



## **Food System Transformation Advocates Champion Regenerative Agriculture as “Shovel Ready Solution to Climate Change”**

*New Series Evaluates Benefits of Regenerative Agriculture Across Intersectional Lenses*

May 4, 2022 - Regenerative agriculture is a ‘shovel ready’ solution to climate change, argue climate experts, advocates and scientists in a new review from [Funders for Regenerative Agriculture \(FORA\)](#), *Regenerative Agriculture and Climate*. The first in a series of issue briefs evaluating the full benefits of regenerative agriculture across a variety of intersectional lenses, ***Regenerative Agriculture and Climate outlines how regenerative agriculture and livestock production can restore degraded land, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and store carbon*** while producing nutritious food.

**“The escalating climate crisis requires rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to remove carbon dioxide from the air,” said Jennifer O’Connor, Executive Director of FORA. “Regenerative agriculture is a scalable climate solution that can achieve those goals, while feeding billions.”**

The brief argues that as consumers, activists and policymakers seek approaches to limit emissions and mitigate the climate emergency, regenerative agriculture is a robust and powerful tool for change:

*Regenerative agriculture works with nature, not against it. It utilizes biological and ecological principles found in nature, which has a long history of successfully growing things. Human societies all over the world have employed nature-based food production systems for millennia, characterized by plant and animal diversity, integration, and a respect for the regenerative power of the natural world.*

**The paper corrects some of the most common misconceptions about regenerative agriculture**, including those spread by corporate agriculture and livestock industries resistant to change and the false narrative that all livestock and cows are bad for the climate and a sustainable future requires that we not raise animals or eat meat.

“What we see is that the role of animals in regenerative agriculture is essential to building topsoil - the heart of a healthy, sustainable agricultural system,” said Urvashi Rangan, Chief Science Advisor to GRACE Communications Foundation and a contributor to *Regenerative Agriculture and Climate*. **“The key to restoring the climate and mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis is how we farm and produce food**, and the systems that we create. Regenerative agriculture is a system that puts multiple, proactive solutions into operation for the Earth.”

Central to regenerative agriculture as a solution to climate change, writes FORA, is “the carbon cycle by which atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is transformed by photosynthesis into sugars and nutrients that plants use to grow.” Over a dozen unique regenerative practices improve this carbon cycle, working in concert to restore and protect degraded lands. FORA also notes that **improved soil carbon globally could provide 0.41 gigatons and .15 gigatons respectively of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions mitigation a year, contributing to food security and biodiversity conservation.**

In the brief, **FORA summarizes the risk if we do not act**: Land is generally considered to be a [net sink of carbon](#). However, when forests or grasslands are damaged, degraded, cleared, or converted to croplands and residential use, dangerous greenhouse gasses are emitted. Tropical deforestation in the Global South, for instance, is responsible for three billion tons of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

*Regenerative Agriculture and Climate* is the first of 12 issue briefs from FORA, collectively building a compendium of research about regenerative agriculture that does not currently exist. *Regenerative Agriculture and Climate* will be followed by issue briefs on soil, water, and nutrient quality and density. **These briefs, each thorough scientific review, demonstrate the challenges brought forth by our current industrial agriculture system and, conversely, how regenerative agriculture offers us solutions to mitigate and move beyond these challenges.**

“There is no greater risk to the global economy, food supply and security than continuing down the same path we have been,” said O’Connor. **The greatest threat we face is business as usual. We can’t afford not to transform our food, farming and agricultural systems.** Our message to the collective philanthropic and impact investing field, and to policymakers is clear: Regenerative agriculture is our future.”

To download the brief and learn more, [click here](#). For interviews or speaking engagements about regenerative agriculture and this series of briefs, please contact Jennifer O’Connor, [joconnor@forainitiative.org](mailto:joconnor@forainitiative.org).

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*Funders for Regenerative Agriculture (FORA) is a network of funders and funder initiatives aimed at informing, educating, organizing, providing collaborative opportunities, and recruiting new members in support of regenerative agricultural systems.*