

AGROECOLOGY  
FUND



# POOLING FUNDS TO SCALE AGROECOLOGY

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017 – 2021

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*Diversity managed in home gardens in Kyrgyzstan Photo: ADI (Agency for Development Initiatives)*



# FOREWORD

Dear friends,

We could not have imagined ten years ago that in 2022, agroecology movements would be so powerful, that the Agroecology Fund would be such an important financing mechanism and that agroecology would be so central to debates about defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples and peasants and deepening climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. In hindsight, it was prescient that the original cumbersome name - that we dropped for obvious reasons - was the International Fund for Amplifying Agroecological Solutions - the point being that agroecology is a solution for so many of the intersecting crises that we are facing. We are grateful that the Fund has been able to support the pioneering work of movements and organizations across the globe.

In 2012, the first Agroecology Fund donors came together in an experimental, learning mode. We did not only talk about collaborative funding for agroecology. We also asked: "What if we changed how we do philanthropy? What if we pooled our financial resources, committed to learning together, and decentralized and delegated our decision-making processes so that trust and on-the-ground experts guided all our work? Agroecology centers diversity and co-creation. What if we walked the talk in how we conducted our business?"

That commitment to collective learning and innovative governance was serendipitous. The Agroecology Fund is growing far beyond our wildest dreams. It has moved significant amounts of money to agroecology

movements and has the ear of some of the world's largest development agencies. It has maintained a lean and focused team without getting overly bloated institutionally. And just as farmer-to-farmer learning and technical support is core to scaling out agroecology, donors are likewise reaching out to their peers. We're amazed by the organic growth of the Agroecology Fund and the results of grantees' work. And now we are spawning regional funds to strengthen agroecology networks in territories. Congratulations to all involved for the timely agility displayed here!

There are so many new opportunities for - and threats to - supporting grantees in building the necessary power to transform food systems through agroecology. We hope for continued success as the Agroecology Fund navigates the changing landscape.

Towards an agroecological future,

**Angela Cordeiro**, *Co-Director*

**Daniel Moss**, *Co-Director*

**Katy Scholfield**, *Executive Committee Co-Chair*

**Maggie Nyce**, *Executive Committee Co-Chair*

**Million Belay**, *Executive Committee*

**Patricia Flores**, *Executive Committee*

**Jenn Hartmann**, *Executive Committee*

**Chris Honahnie**, *Executive Committee (in memoriam)*

**Edie Mukiibi**, *Executive Committee*

**Anna Ver Der Hurd**, *Executive Committee*

## IN MEMORIAM: CHRIS HONAHNIE

Just before the end of 2022, we received a message from our long-term partner, the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), that Chris Honahnie, along with his best friend - Tayla Tracy, Diné Nation - were killed in a car accident.

At the time of his passing, Chris was IITC's Food Sovereignty Program Co-coordinator. Chris served on the Agroecology Fund's Executive Committee and participated in the 2020 Learning Exchange in India. Chris gave us inspiration, hope, wisdom and leadership for the just world we are creating together. Chris was full of light and wisdom, even at such a young age. It is a privilege to have known him.

We wish from the bottom of our hearts great strength to IITC, and to Chris and Tayla's families and friends. May their passage back to their ancestors be in peace. Chris' commitment and leadership will always be an inspiration and shining light for the Agroecology Fund's work to support Indigenous rights and food systems.

The photo of Chris was taken at recent COP 27 deliberations in Egypt where he coordinated and moderated the Indigenous youth roundtable.





*Agroecological farmers  
in Meghalaya state in  
north-eastern India*

*Photo: NESFAS (North East Slow Food  
and Agrobiodiversity Society) /  
TIP (the Indigenous Partnership for  
Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty)*

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BACKGROUND:  
HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

# 1 BACKGROUND: HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

In 2022, the Agroecology Fund took important steps forward in strengthening agroecology movements worldwide. It approved a new five year strategic plan, featuring creative actions that offer timely resources to agroecology organizations and networks as they push food systems towards justice and sustainability. The present report shares insights about where the Agroecology Fund is headed, but first asks you to take a look back. What has the Agroecology Fund accomplished over the past years? How do we understand and ensure our impact?

*The discussions about “scaling up” agroecology explicitly lift up local ingenuity and leadership*

Since its birth in 2012, the Agroecology Fund has aimed to amplify agroecological solutions in three overlapping ways: it pools and grants funds in support of agroecology movements through the expertise of grassroots advisors; it influences and collaborates with non-Agroecology Fund donors to support agroecology movements; and finally, it provides a learning platform to the Agroecology Fund community (donors, members of the Advisory Board, and grantees).

By the end of 2021, the Agroecology Fund had made US\$10.5 million in grants across 76 countries to leading agroecology actors, deepening their work in practice, advocacy and research. It facilitated a wealth of learning exchange opportunities through both face-to-face and virtual conversations. It has supported enormous strides in strengthening agroecology-based food systems in communities and across territories, backed up by shifting policies from the municipal to the national levels, in large part due to grassroots engagement and advocacy.

It has been a remarkable decade for agroecology. As food systems globally are rightfully called out for contributing more than 30% of greenhouse gasses, widespread pesticide poisoning and rising food insecurity, policy makers, consumers and of course farmers themselves are hungry for real change. As national governments abandon their constituencies, there is more appreciation for decentralized, grassroots solutions.

The discussions about “scaling up” agroecology explicitly lift up local ingenuity and leadership, which require support to thrive. Enormous creativity came to the fore during Agroecology Fund’s Covid emergency grants call, which provided small grants to cope with food crises aggravated by the pandemic. Agroecology, underpinned by Indigenous food systems with a proven track record of community

Soil preparation Photo: AFSA (Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa)



nutrition and resilience over thousands of years, is finally getting long overdue recognition.

Little by little, the false narrative that industrial agriculture feeds the world is being chipped away. Agroecology Fund grantees have been at the forefront of showing, with their growing body of grassroots evidence, that the vast majority of nutritious food is produced by smallholder farmers, many using agroecological practices. With their creative communications strategies, these organizations and networks are raising awareness about their essential role in safeguarding food supplies and the ecosystems in which food is grown. They are advocating for supportive policies and to reassign public subsidies away from fossil-fueled inputs and towards credit, knowledge building and infrastructure for agroecology. They are engaging citizens and changing narratives. It is this set of public and private investments that will strengthen agroecological initiatives as the hub of a resilient food economy and put to rest the notion that we ought to rely on a global, industrial food system to feed us.

### *How support is extended to agroecology movements remains critical*

Government funding for agroecology is on the rise, albeit modestly, and the Agroecology Fund has played a catalytic role in some of this. From the ashes of the highly compromised UN Food Summit in 2021 rose the Agroecology Coalition, to which over 40 countries have become signatories. At the heart of the coalition are the 13 Principles of Agroecology, articulated by the Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) High Level Panel of Experts. These principles now inform the investments of many bilateral and multilateral aid agencies coalesced into the Agroecology Donors Group, a body which the Agroecology Fund helped to create.

While not perfect, the principles together describe the holistic nature of agroecology, how it has food security, land rights, gender equity, Indigenous rights, biodiversity, participatory governance and more at its heart. Of course, at the community level, the agroecology organizations and networks that have given birth to agroecology movements - many of which have been grantees of the Agroecology Fund -

work with this intersectionality in their communities day in and day out. For example, the women organized in the *We are the Solution* campaign across West Africa know that when they re-introduce Indigenous rice varieties into markets dominated by industrial imports, local food systems become more climate resilient, landscapes regenerate and women strengthen their income and rights.

With greater acceptance and visibility of agroecology come greater attempts at cooptation and greenwashing. The comprehensive principles of agroecology and new tools that the Agroecology Fund is helping to develop to rank investments against those principles and make them transparent, help discourage cherry-picking of particular production techniques from being branded as agroecology. But that's not enough; ultimately it is the agroecology movements that hold governments, the donor community and private investors and companies accountable to investments that uphold the rights of communities and the rights of nature. For this, they need support.

