



DIGITAL
FARM
COLLECTIVE
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Living Library - Digital Farm Collective

INTRODUCTION

Working with growers and educators, DFC is documenting cultivated crops around the globe by collecting time-lapse footage, interviews with farmers, and scientific and practical data about each recorded plant as it grows from seed to harvest. This content is compiled, edited, and packaged for use in an online “Living Library,” which preserves the growth practices of produce species from all over the world.

Time-lapse Videos: We use solar powered weather resistant time-lapse photography units to gather our visual footage. The cameras are programmed to take a high resolution photograph every fifteen minutes for the entire life of the plant or tree. Each camera comes



equipped to immediately transmit each photograph to our server, so we have real-time access to our footage.

Growing Data: Accompanying each time-lapse unit is a weather station which gathers data on the same interval as the photographic unit; it documents the conditions in which our plants thrive. Examples of the collected data include: soil and ambient temperatures, precipitation and soil moisture, and solar intensity.

Interviews with Farmers: We collect agrarian knowledge that preserves unique cultural philosophies and methodologies to share alongside our visual and scientific data. Each interview will be tailored to gather growing practices specific to the crop we are documenting. These interviews will include reflections on techniques, relationships to growing food, philosophies, and wisdom from growing these selected crops.

FUTURE

The Living Library will become a hub for knowledge sharing and social networking amongst farmers and scientists as well as the greater public. It is also the portal from which we build unique and inspiring programs that will educate growers and consumers and advocate agricultural practices. Over the next five years, we will build our database of film footage, farmer interviews, and growing data. The Living Library database will be created in collaboration with universities and technology and design companies. This online archive will act as a digital herbarium, preserving the stories of a collection of produce species from all over the world. The library will grow exponentially over the years as we actively collect images and data from farmers.

We imagine our database will become a go-to resource for farmers and educators over the next fifteen years, as well as contribute significantly to global climate change research and species preservation. The Living Library will map crops that are in the direct path of rapidly changing growing zones. As a result, we will aid in preserving endangered cultivated species by raising awareness, documenting the fundamental knowledge of farmers, and becoming a resource for finding new areas to propagate these species as our climates shift.

