



## PRESS RELEASE

### 21 INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF A SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURE

*New report celebrates pioneering initiatives disrupting the status quo and sets out how to accelerate food system transformation*

13 August 2019 - A new research report – “[Beacons of Hope: Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Food Systems](#)” – launched today by the [Global Alliance for the Future of Food](#) and [Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development](#) showcases 21 initiatives from across the world that are working in diverse ways to achieve sustainable, equitable, and secure food systems. Each contributes inspiring solutions to urgent global issues such as the climate emergency, migration, urbanization, and the need for healthier and more sustainable diets.

Building on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Special Report on Land, which spells out the need for urgent action, the 21 “Beacons of Hope” profiled in the report are evidence that transformation is possible and point clearly to the nature- and people-based solutions available to us.

The Beacons of Hope are regenerating landscapes, enhancing livelihoods, restoring people’s health and wellbeing, reconnecting with Indigenous and cultural knowledge, and more, in order to achieve a resilient, sustainable food future. They include:

- **Climate Resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming**, a government-backed chemical-free program that promotes food resilience through traditional farming and agroecological processes. Knowledge and skills are shared through farmer-to-farmer mentoring, with plans to scale from 180,000 farmers today to 6 million in Andhra Pradesh, India, by 2024.
- **Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO)**, promoting income generation, biodiversity conservation, and food security in Zambia by training poachers to be farmers. Skilling farmers in agroecological approaches helps generate an alternative income and livelihood to the (illegal) hunting of wildlife.
- **EOSTA**, a business in the Netherlands that produces and imports sustainable, organic, and fair-trade fruits and vegetables. It provides full traceability of their products and promotes true cost accounting in order to build a sustainable market between producers and consumers.
- **MASIPAG**, a farmer-led network of civil society organizations, NGOs, and scientists in the Philippines sustainably managing biodiversity through farmer bred and controlled rice production, seeds and biological resources.
- **Zero Waste San Francisco**, a local government initiative to reorganize waste management in the city by shifting to a circular system. They reduce waste by targeting growers and food businesses with informative campaigns, creating links for wholesalers with food banks, changing consumer behaviors, and more.

The report also provides policymakers, investors, funders, businesses, and researchers with a comprehensive Food Systems Transformation Toolkit built on the Global Alliance’s principles of renewability, health, equity, resilience, diversity, and interconnectedness as a guide for collective action. It sets out practical recommendations – gleaned from the experiences of the Beacons of Hope profiled – on how to accelerate meaningful food systems transformations at this critical time.

**Ruth Richardson, Executive Director at the Global Alliance for the Future of Food said:** “There’s little doubt that we need systemic change, new policies, and a shift in power dynamics in order to realise a safe, resilient, and fair food future. As our new report makes clear, though our current food system is behind most of the world's environmental problems, it is also the source of the solutions we need. It’s now on us, as a global community, to recognize that the transformations we need *are already* occurring and to turn our energies towards accelerating this process. This starts with better understanding how to support and facilitate these transformative processes in place-based, contextual ways, which makes this report an invaluable asset to those who want to transform policy, practice, and mindsets.”

**Andreas Schriber, CEO at Biovision said:** “The key to solving humanity’s biggest challenges – in particular, the climate and biodiversity crisis, as well as addressing malnutrition and hunger – lies within food systems. There is so much to learn from the Beacons of Hope. It is our duty to spread the word and establish a new narrative of hope and optimism, proving that big transformation is feasible and that we are not doomed to continue to move towards ecologic and social collapse. The Beacons show what is possible and are an example for others.”

A detailed methodology was used to select the top 21 Beacons from an original list of 128. The next phase of Beacons of Hope will be announced later in 2019.

- Ends

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

This report is the result of a collaboration between Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food to stimulate information-sharing, learning, and collective action.

A total of 128 initiatives were initially put forward for further analysis. The Global Alliance and Biovision then analyzed and adapted different concepts of sustainability in order to develop 8 categories of what made up “sustainable food systems”. This methodology was then used to analyze the Beacons of Hope in a coherent way, resulting in a final 21 initiatives out of 128 original submissions.

Some of the core characteristics identified across the diverse Beacons of Hope – from supporting family farmers and Indigenous communities producing food using agroecological principles and inclusive governance to the co-creation of knowledge and the importance of culturally relevant and place-specific sustainable diets – are highlighted as key traits for sustainable food systems transformations.

- Imagery available [here](#).
- Interviews with the Beacons and the report authors available on request
- Additional quotes and written case studies available on request

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**About the Global Alliance for the Future of Food:**

The Global Alliance for the Future of Food is a strategic alliance of philanthropic foundations working together and with others to transform global food systems now and for future generations. We believe in the urgency of transforming global food systems, and in the power of working together and with others to effect positive change. Food systems reform requires new and better solutions at all scales through a systems-level approach and deep collaboration among philanthropy, researchers, grassroots movements, the private sector, farmers and food systems workers, Indigenous Peoples, government, and policymakers. [www.futureoffood.org](http://www.futureoffood.org)

**About Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development**

Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development is a not-for-profit, non-denominational, politically independent foundation based in Zürich, Switzerland. The foundation supports the dissemination and application of sustainable ecological approaches to alleviate poverty and improve food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to field projects with African partner organizations, Biovision is fostering policy dialogue and science-based, integrated policy planning for the sustainability of food systems at national (i.e. in Senegal and Kenya) and international levels (i.e. Agenda 2030 [SDG 2], UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Committee on World Food Security) Biovision is also the co-host of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland. [www.biovision.ch](http://www.biovision.ch)