Nature-Positive Farming
& Wholesome Foods Foundation

CATALYSING ADOPTION OF NATURE-POSITIVE FARMING & FOOD SYSTEMS (N+FFS) ACROSS INDIA

Need for shifting to Nature-Positive Farming & Food Systems

Even as India emerges as one of the largest economies in the world, it is simultaneously facing the triple burden of a pervasive agrarian crisis, environmental crisis and rising incidence of malnutrition. The model of monoculture-based agriculture popularised during the Green Revolution has resulted in making farming less viable and energy intensive, and has resulted in drastic ecological consequences. Land degradation, loss of biodiversity, toxicity of water, soil and air, and over-extraction of groundwater are fundamentally altering the natural resource base of agriculture. The disconnect between agriculture and nutrition has been widening. This disconnect is the direct consequence of a shift away from 'an agri-food system based on biodiverse integrated farming systems and nature-positive production methods that met the food requirements of a farming family to a significant extent' to 'one that is based on simplified farming systems based primarily on market demand and synthetic agrochemical inputs and sacrifices ecosystem health and dietary diversity (Gliessman 2014). Besides, these changes have led to i) a decline in the concentrations of essential mineral nutrients, nutraceutical compounds, and sensory attributes in the main foods consumed by the wider populace, leading to a significant decline in nutrient intake, such as zinc and iron (Bhardwaj et al., 2024 & Debnath et al., 2023), and ii) a decline in food safety due to the increasing presence of pesticide residues, nitrate, microplastics, and unwanted chemicals in food (Nicolopoulou-Stamati et al., 2016 & WHO 2019). India is in urgent need of an alternative approaches to development of agriculture and food systems situated on agroecological principles and co-existence rather than extraction.

One such approach is Nature-Positive Farming and Wholesome Food Systems (N+FFS). N+FFS is broadly defined as those context-specific food, feed and fibre production systems that support biodiversity, rebuild fertile soils, protect freshwater supplies, store soil carbon, create employment, supply safe pesticide-free wholesome foods to nourish the globe, provide rural and indigenous peoples with rights and decent livelihoods, and enhance climate resilience and social stability. Boosting N+FFS will be fundamental to putting the global society on a pathway to a more resilient future and sustainable well-being.

About N+3F

N+3F is a young Section-8 non-profit organisation engaged in promoting nature-positive farming and food systems, working with around 50,000 smallholder farmers across remote tribal pockets in Central, Eastern, and Southern India in collaboration with 30 partners. N+3F focuses on a broad spectrum of interventions, viz., ***i) Adoption of nature-positive farming systems by a large number of farmers; ii) Adoption of post-harvest technologies by farmers' organisations (FOs) and CSOs; iii) Market development for pesticide-free foods; iv) Offering Zero Pesticide Use Agriculture and Foods (ZPUAF) Certification to FOs, CSOs and food business operators; v) Promoting consumption of safe, wholesome foods; and vi) Action research and policy advocacy.*** Some of N+3F's key partners include Samaj Pragati Sahayog, Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti, Lokadrusti, the Indian Institute of Soil Science (ICAR-IISS), Bhopal, and Safe Harvest Private Limited. More on N+3F can be found at www.np3f.in.



Working together to promote N+FFS

Nature-Positive Farming & Wholesome Foods Foundation

N+3F looks forward to engaging with many more like-minded interested agencies to promote N+FFS across India in a co-creation mode on the following aspects.

01. Agroecological transition to Sustainable Food Systems



06. Strengthening of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)





02. Designing & adoption of Nature- Positive Farming systems

i. Science behind N+FFS approach & practices
ii. Adoption of N+ PoPs
iii. Adoption of Diversified Cropping Systems



07. Development of pesticide-free agroecological food chains

i. Evolution & adoption of customised SOPs for pesticide-free food chains
ii. Ensuring high-quality produce on the farm
iii. Sampling & testing of the quality of produce
iv. Setting up collection centres, warehouses & primary & secondary processing units
v. Non-chemical storage pest management

03. Infield Assessment based Soil Health Enhancement





08. Farming-for-Nutrition interventions to improve the quantity, diversity & quality of foods



04. Setting up small-scale Bio Resource Centers



09. Promoting nutrient-dense, pesticide-free cultivated & uncultivated foods



05. Promotion of nature-positive production clusters at the landscape level

10. Certifying Pesticide-free Agriculture & Foods

i. Setting up Internal Control Systems
ii. Certification services to producer organisations & food business operators

Interested agencies are welcome to reach out to:

Nature-Positive Farming & Wholesome Foods Foundation (N+3F)

www.np3f.in

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