For the Agroecology Fund, how support is extended to agroecology movements remains critical. It has relied on the wisdom of grassroots expert advisors from varied disciplines, embedded in social movements across the globe, engaged in iterated deliberations with donors. It is this collaborative process - a sort of "participatory guarantee system" - that has guided the Agroecology Fund in making strategic investments in agroecology movements.

Since its first grants in 2012, its theory of change has always put local actors and territorial processes at the center. That model has grown more layered and sophisticated. With lessons drawn from the global fund, regional funds in Mexico, India, and East and West Africa are being created and strengthened.

This report outlines the Agroecology Fund's achievements and lessons learnt in the period 2017-2021. There have been various smaller and bigger wins, and there are now stronger funding mechanisms and alliances, solidarity and movements for agroecology. Clearly, there are still numerous risks and obstacles. The decades to come will feature deeper collaboration with many networks across many disciplines - indeed that complementarity is the richness of agroecology.

*Preparation of bio-inputs*

*Photo: GAIA (Grupo Autónomo para la Investigación Ambiental, Oaxaca, Mexico)*

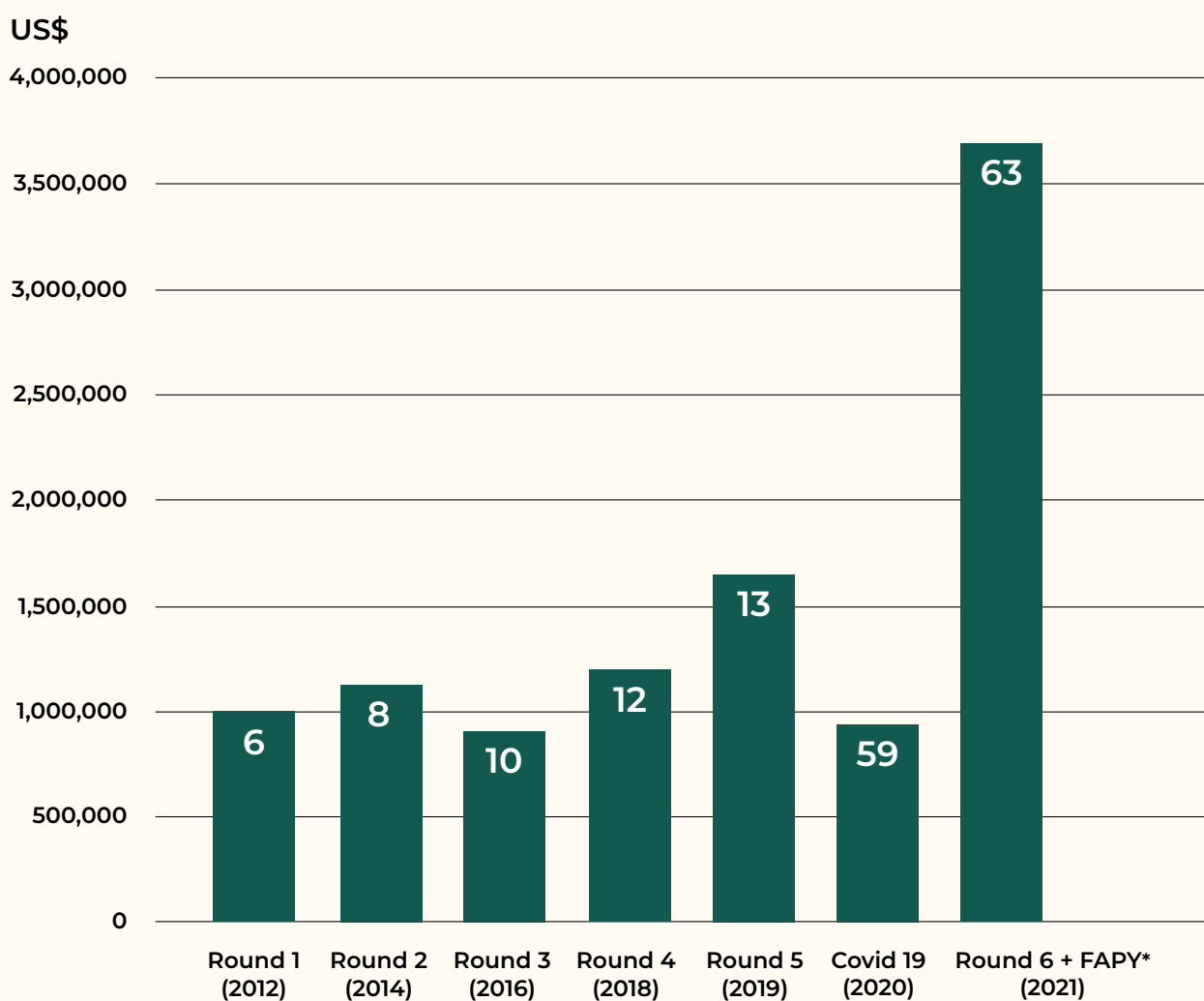


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OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS  
2017 - 2021

## 2 OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS 2017 - 2021

The period 2017-2021 was one of consolidation for the Agroecology Fund as a global level re-granter: helping funding agencies extend support to critical grassroots actors, which are sometimes difficult for funders to reach. Since these organizations and networks are the backbone of agroecology movements, supporting them is essential to scaling agroecology up and out.



### 12 Number of Grants

\*FAPY – Fondo Agroecológico Península Yucatán

Figure 1 - Number of grants, Total Dollar value since inception 2012: nearly US\$ 10.5 million to 171 grants for implementation in 76 countries



