

2019 **IMPACT REPORT**

30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION





A LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN LEARY

Under humanity’s watch, Earth’s trees and biodiversity have been decimated at rates higher than anything this planet has ever witnessed. Because of this, it is easy to be scared of what the future holds.

By the time we wake up tomorrow morning, dozens of species and tens of thousands of acres of trees will be lost. The state of our environment is causing ice storms in Guatemala and 90 degree temperatures in Alaska. We know that widespread land degradation in the form of monocrops - and the massive, toxic meat and dairy industry that they feed - are one of the leading contributors to global climate change, ocean dead zones and desertification on land.



John and Forest Garden farmer Keba

Three decades ago our founders saw all of this coming. They saw how farmers were mistreating the land and that forests were paying the price. They saw the effect on community after community being left in poverty, devoid of any reliable resources.

Over the past thirty years we have worked tirelessly to achieve the vision of our founders while also working to adapt to the ever-present harm being done to our planet. We’ve learned about the importance of tree cover, how to revitalize lands, and how to fight the degrading practices of “Big Ag” at a grassroots level. The impact of all this knowledge is clear, our approach and methodology are working and we’re making true, lasting change for entire communities.

But something else has grown in the last three decades that has extended far beyond our tree planting efforts in small communities and the farmers we work with: **Our network of support.**

Despite the challenges we consistently face, we find hope in the individuals and organizations that believe in our mission and our ability to affect change. Because of the dedicated support of individual donors, private sector business partners, foundations, and ambassadors, our knowledge has been put into action and is making true, sustainable impact. We are thinking bigger and reaching more people and, thanks to your support, our expertise has made us leaders in our field. We are regularly asked to advise organizations and governments such as the United Nations which is spreading our impact even wider. Thirty years ago it was hard to imagine where we have landed; thank you for your financial contributions and for sharing our message. YOU have made Trees for the Future a household name that will influence the way development progresses.

No doubt, like me, you hope for a better future: one free of hunger, poverty and deforestation. Personally, I have felt no greater joy than seeing the lives of farmers and their families completely transformed by our approach. And I hope that you share in that joy because you’ve had everything to do with these successes.

Of course, I worry for our planet and am frustrated that we have allowed the industrial food system to degrade our soils. And now the consequences are imminent. But with hard-working farmers and staff and the one-of-a-kind support network TREES has created, I am hopeful the change we’ve been working towards over the last thirty years will come before another thirty years pass by.

John Leary

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PLANTING TREES & CHANGING LIVES

Trees for the Future **has a vision** that sees a world where every farmer has a Forest Garden on their land as a reliable source of nutrition and income. This reality would create an environmentally-friendly and sustainable global food system.

We are **on a mission** to provide smallholder farmers with pathways out of poverty and hunger by planting trees in Forest Gardens around the world.

And **our goal** is that by 2025, we will bring 1 million people out of hunger and poverty by establishing 125,000 Forest Gardens.





WHAT WE DO & HOW WE DO IT

There is no question feeding the world with our current agricultural practices will destroy the planet. Since Trees for the Future's (TREES) inception in 1989, the Earth's population has grown by **2 billion**. The effects of unsustainably feeding 9 billion people is evident across the tropics, where farming and livestock eliminates 50 football fields of forest every minute.

Losing trees means losing healthy soils, arable land, water, and biodiversity. Thought leaders around the world are calling for a change to our global food systems, but in the face of poverty, overpopulation, and climate change, it's often difficult to connect the way we eat with each of these problems. It is even more difficult to connect it to the solution.

But at TREES, we have the solution! We know how to feed the planet's population WITHOUT destroying the Earth. The solution is called the Forest Garden.

By educating smallholder farmers to use agroforestry

and permaculture, TREES changes how people grow food, reducing negative impacts on farmers and the planet.

The Forest Garden is an agroforestry method that grounds itself in four components. And at TREES, we integrate these four components into a four-year farming program called the Forest Garden Approach (FGA). The FGA brings nutrients, moisture, and fertility back to the soil. It returns trees to the landscape and rebuilds the value and potential of the land. It transforms ravaged, desert-like fields into self-sustaining, productive farms – **Permanently**. It's proven to increase household income an average of 400% – putting food in the hands of farmers every day, and making it possible for children to get out of the fields and into the classroom.

Our vision will be realized when every farmer around the world is able to integrate these four, simple, agroforestry components.



A Living Fence (Green Wall): A thick fence of closely-planted trees that a) keep livestock and other pests out; b) protect the field from weather extremes (e.g. wind, fire, flooding); and c) generate additional products that people can use or sell. Green walls bring about true transformational change.



Multipurpose Rows: Diverse rows of nitrogen-fixing trees (NFTs), placed strategically across a field, replace the need for artificial fertilizer. Farmers learn to amplify benefits by selecting multipurpose NFTs that also produce fruit, plant-based protein and other valuable products.



Fruit Tree Portfolio: A diverse mix of fruit trees can provide nutritious and marketable food throughout the year. If planned well, fruit trees can produce fruit in lean times and supplement the household diet all year long.



Permagarden: Permagardening allows for sustainable production of vegetables all year, adding dietary diversity and financial returns. If every smallholder family could start a permagarden, we would make a tremendous impact at ending rural hunger.



THE FOREST GARDEN APPROACH



MOBILIZATION

- Prior to Forest Garden project startup
- Identify and assess partner farmer groups using Progress out of Poverty scores and selection standards.
 - Set agreements with groups and identify the coordinators, technicians, and lead farmers according to each location's needs.



FOREST GARDEN PROJECT BEGINS



PROTECTION

- Years 1-2
- Farmers learn how to protect, stabilize and segment their field by growing "fertilizer" trees and growing a protective barrier, the "Living Fence."



DIVERSIFICATION

- Years 2-3
- Farmers diversify their fields with a vegetable and fruit tree portfolio to meet the family's priority nutritional needs and market opportunities.



OPTIMIZATION

- Years 3-4
- Farmers learn about efficiently spacing trees and plants and other advanced Forest Garden management and conservation techniques that optimize the long term health and productivity of the land.



GRADUATION

- End of year four
- Technicians ensure farmers benefit from economies of scale by assessing their input and marketing needs and implementing a work plan for the future.
 - A ceremony is held celebrating farmers and technicians.

The Forest Garden prevents monocropping, a common method used by farmers which consists of sowing entire fields with just one crop that is harvested once a year and sold at the same time as other farmers' crops. This means one annual payday, making farming a high-stakes vocation. Any natural disaster or crop disease can wipe out an entire livelihood in a few short days. And, it means degraded soils after several harvests, which take years to revitalize.

TREES successfully revitalizes degraded land in Sub-Saharan Africa by teaching farmers the four components of the Forest Garden through five phases, making up our FGA.

Through the FGA, nutrient-rich foods become abundant and farmers can feed themselves and their families. Over the course of one year, farmers can harvest a variety of crops such as eggplant, tomato, pepper, maize, mint, and many more! They're able to grow enough food to have a regular surplus to take to market and earn a steady, reliable income year-round. Farmers are also trained to find entrepreneurial success through their Forest Gardens by selling fodder, organic homemade pesticide, or honey from their bee hives.

What was once dry, degraded land becomes an invaluable lifesource that provides hope for farming families. TREES' FGA empowers farmers to pass on their knowledge to their children, ensuring prosperity for generations.



WHAT NOURISHES US

OUR ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES



Accessibility

TREES' solutions are grounded in the ability to reach EVERYONE. Our solutions are accessible, using highly transferable techniques that have low to no-cost levels of technology, ensuring the world's poorest people can adopt them.



Respect

TREES deeply respects all human beings. We value health, personal time, family, and we treat each farmer and farming family like they're our own.



