

GLOBAL
ALLIANCE
FOR THE
FUTURE
OF FOOD

ON AGROECOLOGY & THE FUTURE OF FOOD

A person wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and a white head covering is bent over, working in a field of young green plants. The field is on a slope, and the soil is dark brown and appears to be cracked in some areas. To the right, there is a body of water with reeds or tall grasses growing in it. The overall scene suggests a focus on sustainable agriculture and agroecology.

**ON
AGROECOLOGY
& THE FUTURE
OF FOOD**

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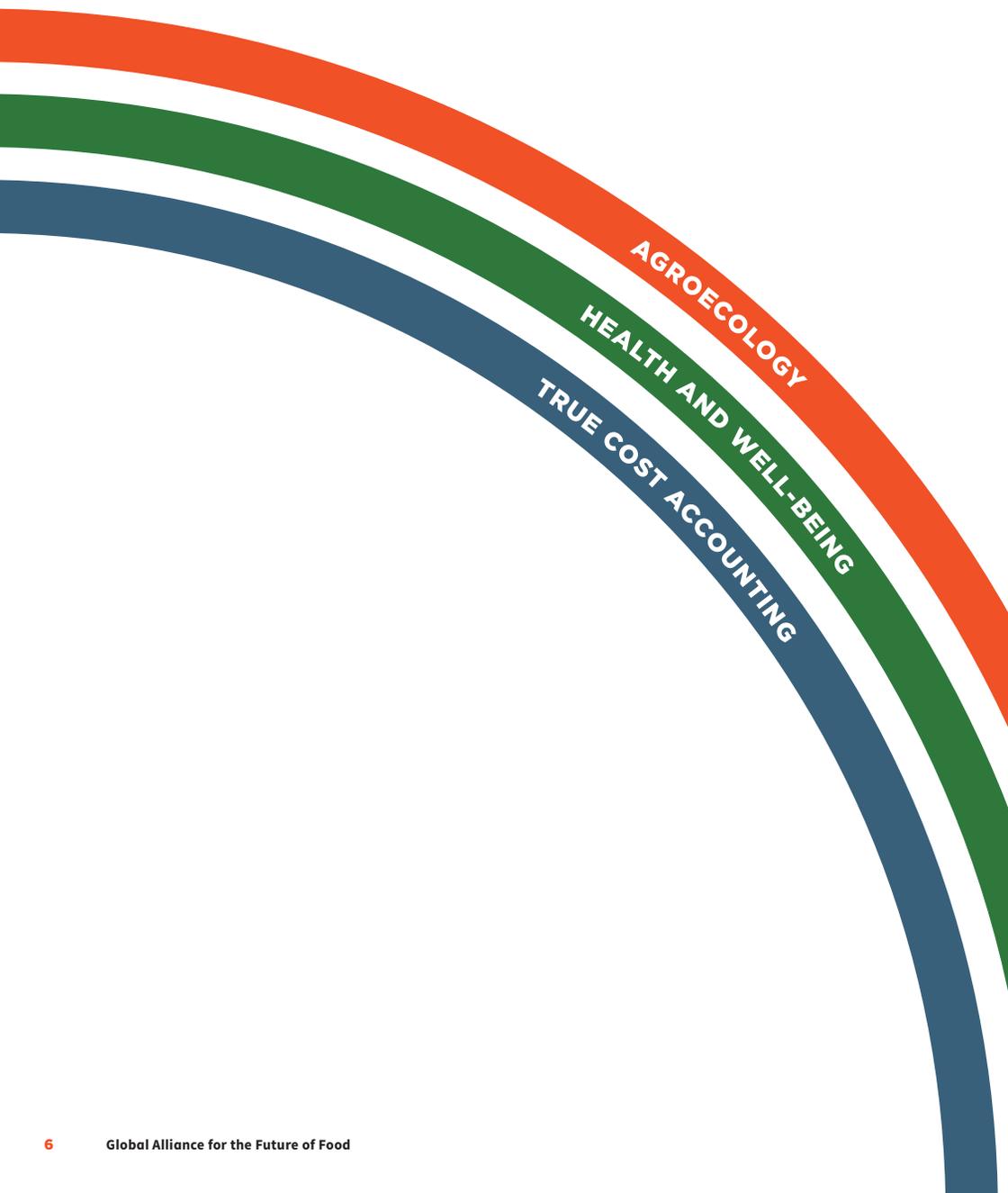


TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS, TOGETHER

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 system reform requires that we craft new and better solutions at all scales through a systems-level approach and deep collaboration amongst philanthropy, researchers, grassroots movements, the private sector, farmers and food systems workers, Indigenous Peoples, government, and policymakers.

As the Global Alliance, we aim to: 1) forge new insights and strengthen evidence for global systems change, 2) convene key food systems actors and facilitate meaningful dialogue, and 3) stimulate local and global action for transformational change to realize healthy, equitable, renewable, resilient, interconnected, and culturally diverse food and agriculture systems shaped by people, communities, and their institutions.



AGROECOLOGY

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

TRUE COST ACCOUNTING

THE FUTURE OF FOOD IS AT STAKE

Ensuring the sustainability, security, and equity of our food system is one of the most defining issues of our time.

The future of food is at stake, and the status quo is jeopardizing the efforts of many foundations, governments, businesses, farmers, and others to promote food access, food security, food equity, human health, and a sustainable environment.

As an alliance of mostly private foundations, we have the privilege, the responsibility, and the opportunity to leverage our resources and networks to get sustainable food systems on the political, economic, and social agenda. We bring diverse perspectives together to inform how we, as a global community, shape the future of food together.

A system as vastly complex as food requires that we apply a systems approach. To understand and influence the interrelated economic, ecological, and social drivers of our current food system, the Global Alliance is initially focused on Agroecology, Health and Well-being, and True Cost Accounting as our three priority Impact Areas.

**AGROECOLOGY OFFERS A
POWERFUL OPPORTUNITY
TO IMPROVE THE LONG-
TERM, MULTI-DIMENSIONAL
CONTRIBUTIONS OF
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
SYSTEMS BASED ON
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS.**



AGROECOLOGY: ACCELERATING SCIENCE, PRACTICE, AND MOVEMENTS

Profound changes in the way food is grown, processed, distributed, consumed, and wasted over the last several decades have led to increasing threats to a future of food that is sustainable, equitable, and secure, particularly when coupled with climate change and shifting global economics, politics, and demographics.

We need to do things differently.

The science, practice, and social movements advancing agroecology offer crucial pathways to transform food systems that enhance the well-being of people and the planet through integrated solutions that address the pressing challenges we face as a global community.



