

gift of the magi

World without poverty



From Left to Right: Narendra Parthasarathy, Jay Khimani, Dnyaneshwar Sanap, Sunil Kulkarni, David Goldwyn, Rajagopal Umakanthan & Aditya Rao

What is Oxfam Trailwalker?

Trailwalker is a fundraising event organized by Oxfam - an international confederation of 17 organizations registered in Den Haag - with a single purpose - World without poverty. Through the events like Trailwalker, Oxfam tries to bring people around the world together and with collective effort and awareness raise funds for this noble cause. Result of all these efforts and hard work is...

- 1.4 million people benefiting from improvised sanitation facilities.
- 400,000 people benefiting from support to improve their crops.
- 3.9 million people reached by health promotion activities.
- At the time of natural disasters and conflicts, Oxfam is there to help by providing clean water, food and sanitation

Who are we?

We are a group of friends, Workforce Managers, Engineers, MBAs and Finance professionals with one common interest.

Trailwalker and Us

As a team we also share a common belief, which is Equality. Everybody should and has the right to basic needs of life, i.e. food, shelter, sanitation and education. Our love for the hiking

introduced us to Oxfam. Through Oxfam we have realized that its not so difficult to pursue your passion and do things that make you happy and at the same time make a difference to someone's life too. The thought of bringing in change in lives of the deprived really inspired us to work towards the larger cause . For our group its a big challenge to walk for 100 kms in 30hrs.

Apart from the charity, this Trailwalker program also gives expats like us an opportunity to meet the locals and exchange views and knowing each other. Hiking is a great way to interact and understand the local community. Its relatively less connected to digital world, and gives you more time to think, discuss and understand different people, their views, values, and culture.

On the **6th and 7th of June**, the Trailwalker will push us to our limits both physically and mentally. None of us have ever attempted anything like this before. The tough part is raising the funds that we wish to generate to make some difference to the lives of the impoverished.

If you like our challenge and wish to support us through our journey, you can follow us at:

Team Random Talks: <http://events.oxfam-france.org/projects/random-talks>

Team Random Walks: <http://events.oxfam-france.org/projects/random-walks>

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Codex committee on contaminants in foods



The Codex Alimentarius is a UN organisation, which develops international standards for food products with the aim of protecting international food safety and promoting fair trade practices in the food trade. Unsafe food helps to cause an estimated 2 million deaths annually. Contaminants are unwanted toxic substances, which can be present in food and feed, for example as a result of environmental pollution. International standards help to improve world food safety, step-by-step and substance-by-substance. The chairmanship of this committee is the responsibility of The Netherlands and is executed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs of The Netherlands. This year the meeting is co-hosted with India. From the Indian side the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is involved in the organisation. The official opening of the meeting took place on Monday 16 March and was performed by Mr Yudhvir Singh Malik, the CEO of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). His Excellency Alponus Stoelinga, Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands also addressed the meeting together with the officials from FAO and WHO.

The Outcome of the conference:

There were 55 member countries present with a total number of participants of more than 200. In the Codex Committee on Contaminants a great number of contaminants were discussed. For example contaminants, which are, present in the soil and accumulate in plants (like cadmium in chocolate, or arsenic in rice), or contaminants, which are produced by fungi, which grow on plants (like mycotoxins on cereals or spices). There were several Maximum Levels agreed by this meeting of the Committee. Maximum Levels for lead in canned fruits, fruit juices and canned vegetables; Maximum Levels for a mycotoxin (DON) in cereal based infant foods, flour, and cereal grains for further processing; Maximum Levels for inorganic arsenic in husked rice. Also further progress is made on the Code of Practices, which are meant to give guidance how contamination of crops and foodstuffs can be prevented. The outcome of the meeting on contaminants will be sent to the meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption. This meeting of the Commission will take place in Geneva in the month of July. After final adoption by the Commission the Maximum Levels and Code of Practices will be established worldwide.

