

Our Principles - Code of Conduct

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 1
2. About FoodForestNetwork 1
3. How we want to work together: Code of Conduct 2
 - a. Our work and projects 2
 - b. In the Field 3

Introduction

We invite everyone to get actively involved in the FoodForestNetwork. You can get actively involved, for example by supporting the network's work. Or by contributing your knowledge, expertise, project or land.

Would you prefer to show your support in a different way? We are grateful for that too. You can follow us and share our information, support us with a non-binding financial contribution, or consider becoming a (supporting) member.

Before you do so, please read through our principles – the Code of Conduct. It gives you an idea of how we work together and how we aim to foster a respectful relationship with one another and with nature/our planet.

About the FoodForestNetwork

Mission

Our mission is to bring more food forests into the world and thereby drive the transformation of agriculture. That is why we connect with people who wish to contribute to this. Together, we promote the knowledge, development, financing and research of food forests and complex agroforestry systems.

Our guiding principle is 'Earth Care, People Care, Fair Share'.

There is no other way than to work in harmony with nature: we demonstrate an alternative form of agriculture based, amongst other things, on the principles of permaculture. In doing so, it is important to us that farmers receive a fair income. We focus on local processing and direct marketing to achieve sustainable value creation.

Through our network and in collaboration with many partners, we aim to inspire as many people as possible to embrace food forests, with the goal that they actively or passively support the realisation of new or existing food forests in the DACH region and the Global South.

What we offer

Developing regenerative agriculture with food forests: We aim to showcase pilot and flagship projects that inspire, motivate and demonstrate solutions.

Education: Actively sharing knowledge, expertise and experience.

Network: Learning from one another, supporting each other and speaking out!

FoodForestNetwork e.V.

FoodForestNetwork e.V. is a non-profit association based in Berlin. We focus on natural health measures, sustainability, renewable energy and education. It is a matter of great importance to us to bring food forests into the world.

How we want to work together: our principles – Code of Conduct

Together in harmony with nature

Our work is based, amongst other things, on the principles of permaculture and syntropic agriculture. Humans are part of the ecosystem; they do not stand above it. We work in harmony with nature and take a holistic approach. We think in cycles and practise restorative agriculture. We aim to heal degraded land.

We aim to process our produce on-site, on the farms themselves, or through collaborations with others.

We see ourselves as a network of different sites, projects and people who share our principles. We want to learn from one another, improve together and create synergies to drive the transformation of agriculture forward. We pursue the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Diversity and Community

We think globally, connect the Global South and North, and treat one another as equals. Only together can we find solutions to global problems. Just as a high diversity of plants makes the food forest antifragile and resilient, this is fundamental to our communities and relationships. We treat one another with respect and respect each other, just as we respect the animals and plants of the forest gardens. We have a fundamental commitment to democracy. Constructive criticism and feedback are welcome and help us to reflect on our work and improve. We aim to gain a stronger voice through a robust network of many people, thereby ensuring we are heard by decision-makers and funders.

Our projects and our work are based on these principles.

- a. Earth Care, People Care, Fair Share – as the ethics and guiding principles of our work. We take a holistic approach; we are part of a larger macro-organism (Gaia principle). Humanity and the planet need solidarity and synergy, respect and fair treatment for everyone and everything.
- b. We practise regenerative agriculture. We regenerate the soil (humus formation, CO² sequestration, water & nutrient retention capacity, increased biodiversity). Through natural succession, the growing complex agroforestry systems become systems of abundance. We observe, think, exchange ideas and act. Feedback loops and critical thinking & questioning are always welcome. Intelligent, regenerative systems provide us with what we need: food, medicine, energy, oils, fibres, and vital ecosystem services such as clean air and water, rain, climate cooling, biodiversity, beauty and inspiration.
- c. We think in terms of cycles and produce no waste. Everything is reused, and everything is energy, a resource.
- d. We are constantly learning: We are all at different stages of the learning process, and every stage is valid and important. Furthermore, we are all learners and teachers under the motto: 'Each one teach one'. We document, measure, analyse, prepare and pass it on... We encourage others to take responsibility for their actions and decisions.
- e. Joy: We aim to act with inner joy and love, to be creative and to make a positive impact.
- f. Respect: We promote and practise respectful interaction and language with one another, regardless of differences. Good relationships and healthy, vibrant ecosystems give us security. We discourage discrimination, harassment and disrespectful behaviour.

- g. Integrity: Encourages honesty, transparency and fairness in all dealings. Discourages fraudulent practices, conflicts of interest and corruption. Point out where injustice occurs, stand up; there is enough for everyone if we share it.

In the field: in addition to the points mentioned above

- a. Plant, plant and plant... As much as you can, combine species, create ecosystems and communities, observe and organise. Plant nurseries, collect seeds, and make them available to others. Plant medicinal plants wherever possible.
- b. We steer clear of factory farming, antibiotics, monocultures and pesticides.
- c. Everyone takes responsibility for materials, tools, etc.
- d. Each project is also responsible for its own funding

These principles are inspired by and influenced by

- Permaculture Ethics (Mollison, Holmgren)
- Principles of permaculture
- Principles of syntropic agriculture (Götsch)
- Buen Vivir – The good life (values and philosophy of indigenous cultures in the Andean countries) ‘Living together in diversity and harmony with nature’
- Indigenous & traditional ecological knowledge
- Gaia: we live on a macro-organism and are part of it; everything is interconnected and interdependent (Margulis, Lovelock)
- SDGs: the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- NVC: Non-Violent Communication (Rosenberg)

Nothing is static; these principles are not ‘the truth’; they will change in line with our learning processes, observations and experiences. They are dynamic ideas and guidelines which, like the intelligent networked systems we design, are subject to change.

I know only that I know nothing
(Socrates)

We move forward by asking questions
(Zapatistas)