

FARMERS REGREEN THE SAHEL

THE METHOD

Farmers in the Sahel are regreening their land by allowing the dormant but still active ‘underground forest’ of roots, stubs and seeds to sprout spontaneously and to manage it efficiently. That makes and keeps the soil fertile, which is good for crops and for cattle.

This method of farming, known as ‘Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration’ had fallen into disuse but was rediscovered by farmers in the Sahel in the 1980s. Since then, many farming communities have successfully adopted it. The various land-users coordinate their interests by organising themselves into local committees.



WHY DOES IT WORK?

Knowledge of Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration is passed on from farmer to farmer and village to village. What started as a few dots on the map has grown into an extensive regreening movement. Farmers are at the centre of this movement and determine themselves, with the support of scientists and local organisations, how best to regreen their land and use it sustainably.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES?



local
ownership



everyone is
involved



agreements on land
and water use



improved
soil fertility



improved
biodiversity



higher ground-
water levels



measurable rise
in income



more resilience to
climate change

Farming communities are already working together on regreening land in many parts of the Sahel, but it is a very vast region. The support of governments, policy-makers and funders is urgently needed to expand and accelerate this regreening movement.

HELP ACCELERATE THE MOVEMENT!

www.bothends.org/en/FMNR

Both ENDS