## 2.1 WHERE AND WHAT DID WE FUND?

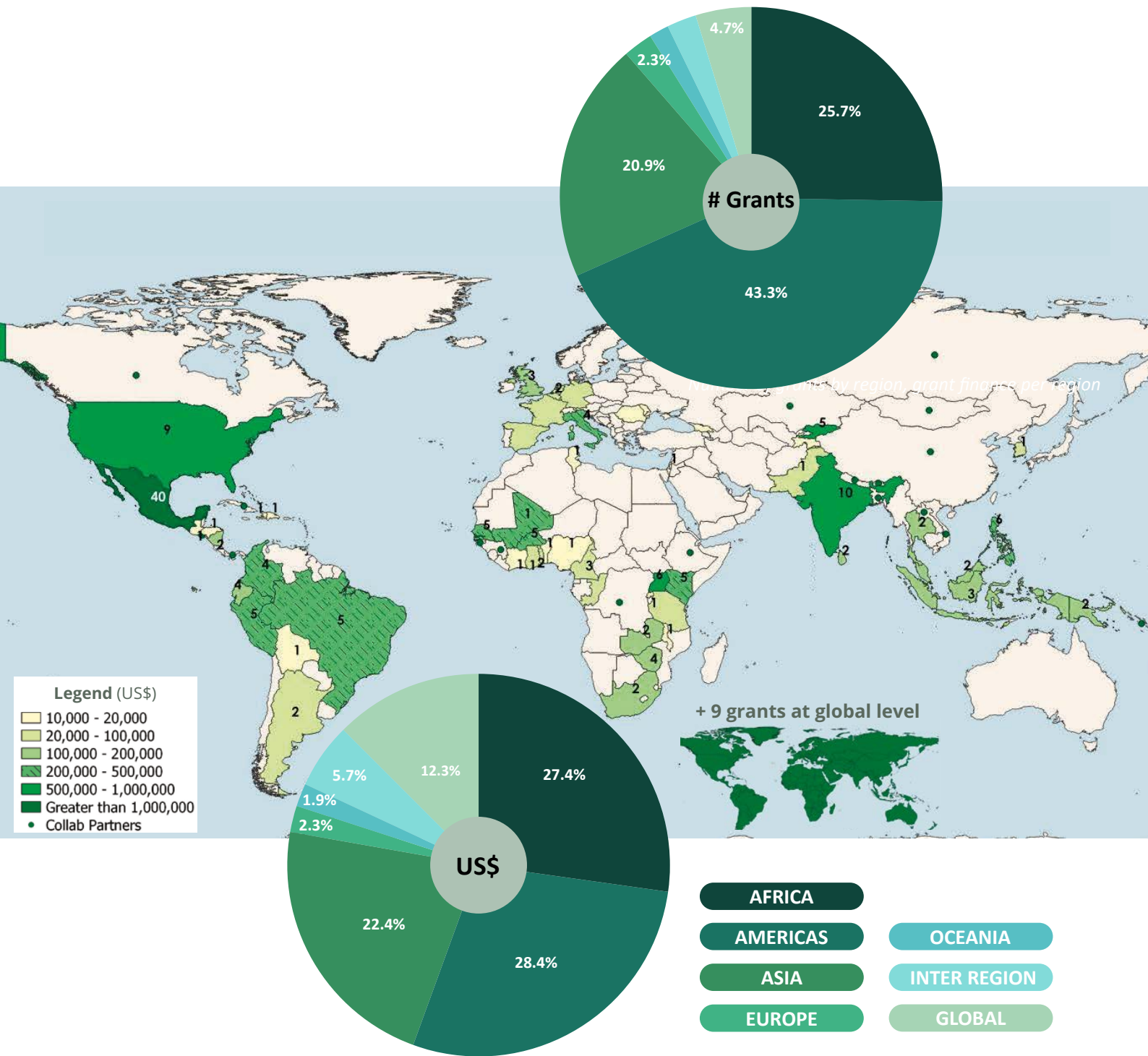


Figure 2 - Number of grants by region, grant finance per region

In the period 2017-2021, the Agroecology Fund attracted more funders and exceeded its target in terms of budget growth. Even without launching open calls, the number of grantees, the geographic coverage and thematic scope of the Agroecology Fund grants have expanded considerably in this period. Although it is a global fund, it has prioritized support for the Global South, with most grants going to the Americas, Africa and Asia (in that order, see figure 2).

In this period, the Agroecology Fund gained a much better understanding of the agroecology movement landscape and a better idea of its own niche position, building alliances accordingly. As a result, the fund has become increasingly visible and influential, with both private foundations and bilateral and multilateral

agencies expressing a growing interest in agroecology. The Agroecology Fund is happy to see more funding moving into grassroots-led agroecology. New funding mechanisms such as regional funds are critical to build on this trend, opening up new possibilities for resource mobilization and influence.

What has become clear during this period, is that the Agroecology Fund's institutional structure and present staffing level are inadequate to match these ambitions. It has maintained a small team of staff and consultants according to an 80/20 rule: at least 80% of its resources should go out as grants to the base organizations and networks of agroecology movements. As the Agroecology Fund grows, it is now in a better position to hire additional programmatic, fundraising and communications support.

Community gardening Photo: DESMI (Desarrollo Económico y Social de los Mexicanos Indígenas)



Experience gained within this period has also emphasized the importance of supporting diverse and complementary strategies within localized and broader movements. Drawing upon this, the Agroecology Fund has identified **seven priority areas for investment**. Funded projects often contain several of these elements:

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- 1 FOOD SOVEREIGNTY & FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY** Achieve zero hunger through culturally-appropriate production and consumption of nutritious foods.

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  - 2 RIGHTS TO LAND, TERRITORY AND NATURAL RESOURCES** Uphold and protect Indigenous and community rights to territories that strengthen community-led resource stewardship.

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  - 3 CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** Preserve biodiversity and water; build healthy, carbon-sequestering soils; and regenerate climate-resilient ecosystems.

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  - 4 GENDER EQUITY** Advance women’s rights and leadership.

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  - 5 ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND EQUITY** Support dignified livelihoods and social enterprises that reduce inequalities and contribute to robust local economies.

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  - 6 INDIGENOUS, LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION** Promote local know-how, collaborative scientific research, knowledge co-creation, and cultural and spiritual values.

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  - 7 PARTICIPATORY ADVOCACY AND GOVERNANCE** Strengthen civil society voices in public policymaking, broad grassroots movements, and diverse community leadership.
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## 2.2 NEW FUNDING AND LEARNING APPROACHES

The Agroecology Fund also fosters food systems transformations beyond the boundaries of individual grants. In recent years, the Agroecology Fund has embarked on a number of initiatives designed to strengthen linkages and build momentum within the wider agroecological movement.

### INDIA LEARNING EXCHANGE

In February 2020, The Agroecology Fund convened 75 participants - grantees, donors, advisors and staff - for an 8-day international learning exchange in India. All grantees were invited to share their strategies in a highly participatory process. Participants were overwhelmingly positive in their evaluations. The Agroecology Fund has since acted on recommendations that emerged from the Learning Exchange, for example by creating a program to build evidence for agroecology and setting up regional funds, both of which are prominently featured in the new strategic plan. It has also supported follow-up learning between India's highly successful Community Based Natural Farming (CBNF) program and allies in other regions to share insights and lessons about scaling up strategies. From participants' feedback and collaboratives' continued engagement across regions, the Agroecology Fund has learned that these exchanges remain key for movement-building and significantly strengthen communities of practice.

Learning Exchange participants Photo: Agroecology Fund



### How Can the Agroecology Fund Better Support Agroecology Movements Around the World? *Insights from the 2020 India Learning Exchange*

Agroecology Fund partners expressed appreciation for the opportunity to deploy resources to further their timely work. They expressed hope that the Fund will continue to grow to include many more collegial collaboratives around the globe. Grantee partners made several recommendations, encouraging the Agroecology Fund to, for example:

- Assist collaboratives to co-create evidence and disseminate impacts of their work to target audiences;
- Create accessible, decentralized funds, e.g., revolving loan funds, rapid response funds for emergent advocacy opportunities, and regionally focused funds for deeper territorial work;
- Make funding available to informal organizations and cooperatives;
- Expand support for Indigenous food systems and the sharing of local knowledge;
- Incorporate alternative application mechanisms to accommodate organizations who don't have the capacity to write proposals;
- Support learning and networking at the regional and sub-regional levels.

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS

The Agroecology Fund could not have imagined that a month after the India Learning Exchange, Covid-19 would have extended to the four corners of the world, creating an unprecedented situation of fear, grief, uncertainty and hunger. The Agroecology Fund had never operated an emergency grant call before but decided that this was now needed. The Covid-19 Emergency Response Call for Funding Proposals allowed the Agroecology Fund to support a diversity of grassroots organizations during the pandemic. The quick turnaround was possible thanks to its nominations system which relies on advisors, donors and long-term partners. As early as April 2020, the Agroecology Fund began to award the first of 59 grants totaling US\$938,500 to collaboratives involving a total of 280 grassroots organizations, to be implemented in 45 countries across Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. They addressed food insecurity during the pandemic by supporting community-based agroecological food systems, work-arounds to lockdowns, and advocacy efforts to increase access to healthy, nutritious foods. Smaller grants were made for specific and timely solutions such as online marketing platforms. The grants highlighted two essential conditions for successful responses to food crises around the world: 1) Community-level partnership and collaboration; 2) Inclusive and innovative approaches to disaster relief that are community-led.

*Urban agriculture in a community in Metro Manila Photo: Save San Rock Alliance*



***“THE AGROECOLOGY FUND’S SPECIAL POTENTIAL AS A POOLED FUND WAS BROUGHT HOME TO ME BY WITNESSING THE SPEEDY GROWTH OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND AND ITS REACH WORLDWIDE. IT WAS AN INSPIRATION DURING A DARK TIME.”***

***JESSICA BROWN - NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS FOUNDATION  
DURING A CONVERSATION CIRCLE***

## Fish and Food Sovereignty in Times of Covid-19

As part of the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, the Agroecology Fund was able to support two networks that are defending the rights of fishing communities while demonstrating the importance of artisanal fishing in building resilient and sustainable food systems. Although artisanal fishing significantly strengthens people's food and nutrition security, its contribution is rarely recognized. Furthermore, fishing communities face eviction threats from their traditional fishing grounds, as the commons they have long stewarded become over-fished by industrial trawlers and contaminated by industrial pollutants. The pandemic added to these already significant pressures.

Based in Nigeria, the [Fishnet Alliance](#) advocates for the rights and recognition of fishing communities in several African countries. The Alliance represents the interests of fisherpeople in policy spaces, emphasizing their contributions to the national economy, their role in the protection of marine ecosystems and the need to respect governance systems over commons. With the support of the Agroecology Fund, the Fishnet Alliance distributed emergency food aid and fishing gear to coastal communities to allow them to continue to feed their families and restart their livelihood activities

during the pandemic. This assistance alleviated the financial burden on artisanal fishers at a time when they were facing the brunt of multiple crises.

[The National Federation of Fishing Cooperatives of Ecuador \(FENACOPEC\)](#) is a network that represents more than 500 fishing cooperatives and associations across the country. In Ecuador, industrial fisheries receive state support and subsidies, despite depleting the very resources they depend on. While making an important contribution to coastal food security, artisanal fishers have almost no access to insurance, credits or loans. They are forced into economic precarity, and struggle to maintain their traditional fishing practices in the face of climate change and rampant crime at sea. This situation worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic when markets were closed. FENACOPEC brings fishers' concerns to the government, advocating for their rights, recognition, and for improved state support. During the lockdown, some FENACOPEC associates utilized social media as a sales platform to connect with customers. They collaborated with small scale farmers who had produce to share so that fishing communities could access a diverse and healthy diet throughout the crisis, even in remote island locations.

*Demonstrations led by fisherpeoples in Quito, Ecuador Photo: FENACOPEC*



## CONVERSATION CIRCLES

The Covid-19 pandemic was a fierce illustration of the vulnerability and inequality of industrial food supply-chains. In response, grantee partners across the globe demonstrated an incredible ability to design and implement localized solutions. To build upon these initiatives, the Agroecology Fund invited partners to share their experiences through learning exchanges in the form of 23 virtual "Conversation Circles". In the period November 2020 to May 2022, around 30 attendees from grassroots organizations from Malaysia to Zambia to Mexico took part in each Conversation Circle. Thus, hundreds of practitioners strengthened a global movement by sharing inspirational stories of success, solidarity, and sustainability with their peers around the world, whilst at the same celebrating the diversity of cultures present.

Whilst these innovations were unique, there was a common thread. In the midst of great challenges, grantees managed to identify and act upon opportunities in the pandemic: to (re)connect

farmers to local or alternative markets, to promote and distribute locally adapted seeds or appropriate farming tools, and to build solidarity between producers and consumers.

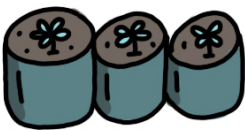
## CONVERSATION CIRCLES



AGROECOLOGY  
FUND

### UNION OF AGRICULTURAL WORK COMMITTEES in PALESTINE

FOCUS ON  
**MARGINALISED  
FAMILIES**



TOOLS + SUPPLIES  
FOR HOME  
GARDENING

NO AGRICULTURAL  
LAND TO PLANT, ONLY ROOFS  
WATER RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT



**CONVERTING  
ROOFS in REFUGEE CAMPS  
into HOME GARDENS**



**MANY PEOPLE ASKED  
FOR SEEDS FOR THE  
FIRST TIME**

**CAPACITY BUILDING AND  
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH**



ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT  
OF WOMEN



ESTABLISHING A  
**SEED BANK**

**TO DISTRIBUTE LOCALLY  
ADAPTED SEEDS THAT  
DON'T NEED A LOT OF  
WATER**

## REGIONAL FUNDS

Following recommendations from grantee partners, The Agroecology Fund has started the process of setting up decentralized, regional agroecology funds. These funds allow for the provision of finance for deeper territorial-level work. The first regional fund was established in December 2020, when Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula was devastated by tropical storms, in addition to suffering from the Covid-19 crisis. At this moment of overlapping crises, the Agroecology Fund launched the Yucatán Peninsula Agroecology Fund (FAPY) to support Mayan community organizations leading recovery from the ravages of climate change and Covid. With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, FAPY's mission is to support grassroots initiatives that strengthen agroecological production, deepen locally-led research and learning, improve market access, and build a more just and climate-resilient food system. Local partner T'uumben K'oooben, composed principally of young Mayan professionals from farming communities, administers FAPY's grantmaking, provides technical assistance and facilitates learning. Having worked alongside their grandparents in milpas and in animal husbandry, they know agroecology first-hand and have witnessed, with growing concern, dietary and cultural shifts in their communities, alongside massive out-migration. They are well-placed to lead the transformation towards more culturally and ecologically appropriate food systems. Regional funds are now in development in India as well as East and West Africa.

Field visits to FAPY grantees in Yucatán, Mexico Photo: T'uumben K'oooben





## GRASSROOTS EVIDENCE FOR AGROECOLOGY (GEA)

Generating and disseminating evidence as a means of amplifying agroecology was a key discussion point at the India Learning Exchange. Three important messages emerged: (a) the need to create a new narrative of what constitutes evidence; (b) the process of evidence gathering must be participatory and creative; (c) the Agroecology Fund should extend support to grantees for gathering and disseminating evidence for agroecology.

Although there is a large body of literature on the meaning of “evidence-based”, evidence on the impact of agroecology is invariably confused with scientific research that validates solutions that are generated by non-scientists. In late 2020 the Agroecology Fund partnered with Statistics for Sustainable Development (Stats4SD) to launch the Grassroots Evidence for Agroecology (GEA) pilot. The aim is to learn how grassroots organizations can construct their own evidence cases and how the Agroecology Fund could better support them.

GEA's approach is that evidence needs to be created by practitioners and advocates and be presented in a way that is meaningful to their target audiences. An important element is the understanding that evidence is not a synonym of data or information. While information derived from science, monitoring and evaluation, testimonies etc. form a basis, they only become evidence when they are used for a purpose within a set of norms to trigger an analysis that will lead to a decision or action.

The pilot developed and disseminated an innovative conceptual approach to tackle the issue of evidence from a grassroots perspective. It tested and validated a methodology for participatory evidence gathering, and from this, four cases were concluded and presented in webinars organized by the Agroecology Fund. Based on the lessons learned from the pilot phase, the Agroecology Fund and Stats4SD will invite additional grantees to generate cases (co-created with external researchers as appropriate) to enable sharing of solutions with their target audiences.

### GRASSROOTS EVIDENCE FOR AGROECOLOGY (GEA)

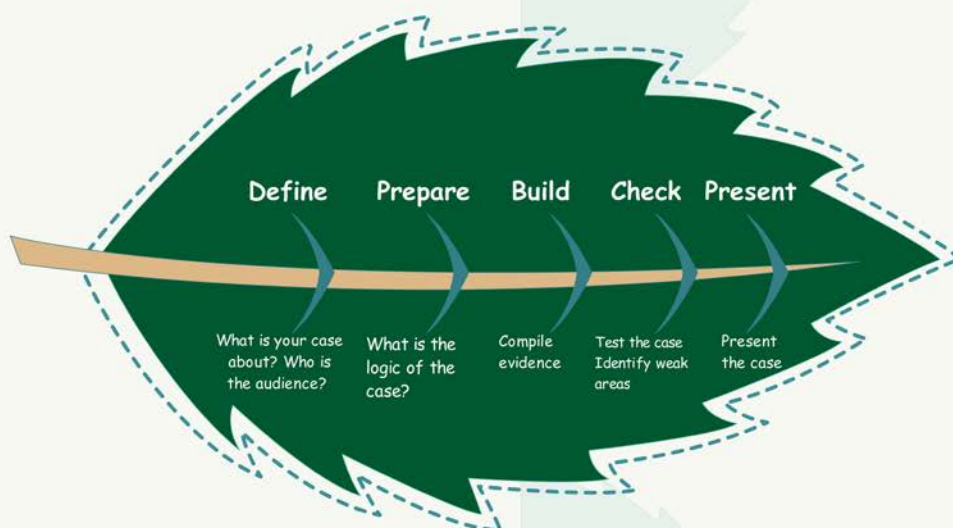


Figure 3 - Overview of methodology developed by the GEA pilot. Source: Agroecology Fund & Stats4SD

## 2.3 INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS: A STRONGER AGROECOLOGY FUND

Beyond advances in strategic grantmaking, the Agroecology Fund developed significantly as an organization between 2017-2021, especially in the areas of governance and operations. In this period, the Agroecology Fund:

- **improved its governance structure** by consolidating the external advisory board model and including grantees (Long-term partners - a subset of collaboratives receiving multi-year support) in the Fund's Executive Committee
- **advanced in facilitating knowledge exchange**, through the India Learning Exchange and virtual conversation methods (Conversation Circles) developed during the Covid-19 pandemic
- **enhanced its operations:** the team expanded and a system for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning was put in place
- **collaborated with and influenced other bilateral and multilateral funders** through the Agroecology Donors Group and in philanthropy spaces
- **strengthened alliances**, for example with the Global Alliance for the Future of Food and with the Transformational Investments in Food Systems (TIFS) initiative

Moving forward, these developments provide a stronger and more resilient foundation from which to pursue the grantmaking and wider field-influencing goals of the Agroecology Fund.

