
(Eight)finity lessons on learning of growing food

**The story of a girl who presents seeds so that everyone can create their own paradise on earth -
Ivanna Bilous**

by Iryna Kazakova, 2021



Before

Ivanka was born into a traditional peasant family of farmers. They kept a farm: chickens, rabbits, piglets, a cow. Parents planted simply: a piece of field for grain, another piece for sugar beets, a piece for fodder beets, etc. Only potatoes took almost 2 acres. Then everything was processed by hand.

Usually, in peasant families, it is customary to do as the father did and as the grandfather had done. However, very often, heavy and destructive technologies are introduced into this method. Ivanka, learning that there is such a thing as permaculture, decided to go the other way. Especially since Ivanka's grandfather has already shared with his granddaughter a few old family secrets.

When asked how Ivanka managed to break out of the vicious circle of endless work, Ivanka admits that in the Soviet times, her great-grandfather's family was recognized as enemies and dispossessed. But in those days large and rich farms arose only due to the deep love of people for nature, and their understanding of Mother Earth. So the subconscious grain of wisdom, unaffected by the Soviet council, found its ground in three generations.



Process

When Ivanka got to the PDC, her eyes opened. She was surprised not only because the rural people did not know so many simple things that could make their work on the land much easier, not only because they did not use both worldwide and local nature techniques, but because she finally found the same weird people as herself from all over Ukraine.

During recent years, Ivanka has gradually and consistently brought changes to her farm, and in the course she completed the project, putting together biological puzzles and taking into account the needs of each member of their large family. Thanks to her work, everything has changed. Instead of a field of potatoes, the greenhouses with flowers have

appeared, thanks to which Ivanka's family plants greenery in the surrounding towns. Instead of beets, the lavender and asparagus paths are spread, which bring not only pleasure but also financial results. And instead of a field of cereals, they laid the first conscious alley farming in the vicinity, hiding delicate plants from the sun and always having green manure for mulch.

Now

The forest garden on the farm already produces nuts, berries, and mushrooms. Fish were released into the pond. The family works a lot of time among the beauties: among flowers and new interesting cultures. A lot of benches were set up on the territory of the farm for the first time in three generations. Why? Because finally there is an understanding that you can not only break your back on the site but also make a break for herbal tea with lavender cake and enjoy the birds singing, watching the life around you from that bench.

Ivanka shares useful information among the villagers, gives free lectures, invites neighbours to show them "another world". Ivanka shares seeds with them and many other people. She says she collects so many seeds that she can't sell them in full. But the seeds have their term and to store them somewhere in a box until it's time to compost them is irrational and unpermacultural. So her husband sews beautiful linen bags, in which they put a lot of seeds of vegetables, herbs, flowers and present them to all who restore small green paradises on this earth.

I.K. Comment

We all have age-old traditions that pass on the wisdom of generations and a respectful attitude towards nature. In order to find them, it is important to look a little further than the habits of our parents. Only in great-grandmother's memory one can find invaluable clues about growing food, using traditional products, or farming – for example, growing cabbage with asters, eating turnips instead of potatoes and a lot of other things.