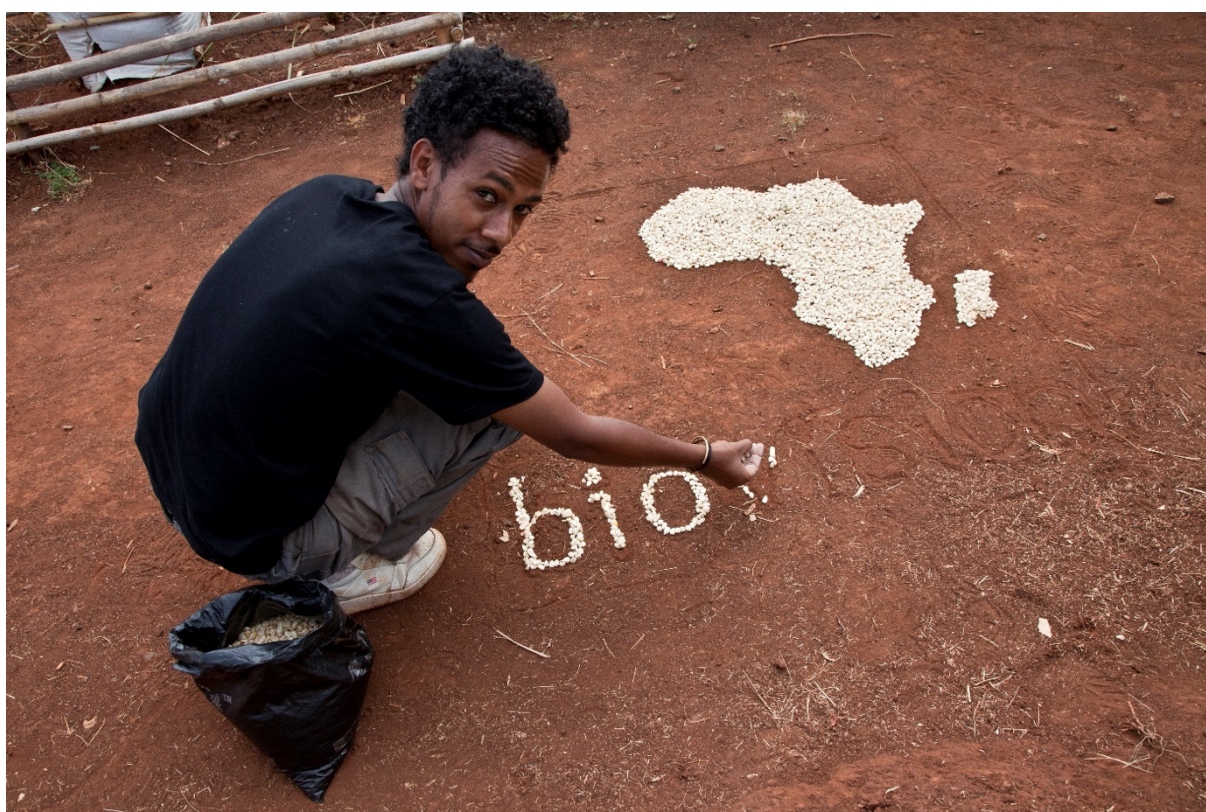


**Biovision – Foundation for ecological development**

# Strategy 2021–2024



## About us

Biovision has been promoting ecological solutions to reduce poverty and improve food security in sub-Saharan Africa since 1998. The Swiss foundation develops and circulates practice-oriented agroecological knowledge<sup>1</sup> and action through its strong partner network. As a non-religious and politically independent organization, Biovision aligns its work with the UN global sustainability goals of “Agenda 2030”, particularly Goal 2 of “Zero Hunger”. As a pioneer of change, it advocates a fundamental, agroecological transformation of food systems.<sup>2</sup> Biovision thus supports agroecological innovations and approaches and works to increase their prominence and use. Biovision is a solution-oriented, pragmatic organization that

