

## THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET EARTH DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO PLANT AND CULTIVATE

*“(...) the real healing and the transformation of evil into good will depend on the true ability of the real art to provide human souls and hearts a spiritual path.”*  
**(Rudolf Steiner)**

Close to Itápolis, at Finca Sabores, lives the regenerative impulse called Tropical Regenerative Agriculture Project known as ART Project. Itápolis is a 43 thousand inhabitants city located in the State of São Paulo/Brazil. The ART project is an experimental area established in around 7 hectares which is producing regenerative vegetables and fruits by an innovative agroforestry methodology created by 4 co-authors: Cristiane Guerreiro, Cristiano Pettersen, Manfred Osterroht, and Richard Charity.

ART was inspired by Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophy, Goethe's Phenomenology, and by many other people who passed through Finca Sabores. Only in 2014, with the publication of the article: "The Necessary Metamorphosis of a European Biodynamic Agriculture into a Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture" ART came into the world bringing a new consciousness. The new perspective considering specific landscapes without intending global panaceas was now understood and accepted. A new socio-environmental practice for Tropical climate was born, attracting young people who were seeking a solution to the climate crisis.

The regenerative methodology consists of the production of vegetables and fruits at the same time that the landscape is regenerated. For that to happen, agroforestry fertilizing supported by tree branches is used. It differs from European practices where manure is widely used in the savanna landscape. ART management favors the CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration by trunks and roots contributing to the positive balance of Greenhouse Gases (GHG).

The new generation is asking us, tirelessly, for a new attitude toward our planet. Each passing day the climate and the humanitarian crisis are more and more alarming and clear. Although many people are dormant in our broken consumer society others are working tirelessly towards a "regenerative development".

The ART project emerges as a do to a fear-less action in the direction of the future that awaits us. It crosses the environmental and the agriculture field reaching not only the regeneration of landscapes but also the regeneration of human beings.

Getting into the vibrant Finca Sabores, the landscape, and the people create a true image of Regenerative Agriculture in our soul. The plantation is surrounded by manure trees, and the social interactions and each detail are able to enchant you. You are delighted from the lunch served by Andrea to the explanations regarding fertilizing and planting from the producers Vitor and Lai. The humanity present there touches your heart and provides you with a truly experience in the field of doing. Very likely you are going to leave there with a genuine impulse to plant trees, rethink your waste disposal, plan a vegetable garden, or share your knowledge about the methodology you learned.

The team starts early. Around 6:30 am they are in the field. The field co-workers take advantage of the cool climate in the morning. At 8:30 am they have breakfast prepared by Andrea and then they go back to the vegetable garden and to the agroforestry stripes. Operating machetes, shears or sickles they manage the biomass fertilizing crops like cassava, pineapple and passionfruit. The time to irrigate the demanding crops is in the afternoon and in the nightfall. Two times a week they harvest. The production has been increasing every year, proving the success of ART.

The seven days I spent there listening to each person, learning and planting were enough to mark my soul with a beautiful picture of potentialities. Starting with the relationships in which each person is cared for. As told by Vitor, a 24-year-old collaborator: “Here they value us a lot. There are places in which nobody is in charge of people. At Finca Sabores they always look for the best for us, avoiding any kind of suffering.”

Vitor considers ART as a manifestation of life and revolution: “I myself have been in many farms where the use of agrochemicals prevents the action of nature and you cannot observe how it behaves. Here I see little birds even wearing sunglasses.” He highlights: “When you do not work with agrochemicals you help nature and bring benefits to humanity.”



For Lai, 41 years old, the dialogue with collaborators is very important. He emphasizes that Manfred really likes to talk with everyone there. “Whenever possible he sits with us to talk about something. It is unusual to sit at the same table as the boss.” He complements his speech: “Who lives in Itápolis knows that here we open the front gate to the boss but we enter through the back door. But here at Finca Sabores it is different. I pass through the same front door side by side with Manfred. More than that, we eat the same food.” For Lai being treated as a human being makes all the difference.



Let 's see what Henrique, 24 years old, tells us when asked about what ART is: “It is the regeneration of landscapes, of the soil, of the world itself. It is the improvement of all ecosystems.” He recently joined the team.

Since her arrival, Andrea, 51 years old, looks after the vegetable garden and uses all the harvesting for cooking: “Every day I create a new menu.” She likes her task and she motivates others: “My dream is to see Lai and Vitor studying again. They told me next year (2024) they will”. Being part of the ART Project is a possibility to create and make a real impact. Andrea speaks full of passion about her dreams: “I want to see this space ready to host people and schools.”

I risk myself to say that ART is the real agriculture of the future. An active response to the climate emergency, to the biodiversity loss and to the depletion of natural resources. If we do not want to walk in the direction of an abyss, we can join ourselves in the Rudolf Steiner teachings and regenerate the ecosystem.

Would you like to do an internship or to collaborate with our project? Contact us at: [projetos@regenerativa.art.br](mailto:projetos@regenerativa.art.br)

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