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**RODALE INSTITUTE PARTNERS TO CREATE INDIA'S FIRST
REGENERATIVE ORGANIC RESEARCH CENTER**

*Leader in Regenerative Organic Agriculture Will Support Local Research,
Education, and Training*

KUTZTOWN, Pa. (Nov. 12, 2024)—[Rodale Institute](#) is joining [Gallant Regenerative Organic Private Limited](#) (GROPL) and [University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad](#) (UASD) in India to launch a new center dedicated to Regenerative Organic Agriculture for long-term, on-farm research trials. The new Regenerative Organic Research and Training Institute, located in Dharwad on the UAS campus, will conduct location-specific research, education, and training. The goal is to create model farms, understand better the needs of Indian farmers as it relates to regenerative organic practices, and help create a new non-GMO cotton cultivar suitable for ROC-certified agriculture.

“Today’s chemical-intensive agricultural practices and monocropping have resulted in the degradation of agro ecosystems, affecting the sustainability of agriculture and the livelihoods of farm families, the majority of whom, about 85%, are small and marginal farmers in India,” said Dr. P. L. Patil, Vice Chancellor of UAS. “Our focus is to better understand regenerative organic practices and principles so we can provide science-based solutions for farmers.”

The project will be financially supported by US-based Gallant International Inc., a private label company, and Terra Thread brand, started by Vikrant Giri, which focuses on organic and regenerative organic cotton apparel, bags, and accessories.

“We are excited to work with Gallant Intl. to offer a viable solution to farmers that shows them a path forward through rigorous research and hands-on training, as well as the ability to break free from toxic chemical agricultural practices and inputs. We want to support the creation of Regenerative Organic Certified® farms that we know have the power to heal the planet and her people,” said Jeff Tkach, CEO of Rodale Institute.

Rodale Institute, founded in 1947, is the leader in organic and regenerative organic research. Their extensive studies have demonstrated the positive benefits of organic and regenerative organic agriculture on the health of the economy, the environment, and the communities involved. Rodale Institute will support the University of Agricultural Sciences in Dharwad, which was the first in the country to have an Institute on Organic Farming. Gallant Intl., the US-based company behind GROPL, already works with over 900 smallholder farmers in Odisha, India, adopting regenerative organic practices to enhance their livelihoods and promote ecological restoration and community development. Gallant provides support by having 13 dedicated professionals to help farmers; giving non-GM seeds,

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tools, and customized training programs to farmers; covering their certification fees; and by providing a 100% purchase guarantee with organic and Fairtrade premiums. Gallant also plans to bring 2,000 more farmers in 2025 to its supply chain to fulfill the growing demand for regenerative organic cotton.

The Regenerative Organic Alliance, currently the leading certification for organic and regenerative farming, has seen a growing demand for ROC-certified products. Founding Director of the ROA Elizabeth Whitlow has been a supporter of this initiative: “Conventional cotton is one of the most environmentally devastating crops on the planet,” she said. This project presents an incredibly rich opportunity to restore soil, community, and people in a historic cotton growing region.”

“This new center in India marks a significant milestone in our journey towards addressing challenges in agriculture and climate change issues at a global level,” added Vikrant Giri, Founder of Gallant International Inc. “Cotton plays a big role in the apparel industry, and we want to support research on regenerative organic cotton supply chains for the future. We want to create several regenerative organic agricultural models that can be replicated by smallholders across India and beyond.”

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About Rodale Institute

Rodale Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to growing the regenerative organic agriculture movement through rigorous research, farmer training, and education. The Institute’s groundbreaking science and direct farmer support programs serve as a catalyst for change in farming and food production worldwide. Over its 77-year history, Rodale Institute has proven that organic farming is not only viable but essential to humanity’s survival.

About GROPL

GROPL is dedicated to advancing regenerative organic agriculture by working with farmer-producer organizations and promoting organic and regenerative farming practices among smallholders. GROPL collaborates with agricultural universities and research institutions to innovate and refine farming techniques in the Indian context, aiming to enhance farmer incomes, improve health and wellbeing, combat climate change, and prevent farmer suicides. To learn more, visit <https://gallantregenorganic.com/>

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About the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad

Established on October 1, 1986, the University of Agricultural Sciences plays a pivotal role in advancing agricultural education, research, and extension in Northern Karnataka. The university is home to the Institute of Organic Farming (IOF), which leads comprehensive research on organic and regenerative agriculture, focusing on sustainable farming techniques that promote soil health, biodiversity, and ecological balance. To learn more, <https://uasd.edu/>

About Gallant International Inc.

Gallant International Inc., established in 2009 in California, USA, is a Certified B Corporation® whose mission is to redesign fashion to empower farmers, rebuild soils, and reduce greenhouse gases. Gallant International supplies customizable organic, regenerative organic, and fair-trade certified cotton products to various global markets. To learn more, visit gallantintl.com.