

SWISSAID

SPIEGEL

No. 3 / June 2016

AZB 3000 Bern
www.swissaid.ch

Thank you for your generous help:
Change tomorrow today

2015 Annual Report





Dear reader

It takes a shared vision. The United Nations adopted the millennium goals in 2000. At the time, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon declared that “we will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from hunger and extreme poverty”.

The millennium goals sent out a powerful message. Hundreds of millions of people have been freed from extreme poverty and hunger, and sanitary conditions have been improved. Since 2000, more girls than ever before have been able to attend school, which is a move towards equality.

Anyone seeking progress needs a strong will, stamina and clear aspirations. Last year, 193 countries adopted a new, shared vision. This time, there were 17 sustainability goals: in addition to tackling hunger and poverty, they were also demanding good governance, climate protection and clean energy.

Switzerland was at the forefront of the discussions. It can also make a contribution, for example, to goal 12, calling for sustainable consumption and production patterns. Or to goal 17, responsibility based on a global partnership.

However, the Finance Commission of the National Council is out of step with that in seeking to lower the development aid contribution from 0.5 to 0.3% of gross national income. If you deduct refugee aid, which is processed through the same budget, it quickly becomes apparent that words cost nothing, deeds do.

One expert pointed out that the sustainability goals are a “declaration of dependence”. It is also a question of our own future. After all, global problems can only be resolved collectively. Whether it be hunger, global warming or tax avoidance, it is all interrelated. Therefore, anyone hoping to find solutions should not hold back.

SWISSAID does what it can: We help by focusing attention on food security. Progress is playing its part too. For example, by switching water pumps over to solar power. Or by helping peasant farmers to market their own fruit, with organic labels.

You can help too. Every franc donated can make a difference, in our hearts and in the lives of people living in poverty in the southern hemisphere.

Thank you

Rudolf Rechsteiner, economist, SWISSAID President

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Cover picture:

59-year old Xai Naw is proud to show off two of her 50 hens in her farm in her village close to Myiktyina, Myanmar. This local breed of hens commands a significantly higher price on the market than hens that are bred for the mass market.

Photo: Lorenz Kummer, SWISSAID

Credits

SWISSAID

Published by: SWISSAID, Swiss Foundation for Development Cooperation
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Editorial office: Pia Wildberger

Picture editorials: Eliane Baumgartner

Concept, layout and pre-press: Brandl & Schärer AG, Olten

Print: Stämpfli AG, Bern. Printed on FSC paper.

SWISSAID-Spiegel appears at least four times a year. Five francs is deducted from donations as a contribution towards subscriptions so that the Post Office gives us the benefit of the favourable newspaper tariff.

gedruckt in der
schweiz



Donations account: PC 30-303-5
 IBAN: CH20 0900 0000 3000 0303 5
 BIC/SWIFT: POFICHBEXXX

SWISSAID bears the ZEWO seal of quality for charitable institutions. It stands for the altruistic and earmarked use of donations.



Caroline Morel,
Managing Director

Tackling poverty and climate protection go hand in hand

Poverty cannot be tackled sustainably without also protecting our climate. There are solutions available.

Poor people, in particular farmers, are most hard hit by climate change because periods of drought or flooding threaten their very existence. This fact needs to be taken into consideration in tackling poverty and hunger. Agro-ecological farming, which is promoted by SWISSAID in many projects, offers a successful strategy for tackling poverty, as well as for protecting against the caprices of the weather.

Planting trees prevents the soil from drying out, organic fertiliser contributes towards soil fertility, and natural cycles are used to boost production. Peasant farming families can improve their own nutrition, on the one hand, and generate additional income, on the other hand, by growing various crops (see also pages 18/19).

As ecological farming practices boost resistance to climate change and reduce CO₂ emissions, we ran a campaign ahead of the climate conference in Paris to raise awareness about the benefits of agro-ecology. Prominent musicians and comedians like Bubi Eifach, the Schneuwly and Yoann Provenzano used short videos to explain how the Aletsch Glacier could be saved by an organic farmer from Nicaragua. We outlined facts about the situation on the website www.alsowiejetzt.ch.

Agro-ecology in discussion

In June, we talked about the benefits of the agro-ecology at public events. We were given the opportunity to welcome one of the founding figures of agro-ecology, Miguel Altieri, and the Chairman of the Tanzanian Organic Agriculture Movement, Jordan Gama, to the universities of Bern and Neuchâtel as high-profile visitors. The great public interest and the lively discussions



held with a representative from Syngenta provoked controversy and showed just how much importance we attach to the production of food.

Change tomorrow today

Farmers' organisations and women's groups play an important part in the change to ecological farming and to marketing produce accordingly because they are a platform for sharing experiences and exchanging expertise. The farmers are strong together, they can assert their own rights when dealing with the authorities and they can secure title deeds to their land, for instance. These are examples of the sort of sustainable changes that we are trying to achieve through our joint work. Our new "Change tomorrow today" campaign is designed to raise awareness about this key principle of our work.

2016: Wake-up call in the fight against hunger and poverty

Sustainable rural development in some of the most impoverished regions of the world is a huge task which we will once again be tackling

Heated discussion in front of a full house (from left to right): Jordan Gama (Toam), Regina Ammann (Syngenta), Eva Reinhard (Federal Department of Agriculture) and Miguel Altieri.

this year. However, it also requires state programmes which are implemented through the different administrative authorities and which have access to completely different funding.

This development cooperation, which has a long-term focus, is coming under increasing pressure from the Federal Council and Parliament. The budget for development aid looks set to be particularly hard hit by austerity measures. Given the increase in refugees, it is intolerable that the preventative work being done on the ground and the efforts being made to give young people in developing countries better prospects should fall prey to the red pen. Together with the other organisations that back Alliance Sud, SWISSAID will take a firm stance this year to campaign against cuts and to foster solidarity throughout Switzerland.

Despite everything, the sharpeners were fabulous

Some 20,000 schoolchildren did their bit for SWISSAID last year and snapped up around 160,000 coloured sharpeners shaped like animals. They had been carved, turned, painted and packaged by hand by woodworkers in India under fair trade terms. By doing this, the children made an active contribution towards tackling inequality, hunger and poverty in the southern hemisphere as the proceeds went into

self-help projects supported by SWISSAID. We would like to say a huge thank you to the children for this!

Not least of all, because the campaign this year proved to be more difficult than it had otherwise been. We had quality issues for the first time in the 68-year history of the sales of these emblems, which led to a slight drop in the money raised to around 900,000 francs. We

have taken steps on the ground to ensure that the next range of emblems, funny hand-carved pens, will be produced to their usual excellent standard once again by dedicated craft workers in India.

We would like to say a special thank you to all those teachers who kept plugging away despite the unusual difficulties. *PW*



Gathering signatures at the Paléo Festival

Around 40 volunteers manned the SWISSAID stand at the Paléo Festival in Nyon, making festival visitors aware of the run on commodities from Myanmar (Burma). The ruthless exploiters from all over the world set their sights on timber, copper, zinc and jade, fleecing the local population and making (environmental) damage and loss commonplace. We held fun cycle races on the stand where visitors could compete

in the commodities race, either for the farmers or for international corporations. Over 2,000 took to pedal power, supported by volunteers, workers or Swiss national councillors like Carlo Sommaruga, who bolstered the team in Nyon as a member of the SWISSAID committee.

In addition, many of the visitors signed the Corporation Responsibility Initiative for which SWISSAID, as a member of the initiative committee, gathered signatures in front of the gates of the festival. The initiative is calling upon Swiss-based multinationals to respect the environment and human rights in other countries as well. The committee managed to gather the 100,000 signatures required by April 2016. *CMO*



Controversial trade in commodities

Progress is slow in the battle for greater transparency in the trade in commodities. The Federal Council is aiming to adopt EU statutory regulations on the disclosure of streams of finance but not include the trade in commodities, even though trading corporations dominate the Swiss commodities sector. SWISSAID voiced criticism of this in its comment on the revised version of the Companies Act, which will go before Parliament this year and at a panel discussion during the meeting of the board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which was held in Bern for the first time in October 2015, as well as at a subsequent panel discussion in Geneva.

In addition, SWISSAID put forward a comprehensive proposal for transparent commodities trading in a policy document written with partner organisations. A working group in which SWISSAID is also involved was formed within the EITI following the board meeting in Bern. It will seek to finalise the EITI regulations on trading in commodities, draw up guidelines for their implementation, as well as start further pilot projects for transparency in commodities trading, as SWISSAID and its partners had proposed.

Lorenz Kummer

New mobile website

We are proud to report that since the start of 2015 users have also been able to access our website by mobile phone to find out about the things we do here at SWISSAID, get involved or make a donation. Thank you for your interest!



Photos: SWISSAID archive

Apolinar Sánchez Zamora
from the village of Guadalupe
(San Ramón, Matagalpa).



What the farmer Apolinar knows even amazes professors

Thanks to cooperation between farming families and a university, traditional knowledge can be documented in Nicaragua, making it suitable for use in teaching and research.

The farmer Apolinar Sánchez Zamora stands proudly in the middle of his trials field, on which four different types of beans are grown. Local farmers have been growing three of the varieties for generations. "The fourth is a modern variety which can be bought at the market",

Nicaragua in figures

HONDURAS	
Rancho Grande	■ Waslala
Jinotega	■ Matagalpa
Terrabona	■ Matiguas
San Dionisio	
Managua	
Rivas	
PAZIFIK	KARIBIK
COSTA RICA	
Current projects at the end of 2015	28
Approved projects in 2015	16
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,517,628
People benefiting directly	73,000

explains Apolinar. "I measure rainfall levels and temperature everyday and test every single plant."

Scientifically based data about agro-ecology

Apolinar's handwriting is poor. Therefore, his adult son transcribes his observations onto an evaluation sheet which has been prepared by the Nicaraguan University of Agriculture. In addition, students regularly visit the trials field to help with the data collection. The information about germination and blossom time, resistances, growth, infestations and harvest yield help to classify the varieties of beans by resistance capability. The pivotal factors are dryness, moisture, diseases and pests. However, yield, taste and storage capability are also taken into consideration.

The field research, which is supported by two professors, is carried out on around 80 trials fields in different climatic zones with over 30 local varieties of beans. Around 100 specially trained farmers voluntarily make a portion of their land and their manpower available. They all apply the same agro-ecological farming techniques so as not to produce rogue results from the study. The evaluation of the scientific data is intended to clarify which varieties are best suited for growing, depending on the climatic and ecological conditions. Thanks to these findings, the farming families can boost their yields in the most important staple foodstuffs in Nicaragua significantly. What's more important, they are affected less by the caprices of the weather, which have become exacerbated in recent years as a result of climate change.

Through the collaboration, the National University of Agriculture can offer its students an opportunity to put the skills they have learned to the test in practice. Both the students and professors are repeatedly amazed to find that it is not them, who are the real experts, it is the farmers.

... still it moves [the earth]

Apolinar points at a particular variety of bean on his field, which has already been in blossom for 25 days and which can, therefore, be harvested much earlier. Thanks to the short cycle, these beans are a reliable asset even during short periods of rainfall, which is a decisive advantage at times when the natural climatic phenomenon El Niño leads to unusually long periods of dryness. With a mischievous smile, Apolinar observes that "specialists from the University of Agriculture felt that a cycle as short as this was impossible until they discovered in my field that I am right".

*Daniel Ott Fröhlicher,
Programme Manager for Nicaragua*

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



100 francs

This donation would pay to finance the likes of the following data collection resources in **Nicaragua**: thermometer, hygrometer, rain gauge beaker, coloured cordon tape, magnifying glass, ruler, tweezers, etc. The travel and upkeep for 5 students to collect data from four trials fields in a remote village cost 37 francs. 400 francs will enable 8 farmers to attend a one-day workshop on setting up and managing a trials field, as well as the correct collection of the data.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.

Agro-ecology: a niche product goes mainstream

Ecuadorian provinces have recently declared themselves to be an “agro-ecological territory” and are calling for environmentally sound growing techniques to be adopted. SWISSAID has had a hand in that.

The Ecuadorian constitution and legislation, which prescribe the right to food sovereignty, are progressive. However, implementation comes up short, as the peasant farmers of the Tungurahua region have repeatedly discovered. But constant dripping wears away the stone, and they achieved their goal at the end of 2015. The authorities in the province of Tungurahua, as well as in the two cantons of Patate and Pelileo officially decreed that their region would be an “agro-ecological territory”.

Government agencies are now being called upon to bring in legislation to promote agro-ecology (see pages 18/19), the marketing of agro-ecological products, initial and further training, as well as advice for peasant farmers. This also involves the necessary financial resources, which have to be discussed.

This marks a significant success for agro-ecological pioneers such as Francisca Masaquiza. The peasant farmer from the village of Patulo has been campaigning for the introduction of environmentally sound growing techniques at regional level since 2005. She

Ecuador in figures

Current projects at the end of 2015	10
Approved projects in 2015	6
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,421,936
People benefiting directly	10,700



Selling the idea to the wider public: Francisca Masaquiza happily takes up the story.

was convinced right from the very start that it would take more than just her village discontinuing the use of pesticides and fertilisers. After all, the damage caused by conventional farming does not stop at the outer limits of the village.

It takes stamina

But first things first. Groups of peasant farmers came together back in 2001 to launch joint campaigns. They organised the very first farming show for agro-ecology in the region. One of their primary concerns has always been to inform consumers about the importance of healthy and varied nutrition.

It has taken a great deal of persuasion and stamina to convince political decision-makers of the ideas behind agro-ecology. However, since the early days stands with organic produce have become an established fixture at the markets in the towns. Hundreds of peasant farmers now sell their agro-ecological produce at twelve weekly markets. They each achieve average earnings of 60 US dollars.

The sales stands and information campaigns led to greater transparency in the produce and a more receptive response by the public. Consumer interest in food, which has been produced through environmentally friendly practices, has also risen over the years. Around

1,000 peasant farmers currently produce on an agro-ecological basis.

The provincial government of Tungurahua is now supporting the training of peasant farmers, as well as enabling 500 farms to switch to becoming agro-ecologically producing “Biogranjas”. Promoting certification of the farms is the next step – this will be a joint initiative between the governmental agencies, SWISSAID and the partner organisations.

*Petra Engelhard,
Programme Manager for Ecuador*

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

50 Swiss francs

This donation would pay to finance teaching materials explaining agro-ecological growing techniques to 5 peasant farming families in Ecuador.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.



Water for everyone

Colombia can achieve peace if there is greater fairness in the distribution of land and water. That is why SWISSAID supports entire communities in defending their right of access to this invaluable resource.



If everything goes well, Colombia will find itself at a historic crossroads. The government and the guerrilla movement FARC are to sign a peace agreement this year. It has awakened many hopes after more than 50 years of conflict. However, the challenges are immense. To enable the peace to succeed, it is imperative that the local population gains secure and fair access to natural resources like land and water.

Therefore, SWISSAID helps to support local populations in six Andean villages (municipios) in the Department of Antioquia to assert their rights to water as well as to obtain lasting

protection for the springs through its "Common Use of Water" programme. Let's face it, the situation is critical. Water concessions are promised on a priority basis to gold mine operators, cattle ranchers and the agricultural industry, while the local population has to make do with increasingly less water, which is frequently contaminated to boot.

Successful lobbying

This prompted SWISSAID to lend its support to the formation of a regional organisation which represents around 4,000 members and which consists of men and women representing 12 grassroots organisations. The project is coordinated by the Colombian non-governmental organisation Conciudadanía. Last year, the representatives concentrated on collaboration with local politicians in an effort to ensure that the strategic issue of access to water was incorporated into the development plans for the local communities.

The chances are good that the lobbying will bear fruit. The grassroots organisations are currently campaigning for water rights with the regional environmental agency Corantioquia. This will ensure that they can use the springs in future. They have already achieved this with 13 springs, from which 80 families benefit.

Co-funding through a Colombian foundation

The men and women also attend courses where they learn to protect springs, test water quality and maintain the water supply. In addition, they also received the welcome news recently that

How good is this invaluable resource? Water analyses provide an insight.

the Colombian foundation Aurelio Llano Posada is set to contribute 30,000 francs towards the construction of water supply installations, just as it has done in other projects.

Good networking with a wide range of agencies, such as in this project, is vital for ensuring that the communities manage to access their rights and remain in their indigenous region.

*Sabina Schmid,
Programme Manager for Colombia*

www.conciudadania.org

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



100 francs

This donation would enable a community to legalise a water source in **Colombia**, for example: the community gains the official usage rights. Tapping a new spring costs 150 francs.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.

Colombia in figures



Current projects at the end of 2015	22
Approved projects in 2015	11
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,128,810
People benefiting directly	11,100

Vegetables thanks to their pig

New ideas take time and pioneers to take those first steps. In Myanmar (Burma), a first cohort of “pilot farmers” has demonstrated that the switchover to agro-ecological growing techniques can succeed.

Over the past two years, the SWISSAID office in Myanmar has stepped up its activities in organic farming. We launched various forward-looking projects and created learning forums which enabled farmers and partner organisations to share their experience and knowledge.

People like the farmer Ma Win Chit from Kyang Shai Kyin, a village in Shan State in the east of the country. She is one of around 20 participants who demonstrated during a pilot project that they can adequately produce

fertiliser for their own vegetable gardens through better pig-husbandry.

Ma Win Chit has managed to establish a small pig-breeding operation using her savings and a loan from a women's credit group. She did this originally as a way of generating an income. With the switchover to agro-ecological farming in mind (see pages 18/19), SWISSAID gave the pilot farmers financial support in late 2014 to build a pigsty according to the Doktschin method.

This approach entails covering the pit of the pigsty with straw, cow dung and rice husks. The pig does its business on that. After half a year, the organic floor covering of the pigsty is transferred to the vegetable garden as compost. The advantage of this method is that thanks to the straw and rice husks, she now has more organic fertiliser at her disposal. Farmers who do not grow any rice have to resort to a different organic material.

Ma Win Chit's vegetable garden is almost 1400 square metres in size. Her two pigs produce sufficient dung to fertilise the garden; there is no need to add any chemical fertiliser or cow dung. She grows a variety of crops in her garden, such as beans, chillis, bananas, sugar canes, pumpkin, avocado, ginger and chive-like garlic.

Impeccable organic aubergines for the market

She is especially proud of her aubergines which she also grows to sell. “You can't tell from their appearance that they have been grown organically”, she says. The fruit looks every bit as attractive and large as any that are grown with chemical fertiliser. Ma Win Chit has managed to maintain her yield with the pig fertiliser. In addition, she discovered that the Doktschin compost keeps the soil moist.

The example of Ma Win Chit shows that pig breeding and vegetable growing complement each other perfectly and offer great promise as



Happy in the sty:
Ma Win Chit cares for her two piglets.

an agro-ecological practice. Now that the pilot projects have been evaluated, it is a question of applying the agro-ecological practices systematically and rolling them out. Ma Win Chit could play an important role in the participative research and in giving agricultural advice from the perspective of women in farming.

*Sarah Mader,
Programme Manager for Myanmar*

Myanmar in figures



Current projects at the end of 2015	17
Approved projects in 2015	8
Funds disbursed (CHF)	937,758
People benefiting directly	11,100

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

60 francs

This donation will buy a piglet which will fertilise the garden with its dung, keeping the ground nice and moist.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.



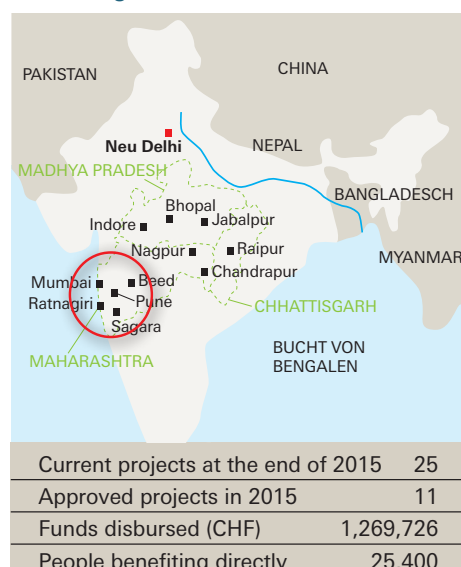
Access to food all year round

The indigenous people are very disadvantaged in India. Thanks to organic growing techniques, at least SWISSAID's partners no longer have to go hungry.

Famine and malnutrition are a constant scourge for the indigenous people of central India. The Gond, Baiga, Govari, Kanwar and other indigenous peoples live from farming, rearing livestock, migratory labour and from what they can gather in the woods, as well as from state food aid. The Advasi grow rice, corn and lentils in the fields, but barely any vegetables. It is not surprising to learn that the harvest is not sufficient to ensure that families have a balanced diet all year round.

The indigenous people have been unable to pursue their ancestral way of life as hunter-gatherers for decades. Food is scarce on the forest floors, fauna and flora is diminished by the unilateral use of timber by state forestry enterprises. The authorities even frequently go as far as to prevent the communities from gathering roots, leaves and medicinal plants.

India in figures



Better growing techniques: Farmer Matibai and her husband have recently made the successful switch to SRI. Seen here in front of their field.

A law was passed in 2006 which enables the communities to apply to make use of the woodland, running the gauntlet through the maze of administration. Nonetheless, our partner organisations have secured rights to use the woodland in 92 villages since then. But for all that, it takes more than this to ensure the families have food to eat and get by all year round.

What is to be done? Firstly, the partner organisations consolidate the village authorities. They ensure that the families can assert their entitlement to the 100 guaranteed and paid workdays every year, as provided under the state job-creation programme for indigenous people. Secondly, this work should be used to improve the fields, to ensure conservation of the soil and water, as well as to build fishponds.

Less water, more vegetables – thanks to a new irrigation technique

However, the focus of the projects is on improved agricultural production employing a variety of agro-ecological methods. For example, an improved rice growing method (SRI) was introduced first of all. While this involves greater expenditure, yields have increased by 40 to 50 per cent, while up to 70 per cent less seeds are required, at the same time.

Thanks to a number of agro-ecological growing practices, the indigenous peoples can

have the benefit of eating vegetables much more often nowadays. Through the introduction of the very water-efficient practice of pitcher pot irrigation and compost fertilisation, over 500 families can harvest vegetables for two months longer every year. "I can now even grow vegetables outside the rainy season", explains Hiru, one of the women from the Baiga group. And the best thing is there is not only enough production to feed the family. "I can even sell a bit at the market."

*Petra Engelhard,
Programme Manager for India*

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



90 francs

With this donation, you can enable a family in India, for example, to buy fruit tree seedlings, as well as to create a vegetable garden with a fence, seeds and water-efficient pitcher pot irrigation system.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.



Successful women farmers: "The organic vegetables are always the first to sell at the market."

How does the harvest reach the market?

Not all farmers have natural business acumen. They attend marketing groups where they learn how to sell their products and achieve greater profits.

The peasant farming families who have benefited from aid by SWISSAID know how to bring in a good harvest without chemical fertilisers and pesticides – thanks to better seeds, fertile soil and organic growing methods. However, the trust that exists between them, formed in the hours spent toiling together in the field, is every bit as important. Trust is also vital

Tanzania in figures

Current projects at the end of 2015	9
Approved projects in 2015	7
Funds disbursed (CHF)	690,477
People benefiting directly	5400

if farmers are to come together to form marketing groups.

The Tanzanian women who buy their produce appreciate organically produced vegetables. Organic farmer Hawa reports that, "The organic vegetables are always the first to sell, even here in the village. Our neighbours only manage to sell their chemically treated goods when there is no organic produce left".

The organic farmers now want to sell their produce at the market in the town as they can achieve higher prices there. However, they have to contend with poor quality roads, and it is not worth getting a truck to transport a single farmer's harvest. If the peasant farmers want to sell their produce at a profit and negotiate harder over the price, they have to work together in the villages.

Added value rests with the farmer

That is the message that Jane Albert Marwa from SWISSAID's partner organisation TOAM passes on to the men and women who farm the land. She teaches them marketing skills and shows them how to get organised. She knows that "four fifths of all farmers sell their harvest without any added value". However, considerable added value can be achieved by taking simple steps to create value, such as storage, sorting by size or quality, pre-packing, transport to the market or to the wholesaler.

This mindset is alien to many farmers. After all, not all farmers necessarily have good business acumen. Bookkeeping, production figures, price comparisons, business relations – that is not always their thing. However, there are always two or three people in any group who have a flair for trading and haggling. They

form a marketing group with like-minded people from other villages.

44 marketing groups have been created over the past few months. They obtain the market prices and harvest forecasts and negotiate with traders and carriers. More courageous groups have even hired a truck or combined their sunflower harvest in order to market the oil extracted from that together. Individual groups also put aside savings in order to build a storage shed together.

A solid business relationship develops between the traders and the marketing groups over time. And good experiences help to nurture trust, which creates further scope for manoeuvre, and also allows the farmers to dream. Halifa Kimbawala, who runs one of the marketing groups, says that "perhaps the trader will also give us a favourable loan some time or even advance the funding to buy an oil press".

*Frank Haupt,
Programme Manager for Tanzania*

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



125 Swiss francs

This donation will pay for a peasant farmer to attend a 5-day course in marketing in Tanzania.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.

Double the profit, without any risk

The peasant farmers in Niger often have to sell their harvest straight from the field below price. However, thanks to the warrantage credit system, green shoots are breaking through.

This may sound like a fairytale increase, but it is based on a respectable system known as "warrantage". The prices of millet and other staples are at their lowest shortly after the harvest between October and December. Therefore, the farmers place part of their harvest in a store operated by the village cooperative, and in return, they receive a loan for 80 per cent of the value, which they use to generate profit. Six months later, when supplies are running short and market prices have risen, they sell their produce for a handsome profit and pay off their loans. Or they may use their harvest for their own needs, which means that they are not compelled to buy expensive grain.

Salamou Malam, chairwoman of the Farmers' Association of Tanchiley in the commune of Abala, feels that the new system can only be advantageous: "'Warrantage' has helped me to start breeding sheep, which in turn has enabled me to pay off my loan. I sold my okra at double the price six months after the harvest. And we need the two sacks of millet for the family", she explains.



A full grain shed,
here in Makani, Niger.

In addition, the farmers build the stores themselves from locally sourced materials, while SWISSAID provides the roofs, doors and windows. Along with the funding for the first set of loans, SWISSAID also provides training for the members on democratically creating the "warrantage committee", which has to abide by good accounting practices.

Men and women get a chance to benefit

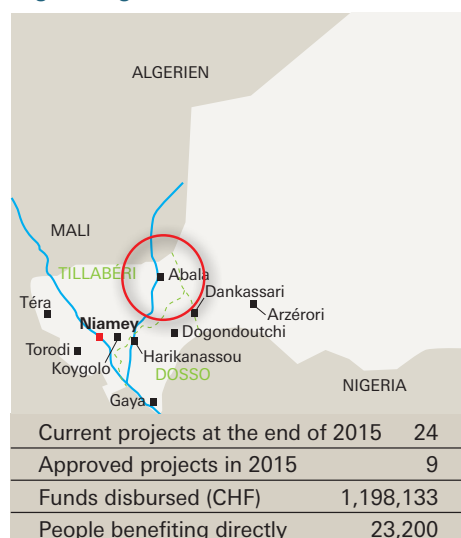
The warrantage credit system is particularly well tailored to suit the circumstances on the ground. It poses no risk to either the village cooperative or to the members as the sacks of millet which are lodged in the store serve as collateral. If a farmer is unable to pay off his loan, his sacks are sold by the cooperative. It withholds the amount owed and passes the rest on to the farmer.

Traditionally, it is men who tend to be involved in growing grain, although the women

benefit from this too. Men from the Abala region gave millet to their wives after the harvest, enabling the women to take out a "warrantage loan" themselves to use to start up a business of their choice. This means that they can be involved in the upkeep of the family on an equal footing.

*Carine Pin,
Programme Manager for Niger*

Niger in figures



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



50 Swiss francs

With this donation, you can support the purchase of a simple disinfection device for the stores or enable a farming family to buy a kilogram of seeds in Niger, for example.


SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.

“I no longer work for anyone else”

Thanks to literacy courses and to rearing goats, women in Chad have managed to free themselves from society's shackles and make their own way in life.

“I was forced to marry. And my husband was opposed to me continuing with my studies, which is why I had to leave school early.” Mother-of-five Ignadang Efrade, who is now 33 years old, tells her story. Like most women in Chad, she had no say over her own life, but was sold as a girl for a small sum of bridewealth. Her husband was a farmer, but was unable to feed the family. Ignadang had to hire herself out to

Chad in figures



Current projects at the end of 2015	16
Approved projects in 2015	10
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,080,109
People benefiting directly	22,900



Peasant farmers successfully rear goats.

other farms and toil in the fields for a pittance, quite literally. She was desperately poor and didn't even have enough money for the bare essentials.

Her life changed when she joined a women's group called Pee M'Bang, which means perseverance. The organisation comprises around 50 self-help groups (mainly women) and offers its 800 or so members a credit fund and further training courses. Pee M'Bang also supports them in the production and processing of peanuts, rearing goats and petty trading.

Escaping poverty step-by-step

Ignadang initially attended courses in literacy and sewing. Once she could read, write and count, she bought grain with a loan from the credit fund. She placed the goods in the store and then sold them later on at a better price. She made the equivalent of 50 francs, which she used to boost the household budget.

Pee M'Bang also provided Ignadang with a pregnant goat; she was required to give the first litter to other women in the group. One goat produces up to 4 kids a year, and Ignadang is good at rearing goats. Her herd had grown to seven animals after only two years.

A series of clever decisions

Then the time came to sell three of the goats. She used the proceeds to buy a used sewing machine at auction. "I am now a seamstress, I have diversified my sources of income, and I no longer work for anyone else." Shortly afterwards, Ignadang sold more goats and invested the money in buying a second sewing machine and a large cooking pot, as well as in

paying for day workers. "Yes, I now hire men to do the work in the field", she says with self-assurance.

Ignadang has kept up her learning. After attending the advanced literacy course, she is also now training to become a qualified seamstress. Ignadang is proud that her family always has enough to eat and she feels confident that her two daughters will be able to decide on their own destiny someday.

*Daniel Ott Fröhlicher,
Programme Manager for Chad*

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

120 francs

This donation will enable a female farmer in Chad to buy a used sewing machine, for example. Two "kids" cost 60 francs, and 150 francs will pay the fee for the trainer who will give the women two days training in how to keep and breed goats.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.





“You might need help scratching your back, but you can do your own stomach yourself.”

Thanks to micro-loans, the women can carry out activities that enable them to generate an income. Take Fatima Domingos Mendes from the village of Bachil, for example. By growing beans, she earned three times as much as she had borrowed. She used the money she earned to pay for her children to go to school. The association also benefited from her financial success because the women keep a community shop stocked which they run themselves.

Women against mismanagement

“Thanks to the support of SWISSAID, we have been able to start these activities and have been successful”, explains Fatima. She adds: “You might need help scratching your back, but you can do your own stomach yourself.”

The women are strengthening their position by coming together. Leading an organisation also nurtures respect within society. In 2015, the chairwoman of the Caio association ran her organisation well and courageously – she took legal action against her predecessor who had been suspected of embezzling funds.

Previously, she would never have contemplated representing her community in court and speaking in public. As she says, “the literacy and numeracy courses changed everything, even our way of thinking!”

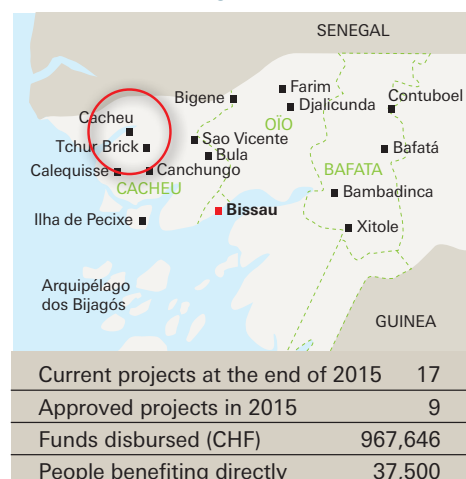
Carine Pin,

Programme Manager for Guinea-Bissau

Women take their fate in their own hands

Many women learn to read, write and count, obtain access to micro-loans and join together within associations. In Guinea-Bissau, hundreds can create a future for themselves thanks to the new skills that they acquire.

Guinea-Bissau in figures



If women receive support from SWISSAID for their activities on the land, this also nurtures a greater sense of self-confidence. This improves their lives and that of their families, as well as their position within the family and within society. The literacy courses in the region of Cacheu have delivered impressive results. The women no longer have any fear of dealing with bureaucracy and many of them now carry their own identity papers.

In the last presidential elections, they were able to cast their vote “like anyone else”, as one woman pointed out, and sign their ballot paper – to the great astonishment of the electoral commission representatives, who applauded. “I always used to feel ashamed because I had to have my fingerprint taken”, says 60-year old Linda Cansok.

Delighted to have their own income

The women are no longer outsmarted at the market. They set their prices, give change, and count their proceeds. “I can now negotiate the price for my cashew nuts whenever my husband is not there”, says 37-year old Quinta Nhangha happily.

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



242 Swiss francs

This donation will pay for a solar panel for female farmers in **Guinea-Bissau** to enable them to attend evening classes. 3 shovels cost 42 francs.

SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today.

