

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Biovision
Africa
Trust



*Sustainably creating impact for all,
for a food secure Africa*

BvAT would like to appreciate the editorial team of Dr. David Amudavi, Ms. Venancia Wambua, Ms Caroline Mwendwa, Mr Hudson Shiraku, and Mr. Joseph Nyamesegere.



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARSO	African Regional Organisation for Standardisation
ASBPP	African Seed and Biotechnology Programme Platform
ASTGS	Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy
BMZ	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
BVF	Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CLO	Country Lead Organization
COVID – 19	Coronavirus disease
CSC	Continental Steering Committee
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECHO	ECHO Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EOA-I	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
ESA	Ecological Sustainable Agriculture
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
FCP	Farmer Communication Programme
FFA	Farmer Field Assistant
FFO	Farmer Field Officer
FiBL	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
Icipe	International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
KALRO	Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization
KBC	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation
KCOA	Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa
KHEA	Knowledge Hub for Eastern Africa
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries
MOALFC	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives
MT	Master Trainers
NOAP	National Organic Agriculture Policy
NOGAMU	National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda
ROAM	Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
RECs	Regional Economic Committees
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
SAT	Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SFA	Smart Farmer Africa
SGL	Standard Group Limited
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
TBC	Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation
ToToF	Training of Teams of Facilitators
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNFSS	UN Food Systems Summit

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our gratitude to our development and strategic partners, especially the Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development (BVF) of Switzerland for supporting the Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) in East Africa; the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) for supporting the African Union-led Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative and its Continental Steering Committee's Secretariat; and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for supporting our Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa as part of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project through German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Our Board of Trustees has been as usual very valuable in providing guidance, support, and advice during implementation of our programmes throughout the year. We acknowledge the time and energy the Board members put in and the commitment they showed to the cause of the organization.

We can't achieve much without our implementing partners. We are grateful to our over thirty implementing partners, both in the public and private sector for their co-operation and support in the implementation of various programme and project activities from local level to international level. You have been instrumental in capacity building and the dissemination of information on ecological sustainable agriculture to smallholder farmers and other stakeholders.

We would like to recognise the invaluable contribution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives in Kenya. The support provided by the counties in the 11 counties where we have farmer resource centres has been invaluable. We are also indebted to other agriculture sector ministries

at various levels for giving BvAT the enabling environment to carry out its activities around the continent.

Special thanks also go to our media partners, and particularly the Standard Group Limited, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, Emuria Community Radio station in Kenya and Farm Radio International, Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC), Radio Safina and FADEKO Community Radio in Tanzania who have contributed immensely to expanding the reach of our information products across Kenya and beyond.

We recognise research institutions such as the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), FiBL with which we enjoy a long-standing partnership, universities and other private and public research organisations that have contributed to the body of organic agriculture knowledge through research.

We appreciate the farmers all over the continent with whom we work to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture not only as consumers of the knowledge we share from research institutions, but also as sources of practical knowledge gained from their extensive experience in farming.

We would also like to acknowledge with great appreciation the crucial role of all BvAT staff. Project implementation would not have been possible without your commitment, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to you.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT). It has been a year of success despite the challenges brought about by the continued effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. The world was adversely impacted and as a coping mechanism, BvAT optimized the use of technology to hold virtual meetings with implementing partners to ensure project implementation continued. In our journey of 2021 we are most grateful to our donors, implementing partners, and farmers for their unrelenting support. It is my pleasure to report that despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, we were able to implement most of our planned activities for the year.

As an organization that promotes agroecology-based innovations, technologies, and best practices within the African continent, BvAT continued to deepen its reach in the continent and specifically the 9 countries where we have over thirty partners. We are happy that our work on influencing policy has gained traction in all the nine countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, and Benin.

The year 2021 marked the beginning of our current strategic plan 2021 to 2024 which offers renewed motivation and focus on priority strategic areas for the organisation's goals and mission. The Plan was launched on 24 June 2021 in a colourful ceremony graced by senior government officials and partners from the civil society organisations (CSOs), the donors, media and research organisations including, icipe, whom BvAT have worked with very closely. The Strategic Plan identifies five strategic areas that inform and guide BvAT's work in the next four years: Dissemination and uptake of agroecology / ecological organic agriculture (AE/EOA) targeted at smallholder farmers; Value chain and market development targeted to the value chain actors; An enabling policy and institutional environment targeted largely at policymakers; Operational and financial sustainability of BvAT as a Pan African organisation; and Innovations and socioeconomics research targeting all target

groups. To track the progress of the plan, the BvAT Strategy Steering Committee (BSSC) was constituted to steer the implementation and reporting of the strategic plan.

With the conclusion of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) held September 2021, BvAT will prepare to engage with like-minded organizations to contribute to the realization of the summit outcomes. Through our agroecology-based programmes and the initiatives we are implementing, we can make our footprints felt. Climate change is a reality and we need to safeguard our biodiversity and optimally utilize our planetary resources. We need to provide relieve to families around the continent experiencing climate-related challenges such as food insecurity, droughts, famine, pests and diseases, and biodiversity loss by continuing to promote and build capacity for uptake and utilization of environmentally based practices, innovations, and technologies.

Lastly, I wish to thank all our donors and supporters for their continued support throughout the year. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration and having more partners support BvAT in its aspirations. I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their dedication to steering the organization and look forward to the leadership of the incoming Board Chair, Ms. Anna Akinyi Onyango. As usual I would also like to applaud the Executive Director for providing unmerited leadership to the organization. He has managed to do this with support from the senior management team and all the staff. The whole team demonstrated phenomenal commitment in undertaking their work. We owe to you the great achievements we are sharing in this report. Keep up the BvAT spirit of deepening reach and impact across our beautiful continent.

Mr. Andreas Schriber
Chair of the Board of Trustees

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2021 was the most challenging in the history of our organization and yet it was the most rewarding. So much happened that it sometimes seems hard to remember all the wonderful things that were going on before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, all was not gloom, and I am pleased to share some of the exciting achievements BvAT realized during this past year:

During the year we focused on creating partnerships for effective reach and to enhance scale of our interventions. BvAT created strong linkages with major media firms in Kenya through the TOF Radio project and in Tanzania through the Mkulima Mbunifu (MkM) project. The partnerships saw BvAT's Farmer Communication Programme expand its reach through the mainstream media.

There were other major changes in the Farmer Communication Programme. Infonet-Biovision project, the main information repository driving the Farmer Communication Programme undertook a vital feasibility study whose findings and recommendations went into shaping future developments of the platform to transform it to have more user-friendly functionalities. The Outreach project underwent a major restructuring of its field set up which involved recruitment of new staff to enhance the capacity of the team. The process of equipping the centres so that they are a one stop information hub for farmers and other stakeholders continued.

Through the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) and the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) projects, BvAT also spread its wings to more African countries creating partnerships that will see farmers in those countries benefit from our different services.

Another great highlight of this past year was developing our new 4-year strategic plan. Our Board of Trustees and management

team developed a plan that is aspirational, future-focused and will enable us to be more responsive to the challenges that impact the smallholder farmers and the communities we serve at large. A great deal of consultation was done with all our stakeholders (farmers, community members, BvAT staff and partners) to ensure that our strategic plan represents current and emerging needs and trends. With this strategic document we look forward to making milestones and sharing our progress and impact with our stakeholders.

I am more grateful than ever for the incredible team of staff members who consistently provide exceptional service, and who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, flexibility, and perseverance in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Board of Trustees has done extraordinary work in providing governance and support to BvAT, particularly this past year in developing our strategic plan even as we responded to the pandemic. I thank each and every staff member and Board member for their tireless efforts, now and always.

Finally, many thanks to you, our friends, donors, partners, and funders. You sustain the work we do and ensure that we can continue supporting the smallholder farmers who need us most. We hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and well, thereby invigorating our long-standing relationships and allowing us to continuously foster our common vision to further develop Biovision Africa Trust as a world class non-governmental organization.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. David Amudavi

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mr. Andreas Schriber
Board Chair and Founding Trustee



Prof. Christian Borgemeister
Trustee



Ms. Anne Onyango
Trustee



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



Dr. David Amudavi
Executive Director, Ex-officio member



Prof. Judy Wakhungu
Trustee Emerita

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Governance at BvAT is at two levels:

- The Board of Trustees (BoT) composed of 5 trustees and the Executive Director as Ex-officio member and headed by the Chair. It is responsible for the governance of the organization.
- The Senior Management Team (SMT), composed of heads of programmes and departments and headed by the Executive Director, who reports to the Chair of the BoT. It is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organisation.

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST STAFF



Dr. David Amudavi (PhD)
Executive Director



Fredrick Ochieng
FCP Coordinator



Amos Odhiambo
Human Resource & Administration Manager



Alex Mutungi
EOA Continental Secretariat Coordinator



Pauline Mundia
Project Manager, FCP Outreach



Venancia Wambua
Project Manager, EOA Initiative



Robertson Nyikuli
Finance Manager



Tabitha Njeri Kinuthia
Project Officer, FCP Outreach



Francis Nsanga
Project Manager, KCOA
PELUM UGANDA



Erica Rugabandana
Project Manager, Mkulima Mbunifu (MkM)
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TANZANIA (SAT)



Margaret Arwari
Market Development & Networking Officer



Musdalafa Okello Lyaga
Project Officer, TOF Radio



Caroline Mwendwa
Project Officer, TOF Magazine



Charles Kimani
Farmer Feedback Officer, TOF Radio



Hudson Shiraku
Regional Knowledge Manager, KCOA



Obed Ateka
Project Accountant, KCOA



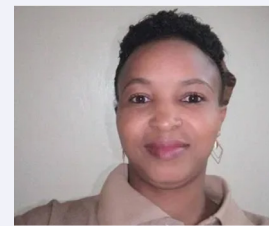
Lucy Wandia Macharia
Administration and HR Assistant



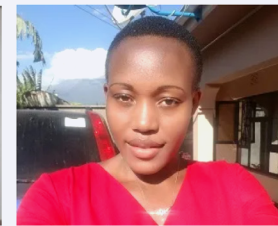
Geoffrey Lang'at
Accountant



Pamela Magino
Communications Officer KCOA-KHEA



Gabriela John Moshi
Administrator/Accountant, Mkulima Mbunifu



Flora Laanyuni
Assistant Editor, Mkulima Mbunifu



Charei Munene
Infonet Content Manager



Joseph Nyamesegere
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

FIELD OFFICERS

NAME	FARMER RESOURCE CENTRE	COUNTY
William Buluma	Singi CBO	Busia
Pamela Otieno	KALRO Kakamega	Kakamega
Mr. Michael Wangalwa	Singi CBO	Busia
Caleb Musilwa	Singi CBO	Busia
Francis Maina	Gilgil Farmer Resource Centre	Gilgil
Peter Murage	Kagio Farmer Resource Centre	Kirinyaga
Ms. Irene Wasike	Kamukuywa Farmer Resource Centre	Bungoma
Anthony Nadunga	Kamukuywa Farmer Resource Centre	Bungoma
Veronicah Wamiti	Murungaru Farmer Resource Centre	Nyandarua
Joseph Mwaura	Kagio Farmer Resource Centre	Kirinyaga
Nelly Wambui Kamau	Kagio Farmer Resource Centre	Kirinyaga
John Mutisya	KALRO Katumani	Machakos
Anthony Musili	KALRO Katumani	Machakos
Margaret Kioko	KALRO Katumani	Machakos
Ruth Mutisya	KALRO Katumani	Machakos
Joseph Mbithi	Mukuyuni Farmer Resource Centre	Makueni
Sarah Karanja	Maragua Farmer Resource Centre	Murang'a
Karanja Irungu	Mukuyuni Farmer Resource Centre	Makueni
Naomi Wangari	Murungaru Farmer Resource Centre	Nyandarua
Magdalene Wangeci	Maragua Farmer Resource Centre	Murang'a
Eliud Biwott	KALRO Kakamega	Kakamega
Elsa Oluoch	Ndeiya Farmer Resource Centre	Kiambu
Anthony Mukhongo	Kisii Farmer Resource Centre	Kisii

BvAT STAFF

During the year 2021, BvAT had a total of 44 staff, 17 staff based in the Nairobi office, 24 staff spread out in 13 resource centres in 11 out of the 47 counties in Kenya, 3 staff based in our Arusha Office, Tanzania, and 1 staff based in Kampala, Uganda.

Additionally, 8 interns from various universities and colleges benefitted from the excellent experience and exposure provided by BvAT to their 2 – 3 months industrial attachment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Coming into the year 2021, Biovision Africa Trust had already established mechanisms to successfully continue project implementation amid the COVID-19 pandemic that had hit the country and the world early in the year 2020. The programs executed activities with utmost innovativeness, exhibiting commendable resilience in the face of crisis.

As the organization geared up to deepen its impact and widen its reach, through a well-planned approach to systematic institutional operations and programs implementation, it launched the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan in the month of June. The new Strategic Plan sharply spells out areas of focus with clearly defined objectives and outcomes. It also provides a clear roadmap through which these are to be achieved. A committee to keep track of the progress towards these objectives was constituted and holds quarterly review meetings.



During the reporting period, mechanisms to ensure a systemic monitoring and evaluation process for all programs were established to ensure progress towards each organizational goal according to the SP is accurately captured and recorded.

Programs made major leaps that have greatly contributed in propelling the organization towards its mission through establishment of strategic partnerships. One of them is the partnership between BvAT and the African Union Commission over the EOA-I. This partnership mandates the CSC Secretariat hosted by BvAT to run EOA Secretariat activities on behalf of the AUC. Another key partnership established in this period is between BvAT and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO). This partnership seeks to develop the harmonization of EOA standards in Africa. In the same effort to widen reach through partnerships, the FCP programme has leveraged collaboration with select community radio stations, targeting small holder farmers with radio programs recorded in the respective vernacular languages.

As a champion of safe food production, BvAT actively participated in the World Food Safety Day 2021 themed 'Safe Food Now for a Healthy Tomorrow' through media coverage, especially through the KCOA project. Overall, the organization intensified activities in the digital space through the engagement of communication personnel and this significantly increased our reach especially among the youth in agriculture.




ABOUT BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST (BvAT)

Vision 	Mission 	Overall goal 
<p>A food secure African continent with healthy people living in a healthy environment.</p>	<p>To alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Africa through disseminating relevant information and building the capacity of farmers and partners for the ecological transformation of African agriculture and food systems.</p>	<p>To sustainably improve the health and prosperity of people in Africa while conserving the environment with agroecology and ecological organic agriculture as a basis for all life.</p>


Core values

 **Environmental stewardship**

 **Accountability and transparency**

 **Gender inclusivity and Non-discrimination**

 **Efficiency and effectiveness**

 **Integrity**



Information & Communication

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

Research & Development



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

PRIORITY AREAS



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.

Programmes' alignment with national, regional, continental and global goals

BvAT's work through the programmes and projects it undertakes is aligned with various strategic documents that focus on increasing agricultural production and ensuring sustainable environmental resource management at national, regional and global levels. In Kenya, it is aligned with Kenya Vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda on food security. It is aligned with continental and global frameworks and partnerships such as the African Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17) respectively.

National



Continental

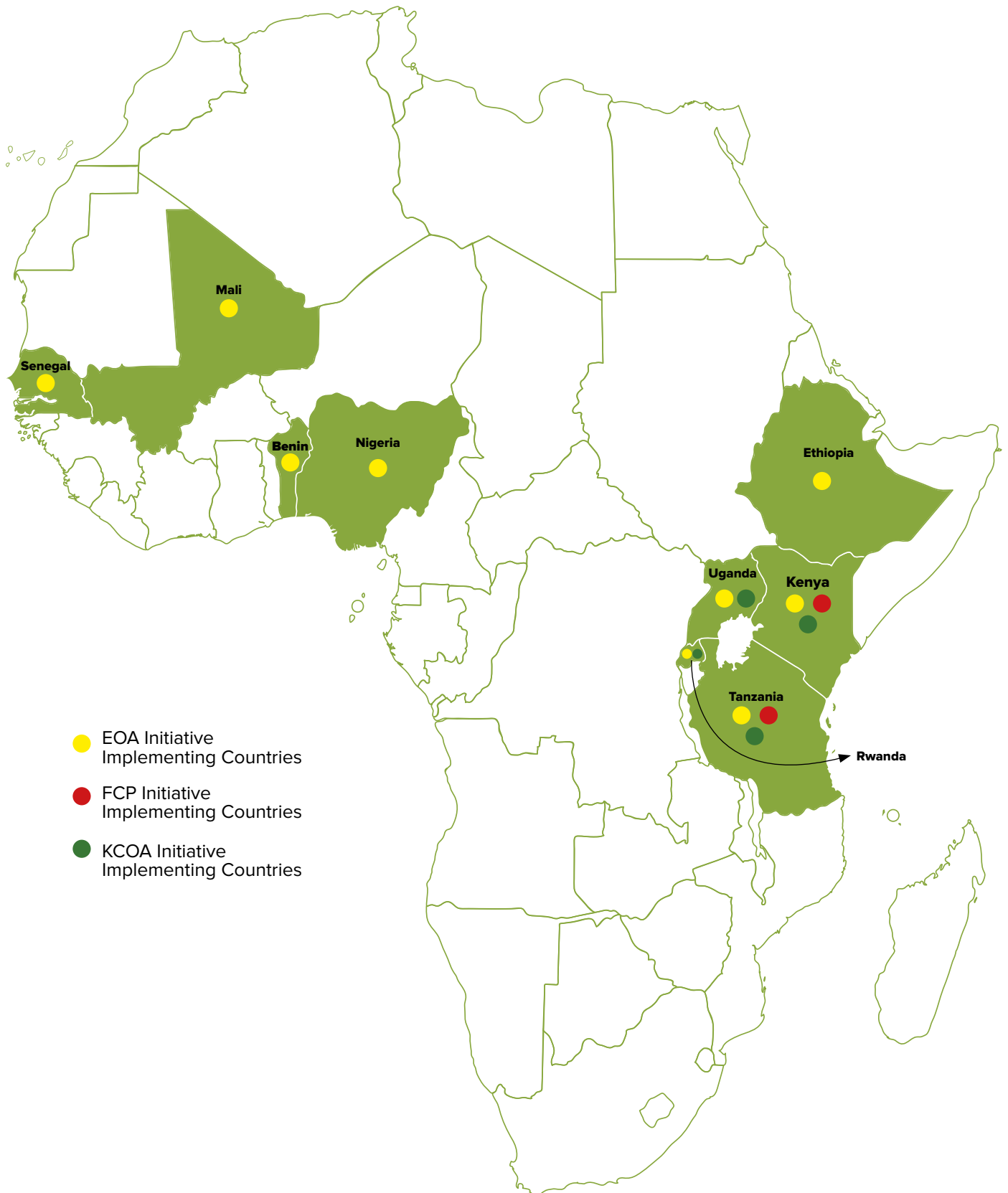


Global



WHERE WE WORK

BvAT's activities are implemented in 9 countries as shown on the map below:



ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

BvAT Strategic Plan 2021 Indicator Performance Report

The SP 2021 – 2024 offered renewed motivation and focus on priority strategic areas that BvAT is focusing on in pursuit of its development goals and mission. BvAT undertook a highly consultative strategy building process in 2020 and 2021 culminating into BvAT Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024. The plan was launched on 24 June 2021 in a colourful ceremony and the Strategic Plan identifies five strategic outcome areas that inform, and guide BvAT’s work in the next four years towards a food secure African Continent with healthy people living in a healthy environment: 1) resilient livelihoods, 2) dynamic markets and trade, 3) enabling policy and institutional environment, and 4) resilient institutional stability.

1. Resilient Livelihoods

Farmers and other value chain actors reached

Achievement: 8,080,493 (89%)

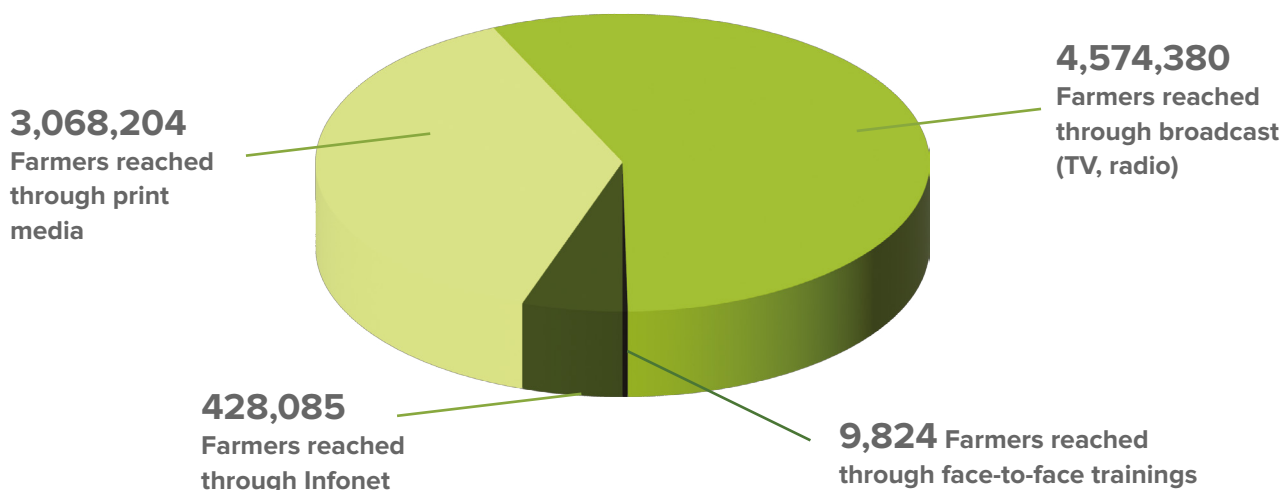
Farmers and actors of key value chains were reached through the FCP, EOA and KCOA programs using the following diverse and integrated pathways; Radio and TV (4,574,380) Infonet (428,085), Print media (3,068,204), face-to-face trainings (9,824). Targets set under this outcome were at 89% as new opportunities for partnerships especially for TOF Radio came up leading to additional

programmes aired. Radio listenership and TV viewership remained the leading communication pathways with majority rural farmer folks.

The table below summarises the estimated audience reached in 2021 through BvAT’s dissemination channels:

Channel	Number per channel	FCP	EOA	KCOA
Farmers reached through broadcast (TV, radio)	4,574,380	2,389,864	184,516	2,000,000
Farmers reached through face-to-face trainings	9,824	6,260	3,328	236
Farmers reached through print media	3,068,204	98,204	0	2,970,000
Farmers reached through infonet	428,085	428,085	0	0
Total	8,080,493	2,922,413	187,844	4,970,236
% Contribution	100%	36%	2%	62%

Share of reach by dissemination channels



Farmers trained on AE/EOA.

Achievement: 9,824 – 107% (6,484 male – 66%; 3,340 female – 34%; 3,130 - 32% youth)

Through various outreach activities, smallholder farmers were trained on technologies and practices of ecological organic agriculture. KCOA uses the Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) strategy to reach and train farmers. ToToF is a cascading plan that starts with training Master Trainers (MT) who later train and support Multiplier trainers who work with farmers. The FCP uses the outreach model whereby community-based farmer resource centres located in selected counties are run by few extension staff who reach many farmers through the support of trained farmers willing to train others - the Organic Farmer Ambassadors (TOFAs). The farmer resource centre is equipped with a variety of information products, complemented by field activities such as farmer

group trainings, on-farm demonstrations, farmer home visits, and farmer field days. The EOA Initiative employs value chain approach that brings farmers together to support common value chains and receive trainings on various organic practices as a value chain group.

The summary is as follows:

Total	FCP	EOA	KCOA
9,824	6,260	3,328	236
100%	64%	34%	2%

Champions (farmers, extension agents, and other value chain actors) who disseminate knowledge products.

Achievement: 1,622 (92%)

The KCOA works with Multipliers as champions who disseminate knowledge products to farmers through information sharing and training. The FCP has The Organic Farmer Ambassadors (TOFAs) selected to facilitate farmer-to-farmer experiencing sharing and learning. TOFAs work closely with extension staff to train other farmers. EOA Project partners train through value chain actors through Training of Trainers (TOTs) approach across the continent. The main challenge with champions

is meeting their expectations in terms of remuneration given the significant time they invest supporting outreach programme.

The summary is as follows:

Total	FCP	EOA	KCOA
1622	1,268	304	50
100%	78%	19%	3%

Knowledge products (type) developed and disseminated.

Achievement: 2,280 (105%)

Promotion of EOA is a knowledge intensive exercise and the different practitioners in the sector need to have the technical know-how of how to carry out certain activities in production, post-harvest handling, marketing, and

value addition, etc. To provide the technical know-how and support these activities, a total of 2,280 knowledge products were collected and disseminated through different programs.



Kiswahili programs (Kilimo Hai) for national broadcast

A total of **48** radio broadcast programs were produced and aired through Radio Maisha. Also, a total of **71** programs were produced and aired through the regional and community radio stations.



Kiswahili programs (Kilimo Hai) for national broadcast

- **217** Custom modules reviewed and published
- **183** offline versions (USB) distributed
- **1325** datasheets



TOF Magazines

12 TOF magazine editions produced carrying a variety of articles under the 4Hs thematic areas.



249 translated videos

by access agriculture and inter-country learning exchange visit.

Mkulima Mbunifu

12 Mkulima Mbunifu magazine editions produced carrying a variety of articles under the 4Hs thematic areas.



24 articles published in Smart Harvest pull-out magazine of The Saturday Standard.

4 training modules

on tomatoes, chia, sesame and good governance

KCOA KPs

135 Books, videos, guides and manuals collected/prepared under the project.



2. Markets & Trade

Farmers (f/m, age) facilitated and acquired (or in the process of) certification e.g. PGS Achievement: 143 farmers (79%)

3000 Nooya Farmer Group based in Kajiado attained PGS certification. The group has 18 farmers. They engage in vegetable value chains, cereals, and herbs. The group has integrated livestock and fish farming. Isembe group with (20 members) in Kakamega County acquired PGS certification in 2020 and continued to get additional support during 2021 with a focus on market linkages. About 105 farmers from 5 farmers groups were certified under EOA-I support. Training and support for new groups are underway with expectation that more groups will get certified by end of 2022.

This is the summary:

Total	FCP	EOA	KCOA
143	20	105	18
100%	14%	73%	13%

Markets for organic products established/strengthened Achievement: 25 (93%)

Two organic markets were established in Uganda through the partnership with PELUM Uganda and one market was established in Kajiado Kenya by the 3000 Nooya Farmer Group. About 11 markets were established in the countries supported under EOA-I. Farmers under FCP were linked to Thorium Organics who provide organic markets through contract farming. Thorium Organics support farmers through training to acquire certification. Sylvia's Basket support farmers to access markets through buying and bulking to access organic markets in Nairobi. This is the summary:

Total	FCP	EOA	KCOA
25	2	22	1
100%	8%	88%	4%

Consumers reached through awareness campaigns Achievement: 2,950,102 (42%)

An estimated 3 million people in Africa were reached through diverse communication channels. UN World Food Day 2021 was celebrated under the theme: Our actions are our future. BvAT and/or with partners developed awareness content in line with the UN WFD theme and created awareness on consumption habits through print, radio and television broadcasts reaching over 1 million people. An article was published in the New Vision newspaper, Uganda through KHEA project. Under the FCP, food safety campaigns were carried out for five days through different radio channels (Radio Maisha, Emuria FM, Minto FM, Mbaitu FM and Coro FM) in the run-up to UN WFD. A live television talk show was aired on Citizen Television, Kenya, with panel members consisting of representation from Pelum Kenya, Organic Agriculture Champions, and BvAT. BvAT's ED was one of the speakers.

Total	FCP	EOA	KCOA
2,950,102	940,200	9,902	2,000,000
100%	32%	0%	68%

3. Enabling Policy & Institutional Environment

Institutions supported and acquired advocacy and lobby capacity.

Achievement: 18

A total of 18 institutions across Africa were supported through EOA-I on advocacy and lobbying activities and acquired capacity on this area.

Multistakeholder forums convened/participated in pushing for AE/EOA policy changes.

Achievement: 22 (120%)

Eight (8) National EOA Platforms convened during the reporting period. At Regional level, EOA Initiative's 2 regional platforms convened 4 forums. At the Continental level, the Africa Union-led Continental Steering Committee convened 2 forums. The Continental Steering Committee forums are convened to provide guidance and oversight on the implementation of EOA-I by undertaking key activities especially the review of project documents (workplans and reports), give guidance on partners' selection and capacity building, support technical working groups like the seeds working group, policy working group and others.

The forums brought together stakeholders from the policy institutions, civil society organizations including NGOs/INGOs, development partners, including indirect partners working on EOA related matters, organic consumer organizations, certification and regulatory agencies, private sector (inputs suppliers, finance institutions, processors, and marketers), government ministries, and farmer organizations/associations.

Sector actors trained on advocacy and lobby for AE/EOA

Achievement: 10 (66.67%)

A total of 10 sector actors within the EOA project comprising of Country Lead Organisations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) were trained and acquired advocacy and lobbying capacity to work closely with their governments to support EOA development in their countries.

Policies and programmes developed to support AE/EOA

Achievement: (100%)

The EOA Initiative through its partners in Uganda officially launched the Uganda National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) in 2020 and had its commencement through a bill development in 2021. PELUM Uganda under EOA programme in collaboration with MAAIF hired a consultant to develop the National Strategy for Scaling up Agroecology in 2021. This process was subjected to an inception meeting and now the draft National Agroecology Strategy is ready for national wide consultative meetings.

Policies and programmes implemented to support AE/EOA.

Achievement: (100%)

The implementation of the Uganda National Organic Policy officially continued during the reporting period with the commencement of the National Strategy for Scaling up Agroecology by EOA partners with Pelum Uganda, NOGAMU, ESAFF and ACSA taking lead in this process.

4. Resilient Institutional Stability

4.1 Finance

Annual reserve volumes reported (USD)

Achievement: 292,691 USD

In 2021 BvAT grew its reserves by 12% from 2020 reserve volumes. This was possible through additional funds capacity building from partners (SSNC) which relieved the core funds. Additional support for rental cost from Infonet Project.

It is likely that the growth will be sustained over the coming years. Measures such as increasing burn rates will likely increase overhead gains. More efforts are being channelled for fundraising including unrestricted funds. Based on the forecast budget in the strategic plan in year

2021 BvAT's budget is USD 3,543,000 compared to actual budget of USD 5,826,705 which is 64.5% higher than the budget. This was due to additional funding by GIZ to the KCOA project. The target budget for year 2022 is USD 4,292,000 compared to current USD 4,696,846 which is an increase of 9% compared to forecast as per strategic plan. The increase was due to KCOA's project new phase contract which starts in July 2022. In addition, EOA budget reduced as it comes towards the end of phase in April 2023.

Confirmed annual grants (USD) Achievement: 5,826,705 USD

USD Programme	Year 2022						Year 2021					
	Biovision	SDC	GIZ	SSNC	Others	Totals	Biovision	SDC	GIZ	SSNC	Others	Totals
TOF Radio	174,040	-	-	-	-	174,040	181,669	-	-	-	-	181,669
FCP Outreach	275,114	-	-	-	-	275,114	298,518	-	-	-	-	298,518
TOF Magazine	194,629	-	-	-	-	194,629	201,925	-	-	-	-	201,925
Infonet	134,156	-	-	-	-	134,156	150,033	-	-	-	-	150,033
MKM Magazine	191,867	-	-	-	-	191,867	203,289	-	-	-	-	203,289
Core Funding Support	150,000	-	-	-	-	150,000	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in Africa (9 Countries)=Phase II	-	1,315,789	-	-	-	1,315,789	-	1,982,992	-	-	-	1,982,992
Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA)	-	-	710,854	-	-	710,854	-	-	2,470,912	-	-	2,470,912
Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Africa	-	-	-	85,000	-	85,000	-	-	-	176,249	-	176,249
FiBL-Infonet Collaboration	-	-	-	-	16,788	16,788	-	-	-	-	28,104	28,104
ILRI	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
IFOAM-EOALC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,857	17,857
University of Bonn	-	-	-	-	2,600	2,600	-	-	-	-	15,156	15,156
Total	1,119,806	1,315,789	710,854	85,000	69,388	3,300,838	1,135,435	1,982,992	2,470,912	176,249	61,118	5,826,705

Prospects for the coming year, assured funding for the next 3 years.

The funding volume will largely remain unchanged as the grant partnerships will continue until the end of 2022, while other grants go beyond 2022. Expected new acquisition will be from KCOA in 2022. The partnership will run from April 2022 to March 2024.

Confirmed annual unrestricted incomes (USD) Achievement: 1,324,374 USD

The forecast budget for unrestricted income (confirmed and to be acquired) is USD 261,000 compared to actual income earned over the period of USD 182,969. This is 30% less than the forecast in year 2021.

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST UNRESTRICTED FUNDING PERIOD: JANUARY 2016-DECEMBER 2022								
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Totals
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Jan-March	
Overhead Recovery	91,653	88,469	127,293	124,677	98,144	161,895	24,331	692,131
Core funding support	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	150,000	180,000
Other Incomes	91,653	24,200	3,959	225,394	-	1,994	-	347,200
Interest Income	1,537	1,065	2,413	503	2,821	3,072	-	11,411
Exchange Gain/(Loss)	2,369	27,060	18,431	8,510	30,389	4,618	2,255	93,632
Closing Balance	187,212	140,794	152,096	359,084	161,354	171,579	176,586	1,324,374

Sources were from BF, overheads, recoveries from projects. BF has committed USD150'000 annually starting 2022 to 2024. This will significantly increase the UI volume. The increased overhead rates from 7.5% to 10% by BF (backdated to January 2021) will further give a positive outlook on BvAT's unrestricted funds.

Finance and administration system | Achievement: 100%

The Finance Department has used Pastel Evolution since 2014 for general accounting and reporting. For payroll processing Aren software has been used. BvAT has selected to acquire an integrated system that supports additional and related functions such as HR, procurement, and logistics. In 2021, BvAT secured GIZ funding to purchase a new accounting system. MS Dynamics has been identified as the suitable software and process of acquiring and installing it will be completed in first quarter 2022.

Annual Liquidity ratio | Achievement: 1.12

This ratio is used to determine the ability of the organisation to pay its obligations when the amounts are due and the margin of safety in liquidity. During the year 2021 the ratio was more than 1 meaning BvAT was able to meet its obligations when they were due. See below trend from 2016 to current year.

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST LIQUIDITY RATIO'S PERIOD: JANUARY 2016-DECEMBER 2022							
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Jan-March
Current Ratio (Current Asset/Current Liabilities)	1.11	1.21	1.39	1.10	1.14	1.33	1.11
Acid test Ratio (Current Assets-Inventory/Current liabilities)	1.11	1.21	1.39	1.10	1.14	1.33	1.11
Cash Ratio (Cash and Cash Equivalent/Current Liabilities)	1.09	1.19	1.35	1.09	1.10	1.12	1.05



4.2 Human Resources

Annual average staff performance evaluation score (%)
Achievement: 70%

BvAT has a two-layered appraisal process. Performance evaluations are based on set targets for the year. BvAT's average and acceptable score is 3 hence staff are expected to score 3 and above in a scale of 1 to 5. In 2021, the aggregate score was at 70%. Clarity of performance targets and good teamwork come out as key success factors on staff performance.

Annual retention rate (%)
Achievement: 98%

Out of 46 staff, one staff left the organisation by termination. In 2021 BvAT had three new key positions namely Regional Knowledge Manager, Markets Development & Networking and Corporate Communications & Fundraising. Two positions were upgraded – HR (HRM&A, CIM).

Annual ratio of staff trained through organizational support (%)
Achievement: 100%

The process of annual staff provides the opportunity for the staff to identify areas of skills development. During 2021, 100% of the staff were supported to train in different disciplines by training institutions. BvAT has also invested on internal training based of identified internal needs. All BvAT staff were trained on Work-Life Balance and Financial Management. The Farmer Outreach team (26) were trained on water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and facilitation.

Employee satisfaction index

Annual surveys, starting 2022, will be done on employee satisfaction, among other indicators, to track employee satisfaction. The 2022 survey will give a benchmark for future reviews.

4.3 Administration

Knowledge management

What is available in plan and practice is at project/ programme level. KCOA-KHEA has a Knowledge Management (KM) strategy, that encompasses processes of gathering organic agriculture knowledge, validation, uploading & retrieval, and application of that knowledge. FCP developed and is using the web-based archiving and documentation of project files. A policy or manual guideline on documentation and archiving has been considered as necessary and should be developed. Measures to develop a comprehensive KM system (archiving procedures) have been proposed.

ICT management system in place

A new ERP system is currently being implemented to streamline and automate processes thus creating a leaner, more accurate and efficient operations ranging from HR and Administration, Finance to program modules. This will enhance the level of integration between these functional units for efficiency and interconnectedness.

Procurement

Efforts have been made to comply with the public procurement and assets disposal act no.33 of 2015 through the review of the BvAT procurement manual in line with regulations. This has thus necessitated the establishment of the procurement evaluation committee charged with overseeing the procurement function as per the law.

Staff and guests satisfaction

Administration procedures formed part of the policy review conducted in 2021. The focus now will be to put in place measures that will ensure the procedures are operationalised.

4.4 Corporate Communication & Fundraising

Corporate Communication strategy

BvAT has elements of communication as guidelines under various policies and projects which guides its operations. To enhance communication and increase efficiency a comprehensive strategy is needed. In 2022 BvAT will assess its communication needs and develop a comprehensive Corporate Communication strategy.

BvAT branding strategy

BvAT plans to review the existing branding against emergent organisational needs including donor partner requirements and commonly accepted good practices. This is planned to be done in 2022.

Customer satisfaction

BvAT plans to institute an annual customer satisfaction survey. IT tools will be used for this assignment.

BvAT on social media and websites

Achievement: 26,134 (social media platforms) and 12,381,930 (Websites).

All BvAT social media accounts grew significantly in the last half of the year. The organization realized this growth by assigning the social media engagement roles to dedicated staff members. The KCOA-KHEA platforms also benefitted from a caravan that was organized towards the end of the year. The Caravan enabled KCOA-KHEA to work with influencers and boost its social media platforms. Generation of content around agroecology and working with like-minded organizations to push

the agenda on this key theme supported BvAT reach and engagement with its online audience. Leveraging on some of the international UN days also enabled the organization to generate content and conversations around its work and showcased how BvAT was linking to regional and global conversation on food safety, women and gender equality, youth, and environmental protection.

Below is a table showing how the organization performed on its websites and social media platforms.

Social Media Handle	TOTAL
Twitter followers	2,760
Facebook (FB) friends	2,260
Followers	18,177
Instagram followers	567
Linked-In page followers \	523
Linked Followers	788
Linked Connections	948
YouTube subscribers	111
Website- Visitors	580,118
Websites (unique Visitors)	313,047
Pages	3,072,169
Hits/session	8,416,596

Annual funds acquisitions

BvAT participated in a total of 18 fundraising efforts (proposals, concept notes and letters of inquiry) with expected average funding of between USD 224,422 and USD 7.765 million. In some cases, BvAT prepared applications in partnership with other organisations. Some applications (FoodFlow, FOCUS, etc) were not concluded by the end of 2021.

4.5 Governance

Board meetings

The BoT held two meetings in 2021 in which programme and department leads had the opportunity to give updates.

Management meetings held annually

Management meetings were held at different levels and under different departments. Project/Programme meetings were held monthly by FCP and KCOA projects. EOA held bimonthly meetings. General management meetings which include programme and project leads were held on a quarterly basis. The Senior Management Team meets monthly.

BvAT Strategy Steering Committee

The BvAT Strategy Steering Committee (BSSC) was constituted in 2021 to steer the implementation and reporting of progress of the strategic plan execution. In the first year of its operations, BSSC focused on developing frameworks and tools for monitoring and reporting implementation. The committee meets on a quarterly basis during which SP reviews are done and necessary advisories and support given to projects and departmental teams.

PROGRAMMES OF BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST

1. Farmer Communication Programme (FCP)

The overall objective of FCP is to enhance economic, social, and environmental livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya and Tanzania through increased adoption of ecologically sustainable agriculture (ESA). FCP therefore focused its activities to promote adoption of agroecological and organic farming practices among smallholder farmers, with a special focus on women and youth.

FCP has also played a vital role in facilitating farmers' linkages with input services providers and marketers and farmer to farmer peer exchanges and learning. During 2021, the FCP team implemented its core activities of content development, packaging, and dissemination so that farmers are reached with relevant, validated, and timely information. The content carried through the communication channels are guided by the 4H thematic areas namely Human Health, Plant Health, Animal Health

and Environmental Health. The context of information users entails a growing number of farmers who are transitioning to agroecological methods of production and growing awareness of food safety among the consumers. FCP teams diversified its stakeholder base and employed collaborative efforts with county governments, research institutions notably icipe, ILRI, KALRO, TARI, FiBL among others for content development. FCP has also worked with entities such as the Post Offices for magazine distribution in Kenya and Tanzania, partnered with media houses for broadcast of radio and television programmes; and delivered its outreach extension services through the 11 farmer resource centres in 10 counties. FCP activities are implemented through the five communication projects as follows:



Photo 1: Kwa Ngindu farmers group refers to TOF Magazine during a training session with Joseph Mbithi, the extension officer under Outreach project in Makueni County on 4th December 2021 in their demo farm at Kwa Ngindu village, Watema sub-location. Photo credit

The Organic Farmer (TOF) Magazine endeavored to further build its capacity in its functions of content development and dissemination. Leveraging on partnerships, the project made milestones in widening reach, resource mobilization and amplifying impact. The project collaborated with the icipe-led Integrated Sustainable Production of Tomatoes (ISPOT) initiative demonstrating to farmers that producing tomatoes organically is possible. This was achieved by disseminating information on model farms supported by ISPOT in Kirinyaga County. In support of this activity, ISPOT purchased 1,250 copies of TOF Magazine to distribute to their farmer networks, further expanding reach of the magazine. TOF Magazine collaborated with RUE Organics, a manufacturer of organic farm inputs and profiled organic inputs available in the market and disseminated the information to farmers. The partnership generated significant interest among farmers seeking to buy and use the products. TOF also partnered with Scope International to share inspirational stories of schools that are embracing ESA in the TOF Magazine. There is immense opportunity under this partnership looking at schools as a strategic frontier in promoting agroecology.

Summary of achievements



I. Mkulima Mbunifu Project

Mkulima Mbunifu (MkM), is a project under FCP, implemented in Tanzania in partnership with Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT). Since inception of MkM in 2011, it has been producing a monthly publication of farmer magazine in Kiswahili language to reach smallholder farmers with information packaged in agroecological themes of Plant, Animal, Human and Environmental Health. MkM prides itself as the longest Swahili magazine that has been in production targeting smallholder farmers in Tanzania with a focus on the five main regions of Arusha, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Shinyanga and Iringa.

In the reporting period, the project continued with impressive engagement with stakeholders in content development and dissemination of the magazines. MkM collaborated closely with Farm Radio International (FRI) in the implementation of the project Interactive Radio for Sustainable Agricultural Practices (IRSAP) as a key contributor in content. Partnership with IRSAP project was key in helping MKM make initial steps on developing MkM's capacity in radio production as a complementary communication pathway to the magazine.

Mkulima Mbunifu magazine content is informed by farmer needs received through farmer feedback, farming calendar and the trends in the agriculture sector. The content developed also focused on priority value chains that are popular or in high demand by farmers across the country. For instance, 10 articles on common value chains were published, which included dairy, fruits and vegetables. Content contributors come from diverse fields and backgrounds such as research institutions, extension officers, farmers, and journalists with a background on agriculture and environment issues.



Photo 2: Mr. Thomas Mallya Kindi, a farmer gives his feedback to MkM staff on a farmers visit mission in Moshi on April 13, 2021.

Summary of achievements

Mkulima Mbunifu



MkM reaches an approximate 108,000 people with each monthly edition.

MkM produced 12 editions of farmer's magazine

15,000 copies of the magazine are printed each month

The magazine is distributed through – 282 farmers groups, 42 agricultural institutions, 81 NGOs, 10 CBOs, 29 churches, 33 schools and other learning institutions, 276 extension officers, 15 individuals, 163 District Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperative Officers (DAICOS) and 19 libraries.

Content was sourced from 24 organisations and 12 contributors.

II. TOF Radio Project



Photo 3: Elizabeth Kevevia, a youthful TOF Radio listener from Kitui North in Kitui County goes on her daily chores as she listens to radio

The Organic Farmer (TOF) Radio project made significant milestones in diversifying its broadcasting channels by expanding its radio partnership portfolio. This has been necessary due to the dynamic nature of radio listenership audience in the country with the need to meet the unique listener needs. The TOF radio project remained guided by its core objective: Enhance awareness and knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices and technologies among farmers, organic input dealers, researchers, extension workers and farmers. Under the collaboration with The Standard Group (SG) media house, TOF Radio airs weekly Kiswahili radio programmes dubbed Kilimo Hai (sustainable agriculture) on Radio Maisha. The national broadcasts have been complemented by regional and community vernacular channels which aired Kilimo Hai programmes on KBC vernacular FMs namely Coro (Kikuyu) and Minto (Kisii) and community FMs namely Emuria (Luhya and Teso), Mbaitu (Kikamba) and Koch (Kiswahili). Collaborating with SG's Farm Kenya Initiative, BvAT publishes biweekly articles in the Saturday Standard Smart Harvest magazine pullout. These products have increased reach to diverse audiences while significantly raising visibility of BvAT.

Summary of achievements



TOF Rad o

1,540,000

were reached through TOF Radio Kilimo Hai programmes

824

successful referrals of farmer radio listeners to FCP outreach centres and other advisory support services done.

119 (43 live shows)

TOF Radio Kilimo Hai programmes were produced and aired.

Key collaboration

in programmes production and dissemination: icipe (African Fruit Fly Project), ILRI (training videos on manure preparation); East African Seed Co, Safi Organics and Real IPM.

102 farmers

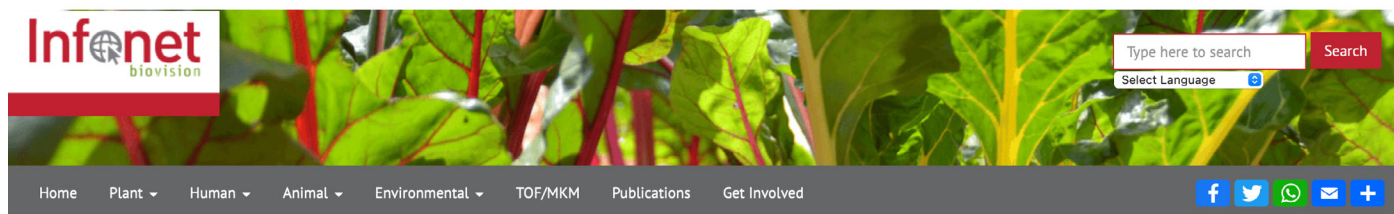
Farmer training videos produced in collaboration with (PAFID and ICIPE)

15 TOF Radio

farmer listener groups established and active

III. Infonet-Biovision Project

Help About Us News & Events



Health Alert: Covid-19 Information



PLANT HEALTH

- Crops/fruits/vegetables
- Indigenous vegetables,
- Plant pests/ diseases
- Medicinal plants
- Fruit & vegetable processing
- Natural pest control
- Cultural practices



HUMAN HEALTH

- Healthy food and nutrition
- Nutrition related diseases
- Insect & vector transmitted diseases
- Zoonotic diseases
- Hygiene and Sanitation



ANIMAL HEALTH

- Animal husbandry & welfare
- Animal species
- Animal health & disease management
- Fodder production
- Animal products



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Agro-ecological zones
- Water management
- Soil management
- Organic farming
- Conservation Agriculture
- Agroforestry
- Trees
- Processing and value addition
- Sustainable Energy

Photo 4: Infonet Home page at a glance

Infonet (<https://infonet-biovision.org/>) is a web-based database of validated and relevant information on ecological agriculture themed around the 4-Hs (Plant, Animal, Human and Environmental Health). The project has two broad functional components – IT infrastructure management and content development.

In 2021 the Infonet team focused on implementing the recommendations of the feasibility study undertaken in 2020. Main tasks entailed commencing the upgrade process from Drupal CMS 7 to 9, migrating the current data to the new database, and the routine IT maintenance services. An IT company, Sibasi Ltd, was contracted and supported both the IT functions of migration and maintenance with close liaison with Biovision Foundation Infonet Project Manager and IT Manager. Mid in the year, a new partnership with GIZ commenced with new opportunities of Infonet selection as one of the continental knowledge platforms under the aegis of the BMZ/GIZ funded global project, Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA - KHEA). This development will facilitate greater scope of reach with a focus to continental users of Infonet. The content under Infonet is currently in review to meet the needs of the continental users. In addition, the ongoing IT upgrade will ensure more user-friendly features hence improving the database agility and quality access by users. The developments necessitated the need for additional capacity and improvements in IT and content management. Consequently, the position of the Infonet focal person under BvAT was upgraded from Officer to a Manager position.

Summary of achievements



Infonet

biovision

Database was accessed online by 428,085 users in 545,475 sessions (Google analytics). Of these, 217,549 were from Africa.

- **Migration from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9 in progress.**
New features added to Infonet
 - multilingual translation module with capacity of 100 languages including 15 that are widely available in African countries.
 - Donation button
 - Database is hosted on the Rackspace servers and secure with security certificates against hacking
 - Off-line versions were distributed to farmers
- **Key partnerships for content and dissemination – Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF), Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Sustainable Agriculture Development Initiatives (SADI), Arifu, Yelder, GIZ and KCOA partners.**
- **An ethnobotanist engaged to review content on trees, crops, medicinal plants, and indigenous vegetables (ongoing process).**
- **20 content experts trained on the Infonet database.**


IV. Outreach Project




Photo 5: Outreach field officer, Peter Murage (L) advises farmer on crop pest management











The Outreach Project is uniquely set up to support farmers to make the shift from conventional farming to adoption of agroecological practices. Outreach field staff provide face-to-face extension and advisory support through 12 farmer outreach centres set up in 11 counties currently. The project also offers the critical convergence of other FCP communication pathways – TOF Radio, TOF Magazine and Infonet – in dissemination of the knowledge products and obtaining feedback from farmers. The Organic Farmer Ambassadors (TOFAs) concept continued to flourish as the 57 TOFAs worked hand in hand with field teams promoting ecological sustainable agriculture among the farmers. The training of TOFAs on facilitation skills and the basics of agroecology was a high point in firming the model of using champion farmers under the outreach project.

Summary of achievements



FARMER COMMUNICATION
Outreach



 <p>6,745 Farmers reached through trainings (4,548 women, 2,197 men, 926 youth)</p>	 <p>1,782 (913 women, 869 men) farmers follow up visits carried out by field staffs</p>
 <p>1,730 (830 girls, 900 boys) students reached and trained in 33 schools (28 primary and 5 secondary schools).</p>	 <p>8 farmer groups supported and linked to organic markets through Kenya Industrial Research development, Thorium Organic Foods, Sylvia's Basket, local markets, KENTAGRA for pyrethrum and hotels.</p>
 <p>649 responses to farmers' queries made by the Outreach team through the Tusemezane platform.</p>	 <p>57 champion organic farmers known as The Organic Farmer Ambassadors (TOFAs) trained and actively supported field teams in farmer training.</p>
 <p>26 exchange visits undertaken with 241 farmers (142 women, 99 men and 26 were youth).</p>	 <p>Partnered on implementation with KALRO, Hand in Hand East Africa, ISFAA, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water, and national government projects such as NARIGP, KCSAP and ASDSP II.</p>
 <p>23 Field days outreach by staff reaching 1,471 farmers (809 women, 662 men, 338 youth).</p>	 <p>1,254 visitors (416 women, 838 men) visited outreach farmer resource centres for different needs.</p>

2. The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) In Africa



Photo 6: Mrs Workie Shumeye selling her organic vegetables at the organic market in Addis Ababa.

With the overall goal of mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in Africa, the EOA Initiative is the signature program for BvAT on the continent. The program is guided by four specific objectives to which all interventions across the continent contribute:

- 1. Availing information and knowledge needed by EOA value chain actors through demand-driven, multi-disciplinary, gender sensitive, participatory research, and repositories.**
- 2. Enhancing adoption of EOA technologies and practices through systematic dissemination of research and experience-based information, knowledge, and training of value chain actors.**
- 3. Increasing the share of quality organic products at local, national, regional, and international markets through value chain development and market strengthening; and**
- 4. Enhancing structured management and governance of EOA through coordination, networking, advocacy, multi stakeholder platforms and capacity building leading to positive changes in agricultural systems in Africa.**

To effectively contribute to the attainment of the above objectives by the initiative, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has anchored its support on four separate but interrelated pillars:

- 1. Pillar 1: Research and Applied Knowledge (R&AK)**
- 2. Pillar 2: Information, Communication and Extension (IC&E)**
- 3. Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD)**
- 4. Pillar 4: Supporting and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management**

The initiative aims to establish an African organic platform, based on available best practices and to develop sustainable organic farming systems.

At the continental level, the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) with support of the AUC to the mainstreaming of EOA-I into agricultural systems was further strengthened following the development of EOA-I indicators and co-option into the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review and Reporting (BRR) framework which showcases Member States' performance against the set indicators. This is an important strategic entry level into the framework for the EOA-I given that the BRR gauges implementation of the AU Malabo Commitments by the Member States geared towards the transformation of Agriculture and sustainable development on the African continent.

Since inception of EOA-I Phase II in 2019 to date, 75,789 farmers have adopted EOA-I farming practices against a target of 200,000 by end of the project in March 2023:

Disaggregation by gender	2019 figures and percentages	2020 figures and percentages	2021 figures and percentages	Total cumulative results
Male	7,647 (63%)	11,986 (62%)	20,196 (46%)	39,829 (53%)
Female	4,578 (37%)	7,208 (38%)	24,174 (54%)	35,960 (47%)
Youth	8,149 (67%)	8,373 (44%)	5,631 (13%)	22,153 (29%)
Totals	12,225	19,194	44,370	75,789

In 2021, at the country level 44,370 farmers (M 20,196, F 24,174, and Y 5,631) were reported to have adopted EOA practices against a target of 50,000, an 88.74% target achievement.

Additionally, 14 types of EOA technologies and practices were generated and availed to farmers and other value chain actors.

Over twenty-one (21) knowledge products were produced and disseminated through various channels including radio programmes, YouTube programmes, farmer guides, social media, and websites.

Farmers engaging in the markets continued to grow with **4,432** farmers reported to have been engaged against a target of **6,000** for the year. This showed a progress target achievement of 73%.

5 Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups were established during the year, a higher achievement compared to the set target of 4 in the reporting year, translating to a 125% achievement.

Various organic products underwent value addition leading to 14 products to the yearly target of 4, an impressive achievement of 350%.

Despite the persistence of Covid in 2021 all the participating countries held 2 national platform meetings for planning, experience sharing, advocacy and policy development. At the regional level, the 2 active regional platforms of West and Eastern Africa held at least 2 meetings each while at the continental level the AU-led CSC held 2 meetings. The various meetings catalysed the development of EOA in the sector. In this regard, the FMSS cluster of the CSC developed a road map that was approved by the AUC structures. At the country level, Uganda kicked off the implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) through the development of the bill and resources allocation.

2.1 Farmers practicing EOA technologies and practices



Photo 7: EOA Farmers in Uganda under ESAFF demonstrating some EOA practices

In the reporting period, 44,370 farmers (M 20,196, F 24,174, Y 5,631) were reported to have adopted EOA practices against a target of 50,000 bringing the adoption rates to 88.74% (See Figure below).

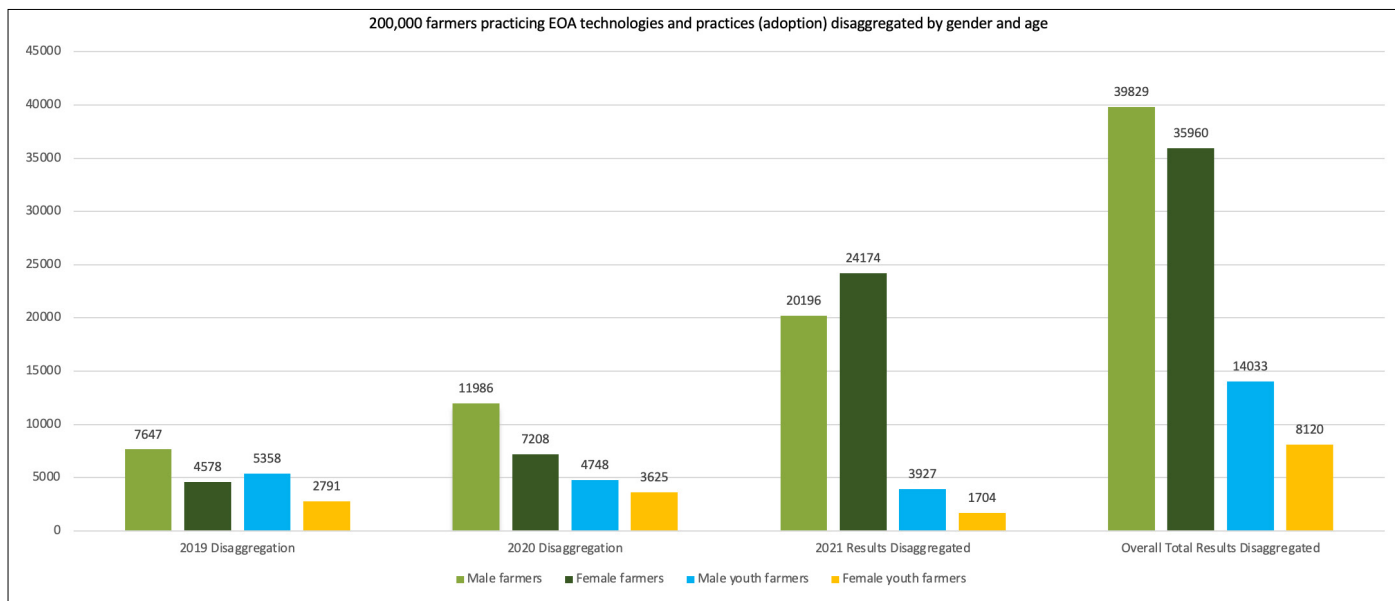


Figure 1: Number of farmers who have adopted EOA practices

2.2 EOA technologies, practices and systems developed

In 2021, the information and knowledge on practices and technologies availed were validated using various methods including but not limited to field experiments, demonstrations, workshops, and expert opinions. The practices and technologies developed were used by partners responsible for Pillar 2 to implement relevant extension activities that offer knowledge and skills to the value chain actors and bringing to scale the application of information, knowledge, practices, and technologies.