FACILITATING TRANSITIONS TO AGROECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

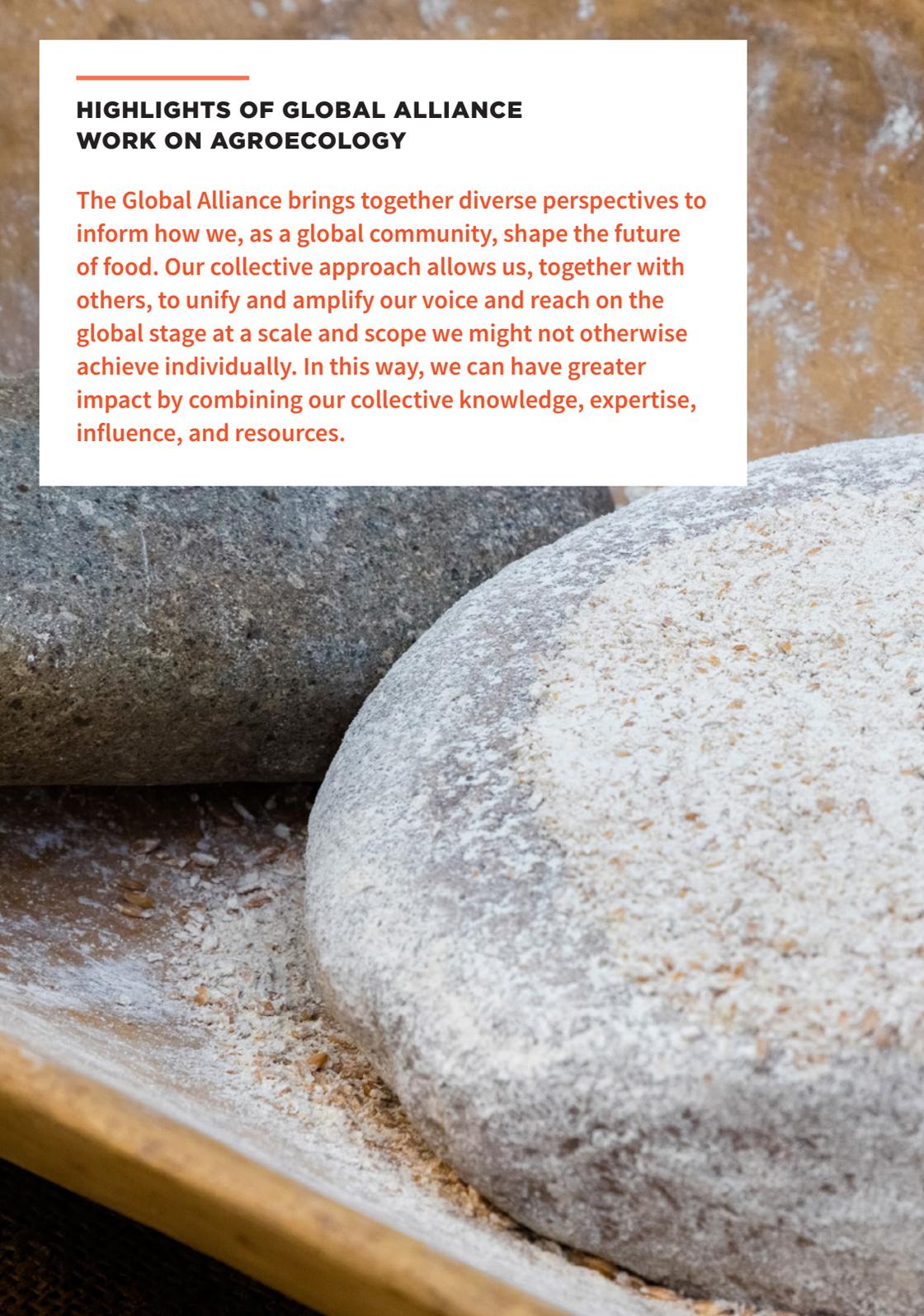
At the Global Alliance, we aim to accelerate the transition to agroecology as a core solution to the future of food by working together and with others to enhance agroecological science, practice, and movements.

Through our work on agroecology, we aim to see:

- Strengthened practice and voice of agroecology through the collective efforts of civil society movements, farmers, scientists/researchers, governments, and the private sector, upholding the integrity of natural systems and the human right to food.
- Stronger linkages developed between agroecology and climate change, sustainable economies, trade, and health through multi-disciplinary and strategic local, national, and global collaborations amongst those working across these issues.
- Protection and support of agricultural biodiversity and seed systems as cornerstones of agroecology in order to advance ecological resilience.

HIGHLIGHTS OF GLOBAL ALLIANCE WORK ON AGROECOLOGY

The Global Alliance brings together diverse perspectives to inform how we, as a global community, shape the future of food. Our collective approach allows us, together with others, to unify and amplify our voice and reach on the global stage at a scale and scope we might not otherwise achieve individually. In this way, we can have greater impact by combining our collective knowledge, expertise, influence, and resources.





**AGROECOLOGY IS ALREADY
ECONOMICALLY AND
ECOLOGICALLY VIABLE FOR
PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS –
IT IS IMPORTANT TO MOVE
BEYOND THE QUESTION OF
IF AGROECOLOGY WILL
WORK AND TO IDENTIFY
TOGETHER HOW TO
OVERCOME CHALLENGES
IN IMPLEMENTATION,
PRACTICE, AND POLICY.**



THE FUTURE OF FOOD: SEEDS OF RESILIENCE

Agricultural biodiversity and robust seed systems are foundational elements of renewable, resilient, equitable, diverse, healthy, and interconnected food systems. In the current context of climate change and global food insecurity, there is an urgent need for resilient seed systems that protect seed diversity and enhance nutrition and food security.

Recognizing this, the Global Alliance commissioned experts from around the world to weigh in on a future that protects and improves resilient seed systems and strengthens agricultural biodiversity. *The Future of Food: Seeds of Resilience: A compendium of perspectives on agricultural biodiversity from around the world* includes an Opportunities Report and twelve commentaries from a diverse range of experts, including farmers, community activists, business representatives, researchers, and scientists, to better understand where we can collectively focus our efforts to address this issue.

SHARED ACTION FRAMEWORK ON RESILIENT SEED SYSTEMS

Since the compendium's publication, the Global Alliance has been reaching out to global stakeholders to understand how best to work with others to strengthen support for resilient seed systems. After extensive consultation and engagement, the Global Alliance is supporting the development of a shared action framework for agricultural biodiversity and resilient seed systems.

BEACONS OF HOPE

Around the world, efforts to support sustainable food systems are proliferating. Global Alliance members are supporting some of these initiatives, but the work on the ground extends far beyond any one network or organization. The Global Alliance, in partnership with Biovision Foundation, undertook a systematic review of this work to better understand initiatives that are facilitating transitions to sustainable food systems. *Beacons of Hope: Understanding transitions to sustainable food systems* aims to demonstrate the positive benefits of transitioning toward sustainable food systems and provide food system stakeholders with a framework, methodology, and tools to support the many transitions processes taking place around the world.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING

We connect global and local perspectives, knowledge, and understanding in support of transformational change, recognizing that change must be contextually sensitive and grounded in the interactions between local and global processes and scales of change. Complementary to the Global Alliance's activities on agroecology, our members are engaged in supporting a range of agroecology initiatives as part of their individual mandates.







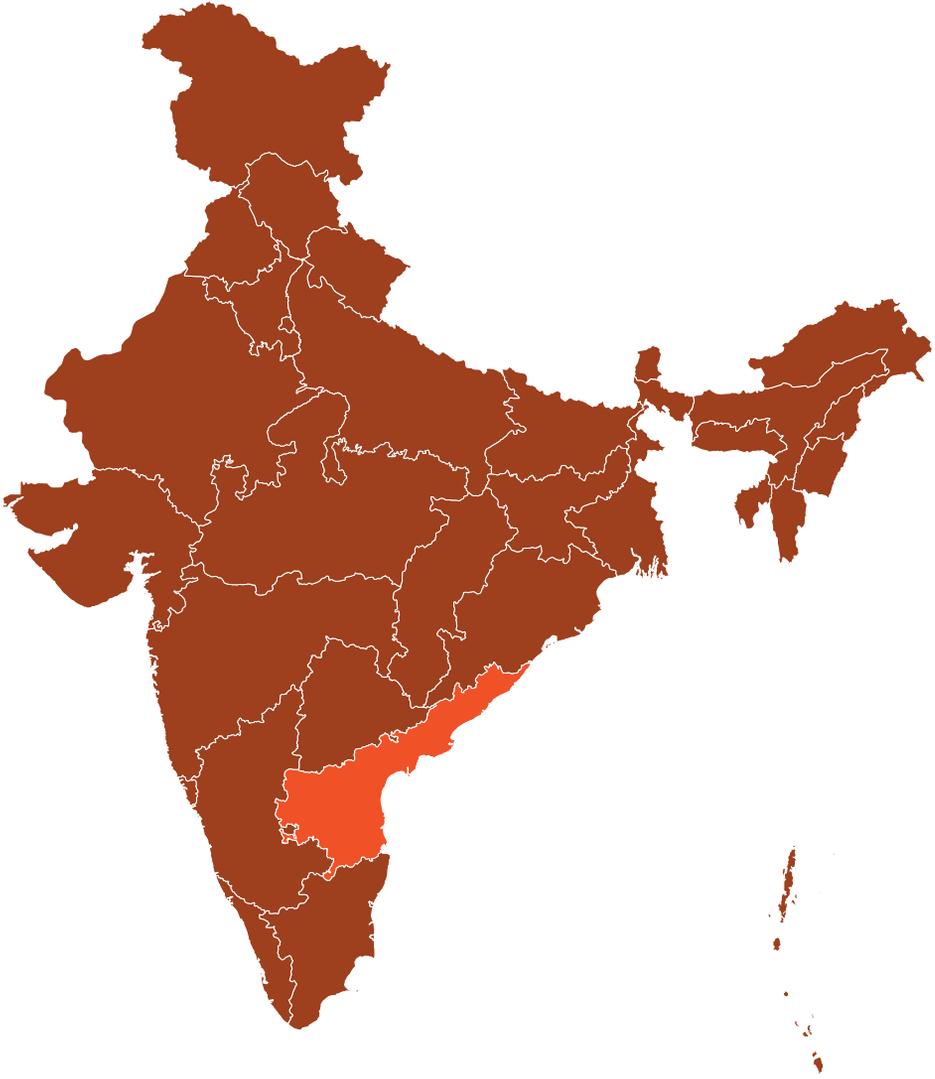
SYSTEMS APPROACH FOR THE TRANSITION TO BIODIVERSIFIED AGROECOSYSTEMS (STRADIV)

AGROPOLIS FONDATION



The STRADIV Project, supported by Agropolis Fondation, aims to define the conditions needed for the ecological transition of agroecosystems, and provide answers to the main bottlenecks preventing a successful ecological transition of agroecosystems: 1) how biological diversity alters the provision of ecological services on crop production (i.e., pest and disease control, biogeochemical cycles of nutrients), 2) how to design new biodiversified cropping systems that optimize ecosystem services while accounting for the constraints that farmers face at different scales, and 3) how to support multi-scale and multi-actor agroecological transitions. This project includes different study sites: rice production systems in Madagascar; banana production systems in Antilles; agroforestry systems in Central America and Cameroon; grain and pasture systems in Brazil; and cereal, corn, and livestock systems in Burkina Faso. The study aims to enhance existing ecological processes in the agroecosystem by improving the overall efficiency of production processes while decreasing their negative externalities by using available resources more efficiently.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING IN ANDHRA PRADESH

AZIM PREMJI PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), in partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, is supporting Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF). The initiative aims to address vulnerabilities that confront small and marginal farmers who constitute 85% of farmer households in India, and grapple with rising input costs, crippling debt, impacts of climate change, and meagre yields. Distressed, some of them are being driven to suicide, mere subsistence, or to migrate in search of better livelihoods. ZBNF aims to replenish soil health by avoiding chemical fertilizers/pesticides; counter the effects of climate change; and increase food and nutrition security, productivity, improved water and air quality, and human health aligning with the global push for regenerative, agroecological farming. Farmers involved in the initiative are gaining self-confidence and respect as agents of fundamental change, innovators, and bearers of knowledge.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





ENABLING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS & DIETS

FONDATION DANIEL ET NINA CARASSO

With support and partnership from the Fondation de France, the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso works to fund and support projects enabling sustainable food systems and diets. Working primarily in France and Spain and with a goal to make agroecology a global social project, the foundation embraces both countries' unique cultures; putting agroecology at the core of its actions but with slightly different approaches. Having supported approximately 50 agroecological initiatives in France over the past 4 years, the foundation has developed, together with the Fondation de France, an annual call for participatory research projects on new approaches to agriculture, its relationship to land and people, impact on ecosystems and food production, and the roles of farmers and consumers. In Spain, the foundation supports joint projects between municipal governments and civil society to implement sustainable food strategies in cities. Focusing on the transition to a more sustainable food ecosystem, these strategies bring together governments, farmers, consumers, and other civil society actors. Most of the cities involved are connected by the *Red de Ciudades por la Agroecología* (The Network of Cities for Agroecology) to exchange knowledge, practices, and experiences.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





