



Biovision  
Africa  
Trust

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

*A healthy people living in a healthy environment*



**BvAT would like to appreciate the editorial team of Dr David Amudavi,  
Caroline Mwendwa and Venancia Wambua**



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>ARSO</b>       | African Regional Organisation for Standardisation              |
| <b>ASBPP</b>      | African Seed and Biotechnology Programme Platform              |
| <b>ASTGS</b>      | Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy         |
| <b>BMZ</b>        | German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development       |
| <b>BvAT</b>       | Biovision Africa Trust   |
| <b>BVF</b>        | Biovision Foundation for ecological Development                |
| <b>CAADP</b>      | Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme         |
| <b>CLO</b>        | Country Lead Organization                                      |
| <b>COVID - 19</b> | Coronavirus disease  |
| <b>CSC</b>        | Continental Steering Committee                                 |
| <b>ECCAS</b>      | Economic Community for Central African States                  |
| <b>ECHO</b>       | ECHO community   |
| <b>ECOWAS</b>     | Economic Community of West African States                      |
| <b>EOA-I</b>      | Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative                      |
| <b>ESA</b>        | Ecological Sustainable Agriculture                             |
| <b>DREA</b>       | Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture                    |
| <b>FCP</b>        | Farmer Communication Programme                                 |
| <b>FFA</b>        | Farmer Field Assistant   |
| <b>FFO</b>        | Farmer Field Officer   |
| <b>FIBL</b>       | Research Institute of Organic Agriculture                      |
| <b>GIZ</b>        | German Agency for International Cooperation                    |
| <b>Icipe</b>      | International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology         |
| <b>KALRO</b>      | Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization          |
| <b>KBC</b>        | Kenya Broadcasting Corporation                                 |
| <b>KCOA</b>       | Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa             |
| <b>KHEA</b>       | Knowledge Hub for Eastern Africa                               |
| <b>MAAIF</b>      | Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries         |
| <b>MOALFC</b>     | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives |
| <b>MT</b>         | Master Trainers  |
| <b>NOAP</b>       | National Organic Agriculture Policy                            |
| <b>NOGAMU</b>     | National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda                |
| <b>ROAM</b>       | Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement                            |
| <b>PELUM</b>      | Participatory Ecological Land Use Management                   |
| <b>PGS</b>        | Participatory Guarantee System                                 |
| <b>RECs</b>       | Regional Economic Committees                                   |
| <b>RIA</b>        | Regulatory Impact Assessment                                   |
| <b>SAT</b>        | Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania                               |



|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>SDC</b>    | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation       |
| <b>SFA</b>    | Smart Farmer Africa                                |
| <b>SGL</b>    | Standard Group Limited                             |
| <b>SIDA</b>   | Swedish International Development Agency           |
| <b>SSNC</b>   | Swedish Society for Nature Conservation            |
| <b>TBC</b>    | Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation                  |
| <b>ToToF</b>  | Training of Teams of Facilitators                  |
| <b>UNCTAD</b> | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| <b>UNFSS</b>  | UN Food Systems Summit                             |

# 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the contribution of 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 the 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).

We express our gratitude to our Board of Trustees whose guidance and support have been a pillar on which our projects thrived, and achievement of goals made possible. The commitment with which the Board members held ground for the organisation played a key role in the successful completion of the activities planned for in the year.

Our network of implementing partners has been pivotal in the attainment of our organisational goals. Through your diligent efforts and devotion in capacity building and information dissemination on ecological sustainable agriculture, we have expanded reach, and intensified our impact. It is through your cooperation, that our programmes have sustained impact locally, nationally, and internationally. We remain indebted to you for your loyal commitment to this cause.

We acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives in Kenya as well as the agricultural sectors in the 11 counties where we have farmer resource centres. We are grateful for creating an enabling environment for the implementation of our programmes within the sector infrastructure. This collaboration is a driving wheel for the successful achievement of our goals, and we do not take it for granted.

To the media partners: 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; we have drawn invaluable from your resourcefulness in widening reach of our target audiences locally and abroad. We acknowledge your contribution in our endeavour to widen reach and deepen impact.

We recognise our knowledge resource base, the research institutions, such as the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), FiBL, universities and other private and public research organisations whose unrestrained efforts in generating knowledge on organic agriculture, provides us with validated information with which to empower the small holder farmers and share with other stakeholders.

Our farmers across the continent with whom we collaborate to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture, we owe the impact of our efforts to you. We have come a long way, and still on course to achieve more in restoring holistic health for our continent. You have believed in our mission and played a critical role in its fulfilment, not only through sharing knowledge, but also by exemplifying the possibility of safe food production, for a healthy people living in a healthy environment. We acknowledge with deep gratitude the diligent efforts of all BvAT staff, in upholding the cause of our organisation. What was achieved was a result of your devotion and hard work.



## 2. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT). First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude for the honour of serving in the capacity of the Board Chair, of this esteemed organisation beginning this year. I was handed the baton by Mr. Andreas Schriber, the Founding Trustee and former Board Chair during the handover ceremony celebrated at the Swiss Embassy residence over a luncheon hosted by the Swiss ambassador to Kenya Mr. Valentin Zellweger on 20th June 2022. Our organisation has achieved laudable milestones during the former chairperson's tenure, and as I take the helm supported by the members of the board, the senior management team, and the entire staff of BvAT, I am excited at what lays ahead.

We have made commendable feats this past year and grown in our aspiration to be an influential organisation locally, regionally, and globally. Towards realizing the third strategic objective of creating an enabling policy and institutional environment, BvAT has been actively supporting institutions and like-minded organizations to scale up these efforts. In the month of October 2022, BvAT Executive Director Dr David Amudavi was appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives to be among the 20 multisectoral team of experts to review the National Seed Policy and develop seed sector strategy and investment plan for Kenya. This depicts the undeniable marks BvAT is making in influencing policy at the national level.

At the international level, BvAT has maintained engagements that are formidable and whose fruits are already budding. In the month of October, BvAT hosted a delegation of the agricultural committee of the German parliament. During the visit, BvAT had the opportunity to showcase its work to the guests who expressed deep enthusiasm and pledged support of the initiatives. The event was graced by select farmer beneficiaries of our programmes who testified to the organisation's impact at the grassroot. The visit was covered by local media further flying high the BvAT flag. Such gestures point to the strength of BvAT's brand in the development sector beyond the continent. A lot of work has gone into the implementation of our programmes and attracting such high-profile guests heralds the visibility of this impact.

I wish to thank all our donors and supporters for continually partnering with us in advancing this cause of improving the livelihoods of the small-scale farmers; and ensuring a safe future for all. My deep gratitude to the Board members for their steady support in offering guidance to the organisation. It is through your unfaltering support, that the organisation has attained this growth. To the Executive Director Dr David Amudavi, the success of BvAT is owed to your unmatched chieftainship. You have clearly steered the organisation to great heights and inspired a bright future. I would like to applaud all the BvAT staff members for their contribution in propelling the organisation forward. Keep up the BvAT spirit of deepening reach and impact across our beautiful continent.



**Chair of the Board of Trustees**

### 3. MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been an eventful year, marked by the general elections for our country Kenya, held on the 9th of August 2022. Despite the many months of intense political activity in the country, all hands have been on the deck in ensuring all strategic objectives stipulated in the 2021-2024 strategic plan are adequately met. In the year 2022, BvAT intensified efforts to fast track the second strategic objective on value chain and market development targeted to the value chain actors by finding solutions and creating markets opportunities for the small holder farmers in the organic sector.

Given that in previous phases projects were focused more on production, in the year 2022, mechanisms were put in place to establish a functional markets development unit. With the recruitment of a Market Systems Development Officer late in the year 2021, this process kicked off in the year 2022. So much ground has been covered, in establishing relevant networks and infrastructure to ensure farmers are linked to markets.

Mid in the year, BvAT was represented in the Biofach International trade fair held in Germany in the month of July in a bid to leverage markets networks beneficial to the local organic farmers. In the last quarter of the reporting period, a markets development specialist was engaged to conduct a study and develop a strategy that guides how farmers in the organic sector can be supported to sell their products. The traction gained towards markets development within a year is a clear indication that by the end of this implementation phase, a lot will have been achieved through engagement of value chain actors and other stakeholders in market development for the small holder farmer.



**Our collaboration with research institutions has been the hallmark of our role in scaling knowledge into use. BvAT has held longstanding partnerships with public and international research institutions**

We are in the second year of the organisation's current strategic plan and as we make progress towards fulfilling the set goals for the phase, we take lessons and sharpen our innovativeness in making the organisation a stellar performer. Programmes have made great strides in empowering farmers to increase productivity by adopting ecological sustainable farming methods, while maximizing on partnerships to amplify impact. The Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) successfully completed its second phase of implementation in December, and the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) successfully completed its first phase in the month of June; both having surpassed their set goals. Plans for the consequent phase have been formalized and already under implementation.

In the efforts to empower the smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods by engaging in income generating activities, year 2022, has been a fruitful year. Through FCP for example, a nascent project – ENVIU was birthed. The ENVIU Project, targets to empower small scale farmers from one locality with information resources to grow social-economically. The five-year project is currently being implemented in Makueni County to be scaled to other counties progressively.

Our collaboration with research institutions has been the hallmark of our role in scaling knowledge into use. BvAT has held longstanding partnerships with public and international research institutions such as icipe, KALRO and ILRI, among others, mainly in information dissemination. A unique relationship between Biovision Africa Trust and the Right Livelihood College, Bonn and Zeff, in supporting researchers conducting studies in the East Africa region, exemplifies our commitment to ensure our farmers benefit from interventions tailored to their contextual agricultural issues.

As we press on to ensure all the resources at our disposal are optimized to the advantage of our target beneficiary, the smallholder farmer, we acknowledge the role played by our support system, our donors, the agricultural units of the national and county governments, our implementing partners, and the farmers. You have been our fulcrum, and for that we express our gratitude.

Lastly, I would like to appreciate the Biovision Africa Trust staff, whose teamwork brings to life the organisation's dreams and goals. I am deeply grateful for the immeasurable support I get from the Senior Management Team and the Board of Trustees, in leading this organisation to achieve its noble cause of sustainably creating impact for all, for a food secure Africa.

Yours sincerely,

## 5. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Governance at BvAT is at two levels:

- Board of Trustees (BoT) composed of 5 trustees and the Executive Director as Ox-officio member and headed by the Chair. It is responsible for the governance of the organization.
- 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.

### 4.1 BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Mr. Andreas Schriber**  
**Chair & Founding Trustee**



**Ms. Anne Onyango**  
**Chairperson & Trustee**



**Prof. Christian Borgemeister**  
**Trustee**



**Prof. Onesmo K. ole Moiyo, MD**  
**Trustee Emeritus**



**Prof. Judy Wakhungu**  
**Trustee Emeritus**



**Dr. David Amudavi**  
**Executive Director,  
Ex-officio member**

## 4.2 OUR TEAM

During the year 2022, BvAT had a total of 48 staff, 20 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 2 staff hosted by Pelum Uganda based in Kampala, Uganda.

Additionally, 12 interns from various universities and colleges benefitted from the excellent experience and exposure provided by BvAT to their industrial attachment.



