

Investing in the Agroecological Business Case (2022-2024)

The Goal

Catalyze the uptake of agroecology to transform food systems through capital, knowledge and networks for agroecological enterprises in East Africa and beyond.

Outcome 1:

Donors and investors have increased suitable finance for agroecological enterprises.

Outcome 2:

Agroecological enterprises are brought to scale through increased availability of suitable capital and capacity building.

The Problem

Agroecological enterprises (AEEs) are key in supporting the agroecological transformation. However, **AEEs are chronically underfunded**, as most financial vehicles, investors and donors traditionally finance enterprises practicing conventional agriculture, focusing almost exclusively on indicators of productivity and revenue growth. For AEEs to be able to thrive, they need **access to more suitable sources of finance and knowledge**, as well as a more enabling environment.

Why Agroecological Enterprises?

AEEs operate in line with the 13 principles of Agroecology, **regenerating instead of degrading** soils, biodiversity, climate, water and health.

They also contribute to:

- Local economies
- Local & healthy diets
- Territorial markets
- Resilience and sustainability





Programm Activities

Information and Evidence

The **Agroecology Check for Enterprises (ACE)** is designed to quickly identify and assess an enterprise's alignment with the principles of agroecology.

The **Business Agroecological Criteria Tool (B-ACT)** provides a more thorough screening of enterprises, and is aimed at entrepreneurs, financiers and donors.

The **Agroecology Investment Guide** synthesizes evidence on the importance and potential of AEEs.

We use insights from the programme and tools to **champion AEEs and their stories** to inspire decision makers and to identify replicable **agroecological business success factors**.

Facilitate Connections

We facilitate **Peer-to-Peer Learning** exchanges among AEEs and **matchmaking** between AEEs and donors and investors in East Africa and beyond. We aim to build a community of AEEs to use synergies and facilitate capacity-building, in close collaboration with stakeholder networks.

Trigger Action

The **Agroecology Accelerator and Fund Neycha** was launched in 2023 in collaboration with our local partner Shona, to provide capacity, capital and connections to AEEs in Kenya and Uganda.

We advocate for an **enabling environment** with better policy, regulatory and institutional conditions for AEEs by supporting and collaborating with Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs).

We identify and assess **innovative funding solutions for agroecology** and advocate for decision makers to integrate agroecological principles into their ESG criteria and, by extension, funding decisions.

www.agroecology-pool.org

agroecology@biovision.ch

