SEEDING THE MOVEMENT TO REIMAGINE AGRICULTURE
Our First Seven Years
2012 - 2019
The Agroecology Fund is in the unique position of supporting and linking some of the most important efforts in the world to change our food system to one that is just and sustainable. From on-the-ground farmer innovations and academic research, to policy change challenging the corporate food economy and supporting its alternatives, the Agroecology Fund supports a better food future for all.

M. Jahi Chappell, PhD
Executive Director, Food First | Advisor to the Agroecology Fund
Farming the land as if nature doesn’t matter has been the model for much of the Western world’s food production system for more than 75 years. And every day we feel the results: poor diets, vanishing family farms, depleted soil, chemically-fouled waters, an insect apocalypse, and more.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s recent special report on land made clear, our future is truly catastrophic if we don’t make major changes to how we grow and eat food.

Fortunately, there is an approach to farming called agroecology, that revitalizes biodiversity and regenerates degraded land and watersheds.

Agroecology works. Based 100 percent on science and on-the-farm experimentation, with its roots in farmer know-how, it embodies innovation. In Burkina Faso on the edge of the Sahel desert, for example, farmers in three provinces were able to obtain 130 percent yield increases through crop rotation, mixed cropping, and local water collection, compared to conventional agriculture.

To help move agroecology into the mainstream where it belongs, four pioneering foundations—The Christensen Fund, New Field Foundation, Swift Foundation and one anonymous foundation—came together in 2012 to launch the Agroecology Fund. Our grantmaking is grounded in the expertise of advisors from around the world. In seven years, our growing cohort of now 25 foundation members, has been honored to grant more than $6.8 million to 49 collaborations, representing 293 organizations across dozens of countries. We’ve also committed to leveraging millions more for agroecology by motivating peers in philanthropic organizations and development agencies.

Our grantees are at the cutting edge of reimagining entire food systems from the Himalayas to Ghana to Ecuador to Europe. They’re building the political will to adopt agroecology widely, and sharing strategies to scale up worldwide. They’re showing their governments that transitioning to a food system based on agroecology can help them reach their climate targets and sustainable development goals, while simultaneously improving the health and livelihoods of their populations.

In Africa, the African Centre for Biodiversity has urged the Tanzanian government to phase out subsidies for chemical fertilizers and speed a transition to agroecology through support to small farmers. In the Americas, the Ecuadoran Agroecology Collective is strengthening a network of municipal farmers’ markets to achieve a national goal of food sovereignty that is enshrined in the country’s Constitution.

These undertakings are just a few of many worldwide that we support to amplify agroecology in the face of farm and corporate subsidies that tilt the playing field for agribusiness and single-crop commodity farms. In this progress report, you’ll read about the benefits of agroecology, the fund’s history and our five-year strategic plan, and gain a window into the exciting initiatives that we’re funding to help us achieve our goals.

Join us as we support a growing agroecology movement that is transforming the global food system for the betterment of people and the planet.
Agroecology is an approach to farming that views agriculture as shaped by its rich and diverse social and ecological surroundings. Blending traditional knowledge with science to find solutions to productivity, fertility, pest control and agrobiodiversity, it is a potent antidote to industrial agriculture, which despoils the landscape with pesticides and monocultures, and channels uniform produce into a global marketplace. Agroecology addresses hunger, poverty, climate change and environmental degradation from the ground up, using proven sustainable practices based on local needs and resources rather than expensive, imported—and often imposed—technologies.

Agroecology techniques vary and evolve, based on participatory on-farm innovation. Key principles include: regenerating soil health and sequestering carbon; recycling nutrients and energy on farm, rather than relying on external chemical inputs; integrating crops, forests, pollinators, and livestock; diversifying species and genetic resources to focus on interactions and productivity across the agroecosystem instead of on a single crop.

Agroecology is at once a practice, a science, and a movement. As a practice, it follows key principles to increase food production, biodiversity and climate change resilience. As a movement, it calls for broad political changes, such as support for local food markets and protections for farmers’ rights to save and share seeds and remain on their land. As a science, it connects researchers with farmers and indigenous peoples to study and improve community-based food systems.

Millions of farmers worldwide use agroecological practices and share them through social movements grounded in farmer-to-farmer peer learning networks. These movements, varying from place to place, have influenced policymakers to deepen public support for agroecology and motivated the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization to adopt agroecology as a key pillar of agricultural development.
AGROECOLOGY IMPACTS

CREATING CLIMATE RESILIENCE
One of the biggest drivers of the climate crisis is our food and agriculture system, which is responsible for roughly one-third of all atmospheric warming. Agroecological practices include grazing and forestry, and reduce on-farm emissions by increasing levels of organic matter in the soil to actually pull carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Soil rich in organic matter is also better able to retain moisture, withstand drought, erosion, and flooding, and increase crop yields. This is key for the smallholder farmers and rural communities that are most vulnerable to climate change.

