



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

The Bilateral Cooperation Programme of the BMEL

Project Letter 2023





Dear Readers,

Although we have set ourselves the goal of realising the right to adequate food worldwide by 2030, the number of people suffering from hunger has been increasing again for years.

The reasons for this are the advancing climate crisis, the loss of biodiversity and healthy soils, the Covid-19 pandemic, and wars and conflicts in many parts of the world. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, which violates international law, has massively exacerbated this situation, as it has not only caused prices for farm inputs and food products to rise, but also revealed one-sided dependencies. These multiple crises show that we need a sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems – worldwide.

An important instrument for achieving this goal is our Bilateral Cooperation Programme (BCP). Within this framework, we work across country and continental borders to strengthen local self-sufficiency, reduce import dependency, and support our partners in developing a sustainable, modern agricultural and food economy.

Our cooperation is characterised by professional expertise, the participation of civil society groups, and a multilateral approach. In terms of content, important concerns are food sovereignty, organic farming, conservation and promotion of biodiversity as well as animal welfare. They are already being put into practice in many of our projects, such as the provision of site-adapted, multipliable seeds in Ethiopia or the securing of regional self-sufficiency through small farmers' associations in Thailand. These are just two examples from a wealth of projects that you can read more about in this brochure.

Realising the right to adequate food by 2030 is a challenge that we can only meet together. That is why we also expressly endorse the United Nations' goal of creating sustainable and resilient food systems. They are crucial for combating hunger and poverty on the ground, and at the same time they are a building block of an effective peace and security policy. At this year's Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), we will therefore also address the transformation of food systems and, as a world agricultural community, develop solutions for jointly overcoming the multiple crises. I am convinced that the triad of food security, climate protection, and peace is the key to shaping our future together.

Kind regards,
Your

Cem Özdemir
*Federal Minister of Food and
Agriculture*

Table of Contents

The Bilateral Cooperation Programme and the Transformation of Global Food Systems **04**

Overview of the Bilateral Cooperation Programme **14**

1 *Organic Farming as a Leading Model* **18**

2 *Focussing on Inter-farm Cooperation* **26**

3 *Innovation, Education and Consulting* **34**

The Innovation and Transformation Dialogue in the BMEL's Bilateral Cooperation Programme **42**

Overview of All Cooperation Projects of the BMEL **46**



The Bilateral Cooperation Programme and the Transformation of Global Food Systems

“Food Systems Transformation: A Worldwide Response to Multiple Crises:” The topic of this year’s Global Forum for Food and Agriculture points to enormous challenges. The challenges not only affect the agriculture and food industry, but ultimately all people in the world who depend on having access to healthy food in the coming years and decades.

Realising the right to food requires a transformation of food systems towards sustainability, food security and innovation. With its Bilateral Cooperation Programme, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture is making an important contribution to this.

Food Systems and System Transformation

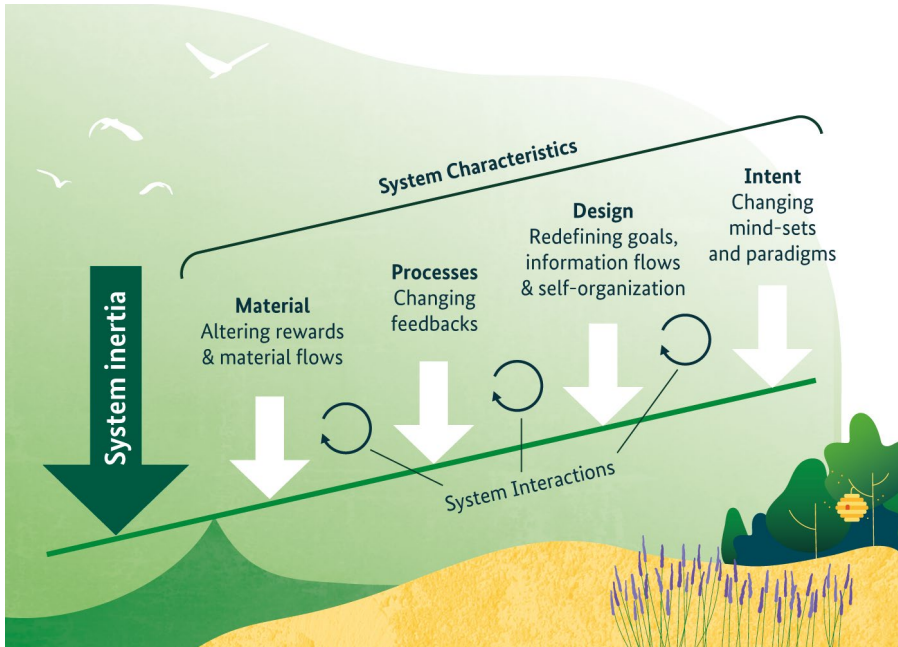
There is now a broad consensus in science, politics and civil society that a transformation of food systems is urgently needed.