**Dr. David Amudavi (PhD)**  
**Executive Director**



**Fredrick Ochieng**  
**FCP Coordinator**



**Venancia Wambua**  
**Project Manager,  
EOA Initiative**



**Catherine Mbaka**  
**Finance Manager**



**Maxwel Muisyo**  
**Human Resources &  
Administration Manager**



**Alex Mutungi**  
**EOA Continental  
Secretariat Coordinator**



**Chris Rwanda**  
**Project Manager,  
FCP Outreach**



**Francis Nsanga**  
**Project Manager-KCOA-KHEA,  
PELUM UGANDA**



**Charles Kimani**  
**Farmer Feedback  
Officer, TOF Radio**



**Hudson Shiraku**  
**Regional Knowledge Manager,  
KCOA**



**Obed Ateka**  
**Project Accountant,  
KCOA**



**Amos Meme**  
**Fundraising and Resource  
Mobilization Officer**



**Lucy Wandia Macharia**  
Administration and HR  
Assistant



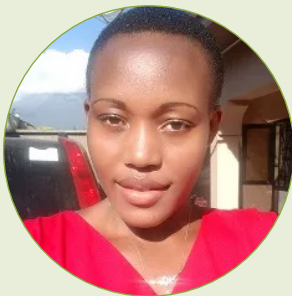
**Geoffrey Lang'at**  
Accountant



**Joseph Nyamesegere**  
Monitoring &  
Evaluation Officer



**Gabriela John Moshi**  
Administrator/  
Accountant, Mkulima  
Mbunifu



**Flora Laanyuni**  
Assistant Editor,  
Mkulima Mbunifu



**Charei Munene**  
Infonet Content  
Manager



**Pamella Magino**  
Communications Officer  
KCOA-KHEA  
PELUM UGANDA



**Margaret Arwari**  
Market Development &  
Networking Officer



**Erica Rugabandana**  
Project Manager,  
Mkulima Mbunifu (MkM)  
sustainable agriculture  
Tanzania (SAT)



**Tabitha Njeri Kinuthia**  
Project Officer,  
FCP Outreach



**Musdalafa Okello Lyaga**  
Project Officer, TOF Radio



**Caroline Mwendwa**  
Project Officer,  
TOF Magazine

#### 4.2.1 Field Officers

| NAME               | FARMER RESOURCE CENTRE           | COUNTY    |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| William Buluma     | Singi CBO                        | Busia     |
| Pamela Otieno      | KALRO Kakamega                   | Kakamega  |
| Michael Wangalwa   | Singi CBO                        | Busia     |
| Caleb Musilwa      | Singi CBO                        | Busia     |
| Francis Maina      | Gilgil Farmer Resource Centre    | Gilgil    |
| Peter Murage       | Kagio Farmer Resource Centre     | Kirinyaga |
| Irene Wasike       | Kamukuywa Farmer Resource Centre | Bungoma   |
| Anthony Nadunga    | Kamukuywa Farmer Resource Centre | Bungoma   |
| Veronich 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     |

# 5. 2022 AT A GLANCE

## 1. Celebration of Leadership



The outgoing BvAT Board Chair Mr. Andreas Schriber hands over the mantle to the new board chairperson Ms Anne Anyango, during a luncheon hosted by the Swiss Ambassador to Kenya Mr. Valentin Zellweger on 20th June 2022.

## 2. Visits by partners



BvAT hosted Mr. Daniel Valenghi and Mr. Amsalu Abate from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15th February 2022.



German Members of Parliament delegation visited Biovision Africa Trust on 28th October 2022 to enhance collaboration.



Ms. Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot, Programme Manager, co-focal point of the thematic Network (Agriculture and Food Systems), Food Systems Section of SDC visited BvAT on 14 November 2022 and was received by Alex Mutungi (L), Venancia Wambua (2nd from R) and David Amudavi (R).

## 2022 AT A GLANCE



Mr Bo Lager of SSNC during a field visit in Busia County to experience the impact of the EOA-I SSNC funded project in Western Kenya.

### 3. Enhancing Strategic Collaborations



BvAT delegation of the Executive Director Dr. David Amudavi, Mr. Alex Mutungi of EOA Continental Secretariat and Ms. Venancia Wambua, EOA-I Project Manager was in Addis Ababa Ethiopia to sign a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) and the Africa Union Commission (AUC). Wednesday, 20th July 2022.



### 4. Events and Workshops



Experts of agroecology facilitate sessions during the multistakeholder agroecology and extension seminar hosted by BvAT on 24th November 2022, at Maxland Hotel, Juja. The seminar was attended by over 50 participants including, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, research institutions, the academia, development organizations, private sector actors and farmers.



## 2022 AT A GLANCE



Deputy President of Kenya H.E Rigathi Gachagua visits BvAT tent during the National World Food Day celebrations held on 17th October 2022, at Rombo, Kajiado County.



**Biovision  
Africa  
Trust**

Farmers join BvAT during the World Food Day celebrations held on 17th October 2022, at Rombo, Kajiado County.



Dr David Amudavi, BvAT Executive Director among the multi-sectoral team of experts who reviewed the National Seed Policy at Eserian Hotel in Naivasha on 3rd October 2022.



## 6. ABOUT BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST (BVAT)



### VISION:

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



### MISSION:

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.



### OVERALL GOAL:

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.



### CORE VALUES:

- Environmental stewardship
- Accountability and transparency
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Integrity
- Gender inclusivity and
- Non-discrimination.



## 6.1 WHAT WE DO



### Information & Communication

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



### 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.



### Research & Development

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

## 6.2 BVAT'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL, CONTINENTAL AND NATIONAL AGENDAS



Figure 1: BvAT's contribution to Global, Continental and National agendas

# 7. OUR FOOTPRINTS IN AFRICA

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

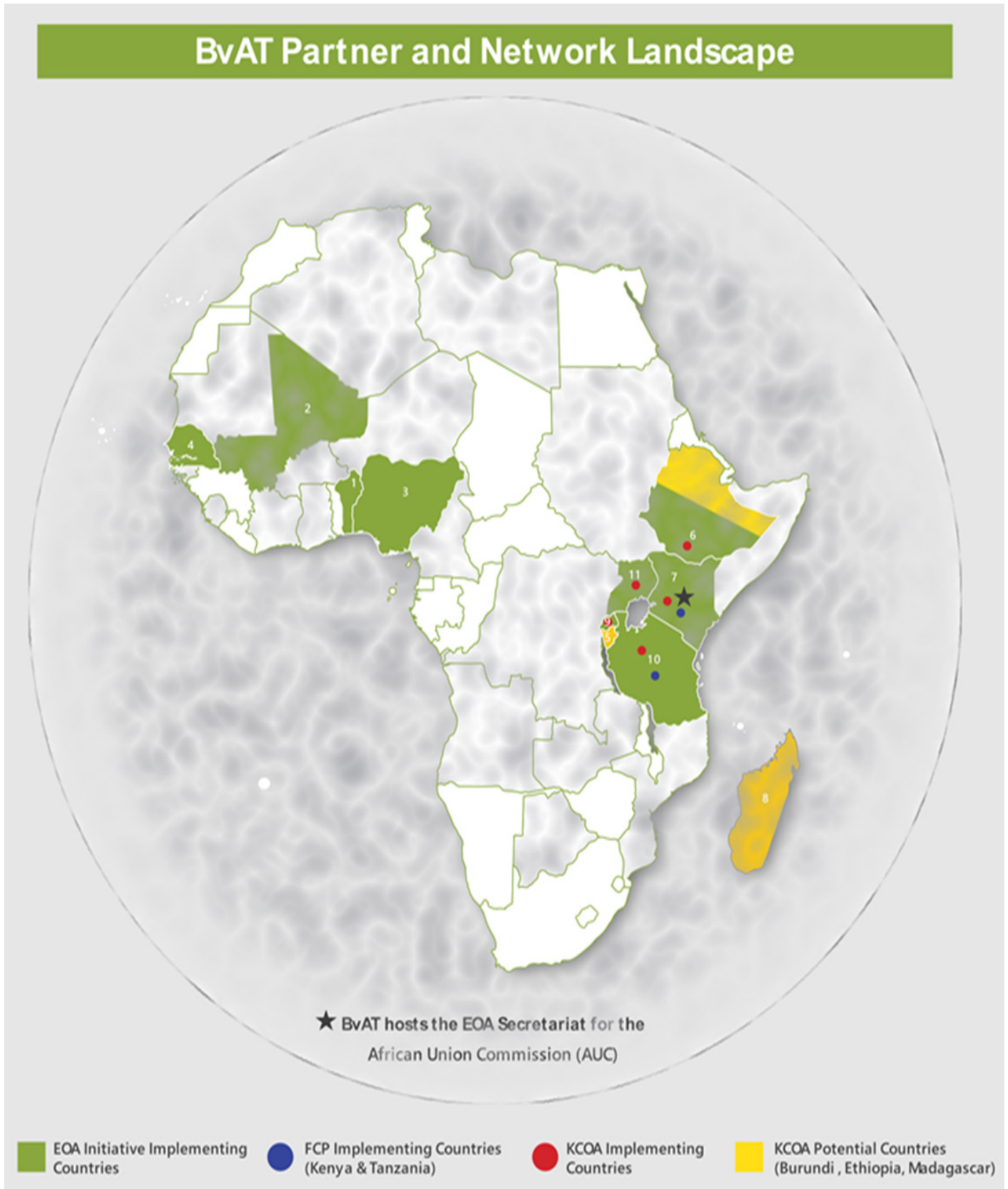


Figure 2: BvAT Footprints in Africa



## 8. ACHIEVED GOALS IN 2022

### BvAT Strategic Plan 2022 Indicator Performance Report

In line with the Strategic Plan for the period 2021 – 2024, BvAT has made progress in the year 2022 towards achieving the goals set under the four main focus areas of the organisations namely:

1. Resilient livelihoods
2. Dynamic markets and trade
3. Enabling policy and institutional environment, and
4. Resilient institutional stability



## 8.1 RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

### People (f/m, youth) reached through awareness creation on AE/EOA per channel used

Target: **29,959,600** Achievement: **27,551,913 (92%)**

Table 1: Farmers reached by BvAT Programmes

| Channel  | Number reached per channel | FCP       | EOA       | KCOA       |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Farmers reached through broadcast (TV, radio)          | 26,768,647                 | 3,940,000 | 7,828,647 | 15,000,000 |
| Farmers reached through face-to-face training          | 15,635                     | 3,884     | 9,757     | 1,994      |
| Farmers reached through open farmer field days         | 4,100                      | 3,000     | -         | 1,100      |
| Farmers reached through print media                    | 143,431                    | 143,431   | -         | -          |
| Farmers reached through Infonet                        | 582,912                    | 582,912   | -         | -          |
| Farmers reached through digital platforms (SMS, email) | 36,877                     | 22,057    | -         | 14,820     |
| Total  | 27,551,913                 | 4,695,595 | 7,838,404 | 15,017,914 |

Farmers are reached through a range of channels – print, broadcast, web, and digital platforms. Integrating the communication channels meets the diverse needs of the farmers and other audiences. Notable outreach events during the year were the campaigns including the “KHEA Farmers Caravan”, The “Know What You Eat” campaign, and the “Meet Africa Farmers” campaign by the KCOA-KHEA Hub project. The KHEA Farmers Caravan that was aimed at empowering multipliers and farmers through knowledge and exchange visits reached over 5.7 million people. The “Know What You Eat” campaign reached an estimated 7.2 million people.

Through FCP, BvAT was enjoined in planning for the 2022 UN World Food Day as a key partner and participated in the national event held in Loitoktok, Kajiado County. The event was prelude by TOF Radio programs aired and TOF magazine articles themed around the UN World Food Day reaching about 2 million listeners. Key partnerships during the year were icipe, ILRI, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, The Standard Group, and KALRO. In Tanzania, Mkulima Mbunifu collaborated closely with Farm Radio International and their radio partners.

### Farmers (f/m, age) trained on AE/EOA

Target: **16,400** Achievement: **15,946 – 95%**  
(7,937 male – 49.80%; 8,009 female – 50.20%; 5710 - 36.52% youth)

| Channel                                   | # of farmers trained on AE/EOA | FCP   | EOA   | KCOA  |
|---|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| # of farmers (f/m, age) trained on AE/EOA | 15,946                         | 4,195 | 9,757 | 1,994 |

The number of farmers being reached through training activities is increasing steadily and has nearly doubled since 2021. The three BvAT programmes contribute to the numbers reached employing a variety of models. The FCP uses the outreach model which entails 12 community-based farmer resource centres located in 11 counties staffed with outreach teams who reach and train farmers. The Outreach model integrates farmer-to-farmer approach where lead farmers (The Organic Farmer Ambassadors - TOFAs) are identified and trained to train other farmers. The KCOA-KHEA Hub uses the Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) strategy to reach and train farmers.

ToToF is a cascading plan which starts with training Master Trainers (MT) who later train and support Multiplier trainers that work with farmers. 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 to farmer 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.



