



REGENERATION INTERNATIONAL

COOL THE PLANET. FEED THE WORLD.

"If governments won't solve the climate, hunger, health, and democracy crises, then the people will... Regenerative agriculture provides answers to the soil crisis, the food crisis, the health crisis, the climate crisis and the crisis of democracy."

- Dr. Vandana Shiva

About Us

Regeneration International (RI), founded in June 2015, is an online and grassroots non-profit 501(c)3 organization working to educate, unify and mobilize the food, farm, climate, natural health, environment, and economic justice movements around agricultural-based solutions to the world's climate, hunger and environmental crises.

Through our global network, we are connected to 3.5 million consumers, farmers, activists, scientists and policy makers in over 60 different countries.

Our Leadership

Our steering committee members are: Andre Leu (IFOAM Organics International), Hans Herren (Millennium Institute), Renate Künast (German Parliament), Ronnie Cummins (Organic Consumers Association), Steve Rye (Mercola Health), Tom Newmark (The Carbon Underground), and Vandana Shiva (Navdanya).

Our Mission

To build a global network of farmers, scientists, businesses, activists, educators, journalists, policymakers and consumers who will promote and put into practice regenerative agriculture and land-use practices that: provide abundant, nutritious food; revitalize local economies; regenerate soil fertility and water-retention capacity; nurture biodiversity; and restore climate stability by reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time drawing down excess atmospheric carbon and sequestering it in the soil.

Our Vision

A healthy global ecosystem in which regenerative agriculture and land-use practices cool the planet, feed the world, and promote public health, prosperity, and peace.

Our Work

Our work, supported by the Organic Consumers Association (OCA) and other founding organizations, is focused on the following:

1. Engage the global scientific, agricultural, and activist communities in a narrative about the relationships between healthy soils, food and the climate.
2. Identify, support and promote leading experts and success stories focused on the science and best practices that support regenerative organic agriculture as a viable means to reverse global warming through carbon sequestration.
3. Aggregate, translate and disseminate the latest research linking the climate, food, natural health, environment, and economic justice movements to food and farming, and best practices for adapting regenerative techniques to different climates and cultures.
4. Unify the global grassroots through a diversity of messages and campaigns to appeal to different segments of the global body politic, including consumers and environmentalists.
5. Collaborate with universities and NGOs to train farmers in organic regenerative farming and land management techniques.
6. Mobilize consumers, farmers, and environmentalists to pressure policymakers to create policies that advance organic regenerative farming and land management practices.

More Information:

- [About Us](#)
- [Press](#)
- Regenerationinternational.org
- Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#)



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Vandana Shiva, [Navdanya](#)

Scientist, philosopher, feminist, author, environmentalist, activist, Dr. Vandana Shiva is a one-woman movement for peace, sustainability and social justice. In 1991, Shiva founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources. Among Shiva's many honours is the Right Livelihood Award for her work in placing women and ecology at the center of the international development agenda. She is the author of more than 300 papers in leading scientific and technical journals, and book-length publications.

Ronnie Cummins, [OCA](#)

Ronnie Cummins is co-founder and International Director of the Organic Consumers Association (OCA) and its Mexico affiliate Via Organica. Cummins has been active as a writer and activist since the 1960s, with extensive experience in public education, grassroots mobilization, and marketplace pressure campaigns. Over the past two decades he has served as director of US and international campaigns dealing with sustainable agriculture issues including food safety, genetic engineering, factory farming, and global warming.

Andre Leu, [IFOAM](#)

Andre Leu is the author of "The Myths of Safe Pesticides" and the President of IFOAM – Organics International. Leu has over 40 years of international experience in all areas of organic agriculture. He has written extensively on many areas of organic agriculture including climate change, the environment, and the health benefits of organic agronomy. He was recently invited by the FAO to present research findings from the organic movement at a high-level "Science Fair for a Safer Tomorrow."

Tom Newmark, [The Carbon Underground](#)

Tom Newmark is an environmentalist and organic farmer. He is the co-owner of Finca Luna Nueva Lodge in Costa Rica, a Demeter-certified biodynamic farm and conference center. Newmark is also the co-founder of several nonprofits, including The Carbon Underground and Semillas Sagradas (now Sacred Seeds). Newmark also chairs the Greenpeace Fund USA and the American Botanical Council ("ABC").

Hans Herren, [Millennium Institute](#)

Hans Herren is a Swiss entomologist, farmer and development specialist. He was the first Swiss national to receive the 1995 World Food Prize and the 2013 Right Livelihood Award for leading a major biological pest management campaign in Africa, successfully fighting the Cassava mealybug and averting Africa's worst-ever food crisis. Herren is the president and CEO of the Washington-based Millennium Institute and co-founder and president of the Swiss foundation Biovision.

