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?
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.

local ownership
everyone is involved
agreements on land and water use
improved soil fertility
improved biodiversity
higher groundwater levels
measurable rise in income
more resilience to climate change

HELP ACCELERATE THE MOVEMENT!
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