The term food system shows that this does not only concern individual processes or practices. Rather, in a holistic view, all impacts and interrelationships that

exist between food production, nutrition, environment, climate and health must be considered. The existing systems are not sufficient to guarantee the right to food globally and partly contribute to an aggravation of existing environmental and health problems. While malnutrition remains an unresolved issue in the Global South even seven years before the deadline of the UN's Development Goal "Zero Hunger," diseases related to over-nutrition now dominate in the Global North. All over the world, agriculture is affected by severe environmental impacts. Dramatic price increases for food have recently been observed everywhere, which in some cases represent an acute threat to food security.

What is needed is a transformation in the sense of a comprehensive realignment of values, goals, structures, instruments and practices. Experiences in other systems, especially in the energy transition that has been going on for decades, show how complex and time-consuming a task this is. However, some insights and concepts from these systems can also support the upcoming transformation task. This applies, for example, to the importance of a paradigm shift among all concerned actors and the selection of suitable leverage points. The development and dissemination of transformational innovations and the promotion of corresponding innovation systems play a decisive role. It is also essential to establish multi-level and multi-actor approaches: viable approaches can only be developed if all stakeholders are involved in policy design.

In Germany, the Commission on the Future of Agriculture offers valuable experience in this regard. The Commission has described development paths for a sustainable transformation of agriculture. It has also demonstrated how it is possible for policymakers, agriculture, the processing industry, trade, science and civil society to develop solutions together in a constructive dialogue.



If the transformation of food systems is to succeed, such constructive dialogues must be held at all levels: on a small scale, when it is a matter of challenging existing practices in each individual sector and in each individual place and making them crisis-proof, climate-neutral and health-promoting. On a large scale, when the interests of entire groups of countries, industries and, above all, millions of people are negotiated at the international level.

Framework Conditions of the Transformation

With significant support from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), a number of key legal milestones have already been achieved at international and European level in recent years that can pave the way for the transformation of food systems.

Above all, the United Nations Food Systems Summit serves as an anchor for future efforts. It has highlighted the importance of dialogue processes and the multi-actor approach. Another important and concrete point of reference is the [Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition \(VGFSyN\)](#) of the FAO's Committee on World Food Security, in the drafting of which the BMEL played a major role.

At the European level, the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy of the European Union define a roadmap for Germany, the other EU member states and all third countries trading with the EU. The Farm to Fork Strategy not only influences the future shape of the Common Agricultural Policy and agri-environmental legislation, but also brings far-reaching changes to food law, trade and health policy and public procurement. The Conference on the Future of Europe, which ended in May 2022, confirmed that the Farm to Fork Strategy is in line with the wishes of the European people.

The Bilateral Cooperation Programme

In view of the many global crises, the BMEL actively steps up its efforts to transform food systems outside European and international bodies. With the Bilateral Cooperation Programme, it has a unique instrument at its disposal to cooperate with other countries in long-term projects in a targeted and strategic manner. An essential feature of the bilateral cooperation projects is the technical perspective and the exchange between experts, especially from authorities, institutions and associations. This in-depth professional exchange is appreciated by all participants at the national and international level.

The publication focuses on three areas in which projects of the Bilateral Cooperation Programme contribute to a transformation of food systems.

The **first chapter** addresses organic farming as a guiding model for systemic food policy. Even if “organic” is not the only form of sustainable food production, it stands as a model for an integrated view of agriculture, climate and environmental protection and health from farm to fork. In all areas, from mechanical plant protection to marketing, organic farming is producing innovations from which conventional production is now also benefiting. Within the framework of the BCP, the BMEL is supporting the establishment of organic farming, for example in Ukraine, where work is being done consistently to improve the framework conditions in organic farming even in the current war situation, but also in Kazakhstan and Morocco.

