



Biovision
Africa
Trust

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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Acronyms and abbreviations

AFERIA	Adaptation for Ecosystem Resilience in Africa
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
BV	Biovision Foundation
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEC	County Executive Committee
CIW	Community Information Worker
CLO	Country Lead Organization
CSC	Continental Steering Committee
EOA-I	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
ESA	Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCP	Farmer Communication Programme
FADECO	Family Alliance for Development and Cooperation
FM	Frequency Modulation
FRC	Farmer Resource Centre
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HR	Human Resource
Icipe	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
KCOA	Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
KBC	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation
MOALF	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
MkM	Mkulima Mbunifu
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
SYsCOM	Long-term Farming Systems Comparison in the Tropics
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SMS	Short Message Service
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
TOF	The Organic Farmer Magazine
UN	United Nations

Acknowledgements

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank our donors; the Biovision Foundation of Switzerland for supporting the Farmer Communication Programme (FCP), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) for supporting the African Union-led 9-country Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative and the initiative's Continental Steering Committee (CSC) Secretariat, the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for supporting the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project through German development agency (GIZ) and Turing Foundation for supporting farmer video production and dissemination.

Special thanks also go to our collaborating partners; the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (Icipe) our FCP partner and host institution, Eastern Broadcasting Corporation Ltd t/a Mbaitu FM airing our vernacular radio programs and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) airing our Kiswahili radio programs, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for advancing agroecology efforts; IFOAM - Organics International, Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Irrigation, Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), and Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) for hosting the Mkulima Mbunifu magazine and staff.

We also appreciate the following partners who we have had valuable collaborations with; Rural Outreach Programme (ROP) in Western Kenya, CABI International, Green Dream Ltd (i-COW), National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND), SNV Netherlands, CARITAS – Embu, Farm Radio International, We-Farm and Green Peace among others. We have collaborated with them on various activities of the Farmer Communication Programme reaching hundreds of farmers in Kenya.

We are also grateful to our national broadcaster, the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) who we have been collaborating with in the dissemination of our Swahili Kilimohai radio program and look forward to airing our radio programs in various vernacular languages the coming year. We are also grateful to our newest media collaborator; the Standard Group Limited who we shall be partnering with in airing our Kilimohai radio program through its station Radio Maisha. We look forward to the partnership with the Smart Farmer Africa collaborating with us in the production and dissemination of the TOF Magazine.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MR. ANDREAS SCHRIBER

Today, more than one billion people around the world depend on farming for their income and this is no exception to Kenya nor Africa at large. Food security is at the heart of most governments' concerns because higher agricultural output means higher incomes for farmers, food resilience within households and, an assured smooth consumption. The achievement of national food security is a key objective of the agricultural sector. At the same time, this sector is facing huge challenges such as climate change, degradation of soils and loss of biodiversity. Sustainable food systems are the answer, required not only in terms of quantity, but also in quality of food production.

Whereas we have a lot of scientific information generated by research institutions, getting the information to the smallholder farmers, remains a big challenge. BvAT's approach to promoting ecologically sustainable agriculture (ESA) through

disseminating validated information and what works with farmers goes a long way in addressing food security. With the support from our donors, and the productive partnerships we have established with key research institutions like Icipe, KALRO, World Agroforestry Centre (formerly ICRAF) and KEFRI among others, BvAT will strive to promote environmentally friendly technologies to improve the lives of the smallholder farmers in Kenya and beyond in Africa, in sound economic, social and environmental ways.

BvAT has realized encouraging growth over the last ten years, thanks to the generous support by our donors; Biovision Foundation, SDC, SSNC and GIZ, among others. Indeed, we not only celebrated our 10th Anniversary at the Safari Park Hotel on 19th June 2019 in Nairobi but we were also honored to have Ms. Adeline Mwau, the Deputy Governor for Makueni County grace the occasion as our Chief Guest, a clear demonstration of how BvAT is reaching out to successfully collaborate with some counties in Kenya. The event was embedded in the 1st International Conference on Agroecology Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems in Africa. BvAT organized the conference, attended by nearly four hundred participants including renowned international speakers, in partnership with IFOAM Organics International (Germany) and the World Food Preservation Centre (USA). A lot has been achieved since BvAT's inception in 2009. A challenge however remains how to bring on board more development partners including the private sector, governmental and non governmental organisations to leverage our operations. This is even more urgent given the increasing continental responsibilities that BvAT is taking on in Africa.

As we embark on the next phase of our flagship programmes - the Farmer Communication Programme and the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative; and as we begin implementation of activities under the new Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the BvAT team well and encourage all of us to put our best efforts to ensure that we achieve our vision of a Food secure African continent with healthy people living in a healthy environment.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DR. DAVID AMUDAVI

The year 2019 was one of our most outstanding years. Together with our partners and the generous donor support from our esteemed development partners and donors, the BvAT team worked tirelessly and continued to reach out to thousands of smallholder farmers in rural areas with valuable information and knowledge and strengthening skill development. The smallholder farmers continue to be our focus in availing validated scientific information and knowledge and from what has been successful with innovative farmers to support interventions aimed at improving their incomes, food security and general livelihoods.

We successfully concluded Phase one of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) programme (2014-2018) and embarked on a robust phase two in May, which brought on board Rwanda as the ninth country; thanks to the lessons

learned in phase one and the trust bestowed upon us by our donor; SDC. Implementation of the KCOA project kicked off well in August 2019. The programme is funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and coordinated by GIZ. I applaud the BvAT team that worked conscientiously under my coordination on the proposal for this programme, making it stand out as one of the best from Africa for the competitive funding. The programme brings together partners from the Eastern Africa region and a few international partners. It finds appropriate leverage from our renowned Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) and the EOA Initiative.

The year also marked the successful completion of the Push-pull Project for Sub Saharan Africa implemented in partnership with the Icipe's Technology Transfer Unit (TTU). The project aimed at expanding the use of Push-pull technology to several African countries including Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi and Burkina Faso. Various successful stories were reported, and especially on the control of the Fall army worm and stem borer.

The year also saw the successful completion of the Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) transitional one-year phase. The lessons learned, together with the support provided by Well Made Strategy consultants formed promising way forward on how to shift from information dissemination to Communication for behavior change during the next phase. Moreover, the team worked on an elaborate Monitoring and Evaluation framework and tools to support programme implementation, tracking of progress and documenting achievements realized and lessons learnt for further improvement. I am glad to note that the programme now has a full time Coordinator and is destined to grow stronger.

Last but not least, BvAT will strategize in the coming year to improve on its activities including partnerships in programme delivery, monitoring and capturing success stories behind the behavioural changes happening among its various target groups. This will be driven by its motto for 2020, deepening partnerships for reach, impact and sustainability. The BvAT team is very excited about this motto and everyone is prepared to make a contribution. Our Board of Trustees has also indicated strong support to the team to realize this noble motto.

About Biovision Africa Trust

Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is a not-for-profit organization established in Kenya in 2009 by the Biovision Foundation in Switzerland and supported by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi. The Trust's goal is to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya and other African countries. This is done through dissemination of information on appropriate technologies to improve human, animal, plant, and environmental health. Agricultural output is hindered by various environmental factors as well as lack of information and relevant training for the African smallholder farmers. Plant pests, for instance, are responsible for up to 80% of crop losses. Ecologically sustainable solutions are a practical alternative for African farmers to achieve good crop yields without relying on expensive chemical fertilizers and pesticides. What is lacking, however, are effective dissemination pathways to deliver relevant information to the farmers. This is where BvAT is increasingly working to fill the gap.





Our Vision...

To have a food secure African continent with healthy people living in a healthy environment.



Our Mission...

Alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Africa through disseminating relevant agricultural information to small holder farmers and supporting like-minded organizations and institutions.



Overall Goal...

To sustainably improve the lives of the people in Africa while conserving the environment as the basis for all life.



Core Values ...

- Environmental consciousness
- Accountability
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Collaboration, networking and partnerships
- Integrity
- Innovation and creativity
- Inclusivity



Corporate Governance

The BvAT values have enabled us to work towards achieving our goal of sustainably improving the lives of the people in Africa while conserving the environment in the 4H focus areas of animal, plant, human and environmental health.

BvAT Governance Structure

Governance at BvAT is at two levels; the Board of Trustees (BoT) headed by the Chair, and the Management, headed by the Executive Director, who reports to the Chair of the BoT. The BoT is responsible for the governance of the organization whereas the Management is responsible for the day-to-day operations.

Board of Trustees



Mr. Andreas Schriber
Board Chair and Founding Trustee



Prof. Onesmo K. ole-MoiYoi, M.D.
Trustee



Ms. Anne Onyango
Trustee



Prof. Judy Wakhungu
Trustee



Prof. Christian Borgemeister
Trustee



Dr. David Amudavi
Executive Director, Ex-officio member

BvAT Staff

During the year 2019, BvAT had a total of 44 hardworking staff, 17 staff based in the Nairobi office, 24 staff spread out in 15 resource centers in 13 out of the 47 counties in Kenya and 3 staff based in our Arusha Office, Tanzania, and one staff based in Kampala, Uganda. Several interns from various universities and colleges benefitted from the excellent experience and exposure provided by BvAT. The staff are proud to be part of BvAT.

BvAT Priority Areas

Information Communication

Generation and dissemination of knowledge and information on ecologically sound and useful innovations in human, animal, plant and environmental health.



Research and Development

Support applied and social sciences research into special issues and challenges facing smallholder farmers in order to provide useful and practical solutions.

Capacity Development

Support educational and empowerment programs amongst small-holder communities in partnership with other players from the industry, public sector and civil society.



Resource Mobilization

Seeking and provision of grants and technical assistance to public charitable trusts or organizations working with rural communities to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture and development.

Where we work and what we do

BvAT implements programmes spread across the African continent. The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) is an African Union-led initiative implemented in 9 countries with five in Eastern Africa namely Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda and four in West Africa namely Nigeria, Mali, Senegal and Benin. The Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) is implemented in Kenya and Tanzania and the KCOA project is implemented in four regions in Africa (Eastern Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa and Northern Africa). BvAT is responsible for knowledge hub in Eastern Africa region currently involving four countries namely Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda. In partnership with Icipe, BvAT was in charge of the Community Outreach activities of the Push-Pull Project in Sub-Saharan Africa to implement dissemination strategies geared towards scale-out and adaptation of the Push-Pull technology in Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda and Burundi.



Improved economic, social and environmental livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya and Tanzania by promoting Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture (ESA) technologies and practices.

BvAT Communication Pathways:

- The Organic Farmer (TOF) Magazine
- Mkulima Mbunifu (MkM) Magazine
- The Organic Farmer Radio Programme
- Infonet Biovision Online Platform
- Farmer Communication Outreach
- The Organic Farmer Videos

Coverage:

Kenya | Tanzania



Ecological Organic Agriculture mainstreamed into national agricultural production systems to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to market and sustainable development in Africa.

Thematic Areas:

1. Research, Training and Extension
2. Information and Communication
3. Value Chain and Market Development
4. Networking and Partnership
5. Policy and Programme Development
6. Institutional Capacity Development

Coverage:

Kenya | Uganda | Tanzania | Ethiopia | Rwanda | Nigeria | Senegal | Mali | Benin



Knowledge hubs are successfully introduced as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture with actors in Africa.

Key Components:

1. Assembly and validation of Organic Agriculture knowledge
2. Dissemination of Organic Agriculture knowledge
3. Networking in Agricultural Value Chains

Coverage:

Kenya | Uganda | Tanzania | Ethiopia | Rwanda | Burundi

OUR PARTNERS' COMPLIMENTS

MESSAGE FROM BIOVISION FOUNDATION, SWITZERLAND



Dr. Frank Eyhorn, CEO,
Biovision Foundation,
Switzerland

In 2019, BvAT made great strides in building on its rich experience and knowledge of ecological agriculture and farmer communication in East Africa. Taking the seat at national policy fora and playing a lead role in the continental-wide policy initiative for ecological agriculture are testaments to the success and credibility of BvAT. The year also saw BvAT attract new donors as it continues to strengthen its networks locally and regionally.

As a long-standing strategic partner of BvAT, Biovision is proud of this progress. The opportunity for BvAT to be at the forefront of agroecology and farmer communication in Kenya and across Africa is huge.

