



Agroecology Fund Welcomes Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development as First Bilateral Development Agency Donor Member

June 28, 2024

The Agroecology Fund is pleased to welcome the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) as a new donor member. As our first bilateral development agency partnership, this marks a monumental moment for the fund. This new partnership comes at a time of growth, as agroecology movements worldwide quickly accelerate their solutions to intersecting climate, biodiversity, and nutrition crises, and as the fund expands its number of grantee partners, donor members, and regional funds. SDC has committed \$1.5 million over four years to both the new West and Eastern Africa Regional Funds and to exploring the appetite and feasibility of a Southeast Asia Regional Fund.

A recent [Cultivating Change report](#) identified a \$206-386 billion financing gap to transform our food systems from their unsustainable practices towards an agroecological transition. Like the Agroecology Fund, the SDC is a leading funder of agroecology worldwide, working to close that gap. Both funders are members of the Agroecology Coalition, through which they influence donor peers and investors to underwrite grassroots-led agroecological transitions.

“This new partnership demonstrates the strength of a joint endeavor between a pooled fund of philanthropic organizations with a public development agency. Such shared commitments are essential to scale up agroecology worldwide.”

- Daniel Moss, Co-Director, Agroecology Fund

Two [Regional Funds in West and Eastern Africa](#) were recently launched, with the recruitment of grassroots advisors from the regions and the [selection of TrustAfrica as the administrative home for the initiative](#). The intended impact of this new donor partnership is to accelerate the transition to agroecology in Africa by supporting grassroots organizations, networks, and youth, and women-led social enterprises.

“Too often, we hear about what Africa lacks. The truth is that we have rich networks of farmers and consumers who are rebuilding local food and seed systems. All they need is more support, including to repurpose subsidies that undermine agroecology. The partnership with SDC will enable the West and Eastern Africa Regional Agroecology Funds to support under-resourced community initiatives.”

- Tabara Ndiaye, Programme Coordinator, West and East Africa Regional Funds.



In Southeast Asia, with SDC's support, the Agroecology Fund seeks to expand support to grassroots organizations and agroecology movements, while deepening our understanding of the dynamics in the region to assess the feasibility of developing a regional fund.

“This contribution to the Agroecology Fund in both regions is part of a wider program promoting the uptake and mainstreaming of agroecology in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. At its core, agroecology is about encouraging ownership, participation, and empowerment of people and communities to answer their needs in terms of food security, healthy nutrition, environmental sustainability, and dignified livelihoods. SDC is therefore excited to invest in the Agroecology Fund’s broad network of community-based partners leading a grassroots food systems transformation.”

- Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot, Programme Manager, Food Systems section (SDC).