Hives of organic bee-keeping in Kazakhstan. More about the project in Kazakhstan in the first chapter.



In the **second chapter**, there are projects represented, that aim to strengthen self-organisation capacities in the value chain. Changing systemic structures is a key

element of system transformation. A project in Türkiye has made an important contribution to the development of the cooperative sector over the last ten years. In Thailand, a project has been supporting the development of cluster farms with a special focus on sustainable production methods for two years. In Côte d'Ivoire, the largest cocoa producing country in the world, the Pro-Planteurs project strengthens production cooperatives. In addition to improving cooperative structures, this also involves the evidence-based implementation of agri-environmental measures and improving the nutritional situation of families.

The Turkish cooperative Hay-Koop is a good example of self-organization. See chapter 2 for more details.



The **third chapter** is dedicated to the promotion of innovation systems and the strengthening of advisory, education and training systems. An insight into the activities in the latest BCP project, which is working on establishing a multi-level innovation platform in

Argentina, will be provided. The German-Mongolian cooperation project “Sustainable Agriculture,” which has played a significant role in the expansion of crop production as an alternative to nomadic pastoralism over the past decade, will also be represented. Finally the work of the Agricultural Policy Dialogue with the Western Balkan countries, which has a special focus on improving agricultural knowledge and innovation systems and thus contributes to promoting sustainable agriculture and the European perspective in the current critical situation situation, will be highlighted.

The BCP as a Transformation Programme

Within the framework of a new strategy, the BMEL would like to use the BCP to provide even greater impetus for the transformation of global food systems. Based on the findings of transformation research, it will also introduce new intervention logic for overcoming complex problems.

A plant for biogas production on the Las Chilcas farm in the north of the Argentine province of Córdoba, known for its diverse circular-economy production activities and use of advanced technology. See chapter 3 for more details.



On the one hand, this refers to the starting point of intervention. Particularly in the Agricultural Policy Dialogues, regulatory goals should be discussed more intensively in the future to take account of the food system perspective. Following the example of the Commission on the Future of Agriculture, non-governmental actors such as associations, think tanks and NGOs should also be involved. The BCP will also encourage this exchange in countries that do not have a liberal democratic order, which are central to a global system transformation due to their agricultural sector and population size. On the other hand, more experimental formats are to be introduced alongside long-term project cooperation.

At the end of this Project Letter, an instrument with which the BCP intends to integrate new topics and actors into project cooperation in the future, will therefore be presented: The Innovation and Transformation Dialogue (ITD). The dialogue offers cooperation opportunities for civil society institutions, science and business. Get in touch with us.