Biovision is looking forward to strengthening our existing collaboration as we continue working towards fairer and more sustainable food systems broadening the reach and deepening the impact of both our organisations.

MESSAGE FROM KENYA AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANISATION (KALRO), KENYA



Dr. Joseph Mureithi, Deputy
Director General, (KALRO)

KALRO has established collaborative arrangements with Biovision Africa Trust, whose vision resonates well with her research mandate. Both organizations aim to increase food security and at the same time conserve the environment and biodiversity. This collaboration is strengthened by KALRO being a Board Member of BvAT's Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) Advisory Board, offering strategic direction by giving technical input into its work and shaping its efforts to reach the agricultural stakeholders. KALRO and BvAT have complemented each other's efforts in the following areas:

1. Capacity building on good agricultural practices. KALRO trainers have always used the Biovision Farmer Communication Programme information and knowledge on various topics for their training and outreaches. These trainings

have helped farmers address the negative externalities to the environment due to agricultural production and also increase their output.

2. Information dissemination. BvAT and KALRO have worked together to disseminate beneficial agricultural information. Such efforts include the radio programs that have given KALRO scientists a platform for disseminating information and getting feedback from various stakeholders. The Biovision Infonet portal has provided a platform for electronic dissemination of KALRO's research outputs in form of leaflets and brochures. KALRO also receives hard and digital copies of The Organic Farmer Magazine, a monthly publication of BvAT.

3. Identification of research domains. In the process of its outreach program and working with diverse stakeholders, BvAT gathers information on the possible areas requiring further research. The information has helped KALRO address some of the pressing needs of the agricultural stakeholders. One such initiative is the Plant Clinics where BvAT has helped KALRO identify important pests and diseases in various value chains, disseminate technical information and work closely with extension agents in offering viable solutions. Apart from the Plant Clinics, KALRO and BvAT are intensely promoting organic agriculture.

MESSAGE FROM KENYA ORGANIC AGRICULTURE NETWORK (KOAN), KENYA



Mr. Eustace Kiarii,
CEO, KOAN

Since 2014, the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) has partnered with Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) on the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) whose main goal is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national policies, strategies and programmes in Africa. In Kenya, KOAN is the Country Lead Organization coordinating EOA Initiative.

As a result of the good collaboration between the two organisations, in 2019 KOAN and BvAT, with other partners, organized the second Kenya Organic Food Festivals and exhibitions at the Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Nairobi. The two organizations also partnered in organizing the Organic and Wellness Festival at the Yusuf Ali Grounds in Nairobi. Both festivals created awareness to many people on the benefits of ecological organic agriculture and its products.

KOAN represented organic stakeholders in the conference organizing committee of the 1st international Agroecology conference in Africa coordinated by BvAT and other partners. KOAN organized an organic agriculture booth which brought together organic stakeholders, to exhibit and show case organic products. Participating in the Nairobi International Trade Fair, KOAN organized an organic agriculture stand where organic stakeholders, including BvAT showcased EOA products, practices and services.

BvAT and KOAN were members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee established by the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation (MOALF&I) to spearhead development of the Kenya EOA Strategy. We value the cooperation and partnership we have with BvAT and it is our hope it will continue and even deepen in the future. Both organizations share the same goals of creating positive change to communities and consumers through Ecological Organic Agriculture. It is our hope that we will continue to share experiences and expertise and fundraise to implement more joint projects. We envisage that through our partnerships and networks, EOA will be mainstreamed in policies, strategies and programmes in Kenya.

MESSAGE FROM PELUM KENYA



Mr. Zachary Makanya, Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya

PELUM Kenya (<https://www.pelum.net>) has collaborated very closely with BvAT since May 2011, playing a leading role in the formation, growth and expansion of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Africa, alongside other partners. PELUM Kenya and BvAT coordinate EOA activities with funding support from SSNC and SDC. The EOA Initiative has grown beyond East Africa where it started. In addition, Pelum Kenya with support from BvAT hosts the EOA-I Regional (Eastern) Secretariat.

As part of implementation of the EOA-I project, PELUM Kenya and BvAT have organized workshops back to back in order to realize value for money, underscoring the close collaboration between the two organizations. During the year, PELUM Kenya and BvAT combined and pooled their finances to implement events that would otherwise be difficult to manage by one organization.

In expanding the partnership PELUM Kenya also started working very closely with BvAT from September 2019 as the Country Implementing Partner (Kenya) for the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) Project funded by GIZ, and coordinated by BvAT in Eastern Africa.

In light of the above, BvAT is a key strategic partner to PELUM Kenya. We acknowledge the role that BvAT has played in promoting EOA-I in Eastern Africa, Western Africa, and now reaching out to North and Southern Africa. BvAT has a strong team of highly dedicated, motivated, trained staff who are always committed to results and impact. As they roll out and implement programmes and projects, they always exhibit high level of professionalism, integrity and competences.

We are keen to continue collaborating and partnering with BvAT in the future for it will help in scaling-up and replicating best practices emerging from the many projects we are implementing with them. This will indeed help improve the livelihoods of thousands of smallholder farmers across the continent.

PELUM Kenya congratulates BvAT for its efforts in 2019 and urges more efforts reach to new collaborations and partnerships. PELUM Kenya will continue to cheer and encourage you and partner with you in the spirit of complementarity.

Under the able and visionary leadership of its Executive Director, Dr David Amudavi, we have seen BvAT grow from strength to strength. There is no doubt under his leadership and watch, BvAT will continue on this upward trajectory. We at PELUM Kenya will look forward to continue collaborating and partnering with BvAT.

MESSAGE FROM OBEPAB PARTNER, BENIN



Prof. Simplicie Davo Vodouhe
Coordinator, EOA-I, Benin.

I got to know BvAT through Dr. David Amudavi when we first met in organic conferences in Lusaka Zambia in 2014, later in Durban South Africa and Dakar in Senegal where we attended as organic stakeholders representing our two organizations, OBEPAB and BvAT.

In 2019 we collaborated well for the implementation of the Ecological and Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) with OBEPAB as the EOA-I Country Lead Organization for Benin. We had fruitful exchanges through various means including emails, calls, workshops and conferences. This collaboration goes way back in 2014 when we started working together on the EOA Initiative in Benin.

An important aspect to mention about BvAT is its readiness to respond to needs/queries and the openness to take into account external suggestions. Our two organizations have partnered for the better implementation of the EOA Initiative and deal with conflicts through dialogue which is the best way to solve problems. OBEPAB has received a lot of advice from BvAT in the implementation of activities which fall under its responsibilities.

Through this collaboration, OBEPAB has been able to improve its way of implementing the EOA-I project and reporting on the same to respond to the requirements of the donor. Therefore, we in OBEPAB, have learned a lot from the collaboration and from our involvement in the project that BvAT coordinates. Furthermore, I personally like the way the BvAT team is constituted and works as a team to respond to various demands and to raise funds for the different activities undertaken. OBEPAB took example of BvAT to develop its own fundraising and communication strategies for visibility and impact in the rural areas.

Finally, I would like to say that we had a fruitful collaboration in 2019 and wish BvAT all the best in 2020.

MESSAGE FROM IFOAM - ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL, GERMANY



Ms. Louise Luttkholt
Executive Director, IFOAM OI
Germany

IFOAM - Organics International collaborates with BvAT at several levels: We are the formal contractor to the important GIZ project on Knowledge Hub in East Africa, which BvAT is leading. As part of the Continental Steering Committee of the EOA Initiative, IFOAM enjoys the excellent coordinating of BvAT for this promising initiative of the African Union. But more importantly, BvAT is a strong and long standing member in our Association, well connected at the continent and an important link to the global organic movement. Finally, the participation of Dr. David Amudavi in the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International adds a valuable perspective to global organic and agro-ecological matters. Working for true sustainability in agriculture both BvAT and IFOAM Organics International put their complementary efforts, together with all other members, to serve our common and one earth, based on the principles of Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care.

MESSAGE FROM NOAN PARTNER, NIGERIA



Dr. Olugbenga O. AdeOluwa,
Coordinator EOA-I, Nigeria.

I have worked closely with BvAT, as the Coordinator of the EOA-I initiative under the mandate of The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) which is the Country Lead Organization (CLO) for the Initiative in Nigeria. I acknowledge the efforts of BvAT as the lead agency in implementing the EOA-I SDC supported project. On behalf of the EOA partners in Nigeria, we appreciate our collaboration with BvAT in the year 2019 and more so with due diligence which the organization has engaged in managing the project.

We look forward to having sustained cordial relationship with BvAT in the next phase and working on conditions for ensuring efficient project implementation in Nigeria.

MESSAGE FROM INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ISD) PARTNER, ETHIOPIA



Mr. Ghebremedhin Belay
Executive Director
ISD, Ethiopia

In ISD's 22 years journey in promoting Ecological Agriculture in Ethiopia, BvAT is one of its key strategic development partners particularly since 2011 when BvAT started coordinating the Ecological Organic Agriculture-Initiative (EOA-I) financed by SDC. Through the leadership of Dr. David Amudavi, I highly appreciate BvAT's increasing capacity in supporting ISD. BvAT has been very helpful and works closely with us. It is an attentive partner who appreciates support and follow-up. BvAT shares tasks and responsibilities with an eye on strengthening our capacity and providing the right information on needed tasks. We have also come to appreciate BvAT's understanding of partner challenges during project implementation.

With kind support from BvAT, ISD was able to successfully complete Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programs in Ethiopia (2014- Mid 2019) phase I. It has resulted into encouraging improvement in knowledge and application of EOA practices and technologies, as well as positive attitude towards EOA among the major stakeholders at different levels. I wish to also emphasize that there are already thousands of smallholder farmers and others who are benefiting from the project.

In 2019, the 9th EOA-I Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This also gave a chance for the East African RSC members to pay a courtesy call to His Excellency Sani Redi, State Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). The members shared their wide experiences on EOA-I for their respective countries. The State Minister expressed the Ethiopian MOA's vision in developing sustainable agriculture in Ethiopia: "agriculture beyond production". I believe the courtesy call and the motto is an indication of the healthy progress of implementation of the EOA-I project. ISD is looking forward to BvAT's continued collaboration and support to ISD in enhancing its capacity to further mobilize others to get engaged in EOA or integrate it within their extension services. Besides, ISD wishes to be part of setting up and/or implementing the regional Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (EA).

MESSAGE FROM GIZ, GERMANY



Ms. Dorith von Behaim
Project Manager, Knowledge
Center for Organic Agriculture
in Africa, Germany

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) of the BMZ Special Initiative "One World no Hunger", has selected BvAT as the lead partner organisation of the Eastern African regional knowledge hub. BvAT plays an outstanding role in the implementation of the regional hub, with the different country partner organisations involved, regarding the achievement of our common objectives to establish a platform on organic agriculture based on best practices, technology and innovation and to boost ecological organic agriculture on the African continent. I highly value the partnership with BvAT. Thank you very much for the excellent collaboration and the important contributions to the ecological organic agriculture network!



BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST HIGHLIGHTS

BvAT welcomes a new member of BoT

BvAT is proud to welcome aboard Ms. Anne Akinyi Onyango; a development practitioner with more than 39 years of experience working for the Government of Kenya in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation. Ms. Onyango comes with a wealth of experience in high level government positions, with the latest being the Agriculture Secretary, State Department for Crops Development where she served from 2012 till her retirement towards the last quarter of 2019. Before this, she worked as Director of Agriculture, Policy Research and Regulations from 2008 – 2012.

Anne holds an MSc in Agriculture Extension and Rural Development from the University of Reading, UK (1987) and a BSc in Agriculture from University of Nairobi, Kenya (1981). She has attended world renowned conferences and workshops and was recognized in 2010 with a Presidential Award – Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS) for her contribution to agricultural development in Kenya.

Ms. Onyango was introduced to the BvAT staff during an official visit on 30th October 2019 by Mr. Andreas Schriber, the Board Chair and Founding Trustee. The two board members had interesting and fruitful discussions with the staff as they familiarized themselves with the organization’s programmes and new staff. The Chair applauded Madam Anne Onyango’s joining the Board and looked forward to her valuable advice on a range of issues given her solid experience of many years in the agriculture sector, and having retired in a very senior position.