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY
Biodiversity, a key element of agroecology, contributes to a wide range of social, economic, and environmental benefits. Diversified crop and animal systems offer a broad array of nutrients for human health, protect farmers from losing a single crop due to weather or disease, diversify their incomes, and increase climate resilience. With 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity found in lands managed by indigenous communities, protecting indigenous peoples’ food systems, rights to land and cultural autonomy is vital for protecting biodiversity.

ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY
Mounting evidence shows that agroecological systems can feed the world, without the synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, hybrid seeds and GMOs that decimate soil fertility, pollute waterways, spew greenhouse gases and leave farmers dependent on expensive, proprietary inputs. Smallholder farmers already feed 70 percent of the world’s people using far fewer resources than industrial agriculture. Yet many of these farmers suffer from food insecurity. Agroecological practices can boost food production, including on degraded agricultural lands, and help smallholder farmers feed their communities.

IMPROVING HEALTH & NUTRITION
Researchers convened by the medical journal Lancet recently concluded that the best way to reduce obesity, diabetes and other diseases associated with poor diets is to transition from industrial agriculture towards environmentally sustainable food systems that promote biodiversity, clean water, and healthy soils. Studies show that diversified farming systems produce more nutritious foods and improve rural and urban diets alike. Intercropping and biological pest control improve the health of consumers, farmworkers and their communities by reducing pollution and exposure to toxic pesticides.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS
Agroecology offers a key pathway for safeguarding peasant, indigenous, and rural livelihoods, which are often threatened by land grabs, lack of access to land and farm inputs, vulnerability to climate change, low market prices, and unfair competition from large industrial farms and subsidized imports. Like the food sovereignty movement, agroecology places the rights and aspirations of food producers and consumers at the heart of food systems and agricultural policies. In protecting food producers’ rights, it offers an alternative to migration.

REACHING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
“People-centered, knowledge-intensive, and rooted to sustainability, agroecology matches the transformative approach called for by the 2030 [Sustainable Development Goals] Agenda,” affirms the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Indeed, a meta-analysis of 50 projects in 22 African countries, conducted by the Agroecology Fund grantee partner, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, demonstrated that agroecology could positively contribute to all 17 of the SDGs.
OUR WORK

The Agroecology Fund is a grantmaking organization that supports agroecology movements worldwide. These diverse alliances unite constituencies, conduct real-time field research, construct new economy food systems and apply political pressure to win agroecology-friendly public policies and programs. Their strategies are as diverse and complementary as researching soil carbon sequestration, creating agroecology schools and seed banks, offering new models of agricultural extension, passing supportive policies, and critically, resisting systematic barriers to agroecology, such as corporate control of seeds.

The Fund applies its resources to collaborations among farmers, consumers, scientists, policymakers and environmentalists because we believe these collaborations are the foundation of the agroecology movement’s power and ability to succeed.

1

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1
MOVE BIG MONEY TO AGROECOLOGY

To grow the global agroecology movement, more resources must be shifted toward agroecology initiatives. The Fund set a goal of doubling its own annual grantmaking dollars in five years. But AEF also aims to grow the pool of financial resources for the movement writ large. This strategic direction therefore includes activities to influence private foundations to shift an additional $10 million toward agroecology efforts more broadly, as well as influence public sector institutions to increase financing by tens of millions of U.S. dollars, over the next five years.

2

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2
STRENGTHEN SUPPORTING POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

For local agroecology movements to thrive, government policies that either support new economy food systems, or shift support away from industrial agriculture (for example, by changing subsidy priorities), are critical. This strategic direction focuses on support for grassroots collaboratives that advocate for: inclusion of agroecology in national climate change mitigation plans, seed laws that favor biodiversity and farmers’ rights, stable land tenure, accessible credit and more.
The financial needs of agroecology movements to transform their food systems are vast. It is an unfair playing field with public subsidies and private investments favoring industrial agriculture. The Agroecology Fund is committed to not only growing its grant pool but to engaging bilateral and multilateral development agencies that are not currently part of the fund to rethink agricultural development strategies and shift investments into agroecology.

The Agroecology Fund also works closely with other funder collaboratives in the U.S., Europe and Asia to advance learning and investments in agroecological solutions.

