



## **6th International CSA Conference,**

**Shunyi district of Beijing, PRC  
November, 19th- 21st, 2015.**



**PROGRAMME  
July 2015.**

Urgenci will hold its 6th International Symposium in China in the Shunyi district of Beijing, based on the government's commitment to make this area a showcase for China's rural life and innovative practices of modern agriculture. The mountainous region of Shunyi District, Beijing is proposed as a 'Slow Living' region of China, a government-coordinated project aimed at jointly enriching the environment and the economy, taking farmers' rights, sustainable agriculture and scientific development into consideration.

The 6th Urgenci International Symposium will be held in conjunction with the 7th Chinese national CSA meeting. It seeks to highlight this "**Rural Regeneration**" phenomenon and to focus attention on the results of CSA's potential in mitigating both climate issues and food insecurity.

Rural Regeneration is attracting young, highly qualified urban dwellers back to the land bringing new energy and inspiration to rural areas that have been abandoned and depressed. During a seminar on short supply chains organized in August 2014 in Beijing, a small delegation from URGENCI visited 4 CSA or direct-sale farms as well as the Beijing Farmers' Market to see this Rural Regeneration at first hand. In less than 5 years, more than 500 CSA initiatives have sprung to life around China, the work of a growing community of young, new generation farmers. This remarkable development mirrors what is happening in other countries. In France, the proportion of farmers who have started farming without coming from a farming family is as high as 35% in CSA farms. Elsewhere in Europe, newcomers like these make up the majority of CSA farmers attracted by the ecological and social innovation of this movement that combines producing healthy, organic food with a real economic alternative to the dominant industrial model.

In a period when mega-corporations are trying to get rid of small-scale family farmers by buying their land and forcing them into increasingly concentrated food chains, when farming populations are decreasing (by 20% in 10 years in Europe), many aging farmers are about to retire (the average age of farmers is around 57 years in Europe and the US, and even older in Japan) and mega-cities are persistently draining populations from entire villages. But at the same time a new generation of small-holders is developing technical and social skills with the support of conscious consumers and jointly building local alternative food systems. In the socially and economically depressed countryside of many countries, this generation is carrying new hope and optimism: small-scale sustainable family and peasant farming is a key answer to major environmental, social and economic issues the world is now facing.

# PROGRAMME

**Nov.19<sup>th</sup>**

## **DAY 1: EARTH CARE, REGENERATING THE SOILS**

### **8:00 – 9:00 Registration**

Live show depicting both rural culture and food relationships in China  
Video on The CSA Movement in China

### **9:00 -10:00 Opening ceremony – Auditorium**

with Dr Shi Yan,  
Professor Shen Yuan, China  
Government introduction  
Andrea Calori, president URGENCI, Italy.  
Video by Olivier de Schutter

### **Coffee Break**

**10:15 – 12:00 PLENARY OF THE DAY:** CSA, as a model supporting organic agriculture and agroecology, is proclaimed to be good for Earth. Why?

Plenary speakers: Wen Tie Jun (China), Elizabeth Henderson (USA), Andre Leu (Australia)  
Chair: Zhang Lanying (China)

*As an antidote to the industrialized corporate controlled global food system, CSA is spreading in more and more countries. Focused on local food sovereignty, the CSA concept empowers farmers/peasants working together with the people who eat their food. The most basic resources – soil, water, air, sunlight – become central, as are caring for them, building health and resilience by stocking carbon in the soil, empowering communities of humans, animals, micro-organisms.*

### **12:15 – 14:00 Lunch break**

### **14:15 – 15:45 Parallel Workshops 1**

#### **Track A - Natural Sciences & CSA: CSA and biodiversity**

*How CSA supports biological, seed, and ecological diversity.*

Speakers: Scott Chaskey (USA), Pierre Besse (France), Prof. Jiang Gaoming (China)

Facilitator: Katsu Murayama (Japan)