Ms. Anne Onyango and Mr. Andreas Schriber, Board Chair, with the BvAT Nairobi Staff.



Cake cutting ceremony to mark the 10th Anniversary of BvAT

BvAT marks its 10th Anniversary with Jubilation

One of its kind, BvAT celebrated its 10th anniversary on 19th June 2019 at a gala dinner held at the Safari Park Hotel and Casino in Nairobi. The hotel provided the first organic dinner to a huge gathering of over 300 people. The event celebrated BvAT's 10 years of achievements and dedicated service to its target beneficiaries the small-scale farmers, as well as reward its outstanding/champion farmers selected through a competition from the three regions of Eastern, Central and Western Kenya where the organization has presence on the ground.

The 1st International Agroecology Conference

Biovision Africa Trust, jointly with World Food Preservation Centre and IFOAM - Organics International organized the 1st international conference on Agroecology Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems in Africa with the theme: Reducing Synthetic Fertilizers and Pesticides by Scaling up Agroecology and Promoting Ecological Organic Trade. The main goal was to provide a platform to facilitate a conversation on how to transform and establish more truly sustainable food and agriculture systems in Africa. The conference reached its climax with the release of a 6-point call to 'ACTION'. To read more about the conference and call to action visit the conference website on: <https://www.agroecologyconference.eoai-africa.org/>

The Guest of Honour, Hon. Adeline Mwau, Deputy Governor of Makueni County, honours farmers during BvAT's 10th Anniversary





KCOA- GIZ Project Inception Workshop - Visit to Kulika Charitable Trust, Kampala, Uganda

Official kick-off of the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture (KCOA), Eastern Africa Hub

Funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through German development agency (GIZ); the KCOA Project began its operations in August 2019.

The KCOA project is initially being implemented in four countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda in the first phase (August 2019 - July 2021).

Signing of the KCOA-GIZ Partnership Agreement by Dr. Amudavi and GIZ team.





Ms. Bernadette Murgor of SFA and Dr. Amudavi sign a MOU partnership agreement between their two organizations

BvAT rolls out EOA-I Phase II with continued support from SDC

The project was rolled out following signing of the partnership agreement with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) after BvAT successfully implemented the EOA-I Phase I (2014-2018) with grant of USD 6 million with key notable milestones contributing to the goal of mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture into national policies and plans by 2025. Phase II covers a period of four years from May 2019 to April 2023 with funding support of USD 6.3 million and is being implemented in 9 countries; Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Benin and Rwanda.

Endorsements, Partnerships and Collaboration

The African Union Commission (AUC) officially Endorses BvAT as the host of the CSC Secretariat

The Chair of the African Union-led Continental Steering Committee of the EOA initiative Dr. Simplicie Nouala (also Head of Agriculture and Food Security Division at the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, DREA) presented updates to the 12th CSC meeting held in Accra, Ghana, in November 2019 on the report of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment meeting held in October 2019. DREA had sought the recognition and endorsement of the EOA-I CSC Secretariat as the official Africa Union Commission (AUC) support agency overseeing the implementation and growth of EOA in Africa and BvAT as the host organization. Both requests were approved and the STC requested the AUC and its development agency, AUDA-NEPAD and partners to strengthen and support its functioning. This is a very important development for BvAT which is slowly taking on a Pan African presence through its crucial role in promoting EOA in Africa and linking up with global partners.

BvAT partners with Smart Farmer Africa Ltd for production of TOF Magazine

With renewed efforts of revamping its reach and production of timely and validated content through the TOF Magazine, BvAT has entered into a collaborative partnership with the Smart Farmer Africa Ltd to produce a richer and appealing farmers' magazine. The quality of the magazine is expected to improve by ensuring an impressive magazine layout and design informed by an appropriate content development strategy, quality content enhanced by proofreading and language editing procedures, broadening relevant topics to include digital agricultural services, weather reports, financial services for farmers among others and conducting SMS polls and online surveys among smallholder farmers to generate feedback for further improvement.

BvAT partners with Standard Group Limited for wide promotion of TOF radio programs

BvAT has prioritized deepening partnerships for increased reach, impact creation, scale up and sustainability. It has signed a landmark agreement with The Standard Group Limited (SGL), one of Kenya's largest media houses to launch organic farmer program (Kilimohai) to empower farmers with knowledge and technical know. The partnership will raise farmers' and consumers' awareness on harmful agricultural practices, sustainable healthy agricultural practices and provide millions of farmers in Kenya with access to information and knowledge on ecologically friendly farming practices through a variety of channels. This will contribute to one of our Government's Big Four Agenda on safe, adequate and healthy food for all. Weekly radio broadcasts on inspiring sustainable agriculture topics and success stories aired on Radio Maisha will reach nearly five million listeners. The Radio content will also be covered on the SGL's popular KTN Farmers' television channel, and over 1 million young people reached with tips and advice on agri-preneurship via the media house's well-established social media channels. Further, readers of print media will benefit from regular coverage on favorite topics related to ecological agriculture in the SGL's second leading newspaper, The Standard, circulated nationwide.

BvAT signs a partnership MoU with Standard Group Limited





BvAT and PAFID sign an MOU collaboration agreement

BvAT partners with Participatory Approaches for Integrated Development (PAFID) in improving the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers in Kenya

BvAT believes in partnering with others to create impact in improving livelihoods of farmers. In December 2019 BvAT signed an MoU with PAFID, a leading implementer of Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programmes in Kenya focusing on alleviation of rural poverty, increased food security and reduction in the impact of agriculture on the

environment through the MoU signed by BvAT's Executive Director, Dr. David Amudavi and PAFID's Programme Manager, Mr. Colin Gunson. The two organizations agreed to work together in improving the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers in Kenya by collaborating in content development, sharing, linking and disseminating scientific information and knowledge, and in capacity and institutional building in areas of agricultural and environmental issues.

MILESTONES OF BvAT'S PROGRAMMES

THE FARMER COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME

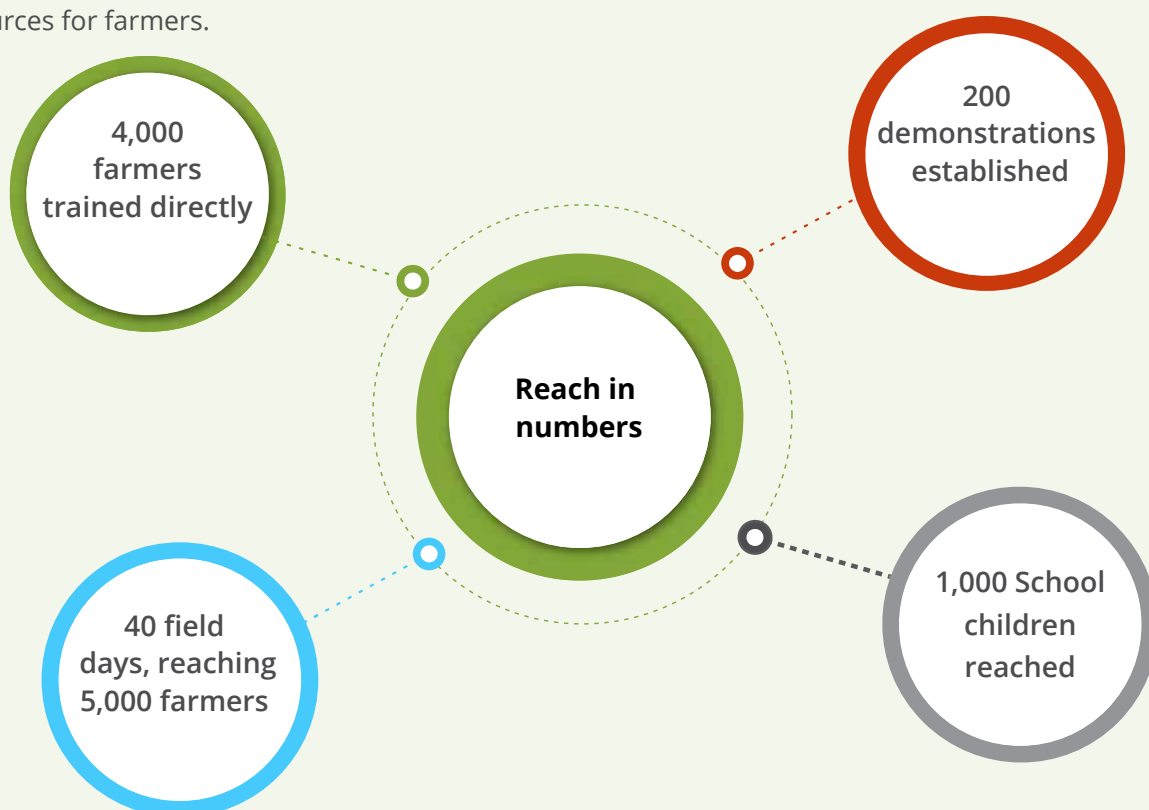
The Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) supported by Biovision Foundation of Switzerland, is BvAT's pioneer programme consisting of five communication pathways:

- a) **Farmer Communication Outreach**
- b) **The Organic Farmer (TOF) Radio**
- c) **The Organic Farmer (TOF) Magazine**
- d) **Infonet-Biovision**
- e) **Mkulima Mbunifu**

a) Farmer Communication Outreach

Access to information on sustainable farming practices continues to be a big challenge for most smallholder farmers in Kenya. Through face to face outreach and extension activities, BvAT endeavors to bridge this information gap. The Farmer Communication Outreach pathway has presence in eleven counties (Bungoma, Kisii, Vihiga, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Murang'a, Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Machakos, Busia and Makueni) with 19 dedicated field staff who provide knowledge and train farmers on a day-to-day basis on a range of ecological sustainable agriculture approaches and technologies. In 2019 over 9,000 farmers were reached through field-based activities to enhance their knowledge and skills for adoption of ecological sustainable agriculture practices. Common strategies applied included farmer and youth group trainings, establishment of demonstrations, participation in field days, farmer exhibitions and facilitating linkages to other support services. As a result, more farmers are adopting practices friendly to agroecology, reporting increased productivity from improved soil fertility and increased use of safe pest management methods including use of biological control, especially in mangoes and avocados.

Creating and sustaining synergy with other FCP pathways is a normal practice of Outreach. Over the year, Outreach contributed significantly to the use of the other FCP products and services as additional information sources for farmers.



Outreach staff distributed to farmers over 2,500 TOF magazines. In Machakos and Makueni Counties, outreach staff contributed to the production of radio programmes in vernacular language.

Establishing partnerships with likeminded organizations and business support services remains a key component of the Outreach project. Through collaborations with various relevant actors, the project enhanced farmers' access to services such as organic inputs, affordable credit and markets. Through partnership with Rebeearth International, supplier of organic fertilizer, farmers received samples for demonstrations, leading to increased production as reported by farmers. Many farmers are now purchasing the product, enabling them to produce healthy and safe crops.

Challenges

Most farmers reached by the project rely on rainfed agriculture, consequently they are affected by extreme weather events such as erratic rains, floods and unusually long dry spells. The onset of long rains season (March, April and May) came late and the rains were below average. Suddenly, towards the end of 2019 the country experienced widespread floods which occasioned destruction of farms and road infrastructure affecting the farmers' calendar of activities and limiting access to markets. From the unpredictable weather and other occurrences, farmers have been advised to plant drought tolerant crops, enhance water harvesting and embrace irrigation. BvAT is forging strong collaboration with the Kenya Meteorological Department to regularly share weather information and predictions for improved farmer preparedness and planning.

Given the expansive spread of the project across the country, adequate monitoring of field activities has been a challenge. We are exploring the use of cost-efficient technology-based tools to enhance project monitoring.

Collaborations with County Governments in farmers' training and field days has increased awareness on ESA practices and technologies, resulting in more support for sustainable agriculture at County level, especially in Machakos, Makueni, Nyandarua and Kirinyaga.

Other key partners include Seed Savers Network, who trained staff on seed saving and banking. This collaboration has offered farmers opportunities to purchase and sell indigenous seeds. The team views the partnership as a step in the right direction in helping preserve local seed varieties as well as promoting seed sovereignty. Partnering with Slow Food Movement, our staff in Kirinyaga was able to establish several kitchen and school gardens, for improved nutrition through increased vegetable production.