Balance sheet

Assets	Appendix	2015	2014
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	12,378,043	11,432,844
Securities	5.2	18,536,068	19,662,143
Accounts receivable + finance pledges	5.3	1,302,463	993,727
Stocks of merchandise		226,858	474,095
Deferred assets		443,455	281,710
Operating assets		32,886,888	32,844,518
Loans	5.4	250,100	250,100
Participations	5.5	4	4
Tangible assets	5.6	1,180,247	1,280,238
Fixed assets		1,430,351	1,530,342
Total assets		34,317,239	34,374,860
Liabilities			
Creditors		291,950	159,581
Project-related commitments from programmes in the southern hemisphere	5.7	16,696,607	16,819,606
Deferred liabilities		50,787	50,609
Reserves	5.8	203,343	158,052
Short-term borrowed capital		17,242,686	17,187,848
Fund for the Third World	11	15,705	72,704
Long-term borrowed capital		15,705	72,704
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the Southern Hemisphere programme		1,354,822	821,944
Fund for the future		233,799	812,500
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project		209	1,800
Fund for sponsoring a water project		100	151
Fund for sponsoring a women's project		101	500
SDC fund	12	0	0
Ring-fenced funds		1,589,031	1,636,895
SWISSAID programme fund		6,872,068	6,764,276
SWISSAID infrastructure fund		658,598	658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	5.9	2,331,050	2,447,176
Free capital		5,605,000	5,605,000
Free capital – SWISSAID Geneva	2	3,100	2,363
Organisation capital		15,469,816	15,477,413
Total liabilities		34,317,239	34,374,860



Monika Uhlmann,
head of the Finance
and Logistics
Department

Explanatory notes on the annual accounts

2015 was a good year for SWISSAID. Thanks to the balanced result, we managed to maintain a sound capital base. This means that we are always in a position to meet our obligations and, where the need arises, to make important investments, sizeable in some cases, so that we are well placed to face up to the challenges we encounter in future.

The revenue and the expenditure are slightly down on the previous year. Our revenue from collections is down 12%, which is attributable to the exceptionally high contributions from legacies in the previous year. However, we are pleased to report that there was a slight rise (+3%) in income from individual donations, as well as from contributions donated by institutions to project work. This is thanks to our long-standing benefactors and new donors, who generously give their support to our efforts to help the poorest men, women and children in the southern hemisphere. We are very grateful! We regard their faith, solidarity and trust as our mandate; day in, day out they re-endorse our efforts to pursue our goal with even greater consistency, and that is to make lasting improvements to the lives of the people who benefit. We continuously focus on the quality and efficiency of our work by improving our techniques and making our procedures more professional, with the ongoing aim of ensuring that the largest share of the donations reaches the intended beneficiaries in the southern hemisphere.

In 2015, we implemented 12 million francs worth of self-help projects for our southern hemisphere programme. These projects to improve the lives of the poorest sections of society were carried out together with the national offices and partner organisations on the ground. Measured in terms of operating expenditure, 63% of our funds went into the southern hemisphere. 17% of our funds were spent on the information and awareness programme for development policy in the form of campaigns and events on development policy issues.

These annual accounts for 2015 were compiled in accordance with SWISS GAAP FER, ZEWO and SWISS NPO Code principles. The auditors Von Graffenried AG audited the accounts extensively for the purposes of the regular audit and found them to be correct. The audit report and complete annual financial statements are available to download from www.swissaid.ch.

Operating accounts

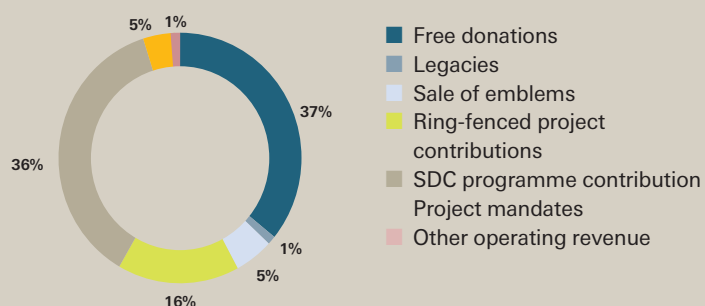
Revenue	Appendix	2015	2014
Free donations		6,708,162	6,683,468
Legacies		147,029	1,866,439
Sale of emblems		901,510	1,024,505
Ring-fenced donations & contributions to projects	7.1	2,661,259	2,441,326
Contributions to projects from FEDEVACO		159,213	83,301
Contributions to projects from FGC		134,042	127,030
Proceeds from collections		10,711,214	12,226,067
SDC programme contribution		6,500,000	6,200,000
Domestic contributions from other federal agencies		0	-18
Project mandates		882,000	841,622
Other operating revenue	7.2	109,960	163,436
Total operating revenue		18,203,173	19,431,107
Expenditure			
Projects overseas		11,991,190	12,824,661
Funds freed from project settlements	7.7	-1,786,359	-1,847,511
Expenditure for programme support	7.3	1,722,760	1,368,284
Personnel-related expenditure		1,445,846	1,263,483
Expenditure on materials		276,914	104,801
Expenditure for the overseas programme		11,927,591	12,345,434
Information and public-awareness programme in Switzerland		2,020,267	2,107,708
Expenditure for programme support		1,297,545	1,200,144
Personnel-related expenditure for the domestic programme		1,101,939	1,015,935
Expenditure on materials for the domestic programme		195,606	184,209
Expenditure on the domestic programme	7.3	3,317,812	3,307,852
Fundraising and general expenditure on publicity	7.3	2,319,682	1,919,723
Administrative expenditure	7.3	1,257,517	1,744,253
Total operating expenditure		18,822,602	19,317,263
Operating result		-619,429	113,844
Financial earnings (realised)		331,780	253,893
Financial earnings (not realised)		299,886	1,103,502
Financial expenditure		-160,540	-168,366
Financial result	7.4	471,126	1,189,029
Expenditure on real estate		-8,195	-8,011
Revenue from real estate		77,418	78,408
Non-operating result	7.5	69,223	70,397
Other profits carried over from previous periods	7.6	35,870	10,250
Result carried over from previous periods		35,870	10,250
Result prior to the change in fund		-43,210	1,383,520
Use of ring-fenced funds		10,235,702	10,721,545
Allocation of ring-fenced funds		-10,187,838	-12,163,440
Change in free funds	8	-4,654	58,375
Income carried over in favour of processed funds		0	0

Cash-flow analysis (Appendix 9)

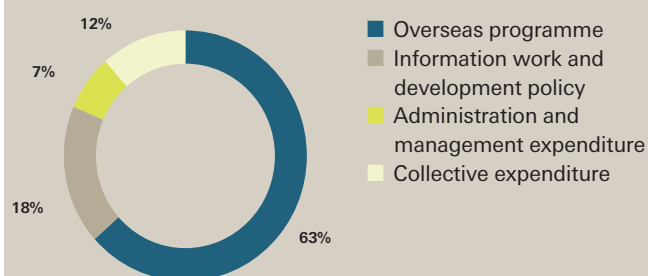
Flow of funds from operational activities	2015	2014
Annual result prior to the changes in funds	-43,210	1,383,520
Subtraction/addition (-) foreign currencies in credit overseas	-12,251	-6,578
Depreciation on tangible assets	144,531	141,317
Changes / reserves	45,291	-5,435
Subtraction/addition (-) of accounts receivable and finance pledges	-308,736	-683,910
Subtraction/addition (-) of stocks	247,237	-13,565
Subtraction (-)/addition of deferred assets	-161,746	-30,823
Subtraction (-) / addition of creditors	132,369	49,449
Subtraction (-) / addition of project commitments for southern hemisphere programmes	-122,999	855,487
Subtraction (-) / addition of deferred liabilities	178	6,088
Flow of funds from operational activities	-79,336	1,695,550
Flow of funds from investment activities		
Investment (-) / disinvestment of tangible assets	-44,540	-142,599
Investment (-) / disinvestment of real estate	0	0
Investment (-) / disinvestment of loans	0	0
Flow of funds from investment activities	-44,540	-142,599
Flow of funds from finance activities		
Fund for the Third World	-56,999	-122,993
Passive loans	0	-230,000
Flow of funds from investment activities	-56,999	-352,993
Addition (+) / subtraction (-) of payments	-180,875	1,199,958
Fund for cash and cash equivalents (including securities) 1.1.	31,094,986	29,895,028
Fund for cash and cash equivalents (including securities) 31.12.	30,914,111	31,094,986

Finance and use of resources

Where funds come from:



Where funds flow to:



Analysis of the change in capital in 2015 (Appendix 8)

	Opening balance	Revenue (internal)	Allocation (external)	Internal Fund transfers	Appropriation	Closing balance
Funds from own finance						
SWISSAID programme fund	6,764,276		107,792			6,872,068
SWISSAID infrastructure fund	658,598					658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	2,447,176				-116,126	2,331,050
Accrued free capital	5,605,000					5,605,000
SWISSAID Geneva	2,363		737			3,100
Annual result	0		4,654		-4,654	0
Organisational capital	15,477,413	0	113,183	0	-120,780	15,469,816
Funds from fund capital						
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the southern hemisphere programme	821,944		3,047,563		-2,514,685	1,354,822
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project	1,800		316,202		-317,793	209
Fund for sponsoring a water project	151		56,600		-56,651	100
Fund for sponsoring a women's project	500		199,219		-199,618	101
Fund for the future	812,500		68,255		-646,956	233,799
SDC fund capital	0		6,500,000		-6,500,000	0
Fund capital ring-fenced with restrictions	1,636,895	0	10,187,838	0	-10,235,702	1,589,031

