

THE 2018 RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD RECOGNIZES YACOUBA SAWADOGO AND THE ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE RESCUED FOR REGENERATE SOILS

The farmer Yacouba Sawadogo from Burkina Faso, known as *the man who stopped the desert* has been announced Laureate of the [2018 Right Livelihood Award](#) widely known as the *Alternative Nobel Prize*.

[Yacouba Sawadogo was recognized by the Jury of the Award](#) for turning barren land into forest and

demonstrating how farmers can regenerate their soil with innovative use of indigenous and local knowledge. In particular, the presentation in the Award website explains that..."Starting around 1980 during a phase of severe drought, Sawadogo has successfully created an almost 40-hectare forest on formerly barren and abandoned land. Today, it has more than 60 species of trees and bushes and is arguably one of the most diverse forests planted and managed by a farmer in the Sahel. Sawadogo's remarkable success builds on experimenting with traditional planting pits for soil, water and biomass retention (ZAI in local language). He has continued innovating the technique over the years, increasing crop yields and successfully planting trees. Sawadogo has received thousands of visitors from the region and beyond, organizing trainings and empowering farmers to regenerate their land. As a result, tens of thousands of hectares of severely degraded land have been restored to productivity in Burkina Faso and Niger. ZAI techniques help to conserve rainwater and improve soil fertility, allowing farmers to produce crops even in years of drought. Trees planted together with the crops serve to enrich the soil, produce fodder for livestock and create business opportunities".

Established in 1980, the [Right Livelihood Award Foundation](#) honours and supports people and organizations offering visionary and exemplary solutions to the root causes of global problems. The Swedish Foundation sees its role as being the megaphone and shield for the Laureates, and provides them with long term support. The Foundation has Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

Anyone can propose candidates to be considered for the Right Livelihood Award. After careful investigation by the Foundation's research team, reports on the current proposals are submitted to the Foundation's board and international Jury. The Jury meets annually in September to select the Laureates. Since its creation, the Award has recognized 174 Laureates from 70 countries.

The other Laureates recognized by the 2018 Edition were the Civil and human rights defenders Abdullah al Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al Qahtani and Waleed Abu al Khair (Saudi Arabia), the Agronomist Tony Rinaudo (Australia), the anti-



corruption champions Thelma Aldana (Guatemala) & Iván Velásquez (Colombia). The Award Presentation will take place in Stockholm on 23 November 2018, followed by public events and high level meetings in Geneva, Zurich and Berlin.

To know more

[2018 Right Livelihood Award](#)

[Yacouba Sawadogo in the Right Livelihood Award website](#)

[The man who stopped the desert Video](#)

[News by the Right Livelihood Award Foundation](#)

[Right Livelihood Award Laureates](#)