As per the graph below, in total we have 40 technologies and practices that have been produced. Figure 2 shows number of information products on EOA technologies, practices, and others.

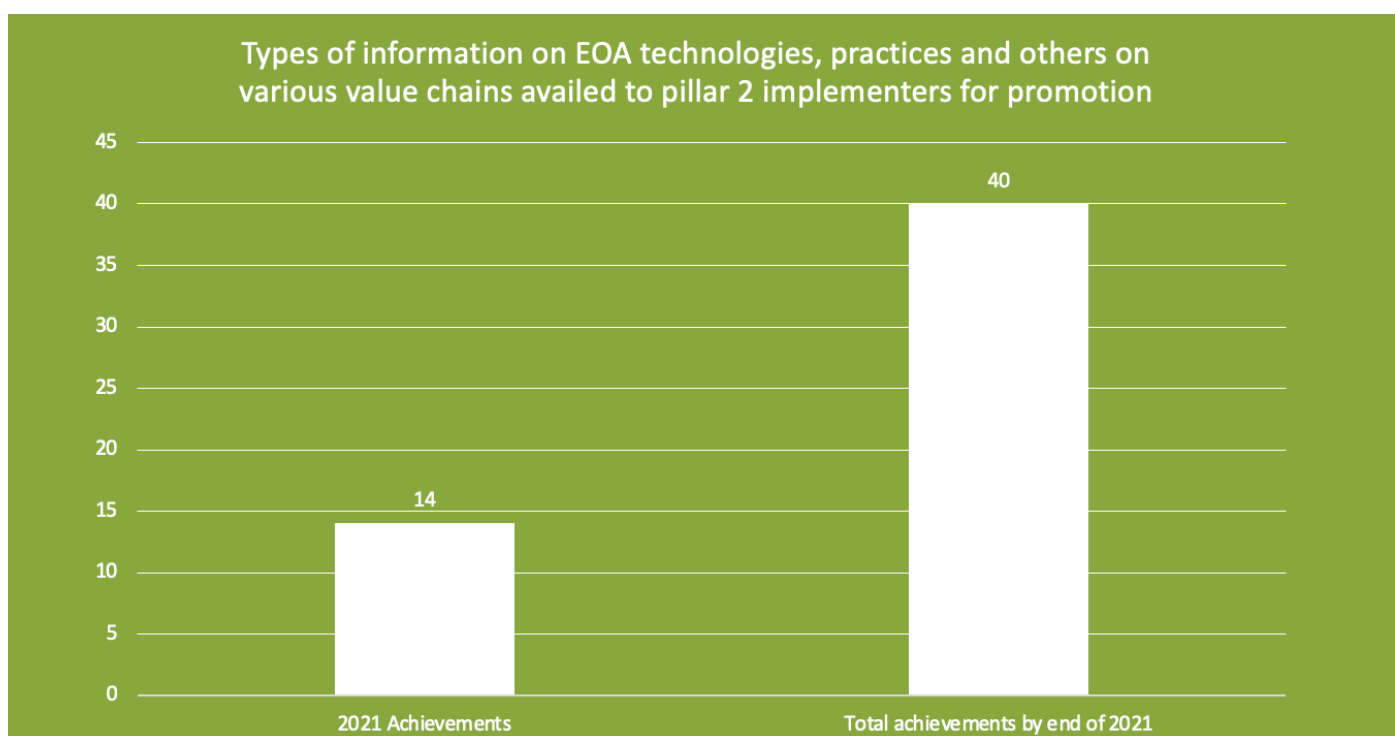


Figure 2: Number of information types on EOA technologies, practices and others availed to pillar 2 implementers for promotion

Activities undertaken by partners in the production of practices and technologies involved undertaking value chain analysis to identify knowledge gaps, needs and priorities of various actors with special focus on women, youth and marginalized groups along selected value chains, undertaking research to generate information and knowledge to address the identified gaps, needs and priorities, assembling information and knowledge from various sources to address the identified knowledge gaps, needs and priorities, validation of the research findings and availing the information for packaging and dissemination.

In Benin, two EOA technologies and practices were availed along the banana / plantain, soybean and organic tomatoes value chains availed. Some of the technologies

availed include making quality compost based on crop residues, insect repellent and anti-microbial / fungal Chromolena plant developed to improve the tolerance of banana plants to the fusarium fungus and the tolerance of tomato plants to the microbe Ralstonia. The second technology propagated is the 'Tchochokpo' which involves use of palm nut seed residues for fertilization in organic soybean production. In Mali, two technologies were developed, one involved improvement of an existing technology around the ploughing system of fonio and sesame using zero tillage practices for fonio and flat ploughing on ridge for sesame. A second technology involved the application of organic manure on micro-dose on sesame. In Nigeria, the following 7 organic publications in Table 2 were published on African Journal of Organic Agriculture and Ecology thus availing them to the public:

Article	Title of manuscript	Score	Area of research focus
Article 12	Efficacy of processing selected dried chips with fermented maize water and lime juice on infestation and damage by <i>Araecerus fasciculatus</i>	73.22	Crop protection
Article 1	Organic manuring effect on soil carbon sequestration under monoculture and perennial systems in tropical rainforest of Nigeria	70.33	Agronomy – soil
Article 9	Organic skin-care cosmetics use and buying behaviour of women in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria	70.00	Extension
Article 8	Effect of biochar enriched with poultry manure on nutrient uptake and soil nutrient changes in <i>Amaranthus Caudatus</i>	68.78	Agronomy – crop
Article 11	Weed management, soil physico-chemical properties and growth response of hot yellow pepper (<i>Capsicum Chinense</i> n.) as influenced by different organic mulches	68.78	Agronomy – crop
Article 2	The residual and carbon sequestration potentials of an accelerated compost in two soil types	67.89	Agronomy – soil
Article 7	Constraints to the organic production of spices and vegetables in Ekiti state, Nigeria	66.00	Agronomy – crop

Table 1: Published articles in ecological organic agriculture

The project progressed well in availing EOA technologies and practices as follows:

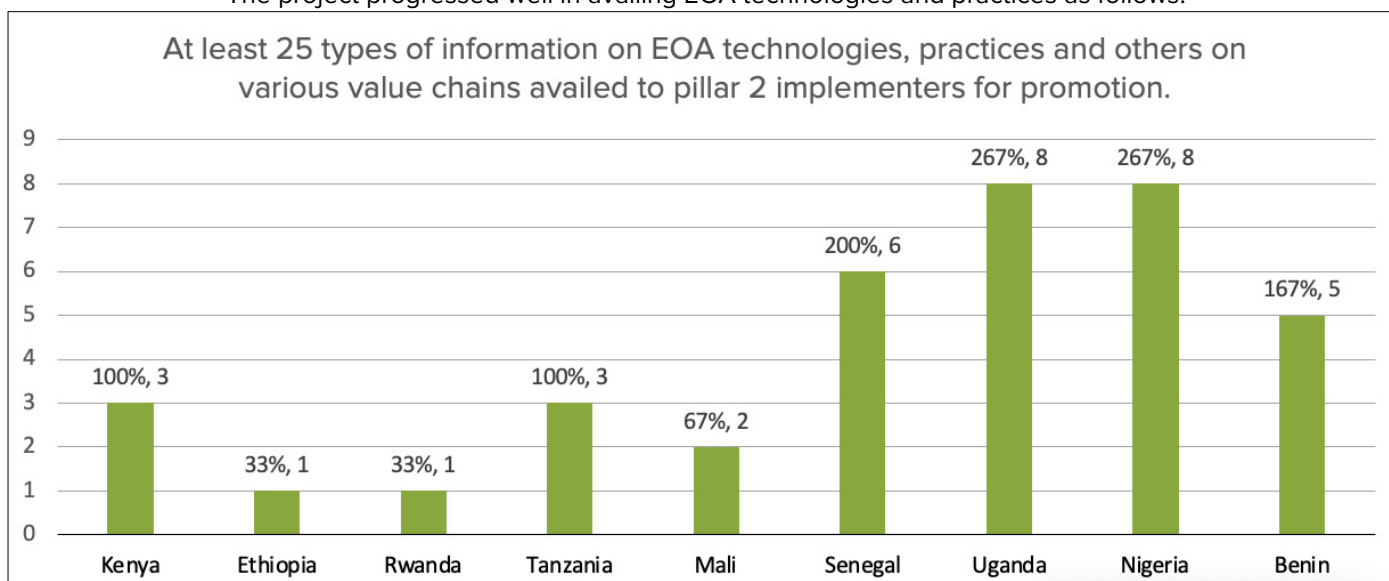


Figure 3: Types of information on EOA technologies, practices and others on various value chains availed to pillar 2 implementers for promotion.



2.3 Adoption of EOA practices by value chain actors enhanced

The cumulative achievements as per the graph below show good progress in the set target areas for outcome 2 of the results framework.

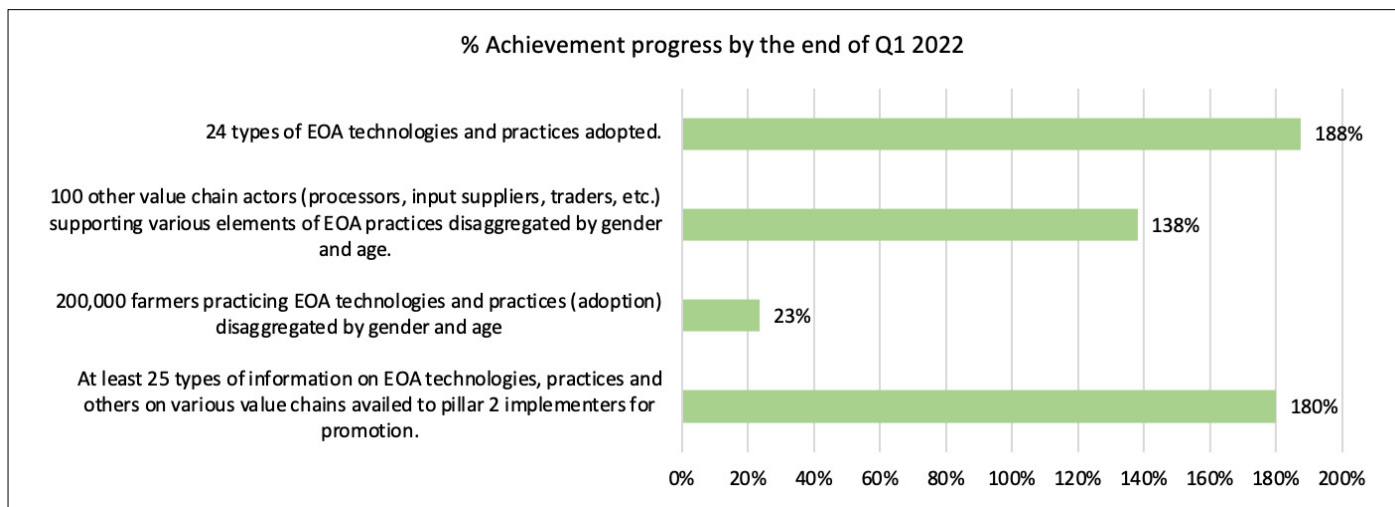


Figure 4: Information, Communication and Extension results for 2021

Country analysis all the countries have met 50% rate of farmers adoption to EOA-I but we need strategies to achieve more.

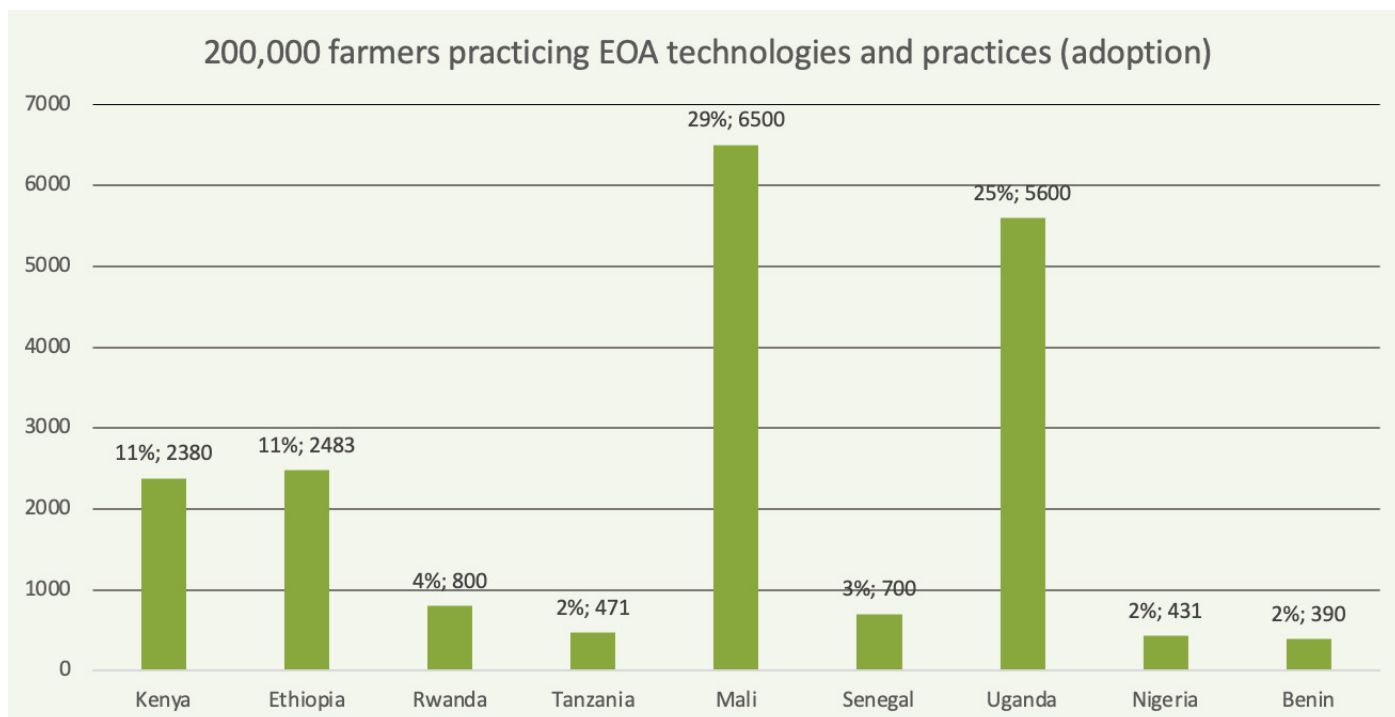


Figure 5: Farmers practicing EOA technologies and practices (adoption)

2.4 Other value chain actors (processors, input suppliers, traders, etc.) Supporting various elements of eoa practices

The project is focusing on ensuring that other value chain actors come on board to support farmers. The target for the phase is 100 value chain actors effectively adopting various EOA practices. During the reporting period, the target was 25 with 49 reported as having adopted exceeding the set yearly target by 196% (Table 2).

Farmers	Numbers achieved	Level of Percent achievement
(%)	7,647 (63%)	11,986 (62%)
Processors	1	4
Input suppliers	6	24
Traders	14	56
Policy makers	28	112
Totals	49	196

Table 2: Number of value chain actors practicing EOA

Policy makers were the highest in supporting EOA practices while traders were second best. Processors were the least group in terms of supporting EOA.

In spite of the overall target being surpassed at 196%, specific value chain actors practicing EOA especially processors and input suppliers performed minimally. Processors were at 4% while input suppliers were at 24%. Most farm produce were directly delivered to the markets by farmers and transporters with little engagement of processors especially value addition processors. The project in 2021 introduced value addition to some of the value chain products and this showed more involvement by processors.

2.5 Types of EOA technologies and practices adopted

The project continued to generate EOA practices and technologies for adoption by farmers. During the reporting period, some of the technologies promoted for adoption were incorporation of farm residue, mulching, cover crops, use of farmyard manure, crop rotation, Intercropping, green manure, green fallow period, animal manure, crop rotation, nitrogen fixing plants, water conservation, correction of soil pH, compost, push pull, zero tillage, soil testing, bio-slurry, liming, cover crops, certification, processing, post-harvest loss management, and Push-pull technologies.

The project targets 24 types of technologies to be adopted in this Phase. During the reporting period, adoption was reported at 38% with 9 EOA practices being adopted against the yearly target of 6, indicating a percentage

achievement of 150% (See Figure 6). Some of the organic/sustainable agriculture practices adopted included the following: Green manuring; Making biochar; Use of anthill mound soil; Drip irrigation; and Biofertilizer potential and the allelopathic property (insect repellent effect) of banana weeds *Boheravia diffusa* (Nyctaginaceae) + *Croton hirtus* (Euphorbiaceae) + *Chromolaena odorata* (Asteraceae) in organic banana fertilization.

Country analysis as per Figure 6 shows that all partners were on course in terms of availing technologies and practices for adoption by value chain actors. However, from the numbers that have been reported by farmers having adopted technologies and practices being at 38%, this suggests the need to reach more farmers.

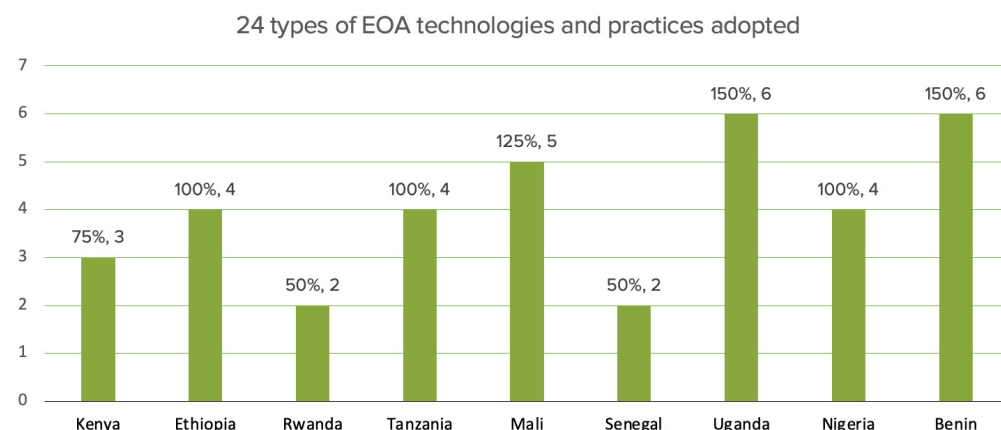


Figure 6: Types of EOA technologies and practices adopted

2.6 Share of EOA products at the domestic and export markets



Photo 8: Kilimohai branded fresh organic products in a supermarket in Tanzania

The value chain approach has enabled EOA partners to optimize achievement by focusing on selected commodity value chains in common regions and with greater pillar synergy and coherence through joint planning and implementation. Besides, the project has employed the market systems development (MSD) approach to address systemic failures in the EOA sector market and ensure stronger participation by small-scale organic farmers to enhance production, incomes, food, and nutrition security. The strategy has enhanced access to business support services and market intelligence including the 4Ps (products, prices, places, and promotion) to EOA value chain actors.

During the reporting period, 7,651 farmers and 1,162 other value chain actors were linked to a range of business development services (BDS) as indicated in the table 4.

Training and technical assistance, Input supplies, Advisory services, Marketing linkages, infrastructure services, Business linkages, technology and product development support, Financial services, Farmer coordination, Certification and standards support, Policy and advocacy, Transport and delivery, Capacity enhancement of Input suppliers to supply quality products, Storage and warehousing, Linking SMES to input suppliers, Business plans development, Mentoring, Analysis of policy constraints and opportunities, Linking farmers/MSMEs and technology and suppliers

Table 3: Number of value chain actors linked to Business Development Services (BDS)

Target Categories	Numbers achieved 2021	2021 Targets	Percentages achieved
Male farmers	4,945 (youth 1,934)	15,300	50%
Female farmers	2,706 (youth 1,133)		
Total number of farmers	7,651		
Male value chain actors	643 (Youth 356)	2,700	43%
Female value chain actors	519 (youth 220)		
Total value chain actors	1,162		

Table 3: Number of value chain actors linked to Business Development Services (BDS)

To complete the value chain, BDS suppliers were engaged with a target of 125 for the year 2021. A total of 86 were engaged in the reporting year indicating an achievement of 67%.

Some BDS services in Kenya included: Certification and compliance for export provided by Ecocert; Export, processing and packaging services offered to farmers by Fine Aromas of Kenya; and Banking, credit and Extension and advisory services offered by Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT).

In Nigeria through the Organic Business Summit, farmers were linked to the market and exhibited and sold various products including banana, plantain, ginger, turmeric, palm oil, gaari and various leaf vegetables under the Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Ibadan Oyo State, Southwest Nigeria and Ikot-Ekpene Women Food and Cash Crop MPCS, Akwa Ibom State, South-south Nigeria. In Benin, MOUs were signed for credit, seeds, fertilizers, organic pesticides, irrigation systems, business plans, and knowledge -do, Certification, Packaging, Market to catalyze farmers engagement in organic farming.

Number of EOA farmers participating in the markets at different levels was reported as 4,432 against a target of 5,250 a percent achievement of 84%.

In the reporting period, the project prioritized the establishment of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) groups to catalyze increase in number of farmers meeting organic standards. PGS is a group oriented local certification mechanism undertaken at country level. The project targeted to form 18 PGS groups in the 4 years of Phase II. In the reporting period, 1 group was established in Uganda called Kabare PGS group against a project target of forming 4 PGS groups.

Regarding supporting market establishment and strengthening, the project targeted 72 new and 72 old markets. In the reporting period, 18 new and 18 old markets were targeted respectively with 11 new markets (Table 4) being established and 11 old markets being supported to continue operating, indicating a 61% target achievement.

New Markets established across EOA-I countries

Kenya	Impact botanic in Nairobi
Ethiopia	Oro fresh and street/Sunday market in Addis Ababa
Rwanda	Natural seeds in Kigali
Tanzania	Short circuit market in Zanzibar
Uganda	Local market stalls and Sulma foods in Kampala
Nigeria	Jaja sales point and Oyo State secretariat sales in Ibadan
Benin	Bohin Market and Home deliveries in Cotonou

Table 4: New markets established

Value added products produced in the reporting year were 14 against a target of 4 leading to a percentage achievement of 275% (Table 5). Some of the value-added products included:

Country	Value Chain
Kenya	Chia and Sesame
Ethiopia	Beet root, (ii) Zeccuni
Uganda	Pineapple Jam, (ii) Tomato source
Nigeria	Tumeric, (ii) Palm Oil
Benin	Organic banana flour
Senegal	Chili, (ii) Moringa, (ii) Bissap

Table 5: Value organic added products

As from the analysis below, all countries prioritized setting up new markets with Rwanda and Senegal lagging behind. BvAT will work closely with the 2 partners to ensure that they stay on track in the next reporting period.

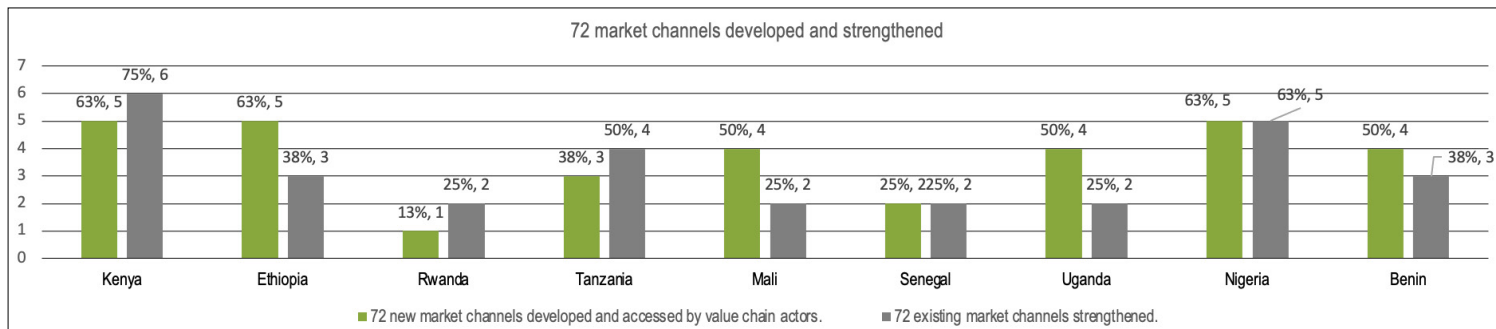


Figure 7: Number of markets developed and strengthened



Photo 10: Organic produce in an organic Shop in Tanzania. Photo credit: Venancia Wambua, EOA-I Project Manager

3. AU Led EOA Continental Steering Committee

The Secretariat successfully facilitated two Continental Steering Committee (CSC) meetings that reviewed progress of the EOA agenda, attended to emerging issues and made recommendations on various issues. The two meetings were held in June and December 2021 and came up with various key resolutions and decisions regarding EOA-Initiative Strategic Plan (SP) review, Establishment of African Organic Trade Platform (Bio-Trade Africa); Strengthening of National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs); Organic shift from niche to common market; alignment of activities with UN Food Systems Summit; Improving project execution and managing risks; Strengthen the Farmer Managed Seed Systems Technical Working Group (FMSS TWG); Increasing project execution rates and adoption of EOA/Agroecology practices; Monitor Capacity building activities and coach partners; Strengthen resource mobilization strategies.



Photo 11: CSC Members attending the 17th Meeting in Johannesburg from 5-9 June

Partnerships established: During the reporting period, 2 key partnerships were established, a main one being between the African Union Commission (AUC) and BvAT over the EOA-I. The partnership mandates the CSC Secretariat to run EOA Secretariat activities on behalf of the AUC. Another key partnership was between BvAT and

the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO). The partnership seeks to develop the harmonization of EOA standards in Africa.

EOAI Governance: Some of the key resolutions passed and implemented by the CSC meetings were the need to undertake a Covid pandemic study to compare the resilience of conventional and organic systems to inform policy, the establishment of the BvAT and ARSO partnership for harmonization of EOA continental standards among other key decisions.

Mainstreaming of EOA into regional governance structures through the RECS led to the establishment of the Central and Northern Africa EOA regional clusters. The Central African States (ECCAS) and Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) govern the clusters. The 2 new regional platforms join already existing eastern and western Africa platforms bringing on board the East Africa Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS). The establishment of regional platforms serves to catalyse the mainstreaming of EOA at the regional. Progress has been noted in the awareness creation for the RECs to support the regional platforms and institutionalize EOA at regional level.

In the reporting period, mainstreaming of EOA at continental level was advanced through the introduction of EOA indicators into the CAADP framework. A report on the AU decision on organic farming was for the first time included in the CAADP Biennial Review Report (BRR). Additionally, the AUC approved the piloting of the proposed EOA indicators in the Member States. The Continental Secretariat is now fully involved in the CAADP process as the lead for the EOA annex (as a standing report) and co-creator for indicators on the African Common Position on UNFSS (ACP FMSS) outcomes cluster with FAO.

The CSC TWG on Seed developed the road map on establishment of the FMSS cluster that was endorsed within the structures of the ASBPP. The cluster seeks to ensure increased farmers' participation in the management of traditional seeds and formal recognition within the main seeds policy frameworks at the continental level.

COVID 19 study: The study titled "Organic Versus Conventional Farmer Crisis Responses: Implications under Covid and Russia-Ukraine War" was commissioned by BvAT on behalf of CSC. The study assessed how the various farmers practising organic and conventional agriculture were affected by the pandemic, and how they were responding to it (adaptation). The study covered the five political regions of Africa, three countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia), two in West Africa (Mali and Senegal), two in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe and Zambia), two in Central Africa (Democratic Republic

of Congo and Cameroon) and two in Northern Africa (Morocco and Egypt). The study provides results on the impact of Covid-19 on farmers' daily lives and their activities connecting to the common food value chains (farm to fork), shifts in consumer demand and incomes; Impact of pandemic on access to farming support services: 81% conventional and 77% organic producing households were not able to access important farming support services ($p < 0.05$). Only 61% were able to access extension services, with 58% conventional compared to 60% organic facing the challenge. More women (66%), compared to 59% of men reported having challenges accessing extension services. The most affected were households producing crops as reported by 40%, compared to 31% livestock producers.

The study also provides findings on impact of COVID19 on trade and access to food: 49% of the respondents were not able to meet their monthly food needs between January 2020 and August 2021. Poor access to food affected both sexes in equal measure, with slightly more (69%) women-headed households compared to 57% men headed households. Poor access to food was occasioned by post-harvest losses, inability to access markets, poor access to inputs and reduction in household disposable income. Generally, 87% of the producers reported reduction or loss of income by 40% due to the pandemic. Producers who invested in livestock production reported 47% reduction in income, compared to crop producing households who reported a 41% income reduction ($p > 0.05$).

Impact of Russia-Ukraine war on livelihoods: The advent of COVID19 pandemic in 2020 reversed decades of hard-won macroeconomic, socioeconomic and governance gains in Africa, leading to loss of human life, livelihoods, and incomes. The situation has been worsened by the Russia-Ukraine war. The war has led to suspension of commercial shipping at its ports by Ukraine military, leading to supply disruption from the largest grain and oilseeds exporters. Consequently, the prices of wheat have increased in some countries by 42% in Egypt, 31% in Tunisia, 25% in Nigeria, 24% in Tanzania, and 17% in Kenya. The World Bank estimates that "every percentage point increase in food prices will push 10 million people into extreme poverty." A supply disruption has already led to increase in cost of living in most African countries.

The study also provides farmers' response to the pandemic and the implication to food value chains and food security in Africa including building resilience through adoption of agro-ecological practices, Access to production support services; Reducing the impact of food insecurity and increasing competitiveness among traders.



CHALLENGES

Political

- In Ethiopia, the implementation period was greatly affected by civil unrest and war especially in the Northern parts of the country where Mekelle University is located. Mekelle project staff were completely locked out of communication with the rest of the project stakeholders in Ethiopia and globally. The cut off in communication derailed updates on status of the project implementation and continues to do so to date.
- Wollo University has been brought on board to replace Mekelle University.
- Development of policies and programmes within the sector has been slow due to low support by National, Regional and Continental government institutions. Efforts including heightened advocacy however are being made to get on board institutions at this level.
- Mainstreaming of EOA in national education curricula has also not received much support from the government. Additionally, the process of curriculum development is resource and time intensive limiting successes in the sector.

Institutional

- Limited human resource financial support at the implementation level. The design of the SDC funding was aligned to support ongoing EOA activities in organizations especially the National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs). However, once the project was rolled out, the need for human resource support was realized. In the Phase II, human resources support was extended to only one staff at the CLO level with limited funds for PIPs. Lack of human resource support has slowed down implementation of the project because CSOs run on donor funded projects that dedicate project staff to implement projects.

- Due to lack of human resource support, majority of staff implementing the project do not meet basic qualifications criteria to manage project and finances. This further slows down the rate of implementation and reporting on project progress due to limited knowledge and skills on how to run projects.
- Low staff retention and poor handover mechanisms at the partner level have also affected the project both at executing agency level and CLO level. Due to poor handover/transition policies, most new staff are faced with project documentation and reporting challenges.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- During the implementation period, the country partners lacked staff and capacity to support in the monitoring and evaluation functions of the project. This led to having insufficient data at the outcome results level.
- Some partners had challenges in undertaking effective data management activities to ensure authentic data is collected. We experienced collection of data that was not clean and took a while to clean it.
- Limited resources were also allocated at the country level thus limiting the capacity of partners to collect data frequently.

COVID -19 Pandemic

- COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed by governments in 2021. However, the pandemic had 'instances of viral waves' that frequently disrupted operations.
- The directions to have travellers subjected to testing before travelling out of their countries also brought in logistical challenges for the project.
- Crowding in public places continued to be restricted in most countries thus slowing down project work.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Despite the reporting period being a challenging year due to COVID-19 pandemic, partners managed to implement activities as planned achieving various results against strategic targets. Virtual monitoring was conducted to check on progress and support partners where possible. Progress was made on value-added processing of organic products, expanded access to technologies and practices, especially benefitting the smallholder farmers and their groups/cooperatives.

Evidently, the Market development and value chain approach with Business Development Support (BDS) services enabled identification and/or improvement of private sector awareness of opportunities, information sharing and direct facilitation of new and existing business relationships.

- Under research and extension support, various research activities were undertaken especially

through institutions of higher learning. Research publications were produced, and field demo farms and plots established. This contributed to the increase in information available to the public on EOA. This remains an important strategic area in the development of the EOA sector given that information is power and creates a good ground for its development.

- Various channels were used for EOA dissemination during the implementation period. These channels included social media, websites, radio, TV, and IEC materials. The popularity of mass channels reaching bigger populations was used during the implementation period. However, there is need to use channels that ensure farmers reach can be accounted for effectively in terms of reach, capacity development and adoption.
- Beyond the already established EOA value chains, partners during the implementation period focused on value addition of produced products. This was a step further in adding value and managing post-harvest losses. This is another key entry point for penetrating and growing organic markets and should be supported.
- The “game changer” for EOA success and stability at country level is a functional CLO as well as PIPs with strong organizational structures for EOA project delivery. Thus, effective, efficient, and strong

governance and management systems are critical requirements for successful scale up of EOA and sustainability.

- Beyond the resources, the sustainability of the uptake of EOA practices and technologies and changes at farmer level, will only be sustained by a well thought-out market system approach. The value chain approach is so far bearing fruits, there is need to focus more on strategies of fully engaging other value chain actors to support the value chains development.
- Strategies that support scale up of farmers adopting EOA should be developed and shared for implementation with partners given that the current adoption numbers are limited.
- There is need to allocate more resources at partner level for monitoring and evaluation.
- Where possible, human resources should be sufficiently allocated to project staff at both CLO and PIP levels. This move would catalyze project implementation at country level with committed and qualified staff being employed.
- Use of virtual meetings to track partners progress in implementation of the project should be encouraged because it saves on resources and time.
- Capacity building initiatives should be scaled up in areas where partners are weak.

4. Knowledge Centre For Organic Agriculture - KCOA

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) is part of the Global Project Knowledge Centres for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA), implemented by GIZ with funding support from BMZ Special Initiative One-World-No-Hunger. The project is implemented in the Eastern, Western, Southern, Northern, and Central Africa regions. The goal of the KCOA project is to ensure Knowledge Hubs are successfully introduced as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture with actors in the regions of Eastern, Western, Southern, Northern, and Central Africa. The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) is in its first

phase of implementation that runs from August 2019 to June 30, 2022, coordinated by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT), in collaboration with PELUM Uganda.

The overall goal of the Eastern Africa Knowledge Hub is to ensure that Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) is integrated into the Eastern Africa agricultural systems in 4 countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa is expected to scale up to Madagascar in phase II, which was projected to commence in April 2022.

The KHEA has three focus areas.



- 1. Collecting/preparing of organic agricultural knowledge: Validated technical and methodological knowledge for the promotion of organic agriculture, including processing, is prepared and packaged for application in the context of the participating countries and stakeholder groups.**
- 2. Dissemination of organic agricultural knowledge and capacity building: 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, have been disseminated.**
- 3. Networking in organic agriculture value chains: Key actors in the organic agriculture value chains of the participating countries in the four countries have been networked in an exemplary manner.**

Focus Area 1) **Collecting/preparing of organic agricultural knowledge:**

During the reporting period, a KHEA Knowledge Management Strategy was developed and validated by the team. This is a critical document that will provide guidance to the entire knowledge management process in the region. The KM Strategy was also developed with key guides and tools for different KM processes at the country level - tools for constituting the country validation committees, reporting on knowledge products collected, developing new knowledge products, Knowledge Management flow at the hub level, etc.

Together with the GIZ, the hub conducted Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) trainings for all the four-country implementing partners (CIPs) and other partners at the country level. This training is key in building the capacities on issues governing both legal and social aspects of dealing with knowledge from third parties as well as protecting that generated from within the project.

The hub participated in the development of the digital knowledge platform - a repository for the knowledge products collected and a platform for sharing the same. The hub shared a proposal on salient features that should be incorporated into the design of the overall continental platform.

During the reporting period, a total of 139 Knowledge Products (KPs) were collected across the 4 CIPs spread

across countries. These KPs are from the CIPs themselves, Associate Partners, Member Organizations, Master Trainers, and Multipliers. All KPs collected are kept in a regional repository, awaiting validation and uploading to the digital platform.

Knowledge Products Collected During the Reporting Period					
Kenya (PK)	Rwanda (ROAM)	Uganda (PU)	Tanzania (TOAM)	BvAT (RKM)	Total
60	9	3	10	57	139

In addition, all the 4 CIPs identified experts to make up the Country Validation Committees (CVCs). The CVCs are composed of experienced and practicing individuals with expertise ranging across the different thematic areas covered by the knowledge products. There has been a regional induction meeting for all the CVC members from the 4 CIPs, followed by a country specific induction meeting for CVC members in each country to ensure that everyone understands their role.



Photo 12: PELUM Kenya's Country Validation Committee Members

Focus Area 2) **Capacity building and dissemination of organic agricultural knowledge.**

A total of 1165 (677 male, 488 female) multipliers were trained on organic agriculture principles, practices, and technologies by their respective master trainers across the four countries. Out of these, 42% were youths and 42% of the total were females. A majority of 86% of the trained multipliers were staff or members of different organizations or groups. This information is summarized below:

Multipliers trained in 2021

Country	Female	Male	Total	% Progress	% Youths	% Multipliers attached to an organization/group
Kenya	147	204	351	84%	46%	100%
Rwanda	103	107	210	58%	56%	23%
Tanzania	131	230	361	100%	29%	100%
Uganda	107	136	243	68%	44%	100%
Total	488	677	1165	78%	42%	86%



Photo 13: A multiplier demonstrating to farmers how to make organic manure in western Uganda

A total of 236 (77 male, 159 female) farmers from two countries (Tanzania and Uganda) were trained on specific topics depending on the needs of the farmers. 37% of these farmers were youths while 67% of the total farmers were females. This is summarized below:

Farmers trained in 2021

Country	Female	Male	Total	% Progress	% Youths	% Multipliers attached to an organization/group
Tanzania	28	16	44	1%	61%	100%
Uganda	131	61	192	4%	32%	23%
Kenya	0	0	0	0%	0%	100%
Rwanda	0	0	0	0%	0%	100%
Total	159	77	236	1%	37%	86%

Apart from trainings, the country implementing partners employed different channels to disseminate information on organic agriculture to the potential users e.g. farmers. Televisions, radios, magazines/newspapers, and social media platforms were the main channels that were used to reach out to over 5 million potential users of organic agriculture knowledge.

The KHEA Hub created awareness through various print media including but not limited to The Organic Farmer Magazine, the East Africa news paper, and the New Vision newspaper (Uganda) among other newspapers across the region. A publication spearheaded by PELUM Kenya (in the picture on the left) was featured on the World Food Safety Day 2021 with the theme: Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow.

Another publication was spearheaded by PELUM Uganda and featured in the New Vision newspaper on World Food Day 2021.

Focus Area 3) **Networking in organic agriculture value chains:**

The KHEA Hub organized a virtual Inter-country Learning Event that was very successful, bringing Country Implementing Partners (CIPs) together online to share what the project was doing in the individual countries. Each of the countries prepared an 8 minute video summarizing the milestones that had been reached through the different activities. The intercountry learning

event that was conducted on July 29, 2021 will be an annual event. It will provide among others videos for all the CIPs for sharing.

The KHEA Hub also participated in the Organic World Congress (OWC) 2021. The KHEA project made several presentations and led and participated in numerous discussions. In addition, one farmer group from Kenya, “3000 Nooya PGS Group”, with a membership of 22 farmers was certified under the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). The group went ahead and opened a grocery shop within Nairobi, Kenya where they currently sell their organic agro commodities. Over 15 other farmer groups across the 4 CIPs were trained in preparation to get PGS certified.

The knowledge hub and its member organisations contributed to over 4 national and international symposia, trade fairs or exhibitions during the year at national and regional levels. These events included participation and presentations by representatives from the hub in symposiums, agroecology conferences, and agricultural shows, among others. The events include: the Indigenous Food Fair in Uganda, organised and hosted by PELUM Uganda in October 2021, the National Agroecology Actors Symposium hosted by PELUM Uganda in Uganda, the Rwanda International Trade Fair Exhibition edition 2021 from 9th to 30th December 2021 at Gikondo Expo Ground Kigali, Rwanda.

4.1. Impact stories: voices from the field

A Boost for Beans: The story of a farmer from Uganda trained by KHEA



Photo 14: Onesmus Asimwe on his farm

Asimwe Onesmus is a former conventional farmer who is now an organic farmer, thanks to KHEA farmer trainings. In the period under review, KHEA conducted farmer trainings across the region where farmers were exposed to different organic farming techniques. Through these trainings, Onesmus says he learnt not only how to use less external inputs in his farm but also how to avoid synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. “I have adopted organic farming practices such as crop rotation, composting manure, spraying with organic pesticides such as biochar, ash mixed with water, and local herbs”, he proudly says.

Onesmus the farmer, is now also a trained multiplier under the KCOA-KHEA in Rukiga district in Western Uganda. He specializes in organic bean production. He says that he did not wait for long to get the results after the big switch to organic farming, courtesy of the trainings. “This has greatly improved production. I manage a small farm of 2 acres, and I now harvest 2 tons of beans, something I never achieved while I used artificial methods of farming”, he quips.

He says the switch to organic farming has economic benefits for him and his community at large. “Because of the produce, I get an income and deploy people and educate them to the farming needs of bean production required to increase yields”, he adds cheerfully.

The KHEA farmer trainings aim to disseminate knowledge and good organic farming practices among the local communities across the whole region. Asimwe is one of the numerous trained farmers making use of the positive effects of organic farming. By farming organically, he both contributes to an intact environment and to less food contamination.

4.2. Challenges, opportunities and lessons

1. CHALLENGES

- COVID-19. At the close of 2019 and beginning of 2020, there was an outbreak of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) originating from China. On March 11, 2020, the outbreak was declared a global pandemic and by end of March 2020 several countries around the world were under lockdown and quarantine measures. Project implementation plans in BvAT had to be changed as the effects of the pandemic continued to ravage and worry everyone. The world was adversely impacted and as an alternative, during the year, several virtual meetings were organized and held with implementing partners to ensure that implementation of some project activities continued.
 - Climate change. Most farmers rely on rainfed agriculture and their production was greatly affected by weather changes – excessive rain leading to flooding or drought.
 - The Organic certification process is lengthy and the cost is beyond the reach of many smallholder farmers. In addition, there is limited awareness of group certification, commonly referred to as Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).
1. COVID-19 restrictions were a major cause for slow-downs in implementation of activities. It is notable however the BvAT team adapted well and fully achieved the performance targets for the year. FCP derived its resilience in midst of a difficult year from its design as a carrier of integrated communication pathways consisting of print, broadcast, web-based, face-to-face, and digital channels. The routines of projects management adapted well employing more on use of IT tools in planning, implementation, and monitoring activities.
 2. More farmers are making the shift adopting organic farming and as a result, the demand for organic inputs is rising against a not well-developed supply chain of organic inputs. Most local agrovet shops do not stock organic inputs. There has been effort to enhance the linkage between farmers, outreach farmer resource centres and the organic input suppliers. More efforts have also been focused on training farmers on methods of making own inputs for soil fertility and pest/disease management.
 3. Notably, effects of climate change seem to get severe with each passing year. The erratic rainfall patterns

and severity of damages caused by floods, droughts and heightened pest and diseases incidents are a major disruption to farming activities. Farmers incur significant losses due to direct damages by weather elements and reduced productivity. FCP will endeavour to carry agroecological content with co-benefits of building farmers' resilience to climate.

