

Annual report 2023



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Four fields of action

To work towards the vision of no hunger and a transformation to a sustainable food system, we direct our energy to where it generates the greatest and longest-lasting impact in relation to our efforts. This Annual Report provides four examples of this. The red boxes explain which strategic field of action is targeted by each example.

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Photo credits: cover picture (Mercy Meena from Tanzania was immediately enthusiastic when she learnt about agroecological methods. Today, hibiscus provides her with a better income; see text on page 4) and p. 4–5 Safaris Studio Morogoro, p. 3 Laura Angelstorf, p. 6 Westwood/TOAM, p. 8–9 CIFOR-ICRAF, p. 12 François de Limoges, p. 13 Simon von Gunten, p. 20 Kim Culetto, all other images: Biovision

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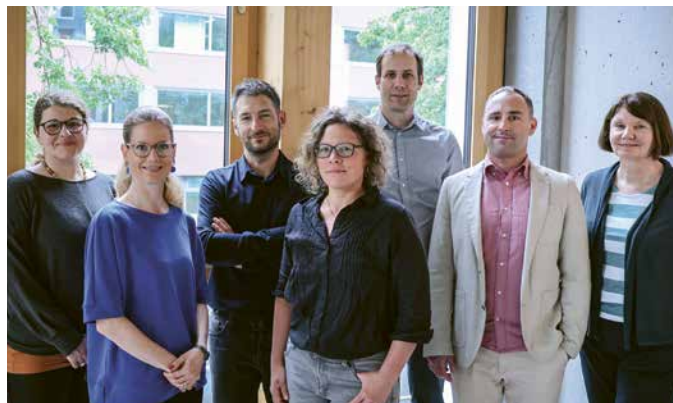
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The Executive Board (from left to right): Sabine Lerch, Stefanie Pondini, Fabio Leippert, Loredana Sorg, Martin Schmid, Dario Brühlmann and Alexandra Arnold.

Editorial

2023 was a special year for Biovision, as we celebrated our 25th anniversary! Meeting all our partner organisations in Tanzania was a particular highlight. It is only with their help that we are able to implement our 50 projects in Africa and achieve systemic change.

2023 was also exceptional in financial terms. Biovision implemented the most extensive project portfolio in its history, with investments amounting to 13 million Swiss francs, and was able to successfully reduce its large reserves accumulated during the Covid years.

On the following pages, we use specific project examples to share insights into how we are contributing to ecological development and improving living conditions through our work. Last but not least, you will learn about our commitment to a sustainable transformation of the food system in Switzerland through broad-based dialogue.

This is only possible with your support, for which we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude.

The Executive Board

Step by step towards sustainability

At the symposium in Zurich last November, we proudly looked back on our successes over the previous 25 years: throughout the years, we carried out over 150 projects and helped to put agroecology on the global agenda. More than 10 years ago, we began pointing the way towards sustainable consumption in Switzerland with CLEVER and have consistently promoted a sustainable food future for Switzerland ever since.

Biovision has developed successfully and grown constantly since 1998. In the course of the past four years, Dr Frank Eyhorn made a substantial contribution to our advancement in his capacity as Executive Director. I would like to warmly thank Frank for his outstanding commitment. I very much regret his departure in the spring. However, thanks to his efforts, we are now in an excellent position to face the challenges that lie ahead. And there is still a lot to do!

In Africa, one in five people still has too little to eat, and over 800 million people worldwide are threatened by hunger. And yet we produce 25% more calories than would be needed to feed the entire global population! However, our agricultural and food systems not only fail to distribute food fairly, they also do more damage in monetary terms than they create of value, as shown by a recent study¹. This failure of agricultural and food policy has also driven farmers in Switzerland and the EU onto the streets. For decades, mainstream agricultural and food policy has pushed producers to adopt conventional agricultural practices and become dependent on the environmentally destructive agricultural industry.

Better political frameworks are needed to enable farmers to determine their own future on fair terms and in a way that conserves resources. Agroecology shows how this can be achieved. It builds on

what the organic sector and many others have achieved in recent decades. Rooted in agroecology, we at Biovision are also constantly coming up with new solutions adapted to local conditions in collaboration with scientists, partner organisations and farmers. Agroecology will help us to meet our objective: a food system with a future – enough healthy food for everyone, produced and consumed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

You are making an important contribution through your loyal support of Biovision. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!



Hans Rudolf Herren,
Biovision Foundation Founder
and President



*Helping to put agroecology
on the global agenda:
Hans Rudolf Herren at the
symposium in November 2023.*

¹ *The Economics of the Food System Transformation* by researchers from the University of Oxford and the London School of Economics.



«Today, our cows produce four times as much milk»; livestock breeder Kasperni Mkurumbwe with his family and herd.

Fighting conflict with animal feed and fertiliser

With great perseverance, unconventional ideas and openness, projects can change lives for the better. This is shown in a study of our seven-year commitment to livestock breeders in Tanzania.

By Loredana Sorg, Co-Head of Development Projects

«In our Maasai community, livestock comes first», explains Kasperni Mkurumbwe from the village of Mbwade in Tanzania. He stands in the middle of his herd of 30 cows and 40 goats: «We used to live solely from the little milk our cows produced. Our living conditions were very difficult.» If the dry season lasted too long, some of the cows died because they were unable to find enough food. The search for pastureland also led to conflict with farming families.

«Thanks to the project, I learnt that even livestock breeders can manage their pastures and keep the grass as hay», says the 60-year-old. He has now set aside two hectares for this purpose.

The Biovision project has improved the situation for him and his family: «Today, our cows produce four times as much milk. We even milk the goats.» Mkurumbwe now sells an average of 20 litres of milk at the market each day: «My income has increased a lot. Now I can send my children to school.»

More income, fewer conflicts

For seven years, our partner organisation Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) has been working on this project to improve the living conditions of groups of farmers and livestock breeders in the Morogoro region. The bold approach also aims to develop solutions to avoid conflicts. «Time and again, livestock breeding and

farming families clash over differences in land use», explains Salma Yassin, project manager at SAT. This leads to outbreaks of violence, cattle theft, destruction of fields and expulsion. What is more, pastureland is shrinking due to the growing population and the additional land required for arable farming, which is fuelling conflict even more.

