

WANTED: Volunteer Permaculture Manager at RASTA India, 6-12 Months Starting ASAP



About RASTA

RASTA - (Rural Agency for Social and Technological Advancement, www.rastaindia.org) is a voluntary organization in the heart of lush Wayanad, Kerala, India. It was established in 1987 to extend the reach of various government schemes to rural areas. RASTA works in the areas of agriculture, water conservation, ecosystem conservation, health, education, women empowerment, renewable energy, natural resource management, and income generating training programmes.

We are looking to initiate a permaculture project on the RASTA campus. Currently, we grow and harvest small amounts of coconut, banana, cardamon, jackfruit, coffee, starfruit and a few additional fruit trees. There is space to develop a vegetable garden, and ideally to grow yams, black pepper, more coffee, more bananas, grains, and fruit trees. Our goal would be to only use crops grown on the RASTA campus to feed our volunteers, guests, and staff.

Role Description

The permaculture volunteer is responsible to develop and maintain a functioning permaculture demonstration and education site on campus.

Duties & Responsibilities Include (but are not limited to):

- Develop the RASTA gardens according to permaculture principles and ethics
- Oversee all garden activities including: equipment and supply purchasing, seasonal planning, and coordinating staff and international and local volunteers assistance
- Keep up-to-date detailed records of all activities undertaken in gardens
- Create guidelines and to-do lists for others to follow for long-term project sustainability
- Update RASTA social media/tourism websites with relevant posts regarding the gardens
- Work closely with core staff, other long-term volunteers and short-term volunteers to ensure day-to-day functions as well as long-term goals are reached

Ideal Candidate

- Has completed a permaculture course
- Shares RASTA's core values and is passionate about our mission
- Has experience on organic farms/gardens
- Has experience/interest in teaching, record-keeping and planning
- Has experience/interest in tourism, marketing, volunteer organization, and hospitality
- Is open-minded and has an easy going attitude
- Is ready and flexible to help in other areas of the organization as needed
- Shows initiative and delegates tasks
- Is friendly, interested in meeting new people
- Is able to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English
- Is able to work effectively in a team, with a positive, can-do attitude

What we offer you:

- Valuable work experience in designing and maintaining a permaculture project for an NGO
- A chance to directly contribute to the well-being and development of the surrounding community
- Free accommodation (private room with shared bath) and homemade, organic, vegetarian meals after a trial period of 8 weeks (a contribution of 2€ per day will be required during the trial period to cover food costs)
- Monetary compensation for basic expenses can be negotiated after the trial period has ended
- A gateway to explore the region's natural and historical sites and visit RASTA projects
- Flexible vacation time to be arranged upon arrival
- An immersion living experience in a rural community in tropical Wayanad, Kerala
- A chance to connect with both locals and international travellers and volunteers
- Learn Malayalam, yoga, and Ayurvedic massage if desired

How to Apply

Send your CV (including two references with email contact), a short letter of motivation, and your Skype ID for possible interview to contact@rastaindia.org to be considered for this role. Please mention Permaculture Volunteer in the subject of your email.