AEF has identified four strategic directions through which it aims to amplify agroecology.
Led by the joyful singing of African women farmers, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) burst onto the scene in 2011 at the international climate meeting in South Africa, known as “COP17.” To bolster an agenda centered on small farmer-led agriculture, the alliance—a network of networks representing farmers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, citizens and environmentalists across Africa—released a report detailing how food sovereignty could cool the planet, feed the world and regenerate ecosystems.

Today, AFSA is a powerful voice driving the transition to agroecology in Africa. Using evidence that industrial agriculture has indebted African farmers and governments, and degraded its natural resource base, AFSA members from across 50 African countries have united behind a climate action campaign to make agroecology a key climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy in 10 African countries’ official climate plans.

AFSA’s Agroecology for Climate Action Campaign is building a movement of citizens to influence policymakers and financiers. The campaign urges governments and development partners to move finance from expensive, unsustainable subsidies (e.g. synthetic fertilizers and pesticides) into agroecological solutions, and to support the small-scale farmers who are the backbone of African food systems.

The Agroecology Fund has supported AFSA to develop case studies that document agroecology’s impacts, disseminate research and strengthen leadership and grassroots participation in the pan-African network. AEF support has also enabled AFSA to take its message to high-profile climate meetings, such as the FAO Regional Agroecology Symposium in Dakar, Senegal, Africa Climate Week, and soon, COP25 in Chile.

“The majority of Africans are tied to agriculture and have massive vulnerability to the effects of climate change,” says Millon Belay, AFSA coordinator. “With AEF’s support, we are pressing governments and funders to deal with the climate crisis and prioritize agroecology to ensure resilience, food sovereignty, justice and livelihoods for Africa.”
La Via Campesina (LVC) is a global force for justice. Created in 1993 by small farmers seeking to protect their rights in the face of an increasingly globalized food system, it has grown to 182 affiliates in 81 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. It represents 200 million small- and mid-sized farmers, landless people, rural women and youth, indigenous peoples and agricultural workers.

LVC views agroecology as the cornerstone of a fair and sustainable food system and a key form of resistance to an industrial farming model that puts profit before nutrition, soil and water health, and farming families’ secure livelihoods. Through global advocacy, the grassroots network lifts up the small farmers, peasants and indigenous people who produce 70 percent of the world’s food, as they cool the planet through agroecological farming techniques. LVC advocates public support for family farming and facilitates farmer to farmer learning.

Allies GRAIN and ETC bring research, analysis and legal expertise to this collaboration. The Agroecology Fund funded the initiative to:

- Educate a new generation of farmer leaders through a global network of agroecology schools
- Organize continent-wide training workshops for peasant organizations on threats posed by seed laws and treaties

Such training and support showed concrete results, for example, enabling the women farmers’ organization, Anamuri, to play a pivotal role in stopping a Chilean bill—dubbed the Monsanto Law—that would have given agribusinesses the right to patent seeds they discovered, developed or modified.

“We, in resistance, endeavor that our seeds continue along the road of solidarity and the sisterhood of the earth,” said Francisca Rodriguez, of Anamuri, in an interview with In Motion. “And we will continue trading them.”

STRENGTHEN SUPPORTING POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

La Via Campesina, GRAIN and ETC Collaboration
The Agroecology Collective began in 2008 with a big idea: a national campaign to “eat healthy, safe and sovereign”, to transform agricultural systems from the ground up. A network of NGOs, farmer groups, and consumer advocates in Ecuador, the Collective offers solutions to the interconnected issues of high rates of adult obesity and chronic malnutrition in children, loss of native seeds to global companies, environmental degradation, rural poverty, and the disconnection between consumers and the people who produce their food.

Building on a commitment in their country’s constitution to food sovereignty, the Collective advocates for the implementation of programs and policies, conducts agroecological trainings, hosts forums and festivals, and serves as a national clearinghouse on agroecological information and farmers markets.

Funding from the Agroecology Fund supported the Collective and their allies’ awareness campaign aimed at urban consumers, Que Rico Es! (How rich it is to eat healthy from our land). The campaign promoted heirloom seeds and traditional Andean foods such as tubers, grains and leafy vegetables at markets, food fairs and celebrations.

Employing smart communications tactics helped the Collective build support for Que Rico Es! and its “250,000” Campaign, which urges 250,000 urban families to commit to purchasing at least 50 percent of their food and beverages directly from family farmers—with the aim of pumping millions of dollars into the rural economy.

“Each of us needs to act on our better intentions, of eating well, and in a way that is healthy for not just ourselves and our families, but for the farmers who produce our food, and for the earth that sustains us. When people build the market, government and business will follow,” says Roberto Gortaire Améczua, of the Agroecology Collective.
In the mountainous region at the confluence of Central Asia, Russia and Mongolia, nomadic indigenous cultures once thrived around their herds of livestock. Milk and dairy products from the animals are the main ingredients for meals and medicinal treatments, and considered sacred to life. Over past decades, government policies led to changes in food systems, markets and rural economies. Indigenous cattle breeds all but vanished. Communities’ livelihoods and nutrition suffered as imported breeds, not well adapted to the harsh climate, were introduced.

Today, the Peace Building Center in Mongolia is collaborating with Altan Shagai (which means Golden Knucklebone, or “the essence” in nomadic tradition) and other indigenous groups to revive the Buryat breed of cattle, and fortify indigenous cultures in Mongolia and Russia. Buryat cattle are a hardy breed that can subsist on snow-covered grasslands throughout the year.

The Agroecology Fund supports this farmer-scientist collaborative’s genetic research and educational activities to reconnect natural landscapes, and the traditional cultures of the Pamir, Tien-Shan and Sayan-Altai indigenous peoples, to promote sustainable food systems, healthy lifestyles, and a vibrant rural economy. Reinforcing culture, nutrition and biodiversity complement one another.

The collaborative conducted breeding and research to isolate and revive the Buryat cattle’s original genetic traits and publicized the results of its research through a media campaign and video that aired on Russian public television in 2018. Findings were presented at various indigenous forums the same year. As a result, the collaborative is gathering substantial support to rebuild the Buryat herds, including from the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North in Buryatia, the Ministry of Agriculture of Buryatia, and the leader of the local Buddhist clergy.

“Revival of the indigenous herd can bring back lost dignity and prosperity to nomadic peoples as it allows nomads to enhance natural and eternal connections between human beings and nature,” says Indira Raimberdy, executive director, Peace Building Center.

PROJECT PROFILE:
Altan Shagai/Golden Knucklebone
The future of humankind and the planet as a whole face an existential threat—climate change, rampant economic inequality and social injustice. Rooted in food sovereignty, agroecology has all the potential to address this multi-dimensional crisis. We appreciate the Agroecology Fund’s commitment to this growing movement.”

Chukki Nanjundaswamy
Amrita Bhoomi International Centre for Sustainable Development, Grantee of the Agroecology Fund
The Christensen Fund, New Field Foundation, Swift Foundation and one anonymous foundation launched the Agroecology Fund in January 2012, with a mission of mobilizing resources to transform food systems for the betterment of people and the planet. These four foundations recognized agroecology’s vast potential to help overcome poverty, food insecurity, shrinking biodiversity and climate change impacts. Knowing they could achieve more together than they could alone, they created the fund to pool grantmaking and broadly share the learnings.

Within the first year, the fund established an international Advisory Board of leading agroecology practitioners and researchers, and awarded its first round of grants. By 2019, the Agroecology Fund has grown to 25 foundation members and granted more than $6.8 million to 49 alliances encompassing 293 collaborating organizations.

In September 2014, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) hosted the first International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition, shining a spotlight on the agroecology movement. Today, the Agroecology Fund works closely with the FAO and bilateral and multilateral development agencies to deepen public support for agroecology worldwide.

After three rounds of grantmaking, AEF took a step back in 2016 to bring together all of its grantees, donors and advisors for a learning exchange in Uganda. Insights from the gathering informed a five-year strategic plan. Grounded in four strategic goals, the plan guides our grantmaking, advocacy and communications work.

The Fund’s collaborative grant-making practices continue to evolve, with increasing reliance on the expertise of advisors embedded in the agroecology movement. Long-term grantees will join the Agroecology Fund’s Executive Committee in 2020.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2012</td>
<td>Four founding donors launch the Agroecology Fund.</td>
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<td>Aug 2012</td>
<td>AEF awards its first two-year grants, a total of $1,085,000 to six collaborative initiatives (17 collaborating organizations).</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Under pressure from Via Campesina affiliate, Chile’s “Monsanto Law” is blocked.</td>
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<td>Apr 2018</td>
<td>Agroecology Fund joins world leaders on stage at the 2nd International Agroecology Symposium in Rome where FAO Director-General says agroecology contributes to healthier and more sustainable food systems.</td>
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<td>Dec 2018</td>
<td>The United Nations General Assembly adopts the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.</td>
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<td>Aug 2019</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) publishes the Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) showing how agroecological approaches that sequester carbon in soil can help address climate change.</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Agroecology Fund advisors and donors approve five-year strategic plan after consultation with grantees at Uganda learning exchange.</td>
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<td>Jul 2019</td>
<td>Pressured by civil society organizations supported by the Agroecology Fund, the state government of Karnataka, India allocates $7 million to Zero Budget Natural Farming.</td>
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<td>Sep 2019</td>
<td>The Agroecology Fund grows to 25 donors and conducts its 5th round of grantmaking, cumulatively investing since birth, $6.8 million to leading agroecology collaborations worldwide.</td>
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2012–2019 FINANCIALS