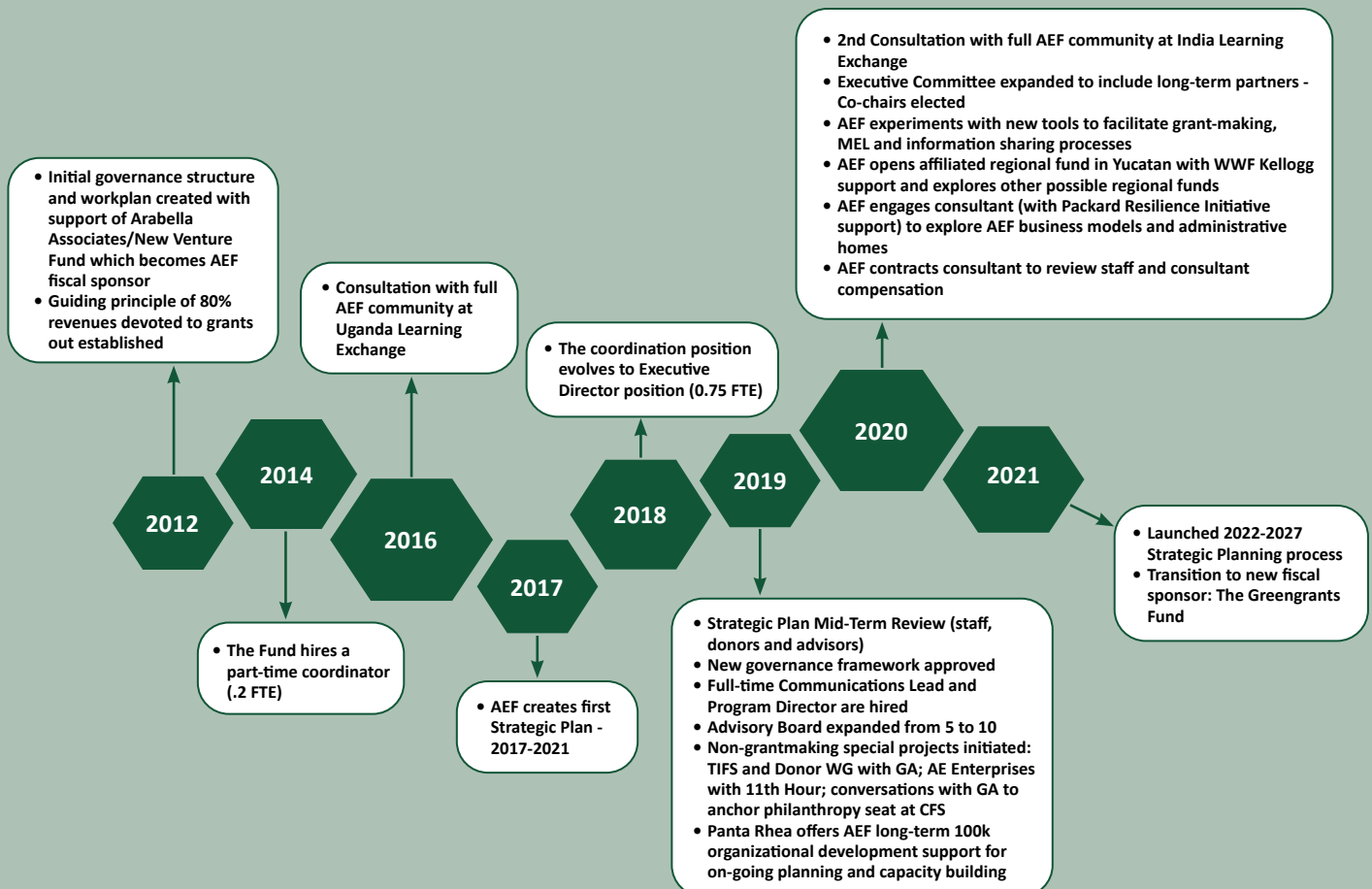


Figure 4 - Agroecology Fund Institutional Milestones



*Vongai Mudzingwa,  
a peasant woman from  
Shashe region of Mashava,  
Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe  
in her seed bank*

*Photo: AWCHN (African Women Collaborative  
for Health and Nutrition)*

3

ACHIEVEMENTS AND  
LESSONS

# 3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS

The strategic plan developed in 2017 defined four strategic directions. This section presents a summary of the main results achieved and lessons learned in each of them.

## 1 | MOVE BIG MONEY TO AGROECOLOGY

“To grow the global agroecology movement, more resources must be shifted toward agroecology initiatives. The Agroecology Fund set a goal of doubling its own annual grantmaking dollars in five years. However, it also aims to grow the pool of financial resources for the movement at large. This strategic direction therefore includes activities to influence private foundations to shift an additional US\$10 million toward agroecology efforts more broadly, as well as influence public sector institutions to increase financing by tens of millions of U.S. dollars, over the next five years.”

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

## 2 | STRENGTHEN SUPPORTING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

“For local agroecology movements to thrive, government policies that either support new economy food systems, or shift support away from industrial agriculture (for example, by changing subsidy priorities), are critical. This strategic direction focuses on support for grassroots collaboratives that advocate for: inclusion of agroecology in national climate change mitigation plans, seed laws that favor biodiversity and farmers’ rights, stable land tenure, accessible credit and more.”

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2



Peasants marching for justice and dignified livelihoods Photo: La Via Campesina

# 3

## INFLUENCE THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION ON HUNGER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

“Positioning agroecology as a viable solution to global hunger, climate change, and other problems associated with industrial agriculture is critical to encourage farmers, consumers and policymakers to join a growing movement. Specific goals of this strategic direction include supporting the communications capacity of grantees; amplifying the stories of Agroecology Fund’s grantee partners and allies; placing messages and stories from around the world in strategic media outlets; and becoming a powerful voice in the philanthropy and development communities about the viability of agroecology food systems and the threats posed by industrial agriculture.”

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

# 4

## SHARE AND CO-CREATE AGROECOLOGY KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

“Building the scientific and economic case for agroecology and spreading applied knowledge is core to the Agroecology Fund’s mission. Specific goals of this strategic direction include: supporting collaborators from multiple disciplines to learn and experiment with agroecology; analyzing learnings about agroecological amplification across the field and broadly disseminating key lessons; convening grantees, advisors, donors and allies both virtually and face-to-face to deepen learning.”

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4



Pastoralists in Kyrgyzstan Photo: Golden Hoof Collaborative

## 3.1 MOVE BIG MONEY TO AGROECOLOGY

### What did we achieve?

**Grantmaking dollars rose** by 267% above the 2017 baseline, reaching a budget of US\$3.7 million in 2021, far exceeding the original target of US\$2 million. In addition, the number of donors increased from 15 to 35. Interviews in 2020 showed that new donors represent varied interests, from Indigenous Rights to biodiversity conservation to food security, but find intersection in agroecology. Existing donors increased their funding to the Agroecology Fund by an aggregate sum of US\$ 772,000 in comparison with their first contribution. Donors also reported increased funding to agroecology beyond that provided to the Agroecology Fund.