The impact of this project was analysed by an external Tanzanian agency on behalf of SAT and Biovision in 2023. The results showed that the average annual income of the farmer and livestock breeder families who have been involved in project activities since 2017 has more than doubled – from the equivalent of 200 to

Improved livelihoods

Thanks to greater resilience, people can better withstand crises – caused by climate change, for example – and recover more quickly. We strengthen this resilience through ecological and innovative approaches, which improve food security by creating more and healthier food, plus more regular access to it, and by increasing family incomes.

490 Swiss francs. By way of comparison, the income of families who did not participate in the project only increased to the equivalent of 370 Swiss francs.

Greater diversity as a safeguard

The livestock breeders achieved these improvements by crossbreeding new cattle breeds and producing hay during the rainy season – to ensure a better supply of animal feed in the dry season. At the same time, they are trying to utilise their limited land resources even more sparingly. For their part, the farmers are focussing on ensuring greater diversity in their arable crops. This not only allows them to harness the synergies between different plants, but also reduces the risk of crop failure.

The impact study shows that even farmers were able to substantially improve their productivity: yields of maize, a staple food, rose from an average of 1,912 kg to 3,271 kg per hectare. This is significantly more than the yield of the control group.

Bartering that benefits everyone

The farming families now bring their harvests to the nearby SAT training centre in Vianzi, where they can process their products and market them at a reasonable price. The residual parts or byproducts left after processing, such as sunflower seed cake, are offered to livestock breeders by the farming families for use as animal feed. They receive animal fertiliser in return. Bartering in this way has become established practice. It benefits everyone involved and strengthens mutual understanding. Fertilised plots of land result in higher production, which in turn increases the amount of animal feed available. And last but not least, feeding animals in this way has the potential to increase milk production.

Pioneer of agroecological vegetable production

Mercy Meena from the village of Kimambila has switched to sustainable agriculture thanks to the project: «I'm enthusiastic

about agroecology. It's not just about growing food, but also about looking after the soil and protecting the environment.» Her soil used to be very dry. Meena has installed an irrigation system and introduced compost and animal manure. She grows seedlings in her new greenhouse and uses her drying system to preserve the harvested tomatoes and hibiscus for longer. By selling these products, she has also improved her income: «It was the only way I could buy dairy cows so that I can sell their milk to my neighbours.» And the poor relationship with livestock breeders is a thing of the past: «We've been able to build up such good relationships that we sit down together to discuss the progress of the project.»

Due to the encouraging results of the impact study and the positive feedback from the livestock breeding and farming families, SAT and Biovision decided to extend the project approach to other regions – despite, or perhaps because of, the numerous difficulties.



«We've been able to build up good relationships with the livestock breeders»; farmer Mercy Meena uses her drying system to preserve her harvest for longer.



Loredana Sorg

As a specialist in agroecology and resource economics with a focus on local food systems, Loredana Sorg holds a Master's degree in agronomy from ETH Zurich. She has been Co-Head of Development Projects and a member of the Executive Board since April 2021.

«Diversity enables that we have enough to eat daily»

Tanzania reached a milestone in December when it launched its national strategy to scale up agroecology. Mwatima Juma from our partner organisation TOAM explains why this is so important for smallholder families and what role Biovision played in the development process.

By Patricio Frei, Editor

Biovision is increasingly involved in the development of national agroecology strategies, namely in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This approach can

make an important contribution to significantly raising up agroecology as a political priority at national level by introducing targeted measures that

support farmers and other food system stakeholders along the agri-food value chain. This is also evident from the interview with Mwatima Juma:



What is the purpose of the national agroecology strategy?

The strategy aims to systematically promote organic farming in Tanzania. That's completely new: the Tanzanian government had hardly ever addressed this issue before. However, the government has the upper hand when it comes to developing communities and safeguarding people's livelihoods. This means that the only way to achieve something is to involve the government. That is why we at TOAM have been working with other organisations to ensure that the government develops a strategy in this area. The government was sceptical at first, but finally agreed to draw up a strategy for organic farming.

How was the strategy developed?

First of all, we formed a steering committee made up of representatives of the government and of non-governmental organisations. Discussions were held with farmers and other local people to understand the difficulties they encountered in relation to organic farming and to ask them to identify opportunities. This resulted in an initial draft of the strategy, which was then evaluated again by the same people: we discussed the results with farmers and representatives of organisations and agreed on modifications to the strategy. We repeated this process with the second and third drafts until we had a version that was accepted by both the government and involved stakeholders. We now have a basis we can refer to as we continue working with the Ministry.

Why is this strategy so important for smallholder families in Tanzania?

Because most people in Tanzania belong to smallholder families. And we are increasingly realising that conventional agriculture is not suitable for everyone. Monoculture does not help smallholder families to meet their needs. We all –

myself included – once learnt that we wouldn't solve the problem of hunger unless we used chemicals. But after 70 years, we still haven't eradicated hunger as we were promised.

Agroecological agriculture is about preserving the ecosystem, ensuring fairness in production, and protecting the health of people and the soil. Smallholder families can achieve all this with agroecological techniques. I know from my own experience on my small farm in Zanzibar that diversity enabled us to produce enough to eat every day of the year: if you run out of papaya, you can harvest coconuts, manioc or bananas. But if you only grow maize on your land, at some point you won't know what to eat any more. One hectare is enough to feed a family of ten. Diversity is needed in production.

What role did Biovision play in this whole process?

Biovision was very helpful. We also had support from other NGOs. If you want to develop a strategy that really ensures food security, you can't sit in an office and write a document. You have to go out and talk to the people on the ground. Biovision made this possible for us by funding workshops. Biovision's technical input was also very important for developing the strategy. And thanks to Biovision, we have been able to engage in dialogue with organisations and governments from other countries and learn from their processes of developing national agroecology strategies.

We will continue to need the support of Biovision. We know that the big challenge now is implementation.

So what are the challenges in terms of implementation?

Awareness must be raised among farmers. But the awareness of consumers is even

more important, so that they encourage farmers to grow what is good for them. This in turn supports the work of advisory services and experts in government agencies and research departments.

