



Visit to the farm "El Mato Tinto" (Tacoronte – Tenerife) of teachers and students of biology, environmental management, ecology, ... of Kiel University (Germany)

Impressions of teachers and students¹

Friday, 25th May 2018

www.permaculturatenerife.org



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«I really liked the idea of the natural sewage to clean the water with help of plants. Another part I liked was the idea to cultivate soil and the mechanism to achieve this. Also that you collect **what** grows instead of “forcing” something is good. For self-sufficiency permaculture seems to be really suited an ecological way. The problem I see is that the productivity, even with the high workload all year around, seems to be **too** low for feeding bigger part of the **population**. Also the area-productivity ratio is not optimal for bigger agriculture projects»

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¹ The impressions were asked to be anonymous. Some people wrote their names, which we appreciate, but the editors of the transcript have chosen to transcribe all the impressions in anonymous. When a word has not been understood correctly, it has been transcribed with a yellow background. When it has been necessary to add a word to make sense of the text, it has been added in brackets, with a green background. (Note of the editor of the transcriptions)

«Hello,

My first impression of permaculture was:

- Colourful
- Green, a lot of plants
- Much flowers
- Together with a lot of animals (birds, butterflies, dragonflies, etc)
- Wonderful houses/shelter from old wood, sometimes decorated with mussels [shells]

And I am impressed of the lot of solutions (for water, soil, planting, etc). Best wishes!»

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«Good impression of how permaculture works. Really sustainable agriculture which would be too good to work worldwide. Would have been good to have a better subjective look of it by mentioning also the disadvantages and how difficult it may be to establish it in other countries. But nevertheless really impressive»

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«I liked to see all the different plants growing so well and seeing the vegetables in the “market”; would have liked to know – see more about the rest of the area, as we only saw a small part.

I liked the way everything is used in a circle and the idea of producing food while reducing the Earth CO₂ footprint. I hope more projects like this will come up. And we all would have liked to try some of the greens»

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«Fantastic impression of permaculture working. I was impressed by the diversity of food production per square meter and the whole-recycling-idea applied in every place (water, soil, construction,...). Good example, especially in terms of soil, to compare with the neighbouring “conventional” agriculture. Would love to taste a fruit/vegetable, as they look so tasteful and ripe (part of them). Thanks for the enthusiastic talk and the nice reception»

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- «– Very impressive amount of food for such a small farm
- Good to use for small areas but maybe not for big areas
 - Working mentality and love to the nature seems to be bigger than the nature love of workers on big fields (fun at work 😊)
 - Broccoli looked sooooo good
 - Thank you so much for showing us around»

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«Amazing project which might be a glance to future agriculture

- Still I missed a somehow structured system → even though it is working pretty well which amazed me → great amount of food for the small area
- Integration of local population seems to be well functioning
- Maybe collaborations with the local university might provide more information about biomass/production patterns/plant communities → Future aim?»

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«The impression I got when I came here first is that the different parts/sectors of this area are treated very different because I thought that the corn field also belong to this project. The fields and the [vegetables] cage are all very colourful and diverse. A chaotic system with its own beauty»

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«Impressions of the visit:

- nice ideas/examples (+);
- good structure of the visit (+);
- more facts would be useful for your arguments! (-);
- (repetition of the same facts/numbers) (-);
- good locations/visualization (+)»

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«[1] it's compared to other agricultural fields or businesses very colourful

- The concept is great but I wonder whether the principles can be applied in a large scale
- But all in all it's pretty cool here and I will consider to work here or some other permaculture farm someday»

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«Interesting way of demonstrating permaculture:

- climate tolerance
- use of bioengineering/ecoengineering
- Nice dry toilet
- Good scheme of harvesting food for household consumption
- Impressive water-saving techniques.

Thanks for showing us the hard work. Million salut!»

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«La permacultura es una muy buena alternativa para los problemas socio-ambientales que enfrentamos en todo el planeta. La visita me gustó mucho, la pasión con la que exponen sobre cada sitio de la finca y del trabajo que hacen día a día que aunque exhaustivo, muy provechoso. Muchas felicidades!!!»

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«- High biodiversity both of fauna and flora

- high rate of recycling
- positive effect of nature-like gardening → nature-imitation
- impressive water cleaning process
- bee volcano => buena idea
- astonishing network of biotic interactions

¡Muchas gracias por permitirnos visitarles!»

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«Interesting approach, should be supported by the government, need more investigations concerning water/nutrient cycle, biodiversity to make the “experiment” more attractive to the society => cooperation with universities would be useful»

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«Impressive work with a lot of experience that is already included. Nice to see what is possible if you work with nature, but not against it»

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«- Interesting concept

- didn't know anything about it before
- are you thinking about an expansion of the area? -> It's a small area
- not sure if it's possible to establish it in Germany, but for gardening the own yard
- would like an agriculture like this in Germany in my neighbourhood
- the food looks yummy»

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«At first glance seemed a rather chaotic business, but now it appears to be more rational than any other cultural technique **ever** seen. Congrats!!

Very impressive variety especially the grey-water-system + plant mixture on the fields + and the bee crater construction!»

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«Impressive how excellent the large diversity of **edible** plants are growing here, obviously without any problem by disease.

It would be interesting to learn about how many insects (ants, bees, butterflies,...) are living here, obviously without any disturbance for the plants»

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Hi lovely people from this farm,

At first I want to say I love it. I have so much respect for you that you are working on preserving water and soil at the same time producing fresh/organic food for others. I wish more and more farmers will adapt this technique to their farm.

Not only farms but also the way you think about nature and life also amazed me so much. I wish I could have the chance to work with you personally and eat fresh food 😊

Wish you all the very best with your farm. Make the world better place for all of us, human, plant, animals and so on. Love and respect...»

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During the visit they were told about the project PERMIND (Applying Permaculture in the Recovery Process of People with Mental Illness). At the end of the visit the students, the teachers and the guides of the visit took a picture around the logo of PERMIND



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From the Association for the Development of Permaculture, THANKS!