

AGROECOLOGY PROMOTION PROGRAMME (APP) MAY 2024 -MARCH 2028

PROFILE

Project Overview

The Agroecology Promotion Program is a multi-partner program which is being implemented in parts of Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. The program is being funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The APP overall strategy is to contribute to the mission and initiatives of identified key partners in the focus geographic areas in topics that were identified as priority in the assessment. The APP will contribute between 50-75% of the investment of partners into their own mission (depending on the partners and their initiatives), referred to as the “fuel” for partners. At the same time, apart from the project management, it: a) facilitates synergies between the initiatives, b) enhances collaboration inside and outside APP activities and partners, c) develops and fosters learning and exchange, d) promotes values and insights, referred to as the “glue” for partners.

It is the APP strategy to build on earlier SDC engagement and achievements in Africa for the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative of the African Union. The APP widens the scope (thematic, geographic and partners), it creates more space and autonomy for partners, and lowers the intensity of support (financial, coaching and supervision) to enhance self-reliance and ownership and lower dependence on SDC.

As its theory of change, the Agroecology Promotion Programme wants to create an impact through policies of governmental and private sector institutions on the one hand, and growing markets on the other hand. The engine for development is a stimulating civil society that develops convening power, is a strong, demanding actor calling for accountability, transparency, and improved food systems outcomes (food security & nutrition, economic livelihoods, environmental sustainability).

To accelerate that mechanism, the APP defined 4 intervention lines: (1) Policy dialogue, (2) Youth and Women, (3) Capacitation of stakeholders and (4) Financial mechanisms, to be addressed on national, regional and global levels. The APP does not cover interventions and levels on their full ranges but exemplifies good practice in various fields.

This report describes the activities implemented covering 1st January to 31st December 2024 of the Agroecology Promotion Program (APP).

In this program, the African Organic Network (AfrONet) is a subgrantee, receiving funds through Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) of Kenya, which is the lead partner for Sub-Saharan Africa. Contractually, the project commenced on the 1st of May 2024.

PROJECT GOAL, OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND WORK PACKAGES

Project Goal

The overall goal is: **Agroecology** - inclusive to like-minded approaches - **is broadly promoted as a pathway for food systems transformation** to truly sustainable, resilient and dynamic food and farming systems, worldwide and particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

Specific Objectives and Outcomes

- **Stakeholders (Civil society and SME) stimulate** in all directions, including to research and innovation, to policy and implementation, and to value chain from production to consumption. Focus on building on existing and united agroecology, ecological organic and regenerative agriculture actors and their programmes and networks as well as individual and institutional capacity development towards agroecological approaches.
- **Policy makers increasingly consider agroecology as a means/compass to food system transformation** on regional and national levels and with contributions to global and local levels.
- **Market actors (including financing mechanisms) create growth for agroecology/ecological organic products** with increasing demand and supply and growing trust in the declarations in mainstream markets, featuring as well the participatory market development approaches.

For AfrONet, the Outcome in the context of the APP is: **The continental organic movement has a strengthened, sustaining, resilient umbrella organization representing Africa on regional and continental levels to ensure that (a) members are united and (b) government and private sector bodies have a dialogue to find common solutions to develop OA/AE agenda in Africa.**

The portion of the program that falls under AfrONet is divided into 6 components which are qualified by their corresponding outputs as follows:

Component 1: STAKEHOLDER CAPACITATION FOR STRONG NETWORKS	Output 1: AfrONet's membership base is broadened.
Component 2: YOUTH & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT	Output 2: Youth & women empowered to take the centre stage in driving AfrONet's agenda.
Component 3: POLICY DIALOGUE, LOBBYING & ADVOCACY	Output 3: OA/AE is mainstreamed into national, regional and continental programs, strategies, policies and projects.
Component 4: FINANCIAL MECHANISMS & CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR VIBRANT INSTITUTIONS & SUSTAINABILITY	Output 4: AfrONet is well managed to the satisfaction and trust of members and it increases efficiency, accountability, transparency and effectiveness year by year.
Component 5: RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE HUB	Output 5: AfrONet becomes a recognized reference point in Africa for AE/OA knowledge, resources, repositories & information.
Component 6: VALUE CHAIN FROM PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION.	Output 6: Enhanced demand-driven production of organic value chains.

Key Activities for Implementation by AfrONet in the Context of the Agroecology Promotion Programme (APP), for the entire project timeframe

Activity reference	Main Activity	APP Target
	Outcome: The continental organic movement has a strengthened, sustaining, resilient umbrella organization representing Africa on regional and continental levels to ensure that (a) members are united and (b) government and private sector bodies have a dialogue to find common solutions to develop OA/AE agenda in Africa.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of paying members (Baseline: 13; target 27) (10% annual increase in paying members in AfrONet). # of dialogue partners in DB (baseline 58 // target 50 of better quality) and 50% of those responding in AfrONet surveys) 	
WP 1: STAKEHOLDERS CAPACITATION FOR STRONG NETWORKS		

Activity reference	Main Activity	APP Target
Output: AfrONet's membership base is broadened		
1.1	Conduct participatory assessments on AfrONet members' needs and priorities for existing NOAMs and potential organizations that can be transformed into NOAMs.	2
1.2	Strengthen NOAMs in Africa for increased collaboration with AfrONet.	6
1.3	Provide small grants to NOAMs	16
1.4	Take part in the BvAT-led initiative of developing the Continental strategy/roadmap for advancing Ecological Organic Agriculture/Agroecology in Africa with other like-minded continental networks and adapt the strategy by cascading it to Country NOAMs for implementation through National activities.	2
1.5	Quarterly meetings with NOAMs	16
WP 2: YOUTH & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT		
Output: Youth & women empowered to take the centre stage in driving AfrONet's agenda		
2.1	Develop the Women and Youth inclusion policy for the network in collaboration with PELUM Association through AWOLA & YALTA initiatives.	1
WP 3: POLICY DIALOGUE, LOBBYING & ADVOCACY		
Output: OA/AE is mainstreamed into national, regional and continental programs, strategies, policies and projects.		
3.1	Develop an advocacy & communication strategy in collaboration with NOAMs, BvAT and the EOA Continental Secretariat to strategically advocate for further regulatory and policy transformation for mainstreaming OA and AE in national, regional & African Union's existing policies, strategies and programs on pertinent matters.	1
3.2	Conduct 4-exchange/exposure and learning visits	4
3.3	Formulate a partner strategic engagement framework to enhance collaboration with continental blocks such as RECs, AUC/NEPAD and the like.	1
3.4	Organize the 6th AOC	1
3.5	Engage African Organic Journalist Associations/clubs for electronic and print media campaigns to promote organic agriculture & agroecology in Africa for raising public awareness.	3
3.6	Develop quarterly newsletters on the development of Organic Agriculture/agroecology in Africa.	16
WP 4: FINANCIAL MECHANISM & CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR VIBRANT INSTITUTIONS		
Output: AfrONet is well managed to the satisfaction and trust of members and it increases efficiency, accountability, transparency and effectiveness year by year.		
4.1	Assess and review the current AfrONet Constitution & Strategic Plan to bridge available gaps.	2
4.2	Develop a workable Business Plan for AfrONet	1
4.3	Establish a staff performance management framework	1
4.4	Develop organizational operational Manuals & Policies for AfrONet	1
4.5	Reactivate the network website, maintain and update it.	1
4.6	Training AfrONet Board & Secretariat in priority courses	5
4.7	Install a professional accounting system for AfrONet for financial management.	1
WP 5: RESEARCH, INNOVATION & KNOWLEDGE HUB		
Output: AfrONet becomes a recognized reference point in Africa for AE/OA knowledge, resources, repositories & information.		

Activity reference	Main Activity	APP Target
5.1	Support the development of training materials on selected topics as identified by the needs and interests of the NOAMs (for AE/OA nature-based practices, solutions and technologies) or policy advocacy, or consumers awareness communication, etc.).	5
5.2	Develop a demand-driven 10-year research agenda for AE/OA in Africa, legitimized by members and AE/OA actors.	1
5.3	Collection and documentation of the available organic/agroecology research findings in Africa for dissemination.	1
WP 6: VALUE CHAIN FROM PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION.		
Output: Enhanced demand-driven production of organic value chains.		
6.1	Participate in co-organizing the African Pavilion and facilitate BIOFACH Africa participation in the World Organic Trade Fair (BioFach) organized every year in Nuremberg, Germany.	4
6.2	Train selected NOAMs in the use of the Observatory Tool for collection of organic data.	4
6.3	Support the establishment of weekly physical Organic Markets in countries where NOAMs are active.	6
6.4	Support the establishment of online/digital platforms for marketing and sales of organic products from PGS certified organic farmer associations as well as third-party certified organic value chains.	3
6.5	Support NOAMs in leading activities targeting consumers' awareness to raise understanding of the benefits of AE/OA for health (food safety) and nutrition.	-