

Soil & Soul – Program

Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu, India
23–26 October 2025

Overview

Day	Morning (09:00–12:30)	Lunch	Afternoon (13:30–17:15)	Evening
Thu 23	Welcome · Framing · Soil ↔ Health & Culture	Yes	Soil walk & soil exchange	—
Fri 24	Excursion in Thiruvannamalai area	Yes	Reflection & discussion circles	—
Sat 25	Workstations with farmers	Yes	Soil regeneration labs I & II	—
Sun 26	Seeds & stewardship	Yes	Storytelling circle	Food & Cultures Fair (15:30–19:00)

Day-by-Day Program

Day 1 – Thursday, 23 October

Time	Session
09:00–11:00	Welcome address; introductions; name tags
11:00–11:15	Tea break
11:15–12:30	Introduction by organisers on the gathering structure, aims, and expectations; identifying contributions and themes from participants
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30–15:30	Discussion on: (1) the role of healthy soils and land relations in supporting family nutrition, health, and livelihood; (2) the role of social relationships, cultural integrity, and community support — includes storytelling and examples of farm transformations
15:15–15:45	Tea/coffee
15:45–17:15	Soil session: walk through neighbouring farms. Focus on “knowing your soil” — soil property recognition, and exchange between local and Thai farmers. Local farmers may bring their own soil samples; session may take place in situ or on local farms

Day 2 – Friday, 24 October

Time	Session
08:00–13:00	Excursion to a site in the Thiruvannamalai surroundings (location TBD). Early morning to early afternoon field visit
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–16:00	Reflection and discussion on the excursion. Guided prompts and group discussions based on emerging themes and participants' expertise (e.g. ethnobotanical insights from herbs encountered during the visit)

Day 3 – Saturday, 25 October

Time	Session
09:00–10:30	Ethnobotany session: knowledge-sharing on local herbs and foraging practices
10:30–10:45	Tea break
10:45–12:30	Session on community organisation, cooperatives, and food processing
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30–15:00	Soil regeneration techniques and organic pest control (Part I). Includes discussion of fermentation in farming and presentation of bio-enzyme practices
15:00–15:15	Tea/coffee
15:15–17:15	Soil regeneration techniques and organic pest control (Part II). Composting station session (outdoors, preferably in a shaded location)

Day 4 – Sunday, 26 October

Time	Session
09:00–10:30	Session on seeds, with a seed display (outdoor), featuring contributions from local farmers
11:00–12:30	Closing session
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30–15:00	Storytelling circle on “how we talk about food and farming”
15:30–19:00	Cultural event: local music and puppet show, with stalls showcasing food and crafts from Thailand and India
19:00–20:30	Joint dinner