EQUITY, IT’S BEAUTIFUL
Burkina Faso
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MESSAGE
FROM THE FOUNDER

What is the most powerful force that can be unleashed to address the linked challenges of hunger, poverty, climate change, and environmental degradation? We collaborate with partners to foster a virtuous cycle that links farmer agroecological innovation, to farmer-led scaling, to local markets, to enabling policies.

Dear Friends & Partners of Groundswell International,

“Strengthen farmer organizations...”

This past year I had the privilege of visiting farmers’ and women’s organizations in Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico to see how our collective work continues to grow and generate impact. Community based organizations are transforming lives while working to build necessary changes in our farming and food systems from the ground up. Their example is what inspires us. We are happy to share some highlights in our 2018 annual report.

Thank you for helping to make this work possible.

Steve Brescia
Executive Director / Co-Founder

Groundswell is a network designed to support community-led agroecological innovation and scaling. We do this by working closely with partners to create Action-Learning and Amplification programs in ten countries in three regions: West Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, and South Asia.
AGROECOLOGY PLUS SIX (AE+6)
More than 12 million small-scale farmers and their families in the risk-prone, dryland areas of the Western Sahel have become chronically vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. This growing crises is due to a constellation of factors, including the collapse of soil fertility and climate change. Agroecology Plus Six (AE+6) is a low cost, systems-approach of agroecology and resilience strategies, which can spread and be adapted to meet the needs of millions of smallholder farming families.

FAMILY FARMER BENEFITS: FOOD PRODUCTION & NUTRITION
Agroecological “foundational” innovations have been adopted by 2,308 farm families in six communities in Burkina Faso, Mali, & Senegal. In particular, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) of trees, and ecological soil and water conservation have made farming systems more productive, diversified, and resilient. In addition, women's savings and credit groups, rotating animal loans, ‘warrantage’ (grain storage system) and dry season gardening have improved dietary diversity and nutrition, and reduced debt for the poorest households. By cultivating moringa and baobob as shrubs in home gardens, families ensure year-round harvesting and consumption of nutritious leaves.

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT
Over 94 women's savings and credit groups were established in 45 villages. These households recovered their soils and natural resources, adapted to climate change, and diversified their farming systems. Municipal governments are increasingly integrating agroecology and resilience strategies into their plans and budgets.

LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS
With its cascading approach, farmer-to-farmer training efficiently allows for a transition to agroecological intensification. Convening local stakeholders at municipal levels improves local governance for resilience. Women’s savings and credit groups enable women from more vulnerable households to generate income and assets.

SHARING STRATEGIES: FAO SYMPOSIUM ON AGROECOLOGY
Groundswell’s AE+6 program was featured as a selected innovation in the FAO’s 2018 global symposium to Scale-up Agroecology to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The program is also featured as a Showcase on Biovision’s “Agroecology Info Pool”
GROUNDSWELL
THEORY OF CHANGE

Action-Learning and Amplification:
Groundswell supports Action-Learning and Amplification programs in three regions. By supporting a virtuous cycle, we strengthen communities to build healthy farming and food systems from the ground up.

Key innovation and scaling themes include: Agroecology; Local Food Systems; Women's empowerment; Climate resilience; Strengthening the capacity of farmers and women's groups; and creating Enabling policies. **Some Results From 2018 Are:**

- **Supportive Policies**
  In Ghana and Burkina Faso, we are supporting work to shift government subsidies from chemical fertilizers to organic compost and ecological soil improvement. In Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, partners worked with municipal governments to revise their five year development plans to support agroecology for resilience in the face of land degradation and climate change.

- **Local Markets:**
  *Honduras:* 4 Community grain reserves ensuring food security for 140 families.
  32 rural enterprises and savings & credit groups, with over 915 members and $445,740 of capital.
  *Ecuador:* National campaign to promote consumption of healthy, local food.
  *Guatemala:* Mayan woman-led enterprise processing amaranth from 350 family farms, for local markets.
  *Haiti:* 13 farmer-managed enterprises processing and selling local farm produce.

- **Farmer Experimentation:**
  Over 63,000 family farmers in ten countries are engaged in agroecological innovation to improve their production, lives, and land management.

- **Farmer-to-Farmer:**
  Farmer promoters spread learning to benefit over 388,000 people in tangible (improved food production, income, nutrition, and land regeneration) and intangible ways (organizational strengthening, esteem, voice). Farmers are regenerating over 180,450 acres of land.
Groundswell International is partnering with BBP Pariwar in central Nepal to strengthen groups of socially excluded dalit (untouchable) women to organize and improve their lives in sustainable ways.

The groups allow women to begin to mobilize and manage their own funds, create opportunities for group support and learning, and allow women increased decision making power and leadership development.

The women receive hands on training and gain experience in agro-ecological techniques, including: household vegetable gardening; soil and water conservation; water harvesting in small ponds; production of organic compost, fertilizers and pesticides; crop diversification and rotation; use of cover crops/green manures to improve soil fertility; and the use of multi-purpose trees and shrubs to stabilize terrace faces and produce animal fodder.

The women are creating positive impacts in their lives, and those of their families and communities.

- 309 women and 16 men joined 14 savings and credit groups.
- All 325 received training and support in agroecological farming and improved animal husbandry.
- 33 families were able to establish on-farm ponds to harvest rainwater to extend the growing season.
- The program provided 127 women with goats to improve income and nutrition; the offspring will be passed on to other group members.

Empowering women is central to scaling agroecology.

CHANGE IS THE LIVING MESSAGE
WE SEND TO A TIME WE WILL NOT SEE
‘Gwoupman’ in Haiti Building Local Food Micro-Enterprises

DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION
Since 2009, Partenariat pour le Developpement Local (PDL), as a member of the Groundswell International network, has supported smallholder farmers through a process of reflection and action, to form self-led solidarity groups of 8 to 15 members called Gwoupman. By forming coordination structures within and across communities, 16 peasant associations with some 20,000 members have been established. They lead activities including farmer experimentation and farmer-to-farmer extension of agroecology, complemented by savings and credit cooperatives, seed banks and grain banks. Since 2016, Gwoupman have established 13 micro-enterprises to process their agricultural produce for sale to local customers.

BENEFITS FOR FAMILY FARMERS: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY
Family farmers are incentivized to scale agroecological farming practices, as they create outlets to process and sell their local produce. This allows them to keep more income, escape dependence on intermediaries, and prevent spoiling of their harvest due to lack of access to basic processing & storage. Smallholder farmers are owners of all steps, from production to processing to marketing. Food and the nutrition security of farmers as well as local consumers is enhanced.

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
Approximately 10,000 farmers have established agroecological ‘model’ farms, regenerating over 1,000 hectares of degraded land. Thirteen micro-enterprises are allowing some of them to increase income from processing and sale of their products. Peasant associations, which lead holistic local development processes, are strengthened. They are fostering a circular economy based on agroecology, social solidarity and local food culture.

Our Haiti program was also featured as a selected innovation in the FAO global symposium on agroecology.

Groundswell Board visit to Haiti: Sept. 2018

“To me, agroecology is essentially increasing food production and the quality of the land through sustainable ways that respect the local indigenous cultures.” - Afua Bruce
We are profoundly grateful for the many generous donors who make our work possible.

**Operating Expenditures 2018**

- **Programs** 80% $1,618,354
- **Fundraising** 15% $296,622
- **Management & General** 5% $106,054
- **Total Expenditures** $2,021,030

**Assets**

**Current Assets**
- Cash and Equivalents $975,694
- Grants Receivable 101,751
- Contributions Receivable 10,635
- Prepaid Expenses 12,932
- Deposits 1,725
- **Total Current Assets** $1,102,737

**Long-Term Assets**
- Investments 2,166
- Endowment 22,263
- Property and Equipment, Net $24,429
- **Total Long-Term Assets** $24,429
- **Total Assets** $1,127,166

**Liabilities & Net Assets**

**Current Liabilities**
- Accounts Payable $6,752
- Partner Grants Payable 67,033
- Accrued Vacation 15,077
- **Total Current Liabilities** $88,862

**Net Assets**
- Without Donor Restrictions $168,946
- With Donor Restrictions 869,358
- **Total Net Assets** $1,038,304
- **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** $1,127,166

FY 2018 audit is available on our website. Full financials available upon request.
www.groundswellinternational.org
OUR SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Board of Directors:

- Vance Russell, M.S., Chair, Biodiversity Lead, Ecosulis
- D. Merrill Ewert, Ph.D., Vice-Chair, President Emeritus, Fresno Pacific University
- Mark Stone, Ph.D., Treasurer, Meditation teacher; Retired IMF, State Department
- Ross Borja, Secretary, Board Representative of Groundswell’s International Council; Executive Director, EkoRural, Ecuador
- Eileen Oldag, Board Member, Consultant, Non-profit organizational development
- Bernard Guri, Board Representative of Groundswell’s International Council, Executive Director, Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD), Ghana
- Muthusami Kumaran, Ph.D., Board Member, Assistant Professor of Nonprofit Management & Community Organizations, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, University of Florida
- Perry Clutts, Board Member, Owner & Organic Farmer, Pleasantview Farm; Board Member, Organic Trade Association
- Margaret (Peg) Malloy, Board Member, Philanthropist and Real Estate Broker
- Jan Middendorf, Ph.D., Board Member, Associate Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification, Kansas State University

Current Staff:

- Steve Brescia, Executive Director
- Rhonda Devan, Finance Director
- Christopher Sacco, Director of Strategic Initiatives
- Fatou Batta, Regional Coordinator for West Africa
- Peter Gubbels, Director for Action Learning & Advocacy for West Africa
- Brennan Gerald, Creative Strategist

In January 2019 we welcomed new board & staff members:

**Board**

- Jay Slaughter, M.S., Board Member, Management Consultant
- Jeannette M.E. Tramhel, LL.M., Board Member, Senior Legal Officer, Organization of American States (OAS)
- Afua Bruce, M.B.A., Board Member, Director of Engineering, Public Interest Technology, New America

**Staff**

- Edwin Escoto, Regional Coordinator for Latin America & Caribbean
- Tsuamba Bourgou, Regional Coordinator for West Africa
- Michaela Andersen, Finance Administrative Assistant
GET IN TOUCH WITH US

How To Get Involved?

• **Donate**: Invest in family farmers now to grow real change.
• **Learn**: Sign up for our newsletter. See how you can make a difference.
• **Follow and share**: @GroundswellIntl
• **Contact us**: Want to visit our programs? Engage more deeply? Get in touch.