



AGROECOLOGY
FUND

THE REGIONAL AGROECOLOGY FUND IN EASTERN AFRICA



About the Regional Agroecology Fund in Eastern Africa

The Regional Agroecology Fund in Eastern Africa is a financing and learning tool to support agroecology networks and organizations across the region, which form the core of Eastern Africa's agroecology movement. The purpose of the fund is to:

- Offer donors a simple way to fund grassroots organizations, networks, and emerging enterprises that are critical to scaling agroecology up and out across Eastern Africa.
- Ensure that organizations representing Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth receive the support they need to advance agroecology and uphold their rights.
- Support grantee organizations in monitoring their progress against sought outcomes.
- Contribute to regional learning, and to knowledge generation and exchanges, to deepen grassroots evidence for agroecology, and to adjust and improve strategies for scaling up agroecology.



Why regional funds?

Establishing a regional agroecology fund in Eastern Africa is central to the Agroecology Fund's strategy to strengthen agroecology movements and deepen their territorial impacts.



The strategy is relevant to any donor whose theory of change embraces the power of community-based change processes.

The scaling up and out of agroecology is premised on the active leadership of diverse grassroots actors, yet donor organizations often face challenges in extending resources to them. Regional funds give bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as private philanthropists, an opportunity to jointly fund inclusive and rights-based initiatives rooted in agroecology principles that support impacts as diverse as food security, food sovereignty, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. A first regional fund is already operating in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico (FAPY). In 2022, the Agroecology Fund created the Bharat Agroecology Fund (BAF) in India, which will launch its first round of grants in 2023. Regional agroecology funds in Eastern and Western Africa will be launched shortly thereafter.

The unique value proposition of the regional funds is their participatory approach to grantmaking and knowledge creation, based on the Agroecology Fund's approach globally. The fund will also act as the facilitator of a learning community through which their grantees can share strategies, as well as document and present the impacts of their work on the ground, thus contributing to a global body of evidence for agroecology (closely connected to the Agroecology Fund's Grassroots Evidence for Agroecology (GEA) initiative). The learning community is core to our approach to participatory and trust-based monitoring and evaluation.



Eastern Africa Context

In Eastern Africa, agroecology has become a vast movement, growing on the evidence that the Green Revolution for Africa, with its heavily funded promotion of commercial seeds and synthetic fertilizers, has failed to help Africa's families and its smallholder farmers flourish. Poverty, malnutrition and soil degradation continue to plague the region.

And yet there exist rich local knowledge and millenia-old practices that are now serving as the foundation of an agroecological renaissance in Eastern Africa. For example, farmer field schools across the region, some affiliated with research institutes, are experimenting with reviving Indigenous plant varieties and other regenerative practices to make the region's agriculture more productive and climate resilient.

How will the fund function?

In Eastern Africa, the Agroecology Fund aspires to create a mechanism adapted to the local context through which donors can extend grants to grassroots actors and initiatives. Like other regional funds, it will be operated by a local

partner who brings to the table an excellent administrative capacity to oversee the grant process, as well as valuable insights and linkages with local grassroots organizations, networks, and movements. Funding recommendations will be made by expert, on-the-ground advisors from the region who are embedded in local agroecology movements. Representation by women, Indigenous People and youth will be core to the Fund's governance. Resources will be extended not only to established non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and legalized civil society organizations, but also to informal cooperatives, collective associations, and social enterprises. Such grassroots bodies are in most cases underfunded, yet they are essential to scale agroecology up and out.

In its early stages, the fund will be guided by a landscape analysis of: a) funding streams for agroecology; b) civil society organizations and public programs; and c) potential operating partners. Advisors and donors to the Regional Agroecology Fund in Eastern Africa will determine first-round grantmaking priorities and establish the structure and governance of the fund to prominently feature the active leadership of grassroots organizations and networks advancing agroecology.

The Agroecology Fund's Track Record in Africa

Between 2012 and 2022, the Agroecology Fund supported grassroots organizations' work in agroecology across Africa, awarding a total of \$4,381,000 through 62 grants.

Region	# Grants	% Total	Amount	% Total 2	# Countries
Eastern Africa	20	10.8%	\$1,285,000	8.9%	6
Western Africa	24	13.0%	\$1,778,000	12.3%	11
Eastern and Western Africa	5	2.7%	\$665,000	4.6%	-
Other African Regions	13	7.0%	\$653,000	4.5%	6
Sub-total Africa	62	33.5%	\$4,381,000	30.3%	23
Total (Global Grants)	263	100.0%	\$15,022,644	100.0%	84