Opportunities

The Outreach team is looking into closer and formal collaborations with County Governments to tap into resources for agriculture in the counties in support of ecologically sustainable practices. There are plans to formalise partnerships already established to kickstart implementation of joint activities. Partnerships with PAFID, Greenpeace Africa, Slow Food Movement and Seed Savers Network will be very key in the coming year.

For improved adoption of ESA practices, the team shall adopt behaviour change communication concepts and participatory tools, targeted at stimulating community dialogue and promoting essential attitude change and actions to sustainable agriculture both to producers and consumers.

The Tusemezane (let us talk) feedback and communication system is a web-based platform that provides a forum for feedback from farmers leading to timely and guided response to farmer needs. The Tusemezane platform has been useful in sending SMS alerts and advisories to farmers. The feedback system has a dedicated officer within the TOF Radio team to handle farmers' feedback.

b) The Organic Farmer (TOF) Radio

Millions of Kenyan farmers to benefit from TOF Radio new media partnerships

The African farmer is at the crossroads of frequent shocks to agricultural production stemming from climate unpredictability, volatile markets, pest attacks, and rising concerns about food safety. These challenges underscore the need to scale-up information and knowledge on agricultural technologies that offer solutions and build resilience to secure food sovereignty.

Experience shows radio continues to dominate the rural landscape and has the widest reach and influence among the farming communities compared to any other medium. It remains a vital extension tool in improving rural livelihoods through knowledge sharing and creating linkages.

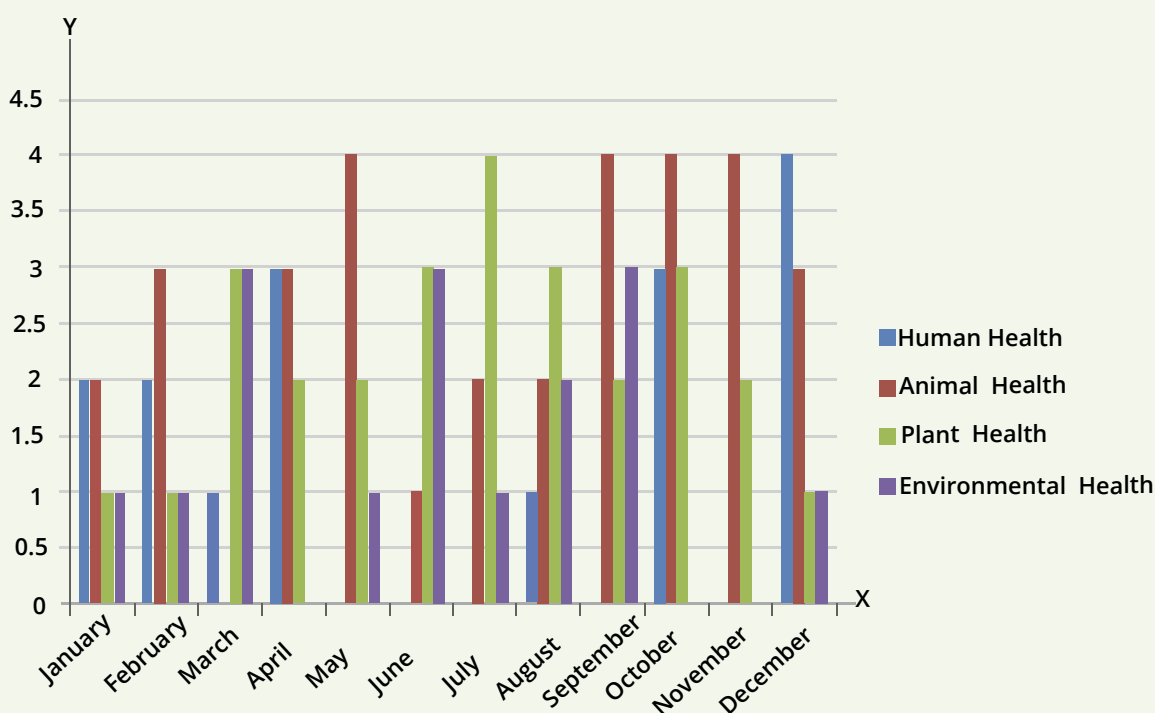
In 2019 The Organic Farmer Radio continued to help increase awareness and knowledge of sustainable agriculture practices and technologies, strengthen the link between researchers, extension workers and farmers through weekly radio broadcasts on Kenya's national broadcaster Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) and a vernacular station Mbaitu FM in order to enhance food security, reduce poverty and increase household incomes among farmers in Kenya.

By visiting farmers and extension workers who work directly with farmers in their own communities, TOF Radio journalists Musdalafa Lyaga and

Charles Kimani learnt much more about the personal experiences of the farmers, the challenges they face and how they are overcoming them. These experiences were packaged as radio programs in a way that a listener can actually learn and practise ecological sustainable agriculture technologies and practices.

Production of TOF Radio programs for farmers was mainly informed by the 4H thematic areas of Human health, Animal health, Plant health and Environment health (*see figure below*). The sequencing of the content revolves around the farmer calendar, emerging issues and feedback from the farmers. Forty (40) Kiswahili programs were produced by the team and aired on KBC and 45 Kikamba programs aired via Mbaitu FM reaching a combined population of 4.5 million farmers on a weekly basis. The programs offered extension advisories on ecologically sound farming practices, covering topics such as water harvesting, clean energy, increasing milk yields, managing poultry, improving food production, combating soil fertility challenges, malnutrition in children, taking care of women after birth, managing tsetse infestation among others.

The team worked closely with scientists from research institutions such as our partner and host, Icipe. Some of the joint projects implemented with Icipe are the Tsetse project, Malaria project, African Fruitfly project and Push Pull projects. TOF Radio also worked with KALRO Katumani in the climate change and resilience project.



c) The Organic Farmer (TOF) Magazine

TOF Magazine has been a great resource to over 100,000 farmers spread country wide, in 41 counties so far, through the print and the digital versions of the magazine whose demand continues to grow remarkably. The Magazine has been attracting audiences from all over the country as seen in the rising subscription requests each month. In 2019, hard copies of the magazine were dispatched to over 3,300 recipients monthly, most of whom received batches to share with farmer groups. Over 300 online readers received the soft copy monthly. With Smart Farmer Africa's partnership, the number of readers receiving the soft copy uploaded on the net, is projected to rise to 6,000 receivers.

Themes and technologies covered in 2019

Ten issues of the TOF Magazine were produced with content sourced from experts informing farmers of practical technologies they can adopt in their farms to increase yields, while producing safe food with the resources at their disposal and gain markets for their farm produce. Some of these technologies and topics covered include: Compost making; soil testing; home made livestock feeds, IPM to control Fall armyworm, Tuta absoluta, tomato blight, leaf miners and stem borers; value addition and marketing for common farm produce especially bananas, mangoes and dairy milk; interventions to diseases affecting livestock and poultry, especially during outbreaks also featured.

Depending on the season, weather advisories were sent out and climate smart technologies demonstrated. For the larger part of the year a main feature on controlling Fall armyworm by employing the push-pull technology was published as the pest hit hard on maize farmers. From these features many farmers are embracing push-pull as it showed to be much more effective than the synthetic pesticides. Towards the end of the year, there was a potato crisis as potato farmers incurred losses from Potato Nematode Cysts (PCN), and TOF Magazine became highly resourceful to many farmers seeking to understand the disease and how to protect their soils.

Beginning January 2020, TOF Magazine will be establishing a



working partnership with Smart Farmer Africa (SFA) to aid in content generation and magazine lay out, dissemination options and harnessing feedback for enhancing responsiveness to farmers' queries. This will enhance the richness of the content as SFA brings in their pool of experts to complement that of BvAT in researching, developing and editing the



Mr & Mrs Mukele showcase their mangoes produce that have benefitted from ESA technologies promoted by BvAT

content.

There are innumerable farmers whose livelihoods have improved immensely thanks to articles featured in TOF magazine. The team has periodically sampled a few stories of success that continue to inspire other farmers

countrywide to venture into organic farming and embrace ESA technologies and practices. Below is one such story.

John Nguvi, a Gilgil based horticulturalist embraces life changing ESA technologies in his farm



John Nguvi has been an ardent reader of TOF Magazine since 2005. His coming across an article on traditional water harvesting using reeds and dam liner changed the way he farms for good. Being a resident of Gilgil, which is a semi-arid area, he had been struggling with water scarcity during the dry seasons and never imagined that a solution as easy and within reach as the one he discovered from TOF Magazine was viable. "I came across this article on how to construct an earthen water reservoir using reeds and a dam liner that protects the water from leaking and evaporating. Through our Ébrru Fruit Farmers Group I took a loan of KSh 18, 000 in 2019 to purchase a dam liner to construct a reservoir that could hold up to 60,000 litres of water. Nguvi grows tree tomatoes for sale and in his two acre piece of land he has 700 tree tomatoes, as well as maize and beans. "From TOF Magazine I learnt about grafting and this is how I grow my fruits." Nguvi started off with 1000 tree tomatoes, but due to the harsh cold weather he lost 300. "I used to make about KSh 8,000 per week before the profits dipped."

Nguvi however says he is gradually recovering his losses. From tree tomato sales only, he is currently making Ksh 2000 weekly. Through this venture, Nguvi has seen his daughter go through secondary education and he is still earning enough to start her off to college.

The father of four says that since tomato trees require sufficient water to grow, the discovery of the water harvesting technique was a major breakthrough for him. From this reservoir, he also waters his kitchen garden, which his wife maintains year round as there is never a shortage of water in his homestead. "In the kitchen garden we have planted spinach, kales and cabbages, which we consume here at home and the excess we sell to the neighbours," he says. Nguvi says that proceeds from the kitchen garden come in handy in buying household food and other items. "My wife takes care of all home needs from this kitchen garden," he says.

In his farm, he has a variety of crops including hass avocado trees, plantain, maize and beans. "In one of the TOF Magazine features, I learnt about a variety of plantain that does very well in this area, and I went all the way to Jomo Kenya University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) Githunguri in search for it." He says that the plantain feeds his family and he sells the seedlings at 100 shillings each to other farmers. He currently has 69 avocado trees and he

says there is huge market for avocado fruits even by local consumers. Another technique from the TOF Magazine that he finds priceless is composting. Nguvi practices mixed farming. He rears indigenous chicken and sheep in his farm. Chicken get worms from the kitchen garden, and the sheep provide compost manure that he applies in his farm.

As he gets to learn of other ecologically sustainable agricultural techniques from the monthly editions, Nguvi has more

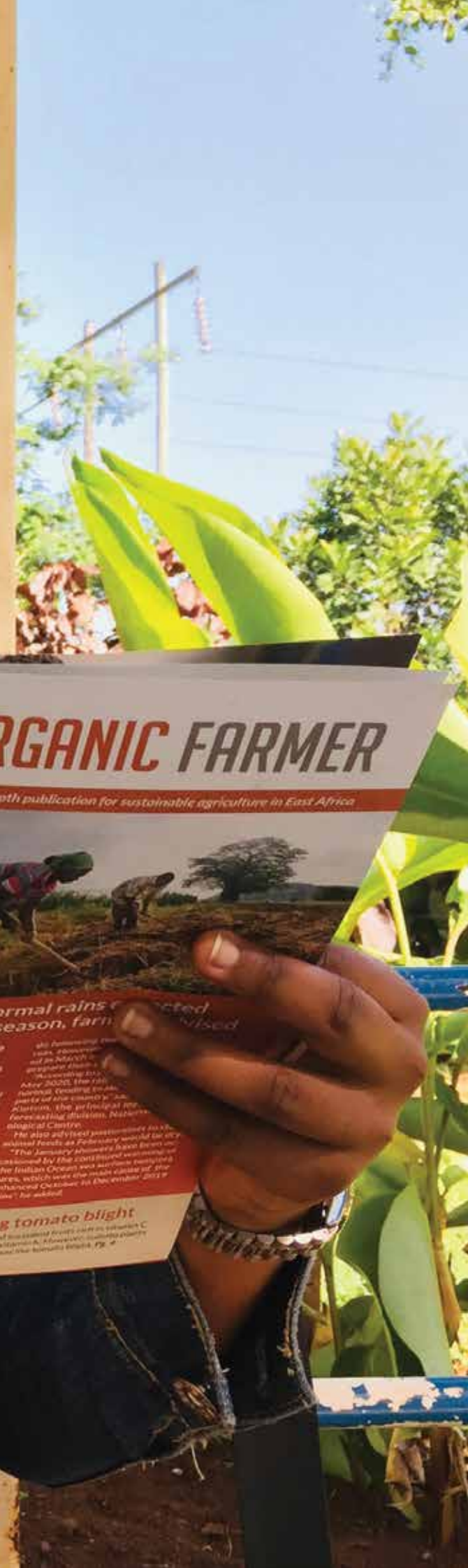


Mr. John Nguvi of Gilgil inspecting his farm

plans for his farm. “Ever since the Push pull technology was featured in the magazine, I have always wanted to establish it in my farm to control the ravaging fall army worm that attacks maize every season,” he says. Nguvi has however had challenges with acquiring bracharia grass, but with the help of Icipe, he can now access it. He is set to plant his maize on a Push pull piece of land come next season.

Having adapted the various organic farming techniques and finding them highly beneficial, Nguvi attests that organic pest control methods are cost effective and a farmer is guaranteed that he is not feeding his family on

toxic chemicals. He also says that the plants are healthy and produce more yields compared to when using synthetic farm inputs. To control pests especially arphids which are highly attracted to grafted fruits, Nguvi has been using plant extracts as demonstrated in TOF magazine “I am in the process of planting pyrethrum to add into the organic mixture of pest control that I use on my crops to control pests,” he says. Nguvi is hoping to acquire organic certification soon.



The story of Nebert Jumba, Infonet Platform user in Kakamega County

Since 2017, Nebert has found a companion in the Infonet Biovision database. Nebert had gone to KALRO Kakamega Research Centre to source for information on poultry farming when he was offered an Infonet-Biovision disk. "Going through the database, I realized it had precise and detailed information on both plant and animal husbandry. Using the information, I started a poultry farm and a poultry foundation to train, and initiate projects for the youth. To date all the information we use in poultry production is sourced from the Infonet website", says a happy Nebert.

Nebert adds that the most important sections in his work and to the groups he works with are those providing information on; brooding, vaccination program, feed formulation, poultry rights and freedoms (so interesting), housing, serial incubation, diseases and their management.

For Nebert, this information isn't just theory, but he has found it to be practically valuable. "With this knowledge I have recruited two youth who assist in training groups in Kakamega and Homabay counties using your data and the outcome is great. We do our own feed formulation to cut on the cost of production. We are also working on a diversification program to venture into horticulture using the same information from your database", he adds.

Nebert also says that Infonet database has enabled him to design egg incubators powered by kerosene, gas and electricity to complement his poultry agribusiness venture. Other than poultry he also uses information on fish, bee and banana farming to support farmers to start their farming projects. "They call me Infonet because I pass the information to them and insist on knowledge before farming. This is a good platform for farmers, and it should be promoted vigorously so that more young people venturing into agribusiness can benefit from this invaluable information."

d) Infonet-Biovision

The current core areas of Infonet are research, content development, and dissemination. The Infonet knowledge repository has made important contribution to agricultural advisory services in Kenya and beyond. Since its development in 2006, Infonet has grown to have more than 350 data sheets touching on pertinent subjects in agroecology within the four thematic areas of Plant, Animal, Human and Environmental Health to support learning and adoption of agroecological technologies and practices. Infonet is used by practitioners both from the government and non-governmental organisations to offer advisory services to farmers. The repository has also been embraced by researchers and research institutions as a tool for disseminating their research work to smallholder farmers.

The Infonet knowledge repository has remained core in the Biovision Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) as a major source of information for its projects. In 2019, 32 out of 48 TOF Radio programs were produced based on the Infonet

content; TOF Magazine covered at least four articles based on Infonet content per Issue of the 12 Issues produced in the year. Outreach field staff continued to use the Infonet repository as their main source of information for extension work. Beyond the FCP, the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative had knowledge/information products developed from Infonet content for use within the EOA network.

The data below provides outlook on access and use of Infonet during 2019

323,000 Users

globally with about



Other African countries among the top ten with the most users are



The Non-African countries among the top ten visitors to Infonet included; USA, India, Philippines, UK, and Australia in descending order.



Outreach's field staff (Alfred Amusibwa) training a farmer on organic agriculture using the Infonet repository.

Infonet's 4H Areas of Focus

Plant Health 01



Plant Health section of the database comprises of information about 40 different crops with their geographic distribution, agronomic aspects, how to manage pests and diseases naturally and other useful information.

Human Health 02



Human Health section is rich with information on human nutrition for different demographics and health conditions. It also covers zoonotic diseases and good health practices.

Environmental Health 03



Environmental Health section covers information on different agro-ecological zones, soil and water management, agroforestry, management and benefits of different tree species and sustainable and organic agriculture.

Animal Health 04



Animal Health section contains information on animal husbandry and welfare, animal species and commercial insects, disease management, fodder production and animal products.

Challenges

The main challenge experienced in the year was lack of resources to enable Infonet to carry out all its planned activities. There was an awareness of the need to have a formidable IT team in place to support Infonet's technical development, dissemination of the information as well as support and maintenance. It takes a lot of time and effort to develop content, format and upload it. The absence of an effective functioning monitoring, evaluation and learning system was also recognized as an important gap for Infonet. These challenges have implications to the quality of service delivery, reporting, the capturing of evidence of impact and the opportunities for learning.

Looking forward

There is need for a stronger **IT Development** - to move to a new backend and have a fully responsive online version that runs well on all smartphones and other devices with offline versions. **Research and Content Development** - the Infonet database needs updates. Information on the database needs to be regularly updated to respond to current and emerging issues otherwise it gets outdated. This is powered by regular research and creating relevant content. **Information Dissemination** - information dissemination functions to make information and knowledge more accessible to different users. This would involve clear targeting of audiences for particular purposes and appropriate packaging of information and choice of dissemination pathways.

e) Mkulima Mbunifu

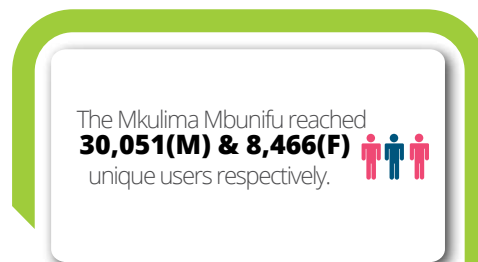
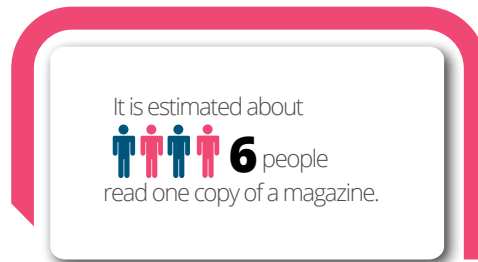
Mkulima Mbunifu (MkM) is a monthly magazine and a powerful information tool for organic farming in Tanzania. It is a publication that is relevant, reliable and provides ecologically sound information appropriate for farmers in East Africa. Increased networking with actors in the organic and agroecology sector has led to growing knowledge and interest on Mkulima Mbunifu magazine. The magazine is now used widely among stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, which has strengthened collaboration with MkM within the districts as a source of information for its agricultural extension personnel.

One hundred and eighty (180,000) thousands (15,000 copies monthly) of magazine were produced and distributed. The recipients are mainly farmers across different regions of Tanzania. Articles carried a range of topics covering all the 4H (human, environmental, animal and plant health), themes and general information as follows: as follows: 14 on plant health; 11 on animal health and 11 on general information. The magazine is focused on production as a way of enabling farmers to produce more while adopting agroecological practices. Other topics covered were; farmer stories (3), information on value addition and marketing (2). These topics were important in encouraging farmer-to-farmer learning and improving farmer incomes.

Website and social media networks are important complementary distribution channels for MkM magazine. The magazine is available for download and sharing on Mkulima Mbunifu website (www.mkulimambunifu.org); on Infonet-Biovision portal (www.infonet-biovision.org/MkM_Magazine_Issue) and on social media platforms like Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mkulimambunifu>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/mkulimambunifu>).



Mkulima Mbunifu beneficiaries with copies of the MkM magazine



Highlights of Mkulima Mbunifu achievements

Nane Nane Agricultural Show, 1-10 August 2019

MkM took part in the 2019 Nane-Nane Agricultural Show, where its stand was the go-to-stand on matters sustainable agriculture, with particular focus on organic farming. The MkM stand hosted two organic farmers who shared their experiences and provided other farmers with practical information on the different technologies and practices they use in their farms. In addition, MkM displayed past editions of the magazine and printed booklets on selected value chains. During the event, 2,329 farmers (1,040 male and 1,299 female) visited the MkM stand.

Meru Farmers Show, 28-30 November 2019

MkM also participated in a 3-day farmers show in Meru Region organized by the French International Cooperation for Agricultural Development (FERT), a Mkulima Mbunifu partner. Farmers from different parts of the district displayed their farming products and innovations. The MkM stand was visited by 342 farmers, and 107 registered to receive the MkM magazine. During the event MkM team had consultations with Tanzania Pesticide Research Institute (TPRI) on the possibility for collaboration with its Department for biological control solutions of pests. Thereafter three articles featured in MkM through their contribution.

To make sure MkM content is based on sound science and validated farmer practices, and that the produced magazines reach farmers on time, MkM develops strong content and distribution channel partnerships with recognized organizations in Tanzania. In 2019, the team joined up with 19 organizations to support the production of MkM through content contribution. Among the new collaborations on content development were PELUM Tanzania, CANRE and Tanzania Pesticide Research Institute.

THE ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE (EOA-I) FOR AFRICA

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative for Africa arose from efforts to support and implement the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision on Organic Farming passed during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011, EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII).

The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa with the following set out specific outcomes;

01

EOA related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors are capacitated to translate it into practices and application.

02

Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services.

03

A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved.

04

Strengthen inclusive stakeholder engagement in organic commodities value chain development by developing national, regional and continental multi-stakeholder platforms to advocate for changes in public policy, plans and practices.

BvAT plays a significant role in the development of the EOA Initiative in the African continent. This is through three main roles: a) being the Secretariat to the AU-led Continental Steering Committee (CSC), b) as the Executing Agency to the grant provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and c) as an implementing partner for some activities in East Africa with support from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). The African Union Commission' Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture provides oversight through the CSC

Overall, the EOA-I projects under BvAT's mandate are:

- **Phase II: May 2019 - April 2023 with SDC Grant**
 - Executing Agency
 - CSC Secretariat
- **Phase II: 2017-2020 with SSNC Grant**
 - Information and Communication Pillar for Kenya
 - Policy and Programmes Development Pillar for Kenya
 - Collaborative Research Component in Kenya
 - Agroforestry Project: 2018-2019
 - Global Advocacy Project (GAP): 2017-2020
- **Farmer Video Production with support from Turing Foundation**
Production of Farmer Videos in Kenya, Benin and Mali for Enhancement of Agricultural Advisory and Extension Services.
- **Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) Project: 2019-2023 under GIZ/ BMZ funding.**

Partners and Collaborators

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); The African Organic Network (AfrONet); PELUM Kenya; PELUM Uganda; Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN); Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movements (ROAM); Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM); The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN); Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB); Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP); Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD); National Council for Concertation and Rural Cooperation(CNCR).

EXECUTING AGENCY MILESTONES UNDER SDC FUNDING

OVERVIEW OF REACH IN NUMBERS IN PHASE I

Entry Point	Number of stakeholders
Training on various aspects of EOA	100,000
Information and education materials (IEC) covering various topics and thematic areas	500,000
Extension support services	4,000
Social media	140,000
Conference/forums	7,000
Research papers/books	3,000
Curricula development	2,100
Public gathering (Barazas)	4,000
Exchange visits	6,240
Training of Trainers (TOT)	300
Email subscribers	3,000

The year 2019 marked the end of Phase I of the EOA Initiative project and started the next phase with funding from the SDC that started in 2014. Phase I involved 8 countries with 4 in eastern Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia) and 4 in west Africa (Mali, Senegal, Benin and Nigeria) under the coordination of BvAT. Phase II of the project commenced in May 2019 for another 4-year period ending in April 2023 and involves 9 implementing partner countries with Rwanda as the additional 9th country.

Phase I Milestones (2014-2019)

1) Mainstreaming EOA into national policies, programmes and plans:

There was notable progress in partner activities contributing to the overall goal of the initiative in mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture (EOA) into national policies, programmes and plans. Some countries in particular Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Ethiopia made substantive strides towards drawing EOA to the attention of policy makers through supporting the formulation of policy drafts. By end of 2018, policy progress was quite advanced and in 2019, Uganda government passed the National Organic Agriculture Policy paving way for its implementation, a process spearheaded by NOGAMU the then CLO of EOA-I in Uganda.

2) Mainstreaming of EOA in formal learning institutions at the University:

Motivating milestones have been made in the mainstreaming of EOA in formal learning institutions at the University level in various countries in Ethiopia (Mekelle University), Uganda (Uganda Martyrs University), Tanzania (Sokoine University) and in Senegal (Cheikh Anta Diop University) through the introduction of EOA/ Organic/Agroecology curricula.

3) Establishment of research and success stories databases:

Databases of the initiative have been established by partners making research findings and EOA knowledge easily accessible and available. The success stories are accessible on the EOA website <https://eoai-africa.org/>. Further, partners have produced Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials documenting EOA work and disseminated it widely.

4) Uptake of EOA practices:

Phase I marked improved uptake by Country Agriculture Sector Development Programmes and inclusion of the various sustainable land management practices covering conservation and soil fertility improvement into their strategies. Partner activities also led to improvement in knowledge and application of EOA practices and technologies, as well as positive attitude towards EOA. The changes have been noted between 2013 and 2017 as revealed by the external evaluation report.

5) Improved organic certification and standards:

Six out of the eight participating countries (75%, excluding Mali and Senegal), implemented organic certification standards, processes and procedures, and in all cases, there were producers who had been certified either in groups or as individuals.

6) EOA-I governance and coordination platforms:

The various EOA structures for governance and implementation have been set up. These include the AU-Chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC), AfrONet, Regional Steering Committees (RSC) (East, West and South Africa), National Steering Committees (NSC) and implementing organizations [Executing Agencies, the Country Lead Organizations-CLOs and Pillar Implementing Partners-PIPs]. An evaluation of these structures and organizations has been done and weaknesses identified and strategies for revamping them identified. Thus, the CSC and all the other structures will be expected to undergo fundamental institutional strengthening to fully function as expected.

7) Multi-stakeholder engagement:

The EOA initiative reached out and engaged with various stakeholders where at least 21,000 farmers were linked to markets; at least 100,000 trained on ecological organic practices and at least 1,700 linked to trade fairs and exchange visits, at least 500 policy makers reached through awareness creation, at least 2,100 students reached through EOA curricula, as well as extension officers, marketers among others. They were reached through various methods including training, exchange forums, electronic and print media, social media, and curriculum.

8) Changes in desired outcomes – production, income, food security and farmers' welfare:

There has been improvement along all the four impact areas in Phase 1 - production, income, food security and improved producers' welfare. Production was reported through external evaluation to have increased by 83%, and percentage unit productivity per area increased by on average 37%. In the area of income generation, about 58% of the organic producers reported to have registered more than 10% increase in their incomes while 73% reported that their quality of life had improved.

Challenges

In spite of encouraging progress made in 2019, the implementation period faced various challenges. Such included weak partner organizational structures especially in financial and management controls. Risks with some Pillar Implementing Partners like the case of ASPAB in Senegal that subjected the project to poor financial management and controls. The case of NOGAMU the Country Lead Organization (CLO) for Uganda is yet to refund project funds after suspension due to poor accountability of donor funds. Challenges were also experienced in Ethiopia where ISD the CLO continued to pursue funds misappropriated by PANOS Ethiopia. PANOS Ethiopia was responsible for Pillar 2 and closed down with project funds in 2016.

Participants attending EOA-I Phase II Inception workshop in Senegal, West Africa



EOA-I CONTINENTAL SECRETARIAT MILESTONES

Memorandum of Understanding between the AUC and BvAT

The endorsement of the CSC Secretariat as a support agency for the African Union Commission (AUC) in implementing the decision on Organic Agriculture and BvAT as the host of the Secretariat has necessitated the process of formalization and institutionalization of the CSC Secretariat within the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA). This collaboration and partnership are being formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BvAT and the AUC. In 2019, BvAT and AU started the process of drafting the MOU and this is now within the AU legal department for review and eventual signing by the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and BvAT representatives.

The Secretariat continued to support the meetings of the EOA-I Continental Steering Committee. The 12th CSC meetings in Zanzibar in May and the 13th CSC meetings in Accra, Ghana, were successfully held. The Secretariat maintained a good working relationship with the African Union Commission through the CSC Chair, Dr. Simplicie Nouala Fonkou. Among the key institutional responsibilities undertaken by the Secretariat was support to the drafting of strategy paper for revamping of EOA-I mainstreaming structures following an external review.

The AUC has accepted to host the Continental Digital Knowledge Platform of the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) in Africa in collaboration with GIZ and the EOA-I Secretariat. This move will further enrich and strengthen AUC involvement within the EOA-Initiative.

EOA INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY SSNC

With SSNC support five projects are implemented in Kenya, namely:

- 1) Information and Communication Pillar of the EOA project
- 2) Policy and Programme Development Pillar of the EOA project
- 3) Collaborative Research Component with partners
- 4) Agroforestry project in collaboration with Pelum Kenya
- 5) Global Advocacy Project (GAP)

Information and Communication Pillar of EOA project

Reach in Numbers: 800 farmers reached through trainings | 30% of farmers adopted organic practices and technologies | 30 Outreach staff received capacity building in financial literacy and participatory extension approaches.

Technologies disseminated: Zai pits | Kitchen gardens | Agroforestry | Crop diversity and rotation | Indigenous poultry production | Fertility management | Water conservation and harvesting and nutrition matters.

Methods of dissemination: Group trainings | Demonstration farms | Field days | Exhibitions | Individual farm visits | Visits to the resource centers.

A notable achievement for the year was the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification of one group, Isembe FAT group, based in Kakamega County, after 2 years process involving various activities. The group received a certificate to enable members to use the Kilimo Hai mark to identify their products as organic to the market. During the certification process, the farmers were supported to produce a manual to guide their organic farming activities.

Policy and Programme Development of the EOA project

The mandate of the pillar is to “Create a regulatory and policy framework to facilitate the emergence of regional economic spaces that spur the expansion of regional trade and cross-country investments within the context of EOA.” At local level we focus on creating awareness to policy makers to support creation of an enabling environment for farmers to practice organic farming.

Reach in Numbers: Four (4) policy makers (Ministry of Agriculture officials of Makueni County) were reached with information on EOA.

Impactful Change: A desk and office space was allocated by the Makueni County for the outreach farmer resource centre for Makueni.

Research Component pillar key milestones

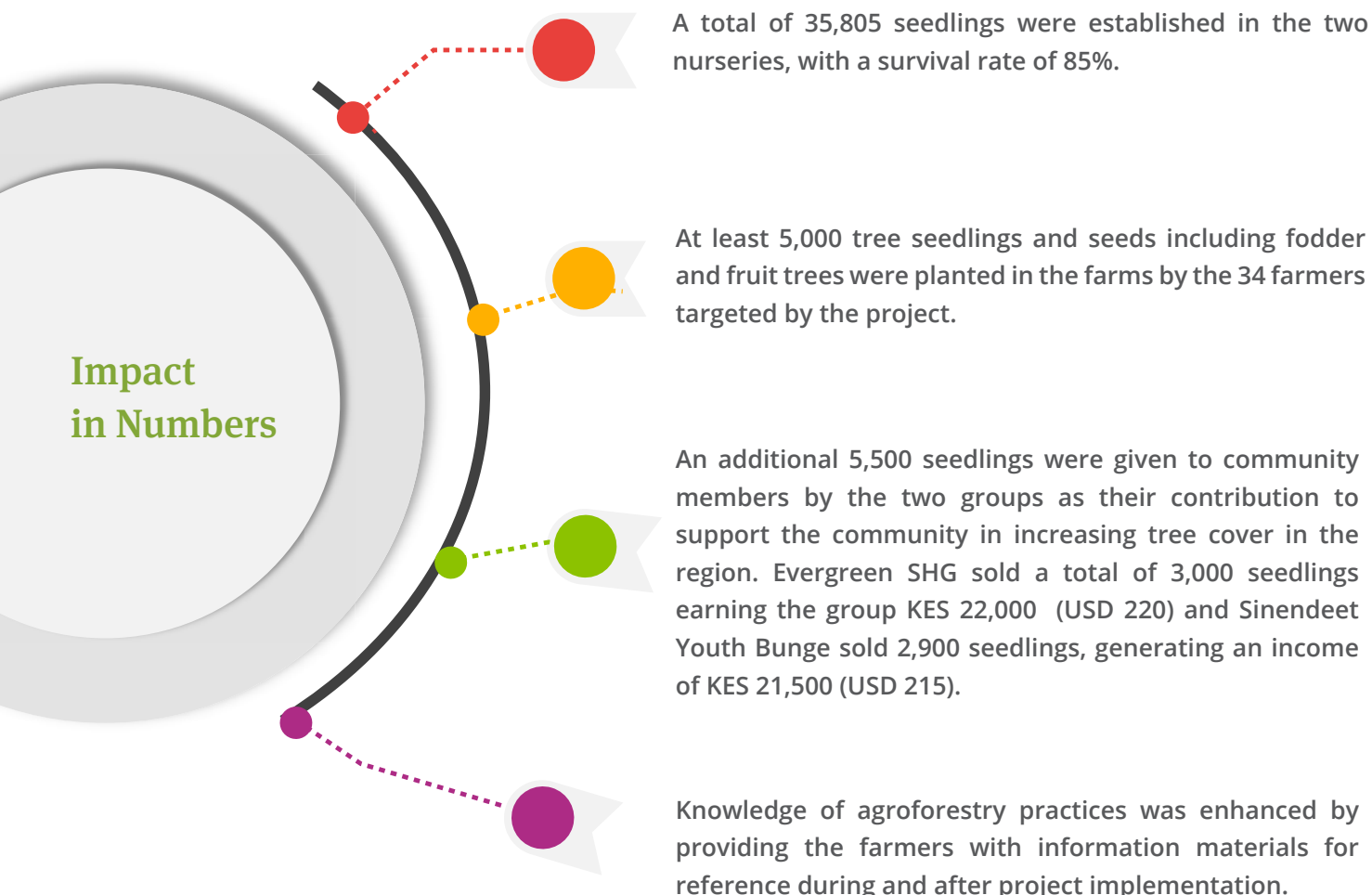
The aim is to have Ecological Organic products related knowledge along the value chain increasingly documented and actors capacitated to translate it into practices and application.

Three research projects were competitively sought for publication from students in the local public universities. The research titles of the studies selected were:

- (i) Indigenous trees and shrubs of East Mau forest ecosystem used as medicine and bee forage by the Ogiek Community, Nakuru County;
- (ii) Assessment of Perception of Smallholder Farmers' Adoption of Organic Farming Practices in Nyaribari Chache Sub - County, Kisii County, Kenya and
- (iii) Crop Residue Management for the Control of Cyst Nematodes Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*).

Agroforestry Project in Collaboration with PELUM Kenya

The goal of the project is “Improved sustainable farming practices of smallholder farms in Western Kenya through enhanced integration of agroforestry practices”. Two agroforestry tree nurseries were established in Bungoma County by Evergreen Women Group and Sinendeet Youth Bunge group.



The information materials disseminated

- An Agroforestry Guide for field practitioners.
- Growing *Grevillea robusta* in Kenya: Management and challenges.
- Fruit trees farming manual - Hass avocado farming.
- Fruit trees farming manual – Pawpaw farming.
- Tree seeds.
- Relevant editions of The Organic Farmer (TOF) magazine.