4. The main challenge to working with champions is mechanisms for motivating them given that expectations from farmers are usually high requiring them to invest significantly in time.

Institutional

1. The new grants management system rolled out in 2019 did not strategically bring on board new strong partners as anticipated.. For these reasons, 90% of Phase I partners were retained thus spiralling some of the implementation challenges faced in Phase I.
2. Limited human resource financial support at the implementation level. The design of the SDC funding was aligned to support ongoing EOA activities in organizations especially the National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs). However, once the project was rolled out, the need for human resource support was realized. In the Phase II, human resources support was extended to only one staff at the CLO level with limited funds for PIPs. Lack of human resource support has slowed down implementation of the project because CSOs run on donor funded projects that dedicate project staff to implement projects.
3. Due to lack of human resource support, majority of staff implementing the project do not meet basic qualifications criteria to manage project and finances. This further slows down the rate of implementation and reporting on project progress due to limited knowledge and skills on how to run projects.
4. Low staff retention and poor handover mechanisms at the partner level also affected the project both at executing agency level and CLO level. Due to poor handover/transition policies, most new staff are faced with project documentation and reporting challenges.
5. The grants management system approach of 'consortium of partners' approach has exposed the project to weak institutions at the implementation level.

6. Weak governance and leadership structures within the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) sector has slowed down the development of the EOA sector.

Policies

1. Development of policies and programmes within the sector were slow due to low support by National, Regional and Continental government institutions. This trend is expected to change in the coming years.
2. Mainstreaming of EOA in national education curriculums did not receive much support from the government in the reporting year. Additionally, the process of curriculum development is resource and time intensive limiting success in the sector.

2. OPPORTUNITIES

As the lead coordinating agency of the KHEA Hub, Biovision Africa Trust was privileged to host the Ecological Organic Agriculture Leadership Course conducted by IFOAM Organics International from July 7 – 11, 2021. The Ecological Organic Agriculture Leadership Course (EOALC) was part of the capacity development support implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The EOALC was designed to support organic leaders from Africa who are striving for truly sustainable change in agriculture in their regions. Participants were trained and strengthened in their ability to lead the Ecological Organic Agriculture and Agroecology movement, focusing on capacities for advocacy (regional, national and continental), policy dialogue, research, team work and networking. The EOALC aims to impart the necessary knowledge and practical skills to strengthen the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Africa.

3. LESSONS

BvAT's theme during the reporting year was "Institutional and financial stability for transforming food systems to be sustainable, resilient and inclusive for a better world". Over the last two strategic periods (2010 – 2016) and (2017 – 2020) BvAT experienced remarkable growth on many fronts of programme scope, institutionally and funding level. As expected, this invited considered strategies that aimed on building on the past achievements while taking advantage of emerging strategic opportunities.

FCP interventions have been done with less than needed input from the government and other entities with stake. Aligning more FCP work with government official systems has better chance to foster stronger ownership by the government. This is critical especially with the hindsight on continuity and sustainability of extension services. This requires a refocus in processes of designing and delivering content by adopting participative approaches through engagement with relevant stakeholders.

FCP intends to develop a model of delivery which will see its interventions better defined and systematic. Within the

Market development

1. Participatory Guarantee Groups (PGS) groups formation at country level was accelerated for domestic consumption. However affordable and accessible 3rd party certification remained a great challenge for farmers seeking to penetrate export markets.
2. Lack of access to quality organic inputs exposed the small-scale farmers to poor organic farming practices leading to low organic product volumes in the market.
3. Lack of access to market intelligence on organic markets pitied organic farmers against the conventional farmers.
4. Limited knowledge of organic products and healthy eating by consumers limited the growth of the organic sector.

model, opportunities to further diversify its channels of communication will be assessed and mainstreamed with the traditional FCP communication pathways.

With respect to EOA, we note:

1. There is need to allocate more funds at the implementation level by ensuring that human resource financial allocation trickles down to implementing partners. This will ensure that project and finance officers accountable and dedicated to the project are employed to deliver on the set goals.
2. Data collection and reporting strategy from the country level to the executing level should be scaled up further especially data collection for Outcome level reporting.
3. Pillar to Pillar learning forums should be developed and operationalized to catalyze learning across partners.
4. Documentation of the results of the project and dissemination should be scaled up to ensure good visibility of the Initiative.



Photo 1: Karatu District Commissioner Mr. Abbas Kayanda listening to MkM staff at MkM booth during Karatu Seed and Food Fair event in Karatu on November 26, 2021.

Photo 2: Charei Munene (Infonet Content Manager) giving an overview of the Infonet website resource to eager farmers in Wangige, Kiambu, 03/12/21. Photo credit. Charei Munene.

Photo 3: TOF Radio Officer Musdalafa Lyaga interviews a banana farmer from Kisii County.

Photo 4: The KHEA GIZ funded Project stall at the Rwanda International Trade Fair.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Consolidated statement of income and expenditure for period ended 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	USD	USD
Income		
Restricted income		
Grant income	3,890,131	2,871,546
Interest income	3072	2,821
Unrestricted income		
Overhead recoveries & Other incomes	<u>179,897</u>	<u>158,533</u>
Total income	<u>4,073,100</u>	<u>3,032,900</u>
Expenditure		
Research and project activities	2,437,192	1,590,836
Personnel expenses	1,021,529	891,759
Travel cost	60,723	35,169
Project administration costs	131,289	95,146
General expenses	276,737	230,239
Audit & consultancy	95,130	155,211
Finance cost	<u>3,013</u>	<u>3,407</u>
Total expenditure	<u>4,025,613</u>	<u>3,001,767</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>47,487</u>	<u>31,133</u>

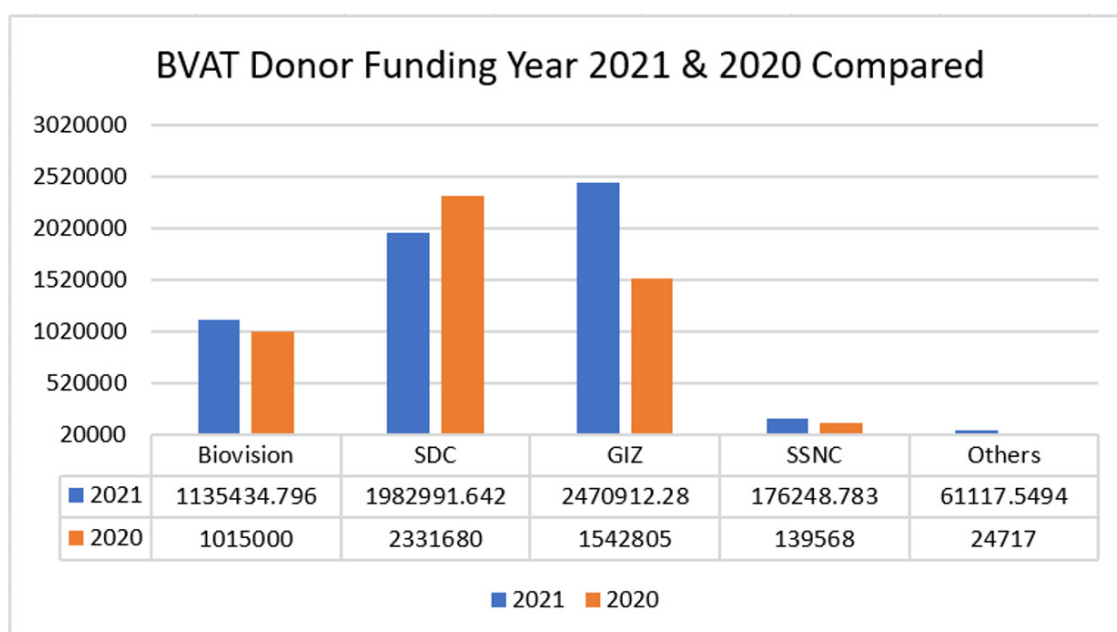


Figure 8: The bar chart above demonstrates the funding received in 2021 and 2020. The detailed funding breakdown is provided below.

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST –DONOR FUNDING				
Expenditure	Year 2021	Percentage	Year 2020	Percentage
	US\$		US\$	
Biovision Foundation	1,135,435	19.5%	1,015,000	20.08%
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	1,982,992	34.0%	2,331,680	46.14%
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)	176,249	3.0%	139,568	30.53%
GIZ/BMZ	2,470,912	42.41%	1,542,805	2.76%
Others	61,118	1.10%	24,717	0.49%
Total Expenditure	5,826,705	100%	5,053,770	100%

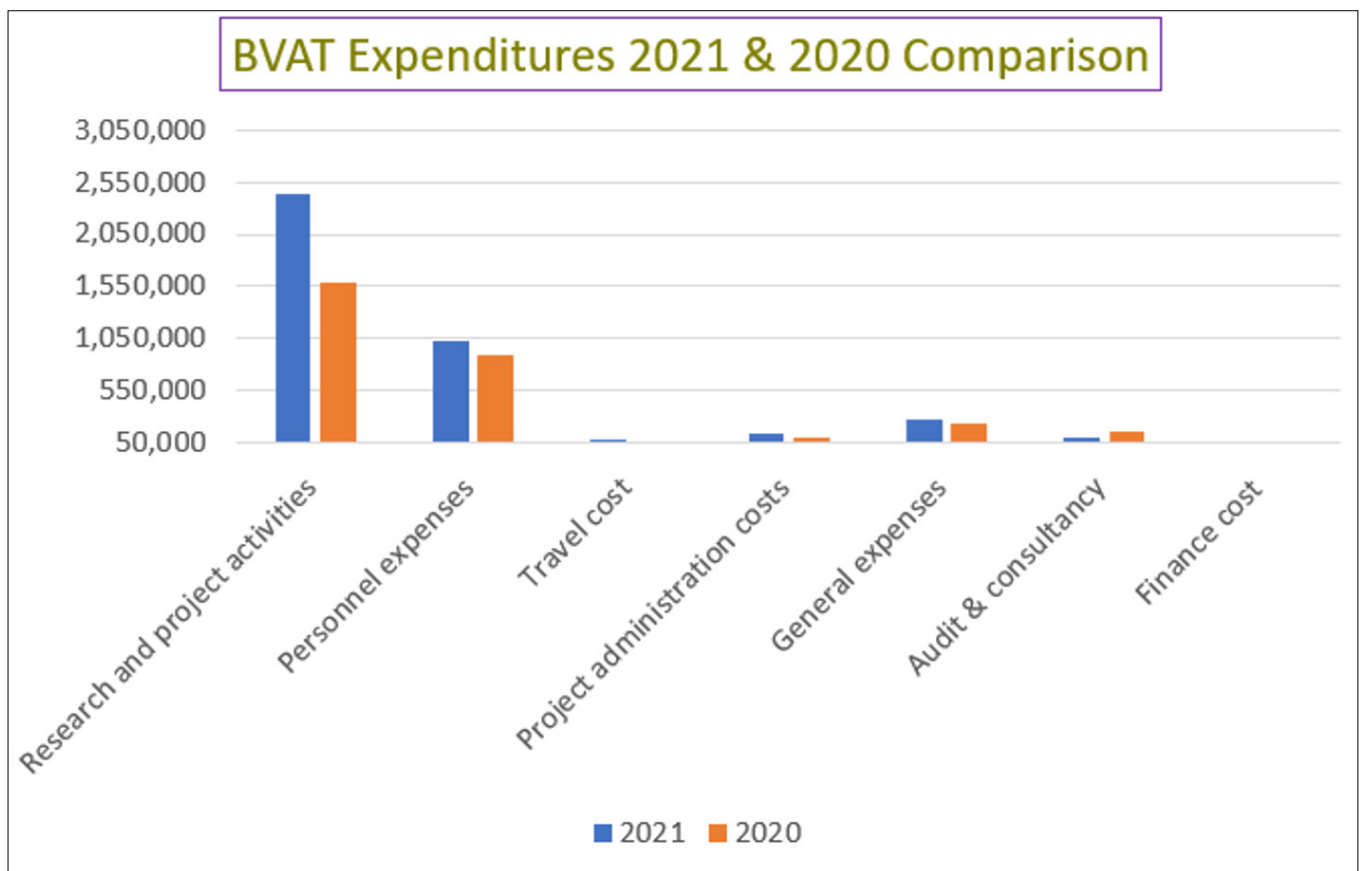


Figure 9: The bar graph above demonstrates the expenditure movement between 2021 and 2020. The detail expenditures have been tabulated below

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Year 2021	Percentage	Year 2020	Percentage
	US\$		US\$	
Research and project activities	2,437,192	60.54%	1,590,836	53.00%
Personnel expenses	1,021,529	25.38%	891,759	29.71%
Travel cost	60,723	15.10%	35,169	1.17%
Project administration costs	131,289	32.60%	95,146	3.17%
General expenses	276,737	6.88%	230,239	7.67%
Audit & consultancy	95,130	2.36%	155,211	5.17%
Finance cost	3,013	0.75%	3,407	0.11%
Total Expenditure	4,025,613	100%	3,001,767	100%

Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020
Assets	USD	USD
Non-current assets		
Property and Equipment	5,414	6,450
Total non-current assets	<u>5,414</u>	<u>6,450</u>
Current assets		
Receivables from implementing partners	1,104,951	1,148,220
Receivable from Biovision Foundation	57,671	24,712
Other receivables and Prepayments	41,184	35,372
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,681,940</u>	<u>1,499,079</u>
Total current assets	<u>2,885,746</u>	<u>2,707,383</u>
Total assets	<u>2,891,160</u>	<u>2,713,833</u>
Fund balance		
Fund reserves	308,916	261,429
Current liabilities		
Payables	323,105	113,043
Deferred income	2,235,752	2,321,952
Fundraising	<u>23,387</u>	<u>17,409</u>
Total liabilities	<u>2,891,160</u>	<u>2,713,833</u>

Biovision Africa Trust financials statement for period ending 31st December 2021 were audited by Ernest and Young Certified Public Accountants Kenya. We received unqualified opinion on the financial statements. The detailed audited report can be provided upon request.

Donors and Development Partners



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Swedish Society
for Nature Conservation



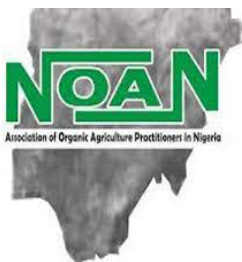
Implemented by



Implementing Partners



AccessAgriculture





Biovision Africa Trust

Contact us



Biovision Africa Trust
C/O ICIPE, P.O. Box 30772 – 00100,
Kasarani off Thika Road,
Nairobi, Kenya



(+254) 719052113



info@biovisionafricatrust.org



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