The Agroecology Fund does not influence public sector funding directly but rather supports grantees' advocacy activities for more public investment in agroecology. The Agroecology Fund does seek to directly influence the donor community. It has helped to **convene agroecology champions from bilateral and multilateral development agencies** in order to strengthen their commitment to a holistic set of principles (the 13 Principles of Agroecology) and to leverage more funding for grassroots-led agroecology from their respective institutions. In support of grantee partners' advocacy, in 2021, the Agroecology Fund supported side events at the 47th session of the Committee on World Food Security to encourage government funding for agroecology.

Together with the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, **the Transformational Investing in Food Systems (TIFS) Initiative was launched** to encourage foundations to align their financial investments with their programmatic aspirations by investing a portion of their endowments in agroecological enterprises.

### What did we learn?

- **The Agroecology Fund value proposition affirmed:** Pooled granting and collective learning helps deepen member foundations commitment to agroecology-related investments.
- **Tracking impact a challenge:** The Agroecology Fund is increasingly visible in philanthropic and development networks and sought after for its expertise. Yet tracking impact on non-Agroecology Fund donors is not straightforward.
- **Fertile ground for donor collaboration:** There is great potential for private foundation bi- and multilateral development agency collaboration to support agroecology. Agencies see potential in the Agroecology Fund as a re-grantor to grassroots movement actors.
- **Allies bring strength:** The partnership with the Global Alliance for the Future of Food (see page 23) has shown that significant progress and broadened influence can be achieved through collaborations with strategic partners.

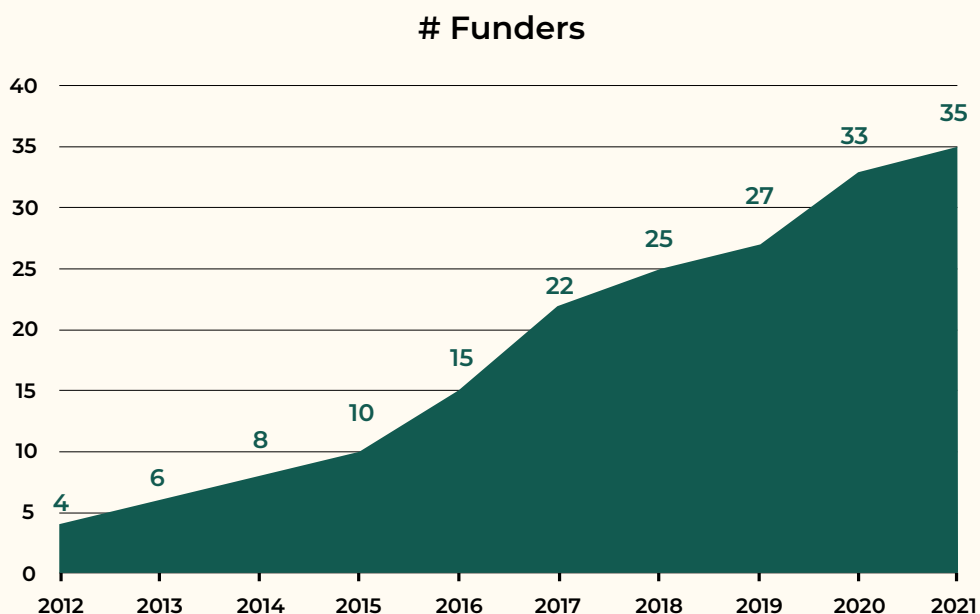


Figure 5 - Increase in number of Agroecology Fund funders over time

## Launch of Transformational Investments in Food Systems Initiative with Global Alliance

In order to facilitate impact investments in agroecological enterprises, the Agroecology Fund worked together with the Global Alliance for the Future of Food in order to launch the Transformational Investments in Food Systems (TIFS) Initiative. Foundations are aligning their investments from their endowments with their programmatic objectives. It makes little sense to

grow a foundation corpus if investments undermine smallholder-led agroecology. TIFS promotes systems-level investments in order to stimulate real food systems transformation. This means using innovative financial models and blended finance to invest in agroecological enterprises that generate diverse forms of value: for nature, people and communities.

Agroecological produce at market in Oaxaca, Mexico Photo: DESMI (Desarrollo Económico y Social de los Mexicanos Indígenas)



## 3.2 STRENGTHEN SUPPORTING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

### What did we achieve?

Advocacy work is integrated within most grant projects. Several partner grantees have implemented **campaigns to promote policies for agroecology, including resisting harmful policies and programs:** several initiatives included elements of campaigns to redirect finance for industrial agriculture to agroecology. Various grantees advocated for an enabling framework for new markets for agroecology. Their work is having an important influence at the policy level. For example, a bill threatening seed sovereignty in Mexico has been suspended.

### What did we learn?

- **Partners do the advocacy work:** Influence on government policy and investments is largely the domain of the Agroecology Fund partners,

except for the Agroecology Fund work with donor countries at the CFS and through side events at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In some countries, an increase in criminalization of social movements makes advocacy work more challenging.

- **Momentum matters:** Implicitly, to take advantage of momentum and opportunities, the Agroecology Fund support is best targeted in regions with a better institutional environment to scale up agroecology.
- **Policy change takes time:** The impact of policy advocacy depends on many factors and takes time. Results are often not harvested during the grant period, yet the Agroecology Fund support allows for crucial organizing and advocacy work to be done that gives a stronger foundation for later work.

*Demonstration by farm workers in Buenos Aires, Argentina Photo: UTT (Unión de los Trabajadores de la Tierra, Argentina)*





## Defending and Amplifying Peasant-led Agroecology

The Agroecology Fund is supporting a long-term partnership with La Via Campesina, GRAIN and ETC Group to build upon the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). Through information and advocacy work, the collaborative seeks to analyze, influence and monitor relevant policies and practices of governments, development agencies and the private sector.

This work has assisted in vital wins for peasant agroecology. For example, the collaborative worked closely with La Via Campesina Mexico

and the Network in Defense of Maize to resist amendments to existing seed laws that threatened seed sovereignty. These proposed amendments to the Mexican Plant Varieties Act would harmonize national seed laws with UPOV 91 and criminalize Indigenous seeds. Through advocacy work and connecting with a wide coalition of peasant and civil society organizations, the collaborative succeeded in having the proposed bill suspended. This does not mean that the amendments have been abandoned completely, but still represents an important victory in pursuit of food and seed sovereignty.

*Agroforestry plot in Quintana Roo, Mexico Photo: PROTEINNA (Prótidis Tecnología e Innovación Agropecuaria)*



## Advocating for Indigenous Seed Systems

For Indigenous communities, the pandemic highlighted the grave consequences of a weak and unjust food and agriculture system, contaminated lands, decades of extractive policies, climate change and the systemic erosion of public healthcare. The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) is a long-term partner of the Agroecology Fund. IITC works to restore Indigenous Peoples food systems to improve health and nutrition, resilience and livelihoods.

The IITC amplifies the voices of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making spaces, offers training and leadership opportunities for Indigenous youth and revives traditional practices to increase sustainable food production, including farmer-managed seed saving. IITC organizes online and in-person gatherings for communities to share practical knowledge on preserving native seeds.

One key challenge is that the free exchange of seeds is increasingly threatened by seed privatization. Traditional practices are being criminalized and Indigenous agrobiodiversity faces the risk of being appropriated - and genetically contaminated - by agroindustry.

Along with their partners - Indigenous communities in the US but also the Association of World Reindeer Herders, the Sami Parliaments of Finland and Norway, and the Arctic Athabaskan Council, CONAVIGUA (Indigenous Widows Association, Guatemala), Kuna Youth Movement (Panama) and others - the IITC has initiated a process to reclaim native seeds, and Indigenous spirituality, culture, knowledge and resources in respect of Mother Earth, in opposition to the patriarchal destruction and colonization that is continuing to endanger their way of life.

