



**Applications are invited for participation in the
INQUA-HaBCom Workshop “Prehistory, Plants and People”
18th-24th January, 2016**

Attention students and early career research scientists!

Applications are invited for the INQUA-HaBCom (International Union for Quaternary Research – Humans and the Biosphere Commission <http://www.inqua.org/>) workshop cum training programme, (part of the project entitled 'Palaeoanthropological Perspectives on Plant Communities in South Asia), jointly organized by the Sharma Centre for Heritage Education (www.sharmaheritage.com) and the French Institute of Pondicherry (www.ifpindia.org).

Dates: 18th-24th, January, 2016

Nature: This comprises a **training workshop and discussion on phytoliths** (i.e. optically isotropic microscopic silica form in plant tissues) in the context of prehistory, environmental archaeology, palaeoecology, experimental archaeology and ethnobotany in South Asia. The workshop seeks to situate our ongoing research on phytoliths at the Palaeolithic site of Attirampakkam, Tamil Nadu, South India, in a wider perspective. This would aim at **introducing young researchers** in the field of prehistory and archaeobotany and palaeoecology **to the use of phytoliths** to understand the plant resource occupation at prehistoric sites and adaptation to changing palaeoenvironments in South Asia. These studies are placed within the wider context of examining the basic lines of phytolith taphonomy and the nature of human adaptation to changing Quaternary environments, with a component on inferences drawn from studies of material culture (e.g. lithics) from archaeological stratigraphy. As stone artefacts comprise the primary source of evidence for much of the prehistoric past, experimental studies will introduce participants to the range of techniques in the manufacture and use of prehistoric stone artifacts. We also introduce ethnobotanical and ethnoarchaeological components related to traditional plant exploitation in India. Aspects of later cultural phases will also be discussed. The workshop will comprise lectures, hands-on training in field and laboratory techniques and methods, experimental tool manufacture and use, and field-visits. Participants will also be invited to present posters/powerpoints on their research.

Eligibility: Early Career researchers, young faculty and Masters and Doctoral students in the fields of environmental archaeology, palaeoecology, palynology, botany, environmental sciences, Quaternary geology, palaeoanthropology, and history, from South Asian countries. A limited number of seats are available.

Venue: SCHE (Chennai) and IFP (Pondicherry).

Mode of application: Please send us a strong motivation letter as to how this workshop will benefit you, along with your c.v. by email to the contact details given below.

Contact Details: Please email Dr. Kumar Akhilesh at: akhilarchaeo@gmail.com, sharmaheritage@gmail.com and Dr. Anupama Krishnamurthy at anupama.k@ifpindia.org.

Last Date for Applications: 15th October