Diversity

TREES values diversity in our programs and our people. Our FGA scales diversity in food, harvests, and income streams. Our people represent various cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds. We are proud of our diverse team, which fuels new thoughts and ideas and enables us to spur innovation and growth.



Learning

TREES is a learning organization, always iterating and improving. Good enough is never good enough. We learn from failure and continuously grow our knowledge base through experience. As we've trained farmers and communities for three decades, learning is at our core and permeates our programs.



Possibility

TREES' goals are not easy to accomplish. The problems we address are massive, global, and urgent. At TREES, we meet challenges with solutions. We inspire through possibility, showing that it is possible to change how we feed the world in order to keep our planet healthy.



We at TREES

At TREES, we collaborate as a high-performing global team. We strive to be humble and honest. Our success is defined by what we achieve together.



Entrepreneurialism

TREES attracts entrepreneurial farmers who are always innovating to build a better life for themselves and the planet. These farmers are early adopters of new farming solutions. In addition, we attract entrepreneurial staff who explore every option to efficiently solve the world's most pressing problems – hunger, poverty, and climate change.

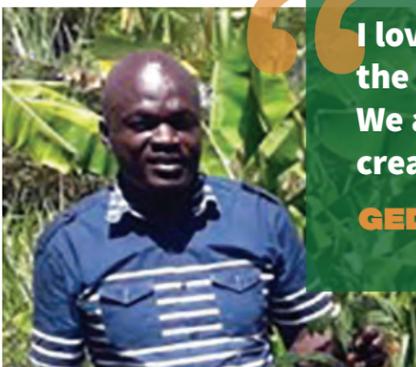


Results

TREES focuses on results. We expect our global staff to be high-performing individuals looking to make a difference in the world, while elevating the livelihood of farmers through economic, social, and environmental outcomes. We work with an urgency to share our results with drive, focus, and optimism.

“ THE BASIC TECHNOLOGY WE INTRODUCE IS SIMPLE, PEOPLE START TAKING HOPE, AND THAT TAKES THE BIGGEST PRESSURE OFF THE LAND – THE PRESSURE OF HUMAN DESPERATION.”

DAVE DEPPNER



“ I love having a voice. My boss listens to our ideas and the whole team works together to make them happen. We all support each other and work together to offer creative feedback and then make our ideas a reality. ”

GEDION OSOTI, HOMA BAY 2 LEAD TECHNICIAN

OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP

A LOOK AT THE PAST 30 YEARS

TREES was founded by Dave and Grace Deppner on August 14, 1989. The Deppners' interest in tree planting and its benefits to humanity and the environment grew out of the time they spent serving as Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines in the early 1970s. During that time, the Deppners witnessed the human side of environmental tragedy, brought on by illegal logging and unsustainable land management systems. Working with community leaders in local villages, the Deppners found a way to offer hope. They revitalized lands by providing farmers with tree seeds, technical training, and on-site planning assistance.



After returning to the U.S. from their overseas assignments, they continued what they had started and met other Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who had witnessed the pains of deforestation across Latin America, Africa, and Asia. TREES was founded to do what no one else was doing: providing seeds, information and training materials to people in the tropics who wanted to plant and grow trees more sustainably. TREES was ultimately incorporated as a public charity in 1989.

One of Dave's tenets that TREES carries today is the commitment to sustainable design and accessibility. Dave would never promote techniques or technologies that were out of reach for people living in poverty. He uplifted struggling farmers, everywhere.

Dave was tough as nails! In 2005, Dave had to be lifted out of quicksand in the Philippines with a backhoe — one of many Dave Deppner "adventures." That year, we tallied and published the "Dave Deppner scorecard" in our newsletter which included 11 broken bones, a cobra bite in Indonesia, and being kicked by a horse in Ecuador!

Dave continued to exude passion and perseverance for his lifelong mission to plant trees and change lives until he passed away in 2011.

WE'VE LEARNED A LOT IN 30 YEARS



Replace chemical fertilizers with trees.



Build the long-term health and resilience of soils.



Put farmers in control of developing the best seeds they need.



End the dependency farmers have on input providers.



Transition smallholder farmers away from unsustainable cash crops toward diverse farming systems that lift people out of extreme poverty.



Use trees and vegetation to minimize pesticide use.

EARLY 1970s

Dave Deppner volunteers with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines and his interest in sustainable land management begins.

AUGUST 1989

TREES is incorporated as a public charity; Dave Deppner is Executive Director.



JUNE 1993

TREES is invited to join the White House panel on Global Climate Change, where we continued to serve through 2000.

MARCH 1994

Dave Deppner receives the Earth Trusteeship Award from Dr. John McConnell and UN Undersecretary Xavier, United Nations, New York.



NOVEMBER 1998

In response to Hurricane Mitch, TREES begins planting trees in Honduras and later expands across Central America.



1999

TREES relocates to a larger office space in Silver Spring, MD, named in honor of U.S. Peace Corps Director Loret Miller Ruppe.



DECEMBER 2003

30 million trees planted globally by TREES.



2005

TREES starts the world's first distance agroforestry training program which reaches over 2,000 trainers in four years.

2006-2007

TREES receives praise from Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, Ethiopian President Girma Wolde-Giorgi, and Nobel Prize-winning activist and tree planter Wangari Maathai.

CONTINUED ▶



GROWING OUR KNOWLEDGE

Our dedication to continual learning and improvement has evolved our tree-planting approach over the decades, bringing us to what we practice today – the Forest Garden Approach (FGA).

In 2008, TREES had roughly 20 staff and volunteers at headquarters and in the field. By 2014, TREES had planted 100 million trees in more than 60 countries! We had made a difference in 60 countries, but we could not adequately measure our impact or successes. Our only reliable metric was our total tree count. We needed to do better if we wanted to:



Improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.



Combat climate change and restore the environment.



Grow our generous donor base and resources to plant more trees.

TREES focused heavily on research and development, talked with local, rural farmers, and collaborated with best-in-class partner organizations to understand which tree species and agroforestry methods work best around the world and in local contexts. Ultimately, we adjusted our approach to focus on our impact and fixing the root cause of environmental degradation, poverty, and hunger – agriculture.

In 2014, TREES completed our existing projects around the globe and scaled back to work in a handful of communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Equipped with the FGA, we fully focused on making the biggest difference for farmers, their families, and the environment.

A landowner wishing to convert bare land into a Forest Garden must first understand the natural relationships between the soil and trees; various plant and tree species; the climate and weather; and local and regional economies. Therefore, the linchpin to TREES' success with the FGA is our transfer of knowledge to farmers through training and education.

And training and education extends to staff. Each TREES field staff member undergoes a week-long Training of Trainers series, that TREES custom-designed to provide them with the skills needed to educate Forest garden farmers.



“ I have worked in rural development for 20 years, but the example of the Forest Garden in Senegal is my greatest pride of development, taking into account dimensions of food, economy, culture and the environment. **MOHAMED TRAORE WEST AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR ”**

2008

FEBRUARY 2010

The Maryland House of Delegates recognizes TREES for two decades of reforestation leadership and the planting of 65 million trees.



2014

TREES updates their data collection methods by implementing mobile technology to get detailed data in real-time.



DECEMBER 2014

TREES reaches 100 million trees planted.



2015

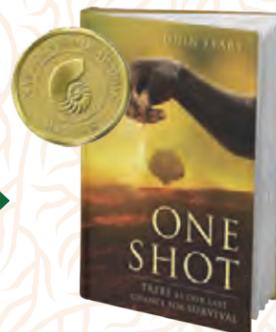
TREES streamlines their work by focusing specifically on the Forest Garden Approach.

APRIL 2017

“One Shot: Trees as Our Last Chance for Survival” is published.

SEPTEMBER 2017

One Shot receives the Nautilus Award.



SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

TREES launches the Forest Garden Training Center to provide an online platform for Forest Garden practitioners around the world.



APRIL 2018

TREES becomes official training partner with UNITAR.



2019

TREES makes Forest Garden training even more accessible with the launch of the Forest Garden Training Center mobile app.



JUNE 2019

TREES reaches 160 million trees planted.





SOWING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

TRANSFORMING LAND

With local staff as certified Forest Garden trainers, TREES identifies desertified landscapes near trade corridors (regions with access to markets) and begins making connections with armer groups interested in planting trees using the FGA. TREES' staff educate farmers on the sustainable practices of the FGA and how transforming the land quickly leads to regular and healthy meals and increased income.

WHERE WE WORK

TREES works with small-scale farmers in remote rural communities in key program countries: **Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.** In addition to the hubs of Forest Garden projects established along trade corridors, we are building projects in partnership with NGOs, agribusinesses and farmer cooperatives, who are propagating Forest Garden activities in other communities.

Between 2015 (the start of our Forest Garden Program) and the end of 2018, we launched 18 Forest Garden projects working with 4,423 farmers. In 2019 alone, we were able to launch an additional 17 new projects working with 5,990 additional farmers.

2015-2018 NEW FOREST GARDEN PROJECTS



2019 NEW FOREST GARDEN PROJECTS



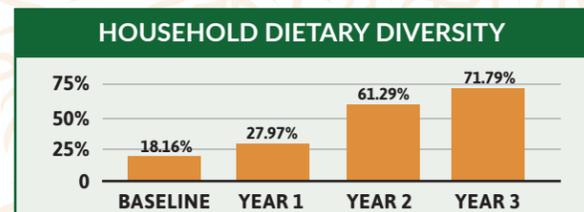
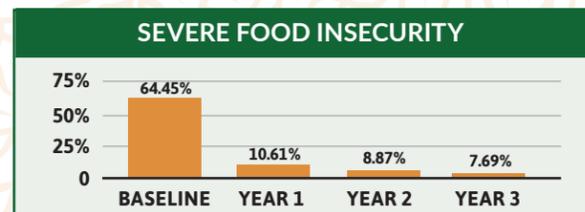
SENEGAL: 6 New Projects with 1,717 new farmers opened in 2019!

From the Petite Cote through the Peanut Basin to the resettlement areas near the Gambian border.

45,462 Beneficiaries*
3,685 Forest Gardens*

5,080,040 Trees planted from 2018-2019
7,820,484 Total trees planted***
2,197 Hectares restored*

TREES' annual surveys indicate that Forest Garden farming families in Senegal have dramatic reductions in food insecurity within the first year of implementation; and remarkable increases in dietary diversity within the first 2 years.



* Lifetime ** Lifetime trees planted in FGs *** Combined lifetime trees planted in FGs and with field partners

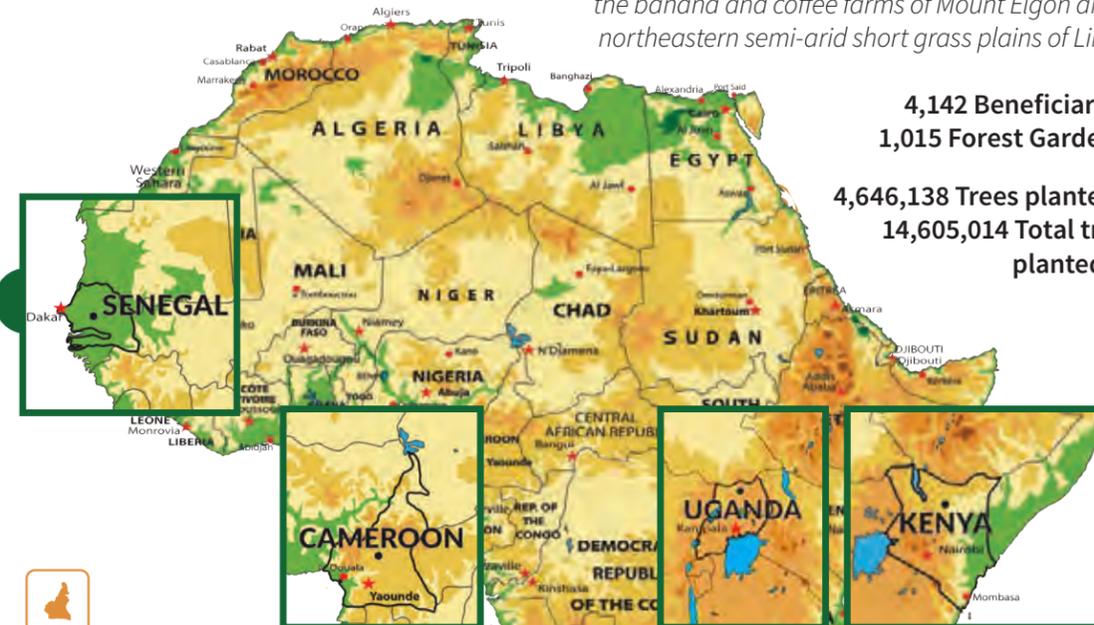


UGANDA

Just across the shared Kenyan border in Busia, through the banana and coffee farms of Mount Elgon and up to the northeastern semi-arid short grass plains of Lira and Kole.

4,142 Beneficiaries*
1,015 Forest Gardens*

4,646,138 Trees planted**
14,605,014 Total trees planted***



CAMEROON

3 New Projects with 508 new farmers opened in 2019!

Throughout precious watersheds at the base of Mount Bamboutos, across the Western Highland Plateau, and in Nlonoko, home of the endangered African goliath frog.

4,921 Beneficiaries*
703 Forest Gardens*

2,104,890 Trees planted**
9,259,998 Total trees planted***



KENYA

3 New Projects with 1,659 new farmers opened in 2019!

Western Kenya along the shores of Lake Victoria in Homa Bay County and North of Nairobi in the foothills of Kiambu County.

16,516 Beneficiaries*
2,580 Forest Gardens*

2,773,134 Trees planted**
9,108,545 Total trees planted***



TANZANIA

5 New Projects with 2,106 new farmers opened in 2019!

Semi-arid sunflower belt of central Tanzania in Singida to the tobacco-growing region of Tabora.

16,930 Beneficiaries*
2,430 Forest Gardens*

1,523,636 Trees planted**
2,625,211 Total trees planted***



Before TREES began working with farmers in the Senegalese village of Diacksao in 2018, the typical crop was millet and peanuts. But that is quickly changing as Forest Garden farmers diversify their crops. The 300 project farmers are bringing aubergine, tomato, okra, moringa, sweet pepper, onion and chili pepper to market and reaping the benefits!

* Lifetime ** Lifetime trees planted in FGs *** Combined lifetime trees planted in FGs and with field partners

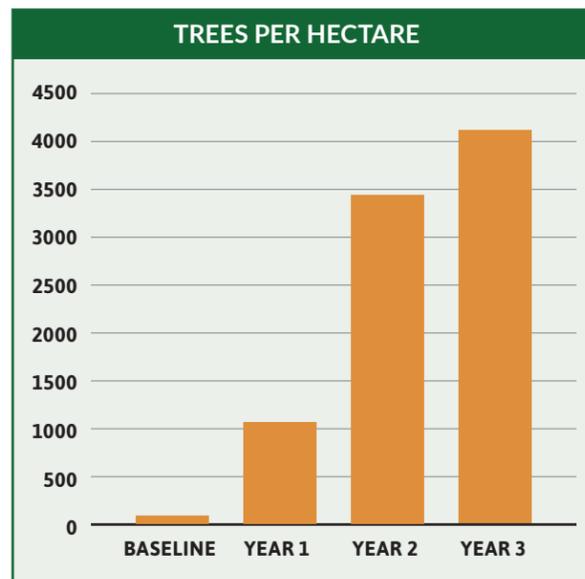
THE IMPACT WE MAKE

At TREES, we emphasize the importance of data in measuring the long-lasting impact we have on farmers and their communities. Our Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) activities focus on how the FGA affects People, Profit, and Planet through many different measurements. This impact data is collected from 33 Forest Garden projects across five countries, consisting of over **32,734 surveys and 4,476,115 individual data points**. Local staff collect and report data from tree planting and Forest Garden training activities monthly while food security, nutrition, and economic resilience data is collected annually.



PLANET

A BETTER PLANET



Carbon Sequestration is the removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere by trees and shrubs. As a Forest Garden matures, its ability to store carbon increases. Therefore, a project site will only have met a fraction of its carbon storage potential at the end of year one. So, it is important to calculate the growth and storage of carbon over time to accurately depict the carbon sequestration rate of TREES' Forest Gardens. This measurement includes tree carbon, below-ground root carbon and the potential soil carbon, done through restoring degraded soils.

The majority of TREES Forest Garden farmer's previously used slash and burn farming which emitted carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Now this same cropland is sequestering 62.8 tons/acre of Carbon over its 20 year lifespan. These Forest Gardens are also combatting other carbon emitting processes by providing:

- greater survival rates of trees because the trees are cared for, valued and not subject to being cut for firewood.
- Natural fertilizer, preventing the high carbon emitting production and transportation of chemical fertilizer.
- Natural soil rehabilitation and pest management; preventing use of herbicides and pesticides that kill organic matter.

Forest Gardens Added:

<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>Lifetime</u>
5,990	10,413
Forests Gardens	Forests Gardens

Trees Planted:

<u>July 2018-July 2019</u>	<u>In Africa Over 5 Years</u>
11,664,000	43,419,252
Trees	Trees

Forest Gardens Sequester From The Atmosphere:

653,936.4	2,400,000
metric tons of carbon	metric tonnes of CO ₂



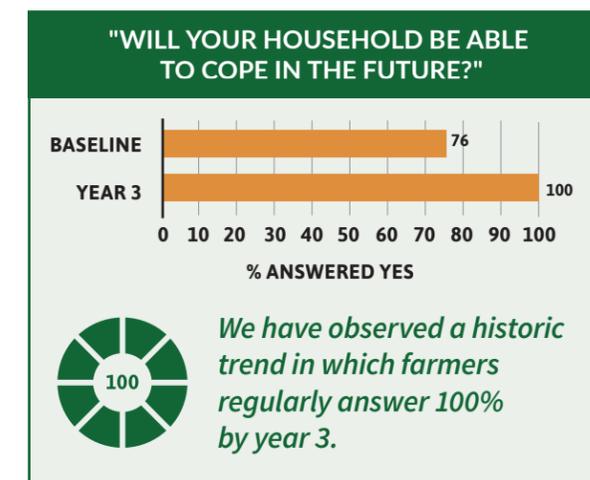
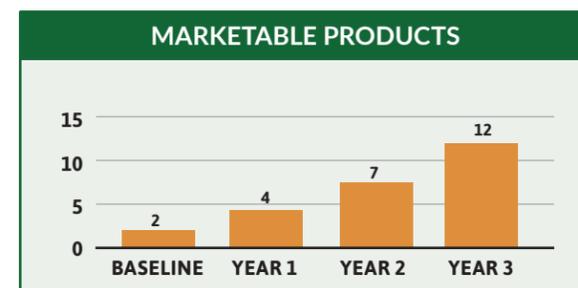
PROFIT

ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) defines resilience as “the ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.”

TREES improves economic resilience by enabling farmers to increase the number of products grown for market and decrease their own spending on food. By “diversifying their portfolios,” their families can better cope with unexpected stressors, have better outlooks on their futures, and profit by growing profitable, marketable products in addition to food for their own families.

Marketable products are any Forest Garden product and the associated value-added product that can be sold and are in-demand in the market. Marketable products can include fresh dried or preserved vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants, fungi, nuts, timber, herbs, oils, honey, and other raw or preserved farm products that add to farmer's income and household purchasing power.



Number of Beneficiaries:

<u>2018-2019</u>	47,559	<u>Lifetime</u>	87,971
	new indirect beneficiaries		indirect beneficiaries



“MY LAND WAS HAPHAZARD! THERE WAS NO PLAN OR REASONING.” **MARY, KENYA**

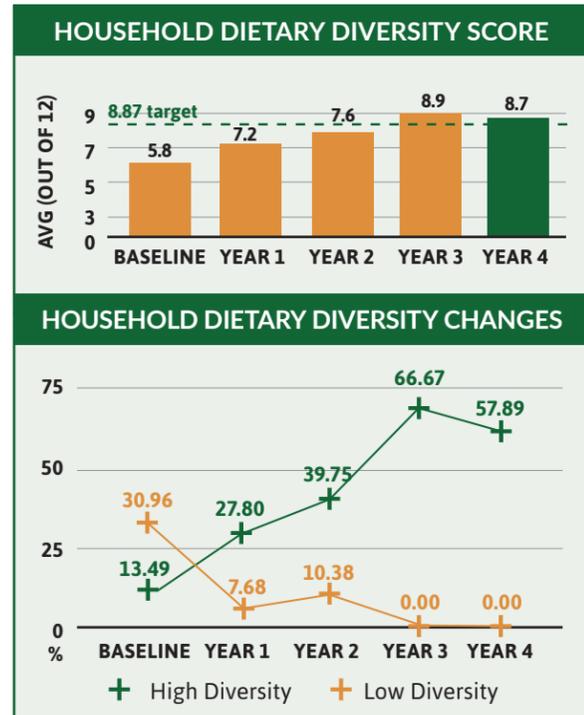
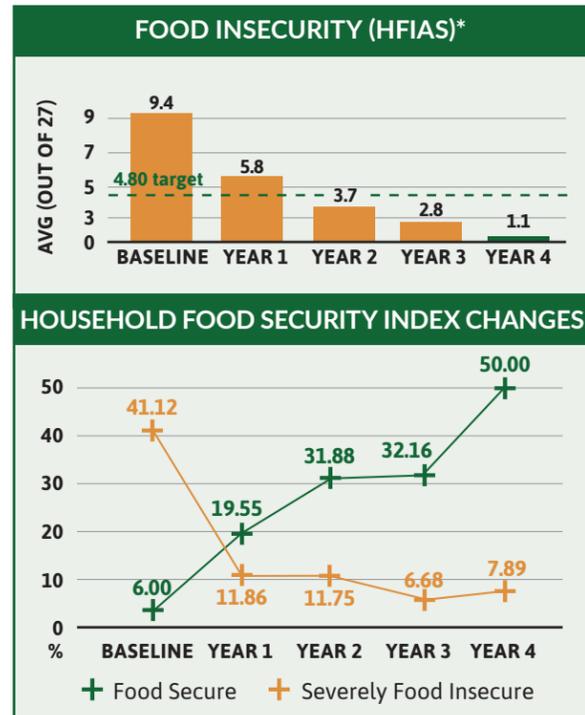
Mary laughs when recalling how her land looked before joining Trees for the Future. Today, her land is full of thriving crops: cabbages, carrots, tomatoes, green peppers, as well as tree tomato and papaya. She says she never lacks for anything and her land can always provide enough for her family.



PEOPLE

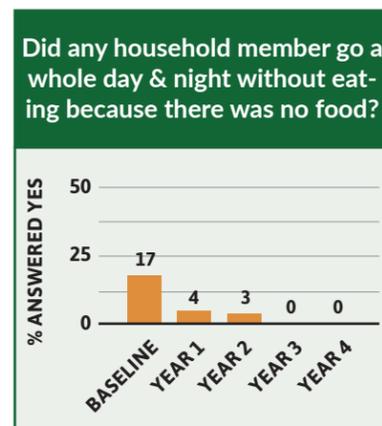
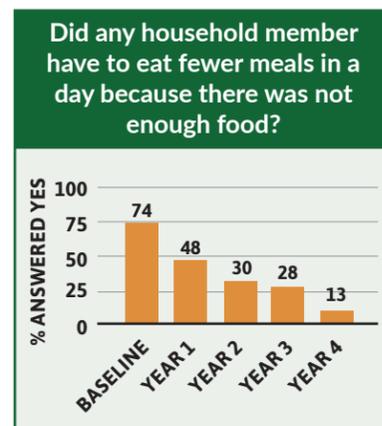
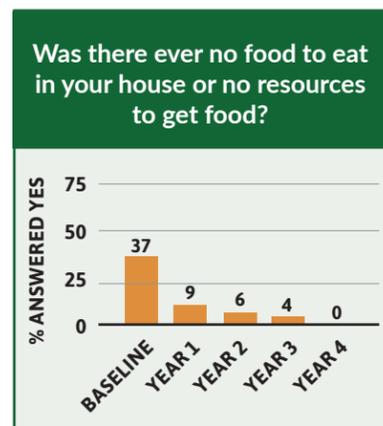
FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

A primary element of the Forest Garden’s design is nutrition. In total, farmers plant 37 vegetable species, 13 shrub and vine species, 14 fruit and nut tree species, and 21 agroforestry species across all of our projects each year. The variety of trees and plants grown depend on the region, agro-climatic zones, soils and the farmer’s field plan. We work closely with farmers to optimize the space of their fields and the growing potential of their land. With optimized lands, farmers can plant more of what they need and what their land needs to regenerate. See page 19 for more details.



Farming Families That Lacked Food, Skipped Meals, or Went 24-Hours Without Food

We use Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation’s (FAO) Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) survey to determine our participant farmers’ ability to access food. All of the HFIAS questions are weighted to provide an HFIAS index score from 0 (food secure) to 27 (severely food insecure). Below are just a few questions asked in the survey and changes in the answers from baseline to the end of year 3 in our 4 year program.



THE DIFFERENCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION MAKES

TREES builds farmer resilience through rigorous agroforestry training and education, as outlined in more detail on Page 4. While many of our farmers did not complete formal schooling, the training they receive from TREES provides them with an exceptional understanding of agroforestry and permaculture: it teaches them how to succeed in farming in a hands-on, practical way. Their thriving Forest Gardens are proof of their mastery, but we celebrate their successes with a graduation ceremony and a diploma endorsed by UNITAR after completing all of our 16 modules over the four years project.

Here’s to the Graduate!

Susan has worked tirelessly for the last three years to build a thriving Forest Garden for herself and her family. She earned recognition in June 2019 at the Ikinu 2 group graduation ceremony in Kenya.



Susan, with the help of her children, spent countless hours transforming tired, poor-performing dirt into precious, life-changing soil. Today, the Forest Garden provides Susan and her family a diverse and nutritious diet and they enjoy trying many new foods together. There is plenty to be taken to market and her sweet peppers and kale earn enough money to pay for any food she can’t grow herself, and the sale of these products allows her to contribute towards school fees for her children and grandchildren.

As a TREES’ program graduate, Susan is now part of an enduring network of farmers and trainers working together to improve the landscape of the Ikinu District of Kenya and beyond.

Number of TREES technician trainings:

2018-2019 **1,950** Lifetime **4,463**

Number of TREES graduate farmers:

2018-2019 **909** Lifetime **1,816**

Micronutrients, Macro Impacts. Public and private investments in agriculture are largely focused on staple crops like cereal grains and oils, as opposed to commodities rich in micronutrients. But healthy populations need more – they require calories rich in micronutrients.

We teach families how to grow the diverse, micronutrient-rich crops needed to live healthy and productive lives. By creating a Forest Garden focusing on nutritional crops and trees, farmers are able to get key vitamins, calcium, iron, protein, and more. Eating from a Forest Garden is not eating to simply survive but to thrive.

Dietary Diversity Means Increase in Access to Vital Nutrients

YELLOW & ORANGE VEGETABLES	YELLOW & ORANGE FRUITS	LEAFY VEGETABLES	ROOT TUBERS	GRAINS	LEGUMES
344%*	477%*	120%*	343%*	101%*	MAINTAIN
VITAMIN A VITAMINS C, K, & POTASSIUM	VITAMIN C VITAMIN K & POTASSIUM VITAMINS B2, B6, B9, IRON, POTASSIUM, & ZINC	VITAMIN C VITAMINS B9 & K VITAMINS A, B6, E, CALCIUM, IRON, MAGNESIUM, & PROTEIN VITAMINS B1, B2, POTASSIUM, & ZINC	VITAMIN A VITAMIN C VITAMINS B1, B6, B9, POTASSIUM, & ZINC	PROTEIN VITAMIN B2, MAGNESIUM VITAMINS B2, B9, IRON, POTASSIUM, & ZINC	PROTEIN VITAMINS B1, B9, K, & IRON VITAMINS B6, MAGNESIUM, POTASSIUM, & ZINC VITAMINS B2 & CALCIUM
Vital Health Benefits skin, hair, nails, gums, glands, bones, teeth, immunity, blood, muscles	bones, immunity, blood, muscles, vision, energy, DNA, pregnancy	immunity, bones, DNA, pregnancy, blood, skin, glands, digestion, muscles	skin, hair, gums, glands, bones, teeth, immunity, pregnancy	Bones, muscle, hormones, vision, energy, nerves, DNA, pregnancy	metabolism, digestion, DNA, pregnancy, circulation, metabolism, bones

*Percent increase in access to vitamins across all projects between baseline and year 3.

BRINGING IT DOWN TO EARTH

A LOOK AT TREES FOR THE FUTURE'S DRONE PROGRAM

There is perhaps no better way to see the year-to-year progress of a new Forest Garden than from above. TREES' drone program focuses on collecting remote sensing data to quantify the environmental impact of Forest Garden projects. Through a series of flights above the same Forest Gardens at different stages of their development, TREES is creating a timeline archive that measures the effects of the FGA on the local environment, on a landscape level. This also establishes a baseline to benchmark our methodology against other agricultural interventions on adjacent lands. The drone program delivers:

- **Above Ground Biomass measurements** - indicating the ability of the Forest Garden to sequester carbon in its trees and shrubs.
- **Leaf Area Index proxy measurements** - providing a gauge for soil health and the Forest Garden's ability to protect moisture in the soil from extreme heat and weather.
- **High-quality photographs, videos, and stories** to be shared with the development community and potential donors, promoting TREES as an effective steward of change and an early adopter of technology for data-driven decision making.

THE VIEW FROM THE GROUND

Bassirou, Khodia, and their son Modou live in Senegal and are participants in TREES' Kaffrine 3 project. Bassirou has meticulously followed the FGA since he began working with TREES last year and it shows in the progress he has made on his land.

In August 2018, the TREES survey team visited the barren field Bassirou had set aside for his Forest Garden. The land was previously used to grow peanuts and corn and had nothing growing on it at the time. Shortly after the first picture was taken, Bassirou and his family got to work on phase one of the FGA – Protection. He worked diligently to protect and stabilize the precious soil of his Forest Garden, by establishing a living fence along the existing 'dead' fence perimeter and planting tree after tree throughout the field.

When the survey team arrived 10 months later they were ecstatic to see his progress. "Walking through the gate was like entering a completely different world," said Andrew Zacharias, Deputy Director of Monitoring and Evaluation. "Life was everywhere: trees planted in rows around and throughout the field, vegetables freshly watered, and birds singing as they flew from branch to branch."

The family is overjoyed with their hard-earned success. They get their vegetables from the garden and, because of the Forest Garden, they do not worry about food and regularly eat nutritious and

diverse meals at home. They're now earning a steady income at the market and even have people traveling as much as 25 miles to buy their vegetables. They are hopeful for the future and are confident they can deal with life challenges without a problem.

