

Membership Criteria and Agreements

Member Profile

FORA membership is open to funders -- foundations, investors, individuals, collaboratives, family offices, organizations, and regrantors -- that make charitable contributions and/or investments as their predominant activity.

FORA membership is also open to regional and affinity networks that support learning and collaboration amongst funders that make charitable contributions and/or investments as their predominant activity.

Organizational representatives (principals, staff, contractors) should be from executive or program teams, not development teams.

Sharing Ideas (Pitch Rules)

FORA encourages its members to share and discuss opportunities for collective support and action. We strive to create a culture of trust and respect where all members are able to voice their level of interest without judgment. While FORA is not a “no pitch zone,” members are asked to be sensitive to each other’s organizational realities and comfort levels.

Funding Commitment

FORA members commit to deploying human, financial, and strategic resources in service of our mission and five-year goal.

FORA’s general operating budget is covered by grants from Founding Funders. FORA does not collect membership dues. Members are encouraged to become Founding Funders if possible.

Member Agreements

FORA members agree to:

1. Support FORA's mission, vision, funding philosophy, five-year goal, and opportunity statement (see below);
2. Leverage their organizational expertise, strategies, and resources;
3. Share relevant funding priorities and strategies, grants, investments, and topical knowledge;
4. Move beyond individual strategies and embrace collective goals;
5. Contribute financially to aligned grants, investments, pooled funding, and special project opportunities;
6. Learn from others, work toward coordinated strategies, and share progress;
7. Participate in network-wide calls, meetings, and convenings;
8. Engage with a welcoming, inclusive, curious spirit that honors our differences;
9. Operate with respect, kindness, and an orientation towards solutions, assuming good intentions and giving the benefit of the doubt; and
10. Agree in principle to the [operational values of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food](#).

Vision

We envision a world with climate stability; healthily functioning systems and ecosystems; the good outcomes of holistic thinking; farmer and community leadership; diversity-, evidence-, and nature-based solutions; empowered individuals; collaborative communities; thriving rural communities; well-managed institutions based on systems thinking; and hope.

Mission

Recognizing the urgency of addressing global climate change and systems collapse, we will work together over an initial five-year time frame to organize and implement programs that accelerate the emergence of regenerative agriculture, healthy soil, and working lands systems that support people and the planet.

Funding Philosophy

We are committed to philanthropy and investing that results in holistic, regenerative, and systemic solutions. We recognize the urgency of the moment to act on behalf of current and future generations. We will prioritize building collaborative and trusting relationships with all stakeholders and will foster connections with diverse communities and groups. We will coordinate strategically and efficiently with each other and NGOs; listen with humility; have common language and goals; and share knowledge and collective intelligence. We will adapt when necessary and model and encourage the breaking down of silos. We will provide philanthropic and investment capital in thoughtful, holistic ways. We will support innovation and risk. We will work cooperatively to achieve real impacts in the world as fast as humanly possible.

Five-Year Goal

Dramatically increase adoption of regenerative agriculture in five years, starting in North America.

Opportunity Statement

We understand that we must work together to achieve our mission. We know the challenges we face are much greater than any one of our organizations alone can address. We are committed to the importance of community and being in relationship with each other, all stakeholders, and the natural world. It is our goal to amplify our impact and help accelerate funding and financing into regenerative systems by more intentionally:

- Sharing knowledge about regenerative systems, their benefits, and opportunities for funders and investors to support their emergence;
- Connecting and convening ourselves and our networks;
- Coordinating with related regional, topical, and general affinity group networks to incorporate regenerative agriculture as core to their efforts;
- Aligning, and sometimes pooling, our grants and investments; and

- Taking action together on special projects that inform and influence the field, engage diverse networks and break down silos, leverage participants' organizational efforts more broadly to achieve collective impact, and address critical, unmet needs.

By being in relationship with each other, we will:

- Create cumulative impacts;
- Gain access to a wealth of information, intelligence, and networks;
- Realize the power of the network to effect systemic change; and
- Complement individual philanthropic strategies with collective approaches for a more diverse and effective “portfolio” of action.

Process for Accepting New Members

Potential members must meet the criteria laid out above and be reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee.