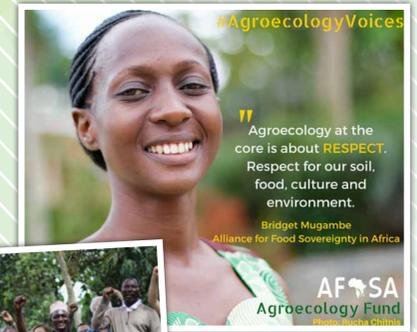


# AgroEcology Fund Collaboration



Grant Type: **Dollar and nondollar support**

Dollar Amount: **\$165,000 (\$150,000 grant and \$15,000 for coordinator)**

Foundation Name: **Swift Foundation**

## What was your objective with the grant or initiative?

Today's small farmers grow more than 70% of food consumed globally and lead the way in building healthy ecosystems, livable incomes, improved nutrition, and increased yields per hectare. In contrast, industrial agricultural practices, such as land-grabbing, have contributed to the degradation of forests, farmland, and water sources; massive biodiversity loss; and human rights violations.

The AgroEcology Fund ([agroecologyfund.org](http://agroecologyfund.org)) seeks to:

- ▶ Increase the effectiveness of advocacy and movement-building for agroecological solutions and sustainable food systems.
- ▶ Incentivize partnerships to strengthen the abilities, increase the voices, and refine the messages of organizations and movements.
- ▶ Support local actors not previously included, such as women farmer associations or rural media networks.
- ▶ Enable targeted work on particular problem issues, such as land alienation and the lack of local markets.

## What were the results of this grant or initiative?

Through three rounds of grantmaking since 2012, the AgroEcology Fund has provided \$2.83 million to leading small-scale farmer organizations and advocates seeking a fair livelihood for small farmers based on sustainable land and water use. By linking grassroots organizations with policy and research ones to drive change, the Fund has enabled those organizations to jointly identify solutions to problems.

The Swift Foundation is learning from partners, donors, and advisors that it would not otherwise have had access to had it not been for the Fund's combined reach and power. Through the Fund, the foundation has been exposed to examples of agroecology globally beyond the foundation's geographic restrictions. This small foundation now knows that it can contribute to global policy discussions on agriculture because of the network, alliances, and expertise it has built.

## Why would you say this grant or initiative had outsized impact?

The collaborative experience has enabled the Swift Foundation to enhance and expand its grantmaking without having to rewrite its vision, mission, or program themes. Through the collaborative, the foundation drew upon a deep and diverse network of experts, practitioners, and academics to fund a multitude of strategies for addressing a complex problem.

With the combined presence of the AgroEcology Fund coordinator and contributing donors, the foundation has significantly influenced the field of philanthropy to notice the role of food systems globally as a central piece in human health, environmental well-being and social justice through presentations at philanthropic gatherings. Such gatherings have included the Environmental Grantmakers Association, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders, and the European Foundations for Sustainable Agriculture and Food. There is also growing interest in the foundation's work, including interest from funders who traditionally operate outside the food and agriculture sector.

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