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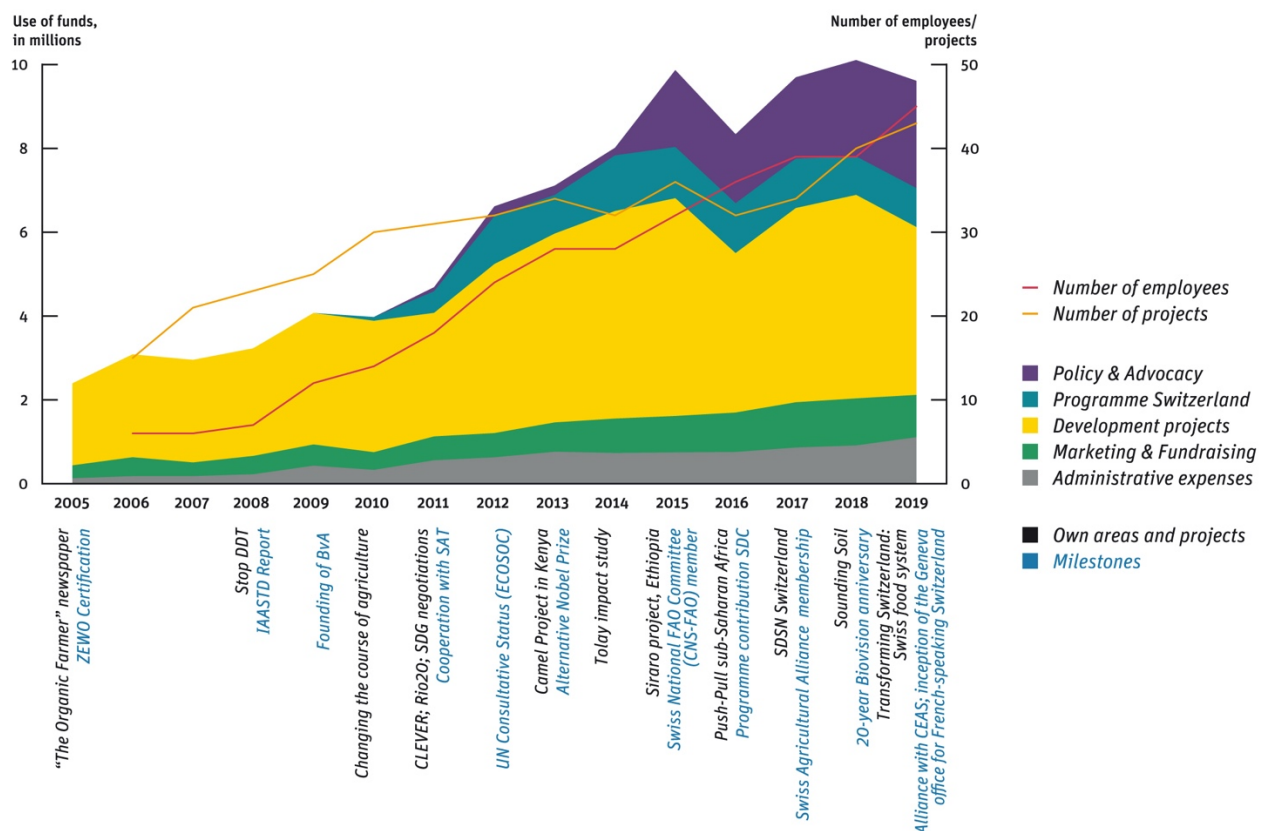
<sup>1</sup> To learn more about agroecology, see [www.agroecology-pool.org](http://www.agroecology-pool.org).

<sup>2</sup> By an agroecological transformation of food systems, we mean using agroecological principles to align agricultural production, processing, marketing and consumption with long-term life perspectives of producers and consumers within planetary boundaries (see box in next section).

builds bridges across a variety of stakeholders. Transferring knowledge, raising public awareness, and developing feasible political strategies and conducive framework conditions are important parts of its activities. Biovision shows that agroecological approaches work. It emboldens decision-makers to better leverage innovation, awareness-raising and investment to mobilize a transformation in food systems. Biovision addresses important systemic issues with the help of strong partners, so it accomplishes major achievements even as a relatively small organization. In doing so, it uses and promotes the momentum generated by a growing number of actors committed to agroecological alternatives and the transformation of food systems.

Switzerland has increased its commitment to sustainability over the past ten years. Since 2019, Biovision has been working domestically for solution-oriented, scientifically grounded social and political framework conditions that facilitate the transformation towards a sustainable food system. As of 2021, Biovision and the Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer (CEAS) will work jointly as an alliance in a programme supported substantially by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Biovision and its co-founder Hans Rudolf Herren, winner of the World Food Prize, were awarded the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, in 2013.