From 2012-2019, 82% of Agroecology Fund’s revenue went directly to our grantees.

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<th>PROJECTED INCOME</th>
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<td>EXPENSES TO DATE*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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*Actual expenses through July 2019

GRANTS

TEACHING AGROECOLOGY TO YOUNG FARMERS
Central and South America
The Latin American Institute of Agroecology (IALA) was awarded $165,000 to provide university-level agroecology education to Central American youth, and to spread farmer knowledge through peer-to-peer learning. A long-term, strategic project of La Via Campesina and its partner CLOC, IALA has 4 campuses in Central America.

Partner Organizations: Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo (CLOC), La Via Campesina. In Honduras: the National Rural Workers’ Center and Codincah. In El Salvador: the National Association of Farm Workers and FECORACEN. In Guatemala: the National Indigenous and Peasant Coordination, the National Coordination of Guatemalan Widows and the Peasant Unity Committee. In Nicaragua: Asociacion de Trabajadores del Campo, the Nicaraguan Resistance Association.

AMPLIFYING PEASANT AND FAMILY FARM AGROECOLOGY FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
Ecuador
The Ecuadoran Agroecology Collective and nine partner organizations were awarded $50,000 to strengthen links between farmers and consumers in Ecuador. The collaborative created an online platform of farmers markets and farmer-friendly information on agroecology and promoted a national Community Supported Agriculture project called, “Que Rico Es!”, which seeks commitments from 250,000 families to buy healthy, local food.

Partner Organizations: ECAOL (Federation of Farmer’s Organizations of the Coast), RGS (Seed Savers Network), Movimiento Utopia, Association of Biological Producers of Ecuador, Latin American School of Agroecology, Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology, the National Consumer Commission for Food Sovereignty, Department of Commercial Networks of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Latin American Fair-Trade Network.

WOMEN’S NETWORKS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND AGROECOLOGY
Himalayas
Navdanya and its partners were awarded $50,000 to deepen knowledge and practices of women and indigenous farmers across the Himalayas to address poverty, malnutrition, and climate vulnerability. The project focused on creating local and regional networks for knowledge exchange and bringing together farmers, scientists, think tanks, and policymakers to integrate agroecology practices into food and agriculture policies.

SAVE OUR SEEDS
Global
The Center for Food Safety and the African Centre for Biosafety were awarded $50,000 to preserve small-scale farmers’ livelihoods and by countering the growing problem in seed commercialization through a biopiracy case challenging a patent for a Tanzanian sorghum gene.

SCALING FARMER-LED AGROECOLOGY IN WEST AFRICA
Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana
Groundswell International and five collaborating partners were awarded two grants to strengthen and amplify farmer- and women-led agroecology initiatives in West Africa. Through rigorous experimentation with agroecological farming practices, the collaborative
catalyzes a transition from unsustainable agriculture and rural development models towards food systems that strengthen the capacity and wellbeing of local women, men and communities, and that are ecologically sustainable, resilient to climate change, nutrition-sensitive and restorative for local economies and cultures. The Collaborative is a member of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa. 

Partner Organizations: Food First, ILEIA, Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development, Sahel Eco, and Association Nourrir Sans Détruire.

A CATALYST TO EXPAND THE GLOBAL AGROECOLOGY MOVEMENT

Global
Grassroots International and three partners were awarded $300,000 to hold four learning exchanges in the Global South to share farmer knowledge and showcase on-the-ground innovations in agroecology. Grassroots agroecology leaders’ travel and participation in key international meetings was supported through this grant.

Partner Organizations: Focus on the Global South, International Development Exchange Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

WOMEN PEASANTS AS LEADERS IN AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Korea
The Korean Women’s Peasant Network and La Via Campesina organizations in Asia were awarded $85,000 to document and share successful cases of agroecology, traditional farming, and native seeds in Korea. They organized national agroecology tours of researchers and peasants, created a local practice school and train women, and built a diverse coalition to safeguard peasants’ rights to practice agroecology.

