



Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute

(Registered under The Societies Registration Act XXI and the Bombay Public Trust Act of 1950)

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Center for Sustainable Living (CSL)

In today's materialistic world, greed is one of the most crippling diseases that society suffers from. For this reason [Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute \(NARI\)](#) a nonprofit organization situated in rural Maharashtra, has decided to setup an ashram with a difference. The aim of the ashram called Center for Sustainable Living (CSL) is to create an environment where spirituality, high technology and agricultural techniques are taught and practiced with the vision of creating a model society. The motto of the center will be spirituality, sustainability and simplicity and the theme will be to promote simple living and high thinking.

The CSL hopes to demonstrate that happiness and contentment can be achieved through spiritual practice (based on ancient Indian philosophical thought) coupled with rewarding work and research, for the benefit of the self and the larger community.

The major difference between this sustainable center and other existing ashrams will be the central role of technology within its philosophy. The implementation of ecologically friendly technologies, such as solar power, power generation from biomass, rainwater harvesting, together with organic agriculture and internet will be a part of the working, teaching and research practices of the CSL. In the past, technological development has been considered the enemy of spirituality and this is a view that the CSL will aim to rectify. The focus of the center will be to create a model whereby a simple, satisfying and suitable life style could be sustained from the land. Thus the focus will be to optimally produce food, fuel and fertilizer from the same piece of land with the use of best tools of science and technology. These products will then be used to power a life style, which is based on the spiritual values.

[NARI](#) has done pioneering work in developing technologies for sustainable development. Besides it has developed a [new paradigm of development](#), which is, based on the principle that spirituality, sustainability and technology go hand in hand. Recently a book on this subject has been published by NARI. (<http://education.vsnl.com/nimbkar/thought.html>). All these ideas will form the basis on which this center will work. The center will have lectures, discourses and discussions from leading experts in the area of sustainable development, spirituality and technology. This will be coupled with actual hands on experience on sustainable technologies being developed and used at NARI.

The participants in this program will be individuals who will be agents of change. Thus they will be CEOs of companies, technology and NGO leaders who will be able to blend high technology and spirituality. It is hoped that they will try to use and implement the information learned in the program in their organization. The center will be a fully residential place and we hope to have a maximum participant strength of 30. The courses/workshop will be of a week to 10 days duration.

We are looking for funding for the center from philanthropic and other organizations. The amount required is about **Rs. 100 lakhs (~ US\$ 230,000/-)** for buildings and initial working capital to start the center. Subsequently the fees and agricultural produce will help it run on a sustainable basis. **We welcome contributions of any amount for the center. The contributions are 125% tax deductible under section 35(i)(ii) of I.T.Act.** They can be sent to the address listed on the letterhead.