Bassirou is full steam ahead on the FGA as he enters the Diversification stage of the project and the survey team is excited to see how he, his family, and their land evolves in the coming year!

2018 AERIAL SURVEY



2019 AERIAL SURVEY



“Life was everywhere: trees planted in rows around and throughout the field, vegetables freshly watered, and birds singing as they flew from branch to branch.”

ANDREW ZACHARIAS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MONITORING & EVALUATION



Bassirou, Khodia, and their son Modou in their Forest Garden. Aerial drone photos of their Forest Garden pictured at right.

BRANCHING INTO NEW HORIZONS

We will use **Expansion, Collaboration,** and **Replication** to successfully bring 1 million people out of hunger and poverty by planting 125,000 Forest Gardens by 2025 through Expansion, Collaboration, and Replication.

EXPANSION

Expansion of our proven Forest Garden model through TREES' trained and supported staff will focus along trade corridors in both East and West Africa; and the eastern edge of Lake Victoria in East Africa.

In addition to expanding projects through our trained technicians, we expect to expand out from existing projects through accomplished and motivated TREES' program alumni. To date, 2,247 farmers have graduated, with new farmers graduating each year. We encourage farmers who excel in the FGA to plant-it-forward with their neighbors - passing seeds and skills to others, allowing the success of our work to spread, organically.

COLLABORATION

We collaborate in two ways – delineated between the partners and the groups we actually fund. Collaboration is an essential element of our growth strategy. TREES seeks to train as many groups and organizations as possible to implement the FGA either exclusively or as a component of their work. Recognizing that the Forest Garden model has multiple applications in different contexts, we strategically pursue four main categories of collaboration:



NUTRITION

Nutrition is a major concern across Africa and the tropics. The FGA ends hunger in less than two years and TREES knows the key to ending hunger and nutritional deficiencies lies in diversification of land and crops. It is this key aspect that we strive to teach other organizations. We can show organizations how to: a) use the FGA to create nutrient-rich diets with seed kits and gardens; b) end micronutrient deficiencies; and c) ensure that food grown in healthy soil contains the most nutrition possible.



WATER

TREES works with partners to increase farmers' water access through decentralized water systems, catchments and barrels. TREES works to integrate the understanding that water distribution systems are more sustainable with trees since trees channel rainwater back into groundwater reserves. Sustainable on-farm water management helps us better adapt to and mitigate climate change and its effects.



CROP RESILIENCE AND LAND SUSTAINABILITY

Many crops grow better in a Forest Garden because the agroforestry trees stop erosion, enhance the soil, and create optimal growing conditions for cash crops, such as cocoa, palm oil, coffee, maize, peanuts, avocado, sisal, pineapple and bananas. Farmers' livelihoods are often in danger of collapse due to natural disasters like landslides and floods which erode the soil and soil nutrient depletion caused by regular winds. We seek to help farmer groups and cooperatives make any crop value chain more resilient and sustainable by adding the FGA.



ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION

It is imperative to save our planet's dwindling biodiversity. Our FGA reduces the pressures placed on forests by farming communities. TREES aids environmental conservation organizations help local farmers plant Forest Gardens on their land to keep them out of protected habitats and ecological areas. The FGA is being used to reduce pressure surrounding protected biodiversity zones for chimpanzee and giant snail habitats. We would like to see Forest Gardens surrounding most ecological preserves around the world.



THE FOREST GARDEN FUND

Forest Garden Fund Leverage Grants – Empowering Others

TREES launched Forest Garden Fund (FGF) Leverage Grants in 2019. These grants train and enable smaller, vetted partner organizations to increase the application of agroforestry practices in their own agricultural development and reforestation programs. Organizations qualified for the FGF already work with local farmers who may be new to agroforestry practices. The goal of these partnerships is to help these organizations learn and train on technical agroforestry skills such as live fencing, alley cropping, and proper spacing, without necessarily growing a full Forest Garden over four years.

The FGF provides more resources for our partners to plant more trees by adding additional practitioners, working towards a shared goal of spreading agroforestry practices in the places that need it most.

FGF partners must:

- Operate in zones and trade corridors where TREES operates, including Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.
- Have one or more representatives of the organization, with an agroforestry or agriculture background, become a TREES' certified Forest Garden Trainer through our online and mobile, app-based Forest Garden Training Center.
- Provide Forest Garden training and support to farmer households
- Apply several Forest Garden practices within their projects

In 2019, TREES approved twelve applications across Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda with partners committing to plant more than 3 million trees!

Looking to Partner? If you are currently working in Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania or Uganda, please connect with us at training@trees.org!

COLLABORATIONS IN ACTION

Featured Partnership: Kenya Scouts Association. Kenya's Vision 2030 is a national plan that calls for 10% tree cover nationwide by 2030. In collaboration with the Kenya Scouts Association (KSA), we are developing a project to plant 1 million trees in Homa Bay County, Kenya in 2019 and 2020. The success of this project will allow us to continue planting 1 million trees in each of the remaining 46 counties in Kenya. In collaboration with KSA, tree nurseries are developed at schools by young scouts while the outplanting and ongoing care for the trees are being provided by Scouts, Rovers, and Master Scouts.

Featured Partnership: International Migration Organization. 2019 will also bring two projects yielding outcomes in all aforementioned collaboration categories, while providing extended economic resilience support for farming families living in conflict zones, as well as families resettling to regions, post-conflict. These projects are collaborations with the International Migration Organization (IOM).

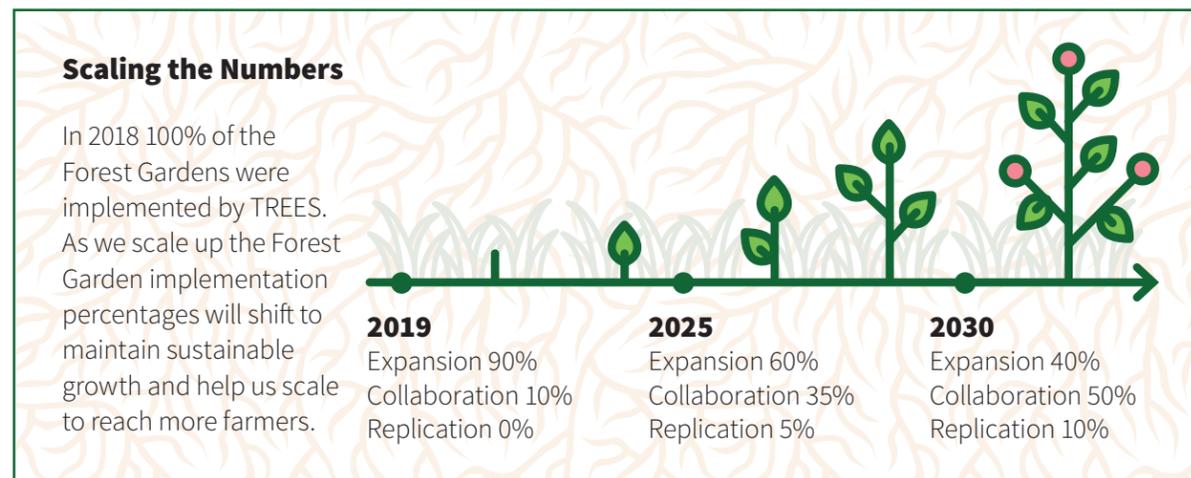


Kenya Country Coordinator Michael Muthui meeting with Kenya Scouts.

