

ABC initiative – Final Report

Initiative Title	Making the Case for Ecological Agriculture
Lead Organisation	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement on behalf of Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
Partners	Greenpeace Africa, African Centre for Biosafety (South Africa), Environmental Rights Action / Friends of the Earth Nigeria, COMPAS Ghana.
Contact	Michael Farrelly, Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement mrfarrelly@gmail.com

Context

This project emerged from an Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) strategy development workshop in Ethiopia 12-16 August, bringing together Food Sovereignty alliances from across Africa, and attended by Dr Vandana Shiva. AFSA was formed around two years ago as a continental food sovereignty advocacy organisation.

Goals

The project goal was to gather, develop and disseminate a knowledge system of best practice / case studies in ecological agriculture.

Main activities

- Gather case studies of good practice from abc and AFSA member organisations across Africa
- Collate and host the information
- Disseminate the information to a wide range of stakeholders in appropriate ways

Deliverables	Achievements
Case study database	Database of case studies created within the AFSA website at http://afsafrika.org/case-studies/ Currently nine case studies are online 1000 copies of case studies have been printed
Dissemination of results	Held a major launch event – with Dr. Vandana Shiva, and the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, and a public dialogue on Agroecology in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 12 June 2014. Distributed 200 packs of case studies to launch participants. Delivered a presentation of the project to AFSA annual strategy meeting in Lome, Togo, 18 July 2014. Distributed 30 packs of case studies to leaders of African regional farmers networks. Planned a process of distribution of 700 packs of case studies to AFSA members throughout Africa by DHL.
Sharing of results with the abc	Shared the launch press release and case study website links with the abc community on 12 June 2014.

community	Planning to take packs of case studies to share with abc community members in Buxtel, 2-4 October 2014.
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The Case Studies

- Shashe agro-ecology school for farmer-to-farmer training, Zimbabwe (ZIMSOF)
- Community-led approach sustains livelihood improvement in Kotoba, Ethiopia (Send a Cow)
- Orange-fleshed sweet potato brings health and livelihood to Pelungu, Ghana (TRAX)
- African leafy vegetable enterprise boosts livelihood of rural communities in Kenya (Busia Environmental Management Program)
- Sand dams bring water and food security to Southeast Kenya (Excellent Development)
- Agroecology for home and market: A winning combination for rural communities in Mashonaland East, Zimbabwe (GardenAfrica)
- Securing the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Ethiopia (Compassion in World Farming)
- Ending the 'hungry season' in Malawi (Never Ending Food)
- Organic and soil fertility practices bring food and livelihood security to farmers in Central Kenya (Grow Intensive)

Key findings from the case studies

- Substantial income increases
- Higher yields and productivity
- Improved soil fertility
- Drought resistant varieties increase yield
- Organic markets increase incomes
- Increased crop diversity lowers risk, increases resilience
- Seed banks provide security in the event of crop failure
- Integration of livestock and agroforestry provides multiple benefits
- Use of diverse local varieties of food crops improves nutrition, health and food security
- Intercropping, and rotation improve soil fertility, and reduce dependence on external inputs
- Organic fertilizers and composting improves soil fertility
- Natural pest control methods are effective and improve health
- Rainwater harvesting ensures water security, and provides crops during dry season
- Community-led approaches that focus on knowledge sharing are effective
- Farmers' groups play important role in spreading agroecological practices farmer-to-farmer
- Enhanced social capacity and leadership
- Farmers are innovators with a wealth of traditional knowledge
- Focusing on rural women and youth brings results

CONCLUSIONS

- Agroecology works to ensure food and livelihood security
- Community-based approaches work best
- Much potential for upscaling and mainstreaming

- Challenges remain in terms of resources, capacity, awareness, access to markets and policy coherence

* See attached PDF of a PowerPoint presentation for more details of the project, the case studies and the findings.

Next steps (short term)

The project has secured another 6 months of funding from World Development Movement

- Edit, design and print remaining incoming case studies
- Identify and commission more case studies from more countries including Francophone West Africa, possible translations English / French.
- Support case study provider organisations to gather case studies - with transport, accommodation, photography costs etc.
- Disseminate the case studies using printed fact sheets, and website.

Outputs anticipated

- 10 new case studies gathered, edited, designed, printed and uploaded to the AFSA website.
- 10 existing case studies translated, redesigned and uploaded.

Next steps (longer term)

AFSA has developed a proposal for 3 years funding to build on this work, engaging four regional networks to lead on Making the Case in West, Central, East and Southern Africa. This will include more case study development and analysis, and farmer led agroecology events in each region.

We are building relationships with other actors around the world with similar aspirations.

Positioning of the initiative in relation to abc goals and strategies

How did this initiative contribute to breaking through the barriers that limit the scaling up, institutional embedding and horizontal extension of agricultural biodiversity based, resilient food systems?