Matriarchal Societies’ Lessons for Agroecology and Nutrition and an Indigenous Food Communities Alliance in Southeast Asia

India, Thailand
The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty, in collaboration with nine NGOs and researchers was awarded two grants, one to publish nutrition and agroecology insights drawn from indigenous matriarchal communities and a second to set up an Indigenous Food Communities Alliance in Southeast Asia.

Partner Organizations: Slow Food International, Biodiversity International, Centre for Indigenous Nutrition and Environment, McGill University, North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (India) Vanuatu Cultural Centre, IKAP, IMPACT and Pgakenyaw Association for Sustainable Development (Thailand).

MOBILIZING AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY TO INFLUENCE DECISION MAKERS AND DONORS

Africa
The Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa has been awarded three grants to lead a pan-African network of 36 regional affiliates to build the evidence base for agroecology and advocate for sustainable and just solutions for food security and farming in Africa. The collaboration fortifies an African agroecology advocacy platform to influence local and regional decision makers on issues of agroecology, land rights, and seed and food sovereignty. They are conducting a continental campaign to connect national climate change mitigation and adaptation plans to proactive investments in agroecological food systems.

AGROECOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN EUROPE

Spain, France, Italy, Germany, U.K, Belgium, Romania, Uganda, Mali, India
The Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, and seven partner organizations, were awarded $145,000 to create and spread agroecological knowledge in Europe and in agricultural development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This project strengthened a collaborative community of scientists, women farmers, and small and medium enterprises through workshops, scientific seminars, social media, web portals, and farm visits.

Partner Organizations: The Consortium for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty, Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica, Bibliotheque d’ Echange Di usion d’Experiences, AGRONAUTE, GRAIN, European Coordination of Via Campesina, and The Land Workers Alliance.
OUR LAND OUR BUSINESS

India and Africa
Oakland Institute was awarded $85,000 for its campaign to stop the World Bank’s Benchmarking the Business of Agriculture, a ranking that encourages foreign corporations' monocultural plantations in developing countries. The campaign organized teach-ins around the globe with more than a dozen partner organizations, ran social media campaigns, and produced educational materials on the impact of land grabbing and industrial agriculture.

Partner Organizations: CICODEV Africa, CNOP, Green Scenery, Ekta Parishad, Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia, and INSAF.

LINKING NUTRITIONAL SECURITY WITH AGROECOLOGY FOR RESILIENT RURAL COMMUNITIES

Tripura, India
Tripura Agroecology Partnership was awarded $75,000 to conduct participatory research on how diversified farming practices address malnutrition among women and children, declining biodiversity, and poor soil quality. The collaborative sought to link policies for nutritional security with agroecological diversification.

Partner Organizations: Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience; Centre for Pollination Studies (CPS); Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development; Tripura Department of Biotechnology; Tripura Panchayats; Tripura Tribal Autonomous District Council.

BUILDING CAPACITY: ZIMBABWE SEED SOVEREIGNTY PROGRAM

Zimbabwe
Practical Action Southern Africa and seven partners were awarded $50,000 to work with smallholder farmers on seed sovereignty. The program strengthened community-based seed growers, raised national understanding of seed-related laws, policies and practices, conducted research on seed biodiversity, and encouraged farmers’ leadership in advocacy for seed sovereignty.

Partner Organizations: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management; Chikukuwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust, Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation, Fambidzamai Permculture Centre, and the Farmers’ Association of Community Self-Help Investment Groups.

A MEXICAN AGROECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT TO EXPAND PEASANT FARMER AGROECOLOGY KNOWLEDGE

Mexico
The National Association of Rural Producers (ANEC) and three partners were awarded $50,000 to spark a Mexican agroecology movement to collaborate with universities and research institutions to promote farmer-to-farmer agroecology training and advocate for agroecology public policies and practices across Mexico.

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

CREATING A SYSTEM OF ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

Kyrgyzstan
The Association Federation of Organic Movement «Bio-KG» was awarded $100,000 to develop a national network of organic “aymaks,” or farmer groups. The project created organic certification and production self-assessment systems, and joined farmers, working either individually or collectively, in all seven regions of Kyrgyzstan.

FOOD IS LIFE MELANESIA: SHARING AGROECOLOGY KNOWLEDGE IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia
Save PNG Inc. and five partners in Melanasia were awarded $75,000 to promote sustainable agroecology practices and indigenous knowledge and innovations to increase communities’ abilities to address food and nutrition security, climate disasters and cultural disintegration. This women-led project, through an innovative communications campaign, spearheaded dialogue among governmental bodies, community groups, civil society, schools and churches.

