

Regeneración en Acción launched a course on agroforestry, an opportunity for Colombian ecosystems and societies



On February 28th, the course "**Agroforests: Regenerating through Syntropic Agriculture**" was launched at the Medellín Chamber of Commerce, the latest educational resource from the **Regeneración en Acción platform**. This platform aims to bring together individuals and organizations interested in regeneration, defined as "creating the conditions for life to return to places it has left and restoring the ability to thrive continuously."

During the opening, Felipe Castañeda, manager of the Agri-Food Cluster Community of Antioquia at the Medellín Chamber of Commerce for Antioquia, noted that the Chamber has been understanding that agri-food systems are refocusing on well-being-oriented practices. Therefore, opening the doors to these types of spaces and initiatives is essential for the private sector.

In Colombia, significant regeneration efforts are required through systems that give back more to nature and societies than we have taken from them for years. This is why agroforests become fundamental options that add the possibility of planting edible, timber, and native trees with agricultural production plants that coexist in the same space, generating ecological interactions that restore life to soils and ecosystems.

In the words of Natalia Valencia, co-founder of Tierra Yai and course instructor, "successional agroforests support restoration and ecological connectivity and allow for the production of healthy food for the well-being of all living beings."

During the launch, Maritza López, director of My EcoHome and moderator of the panel "Regenerative Agricultures: Challenges and Opportunities," highlighted the relevance of this dialogue space with CORNARE, the Medellín Botanical Garden, and the Environment Secretariat of the Antioquia Governorate, three entities in the department that can make regeneration possible with options that contribute to nature and also to the fight against hunger.

Agroforestry or syntropic systems have a great capacity to adapt to different ecosystems and offer sustainable livelihoods to local communities, constituting a great alternative in the different territories of the country that need to simultaneously address ecosystem restoration and achieve economic options that contribute to the human right to food.

In this sense, Javier Valencia, director of CORNARE, emphasized that "what we need to streamline is the coordination among all entities to promote these regenerative processes in the communities of the department that urgently want it, always having people at the center."

Claudia García, director of the Medellín Botanical Garden, pointed out that "we have a significant deficiency in education. Just to give an example, the texts used in schools present ecosystems and species that we do not have in Colombia." She emphasized that we must take advantage of the richness that being the world's second most biodiverse country gives us and the importance of "feeling responsible for what is ours."

Jimmy Collazos, Secretary of the Environment of the department of Antioquia, commented that "the Antioquia Governorate will bet on Payments for Environmental Services (PSA), increasing the budget by at least 20%, hoping to support the regional autonomous corporations (CAR) in their great work of encouraging landowners to conserve and regenerate soils and ecosystems."

At the end of the event, Claudia Martínez, director of the Coalition for Food and Land Use- FOLU Colombia, commented that "the Regeneración en Acción platform is free and aims to democratize knowledge in regeneration with more and more courses and examples of regenerators that inspire change."

The FOLU director also invited all Colombians to take the regenerative agriculture and agroforestry courses and to join the Regeneración en Acción platform.

Learn more about Regeneración en Acción and the new course via the following link <https://regeneracionenaccion.org/>