

# Strategy 2015



## Biovision

### Foundation for ecological development

#### Our Vision

**A world with enough healthy food for all, produced by healthy people in a healthy environment.**

#### Our Mission

Biovision Foundation fights the ultimate cause of hunger and poverty and is committed to the development, dissemination and application of ecological methods that sustainably improve living conditions in Africa. Biovision renders 'help for self-help' and promotes ecological thinking and action in both, the global North and South.

### Sustainable Agriculture as the Basis for Development

By promoting ecological development, Biovision tackles the causes of poverty and hunger. Biovision supports sustainable development projects, which promote the development, application, improvement and dissemination of ecological practices, particularly in agriculture. The Foundation recognizes that smallholder farmers are the crucial segment of society for providing people with sufficient quantities of healthy food, for managing the agricultural landscape and for preserving natural resources in general. An ecological and sustainable agriculture is the basis for a just and equitable development by giving the majority of people a genuine chance to create and sustain their own healthy livelihoods. The current geographical focus of Biovision's development projects is largely in Africa. Four-fifths of the people living on this continent depend directly on agriculture. Half of those suffering from hunger are smallholder farmers.

### Human, Animal, Plant and Environmental Health plus Information (4 x H + i)

Biovision's strategic approach is based on the recognition that the health of the entire ecosystem is the basis of all life. An undamaged environment and a thriving flora and fauna build the foundation of human health and economic wellbeing. The thematic focus of Biovision Foundation the holistic approach of "4xH plus i": four times health (4xH) plus information and the dissemination of knowledge (i), as the foundation for ecological, sustainable development.

**Human Health:** Improving nutrition and fighting the causes of major insect-borne infectious diseases like malaria, dengue fever and sleeping sickness are the starting point and make an important contribution to fighting poverty.

**Animal Health:** The environmentally friendly control of insect-borne diseases (e.g. animal trypanosomiasis / Nagana transmitted by the tsetse fly) makes animal husbandry more ecological and more productive.

**Plant Health:** Dissemination of proven methods of biological pest control is the alternative to using pesticides. This prevents damage to natural resources and sustainably improves nutrition and health.

**Environmental Health:** Lack of knowledge about how ecology works and the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers often strain the entire ecosystem. To ensure a healthy environment and to preserve biological diversity, shifting the course of agriculture towards sustainability is critical.

**Information / Knowledge Dissemination:** To ensure that as many people as possible have access to relevant information on handling the four health areas described above and have the means to exchange these among themselves, the processing and dissemination of such information and the availability of appropriate communication channels are core topics in all our projects.

## **Commitment to Sustainable Development and to Effective 'help for self-help' in Africa**

Biovision projects are helping to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. The grassroots development projects identify scientifically sound approaches to the sustainable use of natural resources, which will improve the livelihoods of local communities. Biovision also uses various communication channels to promote the dissemination of these approaches. In both, the global North and South, the Foundation raises public awareness of the importance of ecological development, and identifies specific possibilities for action. Biovision stands for a science-based commitment to ecological, sustainable development and effective 'help for self-help' in Africa.

### **Priority Programmes: Development Projects, Information Dissemination Projects, Advocacy**

Biovision promotes and supports development projects in which scientifically sound approaches to the sustainable use of natural resources are developed and implemented. The development projects are designed to lead to specific improvements in the livelihoods of the beneficiaries and to demonstrate the effectiveness of their approach.

The development and implementation of information projects include the processing and dissemination of practical knowledge about successful solutions. With the insights from the basic projects, the improvement of access to information and of means to exchange it and the creation of convincing arguments based on practical experience for our advocacy activities, Biovision lays the foundations for widely spreading the notion of the ecological approach and strengthening its impact.

Biovision influences international and national policy dialogue (advocacy). The Foundation advocates issues that are likely to produce the greatest leverage in favour of Biovision's goals. In its efforts, Biovision is guided essentially by the recommendations of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) World Agriculture Report. By linking development projects, information dissemination projects and advocacy activities, our findings and solutions will enter the development debate and political dialogue.

### **Participation, Gender Equality and Income Generation as Cross-Cutting Themes**

For people to develop their capacity to engage in actions for self-determination and solidarity, they need to be able to participate as key stakeholders in the development process and project results. For Biovision, gender-equality is imperative. In all its activities and projects Biovision ensures that gender-specific needs and requirements in terms of knowledge, skills, and capabilities are addressed and implemented. In the area of income generation, Biovision's involvement is aimed at supporting development of value-added chains in a sustainable agriculture in Africa.

### **Partnerships and Strategic Implementation**

Biovision collaborates with competent partners who share similar goals, and participates in networks. This ensures that the specific know-how necessary for different projects can be made available while keeping Biovision's own structure lean and efficient. In Africa, Biovision is expanding its networks throughout the continent through its office in Nairobi. The aims of partnerships in Africa are particularly to strengthen local and regional organizations and to promote approaches tailored to local conditions. Internationally and in Switzerland, the formation of alliances is designed to give Biovision greater influence in raising public awareness and in the policy dialogue.

As an organization, Biovision Foundation aims to ensure a responsible foundation management based on an efficient, inter-divisional monitoring system to systematically review the jointly set targets. Transparent communication on all levels and a professional knowledge management create the foundations for the trust between partners, donors, staff and beneficiaries.