

Fair of the "4 per 1000" international
Initiative – Promoting Regenerative
Farming in Hong Kong, China

HomelandGreen

EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT

ZERO #EUGreenWeek
POLLUTION
for healthier people and planet



Promoting Regenerative Farming in Hong Kong – a story as told by HomelandGreen



Urban area	24.9%
Agricultural land	4.5%
Fish Ponds	1.4%
Others	69.2%

Source: [HK Planning Department](#)



Who are we?

- **HomelandGreen** is a **Hong Kong** based **charitable** organization established by a small group of volunteers on 17 June 2013, **World Day to Combat Desertification**, with the motto '**Be just to the earth; for the sake of all beings.**' To this date, we only have less than ten active members, mostly full-time career workers and a few retirees. We receive no public fund and run all programs from our own reserves.
- We organize **voluntary tree planting** activities to help combat desertification in Inner Mongolia and **promote regenerative farming** in Hong Kong.



What we intend to share in this presentation is **our story** of **promoting regenerative farming** in Hong Kong, well-known for being a highly urbanized metropolitan, for the past **seven years**, the **strategies** we have adopted and the **progress** we have made.

By that we mean

- We are trying to support local environmental conscious and open-minded farmers to transition into practices of regenerative farming to grow healthier crops free of pesticides, increase yield and income, as a means for soil regeneration to address issues of food safety, food security, and climate change. We believe that these pioneering farmers who also bring ecological benefits to the world deserve better rewards than what they are doing now.
- We are also trying to arouse public's awareness of issues related to food production and consumption both locally and world-widely and hope to solicit support to move Hong Kong towards green consumption.



Our story

- We plan to start by sharing **the stories of three farming partners** of different background, age and experience, each at a different stage on the road towards regeneration.
 - **Eva**, with whom HomelandGreen has partnered for about three months under all the constraints of the pandemic, who is **trying hard at the trial-and-error stage**.
 - **Cheong Gor**, 30 months partnership with HomelandGreen started late 2018, presently **midway on the road towards regeneration**.
 - **Alice**, came to learn from HomelandGreen as a fresh university graduate in 2017, chose a career path subsequently **promoting regenerative farming as a full-time worker** in a local conservation agency.
- Then we will **review the strategies** we have adopted in the hope that we can get advice from international counterparts so that we can move faster and better, and of course, happier.



Meet **Eva** – a farming partner HomelandGreen working with for about three months **going through the trial-and-error stage** – a story in video



Meet **Cheong Gor**, an experienced farmer HLG partners with for over 30 months, **midway** on the road **towards regeneration** – a story in video

Meet **Cheong Gor**, an experienced farmer HLG partners with for over 30 months, **midway** on the road **towards regeneration**



← Before HLG's Intervention

After HLG's Intervention →



Meet **Alice**, a **young** environmentalist turned **full-time farmer** promoting **regenerative farming** – a story in video

Meet **Alice**, a young environmentalist turned **full-time farmer** promoting **regenerative farming** – a story in video



How did it all start?

- HomelandGreen began our involvement in **voluntary tree planting projects to combat desertification in 2012** in Inner Mongolia after learning of the incredible story of the **land restoration work of NPO-GreenLife in Hure Banner**, a remote small county in eastern Inner Mongolia which was once almost totally desertified.
- The once **totally desertified land was consequently turned back into arable land** and local peasants managed to make a **better living** by adopting **sustainable zero-waste agroforestry practices that continues to regenerate the land.** upon the technical advice of the agricultural bureau.



Through the various **tree planting experience** and **study trips**, HLG learned of the **world-wide land degradation problem** not only in extremely arid areas but also as a **result of exploitative agricultural practices** all over the world in the past several decades and that working from the soil up can be an **alternative way of farming** that may help **remediate** a lot of the **damages done to agricultural land** and as a way of **mitigating climate change**.

HLG tree planting activities



HLG study trips in arid areas in China



We then began our **journey to promote regenerative farming** in Hong Kong in 2015

Here are **our strategies**

- Strategy **1 : Learning** – We decide to equip ourselves and learn from the leading masters in the field of farming from the soil up, later known as regenerative farming
- Strategy **2 : Arouse public awareness** – We reach out to the public to raise awareness about the relationship between soil health, plant health, planet health, and human health through talks to different audience with different background in different settings
- Strategy **3 : Walk our talk** – We set up thermal compost sites with recycled natural materials and teach about thermal composting – soliciting support from environmental groups along the way
- Strategy **4 : Visit Farms** – We visit local conscientious farmers to understand the potential obstacles for them to transition into more regenerative way of farming
- Strategy **5 : Build up HLG credibility** – We invite our overseas professional partner to offer free training on regenerative farming to experienced local farmers
- Strategy **6 : Cultivate young minds** – We sponsor young environmentalists for overseas training in regenerative farming as incentives for their longer-term commitment to our cause



We then began our **journey to promote regenerative farming** in Hong Kong in 2015

- **Strategy 7: Build up a semi-professional training team** – We involve better-informed farmers as teaching assistants at HLG workshops as continuous professional training
- **Strategy 8 : Provide free workshops and consultancy service** – We run free workshops for local farmers on various themes of regenerative farming and provide consultancy service within our resource capacity
- **Strategy 9 : Run small scale trials in schools** – We help run regenerative farming programs for school kids with the support of the trained volunteers as preparation for collaborative partnership with local farmers to manage their transition to regenerative farming
- **Strategy 10 : Form collaborative partnership with farmers** – We adopt a **zero-risk approach** to help responsive farmers to transition into the practice of regenerative farming to build up **long-term partnership**
- **Strategy 11 : Involve collaborating farmers as co-trainers** – We involve our collaborating farmers in our public talks and promotional programs
- **Strategy 12 : Reach out more through social media and networks** – We create our HomelandGreen Facebook to reach out to **non-English speaking community** and HomelandGreen Website to a wider audience
- **Strategy 13 : Reach out to international like-minded counterparts** – We join memberships of international organizations with coherent missions as HomelandGreen



Strategy 1 : Learning – We decide to equip ourselves and learn from the leading masters in the field of farming from the soil up, later known as regenerative farming



Strategy 2 : Arousing public awareness – We reach out to the public to raise awareness about the relationship between soil health, plant health, planet health, and human health through talks to different audience with different background in different settings



At farms



At community centers

23 06 2018



At universities

23 08 2018



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Strategy 4 : **Visit Farms** – We visit local conscientious farmers to understand the potential obstacles for them to transition into more regenerative way of farming



Strategy 5 : Build up HLG credibility – We invite our overseas professional partner to offer free training on regenerative farming to experienced local farmers



Strategy 6 : **Cultivate young minds** – We sponsor young environmentalists for overseas training in regenerative farming as incentives for their longer-term commitment to our cause



Strategy 7: Build up a semi-professional training team – We involve better-informed farmers as teaching assistants at HLG workshops as continuous professional training



Strategy 8 : Provide free workshops and consultancy service – We run free workshops for local farmers on various themes of regenerative farming and provide consultancy service within our resource capacity



Learning together lays a good foundation to support one another on the road to regeneration

An example in video of a free workshop given in 2021 – Introducing the MicroBiometer

HLG Workshop

Introduction of the use of
MicroBiometer
for regenerative farmers



Strategy 9 : Run small scale trials in schools – We help run regenerative farming programs for school kids with the support of the trained volunteers as preparation for collaborative partnership with local farmers to manage their transition to regenerative farming



Strategy 10 : Form collaborative partnership with farmers – We adopt a zero-risk approach to help responsive farmers to transition into the practice of regenerative farming to build up long-term partnership

- Three such examples have been introduced earlier.
- Will continue to expand this partnership network within the resource capacity of HomelandGreen.



Strategy 11 : Involve collaborating farmers as co-trainers – We involve our collaborating farmers in our public talks and promotional programs



Strategy 12 : Reach out more through social media and networks – Our HomelandGreen Website and HomelandGreen Facebook

- Website : www.homelandgreen.hk
- Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/HomelandGreen.hk>
- Videos on regenerative farming workshops and experimental farms
 - (Please see the word doc listing FB links on HLG local activities)
- Videos on large-scale land recovery projects HLG involved in
 - (Please see the word doc listing FB links to HLG videos on HLG voluntary tree planting trips to combat desertification in Inner Mongolia, the study trips to witness the process and results of such restoration work, and local tree planting activities)
- Videos on translation work from reputable open source on the science and practice of regenerative farming for the purpose of knowledge dissemination
 - (Please see the word doc listing FB links of HLG translation work to promote regeneration farming)
- Videos on translation work from open source of reputable international organizations or authorities with missions of mitigating climate change through ecological land recovery or relevant promotional materials to alert the public of global ecological
 - (Please see the word doc listing FB links of HLG translation work on global ecological issues)

Strategy 13 : Reach out to international counterparts – We join memberships of international organizations with coherent missions as HomelandGreen

- HLG becomes a member of the **French 4p1000 Initiative** and takes part in its various task force and this virtual display to learn more from the international community
- HLG becomes a member of **Regeneration International** to learn from the successful experience on the promotion of regenerative farming in areas and countries with different climatic and cultural contexts
- HLG **seeks** to reach out for **research partnership** for more scientific documentations of the process and results of our experimental work and **incentive systems** where farmers' contribution to ecological benefits can be rewarded. For the latter, we are happy that we have been approached by specific organizations and such partnership is under exploration.
- HLG members join membership of the **Soil Science Society of America** for our continuous professional development



What next?

- A better tomorrow, of course.
- We look forward to an even happier trip with more partners, more resources, more learning opportunities, more supporters, and more successful experiences to continue to heighten our spirit and keep our momentum.
- Thank you.

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Wendy Wong
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