The implementation of the strategy offers a multitude of possibilities, not least economically. Moringa is on everyone's lips as a power food, for example. The fruits, leaves and roots of the tree all have uses. It's very easy for smallholder families to grow moringa. Now the farmers have to get organised and set up a kind of hub for collecting and processing their harvests. A whole range of small businesses can be created. By introducing agroecology, we can kill two birds with one stone: we can increase diversity whilst creating market opportunities at the same time.



Mwatima Juma

As a representative of the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), Mwatima Juma was involved in the development of the NAS in Tanzania, where it is called the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS). Dr Mwatima Juma specialises in rural development and runs an organic permaculture farm.

Supportive frameworks

Supportive and enabling environments for food system actors are central to sustainable transformation and the spread of agroecology. We work with policymakers, researchers and institutional funders to identify ways to create enabling environments through coherent policies, better funding and supportive institutional frameworks.

The ABC and D of sustainable agriculture

In Western Kenya, Biovision is researching how farming communities can be supported with a customised approach, combining typical elements of our work: targeted implementation of sustainable practices in the field paired with a scientific approach.

By Lothar J. Lechner Bazzanella, Editor

«Instead of offering a standard solution for an entire region, this project enables us to look at the resources that people already have to start off with. Then we develop solutions on this basis», explains Adrian Bolliger, the Biovision Programme Officer.

The project is called Asset-Based Community Development, or ABCD for short. The «A» and «B» in the project name stand for «asset-based», which also means «resource-based». This approach aims to identify and capitalise on the strengths, knowledge and skills within a community – «C» for communities. Particularly promising, efficient methods can be developed with the farmers as a result. This increases the participants' personal initiative, and ultimately their success.

«Of course, this type of approach is very time-consuming», says Adrian Bolliger. «However, finding a customised solution

is extremely important for Biovision. Instead of applying standardised methods across the board, we have scientifically investigated which resources are already available and can be used efficiently.»

An unconventional approach

The main aim of the project was to find out how a resource-based approach could help participants to make more effective use of the resources available to them in a more self-determined way.

Dr Lisa Fuchs is responsible for the scientific monitoring of the project in Kenya. She explains: «The ABCD approach helps participants to gain a better understanding of the resources they

already have, and builds on this: what can I grow on my land, how am I getting on financially, and what techniques have I mastered? This is in contrast to many conventional approaches, which mainly register farmers' needs and deficits – thereby significantly influencing their self-perception.»

Part of a larger whole

The ABCD project is part of the larger «Regreening Africa» initiative, which is implemented by dozens of organisations around the world to ensure more sustainable agriculture, to combat soil erosion, to promote access to a water supply and to strengthen biodiversity. Within this multitude of measures, Biovision is making

Strengthened local actors

The more local actors from civil society, research, small and medium-sized enterprises, and politics that have relevant, science-based knowledge for transforming food systems sustainably, the more effective their engagement and the greater the number and power of forces set in motion for integrated sustainable development.



*Farmers' self-confidence has increased:
an artificial pond for irrigating the fields in
the project region.*



a contribution with the ABCD project. In doing so, we are aiming to show how ABCD influences the uptake of agroecological practices and systems compared to conventional approaches.

The results of the study show that ABCD has made a significant contribution to the plans for «Regreening Africa». The farmers involved have a better appreciation of themselves, their skills and their resources. This has increased their self-confidence, measures have been implemented more consistently, and dialogue has been promoted within their communities.

A research area already explored by Hans R. Herren

In the first project phase from 2021 to

2023, we worked on the ABCD project with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). In the next phase, which will continue until 2025, we are helping one of our main partners, the international insect research institute icipe, to adopt the approach.

To do so, we are working in the Kenyan regions of Homa Bay and Migori, where icipe has its own campus – and where Biovision founder Hans R. Herren once conducted research.

We are building on the positive experiences from the first phase and encouraging the farmers to use their own initiative. At the same time, we want to make the scientific data on push-pull techniques available to other communities. «In this way, we are combining the perspectives,

interests and knowledge of farmers with scientific findings so that together, we can develop the most suitable solutions for the specific region. Co-design is an important keyword», summarises Lisa Fuchs.

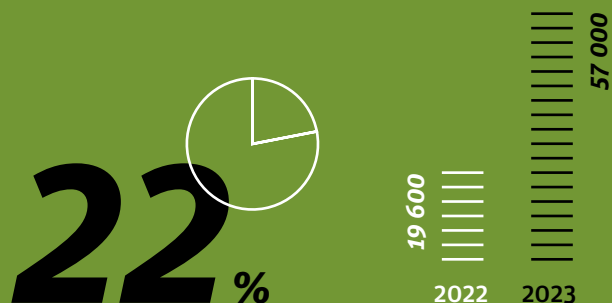
This will allow us to promote sustainable food systems effectively and in the long term. This will ultimately benefit farming families and the environment.

**You can watch a video about the project
here: www.biovision.ch/abcd-video**

What Biovision achieved in 2023

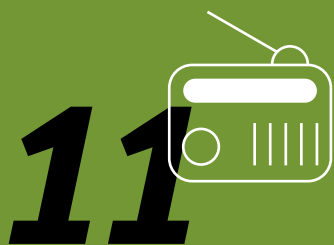
We strengthen local actors in East Africa by jointly developing strategies for sustainable development and transferring know-how.

Biovision improves the livelihoods of smallholder families in East Africa by using ecological and innovative approaches.



of the farming families in Tanzania reached by radio programmes are now practicing agroecology.

Smallholder farmers in East Africa whose knowledge from Biovision has resulted in higher incomes.



11 million people in East Africa have so far been reached by Biovision via radio, newspaper and web platforms informing them about agroecology and the links between agriculture, food and the environment.



200 agroecological initiatives have been launched to disseminate knowledge and promote research or innovation.

Our commitment

A world with enough healthy food for everyone, produced by healthy people in a healthy environment: this has been our commitment at Biovision for 26 years in Africa, in Switzerland and globally.

783

million people worldwide are threatened by hunger.¹

2 of 5

people worldwide cannot afford healthy food.

18

percent of agricultural land in Switzerland is farmed organically.²

We support the establishment of the necessary frameworks for the sustainable transformation of food systems and the expansion of agroecology.

1,700

influencers and decision-makers from politics and civil society received relevant information at events on how to improve the political frameworks for agroecology.

50

policy-makers were convinced to actively advocate for agroecology and sustainable food system transformation in their home countries or at a global level.

55 %

of CLEVER exhibition visitors want to make their shopping and consumption behaviour more sustainable.



7674

adults and children have been encouraged to engage in sustainable consumption and the protection of healthy soil via direct contact.

4 of 5

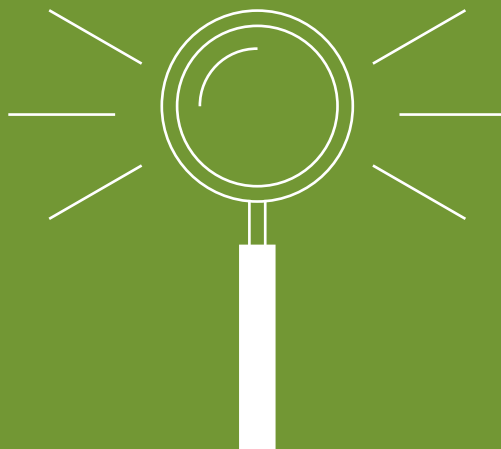
people who listen to the soil with Sounding Soil want to learn more about the soil.



108

Swiss universities, research centres and companies, at the initiative of SDSN, have included steps in their strategies or activities to implement the UN 2030 Agenda since 2021.

By educating people and raising awareness, we encourage institutions, companies and the population to actively participate in sustainable development in Switzerland.



Taking a closer look at a long-term system comparison in the tropics

The ratio of organic to conventional agriculture is **1:1**. The harvests of beans, maize, potatoes and cabbage are the same size – thanks to the systemic approach!

It takes **10 years** to restore the soil fertility of a field in Kenya that was previously cultivated according to conventional methods.

The field tests, which compare organic and conventional cultivation systems, **have been** running **for 17 years**. The long timespan is important in order to be able to measure the long-term effects.

The future of Swiss food is agroecological

The Swiss food system drives and suffers from various crises and problems, such as climate change, biodiversity loss and social inequalities. That is why Biovision promotes agroecology – for a more sustainable food future.

By Sabine Lerch, Head of Programme Switzerland

It was a groundbreaking event: the first Swiss Food Systems Summit held in Bern at the beginning of 2023 showed how we can get agricultural and food policy moving. This is urgently needed in light of the greater polarisation reflected in several unsuccessful referendums in recent years, and a parliament that has proven itself to be a growing barrier to implementing a more sustainable food policy. The 260 participants from production, trade and consumption, science, civil society, politics and administration, exchanged views on how to make Swiss food policy more sustainable. The most prominent guest was Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, who is responsible for the agricultural and food industry.

The focus was on the recommendations of the Citizens' Council for Food Policy and the scientific guidelines on the main levers and policy paths for developing a sustainable food system. To produce the guide-

lines, a panel of 42 experts analysed where the greatest need for action lies and which leverage points to focus on to achieve social goals. For its part, the Citizens' Council issued recommendations showing which reforms towards a sustainable food system could be acceptable to the majority of the population. The inputs from both sides and the event itself were made possible by "Food Future Switzerland", a joint project between Biovision, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the association «Landwirtschaft mit Zukunft» (agriculture with a future).

A win-win situation is possible

The summit revealed which frameworks are particularly important for bringing about a sustainable transformation of the food system: firstly, production and consumption will only move towards greater sustainability if effective measures are also implemented by major distribu-

tors. The transformation is a task for society as a whole, for which all stakeholders must be held accountable. Secondly, given that incomes in the agricultural and food sectors are often low, change must be equitable and fair.

And what are politicians doing to create the necessary frameworks? In his speech, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin emphasised that the recommendations of the Citizens' Council and the expert panel are in line with the future direction of the government's agricultural policy. However, the Federal Council has set a target horizon of 2050, and the medium-term measures are more of a cosmetic nature. The summit nevertheless concluded on an optimistic note: a win-win transformation of the food system that benefits the environment, producers and the population in equal measure is possible. Nonetheless, in order to achieve the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and create a sustainable food future, we need to step up the pace considerably.

“Lighthouses” for a better future of food

Since last year, our “Lighthouses for food system transformation” have demonstrated just how diverse the ideas and forms of a sustainable food system in Switzerland already are: across the whole spectrum from farming and processing to cooperation between farmers and consumers, we showcase projects that provide impetus for a better future of food. The businesses and companies presented are from all the regions of Switzerland along the entire value chain. They pinpoint possible solutions for meeting the current challenges and take into account the principles of agroecology in a particularly holistic and innovative way.



Transformation is a task for society as a whole; an artist portrays what is being said live at the Food Systems Summit.

Showing just how diverse the ideas for a sustainable food system already are today; members of the Filière lighthouse in Meyrin.



Sustainable development in Switzerland

How our food is grown, processed and consumed has a massive impact on our ecological footprint in Switzerland and abroad. We raise awareness and motivate the public and institutions to actively engage in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and an agroecological transformation. We made an important contribution to this once again in 2023.

The evaluation was carried out using the “B-ACT” tool developed by Biovision. This tool can be used to analyse the extent to which a farm or business applies each of the 13 principles of agroecology, and ultimately, how sustainably it operates. We are thereby creating the basis for engaging in a fact-based debate on the contribution of agroecology to sustainable food systems. With its lighthouse approach, Biovision is aiming to inspire political decision-makers, stakeholders in the food system and consumers.

The added value of agroecology

Building on the successful work of recent years, the adoption of our new programme

through 2027 will enable us to work even more consistently to ensure that agroecological principles are taken into consideration in Swiss agricultural and food policy. We will show politicians the way forward by developing new, innovative approaches based on existing initiatives over the next few years. We will work with stakeholders along the value chain – in areas ranging from agriculture and processing to retail and catering, as well as with local authorities and consumers – to develop specific solutions for regional, agroecological food systems by 2027. In this way, we will prove that agroecological approaches work and bring added value for people and the environment.



