



26-28 FEB 2019

**BEATING FAMINE
CONFERENCE
THE SAHEL**

Meeting the AFR100 Challenge

The third in the series of “Beating Famine” Conferences will leverage FMNR and evergreening successes to inspire a continental movement. The focus has shifted from building awareness of FMNR (Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration) and EverGreen Agriculture practices, to taking proven successes to massive scale.



**Registrations are
live**

**The Sahel knows
how to beat
famine**

**Come and
discover how and
why the Sahel is
re-greening**

**Low Cost
Technique to
Boost Forest
Cover in Africa.
Discover**

Do please join us!

Enquiries:

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beatingfamine.com

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 land restoration 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 has estimated the need of restoring 10 million ha/year by 2030 if we are to achieve the 2030 Agenda in the Sahara and the Sahel region. A combination of sustainable management and restoration strategies now exist, including FMNR, agroforestry tree planting, and sustainable land and water/soil management practices to restore the productivity of the production systems (crops, pastoral and forest landscapes). But while cost-effective and appropriate interventions are available, they are not yet widely-enough known and applied.

World Vision and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) have worked together, with the support and co-sponsorship 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, The Evergreening Global Alliance, together with FAO, UNDP, SOS Sahel, Oxfam, CRS, Sahel Eco, and many other organizations, a third conference will be held in Bamako, Mali from 26-28 February 2019. Participation from approximately 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.

OBJECTIVES

The 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 of degraded land, as well as to the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and 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, Burkina Faso and Ghana and the EC-funded project on Scaling-Up EverGreen Agriculture’ in eight countries, the EC-AU-FAO supported Action Against Desertification project in support of the Great Green Wall, and the “Building Resilience in Africa Drylands Project” implemented by FAO with partners.

More specifically, the objectives sought are to:

- Share existing successful restoration strategies and seek to develop roadmaps for subsequent national-level FMNR and evergreening/restoration planning processes
- Formalize a evergreening 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, Land Degradation Neutrality, and the UN Action Plan for the Sahel).
- Create a supportive network of practitioners to support further spread FMNR on farmlands, adopt assisted natural regeneration on degraded rangelands and forestlands, and other restoration strategies including agroforestry tree 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, extract lessons applicable in other regions, and tracking the impact comprehensively.
- Mobilize technical & financial partners to expand the evergreening movement, with donors and governments committing new funds to scale up activities in all of the Sahelian countries and in the Sahelian zones of the West African coastal countries.
- Further raise awareness and enthusiastic participation in massive land restoration processes within the region and globally.

THEMES

The themes for the conference sessions include:

- The regeneration and sustainable management 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
- Improved soils for improved lives – how FMNR & agroforestry area contribute to better soils
- How to massively accelerate the scaling-up of Land Restoration in the Sahel
- **Shifting public and donor investment to regreening**
- Sustainable wood fuel for household energy production
- Tracking the spread – tools and systems for monitoring the spread of FMNR & land restoration successes
- Land restoration for resilience building, climate change adaptation, drought management
- Agroecology in the Drylands
- Land Restoration for food security and nutrition
- Mass media and communications role in scaling-up: radio, participatory videos, national media.
- Building up evidence on economic benefits from agroforestry and FMNR
- Uncovering the hidden costs of conventional versus agroecological cotton production
- Value chains and business development in tree-based systems
- Scaling-up for land restoration with a focus on water
- Leveraging into the policy enabling environment to support NRM and agroforestry scaling-up
- Urgent, short term relief efforts, disaster risk reduction - short term emergency relief efforts, *e.g.* connecting FMNR/EVA to food relief programs
- Massive Scaling-Up through The Great Green Wall
- Promoting youth and women - Employment and Empowerment
- Training on using economic valuation to inform integrated planning for ecosystem management and influence policy
- Capacity Building for Scaling-up Land Restoration
- Evergreening Africa Leadership Academy

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.

These organizations currently include:

- World Vision & the FMNR Hub
- Evergreening Global Alliance

- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- FAO
- Groundswell International
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
- GIZ/BMZ Germany
- UNDP
- IUCN
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Oxfam
- SOS Sahel
- Sahel Eco
- ICRISAT
- CILSS
- AMEDD
- Global Shea Alliance
- CRS
- IFDC