**Agroecology and Organic Agriculture Champions (farmers, extension agents, and other value chain actors) who promote AE/EOA**

Target: **3,300**      Achievement: **2,898 (88%)**

| Channel   | # of Champions who promoted AE/EOA | FCP | EOA   | KCOA  |
|---|------------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| # of champions (farmers, extension agents, and other value chain actors) who promote AE/EOA | 2,898                              | 145 | 1,219 | 1,534 |

The pool of champions who promote agroecology continued to increase by each quarter. Agroecology champions are people and farmers of goodwill and play a critical role in creating awareness on agroecology as well as help deepen impact through peer learning. Under FCP the champions are identified as TOFAs. These are lead farmers who have embraced agroecological practices and out of the spirit of volunteerism, they work alongside field staff to motivate and train other farmers.

The KCOA-KHEA Hub works with Multipliers as champions who disseminate knowledge products to farmers through information sharing and training. 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.

### Knowledge products (type) developed and disseminated

Target: **860** Achievement: **754 (88%)**

| Channel   | # of KPs developed/ disseminated | FCP | EOA | KCOA |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| # of knowledge products (type) developed and disseminated | 754                              | 430 | 75  | 249  |

BvAT prides itself for having consistently and reliably developed a range of knowledge products over the years. The range of knowledge materials is consistent with different and diverse information needs of the audiences reached through BvAT programmes.

Knowledge products regularly produced are the monthly TOF magazines, weekly TOF radio programmes broadcasted nationally in Kiswahili, Infonet datasheets classified under the 4H themes, monthly Mkulima Mbunifu magazines circulated in Tanzania, biweekly articles produced and published on The Saturday Standard, outlines the knowledge products developed and disseminated during the reporting period.

The knowledge products were used by a wide range of users (mainly the producers, agricultural practitioners, students, policy influencers and makers among others) contributing to awareness creation, knowledge and skills transfer vital in promoting agroecology for livelihoods, health, and ecosystems.

## 8.2 DYNAMIC MARKETS & TRADE

### Farmers trained for certification

Target: **730** farmers Achievement: **653** farmers (89%)

Farmers were supported and taken through training for achieving certification status. In Kenya KOAN is the lead agency mandated to oversee the processes of training farmers leading to PGS certification. They assess the processes and upon the farmer group meeting the requirements they get certification. During the year, 2022, the number of farmers in groups that are in the process of certification increased from 143 to 653 farmers, a 89% achievement against the target of 730 (Figure 2).

Despite the increased number of farmers who are in the process of certification, PGS groups are dependent on NGOs support which undermines their sustainability. The PGS process is long and costly, therefore only a few farmer groups can be realistically achieved in a year.

It has been observed that some farmer groups already certified continue to struggle to find markets for their products. Hence, PGS as currently implemented should be reviewed to address the gaps and make it less reliant on external support and guarantee better access to markets by farmers who have attained certification.

### Markets for organic products established/strengthened

Target: **62** Achievement: **48 (77%)**

Establishment and strengthening of organic markets incentivize farmers to produce organic products hence a direct factor on adoption of agroecological practices. Opportunities to diversify organic markets exist as markets can be virtual/online, physical, basket delivery, among others.

A positive growth is evident by the increasing number of markets established. The number of markets established/strengthened grew from 25 in 2021 to 48 markets in 2022 equivalent to 77% achievement (Figure 3).



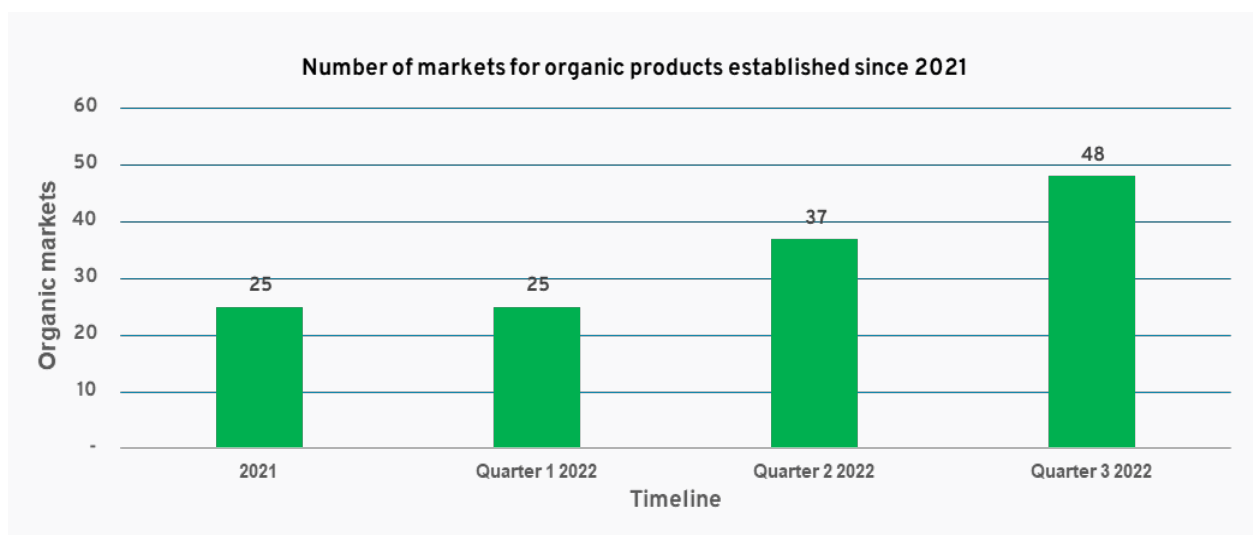


Figure 3: Growth of Organic Markets



The markets and development systems lead officer at Biovision Africa Trust meets with Lukadi Ltd, a company that buys organic nuts and avocados in Western Kenya.

The momentum built during the heightened Covid-19 pandemic remained a strong factor in demand of organic products. This remains an open opportunity for continued efforts of establishing organic markets. Notable challenges in markets are product traceability, supply chain gaps, some products do not meet quality standards, poor packaging and branding, difficult access to the markets by farmers. Reliable information on markets is always difficult to find. More investments and focus by programmes would therefore be needed backed by evidence generated from market research. The evidence is vital in identifying opportunities for consumer awareness, functional linkages between farmers and other actors in the value chains.

#### Consumers reached through awareness campaigns

Target: **29,000,000**      Achievement: **26,768,647** (92%)

| Channel  | # of Champions who promoted AE/EOA | FCP       | EOA       | KCOA       |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| # of consumers reached through awareness campaigns | 26,768,647                         | 3,940,000 | 7,828,647 | 15,000,000 |

Information and knowledge on consumption was disseminated to different groups of consumers using different BvAT channels. This was done directly through BvAT and/or through the implementing partners that BvAT works with.

Consumer awareness campaigns are done through print (TOF magazine, articles in the newspaper (Smart Farmer of The Standard newspaper pullout), radio programmes on national, regional and community channels, and television broadcasts. KCOA through PELUM Uganda carried out campaigns in different parts of Uganda and sensitized consumers on safe consumption. These main activities included road shows, live television talks and radio shows.

BvAT and partners participated in the celebration of UN World Food Day whose theme was “Leave No One Behind” and used the platform to raise awareness on safe consumption. While BvAT and partners reached 26,768,647 consumers, broadcasting costs are high, a challenge that make put out of reach sustained campaigns through the mainstream media.

As a recommendation, programmes and BvAT should be innovative and increase partnerships that can support the process and leverage (scale up of what BvAT already does) on what other partners do.

### 8.3 Enabling Policy & Institutional Environment

| Multistakeholder forums convened/participated in for AE/EOA policy changes and lobby |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Target:  | Achievement:    |
| <b>22</b>  | <b>19 (86%)</b> |

Various forums were held to advocate and lobby for changes for AE/EOA policies. Key forums held under the EOA-I were Continental Forums, the Continental Steering Committee meetings held twice this year and chaired by AUC-DARBE to give guidance and track the development of EOA and Agroecology systems in Africa.

Regional Forums chaired by RECS in eastern and west Africa were held twice this year. At the national level, 9 national platforms chaired by Ministry of Agriculture were convened to lobby for the mainstreaming of EOA in the NAIPs.

At the Continental level, various forums were held which the EOA secretariat participated for policy lobbying and advocacy. Key among them was the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP) meeting held in May this year where Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) road map was approved during the 3rd Steering Group Meeting held in May this year. Further, FMSS indicators were proposed for inclusion in the CAADP Seed Index under Theme 3 of BR: ‘Ending Hunger’ in a Critical Analysis of the Third Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review Process meeting held on 01 – 05 August 2022, Yaoundé, Cameroon by CAADP-AUC



The FMSS TWG of the AU-led Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) under the aegis of the Secretariat of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) participated in the 3rd Steering Group meeting of the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP), held in Kampala, Uganda, from 23-25 May 2022.

At the regional level, the Regional EOA platform forums were held and brought on board Regional Economic Communities ( RECS) especially EAC and ECOWAS to steer and lobby for development of regional policies. EOA-I currently has 2 active regional platforms of west and eastern Africa. Recently, the Central, Northern and Southern Africa platforms were launched to roll out its policy and advocacy activities.

BvAT director Dr. Amudavi has attended 2 forums this year to ‘Review of Kenya’s National Seed Policy, Strategy and Investment Plan’ his role being to integrate Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) in the National Seed Policy.

At national level, a forum in Benin to validate the national agroecology strategy was held. Forums were also held in Uganda and Kenya to develop National Agroecology strategies. In Nigeria, various forums have been held to lobby for the development of an EOA diploma curriculum. A draft curriculum is in place. All the 9 implementing countries of the EOA-I project have held National Platform forums that convene stakeholders to develop national agendas on policy development of EOA-I.

#### Stakeholders participated in advocacy and lobby forums, meetings, workshops, etc

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Target:    | Achievement:     |
| <b>500</b> | <b>400 (80%)</b> |

EOA and Agroecology stakeholders participated in various forums at national, regional and continental levels through attending meetings, workshops, conferences and other related forums for lobbying. At national level, forums convened of 30 stakeholders in the 9 countries. At regional level forums of 20 were convened two times in eastern and west Africa regions. At continental level, CSC forum of 20 members was convened two times in the year.

#### Policies, programmes, plans, strategies, at sub-national, national, regional, and continental mainstreamed/ developed to support AE/EOA

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Target:  | Achievement:    |
| <b>3</b> | <b>5 (167%)</b> |

At continental level, EOA Indicators for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework:

At national level,

- i) Soil improvement and agroecology for resilient agrifood systems in Benin (ProSilience), GIZ. Agroecological Transition in Zones of Benin, phase 2 (TAZCO2), AFD
- ii) Institutional Innovations for Ecological Organic Agriculture In Africa (IIABA) - Tanzania
- iii) Subsidy for organic inputs instituted during the High Council of Agriculture chaired by the President Head of State In Nigeria
- iv) National Agricultural Extension Strategy - Uganda

#### ***Policies, programmes, plans, strategies, at sub-national, national, regional, and continental implemented to support AE/EOA***

Uganda recently developed its National Organic Policy which is currently under Implementation. To support in its implementation, the EOA partners commenced the development of the National agroecology strategy which is under development.

## 8.4 RESILIENT INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY

### 8.4.1 Finance

#### i) Annual reserve volumes reported (USD)

Target: **272,000**      Achievement: **323,337 (119%)**

In 2022 BvAT grew its reserves by 19%. This was possible through additional funds by the GIZ to the KCOA project and the FiBL 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 channeled for fundraising including unrestricted funds.

#### ii) Confirmed Annual Grants (USD)

Target: **2,134,000**      Achievement: **5,594,434**

Table 2: Confirmed grants

| Biovision Africa Trust Confirmed Grants- Period January -December 2022 |                      |                     |                  |                     |                  |                  |                 |                     |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|  | Biovision Foundation | SDC                 | SSNC             | GIZ                 | FiBL-Infonet     | ILRI             | ZEF             | Total               |
| <b>Project Title</b>   |                      |                     |                  |                     |                  |                  |                 |                     |
| TOF Radio  | 174,039.86           | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 174,039.86          |
| FCP Outreach   | 275,114.34           | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 275,114.34          |
| TOF Magazine   | 192,449.13           | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 192,449.13          |
| Infonet  | 165,063.00           | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 165,063.00          |
| MKM Magazine   | 191,867.00           | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 191,867.00          |
| Core Funding Support   | 150,000.00           | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 150,000.00          |
| Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in Africa (9 Countries) =Phase II | -                    | 2,202,844.83        | -                | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 2,202,844.83        |
| Eastern Africa Organic Hub   | -                    | -                   | -                | 2,102,862.38        | -                | -                | -               | 2,102,862.38        |
| Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Africa              | -                    | -                   | 59,107.96        | -                   | -                | -                | -               | 59,107.96           |
| FiBL-Infonet Collaboration   | -                    | -                   | -                | -                   | 28,486.00        | -                | -               | 28,486.00           |
| Center for Development Research (ZEF)                                  | -                    | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                | 2,600.00        | 2,600.00            |
| PCSL Dissemination   | -                    | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | 50,000.00        | -               | 50,000.00           |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>1,148,533.33</b>  | <b>2,202,844.83</b> | <b>59,107.96</b> | <b>2,102,862.38</b> | <b>28,486.00</b> | <b>50,000.00</b> | <b>2,600.00</b> | <b>5,594,434.51</b> |

respects for the coming year, assured funding for the next 3 yrs. 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 until April 2022 to March 2024 bringing in 1.8 million euros.

**Table 3: Reserve account movement**

| BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST RESERVE ACCOUNT MOVEMENT PERIOD: JANUARY 2014–DECEMBER 2023 |        |         |         |         |          |            |            |            |            |            |
|--|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| YEAR   | 2014   | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018     | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       |
|  | US\$   | US\$    | US\$    | US\$    | US\$     | US\$       | US\$       | US\$       | US\$       | US\$       |
| Opening Balance  | 62.118 | 88,091  | 80,821  | 163,807 | 257,769  | 247,356    | 230,296    | 261,429    | 308,916    | 323,338    |
| Surplus Funds  | 25,973 |         | 82,986  | 93,962  |          |            | 31,133     | 47,487     |            |            |
| Deficit  |        | (7,270) |         |         | (10,413) | (17,060)   |            |            |            |            |
| Estimated balance  |        |         |         |         |          |            |            |            |            |            |
| Closing Balance  | 88,091 | 80,821  | 163,807 | 257,769 | 247,356  | 230,296.00 | 261,429.00 | 308,915.92 | 323,337.74 | 337,211.02 |

| Reserve Bank Account               | Amount USD |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Bank Balance as at 31.12.2021      | 1.04       |
| Fixed Deposit Account              | 267,186.27 |
| Funds available                    | 267,267.31 |
| Balance as per Audited Accounts    | 308,915.92 |
| Funds to be transferred to Reserve | 41,648.61  |

| Expected Reserve Balance 2021 | Amount USD       |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| As per strategic plan         | 259,000.00       |
| As per estimated balance      | 308,915.92       |
| <b>Surplus/Deficit</b>        | <b>49,915.92</b> |

### iii) Confirmed annual unrestricted incomes (USD)

Target: **66,000**      Achievement: **177,331**

The forecast budget for unrestricted income (confirmed and to be acquired) is USD 177,331 compared to actual income earned over the period of USD 182,969. This is 3% less than the forecast in year 2021.

**Table 4: Unrestricted funding**

| BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST UNRESTRICTED FUNDING PERIOD: JANUARY 2014 - DECEMBER 2023 |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |           |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| YEAR   | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    | 2021    | 2022    | Totals    |
| US\$   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |           |
|  | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited | Jan-Oct |           |
| Overhead Recovery  | 91,653  | 88,469  | 127,293 | 124,677 | 98,144  | 131,289 | 24,331  | 661,525   |
| Core Funding support   |         |         |         |         | 30,000  |         | 150,000 | 180,000   |
| Other Incomes  | 91,653  | 24,200  | 3,959   | 225,394 |         | 41,073  |         | 386,279   |
| 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  | 7,535   | 3,000   | 97,294    |
| Closing Balance  | 187,212 | 140,794 | 152,096 | 359,084 | 161,354 | 182,969 | 177,331 | 1,336,509 |

Sources of unrestricted incomes were Biovision Foundation (BF), overheads, recoveries from projects and exchange gain. BF has committed core support of USD150'000 annually starting 2022 to 2024. This will significantly increase the unrestricted incomes 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.

#### iv) Finance and administration system in place for tracking, reporting and documenting finance and admin operations

The Finance Department has used Pastel Evolution for general accounting and reporting since 2014. For payroll processing Aren software has been in place to date. Since 2021 BvAT with support from GlZ is establishing an integrated system that supports additional and related functions such as HR, procurement, and logistics. Under this accounting software Microsoft Systems Dynamics has been identified as the suitable software and the process of acquiring and installing it will be completed in the last quarter of 2022.

#### v) Annual liquidity ratio

This ratio is used to determine the ability of the organization to pay its obligations when the amounts are due and the margin of safety in liquidity. During the year 2022 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.

Table 5: Liquidity ratio

| BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST, LIQUIDITY RATIOS PERIOD: JANUARY 2014 - DECEMBER 2023 |         |         |         |         |         |           |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| YEAR  | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    | 2021      | 2022    |
|   | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited | Unaudited | Jan-Oct |
| 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      | 1.00    |

## 8.4.2 Human Resources

#### i) Staff performance score

BvAT staff performance assessment entails a two layered process involving self-appraisals and supervisor-supervisee reviews. The assessments are based on set targets for the year. BvAT's satisfactory and acceptable score is 3 hence staff are expected to score 3 and above on a scale of 1 to 5 to show they are working towards their organizational goals. The 2022 annual staff performance appraisals were duly done. ;

#### ii) Staff exiting within unfulfilled contracts

Five staff members left the organization citing different reasons, the majority having moved on to take different jobs.

#### iii) Staff development

25 staff were supported and were trained on a variety of areas of competencies. Majority of the training are guided by the staff development plan prepared by the staff and approved by the immediate and second level supervisor. Some of the course's staff trained include French Tuition, Taxation Master Class, Certified Human Resource Professional, Project Management Professional, Data Analytics, Resilience Design in smallholder farmers, permaculture and food forest training, Organic Marketing, Seed conservation and preservation, among others.

### 8.4.3 Administration

#### i) Functional institutional documentation system in place

KCOA-KHEA has a Knowledge Management (KM) strategy that encompasses processes of gathering organic agriculture knowledge products, validation, uploading & retrieval, and application of that knowledge. FCP developed a web-based archiving and documentation repository which currently holds project files.

#### ii) Functional inhouse ICT management system in place

Currently, BvAT outsources ICT services, including provision of internet, from icipe. However, 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.

#### ii) New funds acquired

Table 7 provide a summary of funds and project acquisition in 2022.

**Table 6: New Funds in 2022**

| The Call/Application   | Application submitted to                   | Award received  | Remarks   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Videos/photos for Program for Climate Smart Livestock – Contract 1                             | ILRI                                       | 2'000 USD   | Activities successfully completed   |
| Videos/photos for Program for Climate Smart Livestock Contract 2                               | ILRI                                       | 50'000 KES  | Activities successfully completed   |
| Native Plants for Environment and People   | Häni family, a philanthropist donor        | 100'000 CHF   | Funding already secured for the first four years starting July 2022. Other partners are CABI SH (lead), UoN, TAFORI, and CETRAD |
| A showcase: building a regenerative food system – proposal submitted jointly with Enviu (lead) | IKEA Foundation                            | 57'000 EUR per year, total budget 241,554 EUR for 5 years | The project has been rolled out in Makeni County; a new project officer recruited   |
| Scaling-up Digital Training Materials for Smallholder Farmers in East Africa”                  | Joint submission with FiBL (lead) and ROAM | 65,000 USD total budget                                   | The Digitalization project runs for 2.5 years, until end of 2024  |
| AU’s Year of Nutrition and Food Security project   | US Mission to Africa Union                 | 31,750 USD  | This is a one-off funding designated for a study on Agroecology contribution to food security in Africa and policy dialogues.   |

*Note: where funds are jointly acquired with partners, the stated funding values are incomes due to BvAT only, not the total project budget.*

## 8.4.4 Governance & Management

### i) Governance charter up-to-date and implemented

The Board noted that the Charter will be a living document and can be complemented by by-laws made when there is need. Governance needs could be addressed without having to revise the Charter many times. Another area noted was the need to have a by-law or procedures for identifying new members to be appointed as Board members. The Charter does not address this need presently.

### ii) Updated Trust Deed that reflects Trustee changes

The process of updating the Trust Deed following a new board member was finalized in 2021.

### iii) Board meetings

The Board of Trustees meets twice every year. The first Board meeting for 2023 was held on June 21, 2022. The second Board meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2023.

### iv) Management meetings

Project/Programme meetings are held monthly by FCP and KCOA projects. EOA holds bimonthly meetings. General management meetings which include programme and project leads are held on a quarterly basis. The Senior Management Team has met four times in 2022. The management and project specific meetings are complemented by weekly meetings where brief programmes and departmental updates are shared.

### v) BSSC meetings

The BvAT Strategy Steering Committee (BSSC) was constituted in June 2021 to steer the implementation and reporting of strategic plan. The Committee holds quarterly meetings. The committee has met three times in 2022 in which three progress reports were compiled:

- 2021 annual progress report on BvAT strategy implementation.
- 2022 first quarter progress report
- 2022 annual progress report on BvAT strategy implementation.





## 9. BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST PROGRAMMES

BvAT steers its mandate to improve the livelihoods of the small-scale farmers through three main programmes, implemented in various regions of the African continent. These are:

1. The Farmer Communication Programme
2. Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
3. Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture



## 9.1 FARMER COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME (FCP)

The Farmer Communication Programme targets small holder farmers with information on Ecological Organic Agriculture through its five projects: TOF Magazine, TOF Radio, Mkulima Mbunifu, Outreach, and Infonet. With a focus on women and youth, FCP aims to improve the livelihoods of its beneficiaries, by not only empowering them with knowledge to use in adopting ESA technologies, but also linking them with service providers of organic farm inputs as well as support service providers and markets for their products. It reaches farmers in Kenya and Tanzania.

In the year 2022, FCP attained commendable achievements in reaching farmers through its various channels and leveraged on strategic partnerships to widen its reach, improve relevance of the knowledge shared and increase impact, while ensuring sustainability through resource mobilisation. As farmers struggled with skyrocketing prices of farm inputs owing to external factors that led to excruciating inflation of cost of food production, FCP was vital in communicating to the farmer, information on ESA technologies that solve the issue of overreliance on inadequate rainfall and how they can utilize the resources within the farm and household to substitute farm inputs that are not only expensive, but also environmentally unsustainable. Collaborations with implementing partners especially research institutions (Icipe, KARLO, ILRI, TARI, FIBL, universities and county governments as well as other actors in the sector have contributed a great deal in expanding reach and amplifying impact.

To reach target beneficiaries, the programme works with various entities especially media houses for radio and television broadcasting and farmer targeted newspaper pullouts and post offices to reach the masses with articles promoting ESA technologies and creating consumer awareness. Its major strength being in diversity of pathways through which it reaches the farmer, FCP reaches farmers on a face-to-face training model through the extension services offered by extension officers located in resource centres in 10 counties in Kenya.

### 9.1.1 THE ORGANIC FARMER MAGAZINE PROJECT

#### TOF Magazine Progress 2022

TOF Magazine is a project that targets small holder farmers with information on Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture (ESA) through print and online magazines. TOF Magazine has an estimated reach of 150,000 readers across 40 counties in Kenya. In the year 2022 TOF Magazine amplified impact by leveraging on partnerships to enhance content relevance by recruiting new expert writers, who are agroecology experts, working with established organisations in the sector. These organisations include International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, RODI Kenya and Agricultural Production Systems and Institutions Development (APSID). To widen reach of target beneficiaries, the project also utilized digital tools to reach target readers with the digital version of the magazines. In the year, 400 new pdf subscribers were reached.

As part of efforts to create synergies with other actors in the sector, in the process of content co-creation and dissemination, the project organized a multi-stakeholder seminar on agroecology and extension, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Research institutions, farmers, academic institutions, the media and other likeminded actors in the organic sector. The seminar provided insights into the outlook of agroecology in the country and how the various players involved can collaborate to maximize impact of agroecological interventions. The insights will help in building the implementation plan for the new phase of FCP, starting in the year 2023.

Synergies across the FCP projects made it possible to produce additional information material on animal health, through a partnership between BvAT and ILRI, spearheaded by the radio team. Through this project dubbed Programme for Climate Smart Livestock (PCSL) the project produced three hundred modules on animal feeds featuring content on feed conservation technologies employed by farmers in Kenya and Ethiopia. These modules are to be shared by farmer beneficiaries of the project.



Twone Mbee farmers' group from Nkee, Makeni County, discuss information featured in TOF Magazine.

## 2022 Summary of achievements

**12**

editions of TOF magazines produced

**408,000**

copies of the magazine produced in the year

**1277**

pdf subscribers received digital version of the magazine

**1300**

farmer groups reached by magazines every month

An agroecology and extension seminar held attended by

**57 sector actors**

Participation in four networking stakeholder events; One (1) regional Nane Nane event in Arusha Tanzania, 1 national (World Food Day) and 2 other events organized by partner organizations (Icipe and Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology).

**14 articles**

on consumer awareness and ESA technologies published in the Smart Harvest pull out of the Standard Newspaper.

## 9.1.2 MKULIMA MBUNIFU PROJECT

### Mkulima Mbunifu, agri-information and advisory service provider for smallholder farmers in Tanzania

Mkulima Mbunifu (MkM) is a farmer information and advisory service based in Arusha, Tanzania, utilizing print magazine and complimentary communication channels, including website, radio, and social media platforms to reach smallholder farmers with information on Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture (ESA). The project targets smallholder farmers of Tanzania with below 5 acres of land practicing varied forms of agribusiness; crops, livestock and mixed farming.



### MkM reach

**12**

monthly editions of 8-page magazine

**15,000**

copies of magazine monthly

**1,850**

subscribers, receive magazine via email

**10,500+**

following on Facebook

- MkM content distribution through radio broadcasts in collaboration with Farm Radio's Interactive Radio for Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture Practices among smallholder farmers in Northern and Central Tanzania (IRESAP) project.

- Collaborations with major farmers networks, including the Arusha Collaborators of Agro-ecology Forum (ACAF), the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA), the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM).

Feedback from our project beneficiaries is proof that farmers benefit from increased knowledge, skills and awareness on ESA technologies and practices. Some of these benefits include: increase in crop and livestock productivity, climate resilience, healthier and quality food for consumption including dietary diversity, and better market prices for organically produced food.

## 9.1.3 TOF RADIO PROJECT

2022 has been quite an eventful year for TOF Radio as our radio programs continued to dominate the rural landscape. As a vital extension tool, we were extremely innovative in our radio programs to meet our farmers' needs for information through knowledge sharing and creating linkages. In an exciting development, TOF Radio was selected by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to develop and share training materials to make livestock production more "climate smart" targeting farmers in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

The partnership helped to widen TOF Radio reach beyond the traditional FCP reach. In pursuit of deepening partnership for increased reach, impact and sustainability, TOF Radio was yet involved in successful partnerships with National, regional and community radio stations. The national broadcasts were 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) and Mbaitu (Kikamba). These partnerships helped to provided millions of farmers with access to information on ecologically-friendly farming practices and raise consumer awareness on safe consumption.



### Summary of achievements

Approximately

**5,978,400**

were reached in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda through TOF Radio.

A total of

**153** (105 live shows)

TOF Radio programmes produced and aired targeting farmers in Kenya, Ethiopia and Ethiopia.

**24**

articles written and published on the Saturday Standard Smart Harvest magazine pullout

**404**

farmers and experts featured on TOF Radio programmes.

**15**

TOF Radio farmer listener groups established and active

**10,180** SMS, and **1820** calls

received through the Tusemezane feedback system.

**8,666**

farmers in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia linked to extension services and advisory support.

**2650**

listeners participated in radio quizzes and opinion polls.

Key collaboration in programmes production and dissemination: icipe (African Fruit Fly and Vegetable IPM projects), ILRI (Programme for Climate Smart Livestock production) and Advanta Seed International.

## 9.1.4 INFONET-BIOVISION PROJECT

Infonet Biovision is a web-based platform featuring comprehensive information on Ecological Organic Agriculture. In the year 2022 the much-anticipated upgrade of the content management system from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9 was completed. This will improve backend management and user experience of the website that serves over 300,000 people. The upgrade was an enormous task involving huge amounts of data and redesigning the backend structure of Infonet.



Infonet Project manager trains farmers on how to use the Infonet platform

## Summary of achievements

- In 2022, Infonet's database was accessed by 365,005 users in 446,492 sessions.
- 140 datasheets under Plant Health and Environment Health are currently being reviewed internally and with international content experts. 70 new datasheets under Plant health and Sustainable energy are being created. This will cater for the larger continental audience with Infonet being one of the information resources in the 5 Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) Hubs.
- 300 Kenyan farmers from 8 farmer groups have been taken through one-on-one training on Infonet use.
- The Infonet Content manager participated in the 6th International Animal Welfare Conference in Gaborone, Botswana (31st Oct- 2nd Nov 2022). Infonet is among the few information resources carrying Animal Welfare information in Africa.

## 9.1.5 DIGITALIZATION PROJECT



The digitalization project is one of the communication projects supported by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) under the Farmer Communication Program (FCP). The project is implemented in partnership with Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) with funding from Leopold Bachmann. The project aims to increase access to knowledge on organic farming by smallholder farmers through digitalization and dissemination of materials from trustworthy and reputable platforms (FiBL's Organic Africa platform and Infonet-Biovision) and building on the KCOA project to make such knowledge resources available to farmers and multipliers for wider application in East Africa and beyond.

## Summary of achievements

- Disseminated information on indigenous vegetables, indigenous poultry, dairy goats, and introduction to organic farming.
- Developed brochures and posters to create awareness of various value chains.
- Trained farmer groups and individual farmers on how to access agroecology content via their mobile gadgets.
- Collaborated with the County Government of Makueni in training 24 county officials on use of digitalized information material on farming.
- A total of 337 farmers reached on digital trainings via SMS between the months of April and December.

## 9.1.6 OUTREACH PROJECT

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 55 TOFAs worked hand in hand with field teams in promoting ecological sustainable agriculture among the farmers. During the period under review, the Outreach project leveraged on the good working relationships and trust with the county governments to acquire office spaces for Bungoma, Kisii and Makueni counties which translates to reduced rental costs over the next 5 years. The project also supported 6 interns to gain valuable skills and knowledge on ecological sustainable agriculture.



*Peter Murage, the farmer field officer at Gilgil resource centre, trains farmers on ESA technologies.*

*Farmer Field Officer at Kisii Resource Centre, trains pupils on ecologically sustainable agricultural practices.*



### Summary of achievements

- 7,195 Farmers reached through trainings (4,821 women, 2374 men, 1007 youth)
- 2,512 (120 girls, 1272 boys) pupils reached and trained in 37 primary schools.
- 789 responses to farmer queries made by the outreach via Tusemezane platform.
- 39 exchange visits undertaken with 463 farmers (308 women, 155 men and 55 youth)
- 58 field days conducted by staff reaching 2800 farmers (1876 women, 924 men and 392 youth)
- 1394 visitors (1089 women, 537 men and 228 youth) visited the Outreach resource centres for different information needs and services.
- 185 farmer groups comprising of 4821 women, 2374 men, 1007 youth trained.
- Farmers were linked to 13 organic produce markets among them, Thorium Organic Foods, Sylvia's Basket, Slowfood Organic Markets, Kentagra for Pyrethrum, and various hotels and restaurants.
- 55 champion organic farmers Known as The Organic Farmer Ambassadors (TOFAs) have continued to work with the field teams to support project implementation through farm demonstrations and field days.
- Outreach partnered with 82 institutions drawn from the county and national government departments, private sector, research and academia and, development practitioners.

## 9.2 THE AU LED ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE IN AFRICA (EOA-I)



BVAT team of Ms. Venancia Wambua and Mr. Geoffrey Langat visit EOA-I Benin Implementing partners and farmers in 2022.

### 9.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) is an outcome of deliberations and support to implement the African Union Heads of State and Governments Decision on Organic Farming adopted during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011 (EX. CL/Dec.621 (XVIII)). The initiative started in 2011 with support from the African Union, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

The Initiative has a mission to promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders involved in production, processing, marketing, and policy making to improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty, guarantee food security, and safeguard the environment. Its implementation strategy aiming to mainstream EOA in policies and practices, adopts a multi-stakeholder managed national platforms informed by scientific evidence and local experiential knowledge and supported by capacity development of the various stakeholder groups, information & communication efforts and strategic actions linked to regional and continental policy making bodies.

Under the EOA Initiative, Biovision Africa Trust plays 2 key roles as an Executing Agency of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) grants in 9 Africa countries, 4 in West Africa (Mali, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria) and 5 in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania & Ethiopia). In each country, the EOA-I works closely with a Country Lead Organizations (CLO) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs). In its second role, BVAT has been mandated by AUC under an MOU host the EOA-I AU led Continental Secretariat. The secretariat coordinates the EOA-I work in the continent under mandate from AUC.



***In each country, the EOA-I works closely with Country Lead Organizations (CLO) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) that implement through 6 Strategic areas of Research, Training and Extension, Information and Communication, Value Chain and Market development, Networking and Partnership, Policy and Programme Development, and Institutional Capacity Development.***

### 9.2.2 KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

#### Highlights of Impact

By the end of the 2022 reporting year, the EOA-I national partners across nine countries in Africa collaborated with other players to record significant gains towards the adoption of organic agriculture practices across various levels of production systems and registered encouraging footprints within the policy-making networks. The impressive progress made by the initiative is evidenced by the achievements in various aspects of the organic agriculture value chain.



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The project has so far reached **3,426,306** farmers.

There has been commendable increase in the proportion of agricultural land under EOA production being reported at **11.36%**.

One of the most noteworthy accomplishments of the EOA Initiative has been generating information and knowledge totalling to 43 EOA technologies, against a target of 25 for both the generation and validation. 87% of farmers have so far adopted EOA technologies and practices with 13,427 farmers being trained.

A key factor in the success of this initiative has been the training of 3,242,556 extension officers and rural service providers on the benefits and application of various EOA practices and standards. This has enabled the project to equip a new generation of agricultural professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to promote organic agriculture practices on a large scale. As a result, 14,040 (39% female, 19% youth) value chain actors, including farmers, input suppliers, processors, and transporters, have been trained in various EOA practices and standards.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the initiative, 10 EOA training curricula have so far been developed or reviewed for integration into national formal education programs, surpassing the target of nine. Additionally, nine tertiary institutions are implementing EOA training programs, meeting the set goal.

In terms of market access and development, 21,779 farmers (33% female, 37% youth) participated in both domestic and export markets. This was supported by an increase in the number of farmers meeting the organic market standards, with 69,494 farmers achieving this milestone. To further strengthen market access, 30 participatory guarantee system (PGS) groups have so far been established and fully certified, surpassing the target of 18.

The EOA Initiative has successfully developed and accessed 48 new market channels and strengthened 69 existing market channels for value chain actors. As a result of consumer awareness campaigns, there has been an increase in the number of people consuming organic products, now totalling 31,843 individuals. Innovation in product development has also been evident, with 55 products undergoing value addition, significantly surpassing the target of 18. This achievement highlights the initiative's commitment to not only increase organic agricultural practices but also to promote value addition in the market.

The EOA national platform meetings have served as a hub for sharing lessons, best practices, experiences, and opportunities. Under the initiative, 64 such meetings have so far been held, drawing representatives from different institutions, backgrounds, and expertise in each national platform organized by the national secretariat annually, contributing to a more inclusive and collaborative environment for organic agriculture. Policy advocacy and integration continues to play a significant role in the EOA Initiative's achievements. A total of 200 EOA-related aspects including by-laws, ordinances, policies, legislation, strategies, plans, programs were integrated into national policy frameworks, more than doubling the target of nine. Additionally, 12 EOA-related national programs or projects have so far been implemented, also exceeding the goal of nine.

#### SDC led external evaluation of the project

SDC has been providing support to EOA-I under the project name "Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into Agricultural Systems in Africa". A second phase is now being implemented, from 2019 – 2023. SDC contracted FiBL in April 2022 to implement the evaluation of the second phase of the project, based on 44 evaluation questions along the DAC/OECD evaluation criteria.