Global Advocacy Project (GAP)

- The GAP (2017 – 2020) is part of the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative supported by SSNC and implemented by BvAT and PELUM Kenya. The overall aim of the project is to contribute to increased food security, resilient production systems and better incomes for small (and medium) scale farmers in Africa while safeguarding the environment for the future.
- The project aims to stimulate and strengthen partner organizations to catalyze change with respect to greater policy attention to EOA programs and investments in order to enable the establishment of relevant legislation and regulations and to allocate resources to build capabilities in various key areas including extension, education, market development, entrepreneurship, applied research, information sharing and communication. The specific goal of the project is to create awareness and better understanding among policymakers, practitioners, technocrats and development partners of EOA and stimulate discussion and debate among them about EOA and its benefits to human, animal, plant and environmental health.

Activities

- Undertaken a survey on policy and advocacy gaps in Eastern Africa (2019).
- Held an advocacy training workshop in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia (2018-2020)- PELUM Kenya, PELUM Uganda & Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD).
- Held an AU summit side event to present findings of the policy study (2019) and presented the same to CSC meeting in Cameroon.
- Organized discussions around BIOFACH Africa 2020 to stimulate trade in organic agriculture in Africa.
- Hosted a Regional Agroecology symposium in Kenya (2019) – to provide lessons for scaling up country efforts. This involved key speakers from FAO, AU, IFOAM, etc.
- Presented survey results in a seminar organized by IFOAM at BIOFACH Germany 2019/2020.
- Produced and disseminated publicity materials, hold radio talk shows and TV talk shows across Eastern Africa.

Achievements

The results of the eastern Africa study on agricultural policy and legislation disseminated to 30 key stakeholders in the EOA sector through a validation workshop where action plans for Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda were developed.

The 1st International Conference on Agroecology Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems in Africa was held in Nairobi from 18th to 21st June 2019 with seed support from SSNC. Conference [website: https://www.agroecologyconference.eoai-africa.org/](https://www.agroecologyconference.eoai-africa.org/).

- Communique of the 1st International Conference produced.
- Three TV interviews and talk shows were held on main media TV stations of Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Kenya Television Network (KTN) and Metropol TV reaching 3 million listeners.
- Adverts ran both in Daily Nation and the Eastern Africa Standard newspapers creating awareness about the conference.
- Awareness done through informercials that were run on KTN station for 7 days.
- A media launch: Agroecology Conference Media report, launch concept note and press release statement were produced.

The media launch led to the production of a video documentary of Sylvia Kuriá's organic farm in Limuru. The video can be accessed at: <https://www.farmers.co.ke/video/2000174395/sylvia-kuria-talking-organic-farming-and-soil-testing-this-week-in-agriculture-part-2>.



1st International Agroecology Conference in Africa



EOA-I farmers field day in Kakamega

FARMER VIDEO PROJECT UNDER TURING FOUNDATION

Farmer videos trigger conversational exchange among farmers

The use of farmer training videos as an agricultural extension tool is increasingly becoming vital as it combines both audio and visual technology, and is suitable for the spread of information, knowledge and skills to rural communities

Since 2015 when Access Agriculture helped set up a video unit within the TOF Radio project, the unit continues to grow exponentially with the ever increasing demand for farmer videos. TOF Radio video unit has been undertaking farmer training video production projects for partners such as ICIPE, Access Agriculture, SNV Kenya, PAFID, IITA, Turing foundation in Kenya and beyond to develop videos for dissemination of technology and appropriate innovations to bring about desired change among rural farming communities.

The year 2019 was a very busy period for the video unit which saw TOF Radio get into partnerships with Turing Foundation to produce 10 videos for Kenya, Benin and Mali to help document best practices of Ecological Organic Agriculture technologies and innovations contributing to biodiversity conservation. TOF Radio also partnered with PAFID to produce videos showing step by step how to practise conservation agriculture. It is also during this year that the video unit produced three videos addressing the perennial challenge of managing post harvest losses in mangos commissioned by Access Agriculture and Farm Radio International.

Target:
10 farmer training videos
under development



Isembe women group in Kakamega showcase Ecological Organic Agriculture farming practices in their demonstration farm

KNOWLEDGE CENTER FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (KCOA) IN EASTERN AFRICA

Partners for the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) Project in Eastern Africa started its implementation in August 2019. The project is in its first phase of covering for a period of 2 years (August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2021), and it is aligned to the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I). It is part of the initiative by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Africa through its executing agency GIZ. BvAT is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa with co-hosting arrangement with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda.

The Continental Digital Knowledge Platform is part of the KCOA project coordinated by the GIZ. The overall objective of the project is to introduce knowledge hubs successfully as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture with actors in the regions of West, East, North and Southern Africa. For Eastern Africa, the overall goal of the project is to ensure that Ecological Organic Agriculture is integrated into the various countries' agricultural systems.

Focus countries: Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania in the first phase of the two years (August 2019-July 2021).

Implementing Partners: TOAM, PELUM Kenya, ROAM

and PELUM Uganda and their associate partners.

Regional and International Partners: the African Union Commission (AUC), IFOAM Organics International, FIBL, Access Agriculture and Icipe.

Key Milestones for 2019

The project is based on three main action fields namely:

1) Collecting / preparing of knowledge in organic agriculture: Validated technical and methodological knowledge for the promotion of organic agriculture, including processing, is prepared for the context of the participating countries and stakeholder groups.

2) Dissemination of knowledge to many users: Validated knowledge, strategies and good practices in the field of organic agriculture, adapted to the contexts of the countries participating in the regional knowledge hubs, are disseminated to various target user groups.

3) Networking within agricultural value chains: Key actors in the organic agriculture value chains of the participating countries in the three regions are networked in an exemplary manner for replication.

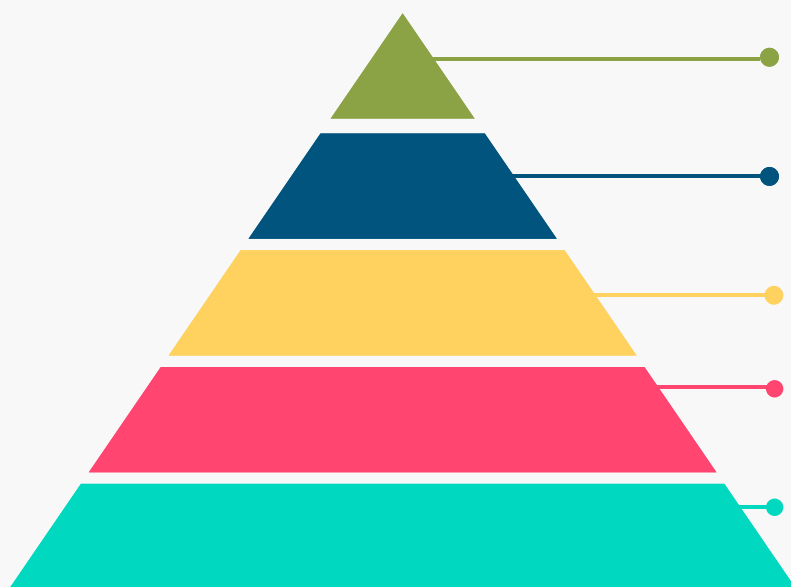
5) The KCOA baseline study also flagged off aimed at understanding the status, extent and coverage of organic agriculture in the region and the information, knowledge and training needs of the key partners and target audiences of the project.

4) The Hub office setup completed, and recruitment of teams completed in the 4 Country Implementing Partners (CIPs) of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.

3) Project staff recruited in August 2019; Project Manager, Project Accountant and M&E officer.

2) Project Inception meeting held from 28th - 30th August 2019.

1) Agreement between BvAT and GIZ signed on 1st of August 2019.



BIOVISION/ICIPE/BvAT PUSH-PULL IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (PP4SSA)

This project was implemented in partnership with Icipe's Technology Transfer Unit (TTU). An impressive publication, Innovative Push-Pull Technology: a proven method for control of striga weeds, stemborers and Fall army worm and soil fertility improvement, featured in the Science Africa Magazine of April- August 2020 #02.

'Push-Pull' as crop management strategy

'Push-Pull technology' is a conservation agricultural method developed for integrated management of stemborers, Striga weed, soil fertility and now the Fall Armyworm. It has proven to be appropriate and economical to the resource-poor smallholder farmers in the region as it is based on locally available plants, no expensive external inputs like use of fertilizers are required, and fits well with traditional mixed cropping systems. It is disseminated mainly through demonstrations and farmer trainings.

Push-Pull Technology and Fall Armyworm

"The push-pull technology was initially designed for the control of the cereal stem borers, but now it has an added innovation for the management of the Fall armyworm. It can minimize 80 per cent destruction caused by the Fall Armyworm," explains Dr. Saliou Niassy the head of TTU. Just like in stemborer management, Desmodium offers protection by emitting substances known as semiochemicals, which repel fall armyworms. Then semiochemicals released by the border crop (Napier grass) attract the fall armyworms from the main crops.

Challenges

With the invention of the Push-pull technology as a crop management strategy, over 235,000 farmers across the region are now using the technology to improve their livelihood. According to Dr. Niassy, most farmers adopting the technology have increased their maize yield by over 100 per cent. However, just like any other novel innovation, this strategy has had its own share of challenges in being adopted by farmers within the region.

Both Dr. Saliou Niassy and Dr. David Amudavi agree that the challenges to push-pull uptake range from limited access to seeds by farmers to policy constraints that limit effective and efficient deployment of the technology in different countries within Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region.

The experts note that Desmodium is labour-intensive. To address the seed shortage, Icipe started working with various stakeholders including seed producers, distributors and regulators to support local seed production. Meanwhile, farmer-based seed multiplication projects are being established along with seed bulking plots for vegetative propagation.

Dr. Amudavi notes that the need for mandatory national performance trials for three seasons on the technology by some countries is time consuming. The performance trials require two conditions to be met before commercialization and wide promotion of a technology; to be tried on station and also on some selected farms to examine how the technology/system works under controlled conditions of research stations and on the farmers' farms respectively. "One of the biggest challenges especially in the area of scaling up the push-pull technology has been the bureaucracy in the institutions supposed to provide approvals for integration into national systems and their inhibiting regulations," points out Dr. Amudavi.

Further, the technology faced long-standing policy constraints such as regulation concerning seed supply and certification. "Seed Production requires a thorough strategy which includes assessing the demand for the technology. This demand can only be created if we continue promoting the technology and creating awareness about its multiple benefits," explains Dr. Niassy.

Lastly, land ownership has been another challenge facing farmers since the push and the pull plants in the technology are perennial, one can only practise the

push-pull technology on land they own. However, with diminishing land sizes, farmers have to rent additional land for cultivation which the landlords often repossess mid-way the contract once their land becomes productive. Land intensification systems in some countries prohibit farmers from adopting available desired technologies.

Conclusion

The Push-pull technology is one technology that explicitly demonstrates the concept of 'from science to impact'. The technology provides a good illustration of the need to base new agricultural technologies on sound science to address the many challenges facing African farmers to improve their farm productivity.



BvAT OUTLOOK, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

i

Strategic outlook

BvAT is positioning to develop a solid strategy for its future outlook. The strategy is to consider prioritizing deepening partnerships for increased reach, impact and sustainability. We believe that we have good ground to improve our next strategy to successfully navigate our wishes and desires towards realizing our vision. We are optimistic that working with organizational development experts, and a changed mindset within the management and governance, BvAT will become a strong organization providing leadership and coordination in agro-based initiatives in Kenya and parts of Africa to realize a healthy continent with sustainable agriculture and food systems. Most of our growth will be organic — we have been doing this successfully for the last few years and opportunities abound. We are optimistic that our programmes can grow beyond promoting production.

ii

Targeting our programmes beyond productivity

BvAT implements its programmes with a general bias towards improving smallholder farmer productivity through providing information and training geared towards adoption of agroecological practices. The opportunities to go beyond production are motivating BvAT to support farmers through a strengthened value chain approach with particular focus to consumers. BvAT views the value chain approach as strategic in invigorating the organic sector to accelerate adoption of ecological and sustainable technologies, stimulate organic enterprise development and improve incomes and healthy consumption. BvAT will take bold steps to engage with experts in agribusiness and market system development. Serving the small-scale farmers well by linking service providers and markets can solidify long-term relationships that could span several lines of businesses in the future. Expanding our work within the media space will be very key.

iii

Strengthening our engagement with the media

Most farmers reached by BvAT's projects rely on rainfed agriculture. Extreme weather events such as floods and unusually long dry spells, effects of climate change, took a toll on the farms' productivity. The onset of the long rains season (March, April and May) came late and was below average. Heavy rainfall (400 percent of the average) in most parts of the country was experienced during the short rainfall season (October, November and December) causing widespread flooding across the country, landslides and destruction of road and

communication infrastructure. Over 130 deaths were reported. In addition, the floods displaced 17,000 households, and affected approximately 330,000 people. Agriculture sector bore the brunt of the impact, particularly the smallholder farmers whose livelihoods were disrupted and destroyed. Farmers have been advised to plant drought tolerant crops, enhance water harvesting and embrace irrigation. BvAT is also pursuing stronger collaboration with Kenya Meteorological Department for enhanced weather alerts for improved preparedness and planning.