REPLICATION

In 2018, 100% of TREES' Forest Gardens were implemented by our staff. As we scale up the FGA, collaborate and train others to execute the FGA, the percentage of Forest Gardens TREES directly implements will decrease. Recognizing that the Forest Gardens can grow anywhere as long as labor and land are available, TREES trains and empowers people, around the world, to replicate the FGA, through three avenues:

- **The Forest Garden Training Center (FGTC):** The FGTC is a world class distance training platform that certifies trainers around the world in the FGA. Through partnerships with organizations that collaborate with TREES and replicate the FGA, we will continue to scale the FGA into additional countries.
- **Forest Garden Demonstration and Training Sites:** TREES is developing in-country Forest Garden demonstration and training sites at agriculture institutes and training centers to ensure that the FGA becomes an integral component of agriculture education. TREES will use these sites to conduct hands-on training and increase the adoption of Forest Gardens among local community members - young people, farmers, and partners.
- **In-Person Training of Trainers (ToTs):** TREES also offers in-person, Training-of-Trainers (ToTs) to practitioners and project teams seeking to implement agroforestry activities. We can send master trainers to project sites for on-site training and consulting. Through our hands-on, participatory approach, all participants gain excellent training facilitation skills and learn the latest innovations in agroforestry.



Forest Garden Training Center



A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF TRAINERS

Through the FGTC, we're cultivating a global community of certified practitioners working to plant Forest Gardens everywhere. The FGTC was recognized by the United Nations (UN) in 2018 as a model for agricultural education. UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) endorses the FGTC and hosted several trainings to certify people in the UN system to implement the FGA. The FGTC provides practitioners across the world with the skills and knowledge needed to replicate this proven model.

What is the Forest Garden App?

In 2019, TREES launched the Forest Garden App. Now, it is easy to track the impact everyone has planting Forest Gardens!

The Forest Garden App tracks and shares certified users' impact. In the app, each trainer has their own profile, allowing them to collect real-time data when visiting farmers. They collect information, post pictures and GPS points on trees planted, the number of household beneficiaries, and the size of farmers' plots. Their impacts are shared through global leaderboards that show which trainers plant the most trees, the most Forest Gardens, and help the most families.

How do I join?

1. Register online or through the app
2. Study the Forest Garden Approach
3. Pass the certification exam
4. Track and share you impact

Total visitors: **4,938**
 Visitors from **146 countries**
433 registered users in 63 countries as of October 2019



*app is currently only available on android devices but an IOS version equipped with additional features is under development.



AFTER SEEING SUCCESS IN HIS GARDEN WITH TREES FOR THE FUTURE, RAMADHANI JOINED A LOCAL FARMER GROUP. TOGETHER, THEY'VE USED THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF PERMACULTURE AND AGROFORESTRY TO BUILD A LARGE COMMUNITY NURSERY AND SPEND TIME HELPING ONE ANOTHER.

RAMADHANI, TANZANIA

TREES is in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN recognizes the FGA training as contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The FGTC and UNITAR signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2018 to develop reliable education platforms for agroforestry practitioners. Together, TREES and UNITAR are contributing to nine of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals:



WE OWE IT ALL TO YOU

DOLLARS & SENSE

TREES is growing at an average annual rate of 50%! We are planting with fervor through a remarkable and continuously expanding network of smallholder farmers, as well as a robust community of companies, individuals, and philanthropic partners who care!

Over the next two years, TREES will be fundraising so we can quickly deploy innovative solutions that accelerate the ability of smallholder farmers to plant trees and change their lives. We will continue to build pathways out of poverty and hunger for 1 million people and feed our growing planet without destroying our Earth.

We thank each of our supporters for investing in TREES to save our Earth and increase the capabilities of people to plant trees and live dignified lives. As we continue to grow and help more people, our donors will continue to be an integral part of the impact we make.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	PROJECTED 2019	AUDITED 2018	AUDITED 2017
Revenues:			
Contributions	\$5,000,000	\$3,597,540	\$2,463,449
Interest and Dividends		599	259
Investment Gain (loss)		(113)	2,505
Total Revenues	\$5,000,000	3,607,623	2,466,213
Expenses:			
Program Expenses:			
Tree Planting	2,686,782	1,756,522	1,889,011
Supporting Services:			
Administrative Costs	550,332	265,891	212,684
Fundraising and Outreach	476,952	532,268	396,968
Total Expenses	3,714,066	2,687,170	2,019,276
Change in Net Assets	1,285,934	920,453	446,937
Net Assets	2,037,526	1,177,036	730,099
NET ASSETS - ENDING	\$3,323,460	\$2,097,489	\$1,177,036

“We love the long-term, sustainable garden development that contributes to many levels of a grower’s life and community! Please keep growing!”

GWENDOLEN NOYES, CAMBRIDGE, MA
MEMBER OF THE HARVEST



DONORS

2019 not only marks 30 years of TREES accomplishing amazing feats of environmental wonder, but it underscores the dedication of the TREES family — our tribe of businesses, individuals, organizational partners, institutional funders — coming together and investing their dollars into our collective future.

It’s because of you that our current work and innovations will soon become the new normal.

ACCELERATING
the pace of change.

ADVANCING
the livelihoods of ONE MILLION people.

AFFIRMING
that we can feed the planet and revitalize the Earth.

APPRECIATING YOU
as investors in our impact and innovations!

FEATURED BUSINESS PARTNERS



BUSINESS PARTNERS: NOTEWORTHY NUMBERS

327 Total participating businesses <i>as of 7/1/2019</i>	76 New business investors <i>7/1/18-7/1/19</i>	\$2,311,075 Total private sector support <i>7/1/18-7/1/19</i>
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INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS



INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

THE SUSTAINER CIRCLE

TREES' monthly donors sustain our efforts year-round.

THE HARVEST

TREES' major donors, a collective of individuals who have supported us by giving more than \$500 a year.

THE PERENNIAL SOCIETY

TREES' community of supporters who choose to leave a lasting impact on farming families and the planet for generations to come.

“Your donation will have an impact in more ways than you think. You make a difference in the environment, income inequality, health, and more.”



HOLLY LAU
FEATURED DONOR, MEMBER OF THE HARVEST

Holly Lau learned about TREES' work in 2015 when she was researching environmental and tree planting organizations to support. TREES' model struck her as more impactful than others.

“Other tree planting organizations you could plant trees and then what? They could be cut down and the dollars wasted,” Lau says.

Lau says she was drawn to the way TREES gets to the root of the problem and for her, achieving effective altruism was key. Our focus on metrics and data is something that instills confidence in Lau and enables her to confidently advocate for us within her networks.

“I love that Trees for the Future approaches things in a very data-driven way,” she says. “It’s what keeps me giving.”

Lau, like many donors, appreciates TREES' triple bottom line benefits and enjoys being a part of changing the lives of individual farming families while positively benefiting the planet. If she has to pick one, her favorite aspect of TREES' work is the environmental component, particularly our efforts to end deforestation, sequester carbon, and help farmers reforest their land.

The various impacts of our work is why she tells others they should get involved too.

FEATURED INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Donors of \$500 or more as of June 30, 2019

Anonymous	Mary French	David Lesikar	Olivia Rygaard-Hjalsted
Jason Aberbach	Robert Frischmuth	Perry Lewis	William Sallum
Nancy Accola	Ann Frutkin	Caroline Lippincott	Siten Sanghvi
Erik Akerley	Geoffrey S. Gaskell	Petra Lohmeier	Niloufar Sarafan
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Cheryl Frank	David Leithauser	Michael Ruby	

*Current Trees for the Future Board Member

VOICES FOR TREES

TREES' Ambassador Program

The TREES Ambassador program has more than 130 Ambassadors that promote the power of trees through social media and their personal circles. With this program we can reach so many more people who are passionate about our Forest Garden Program.

Join our ambassador program by emailing ambassadors@trees.org.



I love Trees for the Future because they are changing lives by making a real positive impact for communities that need it most. It's inspiring to see an organization provide economic development and access to food while protecting the environment. They are proving that tree planting can make a mighty difference! **MARISSA BIESE**



Every day I am inspired by the work that Trees for the Future does to create a better world. The commitment to sustainability is evident in the dedication to educate all farmers in how to nurture a thriving Forest Garden. I am honoured to be an ambassador! **SHONDRA MARTIN**



All of us within the Trees for the Future community are deeply saddened by the passing of Linda Sobel Katz on March 1, 2019.