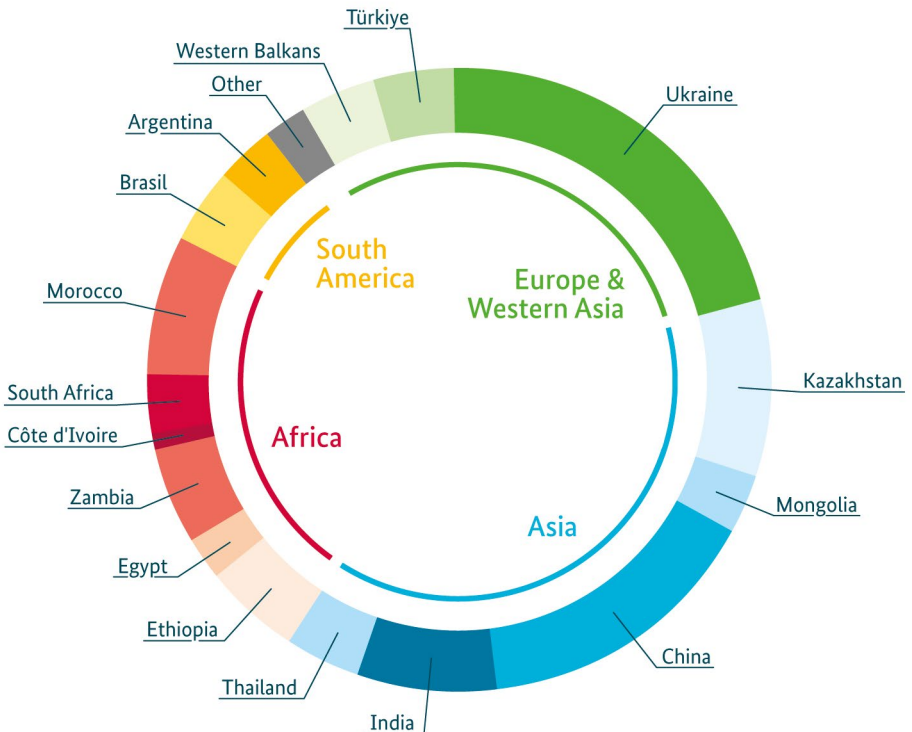


During technical information trips to Germany, modern companies, such as this organic fruit farm, are visited.

Overview of the BCP

Budgetary resources per project country for 2022

The following chart illustrates how the funds of the Bilateral Cooperation Programme were distributed internationally.



Topics



Agricultural Extension



Agricultural Finance



Agricultural Market



Agricultural Insurance



Animal Welfare & Animal Husbandry



Bioeconomy



Certification & Food Safety



Climate Adaptation & Climate Protection



Contemporary Issues



Rural Development



Digitalisation & Innovation



Education & Training in the Agricultural Sector



Inter-Farm Cooperation & Cooperative Sector Development



Plant Production



Land Market



Organic Farming



Seed Sector Development, Seed Law & Plant Variety Protection



Soil & Resource protection



Supply Chains



Horticulture & Wine



Understanding

The exchange with the partner countries is intended to strengthen the mutual understanding of all stakeholders.



Development

The BCP supports partner countries in developing their own agri-food industries.



Sustainability

The BCP lays the foundations for the expansion of sustainable agriculture in the partner countries.

Cooperation Projects Worldwide

In addition to the cooperation projects described in detail, this map provides an overview of all the countries in which the BMEL supports further cooperation projects.



Morocco*
Page 24

Côte d'Ivoire
Page 29

Brasil

Argentina
Page 37



Western Balkans

Page 39

Ukraine

Page 20

Kazakhstan

Page 22

Mongolia

Page 41

Türkiye

Page 33

Ethiopia

Zambia

South Africa

China

India

Thailand

Page 31

* This map does not necessarily reflect the official position of the German government in terms of international law. The map should not be taken as indicating any view on the status of disputed territory.

A Kazakh farmer harvests flowers. See this chapter for more details.



FIRST CHAPTER

Organic Farming as a Building Block for the Transformation of Agriculture and Food Systems

Global agriculture and food systems are facing key challenges due to multiple crises and a systemic transformation process is needed to promote sustainable and resilient agriculture.

Organic farming has the potential to serve as a central building block for this transformation and thus contribute to making food systems worldwide more resilient. It provides sustainable solutions to fertiliser shortages and rising energy prices, while making an indispensable contribution to biodiversity and climate protection.

Within the framework of the BCP, the BMEL is strengthening Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Morocco in their efforts to further expand and professionalize the sector. Certified organic farming plays a central role in these partner countries. Cultivation in family and smallholder farms based on the overarching principles of organic farming

with its site-specific, integrated cultivation methods and the combination of traditional and modern knowledge systems already makes a significant contribution to local food security. Inadequate legal and institutional frameworks, the lack of sector-specific institutions and the shortage of well-trained professionals that promote the development and expansion of organic farming are key challenges and starting points for bilateral cooperation with the three partner countries.



Ukraine

In Ukraine, an area of around 460,000 ha, and thus approximately 1.3% of the total agricultural land, is cultivated organically. Organic farming has so far been primarily geared towards exports and focuses on cereals, oilseeds and sunflowers and processed products such as sunflower oil. Likewise, the cultivation of fruit, such as raspberries, strawberries and blueberries, is playing an increasing role. Since the beginning of the war of aggression in February 2022, which violates international law, organic farming methods have proven, especially in the country's rural areas, how regional self-sufficiency can be ensured for the people with lower inputs and building on existing knowledge of small-scale cultivation, small-scale animal husbandry and traditional food processing. The potential of organic farming is great and the sector is accordingly playing an increasingly important role, even though market development has so far faced major obstacles. The bilateral cooperation

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project German-Ukrainian Cooperation in the Field of Organic Agriculture (COA) aims to strengthen the technical competencies and institutional structures for the further development of organic farming. It supports the responsible ministry in implementing the Ukrainian law on organic agriculture. Furthermore, it promotes the networking of active stakeholders and institutions of civil society and the private sector in order to increase the sector's visibility. The project also supports a Ukrainian-language knowledge platform with the aim of making targeted information on organic farming available to experts and practitioners.

An organic farm in the Lviv region of western Ukraine.



Kazakhstan

Cereals, oilseeds and forage crops dominate organic production concentrated in the north of the Central Asian country, most of which is destined for export as unprocessed raw products. The potential for organically produced field crops is great, yet so far only about 1% of arable land is certified organic. In Kazakhstan, too, organic and traditional farming methods make a significant contribution to food security. A large part of agricultural production takes place extensively in home farms, with the exclusion of pesticides and other

inputs not permitted in organic farming, even though these farms are not yet certified. Kazakhstan is striving to further distinguish itself as a producer of organic export products. However, the lack of organic inputs, developed logistics, certification and well-trained professionals poses major challenges to the development of the sector. This is where the Kazakh-German Agricultural Policy Dialogue comes in with its priority area of organic agriculture. The project is working directly on reforming the national organic law together with the parliament, focusing on certification and accreditation processes as well as association building and the support of foreign trade activities. Continuous institutional capacity building is being promoted, which is the prerequisite for Kazakhstan to better exploit its potential in the field of organic agriculture in the future.



Morocco

The North West African country is striving to become a leading country for the production and export of organic products in the next ten years. Only 0.12% of the agricultural land is organically farmed. The most important products include fruits such as avocados, almonds, olives and citrus fruits as well as fine vegetables. More than 70 percent of rural agriculture is characterised by micro farms with an area of less than 3 ha. Many of these sites are located in high-risk zones where prolonged droughts or extreme weather events can threaten or destroy entire harvests. Here, organic farming offers great potential, as the soil cover methods common in organic farming significantly minimise risks from crop failures caused by water shortages. Harnessing locally available resources instead of purchasing expensive inputs can contribute to improved resilience of the

Ripe cherries on a tree
– a variety of fruits grow
in southern Kazakhstan.



COUNTRY

Morocco

PROJECT TITLE

German-Moroccan Agriculture and Forestry Dialogue (DIAF) – Component 1 “Organic Farming” and Component 2 “Inter-Farm Cooperation in the Agriculture and Forestry Sectors”

TIMEFRAME

10/2019 – 10/2023



local population. Despite a not insignificant increase in organic production, the sector is still very poorly developed in some areas. There are hardly any professional processing and supply chains, a lack of investment capacities and poorly developed quality management and logistics systems. The technical dialogue approach of the German-Moroccan Agriculture and Forestry Dialogue in the priority area of organic farming aims to improve the legal and institutional framework for the promotion and monitoring of organic production. Furthermore, it promotes a deeper understanding of the necessary framework conditions for a sustainably organised organic sector and its further development. Beyond that, the

technical dialogue offers support in the development of a marketing strategy for Moroccan organic products on the national and international food markets.



“Training of Trainers” on Composting – an expert explains the advantages of this in organic farming.

Due to climate change both drought and floods increase. Companies in Thailand have a great need for advice in irrigation and water management.



SECOND CHAPTER

Focussing on Small Farms for the Transformation of Food Systems

The transformation of food systems must leave no one behind. Small and micro farms are by far the most common type of farm worldwide. They embody the direct link between agriculture, food security and living standards in rural areas. At the same time, their size often makes them difficult to reach with support measures and programmes.

In order to support the goal of resilient and sustainable food systems to improve living standards and agroecology, projects under the Bilateral Cooperation Programme specifically strengthen various forms of inter-farm cooperation.

“Zero Hunger.” Achieving this goal by 2030 is currently a distant prospect. However, no less than half a billion farms in low- and middle-income countries, behind which stand around three billion people, remain the most important building block for achieving this goal. In most of these countries, far more than 50% of agricultural land is still cultivated by smallholder farms, most of which have far less than 5 hectares. Smallholder agriculture often forms the productive backbone of the national food supply and the key source of income. Smallholders are particularly at risk from the climate crisis.

A key transformation challenge is to enable smallholder farms to produce healthy and nutritious products in an environmentally sound manner, while providing stable and sufficient incomes.

This is particularly relevant for the cultivation of cash crops such as coffee, cocoa, cotton, fruit and vegetables as well as special crops. Farms are often severely affected by price fluctuations and the occurrence of local extreme weather events. Achieving quality standards, access to innovations and technology, and certification will allow for better integration into value chains. Higher price margins through improved market access can significantly increase household incomes. On the other hand, only diversification can lead to more stable incomes and a secure food supply that is resilient. This can involve diversifying cultivation systems as well as strengthening non-agricultural sidelines. Thirdly, effective transformation requires the dissemination of sustainable and circular production methods among small farms to improve the ecological footprint of products.

Although small farms are not necessarily less efficient than large farms, they often work under more difficult conditions. For example, access to markets to sell their products profitably is often only possible at high unit

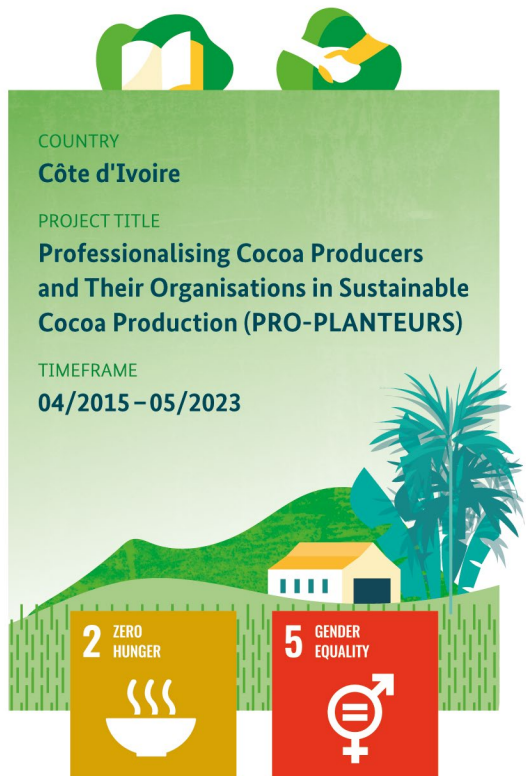
costs. Similarly, the costs to overcome barriers to finance, advice, mechanisation, inputs and innovative technologies are very high relative to farm size.

Not every single farm can be reached directly. In order to ensure that as many small farms as possible assume an active role in the transformation, it is important to address actors that link these farms to the markets. Producer organisations, and especially cooperatives, can act as such a link. Various BCP projects are therefore concerned with building the capacities of producer organisations. Three project examples are presented below.

Côte d’Ivoire

The Ivorian-German project PRO-PLANTEURS supports the sustainable professionalization of cocoa farming in Côte d’Ivoire in cooperation with the Sustainable Cocoa Forum. The aim is to improve the income and nutrition of families who depend on cocoa farming, while at the same time contributing to the protection of natural resources.

To this end, PRO-PLANTEURS works with about 50 cooperatives that market the cocoa of their members. They offer training and other services to their approximately 30,000 members. The cooperatives also support their members in the introduction of agroforestry cultivation systems and the development of alternative sources of income.





Training courses on agroforestry practices are an essential part of the training program by PROPLANTEURS.

The promotion of agroforestry systems and the diversification of agricultural crops contribute to the farms' resilience to the impacts of climate change. This reduces producers' economic dependence on cocoa, while increasing household incomes. The integration of native shade trees in cocoa cultivation promotes biodiversity and makes plantations more resilient to heat and drought.

Thailand

The "German-Thai Cooperation Project on Sustainable Cluster Farm Development in Thailand" encourages the merging of smaller farms to increase economic

efficiency and sustainability. The Thai government specifically supports the consolidation of the often very small-structured farms into so-called cluster farms. Within the scope of these cluster farms, agricultural enterprises can make joint investments and jointly manage land to grow vegetables, cassava or sugar cane, for example. In addition to using economies of scale in purchasing and marketing, this system allows knowledge about business management and sustainable cultivation methods to be transferred more effectively. Currently, almost half a million micro-enterprises in Thailand have joined together in more than 8,000 cluster farms. They cultivate an area of slightly more than 1 million hectares. The project supports this strategy through the targeted transfer of know-how on the effective use of inputs and site-adapted cultivation methods for sustainable, efficient and climate-resilient agriculture. To this end, various advisory and management approaches as well as modern and sustainable production methods are being put into practice and tested in eight cluster farms with different production sectors. The aim is for the practical experience gained to be incorporated into the official advisory services for cluster farms and the management of these cluster farms in Thailand.

COUNTRY
Thailand

PROJECT TITLE
German-Thai Cooperation Project on Sustainable Cluster Farm Development in Thailand

TIMEFRAME
09/2020 – 08/2023

2 ZERO HUNGER

Vegetable production
on a cluster farm in
Thailand.



Türkiye

The “German-Turkish Association Partnership to Strengthen Associations of Agricultural Cooperatives in Türkiye” supports the development of administrative and management structures of associations of agricultural cooperatives in Türkiye. It aims to professionalize structures in such a way that services for farms can be offered in a more targeted manner, for example access to inputs or marketing channels. Such strong and independent structures of self-organisation are an important prerequisite for the transformation of food systems and agriculture. They form an important link between governments and the agricultural sector and help small and medium-sized farms to become active players in the transformation.

Providing access to practical knowledge on climate-resilient and sustainable cultivation methods, especially on small and medium-sized farms, by strengthening the self-organisation capacities of the agricultural sector remains an important focus of the BCP’s work.



COUNTRY
Türkiye

PROJECT TITLE
German-Turkish Association Partnership to Strengthen Associations of Agricultural Cooperatives in Türkiye

TIMEFRAME
04/2016 – 03/2023

2 ZERO HUNGER

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

During an Argentinian-German delegation trip in Cordoba, Argentina, Las Chilcas farm was visited. See this chapter for more details.



Innovation as the Key to Transforming Food Systems

Sustainable agricultural innovations are crucial to meeting the complex challenges of the present and future, such as climate change, resource scarcity, biodiversity conservation or demographic change.

New approaches, methods and technologies along the entire agricultural production and food chain also strengthen the resilience and adaptability of food systems and can contribute to increasing agricultural production. Global food security and the food sovereignty of individual countries and regions depend significantly on the innovative capacity of agricultural and food systems.

Despite enormous progress in recent years, for example in the field of seeds and irrigation techniques, the development and dissemination of agricultural innovations remains a major challenge in many parts of the world. The reasons for this are often context-specific: in addition to legal and institutional frameworks that inhibit innovation, there are frequently technical and financial access barriers (e.g., lack of application know-how) as well as insufficient cooperation between the different actors. In addition, there is sometimes political,

private-sector or societal resistance that can significantly control the innovation dynamics in the entire sector or individual sub-sectors. Against this backdrop it is becoming increasingly important to improve agricultural knowledge and innovation systems. The promotion of innovation systems requires a multidimensional approach involving all actors in the agricultural and food sectors at different levels. When it comes to innovations, there is also an increasing need for the development of specific capacities and the transfer of knowledge, and thus for corresponding advisory, education and training offers.

Within the framework of its bilateral cooperation projects, the BCP specifically supports the joint further development of agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in the agricultural and food sectors. The exact project concepts and contents are always tailored to the individual needs and conditions in the partner countries. Examples of this are the current BCP projects in Argentina, Mongolia and the Western Balkans.

Visit of the project team on the farm Agrícola Testa in Pergamino, Province of Buenos Aires. The use of a drone for targeted herbicide application was demonstrated.