- **Track B - CSA Production: Starting & sustaining a successful CSA**  
*Creating a 5-year plan for land use, crops, marketing, budgeting to pay down debt*  
 Speakers: Erin Bullock (USA), Jérôme Dehondt (France), Simon Anoumou Todzro (Togo)  
 Facilitator: Erika Jones (USA)
- **Track C - "Regenerators Café" (Farmer Round table discussions):**  
*Production techniques, what goes in a share, how much food, how to do succession planting*  
 Speakers: Shi Yan (China), Frédéric Thériault (Québec), Jan Valeska (Czech Republic)  
 Facilitator: Andre Leu (Australia)

## 16:00 – 17:30 Parallel Workshops 2

- **Track A - Natural Sciences & CSA: CSA & Climate Change**  
*Soil building & carbon sequestration, the role of CSA in the climate change struggle.*  
 Speakers : Hans Van Willenswaard (Thailand), Pierre Vuarin (France), Meng Fanqiao (China)  
 Facilitator: Jennifer Chang (Korea)
- **Track B - CSA Production: Diversified CSA production practices for soil building and overall farm eco-system health**  
*Farmers provide insight on their use of permaculture, mechanization, cover crops and more!*  
 Speakers: Oumar Diabaté (Mali), Hashimoto Shinji (Japan), Noémie Labrosse (Québec)  
 Facilitator: Jérôme Dehondt (France)
- **Track C - "Regenerators Café" (Farmer Round table discussions): Finances & Marketing focused panel discussion with experienced farmers.**  
*Learn first-hand how to develop and implement a farm budget, create a marketing plan, and balance the "desk work" of CSA farming.*  
 Speakers : Isa Alvarez (Basque country), Tammi Jonas (Australia), Elizabeth Henderson (USA)  
 Facilitator : Kiera Mulvey (USA)

## 17:45 – 19:00

- **Lessons of the Day for the CSA movement (Room A)**
- **Worldwide Local Food Aperitive in the Poster Gallery**

19:15            **Shared Dinner at the Canteen**

## Nov 20<sup>th</sup>

### DAY 2: PEOPLE CARE,

### REGENERATING FARMING, A NEW GENERATION OF PEASANTS & AGROECOLOGY

8:00 – 9:00      **Self-organized activities** (tai qi, yoga, mystica, discussion tables)

9:00 – 10:30    **WORLD CAFE: Reports from the field trips – Room A**  
 Suggestion: Presentation of 3 farms visited (slide show) by the farmer her-him/self (if there)  
 or by a participant (20 min. by farm + 30 min. discussion)

10:45 – 12:00 **PLENARY OF THE DAY - Auditorium**

**Regenerating Farming: A New Generation of Peasants**

Plenary Speakers: Qiana Mickie (USA), Ye Jing Zhong (China), Shinji Hashimoto (Japan).

Chair: Elizabeth Henderson

*CSA is giving new life to existing farms and allowing new people to devote their lives to farming with community support. For consumers who have lost confidence in the healthiness of the available food supply, CSA provides connections to trusted farmers who grow food with respect for the laws of Mother Earth. Communities around food can break racial and income barriers, making solidarity a practical path, helping consumers become co-producers with their farmers.*

**12:15 – 14:00 Lunch break**

**14:15 – 15:45 Parallel Workshops 3**

**Track A - "CSA Groups": How does the CSA Social Microcosm function?**

*Recipes from various countries to cultivate member engagement, core groups, volunteers, and more!*

Speakers: Stephan Pabst (Austria), Hermann Pohlmann (Brazil), Orita Etona (Japan)

Facilitator: Elizabeth Henderson (USA)

**Track B - "Social Cohesion and CSA": Building CSA as a safety net**

*How to increase access to CSA for low-income communities; the role of NGO's, fundraising initiatives, farm-based programs, sliding-scale pricing.*

Speakers: Cheryl Rogowski (USA), Mihaela Vetan (Romania), Samuel Thirion (France)

Facilitator: Josefina Cendejas (Mexico)

