

What is Groundswell?

Groundswell International is a worldwide partnership of local organizations and individuals supporting rural people to transform their communities and to overcome poverty. We envision a world where communities support each other locally and globally and take action to protect their rights and resources, build local economies that generate physical, spiritual and environmental wellbeing for all, and have a voice in the decisions that impact their lives.



Groundswell's founding members.



Host a Garden Party:

- Bring your friends together.
- Cultivate healthy food and strong communities.
- Partner with rural people in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Help us build Groundswell.

For more information, visit:
www.groundswellinternational.org



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"A partnership investing in the strength and promise of rural communities"



Groundswell Garden Parties

Why a Garden Party?

Our current food system is broken. Small farmers struggle while corporations make huge profits off industrialized agriculture that negatively affects our health, undermines rural communities and wreaks havoc on the environment.

What's the alternative? A starting point is family farmers producing agro ecologically – working creatively with nature to sustainably and affordably increase the production of healthy local food. This approach lifts people out of poverty, strengthens communities, empowers women and regenerates the environment.

Would you gather friends in your backyard, on your farm or at your neighborhood garden to work together, learn about and celebrate local food production? Share with each other your knowledge about appropriate gardening techniques. Swap plants to diversify your gardens at home. Share recipes. Have a feast. If you do, you will be learning from each other, strengthening bonds of friendship and community, having fun and producing food in ways that are healthy for you and the planet. And you will get a taste of what makes Groundswell's approach successful in communities around the world.

What are the Steps?

1. Organize a Groundswell Garden Party: Bring your friends together to celebrate gardening, healthy food and community. Be creative and come up with your own ways to celebrate. For example, you can:
 - Come together in the Spring to create a common garden plot.
 - Organize a group of neighbors to enter into a community-supported agriculture buying arrangement with a local farmer.
 - Have a master gardener train others on agroecological techniques
 - Diversify - share a planting technique and seedling with each other
 - Enjoy a mid-Summer feast with local food picked from friends' gardens.
 - Work together to create a teaching garden at a local school
 - Hold an Autumn harvest party. Host a "county fair" where everyone brings their best chili, pies or potato salad. Give the tastiest a blue ribbon.



2. Partner with Groundswell International to strengthen communities in Latin America, Africa and Asia: Share information on how Groundswell works with villagers to strengthen agroecological food production. Partner with us by asking everyone to chip in \$25, \$50 or whatever they can to support the development process in those communities.
3. Share Your Ideas and Stories with Others: We are creating a place on our website where you can post your stories, photos, video and ideas. How did you organize? What did you learn? Our partners in Latin America, Africa and Asia will be able to see how you are connecting and working with them to cultivate the future.

Thank you for joining the Groundswell movement. Now is the time for us to work together to build a better food system. Working locally and connecting globally, we can do it!