It has contributed to the break down of a significant barrier to the scaling up of agricultural biodiversity, namely the widely held belief by the supporters of industrial agriculture that ecological approaches are marginal, low productivity, and out of date. The studies show the benefits in terms of improved food security, improved nutrition, improved incomes, and reductions in GHGs, promoting democracy, health and justice, while respecting cultural values, and indigenous knowledge.

The knowledge dissemination will target farmers, local communities, African policy makers & decision-makers at central, regional and local levels, academics, researchers, agricultural workers' unions, farmers' unions, the media, consumers and consumer rights organisations, schools, and international, bilateral, and multilateral funders of agricultural development.

Which of the five abc themes (markets and trade; seeds, breeds and technology; information networks; policy and governance; resilient communities) or combination thereof, forms the entry point for this initiative?

This initiative has developed an Africa wide information network, addressing policy and governance, showcasing resilient communities approaches to food sovereignty.

How would other abc members benefit from this initiative?

ABC members will gain access to a wealth of advocacy materials, strengthening their ability to promote the cause of agricultural biodiversity. Many ABC members are already members of AFSA's regional alliances which include La Via Campesina, COPAGEN, PROPAC, PELUM, ESAFF, African Biodiversity Network, Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity. They will also gain access to a knowledge platform upon which to showcase their projects and activities, and resources to assist in the research and preparation of case studies.

What do you need from other abc members (e.g. input, feedback, collaboration, joint fundraising)?

Abc members are encouraged to participate and share their experiences of ecological agriculture and agricultural biodiversity in Africa, providing input in terms of case study material, and dissemination media.

Does the initiative have a knowledge component? If so;

How does it add evidence or insight to the debate on agricultural biodiversity, change and transformation in agricultural systems towards agricultural biodiversity based, resilient food systems?

By reframing the debate in terms of not just yield increases (the preoccupation of the industrial model) but also nutrition, cost benefit, climate change resilience, environmental sustainability, democracy, governance, health and food sovereignty.

Does it have integrative, innovative, or synthesis qualities, or address a specific knowledge gap?

Integrative in that it is located within an Africa wide alliance, innovative in the media of dissemination.

Why is this knowledge needed, what is the added value?

This knowledge is needed to demonstrate to the international community, policy makers, farmers and the public that there are viable, sustainable, and healthy solutions to food insecurity and poverty in Africa.

Issues

The original budget was revised as some of the activities were funded or contributed by other partners. This revision was communicated to HIVOS and agreed. The revision was as follows.

	Activity	Original Budget €	Notes
1.	Coordination Person	5,000	As planned
2.	Database design and inputting Becomes Contribution to launch event costs	2,000	Originally planned as a piece of software behind the website, but AFSA web management will cover this aspect at their own cost.
3.	Support for local NGOs / farmer groups to gather case study material	5,000	As planned
4.	Website development Becomes Launch Event in Dar es Salaam	4,000	Website is constructed by AFSA at their own cost.
5.	Dissemination planning Becomes Printing, and promotion at launch event	3,000	Case studies are being edited by TWN, and designed by Greenpeace. Both at their own cost.
6.	Institutional overheads	1,000	As planned
	TOTAL	20,000	

Financial report

See also attached spreadsheet and signed pdf.

SUMMARY OF
BUDGET

		Date: 20/8/2014			
Name of applicant organisation Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement		Country Tanzania			
Programme/Project title Making the case					
Representative of the organization Jordan Gama		Email: toam@kilimohai.org			
Cost during the period: cost items in Tanzanian Shillings (TSHS)	Budget	Actual 30/06/2014	Variance	Notes	
Output 1. Coordination Person	10,500,000.00	11,796,750.00	(1,296,750.00)		
Output 2. Contribution to launch event costs	4,200,000.00	4,200,000.00	-		
Output 3. Support for local NGOs / farmer groups to gather case study material	10,500,000.00	4,144,400.00	6,355,600.00		
Output 4. Launch Event in Dar es Salaam	8,400,000.00	9,891,930.00	(1,491,930.00)		
Output 5. Printing, and promotion at launch event	6,300,000.00	9,440,000.00	(3,140,000.00)		
Output 6. Institutional Overhead	2,100,000.00	2,400,000.00	(300,000.00)		
Total project/programme cost in Tanzanian Shs	42,000,000	41,873,080.00	126,920.00		
Income* :					
Amount of funding received by HIVOS in 2013 In EUR	20,000	12,000	8,000.00		
Balance from previous year's grant	0	0	-		
Estimated total income 2013 in Tanzanian Shs at rate Tshs 2100/1 Eur	42,000,000	25,200,000	16,800,000.00		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the period		(16,673,080.00)			