

LIVING SOIL FORUM

22 - 26 JULY 2013, KULTURCENTRUM JÄRNA, SWEDEN

Summer of Soil presents the 5-day Living Soil Forum to activate and empower people to secure a better future for our soils. Through engaging key players in the agricultural system, from producers to consumers, we seek to connect people and ideas; to create common understanding; to integrate existing initiatives; and to promote genuine, cross-sector collaboration. The focus will be on solutions that work to secure and restore healthy, living soils for the sake of our health, food-security and climate.

Objectives:

- **Build** an inclusive, global soil movement
- **Inspire** concerned consumers and especially youth to become active soil stewards
- **Promote** soil awareness throughout the entire agricultural system
- **Showcase** innovative practices and inspirational centres of agricultural production, living soil conservation and regeneration
- **Design** and initiate real projects and campaigns to leverage soil acupuncture points across the globe



THE SOIL REVOLUTION: RESTORING HEALTHY, LIVING SOIL FOR ALL

We live at a defining point in history; at a time when financial, educational, political and agricultural structures and institutions are struggling to meet the needs of those they were established to serve; in a society where increasing complexity, inequality and fragmentation highlight the urgent need for collaboration and wise action; on a planet where the systematic degradation of our ecological systems has overreached the natural planetary boundaries and threatened its ability to support life as we know it.

One of the most critical challenges of this time affects us all, yet it is still largely unknown. The issue of soil degradation is of a magnitude and complexity such that it is beyond the power of any single organisation, industry or country to address alone. **A broad-scale, cross-sectoral, collaborative approach is needed. And it is needed now.**

More than **90%** of our food comes from our soils, yet current unsustainable production practices have degraded **25%** of the Earth's soils to the point where they can no longer support agricultural production. This degradation continues today at the rate of around 10 million ha per year; that is 30 soccer fields per minute.

This is a wakeup call. It is a call to engage and unite in practical partnerships and to tap into existing frameworks and approaches that have the power to reverse the current trend of soil degradation. It is a call to secure living soils for our future. In response to this call, the Summer of Soil hosts the Living Soil Forum.

The Living Soil Forum invites stakeholders along the entire food chain, from producer to consumer. We seek to connect people and ideas, to create common understanding, to integrate existing initiatives, and to promote genuine, cross-sector collaboration around solutions that work to secure and restore healthy, living soils. The Forum is a gathering of passionate stakeholders willing to take responsibility and commit to working together to restore and maintain living soils. The Forum is not a trade fair, not a conference, not an exposition for observers and not a stage for promoting one approach over another. We are interested in all approaches which improve soil.

HOW COULD WE SOW THE SEEDS OF A
COLLABORATIVE AND REGENERATIVE
AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM?

FOCUS AREAS

We have identified four key areas around which we can begin dialogue and exploration for innovative solutions:

PRACTICE AND PRODUCTION

- What are the existing regenerative and restorative agricultural practices, and how can these be brought to scale?
- How can we facilitate the exchange of this knowledge and practice between farmers and growers?
- How can we overcome the barriers for farmers to become stewards of soil?
- Farmer 2.0: What could farming in the 21st century also be?

CHOICE AND CONSUMPTION

- How can we wake consumers (the 'Sleeping Giant') and help them to realise the power of their choices?
- What are the bold and effective campaigns that will change consumer behaviour?
- What could a road map, designed to help consumers navigate food trends, look like?
- How can we increase transparency, communication and collaboration between consumers and producers?

ECONOMY AND DISTRIBUTION

- Where do we see the economic system supporting soil regeneration and how can we cultivate more of this?
- What could a network of local, decentralised agricultural systems look like?
- What could business and retail sectors do to facilitate regenerative agricultural practices?
- How can we bring greater transparency to the current agricultural system?

RESEARCH AND LEGISLATION

- How can we translate the science and research around soils into language that is understandable by farmers, legislators and consumers, and stirs them to become active?
- How can we communicate the wishes of consumers and producers to bring about necessary changes in policy?

WHY SHOULD YOU COME?

If you are concerned about the state of the world's soils and wish to be part of the solution, then we need your input. We are looking for farmers, retailers/wholesalers, consumers (particularly youth), policy-makers, educators, scientists, academics, representatives from public & private sector organisations, media, government and NGOs. To address the soil challenge, we need people with passion and a sense of responsibility. We need diversity of ideas and workable approaches.

Your participation will allow you to contribute to this critical movement; experience collaboration in its truest sense; tap into the resources and intelligence of a diverse group of stakeholders; and establish meaningful relationships with an extensive, international network of colleagues active in this field.

Please join us, and spread the word! — The Summer of Soil Team

Register at www.livingsoilforum.se

Student/Youth Fee	SEK 1,700 / ± EUR 205
Individual Fee	SEK 3,000 / ± EUR 360
Corporate Fee	SEK 4,500 / ± EUR 540

Fee includes full program and fully organic catering. For accommodation options please visit our website.