Executive bodies (at the end of 2015)

SWISSAID Board of Trustees

Matthias Aebischer, lecturer at the University of Freiburg, member of the Swiss National Council, Bern, since 2012; Viola Amherd, solicitor and notary public, Brig-Glis, since 2014; Stephan Baer, businessman, Küssnacht am Rigi, since 2007; Andreas Bänziger, journalist, Bühler, since 1997, died in March 2016; Roman Berger, journalist and author, Zurich, since 2005; Bruno Bergomi, journalist and producer on Radiotelevisione Svizzera (RSI), Dino, since 1997; Dr Jean-Claude Bolay, Director for Cooperation and visiting professor at EPFL, Ecublens, since 2010; Tobias Brülisauer-Spitzli, agricultural organic and ecological consultant, Grub, since 2000; Edgar Ricardo von Buettner, senior consultant for strategic, participative and sustainable community development projects, Brazil, since 1983; Mario Carera, socio-economist, Bern, since 2002; Prof. Dr Pierre Centlivres, former director of the Institute of Ethnology of the University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, since 1983; Fernand Cuhe, organic farmer and former member of the Council of States, Lignières, since 2014; Dr phil. Rudolf Dannecker, former vice-director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Hinterkappelen, since 2002; Yvonne Feri, member of the Swiss National Council and of the local council, Wettingen, since 2014; Gaby Fierz, ethnologist, Basel Museum of Cultures, Basel, since 2008; Dr Rudolf Fischer, Dr phil. I, former head of the SWISSAID Department of Development Cooperation, Wettingen, since 2014; Dr Claudia Friedl, environmental scientist, member of the Swiss National Council, St. Gallen, since 2015; Rémy

Gogniat, journalist, La Chaux-de-Fonds, since 2009; Maya Graf, organic farmer and member of the Swiss National Council, Sissach, since 2009; Bruno Gurtner, economist, Bern, since 2008; Marianne Hochuli, historian, Zurich, since 2009; Martin Hürzeler, fundraiser BR, Zurich, since 2009; Oscar A. Kambly, President of the Board of Directors of Kambly SA Spécialités de Biscuits Suisses, Trubschachen, since 2008; Florianne Koechlin, biologist, author, managing director of the Blauen Institute, Münchenstein, since 1996; Maud Krafft, consultant, Lausanne, since 2005; Werner Küng, former head of the SWISSAID Information + Fundraising Department, Wabern, since 2014; Dr med. Jean Martin-Monod, former cantonal authority doctor, Echandens, since 1985; Urs Peter Meyer, lawyer, Köniz, since 1996; Gian L. Nicolay, Dipl. Ing. Agr. ETH, Africa coordinator FIBL, Ardez, since 2010; Wendy Peter, managing director of Bioforum Switzerland, Willisau, since 2010; Chasper Pult, cantonal school teacher and cultural mediator, Paspels, since 1992; Daniel Roduner, business economist HWV, Bolivia, since 2007; Dr Claudine Sauvain, anthropologist, professor at the University of Geneva, Geneva, since 1985; Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, lawyer, Migration Office of the Reformed Churches of Bern-Jura-Solothurn, Gümliigen, since 2008; Hansruedi Stadler, solicitor and notary public, Altdorf, since 2005; Jean-Luc Sudan, communication coordinator, Vessy, since 2005; Angela Tognetti, organic farmer, Bellinzona, since 2015; Christoph Wehrli, journalist, Zurich, since 2015; Felix Wirz, managing director of Ecopolitics GmbH, Bern, since 2012.

Committee of the SWISSAID Board of Trustees

Dr rer. pol. Rudolf Rechsteiner, economist, President of SWISSAID, Basel, since 2008; Dr Walter Egli, Vice-President SWISSAID, historian and former co-studies director NADEL, ETH Zurich, Zurich, since 2005; Erica Hennequin, teacher and Green Party member of the Jurassic Parliament, Courgenay, since 2014; Bastienne Joerchel Anhorn, economist, Renens, since 2012; Patrick Kilchenmann, qualified hydrologist, director of Dropstone GmbH, Puplinge, since 2015; Dr Thomas Kohler, associate director of the Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Rüfenacht, since 2010; Ruth Rauch, lic. rer. pol., team and organisational development, Berne, since 2004; Marianne Roth, intercultural communication consultant, PR consultant, Zurich, since 2009; Carlo Sommaruga, lawyer and member of the Swiss National Council, Geneva, since 2010.

SWISSAID Executive Board

Caroline Morel, ethnologist, Executive Director; Jeremias Blaser, PhD. political science Lausanne, Department of Development Cooperation; Monika Uhlmann, business economist FH, Finance + Logistics Department; Jon Andrea Florin, lic. phil. I, Information & Fundraising Department; Catherine Morand, lawyer, journalist, Antenne romande.

Further details about the personnel can be found on their websites.



Jeremias Blaser,
Head of Development Cooperation

Farmers in Niger show off their harvest – a successful attempt at growing millet.

Climate resilience, income and health have been increasing in step with agro-ecology

Putting theory into practice – SWISSAID makes use of agro-ecology. For this purpose we have analysed numerous scientific studies and tested new growing techniques in the field.

Last year, SWISSAID stepped up its agro-ecological approach and supported poor peasant farmers in adapting better to climate change, as well as in producing cost-efficient and healthy crops. Governmental farming policy is still weighted towards the agricultural industry. This stance is supported by industry with corporations bringing their chemical fertilisers and pesticides onto the market in developing countries. The consequences for peasant farming families are well known; over-fertilised soil, debts and financial dependence, as well as harm to their health.

However, alternatives exist. With that in mind, SWISSAID reviewed agro-ecological practice with regard to the three largest challenges facing rural development according to academic findings. They show that this approach offers an alternative to industrial farming if steps are to be taken to tackle climate change on a sustained basis, to reduce poverty and to produce and eat healthier food.

TACKLING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Farmers are at the mercy of the vagaries of the weather and are exposed to long-term changes in rainfall patterns. In a nutshell, climate change affects them. The Food and

Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has compiled a list of the greatest challenges posed to farming by climate change:

- Deterioration in the quality of the soil
- Rising average temperatures with reduced yields (for example, rice)
- Rise in sea levels with salinisation of the soil
- Changing patterns of rainfall, leading to water shortages

In addition, farming is being adversely affected by new pests and diseases, as well as by more frequent extreme events. This has a negative impact on yields which, in turn, has consequences for food security and for the income of farming families.

There are no standard solutions. However, there is one strategy which boosts resistance to weather-related events and, at the same time, slows down climate change that looks like a logical and sensible approach to take. This successful model is known as “agro-ecology”. In this system, the farmers rely upon boosting natural cycles, high nutrient and water efficiency, minimising the use of external sources of fossil fuel, as well as on diversified systems with high resistance. For example, the farmers not only grow corn and beans on a monoculture basis, they also grow vegetables, pulses and fruit. Trees not only yield fruit, they also create shade; their leaves decompose into the soil, enriching its quality.

Agro-ecology has been tried and tested in practice

An initial analysis of the results in Nicaragua shows that farmers who produce crops on an

agro-ecological basis are less hard-hit by the current drought. They protect the interaction between the condition of the soil, various flora and fauna on their farms more effectively against crises caused by weather conditions.

The findings on agro-ecology are also borne out in other SWISSAID projects. Reductions in CO₂ emissions, which are directly attributable to agro-ecological measures, have been recorded in Nicaragua. Thus, SWISSAID is in good company in calling for the development of agro-ecological farming. Going back to the 2008 World Agriculture Report and countless other reports and workshops, experts and the United Nations have advocated a change in the direction of more sustainable farming for years.

TACKLING POVERTY

Where agro-ecological practices do not generate greater income for the farming families and thus lead to a reduction in poverty, they are not being applied strategically. However, this is a difficult issue to study academically because the work done in an agro-ecological system is more varied, more diversified and, in some respects, more difficult to quantify than that done in a conventional farming system. Most academic studies only compare the yields achieved by certified organic and conventional producers. This means, however, that the additional agro-ecological services provided, which are of ecological and social merit, are not factored in.

As a general rule, two trends are apparent in the existing studies:

- Where a market exists for certified organic products and they achieve a higher price,



organic production is more profitable for the farming families under the bottom line than conventional farming.

- The differences in yield between conventional and agro-ecological production are less than generally assumed, and in certain cases they are even insignificant.

Given the current research into organic farming methods and practices, the differences in yields are also likely to be reduced further.

There is no disputing the fact that farmers who produce on an agro-ecological basis require less money because they are in a position to replace input materials like synthetic fertilisers, seeds and pesticides with eco-system services and resources which they produce themselves, such as through breeding beneficial insects for pest control. This leads to lower production costs and to a higher household income.

Welcome extra work

Opponents of ecological farming often argue that agro-ecological practices increased their workload. While this argument may be correct, less weighting is attached to it in the case of developing countries. After all, labour costs and the degree of mechanisation are relatively low there, while unemployment is high.

Certified organic products, which we regard as a subset of agro-ecological production, are primarily produced to go to market. Agro-ecological products, on the other hand, boost the food security of the families and are also sold at market. In a

development context, the major challenge is to enable farmers to gain access to the market, as well as to impart agro-ecological expertise and corresponding practices sustainably and with clarity.

Agro-ecology is a step ahead

Summary: The benefits of agro-ecology will predominate in the medium and long-term. This will lead to better food security, as well as to higher income. In extreme situations, the farmers are burdened by less debt because they manage to cope with extreme events better thanks to their increased economic resilience and higher average income (under sub-optimum production conditions).

This theory is also borne out by a sample project here. The collapse in the price of beans in Nicaragua and resulting losses of earnings were less dramatic last year for farmers with agro-ecological production systems because they made up for this with income from the sale of other produce, such as vegetables or fruit. In addition, the conservation of natural resources and environment, as well as further ecological system services (such as protection against erosion) will safeguard the basis for production, which represents an investment in the future.

HEALTH ASPECTS

The final important point to mention are the various ways in which farming influences health. Peasant farmers put their health at risk by using pesticides. Farmers who are pregnant are particularly affected. Estimates by renowned researchers put the cost of direct loss of labour due to diseases caused by pesticides in Ghana at 15 to 20 days per

person per season. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has calculated that the costs to health of pesticides in Africa is greater than the amount that Development Cooperation spends on health projects in Africa.

Cost transparency and competition

These immediate health costs alone show how great the impact and leverage of agro-ecology are. Like the other hidden costs of industrial farming, the indirect costs of chemical-based farming are also rarely factored into the overview and when considering the impact. This includes the cost of illnesses caused by pesticide residues in food or the reduced pollination by bees. If these costs were factored into the overall bill and systems were encouraged which included these costs in the price (internalising external costs), agro-ecological products would be much more competitive because they are cheaper in relative terms.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and instructed its member states to accomplish 17 such goals by the year 2030. With its agro-ecological approach, SWISSAID is making an important contribution towards ten of those goals in total. SWISSAID will also continue to campaign for fair and organic farming practices in future.

Collaboration:

Fabio Leippert, Sarah Mader

swissaid.ch/de/biolandbau-agro-oekologie

In brief: SWISSAID – Change tomorrow today

SWISSAID is an independent foundation, with no religious or political affiliation, with its registered office in Bern and an office in Lausanne. SWISSAID has committed itself to championing the causes of the disadvantaged people of the southern hemisphere in rural areas where there are no other organisations on hand to support them. SWISSAID battles for the right of all people to lead their lives free from hunger, want and oppression. We are driven by the firm belief that injustice and poverty should not be anyone's fate.

In addition to implementing self-help projects in the South, we also lobby policymakers in Switzerland in order to safeguard the interests of poor people in the southern hemisphere. Improving these lives hinges on social change in the northern hemisphere. We base our activities upon the expertise, experience and needs of our partner organisations in nine project countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.*

How we operate

SWISSAID supports initiatives undertaken by disadvantaged people in the Third World and works in tandem with non-governmental organisations. We provide aid and support our partner organisations at institutional level. This enables them to achieve a sense of independence and to take control of their economic, social and political lives. We do not shy away from showdowns with multinationals, major landowners or organisations that are polluting the environment. This is always done with the aim of emboldening defenceless local people and giving them the ability to help themselves.

SWISSAID works with local experts and seconds very few high-cost Swiss experts to the countries of the south. Apart from anchoring projects more effectively in the local context, this also leads to a transfer of know-how and to job creation in the southern hemisphere. This

helps to bring down programme-support costs, leaving a greater proportion of the donations available to help the people affected help themselves. In order to achieve the objectives in both the northern and southern hemispheres, we cooperate with other groups. Therefore, we are members of Alliance Sud, i.e. the working group comprising SWISSAID, Fastenopfer, Brot für alle, Helvetas, Caritas, Heks, as well as other organisations.

Executive terms of office

Members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for four years. They can be re-elected. The period of office of the members of the Board of Trustees Committee is four years, and they can be re-elected twice, although longer terms may be agreed in justified cases.

* To find out about the services provided and targets achieved over the past year, please read the reports on the individual national programmes (pages 5 to 13).

Appendix to the annual accounts

0. Number of full-time equivalents The annual average number of full-time equivalents did not exceed 50.

1. General accounting principles Accounts are rendered on the basis of the SWISS GAAP FER 21 / core-FER accounting recommendations and this procedure is conducted in accordance with the Swiss Code of Obligations, ZEWO regulations (agency governing charitable organisations which collect donations), as well as in accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Foundation and Regulations. The securities result is posted directly applying the gross principle with records of book profits and losses directly via the income statement. Due to changes in accounting legislation and to a refinement in cost accounting practices, the figures from the previous year are not comparable in all areas.

2. Consolidated group The accounts of the coordination offices, which are responsible for implementing the Southern Hemisphere Programmes as well as SWISSAID Geneva, are integrated fully into these annual accounts. SWISSAID does not have any subsidiaries or partner institutions over which it has a controlling influence.

3. Affiliated organisations The following organisations and institutions have close associations with SWISSAID: Alliance Sud (working group comprising SWISSAID, Fastenopfer, Brot für alle, Helvetas, Caritas, Heks), SWISSAID Geneva Association, Max Havelaar Foundation, SAG (Swiss Working Group on Genetic Engineering), and Stop OGM. Contractually, Alliance Sud receives CHF 378,600 of the annual budget. SWISSAID is represented among the other organisations on the board, without the allocation of substantial contributions. Unpaid services provided by third parties to SWISSAID only account for an insignificant proportion of the overall result and are, therefore, not listed.

4. Accounting and valuation principles

Securities: Market value on the balance sheet date

Foreign currencies: Exchange rate on the balance sheet date

Loans, accounts receivable and finance pledges: Nominal value

Participations: Acquisition value less depreciations required in connection with the management of the business

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5. Explanatory notes on the balance sheet

Real estate in Switzerland: Acquisition value less scheduled depreciations. The property is not subject to depreciation. Period of use: 40 years

Property abroad: Acquisition value less scheduled depreciations. Period of use: 25 years

Furnishings, machinery and plant: Acquisition value less scheduled depreciations. Period of use:

Furnishings 10 years, IT equipment 3 years, machinery 3-6 years. Activation limit: CHF 3000 (IT: CHF 1000)

5.1 Cash and cash equivalents	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
Cash / post office finance / domestic banks	11,811,589	10,960,238
Foreign banks	566,454	472,606
Total cash and cash equivalents	12,378,043	11,432,844

5.2 Securities	Market value 2015	Market value 2014
Bonds	12,159,978	13,277,925
Shares	6,376,090	6,384,218
Total securities	18,536,068	19,662,143

5.3 Accounts receivable and finance pledges	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
Withholding tax credit	44,726	44,599
Credit from deliveries	12,611	12,573
Pledge to Glückskette (Swiss Solidarity)	60,444	197,444
Pledge to the Water Consortium	376,068	682,054
Pledge to Karité Arachide	420,660	0
Pledge to KSP EC	310,484	0
Loans to employees	77,470	57,057
Total accounts receivable and finance pledges	1,302,463	993,727

5.4 Loans	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
Claro fair trade AG	250,100	250,100
Total loans	250,100	250,100

5.5 Participations at nominal value	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
Registered shares in Claro fair trade AG	92,272	92,272
Investment fund shares in Fonds internat. de Garantie, Geneva	96,000	96,000
Remei AG	10,000	10,000
Voting shares in Alternative Bank ABS	20,000	20,000
Total participations	218,272	218,272

There is a contingent commitment on the share of USD 6,000 for the investment fund shares in Fonds internat. de Garantie, Geneva (FIG). The investment fund shares are used by a former partner organisation (ADIM) in Nicaragua to secure a loan of USD 70,000 with a local bank.

5.6 Tangible-asset movement schedule	Plant and equipment	Land and buildings at home	Real estate abroad
Acquisition values on 1/1/2015	556,942	1,040,000	603,006
Investments in 2015	44,540	0	0
Liquidated depreciations in 2015	-14,633	0	0
Acquisition values on 31/12/2015	586,849	1,040,000	603,006
Accumulated depreciations on 1/1/2015	260,558	272,558	386,594
Depreciations in 2015	101,777	22,074	20,680
Liquidated depreciations in 2015	-14,633	0	0
Depreciation balance on 31/12/2015	347,702	294,632	407,274
Net balance for material assets on 31/12/2015	239,147	745,368	195,732
Fire-insurance value	775,000	1,600,000	

5.7 Short-term borrowed capital

Project-related commitments to programmes in the southern hemisphere: Cooperation agreements with local partner organisations generally form the basis for the commitments. There is no distinction made between short and long-term commitments. Since SWISSAID's project activities are based on the needs of the partner organisations, the precise timing of the use of funds cannot be defined. The implementation timescale for a project is generally one to two years.

Appendix to the annual accounts

National programme	Commitments 1/1/2015	Project approvals 2015	Project funds spent 2015	Commitments project settlements	Funds freed from 31/12/2015
India	2,297,901	1,458,909	1,269,726	516,353	1,970,731
Myanmar	1,736,875	1,787,140	937,758	284,300	2,301,957
Chad	1,217,324	1,459,156	1,080,109	122,296	1,474,075
Niger	3,800,932	1,159,609	1,198,133	207,285	3 555 123
Guinea-Bissau	964,478	1,055,446	967,646	89,904	962,374
Tanzania	908,315	737,819	690,477	73,293	882,364
Africa	57,262	0	38,623	0	18,639
Nicaragua	1,731,751	1,425,847	1,517,628	104,411	1,535,559
Colombia	2,201 412	1,528,683	1,128,810	211,662	2,389,623
Ecuador	1,903,356	1,301,597	1,421,936	176,855	1,606,162
Total commitments	16,819,606	11,914,206	10,250,846	1,786,359	16,696,607
Liquidation of reserves in acc. with 5.8.		+76,984			
Total projects abroad		11,991,190			

5.8 Reserves movement schedule	Balance on 1/1/2015	Disposals in 2015	Accruals in 2015	Balance on 31/12/2015
Reserves for unsettled projects abroad	1,543	0	76,984	78,527
Reserve for personnel-related commitments	111,409	0	13,407	124,816
Other reserves	45,100	45,100	0	0
Total reserves	158,052	45,100	90,391	203,343

5.9 Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies

The desired minimum balance is based on the provisions of the internal policy and is increased fully.

6. Remuneration to the executive bodies

Allowances for the presiding staff of the Committee of the Board of Trustees (SRA): Flat-rate allowance for the President: CHF 6,000 p. a.

Flat-rate allowance for the Vice-President: CHF 2,000 p. a.

Remuneration for management: Total wage costs for entire management (5 people) CHF 678,826 p.a.

Attendance fees for SRA: Half-day meetings CHF 200, whole-day meetings CHF 300

Expenses at home/abroad: Expenses are remunerated on the basis of receipts submitted

Total remuneration for SRA: CHF 21,700 (flat-rate pay, attendance fees, expenses less donations) for 2015
of which, President: CHF 7600 (flat-rate pay, attendance fees, expenses less donations) for 2015

7. Explanatory notes on the income statement

7.1 Ring-fenced project contributions

Evidence of how funds are appropriated is provided via project accounting and is the subject of an accounting audit.

	2015	2014
Project contributions by local authorities	39,351	208,200
Project contributions by cantonal authorities + lottery funds	446,200	213,800
Project contributions by foundations	754,690	527,487
Project contributions by churches, private individuals, SMEs	690,298	622,135
Fundraising in the southern hemisphere	129,927	317,305
Other project contributions	600,793	552,399
Total ring-fenced project contributions	2,661,259	2,441,326

7.2 Other operating revenue

	2015	2014
Sales of materials and gift items	97,426	94,483
Fees	12,238	12,800
Participation in costs by third-party organisations	0	56,000
Sundry revenue	296	153
Total other operating revenue	109,960	163,436

7.3 Operating expenditure

The desired minimum balance is based on the provisions of the internal policy and is increased fully.

	Expenditure for the overseas programme	Expenditure for the domestic programme	Administrative expenditure	Fundraising and expenditure on publicity
Programme expenditure	10,204,831	2,020,267	1,828,350	136,887
Personnel-related expenditure	1,445,846	1,101,939	358,945	866,826
Expenditure on materials	251,182	187,886	127,241	219,363
Depreciations	25,732	7,720	5,146	34,940
Total administrative expenditure	11,927,591	3,317,812	2,319,682	1,257,517

7.4 Financial result

	2015	2014
Revenue and gains achieved on shares / funds	89,933	140,188
Revenue and gains achieved on bonds	186,910	93,534
Revenue achieved on cash and cash equivalents	33,109	40,682
Revenue and gains not achieved on shares / funds	479,318	714,097
Revenue and gains not achieved on bonds	-179,432	389,405
Foreign currency gain	21,828	-20,512
Asset-management fees and safe-custody fees	-96,431	-93,050
Bank charges and transaction fees	-64,108	-75,316
Total financial result	471,126	1,189,029

7.5 Real-estate account

	2015	2014
Expenditure on the real estate at Jubiläumsstrasse	-8,195	-8,011
Revenue from the real estate at Jubiläumsstrasse	77,418	78,408
Non-operating result	69,223	70,397

7.6 Other profits carried over from previous periods

	2015
Bank Coop, refund of sales remuneration	399
SBLV, Brugg, payment remaining from the Women in Farming Discussion in 2014	3,584
Swiss Compensation Office, supplementary statement of account for 2014	690
AHV/BAFU, refund for CO ₂ emissions in 2013	1,909
Release of reserves from "publicity plants" in 2014	29,287
Non-operating result	35,870

7.7 Funds freed from project settlements

On account of ZEWO (agency governing charitable organisations which collect donations) recertification in 2014, funds freed from project settlements have been shown as a reduction in expenditure since then.

8. Explanatory notes on the analysis of the change in capital

The fund distribution is based on the fund policy according to Swiss GAAP FER. The increased commitments towards the development projects will reduce the SWISSAID programme fund. In accordance with SDC requirements, the ring-fenced fund capital from the SDC is reported. The target for the minimum balance of exchange rate fluctuation reserves has been met. The representation was adapted in the course of REWO recertification in 2014.

9. Explanatory notes on the cash-flow analysis

The fund comprises the cash, cash equivalents and securities held as liquidity reserves.

10. Risk assessment

Management conducts a periodic risk assessment. Any resulting measures are discussed with the Committee of the Board of Trustees and then implemented.

11. Fund for the Third World

Project funds are managed in trust for third parties in the "Fund for the Third World".

12. SDC fund

The unused amount in accordance with the programme contribution is reported in the 2015 annual accounts. Figures are calculated on 31/12 of the year in question.

13. Liabilities to pension funds

	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
GEPABU (contained under creditors)	5,396	12,149

14. Amount remaining from liabilities

Amount remaining from liabilities from purchase agreement-like leasing transactions and other leasing commitments provided they do not expire or cannot be terminated within twelve months of the balance sheet date.	31/12/2015
Tenancy agreement at Lorystrasse 6a, tenancy until 30 November 2018	327,250

Our special thanks to you!

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all our donors for their generous support over the past year. Thanks to their commitment and their solidarity, we can help people to help themselves in the countries of the southern hemisphere.

In addition to many individuals, we also receive support from numerous companies and suppliers who have provided their services at particularly favourable rates or free of charge, as well as from institutions, cantons, local authorities, parish councils and Third World groups.

We are particularly grateful to the following organisations:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC) and Vaud Federation for Cooperation (FEDEVACO).

Cantons: Aargau, Appenzell AR, Basel City, Bern, Glarus, Graubünden, Obwalden, Thurgau, Schaffhausen, Uri and Valais

Companies and foundations: asem group AG, Atinova AG, Leopold Bachmann Foundation, Julius Bär Foundation, BKW Energie AG, Client Systems AG, Charisma Foundation for Sustainable Development, FACT Construction SA, FENACO Cooperative, Georg Fischer Anniversary Foundation, Gebauer Foundation, Hauck und Aufhäuser AG, Link Institute, Ernest Matthey Foundation, Medicor Foundation, Third Millennium Foundation, Symphasis Nonprofit Foundation, Schindler Management AG, Think and Build Velo Solutions GmbH, Swiss National Bank, Victorinox AG, and Von Duhn Foundation

City and town councils: Belp, Bremgarten near Bern, Chur, Cressier FR, Elgg, Freiburg, Frauenfeld, Heimberg, Maur, Riehen, Romanshorn, Rüschlikon, Solothurn, Zug, and Zurich

Parish councils and associations: Parish councils of Rapperswil-Jona, Sarnen and Zurich Dreikönigen, Care for Climate Association, Rümlang Working Group, Zuckenriet Village and Water Corporation

We also wish to say a special thank you to all the private individuals and institutions who cannot be listed here due to space constraints or who wish to remain anonymous.

