



# Chula Right Livelihood Summer School - II - in Bhutan

July 23 - August 7, 2016

## **Introduction**

*Based on the MoU between Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok), Royal University of Bhutan - RUB (Thimphu), Right Livelihood College - RLC and the Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation - SNF (Bangkok) from July 24, 2015 the first Chula Right Livelihood Summer School was organised successfully in Thailand from July 24 till August 7, 2015 (see separate report).*

*All partners have agreed on Nov 3 in Thimphu, Bhutan to offer the Chula Right Livelihood Summer School 2016 in 2 parts: the first part in Thailand about the Commons from July 10 to 23 organised by Chulalongkorn University and SNF, the second part in Bhutan about Seeds of Happiness from July 24 till August 7, 2016 organised by RUB and RLC.*

*The participants for the Bhutan part of the Chula Right Livelihood Summer School will gather in Bangkok on July 23 to attend the Public Forum of the first part of the Summer School in Thailand and then fly to Bhutan (Paro) on the 24th very early morning, and come back on August 7 afternoon to Bangkok.*

**Deadline for registration is May 1, 2016**



## 1. Title

# Chula Right Livelihood Summer School - II - in Bhutan

## Self-Reliance, Organic Agri-Culture, Indigenous Wisdom, Food Sovereignty and the Menace of Climate Change

## 2. Activity & Aims - expected outcome

The Chula Right Livelihood Summer School has been established as a yearly activity of the 4 partners to create and strengthen the concepts and action of Right Livelihood worldwide by linking the Right Livelihood Laureates (Alternative Nobel Prize) to the youth and civil society. The motivation of this endeavour is to create a wider space of action for young people (professionals, community leaders, students, researchers) to commit to the insightful fields of knowledge and practices related to social justice, ecological sustainability and spiritual well-being and happiness.

We aim at forming Right Livelihood Advocates, who understand the dimensions of Right Livelihood and can master Right Livelihood Initiatives in their institutional context or personal networks.

Maximum 28 participants of the Summer School Part II in Bhutan will get to know the GNH policy in practice, experience the life quality and traditional wisdom in different farming communities. We will apply intercultural dialogue skills with the local farming families and generate together ideas on Right Livelihood using visual PAR Tools about the future for food and Agri-Culture for small scale farmers in different regions of Bhutan and to strengthen self-reliance on healthy food.

As outcome we expect insights about the Bhutan policy of promoting modern Organic Agriculture, Grassroot Democracy and Self-Reliance, the importance of indigenous wisdom for the future of humankind, an enrichment of teaching curricula for the participating colleges of RUB, local Right Livelihood Initiatives, all documented in a booklet and website with practical examples from the field. Institutionally we expect a stronger link of RUB with the outside world of learning developing the partnership with the Wellbeing Studies Program and with the international participants and their institutions.



### 3. Topics

## PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

### EMPOWERING RIGHT LIVELIHOOD FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The field summer school - II - in Bhutan will generate ideas for the future of Agri-Culture (Rural Livelihoods) based on 3 sources:

first, the concepts and practices from international scholars linked to the Right Livelihood Movement, Defence of Seeds and Biodiversity, Food Cultures, Indigenous wisdom and cosmivision of Agri-Culture, Agro-ecology and Food Sovereignty, Alternatives to Development, Decolonising knowledge, science and development;

second, the diverse cultural understandings of Right Livelihood in the world (Buenvivir, Ubuntu...) and especially in Bhutan (the 4 GNH pillars, 9 domains and 72 indicators);

and third, the diverse cultural insights of farming communities about their life and agriculture, as the local farming families and communities still preserve their holistic integration with nature producing healthy food in a sustainable and creative way.

The purpose of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation is, by presentation of the Right Livelihood Awards, to promote scientific research, education, public understanding and practical activities which: contribute to a global ecological balance, are aimed at eliminating material and spiritual poverty and contribute to lasting peace and justice in the world.

Within this Right Livelihood Purpose we want to study the spiritual and biological wealth of indigenous knowledge on natural resources by looking deeper into the traditions of Agri-Culture in 4 different villages of Central Bhutan and generate creative ideas for a self-reliant policy at local, regional and international levels and to redefine the role of science as partner of farming societies.

### 4. Participants

We expect up to 28 participants (with gender balance), who are and want to be advocates and practitioners of Right Livelihood Initiatives from different origins:

> up to 4 graduate students from Chulalongkorn University

> 8 Bhutanese participants, graduate students from RUB (CNR, PCE, ILCS, Sherubtse College, GCBS) and from CSO, who split into the 4 field teams.

> 16 international participants from SE-Asia and internationally, who are or want to become advocates for Right Livelihood in the fields of Agriculture, Livestock, Health, Green Economy, Culture, Science and Technology.

For field work the participants split into 4 teams, who will stay at farm houses in rural villages in the 4 selected areas in Punakha and Wangdue Districts.



## 5. Overview of program & resource persons

The program actually starts in Bangkok on July 23, when the first Summer School part exhibits and exposes their findings, results and Right Livelihood Initiatives at Chulalongkorn University and all Bhutan Summer School participants learn about the findings and gather for travel to Paro on July 24.

The program of 14 days in Bhutan (see details below) will have 5 parts:

First, welcome of participants and resource persons at RUB in Thimphu

Second, workshops with Right Livelihood Laureates (Grain RLA 2011, Anwar Fazal RLA 1982, Meda Patkar RLA 1991 in video message; Walden Bello RLA 2003?) and international Resource Persons (1 Academic from Chula; Michel Pimbert, CAWR, Coventry, UK; Gum Sha Awng or Sai Sam Kham, Metta Development Foundation, Burma; Shalmali Guttal, Focus on the Global South, Chula, Bangkok); Sombath Initiative; and also Scholars from Bhutan (Karma Ura, CBS; Neten Zangmo; Karma Phuntsho - Loden Foundation; Drungtsho Dophu, NITM, Lungtaen Gyatso, ILCS) in Thimphu and in Punakha with scholars specialised in ecology and agriculture of Bhutan (to be confirmed)

Third, methodological training on Food and Agri-Culture, intercultural dialogue and participatory action research (PAR) at CNR in Punakha with Maruja Salas and Timmi Tillmann

Fourth, field work in 4 different rural areas in Punakha and Wangdue districts of Central Bhutan for 4 days (incl. travel) - Villages in Guma Geog and Shengana Geog in Punakha District, in Bjena Geog in Wangdue Phodrang District. Participants will stay at selected farm households and experience local hospitality and rural life for 4 days

Fifth, presentation of results of field work and ideas on GNH and Self-Reliance of Organic Agriculture - Food in Lobesa at CNR.



After travelling back to Bangkok on August 7 the results of the Summer School in Bhutan will be presented to the Chulalongkorn Academic Community and the General public by a voluntary group of participants and resource persons.

## 6. Organisations involved

Royal University of Bhutan (VC Dasho Nidup Dorji) and Right Livelihood College (Dato Anwar Fazal, Penang) with cooperation from CAWR (Center for Agroecology, Water and Resilience) at Coventry University (Michel Pimbert), UK and Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PAN-AP) in Penang, Malaysia (Sarojeni Rengam).

Partial funding support for the organisation of the summer school has been offered by Misereor and Fiat Panis (Germany)

## 7. Contact persons

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Bhakta Shangson, Field School Coordinator, CNR, Lobesa, Punakha: [raishangshon@gmail.com](mailto:raishangshon@gmail.com)

Dr. Timmi Tillmann, Advisor CURLS - RLC (Germany) E-mail: [TimmiTillmann@gmail.com](mailto:TimmiTillmann@gmail.com)

## 8. Resource persons & Team

RUB Team

Dasho Nidup Dorji VC, Dr. Phanchung VCO, Tshering Choden VCO,

CNR Team of Coordination

Dr. Phub Dorji CNR, Dan Bdr. Gurung, Baktha Shangshon (Coordinator), Tulsi Gurung, Sonam Tashi at College for Natural Resources,

RLC Team

Anwar Fazal, Timmi Tillmann, Dr. Maruja Salas, Meena Arivananthan

## 9. Summer School Fees

The cost of the summer school for participants is **1200 US\$**, which includes return flights from Bangkok to Paro, food, lodging in twin rooms and transport in Bhutan for 14 days including home stays for 4 days at farm houses in Punakha and in Wangdue Districts, work-shop material, certificate of attendance issued by RUB, Chula and RLC.

Visa fee is extra and needs to be paid individually on arrival at the airport (2500 BTN = 40 US\$).

After the acceptance to the Summer School we will inform participants about flights and payment mechanisms for the Summer School.

The cost is still tentative as it depends on the negotiation with the airline concerning reduced group rates.

The organisers do **not offer grants** for the summer school, but we encourage donor agencies to sponsor their local partners to be able to join the summer school. Please do not approach us asking for funding.



**Punakha Valley**



**Royal University of Bhutan - in Thimphu**



## Program (Overview)

Date	Activity	
Saturday, 23. July 2016	Chula Right Livelihood Summer School I Results (Thailand) – Get to know the findings of the first CURLS group	Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Sunday, 24. July 2016	Flight to Paro - Travel to Thimphu Hotel check-in - Market visit - Thimphu sightseeing Introduction to 14 days of the Right Livelihood Summer School in Bhutan - First outline of Right Livelihood Initiatives of participants	Thimphu
Monday, 25. July 2016	Inauguration at VCO - first interventions by resource persons (Panel) & Introduction to Bhutan (Karma Phuntsho, Karma Ura, Lungtaen Gyatso) Joint Lunch afternoon - travel to Punakha	Thimphu - RUB Punakha - College for Natural Resources
Tuesday, 26. July 2016	Traditional <i>Marchang</i> ceremony at CNR Workshops with RLAs & Resource persons	Punakha - CNR
Wednesday, 27. July 2016	Visit to Punakha Dzong and surroundings	Punakha - CNR
Thursday, 28. July 2016	Explanation to situation of Agri-Culture and rural livelihoods in Bhutan Mahesh Ghimiray, Tushi Gurung, Sonam Tashi (to be confirmed and organised by CNR)	Punakha - CNR
Friday, 29. July 2016	PAR Methods for Field work on Food Sovereignty and Climate Change	Punakha - CNR
Saturday, 30. July 2016	PAR Methods for Field work Research Plan - PAR Cycle	Punakha - CNR
Sunday, 31. July 2016	Travel to 4 field sites in Punakha & Wangdue - start field work	Field sites
Monday, 1. August 2016	Field work in 4 parallel groups	Field sites
Tuesday, 2. August 2016	Field work in 4 parallel groups	Field sites
Wednesday, 3. August 2016	Field work in 4 parallel groups - morning still finalise field work - Travel back to Lobesa - CNR	Punakha - CNR
Thursday, 4. August 2016	Interpretation of Field work results Right Livelihood Initiatives	Punakha - CNR
Friday, 5. August 2016	morning: Exhibition of Field work results afternoon: Travel to Thimphu Evening: Follow up and Closing	Punakha - CNR Thimphu RUB
Saturday, 6. August 2016	Sightseeing - Thimphu or Paro	Thimphu RUB
Sunday, 7. August 2016	Travel to Paro, Flight to Bangkok	
Monday, 8. August 2016	Presentation of results of Chula Right Livelihood Summer School II (Bhutan) by selected participants	Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok