The AgroEcology Fund

MEET THE GRANTEES

2012-2018
Women’s Networks for Biodiversity and Agroecology

Lead Organization: Navdanya
Partner Organizations: Navdanya members
Award: $50,000 over 24 months

Navdanya will amplify the knowledge and practices of women farmers, including indigenous individuals working throughout the Himalayas, to address the problems of poverty, malnutrition, and climate vulnerability in the region. This initiative will build a vocal movement by documenting and disseminating the knowledge and practices of women farmers and creating local and regional networks to exchange this knowledge. Navdanya will hold a series of workshops that bring together a diverse audience of farmers, scientists, think tanks, and policymakers to discuss integrating agroecological practices into food and agriculture policies. Navdanya will also coordinate two large-scale events—an international conference and a regional food festival—to increase awareness of food sovereignty and climate change. This project aims to build a movement by simultaneously establishing strong grassroots networks and building partnerships among farmers, researchers, and policymakers working at national and regional levels.

Save Our Seeds (SOS) - Legal Challenges to Seed Intellectual Property Rights and Seed Patent Regimes

Lead Organization: Center for Food Safety
Partner Organizations: African Centre for Biosafety
Award: $50,000 over 24 months (2012-2014)

Center for Food Safety and its partner, the African Centre for Biosafety, will preserve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in the Global South and strengthen their rights under domestic and international law to counter the growing problem of seed commercialization. The partners will advance the principle that seeds are a public good to be protected through legal research and action. Together they will pursue a biopiracy case involving a patent obtained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Texas A&M University for a Tanzanian sorghum gene.

Scaling Farmer-led Agroecology in West Africa

Lead Organization: Groundswell International
Partner Organizations: Food First; ILEIA; Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD); Sahel Eco; and Association Nourrir Sans Détruire.
Location(s): Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali, West Africa
Award: $200,000 over 24 months (2012-2014)

Groundswell International, in collaboration with five partner organizations will strengthen and amplify existing farmer- and women-led initiatives and organizations in Mali, Burkina Faso, and northern Ghana. Their goal is to spread agroecological farming systems, reinforce movements for food sovereignty, and advocate for supportive policies. These organizations will raise awareness, build capacity, and document and disseminate the practices and successes of agroecological methods of farming. Their efforts include conducting small-scale experimentation of agroecological farming practices and disseminating information on agroecological farming systems by increasing coverage on local radio and hosting conferences on agroecology advocacy for women and indigenous farmers.

A Global Partnership to Amplify Peasant and Family Farm Agroecology as Part of Food Sovereignty

Lead Organization: La Via Campesina
Partner Organizations: GRAIN and ETC Group
Location(s): Global
Award: $300,000 over 24 months (2012-2014)

La Via Campesina (LVC) and its two partner organizations will address the linked problems of rising food prices and climate change that result from industrial farming. The partnership seeks to build the capacity of grassroots organizations and to mobilize campaigns to create a policy environment that recognizes agroecology as a viable alternative to industrial farming. To build the capacity of on-the-ground organizations, LVC will provide advocacy trainings and mobilization support. In an effort to amplify the movement’s voice on the global policy front, LVC and its partners will generate reports on agroecological practices, offer communications trainings to members of LVC’s network of 150 farmer organizations, and prepare LVC delegates who are speaking at international forums by educating them on agroecological successes and policy positions.
A Catalyst to Expand the Global Agroecology Movement  
**Lead Organization:** Grassroots International  
**Partner Organizations:** International Development Exchange (IDEX); Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP); Focus on the Global South.  
**Location(s):** Global  
**Award:** $300,000 over 24 months (2012-2014)  
**Summary:** Grassroots International will support the international agroecology movement to counter the rapidly growing industrial agriculture movement favored by international corporations and their allies. These organizations will partner to enhance agroecological farming practices by encouraging farmer-to-farmer learning and to link international food, water, and climate policy activities with grassroots groups and networks that have agroecology experience so that they may influence international policy. To implement these goals, they will coordinate a series of four learning exchanges in the Global South and support organizations working on agroecological policy and practice. The learning exchanges will bring together farmers and advocates to compile and disseminate farmer knowledge and develop avenues to showcase innovations developed on the ground. The grant will also support grassroots agroecology leaders’ participation in important regional and international processes.

**ROUND 2 GRANTEES - 2014**

**Advancing the peasant-led Global Agroecology and Peasant Seeds Agenda**  
**Lead Organization:** La Via Campesina  
**Partner Organizations:** ETC Group (Canada), GRAIN (Spain)  
**Location(s):** Global  
**Award:** $255,000 for 24 months (2014-2016)  
This is a global collaborative of the world’s largest peasant movement, La Via Campesina, and two prominent research and advocacy organizations ETC group and GRAIN. Activities include research and dissemination of publications, technical support for increased plant breeding and seed storage, facilitated policy discussions and convening the first Roman Forum on Food Sovereignty. This project will provide evidence that agroecology and small holder producers are the foundation for food sovereignty, biodiversity conservation, and climate change.

**The First Step Towards a New Society- Women Peasants as Leaders in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty**  
**Lead Organization:** Korean Women’s Peasant Network (KWPA) Via Campesina organizations in Asia.  
**Location(s):** Korea  
**Award:** $85,000 for 18 months (2014-2016)  
This project documented and shared successful cases of agroecology, traditional farming, and native seeds in Korea. KWPA organized national tours of researchers and agroecological peasants; trained women; created a local practice school; and built a coalition of peasants, progressive movements, civil society, trade unions and the women’ movements for agroecology and food sovereignty. The project put agroecology into local and national public policies to safeguard the rights of peasants practicing agroecology and support measures that complement the Act on the Management and Support of Environment-Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and Organic Foods.

**Agroecological Families: A Democratic Inspiration for Forging Food Sovereignty**  
**Lead Organization:** Colectivo Nacional Agroecológico  
**Partner Organizations:** ECAOL (Federation of Farmer’s Organizations of the Coast); RGS (Seed Savers Network); Movimiento Utopia; Association of Biological Producers of Ecuador (PROBIO); Latin American School of Agroecology (ELA); Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (SOCLA); the National Consumer Commission for Food Sovereignty; Department of Commercial Networks of the Ministry of Agriculture; and the Latin American Fair-Trade Network.  
**Location(s):** Ecuador  
**Award:** $50,000 por 12 meses (2014-2015)  
This project created a web platform and electronic bulletins as part of an “Agroecological Information Agency”; published documents like the Agroecological Directory of Ecuador”, a “Guide to Agroecological Crops and National Agricultural Biodiversity” and “Historical Development of Agroecology in Ecuador”; Launched an Investment Fund for innovative agroecological projects;
Building Societies of Peace- Looking to Matriarchal Societies for Lessons on Agroecology and Nutrition

Lead Organization: Indigenous Partnership for Agro-biodiversity and Food Sovereignty

Partner Organizations: Slow Food International (SFI); Biodiversity International; Centre for Indigenous Nutrition and Environment (CINE); McGill University; North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS); Vanuatu Cultural Centre; IKAP; and IMPECT.

Location(s): India, Thailand

Award: $145,000 over 12 months (2014-2015)

This project will conduct collaborative research, knowledge sharing and network building on the agroecology of matriarchal societies with a focus on shifting cultivation and nutrition. There will be a study on the nutrition and agro-ecological practices of two matriarchal societies – the Khasis in India and the Karen in Thailand – to improve policy on their food, livelihood and nutritional security. The project will create a forum on the nutrition and agricultural practices of matriarchal societies, while building awareness of their contribution to sustainable agriculture. It will establish an indigenous matriarchal network to connect indigenous peoples and scale up local efforts around the world.

Facilitation of the Territorial Processes in Agroecology with the Latin American Institute of AgroEcology

Lead Organization: Asociación de Trabajadores del Campo

Partner Organizations: The Latin American Institute of Agroecology (IALA); CLOC; and La Via Campesina (LVC), with ongoing experiences in Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, and Venezuela. In Honduras: the National Rural Workers’ Center (CNTC) and (Codincah). In El Salvador: the National Association of Farm Workers (ANCA) and FECORACEN. In Guatemala: the National Indigenous and Peasant Coordination (Conic), the National Coordination of Guatemalan Widows (Conavigua) and the (CLC). In Nicaragua: the Nicaraguan Resistance Association (ARNIC).

Location(s): Central and South America

Award: $165,000 for 24 months (2014-2016)

The Latin American Institute of Agroecology (IALA) is a long-term, strategic project of the Via Campesina’s Latin American regional (ATC) affiliate, the CLOC. This project includes university-level education in agroecology for Central American youth (with hands-on practicums in home countries) and spreading farmer knowledge through peer learning, such as campesino-a-campesino or peasant-to-peasant methodologies. IALA Mesoamerica is a geographically decentralized program coordinated by the ATC, with local campuses in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Mobilizing African Civil Societies for Agroecology and Influencing Decision Makers and Funders

Lead Organization: Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa (AFSA)

Partner Organizations: Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM); Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO); African Biodiversity Network (ABN); Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN); Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development (COMPAS); Friends of the Earth (AFSA) Africa; Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC); Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association; Eastern and Southern African Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESSAFF); La Via Campesina Africa; FAHAMU; World Neighbours; Network of Farmers’ and Agricultural Producers’ Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA); Community Knowledge Systems (CKS); and Plate forme Sous Regionale des Organizations Paysannes d’Afrique Centrale (PROPAC).

Location(s): Work coordinated in Tanzania but involved several African countries.

Award: $200,000 over 24 months (2014-2016)

This project will make an evidence-based case for agroecology as the long-term solution for farming in Africa. Collaborating organizations in this pan-African network will educate and mobilize African civil society to influence decision makers both regionally and locally through case study collection and analysis, creation of an African advocacy platform on agroecology and dissemination of researched evidence to decision makers in alliance with acclaimed universities.
Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems in Europe
Lead Organization: Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience
Partner Organizations: The Consortium for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty (CAFS); Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica (FIRAB); Bio-diversite; Bibliotheque d’Echange Diusion d’Experiences (BEDE); AGRONAUTE; GRAIN; European Coordina of Via Campesina (ECVC); and The Land Workers Alliance.
Location(s): Spain, France, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium; conferences and international exchanges in Romania, Uganda, Mali and India.
Award: $145,000 over 24 months (2014-2016)
This project created and spread agroecological knowledge for sustainable food systems in Europe, including in European overseas aid projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This project strengthened and federated a collaborative community of agroecology proponents among scientists, women farmers, small medium enterprises and other citizens through workshops, scientific seminars, social media and web portals, farm visits, and farmer-scientist dialogues.

Our Land Our Business
Lead Organization: Oakland Institute
Partner Organizations: CICODEV Africa; CNOP; Green Scenery; Ekta Parishad; Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia; and INSAF.
Location(s): Africa, India
Award: $85,000 over 18 months (2014-2016)
This project funded the second phase of a campaign to stop the World Bank’s Benchmarking the Business of Agriculture (BBA). The rankings encourage opening of agricultural sectors in developing countries to foreign corporations for monocultural plantations. Phase II involves: Global days of Teach-Ins with over a dozen partner organizations, social media communication campaigns, country fact sheets on the impact of land grabbing and industrial agriculture and a research report. A strong communications strategy will ensure high visibility of the issues in international media and products will be used by partner organizations to develop advocacy at the local/national level. The campaign is linked with the the Civil Society Mobilization Against the G-8 Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

ROUND 3 GRANTEES - 2016

Linking Nutritional Security with Selective Agroecological Diversification for Resilient Rural Communities
Lead Organization: Tripura Agroecology Partnership
Partner Organizations: Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR); Centre for Pollination Studies (CPS); Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development (OICSD); Tripura Department of Biotechnology; Tripura Panchayats; Tripura Tribal Autonomous District Council.
Location(s): State of Tripura, India.
Award: $75,000 over 24 months (2016-2018)
This project uses participatory research and agroecological diversification to address the high levels of malnutrition (especially among women and children), declining crop and non-crop biodiversity, and deteriorating soil quality in the State of Tripura, India. It will help build resilient rural communities in the region by linking nutritional security with agroecological diversification, and working through state government agencies to mainstream and promote agroecological approaches in state policy.

Capacity Building of the Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Program
Lead Organization: Practical Action Southern Africa - Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Program (ZSSP)
Partner Organizations: Practical Action (multi-regional); Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM); Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT); Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation (TSURO); Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (FPC); and The Farmers’ Association of Community Self-Help Investment Groups (FACHIG).
Location(s): Zimbabwe
Award: $50,000 over 18 months (2016-2017)
This project links seven NGOs that work with smallholder farmers across Zimbabwe. The project will strengthen community-based seed growers, raise national understanding of seed-related laws, policies and practices, put farmers at the forefront of advocacy work towards changing policies
and laws that protect seed sovereignty, and contribute to research on diverse genetic materials and best practices in local, biodiverse seed systems.

Expanding the Model of Integrated Knowledge in Peasant Farmer Agroecology and Building the Mexican Agroecological Movement

Lead Organization: Asociación Nacional De Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores Del Campo (ANEC)

Partner Organizations: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; Department of Agroecology of the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo; Mexican Agricultural Movement (MEM).

Location(s): Mexico

Award: $50,000 over 25 months (2016-2018)

This project strengthens peasant and small farmer organizations in Mexico by promoting farmer-to-farmer agro-ecology training of leaders, producers, and community technicians, in collaboration with universities and research institutions. The project aims to create a national Mexican Agroecology Movement (MEM), as a multi-sectorial network of people committed to building a sustainable food system based on agroecology. This project will work to change public policies to promote agroecology practices nationwide.

Farmers in Development, Federation of Organic Development «Bio-KG»

Lead Organization: Association Federation of Organic Movement «Bio-KG»

Partner Organizations: Organic aymaks (groups of villages)

Location(s): Kyrgyzstan

Award: $100,000 over 8 months (2016)

This project develops a national network of organic aymaks (groups of farmers) to develop a system of self-assessment for organic farm production quality, productivity and income and it will create certification and production assessment systems. The collaboration joins local farmers who operate on an individual or collective basis in all seven regions of Kyrgyzstan.

Food is Life Melanesia: Sharing Agroecology Knowledge through Media Education in the Pacific Region

Lead Organization: Save PNG Inc.

Partner Organizations: The Centre for Social and Creative Media (University of Goroka, PNG); Kastom Gaden Association; The Vanuatu Cultural Center; Tjibaou Culture Centre; and the Social Empowerment & Education Program (SEEP).

Location(s): Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia.

Award: $75,000 over 18 months (2016-2017)

This woman-led project encourages sustainable agroecology practices and promote indigenous knowledge and innovations for local communities to become more self-reliant in addressing food and nutrition security, climate disaster and cultural disintegration in Melanesia. This project will encourage dialogue between governmental bodies, community groups, civil society, schools and churches in Melanesia.

Instituto Latinoamericano de Agroecología - María Cano (Maria Cano Latin American Agroecology Institute)

Lead Organization: The United National Federation of Agricultural Unions of Colombia - Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria Agropecuaria (FENSUAGRO)

Partner Organizations: Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo/Latin American Coordination of Rural Organizations (CLOC) Andean region; La Via Campesina (regional Latin America); WHYHUNGER; Justicia Por Colombia.

Location(s): Colombia

Award: $100,000 over 18 months (2016-2017)

This project involves building a new campus of the Instituto Latinoamericano de Agroecología/ Latin American Agroecology Institute (IALA) to provide technical college education in agroecology and community organizing to the children of peasant families who are members of social organizations of either farm workers, peasants, indigenous people and /or Afrodescendents in Colombia and the countries of the Andean Region. The project will promote agricultural policy reform and encourage young farmers to advocate for political change and defend indigenous territories and seeds.
Buen Vivir in the Americas-Peasant and Indigenous Women-Led and Family-based Agroecology in the Americas

**Lead Organization:** Desarrollo Económico y Social de Los Mexicanos Indígenas/The Social and Economic Development of Indigenous Mexicans (DESMI)

**Partner Organizations:** Grassroots International (GRI- USA) and International Development Exchange (IDEX- USA).

**Location(s):** Americas

**Award:** $75,000 over 16 months (2016-2017)

This project supports the growth of agroecology food systems among indigenous and peasant family farmers; trains and develops leadership among women, youth, and indigenous people in the promotion of agroecology practices, food sovereignty, climate justice, land and territory rights; and strengthens links between grassroots movements for agroecology and buen vivir (or well-being, an alternative approach to development) in the Americas. This project will address policies that impact the practice and expansion of agroecology both positively and negatively, especially concerning genetically-modified seeds.

We Are the Solution (WAS)--Building a Rural Women’s Movement for Food Sovereignty, Agroecology, and Gender Justice in West Africa

**Lead Organization:** Fahamu Africa

**Partner Organizations:** Réseau d’appui à la citoyenneté des femmes rurales d’Afrique de l’ouest et du Tchad (RESACIFROAT); Federation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (FENOP); Association Guinéenne pour la Sécurité et la Souveraineté Alimentaire - Guinean Association for Security and Food Sovereignty (AGUISSA); Association Guinéenne pour l’Allègement des Charges Féminines (AGACFEM); Association Malienne pour la Sécurité et la Souveraineté Alimentaire (AMASSA); Rural Woman Farmers Association of Ghana (RUWFAG); Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD); Abono Organic Farming Projects (ABOFAP); Association des Jeunes Agriculteurs de la Casamance (AJAC Lukaal); Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP); Coordination des Associations et ONG Féminines du Mali (CAFO); Union des Groupements Paysans de Méké (UGPM); Fédération KAFO Guinée; and Women’s Group AKESE, part of the Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ECASARD).

**Location(s):** West Africa

**Award:** $100,000 over 12 months (2016-2017)

This project strengthens the rural women’s movement through building a widespread base of leaders and members to organize across five West African countries. The collaboration will promote learning exchanges to share lessons about how to expand a growing agroecology among rural women’s organizations in the region and advocate for government policies that will improve the environment, family farming and women’s status across the region.

Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Traditional Knowledge, Food Sovereignty and Climate Change

**Lead Organization:** International Indian Treaty Council

**Partner Organizations:** Centro de Proyecto de Desarrollo Integral Indígena (CEPRODI); Unidad de la Fuerza Indígena y Campesina (UFIC); found of the Indigenous Network for Food Sovereignty RISA; Farming Restoration Committee; and Aloha First. Additional alliances: Chickaloon Native Village; Intertribal Buffalo Council (60 US Tribes); Traditional Native American Farmers Association; Yoemem Tekia Foundation; UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Jittoa Bat Naika Weria; and United Confederation of Taino People.

**Location(s):** North, Central, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific

**Award:** $100,000 over 12 months (2016-2017)

The project focuses on the exchange and transmission of traditional knowledge, native foods, seeds and methods within and between Indigenous Peoples as a foundation for resiliency and to counter impacts of climate change. The initiative will bring Indigenous leaders to international policy discussions on these topics. The project will advocate for the Food Sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples, including rights to land, water, resources, consent, traditional knowledge and practices, language, cultural rights and heritage, and self-determination. It is particularly focused on resiliency and the capacity for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
StandardBearers

ROUND 4 GRANTEEES - 2018

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
Lead Organization: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
Partner Organizations: AFSA is a network of network and currently has 30 member networks.
Location(s): Across Africa
Award: 120,000 USD over 24 months
Launched in 2011, AFSA is a broad alliance of civil society networks who are part of the struggle for food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa. It is a continental network of networks active in more that 50 African countries. The core purpose of AFSA is to influence policies and to promote African solutions for food sovereignty. Through this grant, AFSA will galvanize the agroecology movement in Africa; support and protect farmer-managed seed systems; provide a strong voice on land rights, and inform and influence policy outcomes on seed, food sovereignty, land, and the transition to agroecology.

Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty.
Lead Organization: Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty.
Partner Organizations: Pgakenyaw Association for Sustainable Development in Thailand and North East Slow Food & Agrobiodiversity Society, India
Location(s): Northeast India, Thailand
Award: 110,000 USD over 12 months
The Indigenous Partnership (TIP), established in 2010, globally advocates that indigenous peoples and their knowledge are essential to amplify sustainable food systems. TIP’s strategy for connecting people and expanding its networks has been principally through Food Festivals. These Food Festivals were held in Mongolia, Northern Thailand, North East India and Northern Kenya between 2010 and 2013. In November 2015 TIP organised Indigenous Terra Madre (ITM 2015) in North East India, its biggest collaboration with global and local partners using the Slow Food Terra Madre framework. After ITM 2015, agroecology practices like improving soil organic carbon, networking initiatives for organic certification and linking nutrition with women’s empowerment, increased considerably in Southeast Asia. Next steps include setting up an Indigenous Food Communities Alliance in Southeast Asia, based on agroecology principles, and coordinating research, training, marketing and social activism including strategies for public policies to support sustainable food systems.

Collaboration to Advance Agroecology for Rural Food Security and Agrarian Reform in the Philippines
Lead Organization: Sibolng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT), Inc.
Partner Organizations: Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG) or Farmer-Scientist Partnership for Development, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)
Location(s): Philippines
Award: 95,000 USD over 24 months
The purpose of the collaborative is to combine the strengths of three agroecology practitioners and advocacy organizations/networks to advance agroecology in Philippines. The partners use a common farmer-led framework to fight rural hunger and promote food security – with agroecology as the effective and ecological means. The partnership targets small and marginalized farmers struggling to survive in resource-scarce conditions, in places where poverty is high, and they advocate for their agrarian rights. The collaborative will coordinate initiatives and pool capabilities to effectively establish agroecology in two regions, Central Luzon and Western Visayas, and strengthen experiences that can serve as the basis of agroecology development in other parts of the country.

Scaling Up Agroecology Through Public Policy, Youth, and Farmers Movements
Lead Organization: Amrita Bhoomi
Partner Organizations: La Via Campesina South Asia, Zero Budget Natural Farming Movement
Location(s): India and youth training in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan
Award: 85,000 USD over 24 months
Amrita Bhoomi is a peasant agroecology school launched by the Karnataka State Farmers Movement (KRRS for its initials in Kannada language) in 2013.
It serves as La Via Campesina’s agroecology school in South Asia and is a member of the Zero Budget Natural Farming movement – an agroecology method practiced by millions of farmers in South Asia which aims to drastically cut production costs and stop farmer suicides that are often motivated by high debt. This collaborative has a two-pronged strategy. On one hand, they will initiate a campaign for supportive public policies in Karnataka to support agroecology. The neighbouring state -Andhra Pradesh’s government has recently launched a multi-million dollar program on Zero Budget Natural Farming to convert production practices of 500,000 farmers in that state. Amrita Bhoomi and KRRS will educate policy makers, government officials, politicians, and social movement representatives from their state about such effective public policies and programs, by taking them on field visits to Andhra and facilitating interactions with government officials and farmers there. At the same time, they will scale up agroecology practices by training rural peasant youth, Dalit youth, and women at their training centre.

Local–Global Strategies to Defend and Amplify Peasant-Led Agroecology: A Partnership of La Via Campesina-GRAIN-ETC Group

Lead Organization: La Via Campesina
Partner Organizations: GRAIN, ETC Group
Location(s): Global
Award: 140,000 USD over 18 months

The collaborative will defend and amplify the peasant-led agroecology and seeds agendas, globally and in farmers’ fields, by strengthening the capacities and strategies of farmers’ movements and their allies. It will also analyze, influence, and hold accountable relevant policies and practices of governments, agencies and the private sector through information and advocacy work. The collaborative will build upon substantial achievements over the past five years, and further broaden and deepen its impact.

Bionatur

Lead Organization: Bionatur
Partner Organizations: Bionatur, Coonaterra
Location(s): Brazil
Award: 90,000 over 24 months

Coonaterra / Bionatur is an organization of farming families, beneficiaries of agrarian reform, and producers of seeds. It is connected to the Movimento Sem Terra (the Landless Workers Movement or MST) in Brazil. Coonaterra consolidated the Bionatur seed network in 2011 to gather and spread new varieties of vegetable seeds due to growing demand from farm families in many regions of Brazil. Bionatur is a pioneer seed cooperative, offering lessons for all of Latin America and markets its seeds with its own trade mark. Currently, the cooperative has 210 families producing seeds in Rio Grande do Sul and Minas Gerais. This project will increase capacity of seed-producing farmers, expand the network, and improve access by farming families to diversified seeds in a sector which is highly concentrated in the hands of a few seed companies. Because public purchasing programs are in turmoil; Bionatur will advocate for supportive public policies and seek new markets for the farmers’ agroecological seed products.

Altan Shagai (Golden Knucklebone, which means the core or essence according to the nomadic traditional symbolism.)

Lead Organization: Peace Building Center
Partner Organizations: Baikal Buryat Center for Indigenous Cultures (Non-Government Organization), Family farm “Bashuutan”, Family farm “Khuty”, Dornod Buryat Community “Bayan-Uul” (Community-Based Organization)
Location(s): Mongolia and Russia
Award: 90,000 over 24 months

Through a unique collaboration between farmers and scientists, the goal of the project is to enhance genetic diversity of livestock and promote agro-ecological solutions through revival and re-introduction of autochthonous breeds of cattle (specifically, the Buryat cow) to native landscapes in Russia and Mongolia.
Peace Building Center’s mission is to conserve animal genetic resources in an agro ecological way and revive the sacred link between natural landscapes and traditional culture of indigenous people of Pamir, Tien-Shan and Sayan-Altai in their bio-cultural regions. The collaboration seeks to restore and improve their natural environments, and to promote sustainable food systems, healthy lifestyles and their rural economy.

**Increasing the value of traditional rice varieties for improved women’s access to markets in West Africa**

**Lead Organization:** FAHAMU  
**Partner Organizations:** Nous Sommes La Solution (We are the Solution or WAS), The University of Ziguinchor, The Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA)  
**Location(s):** West Africa  
**Award:** 95,000 USD over 12 months

Fahamu Africa is a Pan African organization established in 2007 in West Africa. It will collaborate with the We Are the Solution (WAS) campaign, a women-led campaign in West Africa to promote traditional knowledge, food sovereignty, peasant seeds, and agroecology. In previous work, WAS has used community radios and village assemblies to educate communities and government officials. Under this project, Fahamu and WAS will promote local rice varieties on farms and in markets via participatory action research coordinated by the the University of Ziguinchor and the Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research. The results of the research will be published for the benefit of the general public and the political authorities in particular. The results will be useful for all producers seeking to adopt agroecological practices in their rice farming. Marketing opportunities will be investigated.

**ReSCOPE Programme**

**Lead Organization:** ReSCOPE Programme  
**Partner Organizations:** SCOPE branches in five African countries  
**Location(s):** Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe  
**Award:** 95,000 USD over 24 months

The RESCOPE Program will establish smallholder farmer led seed banks in 10 communities in East and Southern Africa with the aim of enhancing food sovereignty, nutrition security, sustainable livelihoods and resilience. They will implement an innovative strategy of using schools as centers of agroecology demonstrations and community seed banks. They will groom young farmer seed champions who will learn and exchange knowledge with the older generation in their communities. In many African countries, governments are revising national seed laws to facilitate the entry of genetically modified seeds. RESCOPE sees community seed systems as a critical response, and a way to build resilience in the face of climate change. It also sees community owned seeds as a cornerstone of nutrition and food sovereignty. The collaborative will train and create groups of farmers and youth on seed issues and supportive agro-ecological practices. Each farmer seed group will save and multiply local seeds and establish community seed banks which will culminate into a network of household seed banks.

**Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria Agropecuaria (FENSUAGRO)**

**Lead Organization:** FENSUAGRO  
**Partner Organizations:** La Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo (CLOC-Vía Campesina)  
**Location(s):** Colombia, CLOC is a coalition of peasant organizations across the continent of South America  
**Award:** 95,000 USD over 15 months

This collaborative will strengthen the work of the peasant agroecology school “Maria Cano” established by FENSUAGRO- a Colombian peasant movement which is a member of networks like La Via Campesina and CLOC (Latin American Coordination of Peasant Organisations). Instituto Agroecológico Latinoamericano (IALA) Maria Cano has played an important role in advancing the farmer-to-farmer peer learning methodology based on sharing of peasant knowledge. The IALA is one of several run by peasant movements in Latin America. The IALA enrolls young people from peasant organisations in Colombia and in Latin America to
provide an agroecological education to ensure that rural youth without access to education do not migrate away, and instead become more rooted in rural areas, and more successful as farmers through agroecology. At Maria Cano, students develop their practical and theoretical understanding of agroecology and rural issues, and become integrated in social movement processes that aim to scale up agroecology.

**Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Traditional Knowledge, Food Sovereignty and Climate Change**

**Lead Organization:** International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)

**Partner Organizations:** Confederacion de Nacionalidades Indigenas del Ecuador, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Poutini Waiora, He Punan Marama Trust (The Spring of Understanding), Te Kopu Pacific Indigenous & Local Knowledge Centre, The Sicangu Treaty Council, The Guna (Kuna) General Congress

**Location(s):** USA, Ecuador, New Zealand, Panama

**Award:** 110,000 USD for 15 months

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), founded in 1974, represents 93 Indigenous affiliates from 5 regions and is this collaborative’s lead organization. Food Sovereignty is one of their core program areas. The collaborative works to restore, revitalize, protect and strengthen local food systems through sharing seeds, knowledge, practices and methods among Indigenous food producers. It organizes food sovereignty gatherings in Indigenous communities and promotes knowledge exchanges, networking and movement building. Alliance members are Indigenous governments, networks, communities, organizations and food producers (farmers, herders, gatherers, hunters, fishers), whose ways of life are critically impacted by the causes and effects of climate change. Primary goals of this collaborative are to: 1) Strengthen community-based solutions to threats that are diminishing bio-diversity and resiliency of local food systems; 2) Engage traditional food producers, knowledge holders and practitioners in developing policies and actions for climate mitigation and adaptation; 3) Build and strengthen trade, information exchange and advocacy networks among traditional food producers to share strategies, promote sustainable approaches and address common concerns.

**Down-South Afroecology Training School (DATS)**

**Lead Organization:** Southeastern African American Farmers Organic Network (SAAFON)

**Partner Organizations:** Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, The Black Dirt Farm Collective

**Location(s):** USA

**Award:** 95,000 USD over 12 months

The Down-South AfroEcology Training School (DATS) is designed to strengthen the agroecology movement within the United States through the engagement and education of Black farmers in the Southeast region who are either currently farming organically, seeking to transition to organic practices, or are not currently farming. DATS uses the term Afro Ecology instead of agroecology to better reflect their focus on incorporating culturally relevant delivery methods. The program also targets and engages other allied individuals and organizations critical to the advancement of the movement. The three primary goals are: 1) to increase the knowledge and use of agroecology production practices among Black farmers in the South-eastern United States; 2) to identify and strengthen policy work that supports the adoption of agroecology in the South-eastern U.S.; and 3) to strengthen a local and global movement for a just and sustainable planetary ecosystem. DATS will marry technical training in agroecological practices and philosophy with culturally relevant delivery teaching and learning in order to foster a “dialogue of knowledges” among rural and urban farmers, researchers, and organizers.