Smallholder Agroecology Training – 3,000 Success Stories Since 1997

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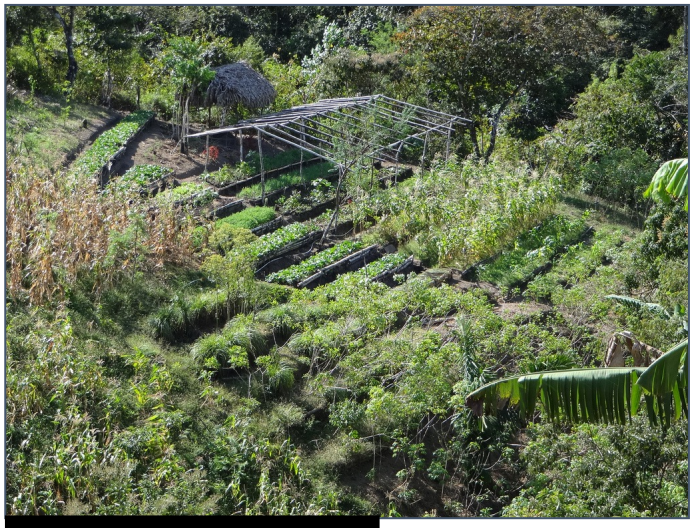
Introduction

3.1 billion people in the developing world live in poverty, and 70% of those going hungry live in rural areas where degraded land could produce more food and sequester more carbon through regenerative agroecology practices. With little to lose and big potential gains, smallholder farmers are eager to make the transition to these practices that drawdown carbon out of the atmosphere into the soil and living plants.

Over the course of 24 years, Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) has found that multi-year, on-farm training is key to the long-term success of smallholders adopting agroecology practices. Our proven model empowers low-income farmers to produce an abundance of diverse crops while stabilizing the climate, halting deforestation and increasing food sovereignty for current and future generations.

Farm in Membrillo Panama before SHI



Farm in Membrillo, Panama after SHI

Outcomes of our program from 1997 – 20120 include the following:

- 3,100 families trained
- 15,000 people growing most of their own food plus food for sale
- 4 million trees planted
- 27,000 acres converted to regenerative agroecology practices
- 91% of families still using agroecology practices years after completing program
- 3 generations extending the use of agroecology practices

2020		2030
3,000 farms impacted	SCALE	1 million farms impacted
4 million trees planted on degraded lands	SCALE	1 billion trees planted on degraded lands
48,000 tons of CO^2 sequestered	SCALE	16 million tons of CO^2 sequestered
26,000 acres regenerated	SCALE	8 million acres regenerated

OUR APPROACH

Replication through Partners: Maintaining the core, essential elements of our program while adapting the details when needed to meet the desired outcomes of each replicating partner.

Expansion of core program: Increasing SHI's capacity of current farming families from 500 to 1,000 or more.

Innovation: Select farms and communities will test innovations in our methodology to achieve key outcomes at a lower net cost. Innovations could reduce the core years of the program by streamlining the learning process. In addition, there are opportunities for graduated participant farmers to act as mentors to new participant farmers and take part in business ventures to increase their own income and offset the cost of the training program.

A successful execution of the scale up plan would lead the way to a paradigm shift in our food system so that sustainable agriculture becomes the standard and not the exception.