The evaluation found the following ratings (from 1 highly satisfactory to 4 highly unsatisfactory according to the SDC evaluation grid):

- a) Relevance 1-2:** We rate relevance very high with the score of 1 for mainstreaming EOA, 1 for the overall holistic approach at the time of design and continental scope, 3 for detail project concepts at the time of evaluation since project successes have changed the situation.
- b) Coherence 1:** We rate coherence with GPFS, AU and many upcoming AE/EOA projects

very high with the score of 1. However, apart from the objective of sustainability, there is little coherence with mainstream government conventional agriculture policies (rating 4). For EOA/AE we see coherence gains as project achievement, however also coherence gaps in terms of project design.

**c) Effectiveness 3:** We rate effectiveness as satisfactory. Targets are in some cases achieved, in others on track and again others are uncertain. While the SCs are of high relevance for the AU and in ECOWAS, the national sectors and the East Africa region do not use them effectively.

**d) Efficiency 2:** We rate that efficiency was good even though there are many shortcomings and delays in daily operations. We critically assess the over attention to efficiency over other aims such as effectiveness, impact, or sustainability.

**e) Impact, 2:** We rate the project's impact as satisfactory, with the potential that it will grow further in the future since 'developments' are there, just much slower than anticipated.

**f) Sustainability 3-4:** It is certain that many partners continue their actions for EOA/AE. However, they don't have alternative business plan than to apply to new donor projects, with uncertain sector service priorities. Progress in terms of policy is uncertain, since not only developing and approving, but also implementing policies requires effective advocacy.

### EOA Implementing partners capacity building in value chain and market systems development.

The training is a follow up to a similar training undertaken in 2020. It equipped participants with the skills, knowledge, and mindset on how to analyse markets and optimize on operations of markets to benefit the smallholder farmers.

The objectives of the training were: to share experiences on application of skills learnt from initial training; Address gaps and challenges faced in the value chains and market systems development in the implementation of the project and to learn new approaches and applications in the value chains and market development

This training will equip BvAT team and its EOA-I implementing partners with skills to implement agribusiness and entrepreneurship strategic areas of the new SDC Agroecology programme.

## 9.2.3 CHALLENGES

Limited resources to scale out the EOA-I into all 55 countries and into all 5 political regions of Africa as per the Strategic Plan. Currently only 9 countries are implementing trackable EOA activities and are only in West and Eastern Africa.

The EOA Sector is not adequately supported compared to conventional Agriculture. Most of the support to the EOA Sector comes from donor-funded projects

There is little knowledge, research, and development as well as innovation on EOA in Africa and this deficiency adversely affects the growth and development of the EOA sector. This weakness is also exploited by proponents of conventional agriculture much to the detriment of the EOA sector.

Despite the increasing focus on agroecology-based food systems, adoption levels for agroecological practices are still low. The current agricultural food systems need to undergo transition from the heavily chemical based practices as shown by the UNFSS and reinforced by the ACP UNFSS.

There is imminent weak capacity of partners to run and establish successful value chains that can attract the private sector to come and invest in them.

## 9.2.4 AU LED EOA CONTINENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

### i) Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union and BvAT signed:

In 2019, the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment officially endorsed the EOAI Secretariat as its agency to oversee the implementation and reporting the progress of the implementation of its Decision on Organic Agriculture (EX.CL/Dec.621 XVII) and endorsed BvAT to host it. The signing ceremony took place in Addis Ababa between the AU Commissioner for DARBE, HE Amb. Josefa Sacko and the Executive Director of BvAT, Dr David Amudavi.

## ii) 18th CSC Meeting:



*The 18th Continental Steering Committee (CSC) of the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) held on December 2022, Kenya.*

The 18th CSC meeting was held in December 2022 in Mombasa, Kenya. Several key decisions, resolutions and action points taken during the meeting for implementation by various stakeholders.

The Secretariat presented the concept note for the development of the Multi Stakeholder Platform (MSP) of the EOA Initiative and was reviewed for further development. A side meeting on the development and launch of the Southern Africa EOA platform was held with stakeholders from the region and a road map was developed. A bilateral meeting between AUC and the Secretariat (BvAT) was held to discuss the operationalization of the MoU between the two organizations.

## iii) EOA Indicators for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework:

CAADP has mainstreamed EOA into its framework by integrating EOA reported as annexed in the 3rd BR Report. The Secretariat conducted a pilot study on EOA Indicators, and 3 indicators have been adopted:

- a. Total arable land under organic fertilizers (new)
- b. Proportion of EOA/Agroecology producers having access to advisory services (New)
- c. Share of agricultural land under EOA/Agroecology practices (New)

## iv) Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) cluster within the au ASBPP:

The 3rd Steering Group meeting of the ASBPP held in Kampala on 25th to 28th May 2022

AUC has allocated funds to the FMSS cluster through FARA, but the funds are yet to be disbursed. The Cluster led by the Secretariat submitted FMS Indicators for inclusion within the CAADP Seed Index. The Secretariat is mobilizing funds to roll out the FMSS Road map work plan.

The FMSS Cluster proposed indicators for inclusion within the CAADP Seed Index which has considered an indicator on policy. The indicator evaluates the extent to which national seed policy instruments (seed policy, law, regulation/decree) and institutional arrangements promote enabling environment for FMSS.

## v) EOA-I Regional Platforms:

- a. AUC and the Secretariat planning the relaunch of the EOA-I Sna Regional platform
- b. The North African EOA-I Regional Platform to be launched
- c. A Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for Central Africa to be launched.

**vi) Policy and Advocacy:**

- a) The report of the study on the Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on both conventional and organic systems and resilience of farmers is finalized.
- b) Policy briefs have been deigned ready for dissemination.
- c) Report will be presented at the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology conference in Nairobi in March 2023.
- d) A pilot study of the EOA indicators for CAADP was finalized and presented at the CAADP BR Critical Analysis in Yaoundé in June.
- e) The Secretariat is planning to undertake a mapping of EOA initiatives across Africa.

**vii) Resource Mobilization:**

- a) A new USD 40.000 funded by the USAU
- b) Follow up on the EU proposal submitted by the AU
- c) Discussions with AGRA on EOA/Agroecology

**viii) Plans for the next phase:**

- a) Review of the EOA-I Strategic and Action Plans (2015-2025) and develop another 10- year blueprint for the EOA-I.
- b) Rolling out EOA/Agroecology projects and platforms in all 5 political regions of Africa.
- c) Raising the revenue of the EOA-I by diversification of development partners.
- d) Rolling out the FMSS Road map work plan
- e) Supporting data collection for the EOA/FMS indicators within the CAADP framework.
- f) Undertake Research activities for the EOA-I

## 9.3 KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE - KCOA

THE KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN AFRICA (KHEA)  
Integrating Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into the Eastern Africa agricultural systems

### 9.3.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The year 2022 was a transition period for the KHEA project. The year marked the ending of its first phase (August 2019 to June 2022) and the beginning of the second (July 2022 to June 2024) and as such, KHEA team was involved in a lot of ground-breaking for the new phase.

KHEA is one of the five regional hubs under the Knowledge Centres for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) being implemented by GIZ with funding support from BMZ. The other hubs include KHWA, KHSa, KHNA and KHCA. KHEA's participating countries are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda for the initial phase and Madagascar joining in the second phase. BvAT and PELUM Uganda are responsible for the overall coordination of the hub activities in the region.

The KCOA project is promoting organic agriculture with actors in the five regions through the regional Knowledge Hubs as an innovative strategy. In line with this, KHEA strives to integrate Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into the Eastern African countries' agricultural systems through its three main areas of intervention: (1). Collection and preparation of organic agricultural knowledge, (2). Dissemination of organic agricultural knowledge and capacity building of actors to do so and finally, (3). Market Development and Networking in organic agriculture value chains.

### 9.3.2 ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS

#### i) Project Coordination/Management

The overarching KHEA's coordination component looks at the overall performance on the project and its activities focusses on the overall health of the project. Under this component, KHEA accomplished the following in the year under review;

**a. Review and Appraisal Mission (RAM):** Prepared and had a successful a mid-term review and Appraisal Mission (RAM) conducted by GIZ. A draft report with findings and recommendations was shared and made the basis for planning for phase 2 of the KHEA Project.

**b. The KHEA team developed the project document and budget for phase 2.** These were submitted to GIZ in February ahead of June 2022 when phase 1 was expected to end. Reviews and comments from GIZ were addressed and final documents submitted to GIZ.

**c. Know What You Eat:** the project rolled out the "Know What You Eat" Campaign in June 2022, that involved a press conference, live TV and radio talk shows on promoting organic agriculture in Uganda and in the region. The "Know What You Eat" Campaign resulted into massive awareness of the KHEA project and ecological organic agriculture. Overall, an estimated 7.2 million were reached in total with over 5,000 retweets, trended No.1, on June 20, 2022; and 120K page reach on Facebook.

**d. Rural Initiatives Development Programme (RIDEP):** KHEA upscaled RIDEP to a demo farm targeting farmers and pastoralists in arid and semi-arid lands in Marimanti within Tharaka Nithi County. The center prides in a wealth of OA innovations, technologies, and knowledge and hence a good source of KPs for the project. Through the center, 41 (16 females, 25 males) members of different organizations in the county were sensitized on KCOA and its work.

**e. KHEA Farmers Caravan:** KHEA organized a Farmers Caravan in February 2022 where it employed varied strategies to create awareness on why and the benefits of agroecology. The farmer caravan traversed regions creating awareness about agroecology and showcasing good practices by farmers, visited different media stations and engaged with social media platforms. Overall, 5.7 million people were reached with 1,931 retweets, trended No.1 in Uganda on Wednesday February 16, 2022 and twice in the week; 79.8K page reach was recorded on Facebook.

**f. The Agroecology Week of Action (24-28, October) by PELUM Uganda:** KHEA participated in the Agroecology week of action whose objective was to scale up agroecology in Uganda and the region to improve market systems and access to markets for farmers, support establishment of conducive policies, and promote sustainable

environmental management, and above all improve the livelihoods of small-holder farmers. KHEA exhibited and interacted with guests at the event which attracted live coverage from the national media house NTV and was streamed live on PELUM Uganda's social media handles. It was graced by guests from line Ministries and Embassy delegates.

## **ii) Project Focus Area 1: Collecting / Preparing of Knowledge**

The focus area on collecting and preparing of knowledge and knowledge products has two components to it, putting in place the necessary structures and building necessary capacities and the actual collection and preparation of knowledge and knowledge products.

### **a. Putting in Place the Necessary Structures and Capacities**

#### ***Country Validation Committees (CVCs):***

During the reporting period, Country Validation Committees (CVCs) were instituted in each of the 4 country implementing countries. The CVCs consist of agroecological experts and practitioners that have been purposely selected by the CIPs. The CVCs are responsible for verifying and validating the knowledge products for quality purposes. The CVCs were involved in processing the current 89 knowledge products.

#### ***The Regional Validation Committee (RVC):***

KHEA also established a Regional Validation Committee (RVC) above the CVC look at the overall quality and compliance of the KPs from all the countries. The RVC consists of CIP representatives drawn from the CVC's. The RVC is responsible for validating the work done by the CVCs before KPs are finally published, looking at issues of quality and compliance at the regional level.

#### ***Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) training:***

KHEA knowledge managers' capacities were built on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). All the CIPs were singly trained virtually on the subject before a regional face to face training was organized in October 2022 where KMs from CIPs were assembled and trained in Nairobi. The training was meant to give participants a deeper understanding of the topic and practical sessions with stakeholders in the IPR space.

Knowledge Management (KM) Strategy and a Dissemination Concept:

To guide the KM work in the hub, KHEA team worked on a dissemination concept under the guidance of FiBL. The hub made its contribution into a larger document being developed under the guidance of GIZ.

### **b. Collection and Preparation of Knowledge and Knowledge Products**

#### ***Knowledge Product (KPs) Collection and Production***

The KHEA team was able to collect and upload 89 knowledge products. Of these, 17 are fully validated while 72 are partially validated with some pending issues to be addressed before they can be fully processed. Additionally, there are about 20 KPs which have been collected or produced but are yet to be uploaded on the digital platform

Some of the key KPs produced with funds from KHEA include;

1. PGS guide for Uganda by PELUM Uganda.
2. The Desert Locust; An information and Training Handbook on Biology, Behaviour, Identification, Prevention and Management.

## **iii) Project Focus Area 2: Capacity Building and Knowledge Dissemination.**

On capacity building and knowledge dissemination, the following achievements were attained during the reporting period;

### **a. Capacity Building in Knowledge Dissemination**

#### ***Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) Quality Assurance;***

Organized and held the Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) Quality Assurance workshop that was held at Entebbe in Uganda, where a total of 30 Multipliers and CIP Project Officers participated.

## **b. Knowledge Dissemination**

- Trained 178 Multipliers (96 men, 82 women) on Organic Agriculture practices and principles.
- Conducted several Radio Talk shows/spots in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. In Kenya, on Mbaitu FM, MBCI FM, Bahari FM, and Nam Lolwe FM to create awareness of Ecological Organic Agriculture. Estimated reach of 300,000 people per radio station making a total of 2.4 million reached.
- The KHEA Hub through PELUM Uganda, participated in the 3rd National Agroecology Actors Symposium (NAAS) and 11th Indigenous Food Fair (IFF) that were held in Uganda in October 2021.
- Trained a total of 1,398 farmers (495 men, 903 women) on principles of Organic Agriculture and also equipped with practical skills on Organic Agriculture across the 4 CIPs.
- The KHEA Hub participated in the 1st National Agricultural Education Show in Jinja Uganda where the agroecology symposium was held as a climax. PELUM Uganda participated and 5 Multipliers exhibited their innovations and organic agriculture products.

## **iv) Project Focus Area 3: Market Development and Networking**

On Market Development and Networking, the following were achieved during the period under review:

- a. BvAT developed a regional Market Development and Networking Strategy
- b. All the CIPs have been supporting several farmer groups in the formation of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and training on organic certification. In August 2021, 1 PGS group from Kenya was certified and the same group opened a grocery shop where they sell organic produce every Friday.
- c. Held networking, collaboration and partnerships meetings with several stakeholders including ministries of Agriculture in the 4 CIPs, Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA), AFSA among other stakeholders.
- d. The KHEA Hub through PELUM Kenya conducted a 5-Day workshop on Value Chain and Market Development and KHEA project multipliers from the Western highlands and lowlands, and Eastern-Coastal regions participated in the workshop. The participants were at total of 45 (23 males and 22 females). PELUM Kenya conducted a similar workshop where there was a total of 23 participants (11 Women, 12 Men, and 9 youth) including KHEA project Multipliers from pastoral areas participated.
- e. The KHEA Hub through PELUM Kenya, participated in an annual national agricultural show, organized by the Agriculture Society of Kenya (A.S.K) at Eldoret Branch for four days from 2nd to 5th March 2022. The PELUM Kenya team and 4 KHEA Multipliers exhibited organic agriculture innovations and products during the event.
- f. The KHEA Hub through PELUM Uganda participated in a high-level progress review and update meeting at hotel Africana. The activity was aimed at sharing progress, achievements and lessons with a cross section of over 40 high-level stakeholders including; ministry officials (MAAIF, Local government), FAO, GIZ, other development agencies, media, civil society actors and farmers among others.
- g. The KHEA Hub through PELUM Kenya organized hybrid forum on Market Linkages and Emerging Opportunities in Organic Agriculture for farmers/multipliers/NGOs/Agro-dealers, MFIs on 27th June 2022 at SACDEP Kenya, were over 50 farmers, Multipliers and value chain actors were reached.
- h. The KHEA Hub participated in the BIOFACH International Trade Fair in Nuremberg, Germany and KCOA networking meeting with 10 participants from the KHEA team. Biofach International Trade fair featured key note speeches by the Coordinator of the KHEA project, Dr Amudavi David and Master Trainer, Grace Misoi. The CIPs were also engaged in different ways at the fair.

## **v) Project Communication and Awareness Creation**

The project communication and awareness creation employed communication strategies to create awareness of the project and what it does in the region to grow agroecology. During the year, below are the major achievements of the project in the area;

1. The KHEA Phase One Story Booklet: KHEA produced the KCOA-KHEA Phase One Stories Booklet to share the exciting journey of the KCOA initiative in the East African region. Besides the achievements attained during the

phase, the booklet contains testimonies from the key persons steering the project in the region for others to learn from. The booklet has attracted a lot of attention from different stakeholders i.e other hubs implementing the project, donors, implanting organizations etc. Enjoy reading the booklet: <https://biovisionafricatrust.org/khea-phase-one-story/>

2. The KCOA newsletters: KHEA was involved in the production and publishing of the KCOA newsletters. A continental KCOA newsletter that collects and shares news and events from across all the hubs. It features activities being implemented, relevant events, resources, success stories, as well as short profiles of Knowledge Hub staff members. So far 5 issues have been produced and disseminated. All the issues can be accessed on the BvAT website here; <https://biovisionafricatrust.org/publications/>
3. “Meet Africa Framers” campaign: KHEA rolled out the “Meet Africa Framers” campaign in October 2022 and ongoing until December 2022 as a communication strategy to showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its practices and create linkages of farmers across borders to target markets. So far, 43 videos of farmers have been produced and shared through the KHEA YouTube channel. The campaign has increased following of the KHEA social media platforms in terms of subscribers, likes, shares, comments, and interest in organic agriculture content etc.

#### **vi) Lessons learnt:**

1. Master Trainers and Multipliers have the potential to influence adoption of OA practices at farmer level when given the necessary support. More support for Master Trainers needed especially on retention of Multipliers.
2. Evidence based advocacy is very critical. Policy makers need to be engaged much more with evidence.

#### **vii) Challenges:**

1. Delayed disbursement of/limited funds for project implementation has had an impact on the smooth implementation of the project.

#### **viii) Plans ahead:**

1. Launch phase 2 for the KHEA project
2. Integrate the new Country Implementing Partner (CIP) in Madagascar.
3. Launch the Digital Knowledge platform, together with the global KCOA project and the other 4 Hubs.
4. Participate in Biofach 2023.





## 10. STORIES OF IMPACT

FARMERS TELL THEIR STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION  
THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES





*Joseph Mbithi of BvAT explains to Mr Somba how to use biopesticides*

## 10.1 A Makueni County farmer ditches synthetic pesticides for organic farming

Mr. Alex Somba of Wote, Makueni County knows too well the benefits of fruit farming and has acquired experience on what it takes to succeed in the business of commercial fruit farming. The 45-year-old started growing fruits in the year 2011 in his five-acre piece of land. “I grow oranges, pixies and papaws for sale in the local market”, says Mr. Somba, attesting to the profitability of the venture. He is however quick to point out that without proper knowledge of pest management, fruit farming can turn out to be very frustrating, as pests can run down the entire enterprise, because the market is merciless when it comes to poor quality fruits. “At first, I used to invest highly in purchasing synthetic pesticides to control pests, to a point that dealers of these pesticides had found an ambassador in me. I used to be the first farmer in this region to receive promotional synthetic pest control chemicals, as my farm is known to produce high yields,” says Mr. Somba.

This was until he started experiencing challenges with his health, especially respiratory illnesses moments after spending time spraying his crops with the pesticides. “Out of the fear of suffering longterm illnesses from frequent inhalation and consumption of contaminated fruits, I sought out Mr. Joseph Mbithi the extension officer, working with Bio-vision Africa Trust in Makueni County, who had for a long-time proposed to me alternative methods of safe pest control,” he says. From Mbithi, he learnt about organic pesticides and soil fertilizers, and technologies that aid in integrated pest

management such as use of traps, inter-cropping, making pesticides at home among others.

It has been two years since Mr. Somba embraced these technologies, and to his surprise, the yields have not reduced, and neither does he suffer the bouts of sickness caused by fumes inhaled from spraying. “I have also learnt to grow vegetables organically, between the fruit trees, these have helped in supplementing the family meals,” he says. There is also the assumption that organic farm inputs are unaffordable to small scale farmers. Contrary to this belief, Mr Somba attests that it is actually much cheaper to use organic pesticides and fertilizers than the conventional synthetic pesticides. “When using the synthetic pesticides, I used to spend about Ksh50, 000 per month in purchasing the inputs, but since I started applying the organic farm inputs, the monthly cost of inputs is Ksh15, 000.” He challenges those shunning away from embracing organic farming due to the fear that the cost of inputs is beyond their resources to try out producing organically and not only will their cost of production drastically come down, but they will also enjoy the peace that comes with knowing that the food they produce is free of chemicals.

## 10.2 Farmers in Kirinyaga County enjoy a new lease of life as they shift to organic farming

Nelson Kihara Gathumbi is one such farmer whose encounter with extensionists from Bio-vision Africa Trust (BvAT) has changed his farming experience in a way he did not anticipate. To start, he put aside a portion of his one-acre piece of land to grow crops organically and as he progressed, he noticed when the heat is too much and water scarcity is hard hitting, the organically grown crops remain resilient, green, and still bear fruits.

His fruit farm where he grows oranges, pawpaw’s, avocados, pomegranates, lemons, and mangoes, shows this difference very clearly. He also demonstrates using the oranges in his farm, how indigenous plants remain resilient in the



*Nelson Kihara in his fruit garden*

scorching heat and still yield healthy fruits, while the grafted ones give in to the dry weather and shed off flowers easily. Kihara is excited to fully embrace organic farming even as he establishes a food forest of fruit trees.

Kihara has grasped the idea of planting trees and is already planning to establish an apiary adjacent to his garden to ensure his fruit trees yield optimally. “Pomegranates and macadamia nuts are highly resilient, and will do well even if rains fail,” he says. Some of the ecologically sustainable farming technologies that have had a huge impact in his farming enterprise include making compost manure and making plant tea to use as foliar for the crops and soil fertilizer. “I was trained by Peter Murage of Biovision Africa Trust to mix tithonia and marigold, crush them and mix with water then use the extract to spray on the crops,” explains Kihara. This he says has helped him manage a variety of pests in his farm and enhance crop productivity as it also serves as foliar for the plants. Tithonia is rich in phosphorous and so as the mixture controls pest prevalence; it also enriches the crops with nutrients..

### ***Bethwell Gathirimu discovers the secret of composting***

Mr. Bethwell Gathirimu from Mkiithi village in Baricho, Kirinyaga County who is also the chair-person of COFA, is another farmer who has exemplarily adopted organic farming, through interaction with Nelly Wambui BvAT’s farmer field officer based in Kagio. Entering his compound, you will spot heaps of organic manure composted using animal manure from his dairy cattle and plant residues from his farm, where he grows macadamia, maize, beans, and vegetables. “I produce all my crops organically, and that is why, I ensure to have constant supply of manure, so that I do not resort to synthetic soil fertilizers,” says Gathirimu. Mr. Gathirimu’s farm hosts an apiary of bees, which produces honey for sale as well as use in his homestead. “I have 12 beehives in my apiary, and for sure bee keeping is an underrated farming activity. With bees in the farm, crops yield increases significantly, and as a farmer you have constant supply of honey, for your family and surplus to earn an income from,” says Mr. Gathirimu.



*Mr Bethwel Gathirimu inspects*

### ***Florence Mutugi enjoys abundance of vegetables from vertical gardening***



*Ms Nelly Wambui at Florence's garden*

Ms. Florence Mutugi, from Kianjege village, Njega in Kirinyaga County, feels lucky to have met Nelly of Bio-vision Africa Trust, early this year. Her interest to learn about organic farming has driven her to try out various techniques and employ skills she obtains especially, making ash brew and plant tea to use in nourishing her crops. Despite the long dry seasons and the rising costs of fertilizers, Florence has been enjoying vegetables from the vertical gardens she established after acquiring this technology from a training offered by Nelly. “If you walk around this village, you will hardly find a home with green vegetables due to water scarcity, but this garden is always green as recycled water from the homestead is enough to sustain it,” she says. Florence has also embraced bee keeping as part of integrated farming and has two large beehives in her farm. “I have come to see that conventionally grown crops cannot withstand extreme weather, neither can they grow in areas with water scarcity,” she says. In organic farming, the soil’s fertility is enhanced and hence crops have sufficient nutrients and prove to be more resilient to unfavorable conditions,” she concludes.

Farmers in Kirinyaga County have demonstrated that organic farming has far more benefits and there are avenues of acquiring the required skills to venture in this kind of farming.