Sabine Lerch

As an expert on sustainability of food systems with a focus on production and consumption, Sabine Lerch is a trained biologist with a Master's degree from the University of Basel. Since July 2019, she has served as Head of Programme Switzerland and is a member of the Executive Board.



Financial Statement on the 2023 Annual Report



“In its anniversary year, Biovision financed its most extensive project portfolio in 25 years, with investments totalling 13.1 million Swiss francs.”

Alexandra Arnold
Head of Finance, HR & Administration

Project expenses:

In 2023, its anniversary year, Biovision financed its most extensive project portfolio in 25 years, with investments totalling 13.1 million Swiss francs; 0.8 million Swiss francs more than in the previous year. The high programme volume enabled Biovision to reduce the restricted reserves from previous years marked by Covid, and to invest in projects.

The 55 development projects in sub-Saharan Africa represented a volume of 7.6 million Swiss francs. The Policy & Advocacy team was involved in global

projects worth 2.2 million Swiss francs. In Switzerland, Biovision provided 1.87 million Swiss francs in support of projects and invested 1.2 million Swiss francs in awareness-building related to sustainability topics.

Revenue

In 2023, SDC financed projects worth 4.05 million Swiss francs as part of its institutional partnership with Biovision. We received private individual donations and earmarked donations from institutional partners amounting to 7.3 million Swiss francs. Following a 9.6 % rise, revenue from membership contributions stood at 1.25 million Swiss francs, and from legacies at 1.32 million Swiss francs.

Biovision recorded a decrease of 0.78 million Swiss francs in unrestricted and earmarked funds, with donations and project contributions totalling 13.93 million Swiss francs. This can be explained on the one hand by the postponement of planned projects until 2024, which led to a corresponding reduction in income, and on the other hand by the more difficult political and economic conditions for fundraising.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the trust our loyal donors place in us. Their contributions form the basis for our independence and are vital for Biovision.

Many thanks also to our institutional partners, whose project and programme contributions enable us to engage sustainably in our priority areas.

Fundraising and general advertising expenses

Expenditure is calculated according to current Zewo guidelines. Fundraising and general advertising expenses reached a net total of 2.15 million Swiss francs, which corresponds to 13 % of total expenses.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses amounted to 1.32 million Swiss francs after the financial result and correspond to 8 % of Biovision's total expenses.

Financial result

Biovision was able to utilise 92,842 Swiss francs from the fund capital (restricted funds). The result after the change in fund capital amounts to 2.5 million Swiss francs; the reserves from the capital tied up in projects will be utilised accordingly. The organisation capital totalled 5.66 million Swiss francs as at 1 January 2024.

Outlook

Biovision is confident about the future and expects to be able to finance projects totalling 13.6 million Swiss francs in 2024.

Balance sheet *in CHF¹*

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents
Securities (fixed-term deposits)
Other short-term receivables
Project accounts – partner organisations
Inventories
Prepayments and accrued income
Property for sale
Total current assets

Non-current assets

Tangible assets
Financial assets
Intangible assets
Total non-current assets
Total assets

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities

Payables from goods and services
Other short-term liabilities
Project accounts – partner organisations
Accrued liabilities and deferred income
Mortgage loans
Total current liabilities

Restricted fund capital²

Health of people
Health of animals
Health of plants
Health of the environment
Dissemination of information
Project development
Political dialogue and advocacy
Programme for Switzerland
Programme contribution IP SDC
Total restricted fund capital

Organisation capital

Foundation capital
Restricted reserves
Unrestricted reserves
Total organisation capital
Total liabilities

	2023	2022
	5 530 505	8 621 534
	841 280	0
	7 038	7 812
	812 109	890 056
	2 626	3 282
	214 649	528 012
	580 000	0
	7 988 206	10 050 697
	3 770	5 732
	119 861	119 607
	129 576	0
	253 207	125 338
	8 241 413	10 176 035
	684 021	262 477
	139 953	159 747
	579 746	793 664
	1 052 622	671 733
	99 000	0
	2 555 342	1 887 621
	0	0
	0	0
	28 513	11 716
	0	9 908
	0	0
	0	0
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	28 513	121 355
	50 000	50 000
	802 702	3 312 203
	4 804 856	4 804 856
	5 657 558	8 167 059
	8 241 413	10 176 035

Income statement *in CHF¹*

INCOME

Unrestricted donations
Earmarked donations and project contributions ³
Programme contribution IP SDC ⁴
Donor membership contributions ⁵
Legacies
Total donations and project contributions
Other income
Total operating income
<i>Change compared with previous year</i>

EXPENSES

Project expenses

Development and cooperation
Political dialogue and advocacy
Programme for Switzerland
Awareness-building for sustainability topics
Other project expenses
Total project expenses
<i>Change compared with previous year</i>

Fundraising and general advertising expenses

Management and administration
Total operating expenses
<i>Change compared with previous year</i>

	2023	2022
	3 772 960	4 755 032
	3 534 983	4 595 017
	4 050 500	3 719 185
	1 252 385	1 141 878
	1 324 481	510 713
	13 935 309	14 721 824
	46 094	54 420
	13 981 403	14 776 244
	-5 %	1 %
	-7 585 241	-6 510 204
	-2 238 786	-2 242 263
	-1 871 207	-2 280 741
	-1 236 801	-1 134 156
	-168 739	-128 248
	-13 100 773	-12 295 613
	7 %	34 %
	-2 159 973	-1 955 959
	-1 236 719	-1 128 836
	-16 497 464	-15 380 408
	7 %	27 %

OPERATING RESULT**before financial result, extraordinary result and change in fund capital**

Financial income
Extraordinary result
Result before change in fund capital
Fund deployment
Fund allocation
Change in fund capital

ANNUAL FINANCIAL RESULT (BEFORE ALLOCATION TO ORGANISATION CAPITAL)

Allocation restricted reserves
Allocation unrestricted reserves

2023	2022
-2 516 061	-604 164
-94 847	-55 597
8 566	3 293
-2 602 343	-656 468
7 678 324	8 848 248
-7 585 483	-8 005 202
92 842	843 046
-2 509 501	186 578
2 509 501	-186 578
0	0