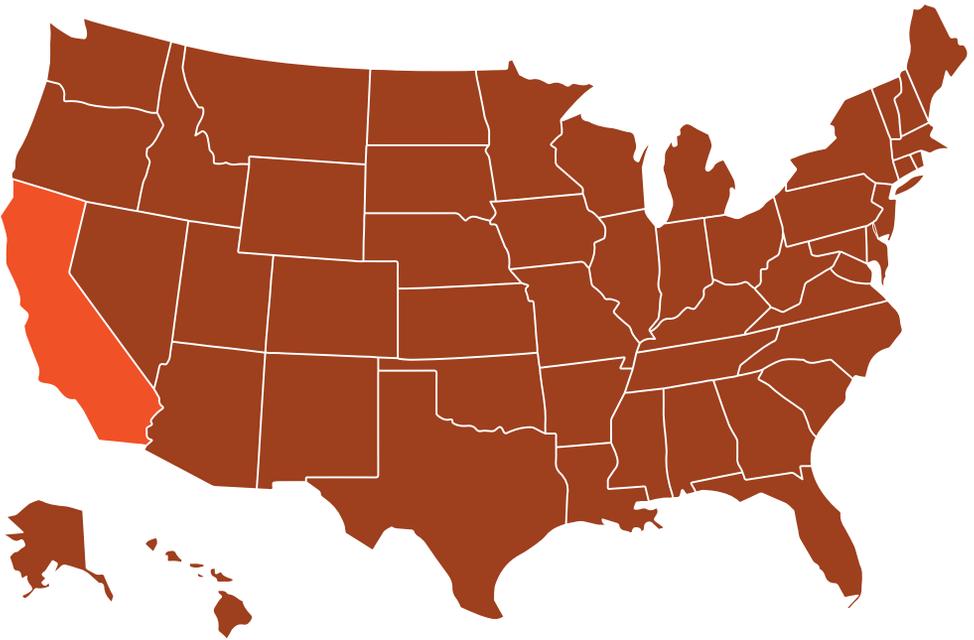
**SUPPORTING STEWARDS OF DIVERSE,
AGROECOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND
KNOWLEDGE-BASES, POLICIES & PRACTICES**

THE CHRISTENSEN FUND



The Christensen Fund works with Indigenous Peoples and local communities globally to maintain and enhance their food production systems within vital, resilient biocultural landscapes. Partnerships span geographies and sectors from the pastoralists of the African Rift Valley to keepers of ancient fruit and nut orchards in Central Asia; from the subsistence home gardens and small-scale fisheries in Melanesia to the coastlines, deserts, and three-sisters gardens of Northwest Mexico; and from the Indigenous catering companies and micro-enterprises in North American cities to global collaboratives like the AgroEcology Fund. The Christensen Fund supports stewards of diverse, agroecological innovations and knowledge bases, policies, and practice. Christensen partners have helped to pioneer taxes on junk food, create national indicators and statistics for well-being, create food parks in the centres of origin for agricultural products, and find new ways of adapting to a changing climate rooted in time-honoured cultural wisdom.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING



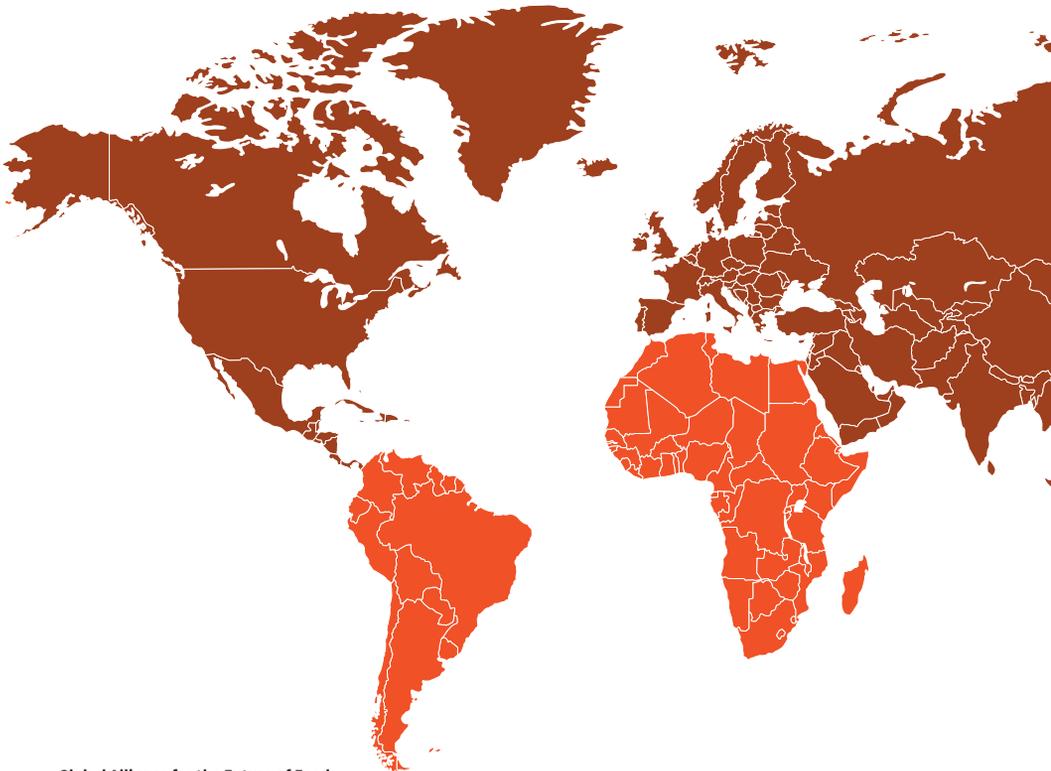


**CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY AND
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ**

CLARENCE E. HELLER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation supports the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The Center plays a significant role in the development and application of agroecological science and in research on social issues that influence key elements of food systems. Its work includes: 1) advancing research in agroecological systems for important California crops, 2) providing advice for growers on California's Central Coast, 3) the Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture, a program that has been training practitioners from many countries in organic gardening and small-scale agroecological systems for 50 years, and 4) an initiative that strengthens the undergraduate curriculum in agroecology and sustainable food systems to enhance the university's ability to produce future agroecologists and food-systems leaders.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





