

Concept Paper for the Integrated Symposium on
**Rooted in God's Creation: Theology, Eco-Care, Organic Farming,
and Healthy Living**

Jointly organized by

Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College
Association of Theological Teachers in India

Venue : Malankara Syrian Orthodox Theological College, Ernakulam

Date: 12-14 May 2026

1. Rationale

Contemporary ecological crises, lifestyle-related health challenges, and growing food insecurity demand ethical, spiritual, and practical responses. Christian theology offers a moral and spiritual framework that emphasizes stewardship of creation, justice, and care for life. Organic and sustainable agricultural practices embody these values by nurturing soil health, biodiversity, and community well-being. Healthy lifestyles naturally emerge when food systems, spirituality, and everyday practices are brought into harmony.

This Integrated Symposium seeks to create an interdisciplinary and dialogical space where theologians, religious educators, health practitioners, farmers, and community leaders come together to explore the interconnections between faith, sustainable food systems, and holistic human well-being. Through reflective theological engagement, academic presentations, panel discussions, group activities, and a guided field visit, participants will be encouraged to move from theological reflection to lived and contextual action.

2. Objectives

- 1) To explore theological perspectives on creation care, stewardship, and ethical living.
- 2) To examine the relationship between food systems, lifestyle choices, and physical, mental, and spiritual health.
- 3) To encourage faith-informed and community-based responses to contemporary ecological and health challenges.
- 4) To equip participants—especially from seminaries and colleges—with practical tools for integrating organic food practices and healthy lifestyles within institutional and community settings.

3. Target Participants

The target participants of the proposed integrated symposium are theologians, religious educators, and faculty members of Senate-affiliated colleges/seminaries in South India, namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

4. Proposed Topics

- 1) Creation as Sacred Trust
- 2) The Earth Is the Lord's: Living as Faithful Stewards
- 3) Faith Narratives and Nutritional Ethics (Feminist Perspective)
- 4) Healthy Lifestyles and Holistic Well-Being
- 5) Food, Faith, and Public Health (Panel Discussion)
- 6) Be Still and Know: Mindfulness Rooted in Trust
- 7) Youth as Catalysts for Sustainable Living
- 8) Nature Exposure Programme (Backwater trip)
- 9) From Learning to Action (Group Work)
- 10) Way Forward and Valedictory

5. Nature of the Symposium

The symposium will include paper presentations, discussion, a panel discussion, a field learning tour, and group discussion.

6. Expected Outcomes

- 1) Enhanced theological understanding of health, ecology, and sustainable living.
- 2) Practical models for integrating organic food practices within educational, religious, and community institutions.
- 3) Action plans for follow-up initiatives such as kitchen gardens, awareness programmes, and curriculum integration in seminaries, colleges, and parishes.

Special Note: For any travel-related or local information, kindly contact Professor Dr Anish K. Joy, Dean of Studies, MSOTS, from host institution, at +919995047899 or via email at anishkjoy2003@gmail.com.

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