

## **Container Gardening Workshop**

**Dr. Rajendra Hegde, Co-Founder, BRICS LLP, Bengaluru**

**Trustee, Garden City Farmers, Bengaluru**

Urban farming is gaining momentum all-round the globe. Though the concept is not new, there is enhanced emphasis in recent years to ‘grow your own food’. Industrialization, especially boom in information technology and biotechnologies, has led to people concentrating around cities. It is time for all of us including the law makers, nutritionists, civil engineers, architects, industrialists, businessmen, farming scientists, to realize that just industrialization is not the progress. Something beyond that is required to lead a healthy and peaceful life in cities. Concerted efforts are to be planned and implemented in and around cities to grow healthy food, to nurture our nature and environment and so to keep the place livable for our children and future generations.

Terrace gardening as a type of urban farming is a simple but definite step towards increasing our green cover and is a more sustainable option for our food needs, irrespective of space restriction. It is with the basis/principle of ‘Grow what you Eat and Eat what you Grow’. While the commercial viability of crop production is expected and sure over years, the major targets seem to be fresh, safe and functional (organic) food (vegetables and fruits) required for a family or for local needs, to develop greenery and to reduce pollution in urban areas. It is also to have a space and place for physical exercise, to relax from pressures of urban living and to get the extraordinary pleasure of growing crops, to convert the household wet waste into compost to use for growing crops and having green natural ambience and surroundings to the dwelling place.

The Workshop is to provide basic understanding about the following

1. Need and necessity of urban farming
2. Concept of organic vegetables
3. Practices of growing vegetables in containers
4. Waste segregation and home composting
5. Plant care in container gardening
6. Demonstration of Terrace Gardening practices

## **Mr.Rajendra Hegde**

Dr.Rajendra Hegde is one of the founder members of Garden City Farmers (GCF) and closely working with Dr. B.N.Viswanath, who is a pioneer of Organic Urban Farming and Terrace Gardening in the Country. Rajendra Hegde is a doctorate in Agricultural Entomology from University of Agricultural Sciences,Dharwad, specialized in integrated pest management. He has worked at various capacities, involving inboth urban and rural agriculture activities, in corporate as well as development sectors. With 18 years ofexperience behind, he has published 50 research/extension papers apart from many popular articles.

Heis actively involved in promotion of Urban Farming through various activities. He is part of the Workshops and other promotional activities of Organic Terrace Gardening in Bengaluru since 2005. At GCF, the OFYT-Oota from your Thota (Food from your Garden) is being organized quarterly since 2011 to promote urban farming and to organize materials for terrace garden farming. Organic farming,

He is Co-founder and Director, R&D, at Biological Research Innovation Centre and Solutions (BRICS, [www.bricsbio.com](http://www.bricsbio.com))) at Bengaluru which is in to Safe grey water concepts, botanical pesticides along with organic farming, container gardening and so on. He is part of BBT (Bettada Budada Thota, a community farming initiative) to promote sustainable farming systems.