



Beating Famine 3: The Sahel Meeting the AFR100 Challenge

26th – 28th February 2019, Bamako, Mali

The third in the series of “Beating Famine” Conferences is being planned for the Sahel. The focus has shifted from building awareness of FMNR (Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration) and EverGreen Agriculture practices, to taking proven successes to massive scale. Invited participants from across the Sahel, along with financial and technical partners and representatives of governments, universities, CBO’s and civil society will come together to share, learn, plan and accelerate the greening and restoration movement for food security and nutrition in Africa.

Background

West Africa, especially the Sahel, continues to be vulnerable to the impact of large-scale land and water degradation, soil infertility, climate change and population growth and lack of socio-economic opportunities. They are raising the likelihood of increased chronic, acute malnutrition and insecurity in the region. To address this situation, a number of organizations have employed FMNR and other evergreening and restoration initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel, in a number of countries (e.g. Niger, northern Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Senegal), building on a history over more than 20 years of some remarkable successes of environmental and agricultural restoration. These successes are making West Africa into a world leader of the movement. It is estimated that FMNR has spread to 21 million hectares in the West African Sahel. An assessment of restoration opportunities in the Great Green Wall core intervention area estimated the need of restoring 10 million ha/year by 2030 if were to achieve the 2030 Agenda in the Sahar and the Sahel region. A combination of sustainable management and restoration

strategies exist including FMNR, planting, sustainable land and water/soil management to restore the productivity of the production systems (crops, pastoral and forest landscapes). But while cost-effective and appropriate interventions are now available, they are not yet widely known and applied.

World Vision and the **World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)** have worked together, with the support of numerous collaborating organisations, to host Beating Famine conferences in Nairobi, Kenya in April 2012, and in Lilongwe, Malawi in April 2015. **Together, in conjunction with WV Mali, the ICRAF Sahel Office, and FAO, a third conference is being planned in Bamako, Mali in late February, 2019.** Participation from 500 representatives from national governments, international NGOs, UN agencies, regional institutions, CBOs, research institutions, financial and technical partners, private sector and international specialist organizations is anticipated

Key Conference Objectives

The proposed conference is intended to join multiple organizations and efforts into a more impactful movement. Through this conference, we seek to draw attention to and generate support for the African Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and its goal of restoring 100 million hectares, as well as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, the UN Action Plan for the Sahel. The conference builds on the efforts and successes of key programs in the region such as World Vision and Groundswell International’s ‘Eco Agriculture in the African Sahel’ project in Mali, BurkinaFaso and Ghana and the EC-funded ‘EverGreen Agriculture Project’, the EC-AU-FAO supported Action Against Desertification project in support of the Great Green Wall and the “Building resilience in Africa Drylands” implemented by FAO with partners.

More specifically, the objectives sought are:

- Share existing successful restoration strategies and their and seek roadmaps for subsequent national-level FMNR and evergreening / restoration planning processes
- Formalize a greening movement in West Africa using the appropriate restoration strategies which will link on the ground realities and implementers with government institutions, policies, and strategies, and with the support and guidance of international donors for widespread land restoration (galvanizing support for the AFR100 Initiative, the Great Green Wall and the UN Action plan for the Sahel).
- Create a supportive network of practitioners to support further spread FMNR on farmlands, assisted natural regeneration on degraded rangelands and

- forestlands, and other restoration strategies including planting, within West Africa, and to share lessons from and to other regions.
- Provide a platform to reflect on and disseminate key successes and challenges of the spread of evergreening and restoration strategies in West Africa, and extract lessons applicable in other regions.
- Mobilize technical & financial partners to expand the evergreening movement, with donors and governments committing new funds to scale up activities in ≥ 3 Sahelian countries.
- Further raise awareness and enthusiastic participation.

Conference Agenda Themes

Proposed themes for the conference sessions include:

- The regeneration of rangeland/pastoral landscapes
- Meeting the AFR100 restoration commitments cost-effectively at a mass scale – the role of natural regeneration and evergreening/agroforestry practices
- The role of FMNR and evergreening as a window to managing conflict, reducing migration, and promoting youth employment
- Beating Famine – restoration for resilience and disaster risk reduction
- Tracking the spread – tools and systems for monitoring the spread of FMNR & land restoration successes
- Improved soils for improved lives – how FMNR & agroforestry area contribute to better soils
- Etc...

These themes are open for discussion. Session and panels topics will be revised during conference planning. We welcome ideas and suggestions to this process to ensure that the conference is as relevant and useful as possible.

Conference Partners

This conference is being brought to you through the collaboration of multiple organizations working on improving the resilience of natural resources across the Sahel, and their contribution to economic development. As the conference comes together, new organizations are joining the team. These organizations currently include:

- World Vision & the FMNR Hub
- EverGreen Agriculture Partnership
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- Groundswell International
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- OXFAM
- GIZ
- SOS Sahel

Do please join us!

To find out more about the event program and registrations visit: <http://beatingfamine.com/>

For more information, or to discuss how you can contribute to this event, please contact:

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Supported by:

