

PROJECTS: INTERNATIONAL

Changing Course in Global Agriculture



Project

In 2003 the World Bank and several UN agencies initiated the World Agriculture Report (IAASTD), based on the question of how agriculture in the year 2050 could provide for a growing world population in the most sustainable, equitable and healthy way.

After four years of work over 400 experts came to the conclusion that “business as usual” is not an option for the future. Essentially the report called for a radical paradigm shift in agricultural policies and practice to make the goals of reducing hunger and poverty and improving rural livelihoods reality.¹ This paradigm shift included a stronger focus on small-holder farmers and on locally adapted cultivation methods, as well as on agriculture’s multifunctionality.

58 countries approved the IAASTD in 2008, however the last two years have gone by with policies and research almost unaffected by the findings of the report – business continues as usual.

To counter this development Biovision Foundation and the Millennium Institute are engaging in an initiative seeking to change the course of global agriculture. The ultimate goal is a follow-up to the IAASTD including an update of the assessment and the inclusion of its findings in the global agricultural policies and practices.

Relevance

Biovision’s projects in East Africa show on the ground that ecological agriculture leads to advantages for small-scale farmers, the environment and the whole of society.

To assure that these methods and strategies can be upscaled, a shift in the political framework is necessary. Such a paradigm shift would free the financial and personal resources that enable the distribution of ecologically and socially sustainable methods in agriculture.

Development Goal

Ensuring food security and sustainable use of natural resources through a paradigm shift in global agriculture towards more ecologically and socially sustainable agriculture based on the findings of the IAASTD.

Target Group and Beneficiaries

The target group of the project is made up of decision makers in governments, international organizations, civil society and business that are to be won over for the proposal.

Indirectly, small-scale farmers and consumers will be able to benefit from an ecologically and socially more sustainable agriculture.

Project number:

BV IS-10

Project active since:

August 2010

Project duration:

until June 2012

Budget for 2011:

100'000 USD

Project coordinator:

Benjamin Gräub,
Project coordinator at Biovision

Program responsibility:

Andreas Schriber, Biovision



The project aims to ensure food security in the long term by achieving a shift towards sustainable agriculture.

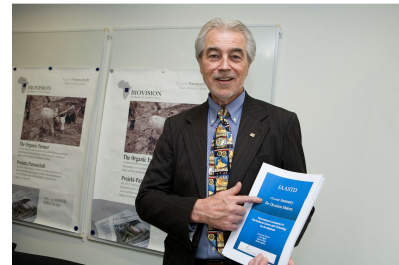
¹ IAASTD, 2008. *Synthesis Report*, http://www.weltagrabericht.de/reports/Synthesis_Report/Synthesis_content.html

Achieved so far

Apart from the publication of an article on the project in a supplement to the Financial Times, Dr. Herren has been able to make a case for changing course in global agriculture at various conferences (“Living Inspirations of Change”-conference, talk at Oxford University, UK). This has led to contacts with organisations and delegations willing to discuss a potential alliance.

Goals

1. **Crafting of a global alliance** pushing for a binding decision on a change in agricultural policies at the Rio 2012 Summit.
2. The community of states will adopt **a position paper and an action program** to start the development of a change of course in global agriculture based on the findings of the IAASTD.
3. The community of states **commissions a body to implement the position paper and action program, especially with a follow-up to the IAASTD.**



Dr. Hans Herren – president of Biovision – and Co-chair of the World Agriculture Report at the presentation of the same.

Partner Organisations

Millennium Institute, USA (www.millennium-institute.org)

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