Ashford Kinyua checks his blacksoldier fly tents

### 10.3 Pig farmer finds relief from expensive animal feeds by rearing blacksoldier flies

For Ashford Kinyua, an ex-military in Kenya, obtaining quality feeds for the pigs he rears has been one of the most expensive needs in developing the enterprise. Protein supplements used to cost him as much as Ksh65,000 and these would only last six months. Sometimes he would buy separate feeds from local suppliers, that is soya, and canola, which he would purchase from as far as Naivasha to his home in Meru. These feeds which lasted only three months would cost him Ksh70,000 in total with a single 50kg bag of canola going for Ksh5,000. Realizing that the cost of feeding the pigs was overwhelming, Mr Kinyua sought to find out alternative sources of protein that are affordable. That is when he learnt of rearing black soldier flies, for animal feed, through his daughter in law who is an ardent reader of TOF Magazine, which directs

its readers to the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) for training on bsf rearing.

Mr Kinyua benefitted from these trainings and established the blacksoldier rearing enterprise. Today, the project produces 150Kg of blacksoldier flies weekly which are used to feed the pig. By using the home reared protein, this family has significantly cut down the cost of feeding the pigs as currently he does not buy any protein supplements and the only cost he incurs in rearing the blacksoldier flies is paying the casual laborer, "These insects feed on organic waste, which is always available from the household," he adds. "Discovering that I could depend on the blacksoldier flies as the only source of protein for my livestock was such a relief, as it is a rich source of nutrients for the animals," says Kinyua.



### KHEA Boosts Farmer's Bean Production Business - Uganda

Asiimwe Onesmus, a farmer and KHEA trained multiplier of Rukiga district in Western Uganda, now specializes in producing organic beans, tomatoes, leafy vegetables, and coffee. Because of the KHEA trainings he has incorporated organic farming practices such as crop rotation, compost manure, spraying with organic pesticides using biochar, ash mixed with water, and local herbs. "This has greatly improved production," he says. "I manage a small farm of 2 acres, and I now harvest 2 tons of beans, something I never achieved while I used conventional methods of farming," Onesmus adds. This also had economic benefits for him and his community. "Because of the produce, I get an income, deploy people, and educate them on the farming needs of bean production required to increase yields."



#LeaveNoOneBehind



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COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED  
PROCESSED

**eo3**  
ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE  
Growing sustainably

**KCOA**  
Knowledge Centre for  
Organic Agriculture  
in Africa

**KHEA**  
Knowledge Hub for  
Organic Agriculture  
in Eastern Africa

## 11. FINANCIAL REPORT

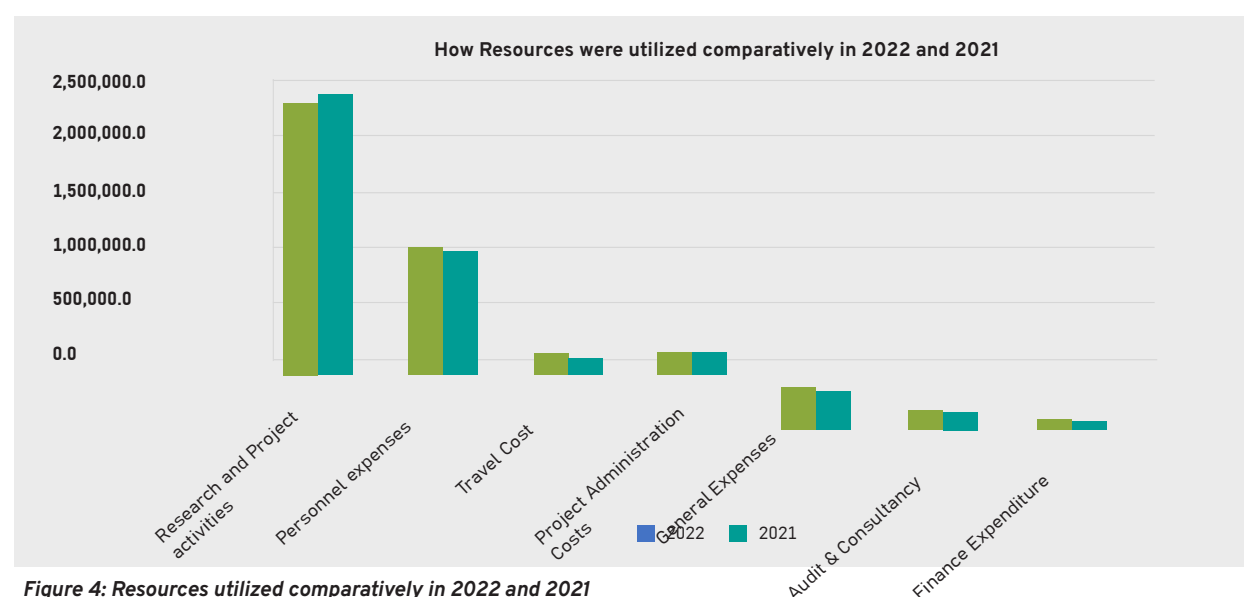


**Table 11: Biovision Africa Trust, Statement of Income and Expenditure. For the year ended 31 December 2022**

| Description                          | 2022                | 2021                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                        |                     |                     |
| Grant income                         | 3,919,892.61        | 3,890,131.00        |
| Interest income                      | 553.08              | 3,072.00            |
|                                      | <b>3,920,445.69</b> | <b>3,893,203.00</b> |
| Unrestricted income                  |                     |                     |
| Overhead recoveries & other incomes  | 238,314.87          | 179,897.00          |
| <b>Total income</b>                  | <b>4,158,760.56</b> | <b>4,073,100.00</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                   |                     |                     |
| Research and project activities      | 2,377,128.30        | 2,437,192.00        |
| Personnel expenses                   | 1,070,404.91        | 1,021,529.00        |
| Travel cost                          | 115,639.36          | 60,723.00           |
| Project administration costs         | 136,557.80          | 131,289.00          |
| General expenses                     | 306,688.20          | 276,737.00          |
| Audit & consultancy                  | 90,136.73           | 95,130.00           |
| Finance expenditure                  | 10,876.94           | 3,013.00            |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>             | <b>4,107,432.24</b> | <b>4,025,613.00</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(deficit)for the year</b> | <b>51,328.32</b>    | <b>47,487.00</b>    |

Surplus for the year 2022 increased compared to the previous year. This indicates that the organization experienced a more positive financial outcome in 2022 compared to 2021.

A surplus signifies that the income or revenues generated during the year exceeded the expenses or costs incurred, resulting in a positive financial balance. Hence, the organization's financial health improved, allowing for potential investments, savings, or addressing any outstanding liabilities.



**Figure 4: Resources utilized comparatively in 2022 and 2021**

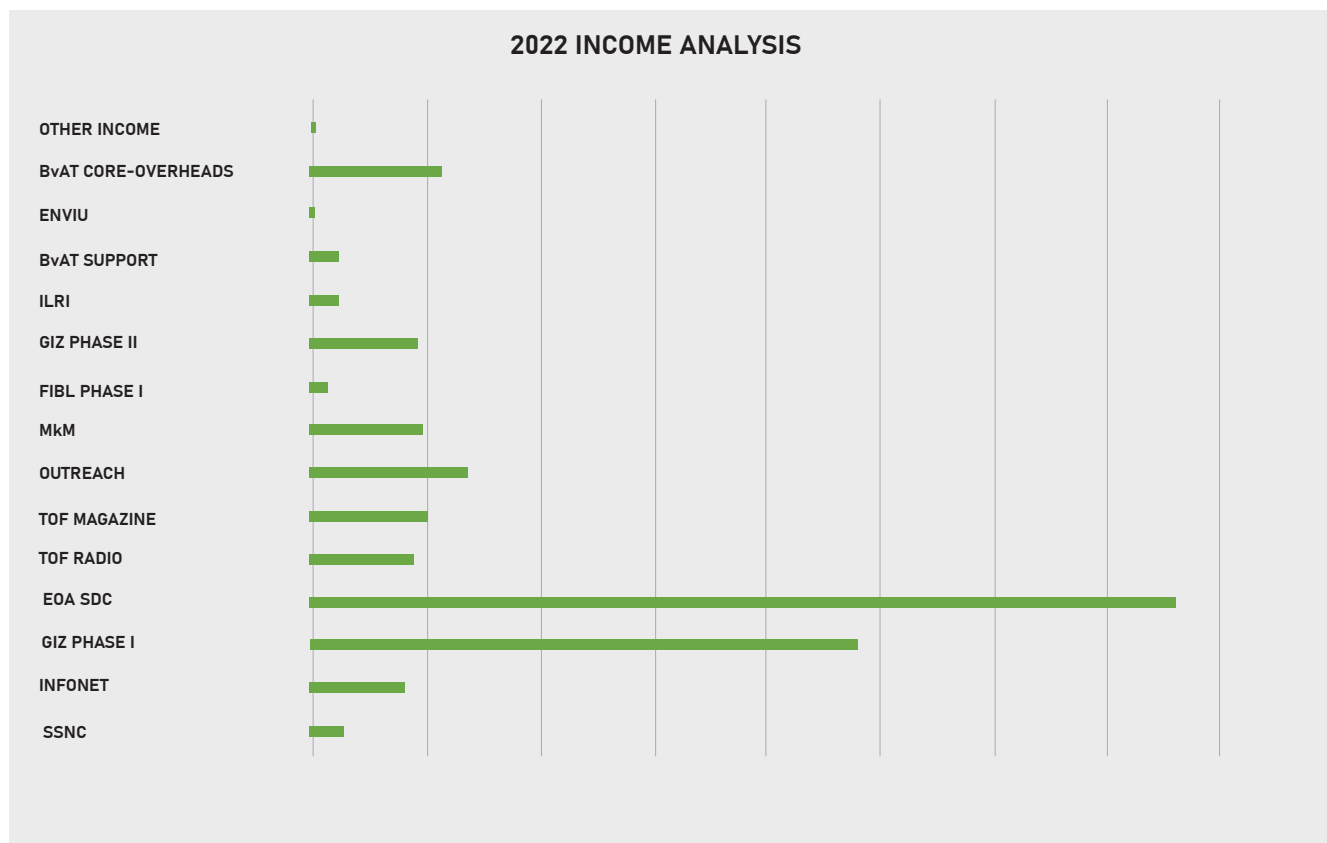



Figure 4: BvAT's 2022 Income Analysis

Table 12: Biovision Africa Trust, Statement of Statement of financial position. For the year ended 31 December 2022

| Assets                                 | 2022                | 2021                |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Non-current assets</b>              |                     |                     |
| Property and equipment                 | 8,220.86            | 5,414.00            |
| <b>Total Non-current assets</b>        | <b>8,220.86</b>     | <b>5,414.00</b>     |
| <b>Current assets</b>                  |                     |                     |
| Receivables from implementing partners | 523,000.49          | 1,104,951.00        |
| Receivables from Biovision Foundation  | 210,633.56          | 57,671.00           |
| Other receivables and payments         | 60,283.67           | 41,184.00           |
| Cash and cash equivalents              | 1,618,802.26        | 1,681,940.00        |
| Total Current assets                   | 2,412,719.98        | 2,885,746.00        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                    | <b>2,420,940.84</b> | <b>2,891,160.00</b> |
| <b>Fund balance</b>                    |                     |                     |
| Fund reserves                          | 360,244.32          | 308,916.00          |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>             |                     |                     |
| Payables                               | 314,205.88          | 323,105.00          |
| Deferred income                        | 1,720,900.98        | 2,235,752.00        |
| Fundraising                            | 25,589.66           | 23,387.00           |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>               | <b>2,420,940.84</b> | <b>2,891,160.00</b> |



In 2022, there was a surplus of \$51,328.32, which indicates that the organization's revenue exceeded its costs. This surplus represents approximately 1.24% of the total revenue for the year, which amounted to \$4,158,760.56. Comparatively, in 2021, there was a surplus of \$47,487 which accounted for around 1.17% of the total revenue of \$4,073,100.

Analyzing the figures, it's noteworthy that both years experienced a surplus, indicating a positive financial performance. However, the surplus in 2022 increased slightly compared to 2021. This improvement suggests that the organization was able to manage its expenses more effectively.











Biovision  
Africa  
Trust

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