**Track C - "Solidarity without Borders": Dissemination & the development of Urgenci-led regional networks over time.**

*From the first AMAP Dissemination Programme to the European Kernel: how did the European Experience Sharing Projects contribute to the birth of the European CSA Movement and to the strengthening of national networks?*

Speakers: Jocelyn Parot (France), Zsafia Perenyi (Hungary), Veikko Heinz (Germany)

Facilitator: Jan Valeska (Czech Republic)

**16:00 – 17:30 Parallel Workshops 4**

**Track A - "CSA Groups": CSA group network development**

*Delve into the benefits and challenges of developing a network of CSA groups; drafting a Charter, creating a regional or national network, why develop networks?*

Speakers: Jérôme Dehondt (MIRAMAP- France), Isabelle Joncas (Equiterre, Québec), Erika Jones (FairShare Coalition, USA), Dave Runsten (Community Alliance for Family Farmers, CA, USA)

Facilitator: Rupert Dunn (UK)

· **Track B - “Social Cohesion and CSA”: Multiplying positive outcomes Supporting Community work through CSA initiatives**

*Farm initiatives that provide services feeding and reinvigorating low-income communities, The role of urban and rural agriculture in creating jobs, inspiring community and economic revitalization, and providing healthy food.*

Speakers: Bablu Ganguly (India), Rita Schwentesius (Mexico), Marwan Bendahman (Marocco)

Facilitator: Morgane Iserte (France)

· **Track C - "Regenerators Café": “Trailblazers” Round table.**

*Hear from a group of new farmers bringing CSA to their country!*

Speakers: Claudia Cossio (Chile), Danijel Balaban (Croatia), Fergal Anderson (Ireland)

Facilitator: Noémie Labrosse (Québec)

**17:45 – 19:00**

· **Lessons of the Day for the CSA movement (Room A)**

· **Geographical Networking sessions in the Poster Gallery**

**19:15            Shared Dinner at the Canteen**

**Nov 21<sup>st</sup>**

**DAY 3: FAIR SHARE, REGENERATING THE ECONOMY**

**8:00 – 9:00        Self-organized activities** (tai qi, yoga, mystica, discussion tables)

**9:00 – 10:30     PRESENTATIONS BY URGENCI ALLIES (international coalitions) – Auditorium**

Speakers: Mr. Zhou Zejiang (IFOAM Asia, China), Ibrahima Coulibaly (La Via Campesina, Mali), Jason Nardi (Solidarity Economy Representative - RIPESS, Italy), Javier Rivera Laverde (Andes Regional Coordinator MAELA, Colombia)

Chair : Shi Yan (URGENCI)

*As social movements, we work together, and support one another to change the system and build alternatives. The two pillars of Urgenci are Food Sovereignty and solidarity economy. These are joined through Agroecology. Our key allies, Via Campesina, and RIPESS are the main global networks that represent these two pillars and our joint work in building alternative food systems, connecting farmers to markets and supportive policy at national and global level. IFOAM supports Urgenci through Participatory Guarantee Systems, as an alternative to mainstream certification that is not adapted to most CSAs. We trust that the interventions of our allies will reflect these aspects.*

**10:45 – 12:00 PLENARY OF THE DAY - Auditorium**  
**CSA Regenerating the Economy**

Plenary speakers: Yi Jia Liang Zhi (China), Judith Hitchman (Ireland/France), Josefina Cendejas (Mexico), Ryan Galt (USA)

Chair: Isabelle Joncas (Québec)

*Engaging in a local marketing strategy for a farmer means a lot. To the farm, to the regional economy. CSA provides an exceptional opportunity for the citizen to engage with a farm for months to come and an even greater opportunity for the farm at many levels : to benefit from 100% of the subscriber's payment, to work in margin of agribusiness, to create jobs in its community, to buy from local suppliers and to occupy rural areas. By feeding citizens, farmers engaged in CSA stimulate a parallel economy with tremendous impacts.*

**12:15 – 14:00 Lunch break**

**14:00 – 15:30 Parallel Workshops 5**

**Track A – Participatory Guarantee System meets CSA**

*Do direct sales farms need certification? Is community organizing up to the job of providing a reliable organic guarantee?*

**Speakers:** Cornelia Kirchner (Austria), Joy Daniel (India), Denis Carel (France)

Facilitator: Eva Torremocha (Spain)

**Track B - Supporting the next generation of farmers through farmland preservation**

*Farm preservation strategies to safeguard agricultural land and reduce barriers for new farmers*

**Speakers:** Scott Chaskey (USA), Véronique Rioufol (France), Anne Roussel (Québec).

Facilitator: Elizabeth Henderson (USA)

**Track C - CSA and International Advocacy**

*From Local Authorities to FAO: Local alliances, alternative food systems & municipal food strategies// Global alliances. Create recommendations for Urgenci on how to develop policy positions*

**Speakers:** Antonio Onorati (Italy), Judith Hitchman & Fergal Anderson, Kartini Samon (Indonesia), Isa Alvarez (Basque country)

Facilitator: Andrea Calori (Italy)

**15:45 – 17:15**

**Lessons of the Day for the CSA movement (Room A)**

**Thematic Networking sessions in the Poster Gallery**

**17:30 – 19:30 CONCLUDING PLENARY – Auditorium**

“Lessons of the day” feed-back for the Urgenci General Assembly and Pledge

First replies by some Urgenci International Committee members

Closing ceremony

**20:00 Shared Dinner at the Canteen**

Dr. Shi Yan, initiator of CSAs in China and Vice-President of Urgenci, and her team from the “Shared Harvest” CSA farms, is organizing this event in conjunction with Tsinghua University, under the guidance and support of the Municipal Government of Shunyi District and the Urgenci network.

There will be an Exhibit of locally grown, healthy food along with an International Farmers Market. There will be screenings of recent documentaries on food and farming.

## **Annexe:**

### **Lessons of the day/Pledge Sessions, consolidated draft Preparing for the URGENCI General Assembly, 2015.**

The Lessons of the Day/ Pledge Sessions take place following the workshop sessions on each day.

The objective of these sessions are fourfold:

1. Based on the experience of previous Symposiums, we think it is important **to commit to something collectively while we are all together; This means leaving with a clear message to take home to those who could not participate.**
2. Based on previous experience, it is important to take home **an inspiring document.** Action plans are great, but it is sometimes more difficult to follow up on a very thorough and technically detailed action plan than on a document that provides **motivating orientations**
3. The Pledge would be felt as binding by all of the participants. It should include both an individual and a collective dimension. People come from the other side of the planet, and have made a long trip, almost like a “pilgrimage”, and should leave with something strong. Ideally, they should even feel transformed. Let’s try to collectively write a document **to help them feel part of a global movement!**
4. This document would not try to achieve absolute representativity: it should be a (short) message written during open (but not compulsory) writing sessions. It should attempt to capture the spirit of the Symposium. It would then be **passed on at the end of the Symposium to the General Assembly.** We think it is important to strengthen the connection between the Symposium and the General Assembly. The Symposium would then be fulfilling its true purpose by sending orientations/ inspiration to the General Assembly.

Provisionally, the document would be structured so that it follows the three days topics, and be built from the soil UP:

- DAY 1: EARTH CARE, REGENERATING THE SOILS
- DAY 2: PEOPLE CARE, REGENERATING FARMING, A NEW GENERATION OF PEASANTS
- DAY 3: FAIR SHARE, REGENERATING THE ECONOMY

Participants and facilitators in each days’ workshops will be asked to nominate a representative to attend the Lessons of the Day/Pledge Sessions. This participant would be tasked with putting the workshop they attended into context, and helping with the synthesis of the day’s discussions

In order to collect feedback from the workshops, each workshop should finish with 15 minutes dedicated to answering the following questions: 1. How could Urgenci best contribute to addressing the challenges raised during the workshop? ; 2. How can Urgenci contribute to this particular topic, both at individual and collective levels.