Project expenses¹

“Biovision invests in three areas of activity: development projects; political dialogue and advocacy; and projects and raising awareness in Switzerland (implementation of Agenda 2030). Expenses before financial result/extraordinary result:”

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**Health of plants**

DPP_001	Push-Pull: Diversity through Participatory Research
DPP_002	Long-Term System Comparison
DPP_005	Fruit Fly Control
DPP_008	Food Security in Rural Ethiopia
DPP_011	Agroecology Centre in Tanzania
DPP_012	Combating the Tomato Leafminer Moth
DPP_013	Promoting Food Security through Sustainable Ecological Farming Systems
DPP_014	“Agroecology for more Food Security in Burundi”
DPP_015	Strong Communities and Organic Farming in Malawi
DPP_016	Scaling Push Pull Technology and Crop Diversification in Ethiopia
DPP_017	Ethiopian Mangoes Take off
DPP_018	Kenyan Farming Families Become more Resilient
DPP_019	Understanding Processes and Dynamics of Adoption of Agroecological Innovations
DPP_020	Intensified Agroecological-Based Cropping Systems
DPP_021	Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania SAT

Total, Health of plants**Health of the environment**

DPE_002	Reviving Traditional Knowledge
DPE_003	Forest School Mpigi
DPE_006	Local Seed Increases Biodiversity
DPE_007	Bees for Young Entrepreneurs
DPE_008	Beekeeping and Mangrove Protection in Zanzibar
DPE_009	More Resilient Communities in Tanzania's Drylands
DPE_010	Regreening Kenya
DPE_011	Access to Healthy Food in Kenya
DPE_013	Enhancing Livestock-Based Livelihoods through Indigenous Grass Seed in Northern Kenya
DPE_014	Diversity for Resilient Agroforestry Banana Plantations in East Africa
DPE_015	Development of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy
DPE_016	Reviving Traditional Knowledge

Total, Health of the environment**Health of animals**

DPA_002	“Camels for Drought Areas”
DPA_007	Information System for Diseases and Droughts
DPA_008	Sustainable Rangeland Management in Kenya
DPA_009	Trees for Animal Welfare
DPA_011	Plant and Animal Clinics in Rural Uganda
DPA_012	Silvopastoralism and Welfare of Animals in Ethiopia

Total, Health of animals**Health of humans**

DPH_003	Innovative Disease Prevention for Animals and People
DPH_004	Developing a Mosquito-repellent biofuel product
DPH_005	Promotion of sustainably produced food
DPH_006	Strengthening the Organic Sector and Organic Training in Zanzibar

2023	2022
119 163	245 456
184 739	161 383
12 158	92 931
223 522	119 517
385 862	371 917
194 683	144 445
120 120	107 984
0	77 878
164 527	215 338
130 230	108 299
126 142	108 899
175 262	98 385
24 547	6 714
214 487	178 417
84 006	85 402
2 159 448	2 122 965
102 489	111 216
105 950	96 120
228 504	155 142
173 137	164 374
123 357	97 069
150 382	198 318
161 062	160 358
16 014	175
137 841	79 903
65 717	42 211
67 194	78 442
164 612	46 094
1 496 257	1 229 421
0	69 427
102 832	89 904
279 905	216 293
0	4 814
102 460	93 053
280 140	242 927
765 337	716 419
242 407	308 656
0	3 981
62 429	160 463
105 998	111 495

	2023	2022
DPH_007 Organic Value Chain Project	154 121	132 546
DPH_008 Periurban Market and Business Development in Kenya	101 263	45 112
DPH_010 Harnessing Agroecological Food Systems to Enhance Nutrition, Income, Market Access and Food Security	151 741	0
DPH_011 Piloting an Organic Food System in Kenya	195 543	0
DPH_012 Consumer Engagement for Sustainable Food Systems Transformation	183 367	0
DPH_013 Slow Food Kenya	110 042	0
DPH_014 Sustainable Farming Revolution	93 013	0
DPH_015 An Alliance for Healthy Food	40 547	0
Total, Health of humans	1 440 470	762 253
Dissemination of information		
DPI_001 "TOF Farmer Magazine"	23 561	177 763
DPI_002 "TOF Radio"	7 803	175 588
DPI_003 "Advice in the Field"	8 043	267 615
DPI_004 Farmer Magazine in Swahili	183 040	196 448
DPI_005 Infonet-Biovision	9 540	189 202
DPI_006 BvAT Core-Support	238 873	96 456
DPI_009 The New Agroecology Seminar	42 577	115 486
DPI_012 Interactive Radio for Ecologically Sustainable Agriculture	170 734	194 463
DPI_013 Partner Capacity Building Workshop	74 928	21 184
DPI_014 Feasibility Study for Transdisciplinary Trainings	20 198	25 586
DPI_015 Infonet-GIZ	199 639	205 550
DPI_016 Strengthening Agroecology Hub Governance in Malawi	134 591	13 804
DPI_017 Farmer Communication Programme FCP	610 202	0
Total, Dissemination of information	1 723 728	1 679 146
Project development, advice and support		
DPG Small grants and project development funds	168 739	124 576
PPF_001 Operational Support and Capacity Building BvAT	0	3 672
Total, Project development, advice and support	7 753 979	6 638 452
Political dialogue and advocacy		
PDA_002 More research for agroecology	0	15 361
PDA_003 Agroecology against climate Change	0	232 987
PDA_004 Peer-to-peer exchange among policy-makers	0	162 325
PDA_005 Building Capacity at the Local Government Level	0	101 230
PDA_007 East African Agroecology Accelerator set-up (E3A)	242 959	100 000
PDA_008 Policy for Agroecology (P4A)	1 033 095	842 295
PDA_009 Investing in the Agroecological Business Case iABC	855 425	664 117
PDA_010 Agroecology Coalition support	76 818	87 527
PDA_011 Guidance component in Burkina Faso	30 489	36 422
Total, Political dialogue and advocacy	2 238 786	2 242 263
Programme for Switzerland		
CHC_001 Sustainable Consumption	268 606	236 778
KST_704 Sustainable Consumption in Romandie	182 395	124 371
CHS_001 Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland	579 194	472 588
CHS_002 Sounding Soil	171 216	168 604
KST_707 Sounding Soil in Romandie	48 884	31 639
CHS_003 Transforming Food Systems in Switzerland	192 340	83 902
KST_705 Transforming Food Systems in Switzerland Romandie	19 017	15 569
CHS_004 Pioneers in Building Sustainable Food Systems - Examples from Switzerland	155 953	79 484
CHS_005 The future of food and the Swiss citizen council	253 602	1 067 805
Total, Programme for Switzerland	1 871 207	2 280 741
Awareness-building for sustainability topics		
CHI_000 Raise awareness for sustainability issues	1 236 801	1 134 156
Total, Awareness-building for sustainability topics	1 236 801	1 134 156