Linda was Trees for the Future's ORIGINAL Ambassador, spreading the word of our work. Linda also served on TREES' Board of Directors for a long-time, her contributions, immeasurable. Linda witnessed TREES' growth from its beginnings and watched us develop into who we are today. Her leadership in communications, fundraising and public relations helped guide the organization over the years.

We will all miss her warmth, tenacity, generosity, and wisdom.





WHO WE ARE

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Secretary – Kaylin Nickol
Treasurer – Humphrey Mensah
Member – John Leary

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Shannon Hawkins, Independent Consultant
Kaylin Nickol, Nickol Global Solutions

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Abdoulaye Djidiack Diouf, *Lead Technician - Kaffrine 6*
Elhadji Malick Sarr, *Assistant Technician - Kaffrine 6*
Mountakha Dieng, *Lead Technician - Kaffrine 7*
Selle Wilane, *Assistant Technician - Kaffrine 7*
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Souleymane Samb, *Assistant Technician - Kougheul 2*
Mor Anta Sall, *Lead Technician - Kougheul 3*
El Keba Mbaye, *Intern - Kougheul 3*
Maimouna Cisse, *Field Development and Communications Liaison*
Khadim Badiane, *Bookkeeper*
Moussa Diop, *Technician - Kaffrine 10*
Modou Gueye, *Technician - Kaffrine 11*
Anne Marie Sagna - *Seed Bank Manager*

Cameroon (ERuDeF) Staff

Louis Nkembi, *Executive Director of ERuDef*
Emelda Nkeng, *Accountant*
Mohamed Mounir, *Farm Business Coordinator/Cooperative*
Vivian J. Tenjem, *Director of Budget and Financial Planning*
Fotso Jean, *Seed Development Coordinator*
Ngome Emmanuel, *Landscape Coordinator: Mt Bamboutos*
Atungwa Elong, *Assistant Landscape Coordinator: Mt Bamboutos*
Jean Bosco, *Mt Bamboutos - Technician*
Tengem Sylvester Nji, *Mt Bamboutos - Technician*
Temzi Jean, *Mt Bamboutos - Technician*
Ketumafon Cebastine ze, *Mt Bamboutos - Technician*
Ayong Thomas, *Mt Bamboutos - Technician*
Adeline Tengem, *Landscape Coordinator: Nlonako*
Youmsi Justin, *Nlonako - Technician*
Epott Jacques, *Nlonako - Technician*
Abdel Malik, *Landscape Coordinator: Western High Plateau*
Bi Nchindo Claris, *Assistant Landscape Coordinator: Western High Plateau*
Yaguetgaboquette Oumarou, *Western High Plateau - Technician*
Ntchamba Noel, *Western High Plateau - Technician*
Kamgang Hervé, *Western High Plateau - Technician*
Nitcheu Jean Baptiste, *Western High Plateau - Technician*

*Staff List as of September 2019



MEET FATOUMATA

Fatoumata Diedhiou is the youngest and first woman Country Coordinator at TREES. She supervises 36 employees and 2,200 farmers participating in TREES' Senegal Forest Garden projects.

The 24-year-old was born and raised in a village in Thionck Essyl, Senegal where she says her personality and interests were molded by her time spent with family, namely, the time spent gardening with her mother.

Fatoumata first came across TREES' program when she met (then volunteer, now Executive Director) John Leary in 2007. Years later she joined the organization as a volunteer. She became the Senegal Assistant Country Coordinator in 2017 before climbing to Country Coordinator in 2019.

Today, Fatoumata speaks passionately about the positive impacts that TREES and agroforestry have had on her country, noting the considerable drop in hunger and poverty for program farmers.

"I never thought that trees could eradicate poverty to this point," she says. "My main goal is to integrate all the villages that have land for agroforestry, to create mini-programs to help farmers be more financially independent thanks to agroforestry."



“My main motivation is to see people’s lives changing day by day thanks to this project.”

FATOUMATA DIEDHIOU
SENEGAL COUNTRY COORDINATOR



ALWAYS ON THE GROUND

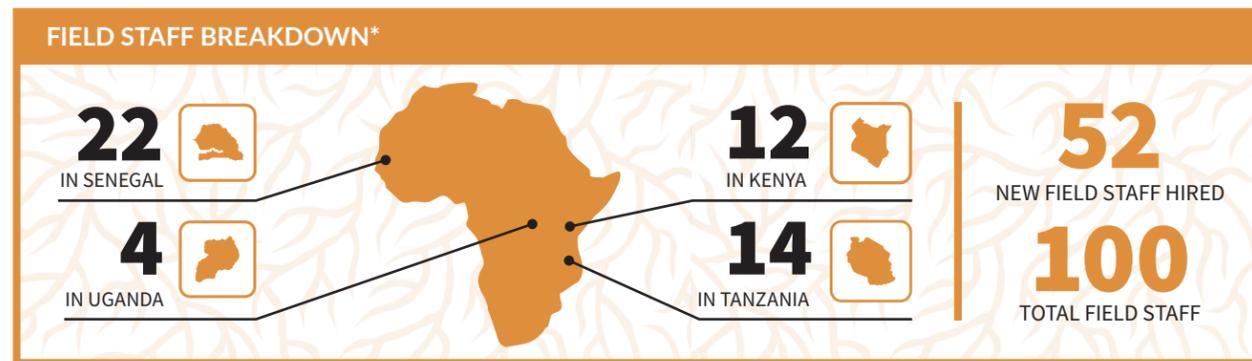
TREES has always been a grassroots organization with a hearty field presence. We embrace a bottom-up approach, including the farmers and communities we serve in the decision-making process.

We employ local talented individuals; our staff speak the local language, are part of the culture, know local species and climates, and truly understand the issues farmers face.

TREES' Country Coordinators are the backbone of our field teams, managing technicians, field staff, and thousands of Forest Gardens. Our technicians often come from farming families themselves and work closely with farmers, training them in the Forest Garden Approach.

Our small headquarters staff exists to support our large field staff and, by extension, the farmers we serve. Headquarter staff is in constant communication with field staff, through regular meetings, emails, phone calls and travel to project countries. Our staff members come from many different walks of life, but we all have one thing in common: a passion for the work we do and helping the farmers we serve.

TREES is Growing.



I love working with an organization that is truly effective and works on-the-ground to make farmers' lives better. The results are tangible and it's inspiring to see. It is meaningful to be so close to the work I am passionate about, and to know that this work is helping people every day.

ASHLEIGH BURGESS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM
QUALITY & IMPLEMENTATION

*As of October 2019



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Donate**
- Fundraise**
- Partner with us**
- Collaborate with us in the field**
- Leave a legacy**
- Become an ambassador**
- Sign up for our e-newsletter**
- Follow us on social media**
- Request a speaker for your next event**
- Give through Amazon Smile**
- Donate stock**
- Donate your vehicle**

LET'S SOLVE THIS

That's 30 years – and it went by in a flash! With the pressing threats of climate change and land degradation, we must solve this before the next three decades pass by.

With support from our dedicated community of individual donors, business partners, implementing partners, ambassadors, fundraisers, devoted staff, and tireless Forest Garden farmers, we're confident that we will make the necessary impact on this planet and its people by feeding us all without killing the Earth.

THANK YOU for joining us in our efforts to change the face of agriculture and plant 1 million people out of hunger and poverty by 2025.

We are better together. Let's do this. Introduce us to 10 more of your friends, 10 more businesses that care. And, show them how to get involved! Show them how to join our amazing tribe of investors and supporters which empowers us to scale the Forest Garden Approach – the solution that will save the world.





#LETSGETPLANTING

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