoods, ecological farming and NRM practices (*Grassroots refers to community-based activism, where positive change is created through citizen participation addressing issues that affect them*). This woman is a leader in a Self Help Group or farmer's club or other people's institutions. **This woman is ideally a master trainer**, who can spread the knowledge of the training with other women in her group and community.
- **NGO representative:** A woman from the NGO who works directly with grassroots women leaders and farmers to build their capacities.

Ideal qualifications for each team of women:

- Affiliated with an NGO that has an sound organizational structure and work on projects for women in local communities
- Recognized by their peers as leaders in their community for empowering rural women or for training others on farming and NRM practices
- Fluent in Hindi
- Living or working in a flood prone area of the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- Able to start or expand a training program or a community-based project related to ecological farming or climate change Excellent communication skills
- Leadership in designing and operating successful community-based projects
- Available to travel to Gorakhpur between April 18 to 23, 2011. Participants to arrive in Gorakhpur on April 17 latest.
- Available to travel to Gorakhpur two more times to participate in two additional 3-day trainings in September and November of 2011.

Training Phases

This training program is one year long, offering a holistic curriculum to build the capacities of grassroots rural grassroots women leaders.

During the Preparation Phase, selected participants will:

- Gather information and map their communities' needs related to food security and climate change impacts on their livelihoods and health
- Identify beneficial green practices of their region to share with other women at the Training
- Gather women's traditional knowledge practices (such as seed saving, creating natural fertilizers, etc.) that are helpful for sustainable agriculture and NRM practices

Training 1:

- 6-day training held between April 18 to 23 at Gorakhpur Environmental Group's Training Center in Campierganj
- Each team of participants will take up the task of scaling the learned skills in their community where they are working. To enable this, a seed grant of Rs 25,000 will be made to each team during the process that will be disbursed in two installments: first seed grant of Rs. 15,000 given to each team of two women on completion of an action plan, which will be developed during the first training.
- Participants will receive training from highly skilled Indian women and men trainers who specialize in the training topics

Sustainable Farming Livelihoods

These practices and techniques will specifically address issues of food security. Some may also be livelihood opportunities. **They may include:**

- Indigenous traditional knowledge systems of women
- Diversifying crop production (multi-layered and inter cropping)
- Seed bank formation
- Ecological farming practices
- Soil testing and bio-remediation
- Understanding of climate variability bio-indicators and use of bio-monitoring
- Integrated livelihoods involving compost formation, natural farming inputs, diversifying livelihoods through indigenous poultry and fresh water fish ponds

Climate Change Concepts and Principles

- Learn about climate change concepts and principles
- Participate in hands-on training tied to mitigation and adaptation
- Visit disaster risk reduction villages, where floods are common
- Practice integrated concepts, solutions and technologies in their community

Training 2:

- 3-day training held during September 2011 (dates to be decided in consultation with participants)
- Discussing problems faced by participants in actual implementation of Climate Change resilience principles in various agro-climatic zones
- Participatory exercises for evolving solutions
- Second seed grant of Rs. 10,000 given to each team

Training 3:

- 3-day training held during November 2011
- Advanced training on the principles and actions related to climate change and sustainable agriculture livelihoods
- Policy advocacy methods, issues and related networking
- Linkages with relevant institutions
- Information about campaigns will be provided to participating NGOs and they will be encouraged to join such grassroots movements

Note: All participant teams will have to complete action plans as part of the follow up process in order to receive their seed grant. Once the seed grants are disbursed, participant teams will have to complete progress reports. This feedback will help us to critically evaluate this unique training program and to deepen our understanding on the opportunities, successes and challenges experienced on the ground by the woman participants.

COST OF PARTICIPATION

There is no cost of participation. All the travel costs up to a reasonable limit shall be covered by the organizers. Accommodations and meals will also be covered. We are focused on ensuring that various regions with similar agriculture and climate-related issues are represented in the training. To ensure that the training enjoys a broad and balanced representation, we will select women who will contribute different perspectives in approaching these issues. Decisions to select the final applicants will be made by WEA and GEAG team. Any NGOs that have the opportunity to apply for a travel grant from their existing donors will greatly help the organizers offset the costs of the Training Program. If your organization is able to support our efforts by covering your own travel costs by applying for funding elsewhere, please indicate in your application.

JOINT APPLICATION

If your organization would like to nominate a **team of two women (NGO representative and grassroots woman leader)**, please fill out the form below *jointly with your nominees* and send to womenandclimatechange@gmail.com. Please make the subject of your email: "Application: Women, Food, Climate Change Training Program". You can post the application to Dr. Seema Tripathi, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, 224 Puidilpur, MG College Road, Gorakhpur 273001.

****Please note that we will not accept incomplete applications. This means that you must nominate two women and they must fill out their own section. NGO representative may support the applicants to complete the forms, but all information needs to be provided by the nominees.**

*****All applications must be received by midnight of March 15, 2011.*****

To be completed by the NOMINATOR: As the nominator, please provide the following information:

Name:

Email address:

Organization/affiliation:

Web site:

Best phone number to reach you. Please indicate if it is a mobile or landline:

Alternate phone number:

Complete postal address, including country:

Fax:

How did you hear about the Training:

1. Please briefly describe the nominees' work to empower and build the capacities of women farmers.
2. In what ways do your nominees fulfill the criteria listed above to participate in this yearlong Training program?
3. What is your relationship to the nominees? Why do you think they should represent their region at the Women, Food and Climate Change Training? What impact have they had in their community?
4. Would you or your organization be able to assist the nominees in computer access such as: ___internet, ___training or ___Skype conference calls? Please check the appropriate selections.

Name of the NGO in India:

Mission:

Complete postal address in India:

Web site:

Phone number of NGO:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE WOMEN PARTICIPANTS: Section 1 is to be completed by the female NGO representative and section 2 is for the grassroots woman leader

Section 1: NGO Representative

Name:

Title:

Email address (if available):

Best phone number to reach you. Please indicate if it is a mobile or landline:

Time of day that is best to reach you:

Complete postal address:

1. Briefly describe your work with women farmers related to empowering them and/or promoting ecological or indigenous farming practices.
2. What solutions, programs, and technologies do you think are needed to strengthen the efforts of grassroots women who are working to empower women farmers and protecting land, soil and water?
3. How do you and your teammate currently work together? Please give examples of the types of projects you have worked on together.
4. Do you consider yourself a **capacitator** (with the proper training, you would go into a community and train other women to learn about issues of climate change and food security) or an **implementer** (you would implement a strategy or solution yourself in your own community if you had the proper training)? Indicate if you play both roles.
5. Can you write in Hindi?
6. Can you commit your availability to this yearlong training program, where you will need to participate in three separate training phases?

Section 2: Grassroots Woman Leader

The information you provide in this next section will guide us in designing the content of the training to best serve the participants. Please answer as thoroughly as you can.

Name:

Title:

Best phone number to reach you. Please indicate if it is a mobile or landline:

Time of day that is best to reach you:

Complete postal address:

1. Briefly describe your work, if applicable, with women farmers related to empowering them and/or implementing ecological or indigenous farming practices.
2. In what ways have you taken leadership in your community? In what ways do you support other women working alongside you?
3. Do you consider yourself a **capacitator** (with the proper training, you would go into a community and train other women to learn about issues of climate change and food security) or an **implementer** (you would implement a strategy or solution yourself in your own community if you had the proper training)? Indicate if you can play both roles.
4. Can you write in Hindi?
5. Can you commit to your availability for this year-long training program, where you will need to participate in three separate training phases?

FOR BOTH WOMEN PARTICIPANTS: CULTURE AND WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

1. We will be sharing stories and songs about seeds, harvests, farming from different communities. Do you have songs, dances or stories to share?
2. Please bring indigenous seeds that you conserve so that we can have seed exchanges and ceremonies to honor traditional roles of women, like seed keeping.
3. We will have sessions on women's traditional knowledge systems related to sustainable agriculture and NRM practices. Please bring any information you can related to this to share with other women participants.

Thank you for applying! For questions during the application, please contact rucha@womensearthalliance.org