



Courage and Compassion

Out-of-touch and out-of-control governments of the world now take our tax money and spend \$500 billion dollars a year mainly subsidizing 50 million industrial farmers to do the wrong thing. Meanwhile, 700 million small family farms and herders, comprising the 3 billion people who produce 70% of the world's food on just 25% of the world's acreage, struggle to make ends meet.

Corrupt governments subsidize fossil fuels to the tune of \$5.3 trillion per year, while spending more than \$3 trillion annually on weapons—mainly to prop up our global fossil fuel system and overseas empires. As even the Pentagon now admits, climate change, land degradation, and rural poverty are now primary driving forces of sectarian strife and war (and massive waves of refugees) in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. U.S. military intervention in these regions, under the guise of “regime change” or democratization, has only made things worse.

If the global grassroots can reach out to one another, bypassing our corrupt governments, and break down the geographic, linguistic and cultural walls that separate us, we can launch a global Regeneration Revolution. Through a diversity of messages, frames and campaigns, by connecting the dots between all the burning issues we care about, we will find the strength, numbers, courage and compassion to build the largest grassroots coalition in history—to safeguard our common home, our survival and the survival of the future generations.

orgcns.org/2rbqJyq

Go ‘Scotts-Free’

Last week we asked you to pressure big retailers—Amazon, Costco, Home Depot and Walmart—to stop selling Monsanto's Roundup, a cancer-causing herbicide widely applied to food crops, public parks and lawns and gardens. This week, we're asking you to boycott all of the brands owned by Scotts Miracle-Gro—the exclusive distributor of Roundup to retail stores in the U.S.

Scotts (according to company statements) is the world's largest lawn and garden products company. The Marysville, Ohio-based company markets a lineup of at least 21 brands—including an organic line, called Nature's Care. Scotts distributes about \$154 million worth of Roundup each year to retail giants, including Amazon, Costco, Home Depot and Walmart. Scotts also pushes Roundup for use on private lawns and public parks—something the company is well positioned to do, since its 2015 purchase of lawncare service provider TruGreen (formerly ChemLawn).

Scotts is also partners with Monsanto to market Roundup-Ready grass seed, a product both companies successfully lobbied the USDA for an exemption from pre-market safety testing. (OCA previously called for a boycott of Scotts products after the company launched its GMO grass seed).

As the popular online investment site, *The Motley Fool*, suggests, Scotts would survive just fine without its sales of Roundup. In fact, sales of Scotts products might actually improve if the company disassociated itself from Monsanto. Until then, consumers should steer clear of any and all Scotts brands. Take Action: orgcns.org/2rccgCq
Call Scotts: 937-644-0011 or their customer service line: 888-270-3714
Post on Scotts Facebook page: fb.com/MiracleGro/
Tweet: @Scotts_MGro Ditch Monsanto's cancer-causing Roundup!

Connect the Dots

How do we address the crises we face? The health, climate, political crises? The spiritual and ethical crises that plague today's society? The false divisions that serve no one except the political forces that create and feed those divisions? We need to ditch those false divisions. We need to unite around a common cause: regeneration.



In his talk last week in Houston, Texas, OCA's Ronnie Cummins challenged listeners to connect the dots between food, farming, health, politics, climate, social and economic justice, and work together to “make America organic again.” How? We

hear it often, but it bears repeating: Real change happens from the bottom up, not the top down. That's why we're urging you to get involved.

Since launching the #Resist and #Regenerate Movement a few weeks ago on Meetup.com, 226 chapters have been formed, with nearly 3700 members. (We still need some volunteers to lead some of these groups. Interested? Email organize@organicconsumers.org)

Meetup.com can play a key role in helping us all bridge the gap between online and on-the-ground activism: Start a #Resist and #Regenerate group on Meetup, reach out and invite local activists and concerned citizens to a meeting, identify a local issue or local candidate, and start working together—in your own backyard. orgcns.org/2qD1OVK

Winning!

Last year, OCA's Regeneration International project announced a global competition for the best scalable and replicable regeneration projects. After much deliberation—and much lamenting of the fact that only five projects could win—the RI steering committee announced the winners, selected from a field of 216 entries from 60 countries:

Acacias for All (Tunisia), for halting desertification caused by climate change in Tunisia by planting green walls of acacia trees in collaboration with local rural populations.

Agua Santa Regeneration (Ecuador), for restoring highly degraded ancestral lands in the high Andes of Ecuador and supporting the families of surrounding communities by supplying fruit trees for their gardens and offering trainings in agroforestry.

Grow a Farmer (Uganda), for combining information communication technology, permaculture and business into a single ‘three-dimensional model’ that will build a critical mass of small-scale farmers to enable them to regenerate ecosystems and build self-sustaining communities.

Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (Haiti), a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting soil resources, restoring the environment, promoting the growth of local economies, and empowering communities through transforming waste into resources such as compost in Haiti.

Worldview International Foundation (Myanmar), for its pilot project with two local universities to restore 750 ha of mangrove forest by planting millions of trees.

These five winning projects, along with the many other creative and worthwhile projects that entered the competition, give us hope for a better—and regenerative—future. Support OCA's Regeneration International Project (tax-deductible, helps support our work on behalf of organic, regenerative agriculture and climate change): orgcns.org/1PIoNM4