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# **Annapurna Farm - What can you do to help?**

Saturday, 23d August 2025

## **The story so far...**

There have been articles in the press for several months, stating that the Auroville Governing Board (GB), and the Office of the Secretary (also known as Auroville Foundation Office - AVFO), have signed an MoU to lease 100 acres of Auroville's land to IIT (Indian Institute of Technologies) Madras for a "sustainability campus", which would include a "world class zero-emission test track for electric trucks".

The focus had recently been on Aurobrindavan, where the stewards had received several visits from the AVFO & their 'working group' members, who had stated the intention to hand over the land to IIT Madras. However, after a land assessment it was deemed that Aurobrindavan was not suitable for IIT Madras's purposes.

Without any formal notification from the AVFO or its 'working groups', the stewards of Annapurna [read in The Hindu](#) on 25th July that "Auroville and IIT-Madras are looking to fast-track the project to establish a state-of-the-art sustainability campus on a 106-acre expanse of land in Sedarapet area". As Annapurna Farm is located on the only Auroville land of that size in that area, stewards guessed the plan was to take over the farm's land. Only on 13th August were the stewards officially informed of the plan, via a [brief email](#) from the AVFO 'ATDC', that stated that "It has been decided" to give the farm's land to IIT Madras. That this could be done in the name of 'sustainability' seems painfully ironic.

## How can you help?

- **Sign the petition:** Almost as soon as the news began to circulate, a friend of Auroville started a change.org petition calling for a halt. So far, this petition has received 4000 signatures. Please find the petition [linked here](#).

**Please sign the petition if you have not already done so & share it widely with all your contacts.**

- **Email IIT Madras:** An email template that you may use to contact individuals currently at IIT Madras as well as associates, and alumni. You are welcome to change wording, but please do not change facts and dates. Please find the template and useful email IDs [linked here](#).

**Use your voice to object to this destruction, write to the people who can stop this from happening.**

- **Learn about Annapurna Farm:** A factsheet about Annapurna Farm has been created and can be [found here](#).

**Circulate this factsheet widely, so that the true information about this precious farmland can be shared.**

# Debunking lies and misinformation

**There is a lot of misinformation and bad faith arguments being circulated** by the GB (i.e. Board member Goutam Ghosal), the AVFO and the residents who work for them. Lies such as:

- **"Annapurna's effective cultivation is ~30 acres"**: Please see below for a map of Annapurna's actual land use, which includes: Paddy 20 acres, pulses 3.5 acres, fodder 25 acres, orchards 6.75 acres, forest buffers 38 acres, infrastructure/water 14.5 acres, grazing/other 30.75 acres. Please note that the portion in yellow on the map is where the stewards were originally told that they would have to shift the farm's operations, now they have been instructed to move to a farm inside the Master Plan area - disregarding the work of decades at Annapurna Farm, which includes soil regeneration, infrastructure building, creation of water harvesting systems and the nurture of biodiverse ecosystems.



- **"Auroville can 'consolidate' its farms inside the Master Plan area, to reduce food miles"**. This is just completely unrealistic. There is not enough contiguous Auroville land inside the Master Plan area, the soil quality is not good enough, nor does it hold the organic certifications that Annapurna has been awarded. Empty promises and bad faith arguments about 'land consolidation' and 'food miles' - as if 10 km is any real distance when it comes to food supply chains - will not change these facts. If the AVFO wants to set up new farms inside the Master Plan then they should do so (although they have already tried and failed twice, with Unity & Gratitude Farms).
- **Moving the farm into the Master Plan area is "consistent with the Mother's original intentions"**: The first lands for Annapurna Farm were purchased in the Mother's lifetime, in 1967. It was her plan for these lands to be used for farming for Auroville. At that time nobody could imagine agriculture on the dryland plateau, from the beginning it was understood that it would be better to set up a farm where soil would be suitable for irrigated crop cultivation.

Please, help where you can by carrying out the actions listed above. Annapurna Farm is too precious for the food security of Auroville to be destroyed.

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