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.

Agroecology at the core is about respect. Respect for our soil, food, culture and environment.

Bridget Mugambe
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGROECOLOGY - MARÍA CANO

Colombia

The National Agricultural Union (FENSUAGRO) was twice awarded grants to build and maintain a new campus of the Latin American Institute of Agroecology in Colombia. Using farmer-to-farmer learning, the school helps youth without access to education become more rooted in rural areas and more successful as farmers. The institute provides college-level agroecology education to the children of members of social organizations (e.g. associations of farm workers, peasants, indigenous people and/or Afrodescendants), and advocates for agricultural policy reform.

Partner Organizations: Latin American Coordination of Rural Organizations (CLOC) Andean region, La Viá Campesina, WHY HUNGER, Justicia Por Colombia.

BUEN VIVIR IN THE AMERICAS: PEASANT, INDIGENOUS, WOMEN-LED AND FAMILY-BASED AGROECOLOGY

The Americas

Economic and Social Development of the Mexican Indigenous People (DESMI) and two partner organizations were awarded $75,000 to train women, youth, and indigenous peoples to become leaders and advocates in promoting agroecology practices, climate justice, and rights to land and territory.

Partner Organizations: Grassroots International and International Development Exchange.

WE ARE THE SOLUTION: BUILDING A RURAL WOMEN’S MOVEMENT FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND PROMOTING TRADITIONAL RICE VARIETIES AND WOMEN’S ACCESS TO MARKETS

West Africa

Fahamu Africa and 16 collaborating organizations were awarded two grants to strengthen a rural women’s movement in five West African countries. The collaboration facilitates peer learning among women farmers, and advocates across the region for improved public policies for the environment, family farming and women’s status. In collaboration with universities and research centers, We Are the Solution promotes the recovery of local rice varieties and women’s access to markets.


ADVANCING AGROECOLOGY FOR RURAL FOOD SECURITY AND AGRARIAN REFORM

The Philippines

Using a farmer-led method to fight food insecurity and promote agroecology, three organizations that practice or advocate agroecology were awarded $95,000. The partnership targets small and marginalised farmers in the Central Luzon and Western Visayas regions, where poverty is high.

Partner Organizations: Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya, Magasakas at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (Farmer-Scientist Partnership for Development), Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY, YOUTH, AND FARMERS MOVEMENTS

India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan

The Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology School, La Viá Campesina, and the Zero Budget Natural Farming Movement have been awarded two grants to scale up agroecology practices by training rural peasant youth in South Asian countries. This collaborative seeks to garner policy support for zero budget natural farming (an Indian version of agroecology) and support rural enterprises for youth and their market access. The collaborative is initiating a policy dialogue on agroecology in Nepal.

INCREASING FARMER ACCESS TO LOCAL SEEDS

Brazil

Coonaterra, an organization of farming families and seed producers, and Bionatur, a pioneer seed cooperative, were awarded $90,000 to increase the capacity of seed-producing farmers, expand their network, and improve farming families’ access to diversified seeds. The collaborative advocates for supportive public policies and seeks new markets for the farmers’ agroecological seeds.

FARMER-SCIENTIST COLLABORATION TO REESTABLISH INDIGENOUS CATTLE

Central Asia

The collaborative has received two grants to restore traditional agriculture and natural landscapes of nomadic peoples of Pamir, Tien-Shan and Sayan-Altai in Central Asia. The collaborative seeks to: 1) restore the gene pool of two aboriginal animals, the Kyrgyz horse and Buryat cow, as a basis for the restoration of nomadic pastoralism and pasture ecosystems in Kyrgyzstan and Buryatia, and 2) regain the spiritual-cultural identity and interconnection of nomadic indigenous peoples. Collaborative members share the belief that environmental degradation and poverty can be solved through regaining a multidimensional and harmonious relationship between human beings and natural landscapes, and by reviving biocultural diversity.


ESTABLISHING SEED BANKS AND EXCHANGING AGROECOLOGY KNOWLEDGE IN SCHOOLS

Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe

ReSCOPE was awarded $95,000 to establish smallholder-led seed banks in 10 communities in East and Southern Africa to enhance food sovereignty, nutrition security, sustainable livelihoods and resilience. Using schools as centers of agroecology demonstrations and community seed banks, the initiative grooms young farmers to learn and exchange knowledge with their elders.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ALLIANCE FOR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Americas, the Caribbean and the Pacific

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) works to restore, revitalize, and protect local food systems. The IITC and its affiliates have been awarded three grants to: 1) strengthen community-based solutions to threats to biodiversity and resiliency, 2) engage traditional food producers in developing policies and actions for climate mitigation and adaptation, and 3) strengthen trade, information exchange and advocacy networks among traditional food producers whose ways of life are threatened by climate change. The initiative brings indigenous leaders
to international forums to advocate for indigenous rights, climate change solutions and biodiversity conservation.