Agroecology Fund Grants in Africa – Countries of Implementation





About the Agroecology Fund

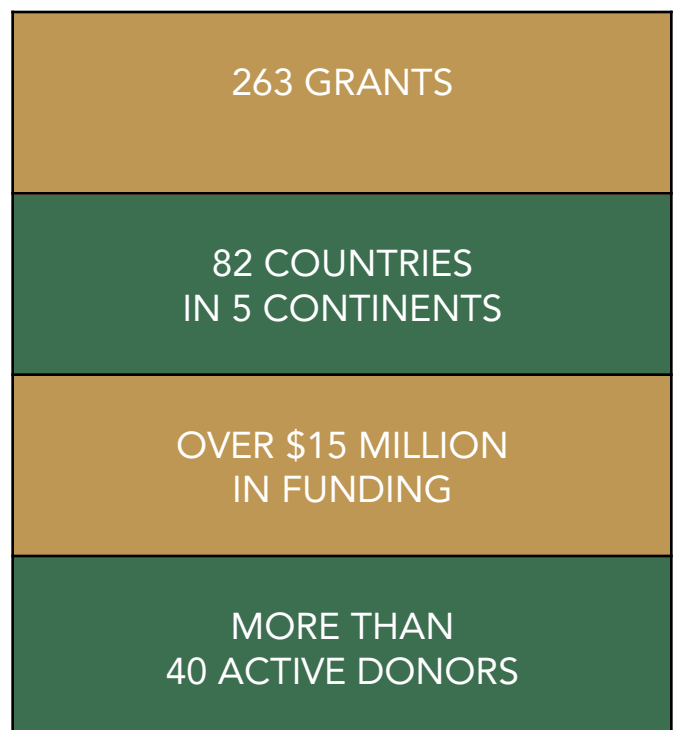
The Agroecology Fund is a multi-donor fund supporting agroecological practices and policies. We work at the intersection of food sovereignty, biodiversity conservation, and climate justice to support food producers, researchers, and movement builders working across the globe to strengthen agroecology-based food systems by:

- Promoting the livelihoods and human rights of small farmers, Indigenous Peoples and their communities
- Regenerating soil, water and natural resources
- Building resilience in the face of climate change and strengthening biodiversity conservation
- Supporting and facilitating learning exchanges among organizations and movements that advance agroecological solutions locally, regionally and globally

We adopt a unique participatory grantmaking process informed by expert advisors embedded in civil society networks and long-term partners.

Between 2012 and 2022, we awarded over \$15 million to collaboratives led by grassroots partner organizations, many of which include

Indigenous-led organizations. This includes grants managed in our Global Grant Program and grants awarded through our regional fund, Fondo Agroecológico para la Península de Yucatán – FAPY (the Agroecology Fund of the Yucatán Peninsula).



Agroecology Fund Strategic Plan 2022-2026

An essential part of our 5-year strategic growth plan involves shifting and leveraging significant financial resources toward the agroecology movement at large from our community of donors as well as bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, other private foundations, and social impact investors.



SHIFT & LEVERAGE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL RESOURCES TOWARDS AGROECOLOGY

Double our grantmaking and influence increased funding flows from donor agencies and social impact investors.



STRENGTHEN POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SYSTEMS FOR AGROECOLOGY TO THRIVE

Support grassroots collaboratives advocating for food policies that respect climate justice, biodiversity, and human rights.



CO-CREATE & SHARE AGROECOLOGY KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICES

Support multidisciplinary collaborators in participatory research, grassroots agroecology evidence gathering and dissemination, and learning exchange.



INFLUENCE THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION ABOUT HUNGER & CLIMATE CHANGE

Support grantees' communications capacities and be a powerful voice for agroecological food systems and threats posed by industrial agriculture.



ENSURE AN ADEQUATE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM, HUMAN RESOURCES & MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT & MONITOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Maintain continued sustainability and growth by refining our unique participatory grantmaking, governance, and Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) processes.

To increase its grantmaking capacity, both globally and regionally, the Agroecology Fund is establishing regional funds for agroecology in different geographies. Each regional fund will have a distinct operational plan covering the administrative, governance, and advisory structures.

Established regional agroecology funds

Fondo Agroecológico para la Península de Yucatán (FAPY)

Region: Yucatán, South Mexico

Inception: 2020



The Yucatán Peninsula Agroecology Fund is the first regional fund established by the Agroecology Fund with the financial support of the Kellogg Foundation, and other donors. The fund is operated by the Agroecology Fund's local partner, the Túumben K'óoben Cooperative, which has a long and reliable track record within Mayan communities in the Yucatán Peninsula population. This strategic positioning enables it to identify the needs of local organizations and communities, including: strengthening agroecological production processes, building solidarity markets, enhancing community organization, reinforcing networks, and managing spaces with relevant stakeholders.

Total number of grants (as of end 2022): 38
Total amount of funding (as of end 2022): \$708,377

Bharat Agroecology Fund (BAF)

Region: India

Inception: 2022



Photo credit: Rucha Chitnis

The Bharat Agroecology Fund (BAF), managed by local non-governmental organization Bhartiya Vikas Trust, follows a similar governance and operational structure to that of the global Agroecology Fund. BAF's goal is to enable a paradigm shift at the local and national levels in how food is produced and consumed across the country. The fund aims to create conducive ecosystems and conditions that would enable 20% of small and marginal farmers in India – approximately 20 million people – to shift towards an agroecology-based agriculture ecosystem by 2030. The fund will support grassroots movements in transforming food systems through agroecology by catalyzing Indian philanthropy, collaborating with international philanthropy and development agencies, and sharing lessons learned with the world.

Total number of grants (as of end 2022): 14
Total amount of funding (as of end 2022): \$580,000

Get involved

Promoting agroecology as a solution to global and regional food insecurity, poverty, biodiversity loss, soil and water degradation, and other problems linked to climate change requires a powerful network of allies.

Many donors miss out on the opportunity to support the rich innovations and creativity of front-line agroecology organizations and networks scaling up agroecology across Eastern Africa.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Regional Agroecology Fund in Eastern Africa, please email us:

contact@agroecologyfund.org

daniel.moss@agroecologyfund.org

www.agroecologyfund.org

Cover Photo Credit: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa - AFSA