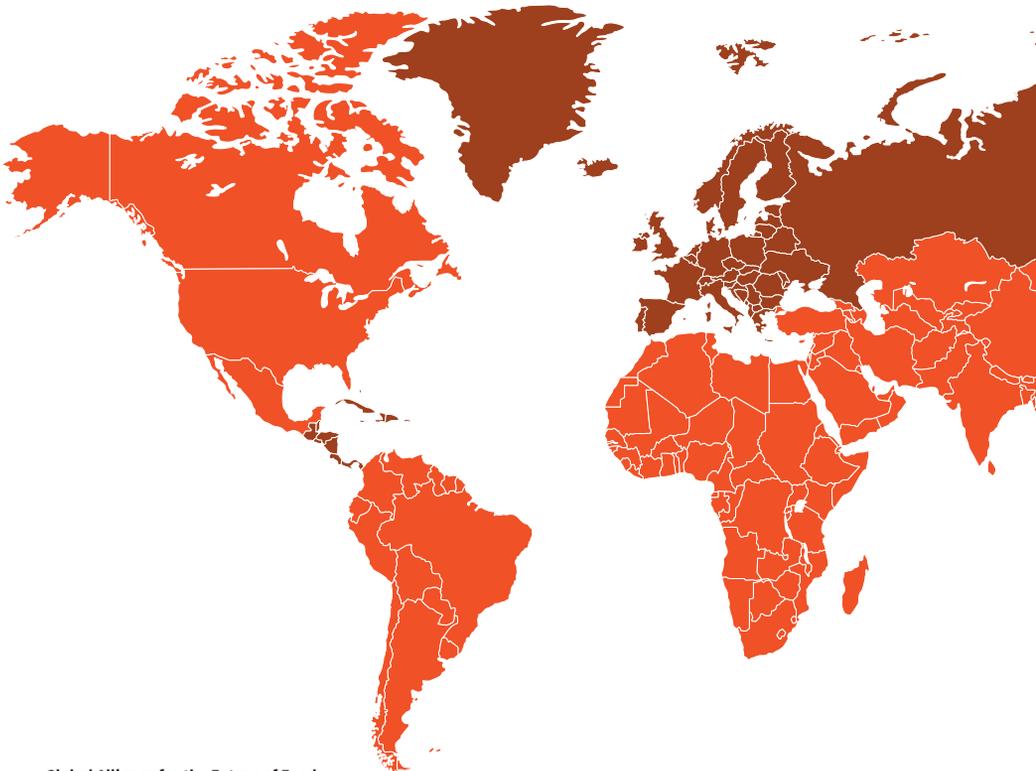
COLLABORATIVE CROP RESEARCH PROGRAM

McKNIGHT FOUNDATION



The McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP) funds participatory, collaborative research centred on agroecological intensification (AEI). The CCRP-funded projects bring smallholder farmers, researchers, development professionals, and others together to identify and develop AEI-centred technologies and ideas to improve nutrition, livelihoods, productivity, and equity for farming communities in Africa and South America. CCRP grantees form communities of practice in the Andes, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa, bringing deep knowledge of the regions in which they work, and broader collaboration on solutions to poverty and food insecurity. Regional teams provide direct support to help communities of practice members strengthen research and leadership capacity, foster innovation, and explore pathways to increase utilization of AEI. A key feature of the program is to engage farmers as active participants through farmer research networks, and to provide capacity-strengthening support in research methods.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