Expanding our development partner base

BvAT has had excellent relationship with its current four main donors, Biovision Foundation for FCP, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) for EOA-I and GIZ for KCOA project. With increased responsibilities on BvAT and demand for its services by farmers and partners in Kenya and other African countries, the need for more resources is in no doubt. We have a further need for ensuring efficient delivery of BvAT's services and tracking the progress and impact generated. BvAT will continue to be strategic in forging alliances with other development partners to support implementation of programmes relevant to its mandate and to ensure efficient delivery of services and having frameworks in place of showing its achievements.

Confronting emerging challenges

Most of our African farmers are at the crossroads of traditional and emerging challenges ranging from climate unpredictability leading to floods and droughts, pest attacks (e.g. Fall Armyworm, stemborers, locusts), rising concerns about postharvest losses and food safety, limited access to farm inputs and limited access to extension services. The challenges call for enhancing level of preparedness by the farmers. BvAT intends to scale-up information and knowledge on agricultural technologies and provide solutions that build resilience and secure food sovereignty. Specifically, BvAT aspires to generate sustainable value for its farmers, consumers of farmers' products and others involved in various agricultural value chains within the society as a whole. In doing so, BvAT's focus in agriculture and food systems will be ensuring safety, efficiency and environmental sustainability. However, in the times of COVID-19 pandemic adding to the known challenges, BvAT is even under much pressure to make agriculture and food systems more sustainable, resilient and rewarding.

BvAT will ensure that all organizational and project units have implemented the necessary measures to guarantee that its commitments to stakeholders including development partners are met with the usual reliability in 2020 and beyond.



2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	2019 USD	2018 USD
Income		
Restricted income		
Grant income	2,528,720	2,972,380
Interest income	503	2,413
Unrestricted income		
Overhead recoveries & Other incomes	359,101	149,683
Total income	2,888,324	3,124,476
Expenditure		
Research and project activities	1,302,052	1,591,404
Personnel expenses	955,175	946,456
Travel cost	105,532	140,916
Project administration costs	122,901	112,638
General expenses	360,543	279,767
Audit & consultancy	55,710	52,965
Finance cost	3,471	4,358
Total expenditure	2,905,384	3,128,504
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(17,060)	(4,028)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2019 USD	2018 USD
Non-current assets		
Property and Equipment	8,324	7,537
Total non-current assets	8,324	7,537
Current assets		
Receivables from implementing partners	312,314	266,883
Receivable from Biovision Foundation	80,804	198,171
Other receivables and Prepayments	67,396	28,436
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,340,620</u>	<u>358,550</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,801,134</u>	<u>852,040</u>
Total assets	<u>1,809,458</u>	<u>859,577</u>
Fund balance		
Fund reserves	230,296	247,356
Current liabilities		
Payables	153,079	119,508
Deferred income	1,404,729	481,057
Fundraising	21,354	11,656
Total liabilities	<u>1,809,458</u>	<u>859,577</u>

These financial statements are extracts from the books of Biovision Africa Trust as audited by Ernst and Young Certified Public Accountants Kenya. We received unqualified opinion on the financial statements. The complete set of audited financial statement can be provided upon request through info@biovisionafrica.org.

Donor Funding for the Year 2019 and Year 2018

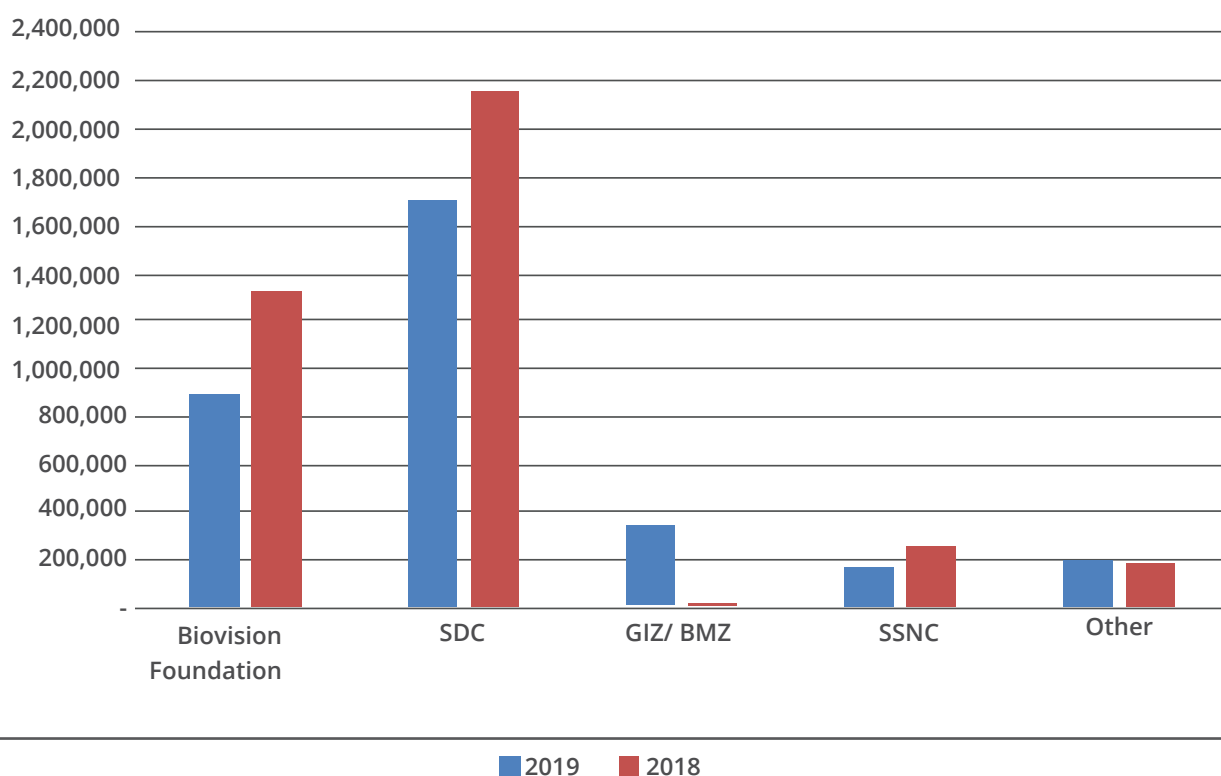


Figure 1: The bar chart above demonstrates the funding received in 2018 and 2019. The detailed funding breakdown is provided below.

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST –DONOR FUNDING FOR 2018 AND 2019

DONOR	Year 2019 US\$	Percentage	Year 2018 US\$	Percentage
Biovision Foundation	890,546	27.02	1,317,746	34.61
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	1,708,283	51.83	2,156,991	56.65
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)	165,852	5.03	153,169	4.02
GIZ/BMZ	335,044	10.17	-	-
Others	196,000	5.95	179,522	4.72
Total expenditure	3,295,725	100	3,807,428	100

EXPENDITURE COMPARISON BETWEEN YEAR 2019 AND YEAR 2018

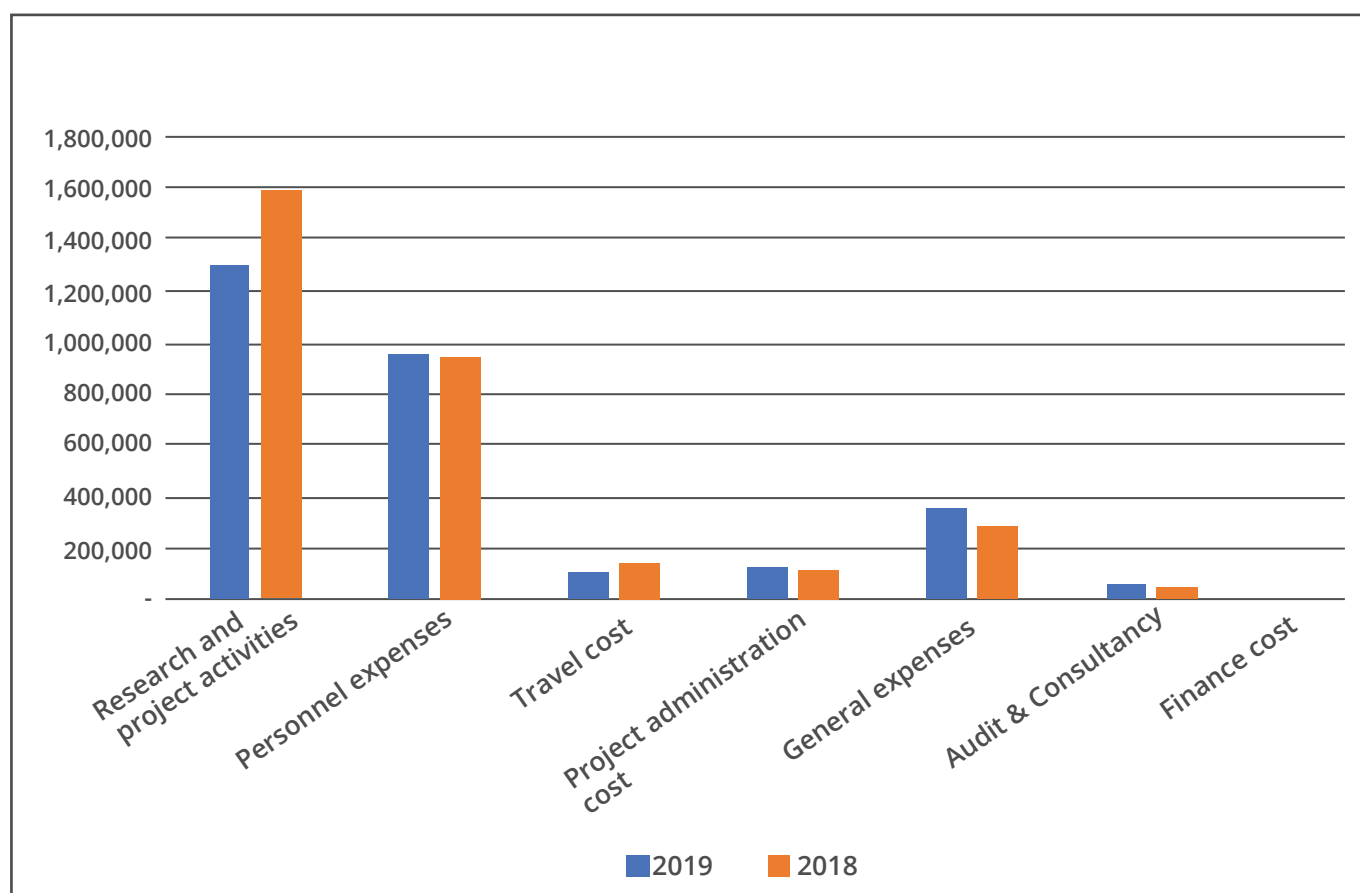


Figure 2: The bar graph above demonstrates the expenditure movement between 2019 and 2018. The expenditures are tabulated below.

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST EXPENDITURES FOR YEARS 2019 AND 2018

Expenditure	Year 2019 US\$	Percentage	Year 2018 US\$	Percentage
Research and project activities	1,302,052	44.82	1,591,404	50.87
Personnel expenses	955,175	32.88	946,456	30.25
Travel cost	105,532	3.63	140,916	4.50
Project administration costs	122,901	4.23	112,638	3.6
General expenses	360,543	12.41	279,767	8.95
Audit & consultancy	55,710	1.92	52,965	1.69
Finance cost	3,471	0.11	4,358	0.14
Total expenditure	2,905,384	100	3,128,504	100







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