In all their diversity and ability to adapt, native seeds (corn, beans, squash and more) address nutritional needs, spiritual needs as well as the needs of the earth. With sovereignty over their seeds, Indigenous Peoples can ensure they remain healthy and nourished, even in the face of future pandemics and climate change. The Agroecology Fund has deepened its support for Indigenous communities from across the globe as they reaffirm their rights over their territories and food systems. Protecting these rights has never been more urgent.

IITC seed gathering Photo: IITC



***“SAVING OUR SEEDS IS WHAT IS GOING TO KEEP US ALIVE, PHYSICALLY BUT ALSO MENTALLY AND CULTURALLY AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.”***

***CHRIS HONAHNIE - MEMBER OF THE DINÉ AND HOPI NATIONS,  
AND IITC'S FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CO-COORDINATOR***

## 3.3 INFLUENCE THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION ON HUNGER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### What did we achieve?

Through years of experimentation and practice, the Agroecology Fund's niche has been **supporting partners' communications** and elevating their stories and core messages. In some spheres, such as within the philanthropic community, the Agroecology Fund elevates its own voice as a thought and practice leader to deepen donor commitments to agroecology. All of the Agroecology Fund's communications work is grounded in partners' grassroots stories and evidence.

**Nine small grants were made for communications campaigns**, while Long-Term Partners received US\$25,000 extra support each in the Round 6 grant cycle (2021) specifically to support their communications work.

Between 2017-2021, grantees produced approximately **500 communication outputs**, in different formats (writing, audio, video) and for various audiences. In 2020, the Agroecology Fund **formalized 3 media partnerships**: with A Growing Culture, Civil Eats and Mongabay. In that year, the Agroecology Fund and its partners were mentioned in over 20 media articles, the Agroecology Fund authored 6 op-eds/articles (published in mainstream and philanthropy media) and also commissioned a short video on agroecology featuring the voices of several grantees and advisors.

In addition, the Agroecology Fund has accepted numerous **speaking engagements** in which advisors, grantees, donors and staff have been part of public discussions on agroecology. It has **nominated partners for awards, prizes and other grant opportunities**, so that their work can be supported and their messages and successes can be further amplified. For example, in 2021 two grantees, BIO-KG from Kyrgyzstan and CoopCerrado from Brazil, were among the 10 winners of the Equator Prize. The launch of the aforementioned GEA pilot (page 17) also represents an achievement under this strategic direction.

Supporting partners' communications is now **a key component of Agroecology Fund grants**: explicitly (through specified communications grants to long-term partners as well as small communications grants) AND implicitly (most medium-term grantees allocate some percentage of the grants they receive to communications and advocacy work). To continue to move all of this forward, the Agroecology Fund has **increased staff and consultant resources** for improved communications.

*Nous Sommes la Solution in West Africa use radio to influence the conversation Photo: NSS*



## What did we learn?

- **Communications support must be based on partners' needs and capacities:** Hiring New York communications consultants to work with African partners only goes so far. The Agroecology Fund's communications support strategy must strengthen partners' communications capacities in their territories and their ability to raise resources for their work. This was found in a comprehensive communications survey and needs assessment conducted with partners in 2020 which now guides the Agroecology Fund's communications support for grantees.
- **Capacity and strategies are emergent:** All medium-term grants address communication to some extent, though most organizations do not have sufficient communications capacity (skilled and dedicated staff or volunteers) and they face challenges reaching target audiences, whether farmers or policy makers, via social media, earned media, radio, etc.
- **Messages need to be sharper and based on evidence:** Agroecology has gained more visibility since 2012, but it is difficult to measure (or attribute) shifts in the dominant narrative around food, influenced as they are by multiple factors. To push the needle further and shift the narrative, partners need communications support to document and strategically share evidence of their successes in agroecology, especially through the media outlets read, visited and heard by their target audiences.
- **The Agroecology Fund can be helpful in amplifying messages and stories internationally.** And vice versa, when the Agroecology Fund authors articles for international media (such as a [New York Times opinion piece](#) or an article on [Indigenous food systems for Cultural Survival](#)), they can be used locally as advocacy tools.

*A speaker at the Agroecology Learning Exchange in India Photo: Agroecology Fund*



## Coverage of the Agroecology Fund's 2020 Learning Exchange in India

The 2020 India Learning Exchange was covered by a regional newspaper (Sakshi Telugu Daily, Feb 9; circulation 1.09 million), as well as international media as result of a partnership with Magnum Foundation and Panta Rhea Foundation. They featured the stunning photography of Soumya Bose. ([The Citizen, Jun 2020](#); [Farming Matters, Oct 2020](#)). [Photo essays and reflections](#) were also posted on the Agroecology Fund website (Google Search Console; 151,000 total impressions in 2020).

The Agroecology Fund continues to disseminate lessons and learnings from India through speaking engagements (e.g. the Agroecology Fund sponsored and facilitated a session on Andhra Pradesh CBNF at the Oxford Real Conference, 2021). An active partnership between AFSA and Andhra Pradesh CBNF resulted in the publication '[Taking Agroecology to Scale. Learning from the Experiences of Natural Farming in India](#)' (2022).

## Making the Case for Agroecology across Africa

Led by the joyful singing of African women farmers, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) burst onto the scene in 2011 at the international climate meeting in South Africa, known as COP17. Today, AFSA is a powerful voice driving the transition to agroecology in Africa. Compiling and using evidence that industrial agriculture has indebted African farmers and governments and degraded its natural resource base, AFSA members from across 50 African countries have united behind a campaign to make agroecology a key climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy in African countries' official climate plans and to support the small-scale farmers who are the backbone of African food systems.

The Agroecology Fund has supported AFSA to work with universities to develop evidence and case studies that document the impacts of agroecology. AFSA created an African advocacy platform on agroecology, strengthened leadership and grassroots participation in its network and disseminated researched evidence to decision makers, including at high-profile climate meetings.

AFSA galvanized the agroecology movement in Africa and it continues to support and protect farmer-managed seed and food systems, provides a strong voice on land rights, and informs and influences policies on seeds, food sovereignty, land, and the transition to agroecology.

*Pastoralists with their cattle Photo: AFSA*



***“WITH THE AGROECOLOGY FUND’S SUPPORT, WE ARE PRESSING GOVERNMENTS AND FUNDERS TO PRIORITIZE AGROECOLOGY TO ENSURE CLIMATE RESILIENCE, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, JUSTICE AND LIVELIHOODS FOR AFRICA.”***

*MILLION BELAY, AFSA COORDINATOR*

## 3.4 SHARE AND CO-CREATE AGROECOLOGY KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

### What have we achieved?

The collaboratives supported by the Agroecology Fund have involved varied stakeholders, which have joined capacities to develop solutions, conduct participatory research, as well as document and disseminate evidence to amplify agroecology. In 2020, the Agroecology Fund hosted a highly successful **Global Learning Exchange** for grantees, which provided ample opportunity to exchange experiences, strategies and lessons among grantees, donors, advisors and staff. A report based on insights that emerged from the gathering was disseminated in three languages among participants, while shorter versions were shared more widely in India and international media.

The Agroecology Fund engaged in a comprehensive **mapping of agroecology learning networks** globally to identify actors and build ongoing relationships to fortify co-creation and amplification of knowledge.

In order to improve learning as an organization, the Agroecology Fund significantly strengthened its system for **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)**. At the end of 2019, the Agroecology Fund hired a Program Director, whose core activities are grantmaking and MEL management.

A retrospective analysis of grant results was carried out and then a MEL framework was developed. The Agroecology Fund's MEL system features a Grants Database and a MEL Plan with objectives, principles, priority areas and indicators that serves to track progress on the Agroecology Fund's strategic plan. This system helps to **identify particular gaps** in the Agroecology Fund's strategies with respect to strategic geographies, constituencies and intervention areas.

### What did we learn?

- **Rich learning networks exist:** The mapping exercise showed that many complementary learning processes are underway and may be excellent collaborators to deepen grassroots learning and exchange on agroecology.
- **Improvement of procedures:** Each grant round closes with evaluation of the grantmaking process by advisors and staff. Insights have strengthened grantmaking procedures in subsequent rounds such as nomination guidelines, and proposal review criteria.
- **Learning Exchanges are key:** The Agroecology Fund's in-person and virtual International Learning Exchanges remain essential for movement building, strengthening communities of practice and informing the Agroecology Fund's strategy.

*Representatives of peasant organizations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia discuss how to strengthen agroecology in the region  
Photo: European Coordination of Via Campesina*



## Agroecology Schools for Food System Transformation

Across Latin America, there are nine agroecology schools established by CLOC-Via Campesina - the Latin American leg of the world's largest peasant movement. The educational institute in Colombia (IALA Maria Cano) was founded in 2017 with support from the Agroecology Fund. The schools are better known as the Latin American Agroecological Institutes (IALAs).

“In Latin America, universities are part of how capitalism educates people to serve the dominant model [of extractive, industrial agriculture]. No opportunities were available for the peasants in these educational spaces; so there was a need to build our own schools,” said Marlen Sanchez, the Academic Director of the IALA Ixim Ulew in Nicaragua.

Each of these schools is an important space for youth, women, and Indigenous communities to receive training in agroecological practices, but also to strengthen their capacity for political analysis.

The IALAs offer high school graduates from peasant or Indigenous backgrounds the tools to resist the dominant agricultural model and to build an alternative future in their communities through educational and professional opportunities.

For the past 12 years, IALAs have forged a peer-to-peer extension system that recognizes the role of peasant and Indigenous Peoples' agriculture in achieving food sovereignty. The students apply what they have learned, experiment, and eventually take this knowledge to their own plots and share it with their communities. The IALAs are therefore central in scaling up agroecology at the regional level and strengthening the grassroots food movement in Latin America. They accelerate social transformation, encouraging the new generation of agroecological food producers to become progressive agents of change, able to steward the land guided by anti-colonial, anti-patriarchal and anti-racist values.

*IALA Maria Cano students in Colombia Photo: IALA Maria Cano*



**“OUR AGROECOLOGY IS HIGHLY POLITICAL.  
IT CHALLENGES EXISTING POWER DYNAMICS AND  
PLACES THE PEASANT COMMUNITY AT THE CENTER OF  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.”**

*BLANCA RUIZ, A MEMBER OF THE CLOC-VIA CAMPESINA SECRETARIAT*

## Building Healthy Food Systems from the Ground Up in West Africa

With the Agroecology Fund's support, Groundswell West Africa was able to strengthen its work with women farmers on the southern fringe of the Sahel in Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and northern Ghana, building on the traditional knowledge and governance mechanisms of communities. For example, they regenerate trees on farmland: this sounds simple but is actually a powerfully disruptive idea. Farmer-managed natural regeneration is an agroecological technique in which native trees are carefully selected and left to grow on land often razed bare. Leaves decompose and become fertilizer; roots fix nitrogen and build up soil structure, microbiology and water retention capacity.

Groundswell West Africa is a network that consists of the following organizations: AGRECOL Afrique, Senegal; Association Nourrir Sans Détruire (ANSD), Burkina Faso; Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD), Ghana; and Sahel Eco, Mali. They support farmers to experiment with agroecology, raise awareness, build capacity, and document and disseminate good practices and successes. Their work supports shifts in the direction of agricultural policies in favor of agroecological food systems that give women and Indigenous farmers a more influential voice. Groundswell West Africa became a long-term partner of the Agroecology Fund in 2020.

*Women in Senegal making compost together Photo: ANSD/Groundswell International*







*Members of the Kafe tribe from Komano 2 community, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea, with a wild mushroom and fern delicacy cooked in bamboo*

*Photo: Save PNG*

# 4

## LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

## 4. LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Across five continents, Agroecology Fund partners find themselves on the frontlines of relief efforts, mobilizing their networks to ensure the most vulnerable have enough to eat. In Black, Indigenous and communities of color around the world, they are finding creative solutions to connect farmers to consumers and revitalize local economies.

With that in mind, various questions surfaced during the preparation of the 2022-2026 strategic plan. Some of these include:

- Based on the lessons learned so far, what adjustments can be made in the grantmaking strategy and procedures?
- What is the Agroecology Fund's niche in supporting agroecological enterprises?
- What investments does the Agroecology Fund want to make in supporting grassroots evidence building?
- How can the Agroecology Fund better support the strengthening of partners' communications capacities?
- What adjustments, if any, does the Agroecology Fund want to make to its strategy to work with and influence bilateral and multilateral donors?
- How might the Agroecology Fund support a network of affiliated regional funds? What would be the business model and impact on its global fund?
- How can the Agroecology Fund have a greater impact on private foundations to both invest in agroecology and desist in funding industrial agriculture?
- How can the Agroecology Fund ramp up its resource mobilization capacity to fund projected growth and what is its donation acceptance policy?
- What staffing and institutional form best advance the Agroecology Fund's aspirations?

Tragically, it is likely that the coming decades will bring strong economic, environmental, and public health shocks. Numerous risks and obstacles for agroecology are on the horizon, just as there are emergent alliances, solidarity and movements. The present moment may bring real change, but only if grassroots actors are supported to be protagonists.

To guide this work going forward, the Agroecology Fund reflected on the achievements and challenges described in this report and articulated a new roadmap forward in its [Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#).

This plan affirms many of the strategic directions it began in 2017 and also includes many new strategic actions, linked to specific targets, such as:

- » At least 10% growth rate in the Agroecology Fund global budget annually (including regional funds). Donor membership increased by 5 donors per year over the next 5 years, as well as at least 20% growth in donor investments in agroecology (from own docket, outside of the Agroecology Fund's contribution) compared to baseline (US\$3.7 million in 2020).
- » Consolidation of regional funds for agroecology, with at least 3 being fully operational in the next 5 years.
- » Awarding at least 30 medium-term grants annually to promote agroecology transition, at least 25% to Indigenous Peoples-led collaboratives; 25% to women-led collaboratives; and 15% to youth-led collaboratives.
- » Awarding at least 10 small grants each year to support evidence documentation and communication.

*A field class with students of the IALA Maria Cano agroecology school in Colombia Photo: IALA Maria Cano*



The results presented in this report have been an opportunity to reflect on the Agroecology Fund's practices over the past 10 years. Based on this reflection and future aspirations, the Agroecology Fund articulated a set of guiding principles. These principles will guide the Agroecology Fund forward in the near and far future. The decades to come offer

the chance for collaboration with many networks across many disciplines - the richness of agroecology. It is the great hope and aspiration of the Agroecology Fund to continue to foster the collective creativity of all these actors, and to face these challenges and seize these opportunities for change together.

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## THE AGROECOLOGY FUND'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1 Supporting collaborative action among agroecology movement actors to solve overlapping crises of hunger, climate, human rights, biodiversity conservation and poverty.
  - 2 Pooling resources from amongst a community of funders for greater impact, collective learning and influencing larger flows of investment into agroecology.
  - 3 Embracing diverse forms of agroecology practice, learning, communication, advocacy, relationship building and networking between and among the Agroecology Fund and its partners.
  - 4 Applying a rights-based approach across the Agroecology Fund's work to defend Indigenous Peoples' rights, the rights of nature and all human rights.
  - 5 Facilitating diverse and inclusive participation in all Agroecology Fund processes while operating light and efficient organizational systems that maximize the impact of resources deployed to grantees.
  - 6 Enhancing trust-based processes in grantmaking and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) processes to deepen reciprocal, solidarity and non-colonial collaboration.
  - 7 Upholding the multidimensional and intersectional nature of agroecology (per the 13 principles described by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts), and boldly criticizing false solutions to fixing food systems.
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## AGROECOLOGY FUND

The Agroecology Fund is a pool fund supported by philanthropic foundations from the US, Europe and Asia. Since 2021 it has received fiscal sponsorship from the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF).

[www.agroecologyfund.org](http://www.agroecologyfund.org)  
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*Photo front cover: ANSD/Groundswell International*  
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