



Climate Change Conference COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco

Weekend of the 12th and 13th Nov. 2016

The weekend was dedicated to the Forum of the Earth, a civil society initiative mainly organized by Terre et Humanisme, Morocco, Orange Bleue Maghreb and Network of Agroecological Initiatives. Saturday's event took place at the local university. Sunday's event was on a farm, one hour's drive outside Marrakech. It was an opportunity for the team working in the kitchen and organizing transport to participate in those programs and learn more about the topic. Piero Musini, Franesca and Elia from Gubbio, Italy arrived especially for this forum.



Picture: Laura on the phone, welcoming everyone to the villa

Forum of the Earth

The Forum de la Terre, initiated by the civil society, organized a 3-day program starting at the Cadi Ayyad University. A multitude of different stakeholders came together and Sister Jayanti made a presentation on "Re-establishing the sacred link to Mother Earth" at the opening session. She described the different aspects of connecting to nature; visiting forests, celebrating festivals related to food and thanks-giving ceremonies in cultures.

Just as a mother gives discipline to protect the child so it is the same for Mother Nature who can only protect the inhabitants of earth when they follow her disciplines. Therefore, if we need to bring about a change in nature, we must first bring about a change in our inner nature; which shows in our thoughts and behaviour. Such a transformation is beautifully demonstrated in the gardens of the various meditation centres around the world through the practice of respect and care to the plants. A meditation commentary translated by Sister Laura concluded her speech; followed by a performance by Desert Rose who lifted the spirits as everyone danced to their tune.





The second day of the Forum took place 30 km outside of Marrakesh, on the CIPA farm (Carrefour des Initiatives et Pratiques Agroécologiques) of Pierre Rabhin. Around 80 people had gathered at this beautiful organic farm in the middle of the desert.

Desert Rose started the event with a powerful, spiritual chant and Valériane guided a meditation on the relationship between souls and the Earth.



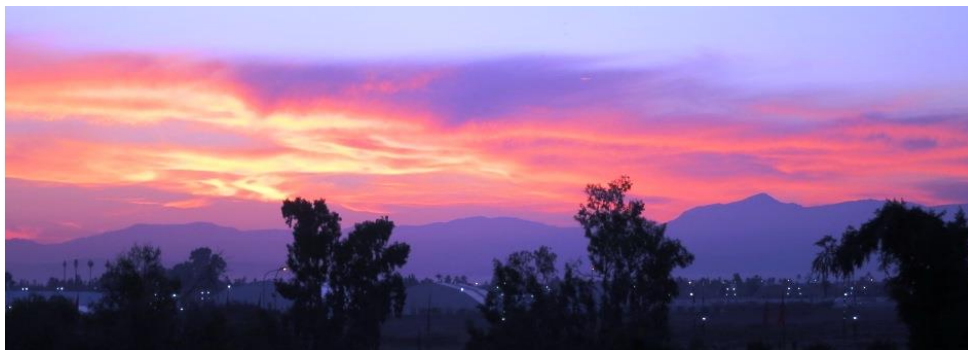
Piero Musini, from Gubbio, Italy, talked about the experiments with his organic farm. He soon realized that the health of the soil plays a key role; it determines the strength, taste and resilience of the plants. Piero also searched in Italy for ancient grains and created a series of old wheat products. He shared his positive experience with yogic farming, started after he saw farmers in India meditating with their seeds and plants.

Romina spoke on the role of nutrition, which has to feed the body and also the soul. She shared the importance of positive thoughts whilst cooking and explained the effect of positive and useful thoughts or negative and wasteful thoughts. Piero and Romina received many questions after the talks and elaborated many of the details of their ideas.



Weekend activity

Our beautiful villas provide ample space and we get lots of chances for talks and interaction. During the weekend, many of us enjoyed a lunch with Sister Jayanti and local contacts. We also got the opportunity to visit the lively old medina, the centre of Marrakesh. The Moroccans are proud they are hosting the climate conference and the city is beautifully decorated everywhere with red flags and banners.



Climate change, Food and the Arts

Vikram and Manoj were invited to the Development and Climate day events held at the Hotel Kenzi Agdal. They participated at an interesting workshop on 'Climate Change, Food and the Arts'. The participants were given famous art paintings and asked to find the connection to climatic change. This enabled the participants to see how the arts can bring powerful messages to the people. Then the organizers showcased different menus of Moroccan dishes by local chefs depicting the climatic changes.



African Agriculture

On Sunday, Vikram and Manoj participated in a workshop at the Palais des Congres organized by the Adaptation of African Agriculture(AAA) on the topic 'From Science to Action'. This workshop brought together many experts in Agriculture to find out how to help the farming sector in Africa and reduce the climate impact. Vikram met Judy Sole, journalist at the Mother Channel, and introduced her to the concept of Sustainable Yogic Agriculture.



Vikram meeting a journalist



Entry to old town in Marrakech

Read more:

www.eco.brahmakumaris.org