

October 2015 : A survey carried out by Annadana on the experiences of International interns after training with us in our agro-ecology farms/centers. The question posed, 'How are you benefiting from Annadana's learnings in this phase of your life? How have you put this to use and in what way?'

Feedback from Cecilia Cristerna Ragasol, a student from Agro Campus-Quest, Rennes, France is now a qualified Agronomist



'Being an intern in Annadana for a 5 month period in 2013 was one of the most meaningful experiences I have gone through.

First of all my experience at Annadana gave me important clues to unravel my vocation. During my internship I was given great freedom to explore many different activities: from office work to the fields, from managing groups to participating at outside expositions, from helping at daily activities to developing all sort of new projects. I was constantly encouraged to take charge and responsibility which allowed me to explore myself through action and practice. This freedom was

crucial in helping me clarify which kind of work areas I truly love and where I am more likely to express my full potential.

There were no limits to imagining new projects, fresh ideas were more than welcome and I was free to fix my own goals. Sangita's ability to detect talent and encourage interns into giving their best made it possible for me to go further than I would have imagined! I was given all the tools I needed and the kindest guide to put creative forces into action, commit with my dreams and realize a little bit more what I am capable of.

In fact, my self-esteem was boosted since I felt my efforts and the fruit of my work were deeply acknowledged and very much appreciated. At this stage of my life, as a recently graduated agronomist, the projects we developed at Annadana during my internship give me faith to keep on believing in myself and in what I can achieve. The field of possibilities seems so wide and I deeply cherish my Annadana experience since it clarifies my direction in many ways and it is an important key of my confidence as a young professional.

At an intellectual level it was also a very rich experience. I had access to precious information about seed multiplication and conservation, as well as eco-friendly agronomic techniques through pedagogic material but mostly through practice in the fields guided by farmers, realizing that language is not a boundary if you don't allow it to. Connecting with farmers and sharing knowledge was an invaluable experience, I felt at home every moment, so welcome and blessed by warm smiles. I can still feel the power of their will through their shining eyes which is everlasting source of inspiration. Indeed, during my internship I was able to witness the fruits of the hard work and perseverance of Annadana team. Thanks to places like Annadana, my trust in the power we have to make a difference and heal our planet is strengthened.

To sum up, Annadana is pure gold in the fresh path that has just begun for me. Thanks Annadana for keep on clarifying my direction, my ambitions and giving me hope at every step to keep on dreaming high and working hard. Thank you so much for believing in me and allowing me not only to dream big time, but also to make our projects come alive! I rejoice knowing that our story together is not finished 😊'

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