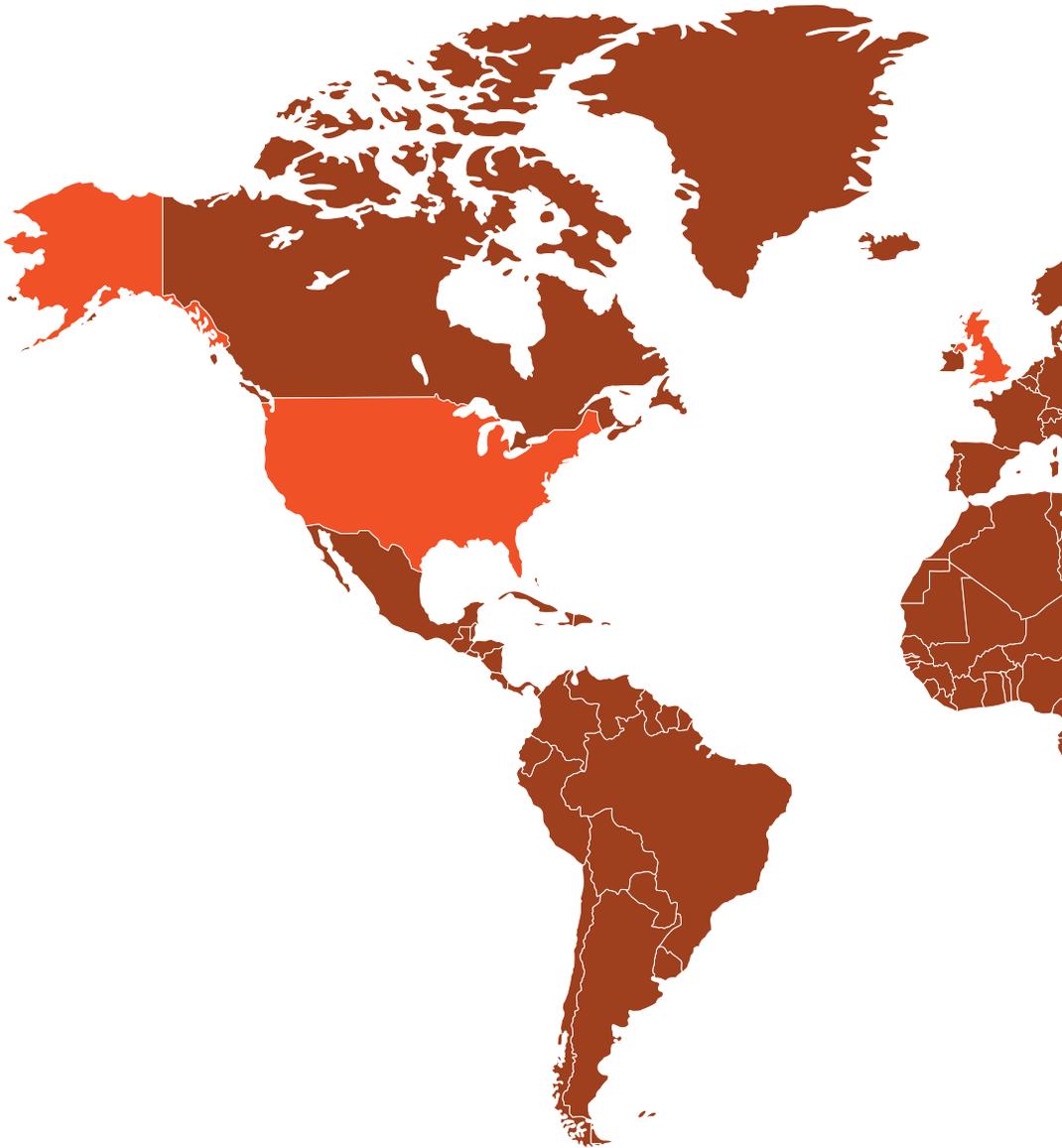
SEEDS, SOIL & CULTURE FUND

NEW FIELD FOUNDATION



The Seeds, Soil & Culture Fund of New Field Foundation aims to shine a light on the knowledge, values, and leadership that inspires the practice of agroecology worldwide. The overarching goal is to develop global leadership in agroecological practices and to share this knowledge locally. In 2017–18, the fund supported local and regional projects in North America, Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East. All Seeds, Soil & Culture grants support small-scale farmers who sow and conserve local seeds, manage their land for soil health, and rely on traditional knowledge and their cultural values. Each project includes information exchange or action research and addresses biocultural landscapes and/or heritage seeds stewardship.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING



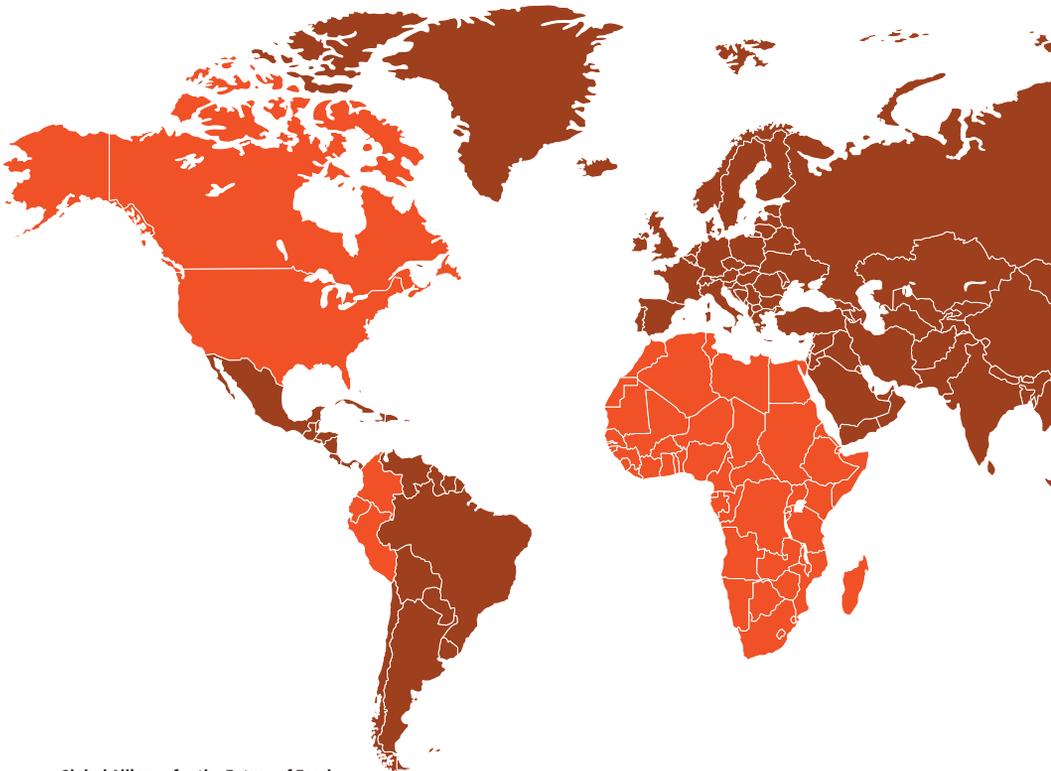


AGROECOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO PRODUCING FOOD & THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF SMALL FARMERS

OWSLEY BROWN II FAMILY FOUNDATION

As part of a broad effort to promote policy and practices based on the interdependent nature of human-environmental health, Christy Brown and the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation support and closely engage with the Sustainable Food Trust in Bristol, England, and The Berry Center in Henry County, Kentucky. The Sustainable Food Trust creates conditions for the mainstream adoption of healthier farming practices, offering true cost accounting (TCA) and enhanced metrics that allow farmers to monitor and measure outcomes. The Berry Center advocates for farmers, land-conserving communities, and healthy regional economies. It builds models of equitable and ecological farming for small- and mid-size farms, the demise of which is linked to the increasing rural-urban divide impacting political and social discourse.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





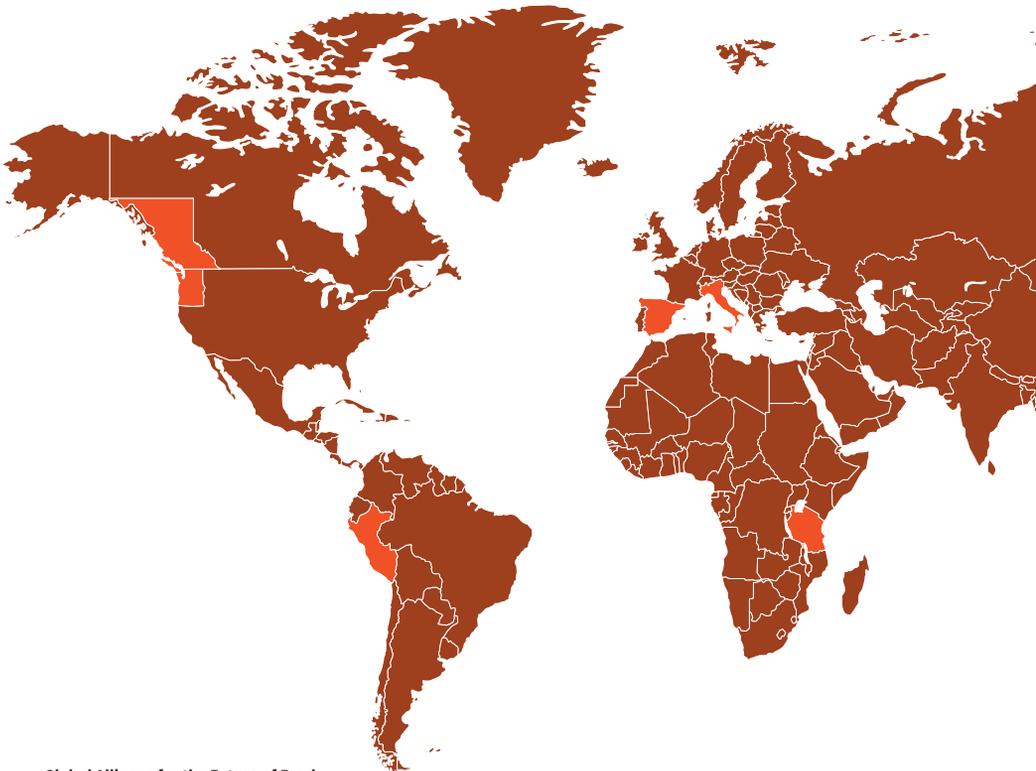
SUPPORTING LAND CARETAKERS AND INTEGRATED CAPITAL FOR BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY

SWIFT FOUNDATION



The Swift Foundation funds farmers, Indigenous Peoples, activists, and entrepreneurs to engage in regenerative land stewardship activities that protect biocultural diversity. By funding in regions of high biodiversity such as the Andes-Amazon and Northwest British Columbia, Swift aims to highlight the role of Indigenous knowledge, local leadership, and agroecology to a resilient and healthy planet. The foundation sees long-term partnerships as critical to enabling communities and their partners to invest in agroecological transitions. From supporting the nation-wide campaign ¡Que rico es! in Ecuador, to the advocacy work on farmer managed seed systems of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, the foundation aims to develop trust-based relationships with its grantee-partners and assist in their connections and alliances with others. Swift also employs integrated capital to catalyze new approaches to investing in food system transformation to open up opportunities for farmers and consumers to engage in the new food economy as exemplified by California FarmLink's work with new and immigrant farmers.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





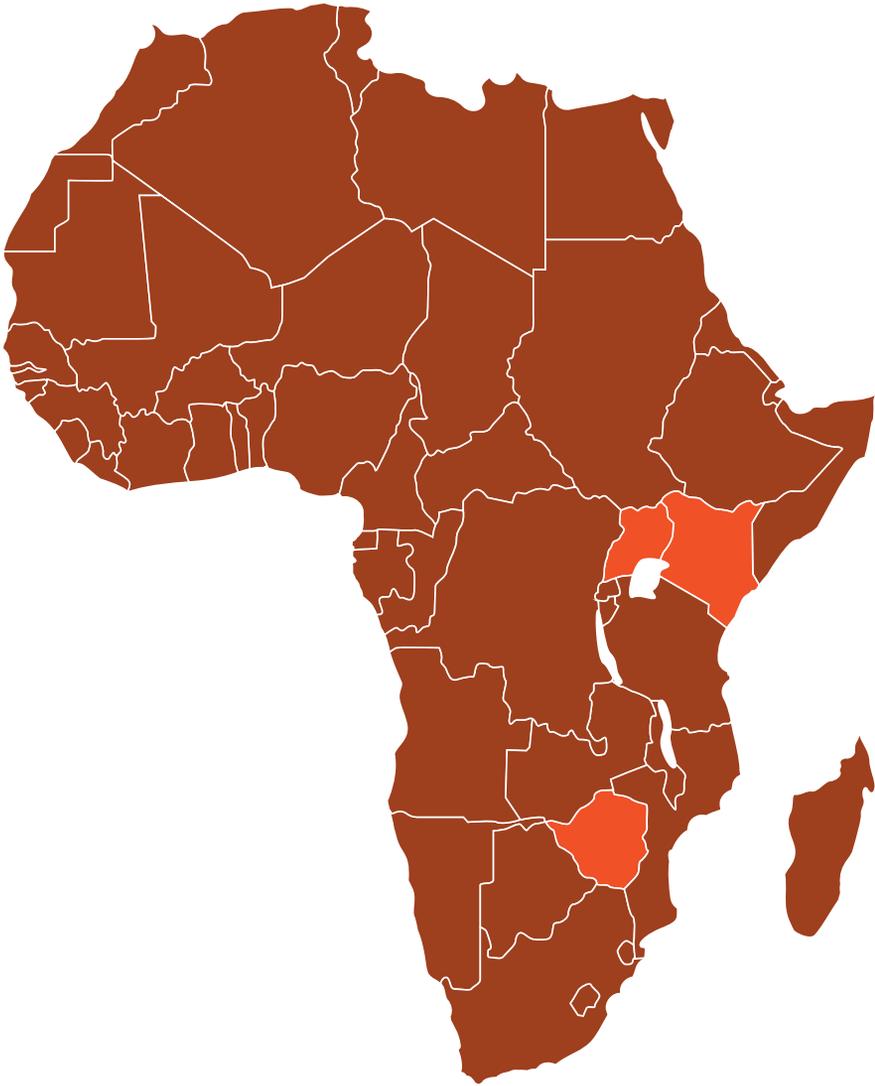
DEPLOYING AN INTEGRATED CAPITAL APPROACH GENERATING ENVIRONMENTAL, TO GENERATE SOCIAL & FINANCIAL RETURNS

THREAD FUND



The Thread Fund advances the principles of agroecology by deploying an integrated capital approach that generates environmental, social, and financial returns, and providing evidence that ecologically-minded production can improve the well-being of farmers, consumers, and their communities. The fund's investments primarily involve business development services for agroecologically aligned enterprises. Examples include: 1) an endowed research seat at Washington State University's Bread Lab, 2) organic and no-till producers and their supply chain partners in Washington and Oregon, 3) the development of SLM Partners' US Organic Grains Fund, 4) increased storage and distribution of organic products to regional markets at East Africa Fruits in Tanzania, 5) support of Fledge, a social enterprise accelerator that develops entrepreneurial success through its programs in Seattle, Lima, Barcelona, Lisbon, Vancouver, and Padoua, and 6) support of Cascadia Foodshed Financing Project, a collaborative project in the Pacific Northwest that assists regional foundation efforts to invest and grow regional sustainable food businesses.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING



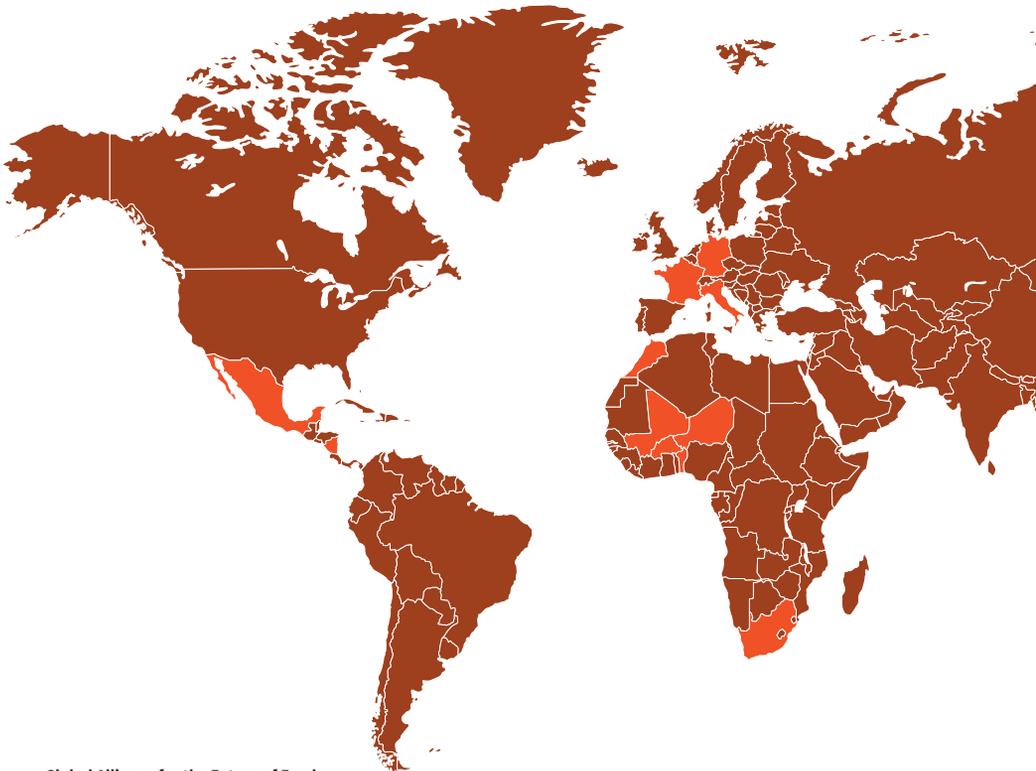


**LONG-TERM FUNDING, CAPACITY
BUILDING & STRATEGIC SUPPORT FOR
AFRICAN SMALLHOLDER FARMERS**

THE TUDOR TRUST

The Tudor Trust has funded organizations working in the field of agroecology in Africa for 25 years. Currently working with about 30 local organizations in Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda, the Trust aims to strengthen the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by promoting better food security, nutrition, and income through a diversity of long-term grants that respond to needs on the ground, and with funding that strengthens organizational capacity. Tudor Trust grants support techniques that increase farmers' production without the need for costly inputs, and that provide resilient income with less debt. Delivered through farmer-to-farmer learning, strategies include promoting healthy soils, on-farm seed selection and breeding, diverse planting, and holistic livestock management. Strategic support includes grants toward core expenses, capacity-building grants for exchange visits within Africa, and, in a few cases, capital grants to build infrastructure such as training centres. The Trust also helps strengthen NGO networks and funds some pan-African strategic advocacy.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





THOUGHT FOR FOOD INITIATIVE

AGROPOLIS FONDATION, FONDATION DANIEL ET NINA CARASSO, FONDAZIONE CARIPLO



Global Alliance members Agropolis Fondation, Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso, and Fondazione Cariplo launched the “Thought for Food Initiative: Transdisciplinary research toward more sustainable food systems,” which aims to: 1) advance understanding of the sustainability of food systems and explore innovative solutions that could help actors involved to achieve it, 2) facilitate the emergence of excellent, new, and high-impact research activities, and 3) generate a leverage effect that encourages new collaborations between different types of disciplines with a specific focus on combining natural and social sciences, and that are inclusive of diverse stakeholders. The Thought for Food Initiative supports six multi-stakeholder research projects.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING





AGROECOLOGY FUND

THE CHRISTENSEN FUND, DAVID AND LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION, FONDATION DANIEL ET NINA CARASSO, MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION, NEW FIELD FOUNDATION, SWIFT FOUNDATION



Several Global Alliance members support the AgroEcology Fund (AEF), a multi-donor fund supporting agroecological practices and policies. The Fund aims to support viable food systems, promote the economic well-being and human rights of small farmers and their communities, and mitigate climate change through low-input agriculture featuring sustainable soil and water use. It links organizations and movements that advance agroecological solutions locally, regionally, and globally. With the guidance of international advisors deeply embedded in the agroecology movement, the Fund supports some of the most effective farmer organizations, advocates, and researchers in the field of agroecology. In 6 years, AEF has grown to nearly 2 dozen member foundations and has awarded over \$4 million to 36 collaboratives that include 200 organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States.





PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

The Global Alliance's vision and its actions are guided by a set of shared principles that, when taken together, help us to see food systems in necessary and powerful new ways, make more informed, comprehensive, and principled decisions, and avoid siloed approaches, unintended consequences, and limited, narrow, short-term solutions.



RENEWABILITY

Address the integrity of natural and social resources that are the foundation of a healthy planet and future generations in the face of changing global and local demands

RESILIENCE

Support regenerative, durable, and economically adaptive systems in the face of a changing planet





DIVERSITY

Value our rich and diverse agricultural, ecological, and cultural heritage



HEALTHFULNESS

Advance the health and well-being of people, animals, and the environment, and the societies that depend on all three

EQUITY

Promote sustainable livelihoods and access to nutritious and just food systems

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Understand the implications of the interdependence of food, people, and the planet in a transition to more sustainable food and agricultural systems



WORKING TOGETHER TO REALIZE THE FUTURE OF FOOD WE WANT AND NEED

Inaction is not an option. Transformational change at the scale and speed needed will require all actors to do their part, and significant resources to adequately and effectively support this critical work. For current and future generations, this is a shared responsibility upon which we, as a global community, simply must act to find new positive pathways forward, together.

Connect with us to find out how you can engage in efforts on Agroecology, Health & Well-being, and True Cost Accounting.

[**www.futureoffood.org**](http://www.futureoffood.org)

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[**@futureoffoodorg**](https://twitter.com/futureoffoodorg)

**DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS
MUST WORK TOGETHER
ACROSS CONTEXTS
AND SCALES TO BUILD
UNDERSTANDING, WORK
THROUGH TENSIONS, AND
CO-CREATE INNOVATIVE
SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE
FOOD SYSTEMS. DEEP AND
LASTING CHANGE CAN ONLY
COME FROM THE CONFLUENCE
OF PERSPECTIVES AND
DIALOGUE ACROSS MULTIPLE
SECTORS THAT DO NOT
ORDINARILY WORK TOGETHER
TO SEEK A COLLECTIVE
PATH FORWARD.**



Global Alliance for the Future of Food, 2018.