## Biovision's development, 2005 – 20019







## Changing contexts

The dominant system of industrial agriculture today is a dead end. Global crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemics (COVID-19) and economic crises have displayed its weaknesses. The number of people going hungry is increasing once again – especially in sub-Saharan Africa, the main region of Biovision's focus. Women are particularly affected and at the same time do most of the work in agriculture and food systems. In addition, sub-Saharan Africa's rural population is increasingly confronted with extreme weather events, invasive pests and degraded soils.

Too much global emphasis is still placed on the industrial agriculture model – a model which undercuts its own resources by leaching soils, fueling climate change, over-fertilising water bodies, reducing biodiversity and endangering the health of producers and consumers. A paradigm shift towards diversified agroecological systems is more urgent than ever, and never before have more voices demanded such a transformation.

The importance of agriculture and food systems for achieving Agenda 2030's goals is becoming increasingly apparent in Switzerland. Despite the enduring success of organic food, the share of organic products in Swiss households is only 10% (2019), and just over 16% of agricultural land is farmed organically. Although political acceptance of agroecology is steadily increasing, there are still insufficient incentives for sustainable production and consumption. Accordingly, it is important to encourage policymakers to more coherently promote sustainability and agroecology and to increase the Swiss population's awareness of the links between (global) impacts and their own behaviour.



## What we want to achieve

### Vision and mission

Biovision pursues an ambitious but essentially self-evident vision:

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

Achieving this vision requires a profound agroecological transformation of our food systems – from the field to the plate.

To achieve this vision, Biovision fulfils the following mission:

*We convince people to advocate for an agroecological transformation of the food system. By doing so, Biovision makes a significant contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2030 at local, national and international levels.*

As an influential advocate of agroecological transformation, we contribute to changing the course of agriculture. By working together with strong partners, we influence how framework conditions are shaped by spreading promising innovations and identifying viable agroecological alternatives.



### Our objectives

Biovision's top priority is to contribute to achieving the UN global sustainability goals of Agenda 2030. Our focus lies on creating enough healthy food (goal 2). At the same time, Biovision also makes important contributions to development sustainability goals 1 (no poverty), 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land).



For the period 2021 to 2024, we have set the following objectives (outcomes):

- 1) **Resilient rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa:** Food security is improved, income is increased, and production is made more environmentally friendly through applying ecological innovations and locally adapted cultivation and production methods.
- 2) **Strengthened capacity of local actors:** Civil society organizations, research institutions, companies and individuals are empowered to work towards agroecological transformation.
- 3) **Conducive frameworks:** Political and economic decision-makers increasingly adjust their policies and investments towards agroecological principles.
- 4) **Increased public awareness:** More and more people become involved in the transformation to a sustainable food system.

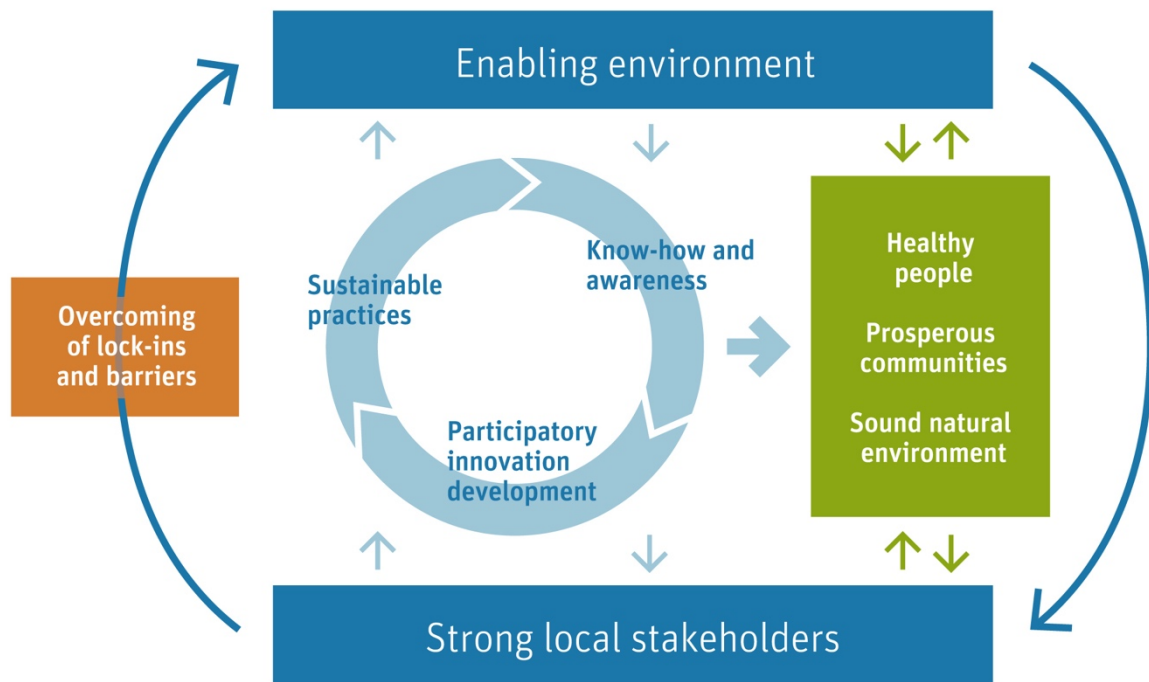
## How we work

### How do we make an impact?

To set the necessary political and social course for a transformation of the food systems, Biovision pursues a systemic approach and builds bridges across a variety of stakeholders. In particular, we rely on

- promoting agroecological innovations and their dissemination in cooperation with local research institutions and the private sector,
- transferring knowledge and strengthening the capacity of local communities and organizations, and
- bringing together different actors with a policy dialogue to change framework conditions.





## Our fields of action

### Development projects in sub-Saharan Africa

We support community resilience, better food security and more sustainable resource use in rural and peri-urban area through participatory development and the dissemination of agroecological approaches and holistic innovations. Simultaneously, we strengthen stakeholder capacity for participation in the innovation cycle and advocate for better framework conditions. Positive examples from Biovision's projects are shown on the local and international stage to demonstrate that – and how – agroecological transformation works.



### **National and global policy dialogue and advocacy**

In order to win support for agroecological transformation, we deliver decision-makers in politics, business and science relevant, current knowledge, mobilize various actors, foster alliances and provide guiding examples. By strengthening local actors and connecting them with national and international actors, we promote conducive changes in and design of framework conditions.



### **Programme Switzerland**

We are actively committed to the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Switzerland, especially with regard to sustainable agricultural and food systems. We seek to ensure its implementation by working together with politicians, scientists, the private sector, international cooperation actors and the public. We network and mobilize institutions of higher education, research centres, civil society actors and the private sector to jointly develop sustainable development solutions. By identifying concrete, workable solutions, we empower and motivate various actors in the food system to make sustainable decisions, change frameworks and implement concrete solutions.

## **How we want to develop**

### **Persuasive positioning**

As a pioneer for innovative agroecological solutions, in the future we will place even greater emphasis on issues like climate justice, resilience, marketing, consumption, equal gender rights and youth. By pragmatically and credibly building bridges with relevant actors, we develop positive examples of model projects in a participatory manner.

### **Coordinated agility**

In a rapidly changing environment, we adapt our actions reactively and seize opportunities proactively. We take advantage of these opportunities strategically and selectively while maintaining a focus on our core programme.

### **Geographical focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Switzerland**

We strengthen our activities in our East African partner countries through development cooperation. In West Africa we are developing synergies with our alliance partner CEAS. For political dialogue and advocacy, we seek to influence global processes and apply them at national level (and vice versa). In Switzerland, we are committed to raising awareness of and creating a transformation towards a sustainable food system, and we are expanding this work in French-speaking Switzerland.

### **Organizational Culture**

We encourage our employees' commitment and skills and involve them in formulating objectives. We see ourselves as a learning organization that reflects on its actions and reacts swiftly and flexibly to internal and external impulses.

### **Team development**

We want to maintain our strength as an agile, medium-sized NGO with a strong team spirit. Through active knowledge management and by promoting continuing education and transdisciplinary work, we encourage our employees' personal development.

### **Healthy finances**

By diversifying the financing of our programmes, we seek to avoid future unilateral dependencies and continue to be able to act autonomously. We make targeted and efficient use of opportunities to submit projects to potential donors that meet both their and our objectives equally.

### **Corporate responsibility**

Our promise to provide the greatest possible transparency in our operational work strengthens the trust of our partners, our supporters and the public. Our employees receive fair wages and experience equal rights, appreciation and solidarity. In our operational activities, we pay even greater attention to minimising our ecological footprint and continue to ensure that travel necessary for our international work is organized as efficiently and effectively as possible.

### **Positioned for impact**

Given the urgency of and the current opportunities for transforming food systems, we are always looking for new ways to create greater impact with our human and financial resources. We publish the results of our impact accordingly.