Notes to the balance sheet/annual financial statements:

The complete, audited annual financial statements are available on request from our office or can be downloaded at www.biovision.ch/annual-report.

¹ Centimes rounded up or down.

² The reported restricted funds indicate the capital that is earmarked for certain purposes but has not yet been spent.

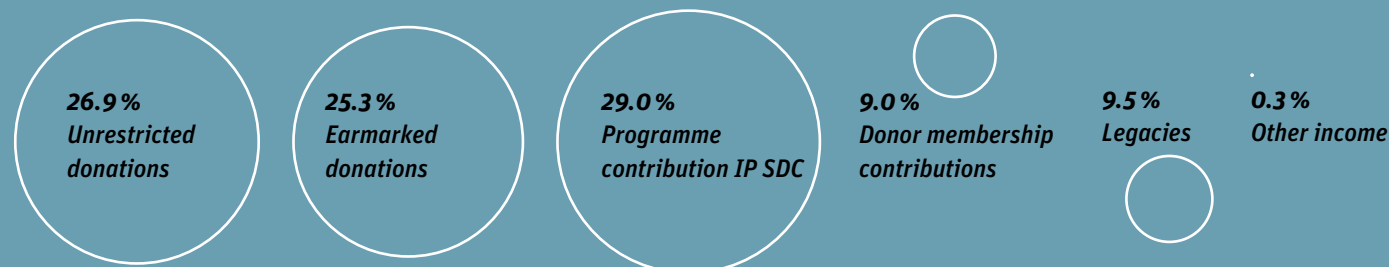
³ Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) transferred a contribution of 600,000 Swiss francs in 2023. The Ikea Foundation transferred a contribution of 950,000 Swiss francs in 2023.

⁴ Biovision used an International Programme (IP) contribution of 4,050,500 Swiss francs from SDC in 2023; 323,635 Swiss francs of this will be used for administration & management.

⁵ Biovision uses the term «member» to denote a donor to the Foundation rather than in the legal sense of an affiliation."

Biovision in figures – 2023

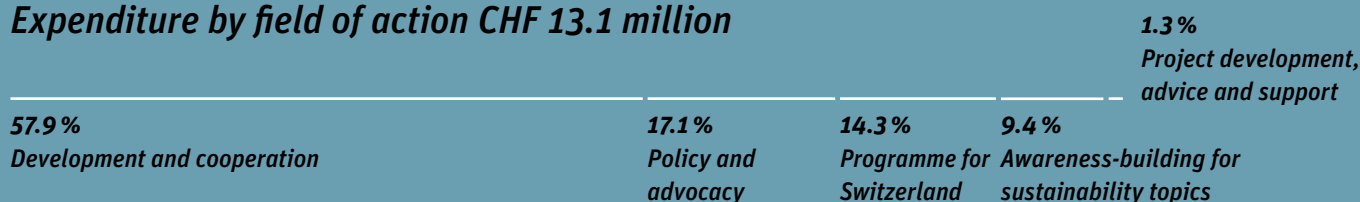
Source of funds CHF 13.9 million



Deployment of funds CHF 16.5 million



Expenditure by field of action CHF 13.1 million



Foundation Board



Dr Hans Rudolf Herren

Founding member, President of the Foundation Board, agronomist/entomologist, winner of the World Food Prize and the Alternative Nobel Prize. Focus on the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies.



Paula Daeppen-Dion

Longstanding UN NGO representative, active in establishing and maintaining international contacts. Involved in numerous charitable organisations with a focus on women's issues.



Dr Barbara Frei Haller

Pharmacist and lecturer in ethnopharmacy at ETH Zurich. Research into malaria prevention in areas including East Africa. Member of the Governing Council of icipe (2017–2022).



Maya Graf

Member of the Council of States for BL (Green party), organic farmer, agricultural and environmental politician, committed to issues including implementing the World Agriculture Report (IAASTD) and ensuring a GMO-free, sustainable agricultural and food industry.



Shruti Patel

Senior lecturer at the Center for Development and Cooperation ETH Zurich (NADEL), specialising in food and nutrition security.



Prof. Dr Christoph Studer

Agronomist specialising in agriculture and the management of natural resources in developing and emerging countries. School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL and Bern University of Applied Sciences.



Mathis Zimmermann

Lawyer specialising in areas including foundation law at the law firm Steinbrüchel Hüssy. Founding member of Biovision.

Executive Board

Dr Frank Eyhorn

Executive Director (until 21.2.2024)

Alexandra Arnold

Head of Finance, HR & Administration

Dario Brühlmann

Head of Communications & Fundraising

Conny Gwerder

Head of Communications (until 17.8.2023)

Sabine Lerch

Head of Programme Switzerland

Stefanie Pondini and Fabio Leippert

Co-Heads of Policy & Advocacy

Loredana Sorg and Martin Schmid

Co-Heads of Development Projects

Partners and networks

In 2023, Biovision invested financial and human resources in 79 projects and collaborated with 100 partners in Switzerland and abroad:

