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TMI'S MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS PROGRAM RECOGNIZED AS AN "OUTSTANDING PRACTICE IN AGROECOLOGY"

WASHINGTON D.C.: The World Future Council has just announced that The Mountain Institute's (TMI) Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Program was among the 15 winning practices from the global South that are advancing the transition towards agroecology. These outstanding projects were chosen from 77 nominations from 44 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. This year marks the first recognition by the Council, in collaboration with the launch of Technology for Agroecology in the Global South.

"Our Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Program has been improving livelihoods in Nepal's rural mountain communities since 2001, offering a profitable alternative to traditional wild harvesting," said Augusta Molnar, Chair of The Mountain Institute's Board of Trustees. *"TMI's community-based, participatory approach—coupled with sustainable, nature-based solutions—builds community resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate. On behalf of the 18,000+ highland farmers now trained in MAPs cultivation in Nepal, we gratefully accept this recognition from the World Future Council,"* she added.

An international panel of renowned experts decided upon the 15 best practices that will be honored in Berlin on January 18th during International Green Week and the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture for 2019. The award event, "[Scaling up Agroecology! For Forward-looking Decision-making in Policy and Practice](#)" will be held at 15:30 – 17:30h at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Schumannstr. 8, 10117 Berlin, and includes a panel discussion with representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This event will also be livestreamed via <https://www.boell.de/de/livestream?dimension1=startseite> .

More information on all 2019 winning practices: <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/opa-2019/>

Links to TMI's MAPs Program info:

- [Full program description](#)
- [MAPs brochure](#)
- [MAPs Program video](#)

Statements from the World Future Council, TAGS and IFAD

"To address hunger, social inequality, climate change, and biodiversity loss, a transition to sustainable food and agriculture systems is inevitable. This recognition showcases smart solutions that really work for the local people and empower those on whom food security of the Global South relies on: small-scale food



producers. *The Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2019 create immediate and real impact and if executed at scale, they can help to considerably transform our food systems,*” says Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald, Supervisory Board Chairman of the World Future Council.

“Innovation happens when people who are facing challenges dare to think outside the box. The practices distinguished as Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2019 show in an impressive way how holistic and innovative approaches can turn agriculture into a key element to fight not only food scarcity but also poverty, climate change and loss of biodiversity. It’s time to give a stage to these exemplary approaches and think about ways to scale their impact,” say Valerie von Koerber and Samuel Wagner, directors of the start-up Technology for Agroecology in the Global South (TAGS).

“These 15 Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2019 are exemplary in that they empower small-scale food producers, nurture sustainable food systems and promote resilient agricultural practices. I proudly served on the jury of this recognition and call all decision-makers to learn from these unique initiatives”, says Shantanu Mathur, Lead Adviser, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

About [The Mountain Institute](#): TMI partners with mountain people to transform their livelihoods, protect their cultures and thus conserve vital natural resources for the planet. The Mountain Institute is the only international non-profit focused solely on mountains worldwide, and actively dedicated to mountain communities and their unique environments. Our headquarters office is in Washington D.C. and we have locally-staffed offices in Nepal and Peru.

About the [World Future Council](#): The WFC works to pass on a healthy planet and fair societies to our children and grandchildren. To achieve this, we focus on identifying and spreading effective, future-just policy solutions and promote their implementation worldwide. Jakob von Uexkull, the Founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize, launched the World Future Council in 2007. We are an independent, non-profit organization under German law and finance our activities from donations.

About [Technology for Agroecology](#): TAGS is an initiative aiming at using the Bosch company’s technological strength to contribute to major global challenges. It turned out very soon that our focus will be on the empowerment of smallholder farmers. We were given the chance to explore the possibilities as a start-up within the Bosch organization. The Start-up is called TAGS – Technology for Agroecology in the Global South. Learning from the Outstanding Practices in Agroecology TAGS aims at finding a way how Bosch’s expertise in technology and/or large scale production can help to scale those practices in order to empower as many farmers as possible.

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