



### Project

www.infonet-biovision.org is an internet-based information platform that promotes and disseminates locally relevant knowledge on sustainable agriculture, health promotion and environmentally safe technologies and approaches. The practice-oriented and clearly structured information database is targeted at farmers' groups, goal-related NGOs and agricultural and health advisers. The content of the knowledge platform is developed in co-operation with scientists and local experts and presented according to the needs of the beneficiaries in a practical and user-friendly way. In order to make use of all possible dissemination channels, a so-called 'offline version' (CD) of the platform is available and can be used on computers without internet access. New technologies in the field of knowledge dissemination are evaluated and integrated if considered beneficial. Such as for example the robust OLPC (One Laptop per Child) which can be used to make Infonet available to agricultural extension workers in rural areas without internet access.

**Project number:**  
BV IS-03/04

**Project active since:**  
2005

**Project duration:**  
until 2012

**Budget for 2010:**  
350'000 USD

**Project coordinator:**  
Monique Hunziker, Biologist  
Biovision

**Program responsibility:**  
Monique Hunziker  
Andreas Schriber

### Relevance

Agriculture remains the main source of income for 80% of the rural population in Africa. Agricultural production; and therefore also food supply is impeded by various environmental factors and a lack of information and training. Plant pests alone are responsible for up to 80% of crop losses. Ecologically sustainable solutions are a practical alternative for African farmers to achieve good crop yields without using expensive chemical fertilisers and pesticides. However, there is a deficit of understandable and relevant information for farmers.



*internet cafes, access to the internet has become much easier.*

### Beneficiaries

Individual small-scale farmers and community groups, teachers, trainers and extension officers in the health, environmental and agricultural areas, local NGOs and GOs. As per May 2009, 800-900 people a day visited the Infonet-website.

### Development Goal

To make a contribution to the improvement of health, nutrition, education and income generation in the rural population, while conserving natural resources by supporting local information exchange and promoting ecologically sustainable solutions to rural problems.



*The robust little laptops (OLPCs) are ideal to make Infonet available also in rural areas without internet access.*

## Goals

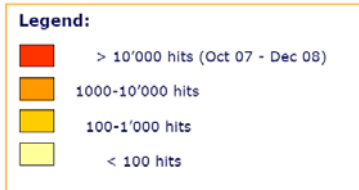
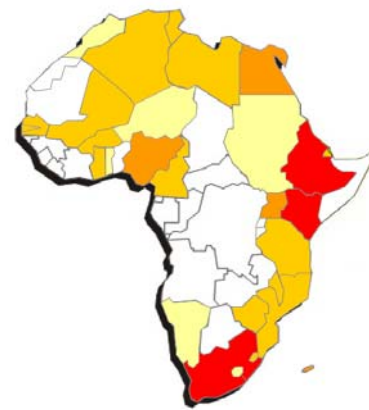
1. Further development and quality control of the **information platform** (new functions and content) according to the needs of users
2. Guarantee of long-term project duration through generation of widely supported sponsorship (in terms of content and financial support)
3. Set-up of **regional office** and management with increasing assignment of responsibilities
4. Installation of **beneficial new technologies** (language versions, pilot project on the mechanism of feedback and exchange between users, scientists and trainers)
5. Support for the **dissemination of information** through sensitisation and awareness campaigns, public relations in co-operation with partner organisations and existing programs

## Partner Organisations

[www.avallain.ch](http://www.avallain.ch) Avallain Enhancing Education; [www.icipe.org](http://www.icipe.org) Insect Science for Food and Health (*icipe*); [www.fibl.ch](http://www.fibl.ch) FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture); [www.kari.org](http://www.kari.org) KARI (Kenya Agriculture Research Institute); KENFAP (Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers); [www.act-africa.org](http://www.act-africa.org) ACT (African Conservation Tillage Network), AIC (Agriculture Information and Resource Centre, Nairobi Kenya), The Organic Farmer Magazine, Kenya [www.theorganicfarmer.org](http://www.theorganicfarmer.org), University of Wolverhampton [www.scit.wlv.ac.uk](http://www.scit.wlv.ac.uk)

## Sustainability

Sustainability calls for a holistic vision: healthy people, animals and plants in a healthy environment. (4x Health, 4-H Strategy). Every project supported by Biovision effects considerable improvements in at least one of the four health areas. The key to effectively replicating the success of the project is the availability of specific information on the methods applied and the results achieved. With this approach and its 'helix of effects', living conditions are improved and the poverty of the people is gradually overcome while the environment is protected.



### Contact:

Biovision - Foundation for Ecological Development  
Schaffhauserstr. 18  
CH-8006 Zurich  
Tel. +41 44 341 97 18  
Fax +41 44 341 97 62  
[info@biovision.ch](mailto:info@biovision.ch)  
[www.biovision.ch](http://www.biovision.ch)  
Swiss Post Account:  
87-193093-4

# A future for all, naturally