

Richard Higgins Biography – the road to The HH-2 Horticultural System

Richard Higgins NDA, PDC, is Director and Founder of Sustainable Agriculture London and Director of Good Gardeners International.

Richard was raised on a Somerset mixed farm in the UK and attained his NDA at the Royal Berkshire College of Agriculture. He later completed a ten year post graduate study, of the works of Sir Albert Howard while travelling and teaching from China to Hawaii.

Howard is now considered the Grandfather of organic farming and his research from the Permanent Agriculture of the east (which is where the term Permaculture was derived), and the growing system that was employed, has formed the foundation of the Howard-Higgins system today.

Richard has become a world leading exponent of this branch of Sir Albert's work on Soil Fertility and has developed the HH-2 and HH-3 Systems which render all types of organic wastes and obnoxious wastes into fertilizer in 30-90 days. Richard first trialled this work on a farm in Hertfordshire and was so astounded by the results that he went to India to trial the work again there as Howard had done 100 years before.

In 2010 he spent three months at the **Haiti** earthquake disaster utilising the Howard-Higgins method of DRY sanitation and waste management - forming 'the cleanest refugee camp in Haiti' where he developed the first OXFAM urine separator footplate, which they now have in production. His site was recommended to be open to the public by the DINEPA WASH office and the site was visited and approved by the Technical Director of CRS., and many others including Professor Reid of WEDC., who, in his appraisal of the sanitation disaster in Port Au Prince Haiti, recommended that this was the most effective method of obnoxious waste management. (Haiti film II, MEDIA section of www.suaglon.co.uk)

In 2012 he was deployed to Mozambique with The Royal Norwegian Society (NorgesVel) where trials were completed on scaling up the HH-2 system for maximum carbon sequestration from general farm wastes and local sanitation inputs. The system is known as Black Carbon Farming as this method sequesters 3 times more carbon than any above ground growth (Lawton, Permaculture Research Institute, Australia).

Richard is also a consultant to various other groups on food security and presented at the National Soil Symposium 2012, for the Soil Association. He runs a Micro-farm for teaching sustainable systems for the future. He was involved with the GM debate with Rothamsted Research and after presenting the case against GM technology on the Farming Today programme was subsequently invited to meet with the top five soil scientists of Rothamsted Research by Maurice Moloby, the Director. More recently he has spoken on Radio and at the National Badger conference in Hampshire about the prevention of TB in cattle through the introduction of the HH-2 system for sterilising cow waste.

In 2013 Richard presented the science of the HH-2 system to the Swedish Environmental Institute in Stockholm, where the Director, Dr. Roasemarrin suggested that 'this science should be taught from football stadiums.' Richard also presented to the subcommittee of SuSanA (3,000 members) where he is the co-chair of the working group WG05 - Sanitation to Agriculture – after a funded invitation to attend the 3rd African Congress of Water and Sanitation, in Kigali, was made by the Waterloo Foundation.

In 2014 Richard released his second title: Fertility Farming, with a review from Sir Julian Rose.

After hearing of the work of Professor Ted Cocking of Leeds University on the technology of introducing nitrogen fixing bacteria onto any crop root system Richard was invited to meet the CEO of Azotic Technologies at the Institute of Directors in London to discuss his soil amendment programme. He was then offered a possible world partnership combining the two technologies.

Attending a "Year of the Soil" lecture at Rothamsted (2015) he was invited to meet the new director of Rothamsted who he hopes will take up the suggestion of the previous director Professor Maurice Moloney to 'take this work to the Far East to obtain funding and carry out this work on a large scale.' This department of Rothamsted has since offered Richard a multi partnered bid to establish nutrient uptake of his crops grown the Howard-Higgins way.

From his presentations at the Real Farming Conference, Oxford, Richard is now lecturing at Agricultural Colleges, where Dr. Anthony Wilson of the Eastern and Ottery Agricultural College believes this fundamental science is lacking in the agricultural institutions of today.

Richard joined the UKTI recently and was invited to meet the Agricultural Representative for Pakistan through the British Foreign Office. He was informed that 'the Government of Pakistan would be extremely interested in this technology.'

After viewing a TV programme "Kew on a Plate" and seeing the large array of diseases and pests in the vegetable gardens of Kew Gardens in London, Richard offered to install his HH-2 system there. Their Mycology department are interested to identify the specific fungi that Richard employs in his HH-2 system and have put him in touch with the CABI laboratory. This however requires funding for the identification work.

Richard has received a donation to take up the offer made by HRH the Prince of Wales to attend his open invitation at the HighGrove Estate in Gloucestershire, UK, where he intends to deliver the Howard-Higgins System in person.

Other areas of interest:

Rothamsted have spent 50 years on the aphid problem and have to date found no solution. Richard has also communicated with the following agricultural groups; The Potato Council Oxford and Cambridge University Farm on airborne potato blight; Wellsbourne Research Centre on freeing tomatoes from all kinds of diseases; Kew Gardens on eliminating Cabbage White damage, slugs and snail damage in salad crops, and the carrot fly problem.

Richard has also re written The Waste Products of Agriculture, now named The Lost Science of Organic Cultivation. He wrote his first article for the Soil Association magazine Organic Farming in 1999. He presented the Howard (memorial) lecture 2009 at the University of Coventry, for Nigeria to 'Go Organic'

Contact and Other Information

Web/Site: www.ggi.org.uk

Demonstration and course centre: The Well End Micro-farm, Hertfordshire, UK.

Registered Offices for Good Gardeners International and Sustainable Agriculture London:

No.3 Orchard Villa, Shenley Park, Shenley, Herts., UK.

Telephone UK: Mobile: 07983 439 171: Landline 01923 852 827,

International Mobile: + 44 7495 230591

email: rkdhiggins@gmail.com

Skype: rhiggins2