**Partner Organizations:** 100 tribal affiliates.

**DOWN-SOUTH AFROECOLOGY TRAINING SCHOOL**
**Southeast USA**
The Southeastern African American Farmers Organic Network, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, and The Black Dirt Farm Collective were awarded $95,000 to: 1) increase the knowledge and use of agroecology practices among Black farmers in the Southeastern U.S., 2) strengthen policies that support the adoption of agroecology, and, 3) strengthen a local and global movement for justice and sustainable ecosystems.

**INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MOUNTAIN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (INMIP): BIOCULTURAL HERITAGE AND FOOD NEIGHBORHOODS**
**Taiwan, China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, India, Kenya, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia**
The INMIP network and its partners, the Potato Park and Asociación ANDES were awarded $140,000 to promote a “food neighborhood” approach to food and nutritional security, agricultural production and environmental sustainability. They promote indigenous peoples’ biocultural rights in centers of crop origin and diversity. To forge a global network of diverse food neighborhoods they are organizing an international biocultural knowledge exchange, food celebrations, and trainings.

**DEEPENING SMALL PRODUCER CAPACITY TO SUSTAINABLY MANAGE SOILS IN MEXICO**
**Southern Mexico**
The Autamous Group for Environmental Research (GAIA) was awarded $140,000 to work with eight producer organizations across Southern Mexico to integrate sustainable soil management into coffee and diversified corn (milpa) production systems. The initiative will strengthen technical teams within farmer cooperatives to support over 1000 families to improve soil health, increase productivity and reduce vulnerability to droughts and floods.

**AGROECOLOGY IN THE BRAZILIAN SAVANNAH**
**Brazil**
The Center for Agroecology Development in the Brazilian Savanah and the Solidarity Network of Savannah Family Farmers was awarded $140,000 to conserve biodiversity in the Brazilian Cerrado. Through “Agroecology Experiment Centers” which prioritize women and young people’s participation, the collaborative will facilitate access to credit, strengthen traditional knowledge of biodiversity and open local food markets.

**PEASANT AGROECOLOGY IN CENTRAL-ASIA AND EASTERN-EUROPE**
**Eastern Europe and Central Asia**
The European Coordination of La Via Campesina (ECVC) with ECORURALIS, ELKANA, Agency of Development Initiatives, Zan va Zamin, and Grădina Moldovei was awarded $140,000 to strengthen agroecology and peasant seed systems through cross-regional exchanges and networks in the Eastern European and Central Asian region with special focus on women leadership. The collaborative brings together national and regional peasant-led organizations, grassroots movements and public institutions that combine varied roles, knowledge and capacities to transform food systems.

**INCREASING BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA**
**East, West, South Africa**
The African Biodiversity network was awarded $100,000 to work on the revival of native seeds, helping farmers connect with nature and culture in ways that lead to a holistic approach in their farming practices.

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL ECONOMIES IN EAST AFRICA THROUGH AGROECOLOGY**
**Uganda, Kenya, Italy, DRC**
Slow Food International, together with the Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program, Slow Food Uganda, and Slow Food Convivia Association of Kenya were awarded $140,000 to strengthen a network of farmers to learn about agroecology and apply practices. The project aims to boost local economies and enhance agroecological farmers’ market opportunities by strengthening links between producers and consumers.

**UPSCALING AND STRENGTHENING OF AGROECOLOGY IN PAKISTAN**
**Pakistan**
The collaboration seeks to upscale and strengthen agroecology, build technical and social alliances among farmers movements, trade unions, women’s groups, scientists and consumers and advocate for agroecology and food sovereignty. Collaborative members will establish 18 agroecology-based model farms in six districts spread over three provinces of Pakistan and facilitate farmer marketing in Karachi.

**Partner Organizations:** Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek, Roots for Equity, The Karachi Farmers Market, Department of Agronomy, Nawaz Sharif University, Multan.
If we believe that food production should be about keeping people and the planet healthy, we need nothing less than to reboot the current industrial food system.

Mark Bittman & Daniel Moss in The New York Times
Pooled Grantmaking to Support Agroecological Solutions Around the Globe