AFSA – Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
Agrarallianz, Switzerland
Agroecology Coalition, Rome
Agroecology Fund
Agroecology Hub Malawi
Agroecology Works!, Switzerland
Agroscope, Switzerland
Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Rome
Alliance Sud, Switzerland
Alpine Botanical Garden Flore-Alpe, Switzerland
Arosa Bear Sanctuary, Switzerland
B Lab, Switzerland
BFH – Bern University of Applied Sciences
Bibliosuisse Association, Switzerland
Biodiversity Conservation Initiative, Malawi
Botanical Garden Neuchâtel, Switzerland
BvAT – Biovision Africa Trust, Nairobi, Kenya
CABI International, Uganda
CAN – Climate Action Network Caritas Austria – Diocese Feldkirch Caritas Meru, Kenya
CDE – Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern
CEAS – Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer, Switzerland
Civil-Society Platform Agenda 2030, Switzerland
Climate Alliance, Switzerland
CNS-FAO – Swiss National FAO Committee
Collaboratio Helvetica, Switzerland
CRDD – Centre for Research and Development in Drylands, Kenya
Der grüne Salon e.V., Germany
Earthlore Foundation, South Africa
ECOSOC – UN Economic and Social Council
ecovia – Landscape, water, education, Switzerland
ETH Zürich
FAO – Scaling up agroecology Initiative
FDFA – Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
FGC – Fédération Genevoise de Coopération, Switzerland
FIBL – Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland
FOAG – Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland
FOEN – Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland

foraus – Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy
FRI – Farm Radio International, Tanzania
FSVO – Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office, Switzerland
GAFF – Global Alliance for the future of Food
Gantrisch Nature Park, Switzerland
Globe Switzerland
HAFL – School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Switzerland
I am Organic, Tanzania
ICE – Institute for Culture and Ecology, Kenya
icipe – International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya and Ethiopia
ICRAF – International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ICRISAT – International Centre for Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics, Tanzania
IFOAM – International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
Ikea-Foundation
ILRI – International Livestock Research Institute Impact Hub Switzerland
IPES-Food – International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems
Kazi Yetu, Tanzania
KOAN – Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
Landwirtschaft mit Zukunft, Switzerland
L'éprouvette – UNIL Sciences and Society Laboratory, Switzerland
LED – Liechtenstein Development Service
LUANAR – Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
McKnight Foundation, USA
MI – Millennium Institute, USA
Museum zwischen Pflug und Korn, Switzerland
Musée valaisan des bisses, Switzerland
Nabo – Swiss Soil Monitoring Network
NGO-Plattform der Schweizer Entwicklungsorganisationen
One Planet Network – Sustainable Food Systems Programme
Parc Ela Association, Switzerland
PELUM Kenya – Participatory Ecological Land-Use Management Kenya
PELUM Uganda – Participatory Ecological Land-Use Management Uganda
ProjectTogether, Germany
PPIZ – Practical Permaculture Institute Zanzibar
Prometra Uganda
Rootical – Uganda

SALT – Society for Alternative Learning and Transformation, Kenya
SAT – Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania scaling4good, Switzerland
SCNAT – Swiss Academy of Sciences
SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDSN – UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SDSN Switzerland – Sustainable Development Solutions Network Switzerland
Sentience Politics, Schweiz
Slow Food Kenya
Slow Food Malawi
Slow Food Uganda
SMG – Swiss Malaria Group
SNYC – Swiss National Youth Council
Soils, Food and Healthy Communities, Malawi
Swiss Mountain Guides Association
Swiss TPH – Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
Tanzania – NGO Roundtable
Tifs – Transformational Investing in Food Systems Initiative, USA
TOAM – Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
University of Basel
University of Lausanne
University of St.Gallen
VSF-Suisse – Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Switzerland
Waldlabor Zurich, Switzerland
World Vegetable Centre
WSL – Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Switzerland
WWF Switzerland
ZHdK – Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland

SDC contribution

Biovision's programme activities are co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).



Thank you very much!

Our commitment to the sustainable transformation of food systems is only possible with institutional partnerships and the generous support of our members and private donors.

For over 26 years, people have been working with Biovision to bring about the transformation of food systems. Our aim is to create a world with enough healthy food for everyone, produced by healthy people in a healthy environment – in Switzerland, in Africa and around the world. Biovision's holistic, knowledge-based approach extends from field to fork and involves putting stakeholders all along the value chain on an equal footing.

Many people share our goal and our approach: not just private donors, members and people who include us in their wills, but also institutions. We were only able to achieve all the great and small successes described in this Annual Report thanks to this wide-ranging financial support.

We are deeply touched by the people who leave us a legacy in their estate. You can find interviews with our donors on this topic on our website at biovision.ch/legacy. We are greatly encouraged by this ongoing faith in our work. Thank you very much! The following organisations have supported our work with particularly generous contributions:

Foundations:

atDta Foundation – helping others to help themselves, Bank Vontobel Charitable Foundation, CHARISMA Stiftung für nachhaltige Entwicklung, Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz, Fondation Alfred et Eugénie Baur, Fondation Audemars Piguet, Fondation Corymbo, Fondation Däster Schild, Fondation Dreiklang für ökologische Forschung und

Bildung, Foundation Drittes Millennium, Foundation Fürstl. Kommerzienrat Guido Feger, Foundation Karl Mayer, Foundation Image & Sens Foundation Leopold Bachmann, Foundation Lord Michelham of Hellingly, Foundation Mercator Switzerland, Foundation Nord-Süd, Foundation Pancivis, Foundation Paul Schiller, Foundation Rütli, Foundation Salud Y Vida, Foundation Sauvain-Petitpierre, Fondation Styner, Foundation Temperatio, Foundation unaterra, Fourfold Foundation, Hans A. Bill Charitable Foundation, IKEA Foundation, Laguna Foundation, Linsi Foundation, Migros Aid Fund, The Helena Charitable Foundation

Public bodies and church communities:

Canton of Aargau, Canton of Zurich, City of Baar, City of Geneva, City of Lancy, City of St. Gallen, City of Zurich, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Evang.-Ref. Parish of Steffisburg, Evang.-Ref. Parish of the canton of St. Gallen, Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), Reformed Church of Wallisellen, Republic and State of Geneva – Services for international solidarity, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)



**Your donation
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www.biovision.ch, facebook.com/biovision
Donations from Switzerland: PC 87-193093-4

Foundation for ecological development
Stiftung für ökologische Entwicklung
Fondation pour un développement écologique

