Food Forests
About the 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4)

The 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4) is a 10-month long youth leadership programme connected with the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13) in Cambodia. The ASEFYLS4 focuses on ‘Sustainable Development in a post-COVID-19 World’ and incorporates 3 spheres for youth leadership:

1) self-leadership (you)
2) team leadership (we)
3) societal leadership (all).

To demonstrate the youth’s role in driving Sustainable Development, the programme encourages participants to collaborate & volunteer on meaningful community projects with an Asia-Europe twist. Based on the four ASEFYLS4 focus areas (SDG3, SDG4, SDG8 and SDG13), participants are allocated to specific working groups and work on “Leadership in Action” activities. In total, the ASEFYLS4 facilitates 15 community projects, each led by 1 ASEFYLS4 Navigator and supported by up to 10 participants from different Asian & European countries. See the list and outlines of all “Leadership in Action Projects” here.

About the Leadership in Action Project #12

Food Forests

Background

Climate change poses an urgent threat to humanity. During the last century, atmospheric carbon has increased rapidly due to human activities. Climate action requires the engagement and commitment from all layers of society - individuals, corporations and governments.

Within the range of solutions that are being pursued to combat and mitigate the impacts of climate change, one emerging method on a local level is the development of the “food forest”:

A food forest, or edible forest garden, is a way of producing food involving high plant species diversity, canopy layering and perennial planting. Food forests are scalable ecosystems that are viable from a container on a balcony to a farm on a large landholding. Modelled after the layers of a forest (trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, groundcovers, and vines all growing together), they are part of the solution to combatting climate change. By utilising natural processes, they are resilient to environmental stressors, and they can help to capture and sequester atmospheric carbon.

Outline and Objectives

The “Leadership in Action "Food Forests" empowers the next generation of food forest pioneers.

During this project, participants will showcase food forests across Asia and Europe on a new video platform to educate and inspire an ASEM audience: about their process of establishment and maintenance, delivery of benefits to the individuals and communities involved, and the science behind their contribution to increasing the amount of carbon sequestration in the ground.
Planned Activities

Rapid research phase on

- What is a food forest
- How do food forests contribute to food security
- How do food forests contribute to mitigating the impact of climate change
- Scan of existing media on food forests
- Scan of stakeholders relevant to food forests

Content development and video production

- Explainer videos explaining process of establishment, implementation and maintenance of food forests
- Garden tour and garden interview videos including an interview with a food forest owner and tour around their garden

Launch social media presence and deliver content

- Establish platforms on Facebook, Youtube, Instagram
- Develop logo and branding
- Push out content including explainer videos, garden tour videos, reposts of other content

Expected Results & Outcomes

Tangible

⇒ **Series of 1-2 minute ‘explainer videos** that outline the concept of food forests and how they contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change and contributing to food security

⇒ **Series of garden tour and explainer videos and/or email interviews** with food forests owners across ASEM countries

⇒ **Promotional & outreach materials of the project**, including, social media content, photos and videos

Intangible

⇒ **For students, individuals, interested gardeners**: increased awareness of the concept of food forests and how they produce food sustainably

⇒ **For policymakers**: increased understanding of the potential of food forests to be a solution to mitigate the impacts of climate change and improve food security

⇒ **For educational institutions**: practical understanding of case studies (via garden tour videos) of existing and successful food forests across ASEM countries.
Project Team

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In partnership with:

Contributing to:

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