Steve Rye, [Mercola.com](#)

Steve A. Rye, is CEO of Mercola Health Resources, a source of health articles, optimal wellness products, medical news, and natural health e-newsletter from natural health expert, Dr. Joseph Mercola. Together Steve and Dr. Mercola have grown Mercola.com to the #1 most-visited natural health website in the world. Mercola Health is dedicated to giving back to the community and partnering with key organizations that educate the public on important health, food safety, and informed consent issues.

Renate Künast, [Chairwoman in Bundestag \(German Parliament\)](#)

Renate Künast is a German politician of Alliance '90/The Greens. She was the Minister of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture from 2001 to 2005 and is now chairwoman of her party's parliamentary group in the Bundestag. Always taking a firm stand, she has put herself fully behind the Save Our Soils campaign. "Healthy soil is the key to global food security. Compost is the new gold."



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Regenerative Organic Agriculture: What is it and why do we need it?

Regenerative organic agriculture and land management is an umbrella term for a number of land use practices, including (but not limited to) agroecology, agroforestry, cover cropping, holistic planned grazing, no-till, no pesticides/herbicides, composting, permaculture, and mixed crop-livestock systems.

The Problem: We can't fix the looming climate disaster if all we do is cut fossil fuel emissions.

Even if we had the political will to achieve zero emissions over the next few decades we would far surpass what scientists refer to as the point of no return—450 ppm of CO₂ in the atmosphere ([Scientific American, 2015](#)).

The Solution: We can solve global warming by properly managing the earth's soils using tools we already possess.

Industrial food and farming are responsible for the majority of the greenhouse gases that are destabilizing the climate. By transitioning to organic regenerative farming and land management practices we will cut GHG emissions. At the same time we will draw down billions of tons of excess atmospheric CO₂, and bury it in the soil, where it will help infiltrate and store rain water, and increase soil fertility ([Kittredge, 2015](#)) ([Rodale, 2014](#)).

The Numbers: Degenerative Agriculture

- Contributes an estimated half of all human produced GHG emissions - anywhere between a low of 44% and a high of 57% ([GRAIN, 2011](#)).
- Has led to the loss of 50-75 percent of cultivated soils' original carbon content ([Rattan Lal](#)).
- Destroys soil nutrients, which contributes to the 793 million people worldwide suffering from malnutrition, by drastically reducing yields and producing food deficient in essential nutrients ([FAO, 2015](#)) ([FAO, 2013](#)).
- Makes food systems less resistant to the impacts of flooding and drought by removing the protective buffer provided by soil organic carbon ([UN, 2010](#))([Eric Holt-Gimenez, 2002](#)) ([Rodale Institute, 2014](#)).
- Created a global water crisis by depleting water tables, polluting the world's limited fresh water resources, and destroying delicate marine fisheries by creating ocean dead zones ([UN, 2010](#)), ([FAO, 2013](#)), ([GRIST, 2010](#)) ([FAO, 2015](#))
- Destroys agricultural biodiversity through the use of GMOs and monocropping, leading to a 75% decrease in genetic diversity over the past 100 years ([WWF, 2014](#)).
- Leads to large-scale migration, increased risk of conflict, loss of biodiversity and heightened food and water security risks through its inability to sustain the impacts of climate change ([The Guardian, 2013](#)) ([Livescience, 2014](#)).

The Numbers: Regenerative Organic Agriculture

- Could restore CO₂ levels to 350 ppm in under 5 years, if all 8.3 billion acres of grasslands and 3.8 billion acres of croplands on planet earth were converted to regenerative agriculture and land use practices ([Kittredge, 2015](#)).
- Reduces our dependence on synthetic chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides improving human and environmental health ([FAO, 2014](#)) ([Rodale, 2014](#)).
- Increases yields and productivity compared with conventional agriculture ([Rattan Lal, 2004](#)), especially in times of extreme weather such as flooding and drought ([UN, 2010](#))([Eric Holt-Gimenez, 2002](#)) ([Rodale Institute, 2014](#)), by capturing and storing an additional 27,000 gallons of water per acre for every 1% increase in soil carbon ([USDA NCRS, 2013](#)).
- Produces higher yields and more nutrient-dense food, helping to alleviate the global food crisis ([FAO, 2015](#)) ([FAO, 2013](#)).
- Alleviates the water crisis by replenishing water tables ([UN, 2010](#)), improving water quality ([FAO](#)), increasing water infiltration ([FAO, 2013](#)), and revitalizing marine fisheries and ocean dead zones ([GRIST, 2010](#)).
- Safeguards agricultural, terrestrial and marine biodiversity by restoring grasslands, ([Savory Institute, 2014](#)), reducing the amount of land needed for agriculture thereby diminishing deforestation ([GRAIN 2011](#)), mitigating the impact of dead zones and ocean acidification ([GRIST, 2010](#)), and protecting the remaining biodiversity present in our soils ([FAO, 2014](#)) and food system ([WWF, 2014](#)).
- Revitalizes local economies/supports small farmers and preserve traditional indigenous knowledge ([FAO, 2014](#)) ([Jacobs, 2011](#)).