Argentina

The German-Argentine Technical Dialogue on Innovations for a Climate and Environment-Friendly Agricultural Sector focuses on the promotion of climate and environmentally friendly innovations. Examples include smart agriculture with a focus on digitization in cattle farming, biological pesticides and sustainability indicators. In this way, the project supports the current efforts of the Argentine government to establish sustainable agricultural utilization systems. In addition to providing advice on legal and institutional framework conditions that promote innovation, a particular focus is on strengthening the knowledge transfer and exchange of experience between the two countries. The project takes into account the specific conditions in Argentina. Despite a lively start-up scene in the field of agricultural technologies and existing innovation ecosystems in individual provinces, the development of climate and environmentally friendly agricultural innovations as well as the nationwide transfer of innovations remain key challenges. The project therefore supports legislative initiatives and capacity building of experts and managers in governmental and non-governmental institutions. An innovation-friendly legal framework and strong institutions are essential prerequisites to be able to create incentives for the development of innovations. In addition, the project



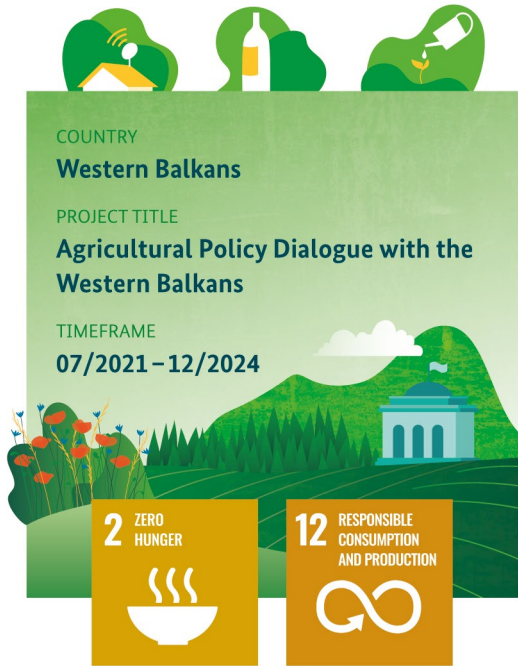
makes an important contribution to the dissemination of climate and environmentally friendly agricultural innovations. The focus here is on connecting the different levels, actors and networks, for example by setting up a virtual, national innovation platform, establishing bilateral research cooperation and piloting selected innovations in agriculture. In this way, the project is actively shaping the transformation of Argentina's agricultural sector towards greater sustainability and climate resilience.

Modern control center of the bioethanol plant at the visited farm Las Chilcas in Argentina.



Western Balkans

The Agricultural Policy Dialogue with the Western Balkans also supports the development of sustainability-oriented innovation systems while promoting regional cooperation among the Western Balkan states as well as their accession to the EU. In close cooperation with the SWG (Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group), the joint intergovernmental organisation of the ministries of agriculture in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia, the project has been supporting a regional working group with members from administration, science and the private sector since 2021, which is specifically concerned with the further development of agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in line with EU standards. An important topic in this context is the establishment of regionally harmonised qualification standards for agricultural extension services. In addition, the APD supports regional working groups in the areas of viticulture, soil protection and organic farming, which involve not only the ministries of agriculture but also actors from the fields of science and education. In 2023, a cultivation trial with fungus-resistant grape varieties (Piwis) will be launched in all six states as the key to a more sustainable and climate-adapted wine sector.



Furthermore, it is planned to establish a regional Soil Partnership under the FAO's European Soil Partnership as a central platform for exchange on all soil protection issues.



Fungus-resistant grape varieties are the key to reducing pesticide use in viticulture.

Mongolia

The German-Mongolian Cooperation Project on Sustainable Agriculture (DMKNL) focuses on the sustainable development of agriculture in Mongolia. Due to the dominant tradition of nomadic animal husbandry, the legal and institutional structures for arable farming in Mongolia are still weak in some areas. The project aims to support the Mongolian Ministry of Agriculture (MELL) and subordinate institutions in creating reliable legal frameworks, providing needs-based services (e.g., agricultural extension systems) and strengthening technical and methodological competencies in the field of good agricultural practices and sustainable, climate-adapted cultivation systems. This also includes the

promotion of agricultural innovations in arable farming in order to develop alternatives to outdated farming methods and to make farming systems more resilient to the impacts of climate change and other risks. Here, the project focuses on advisory services on agricultural legislation and institutional issues, education and training measures for representatives of the MELL and other institutions as well as farm managers and farm employees, and measures to raise public awareness of sustainable agriculture. Thanks to the good cooperation, the project has been able to help shape some important processes in recent years, including the development of new laws and regulations on seeds and plant protection and the establishment of a working group on agricultural extension.

COUNTRY
Mongolia

PROJECT TITLE
German-Mongolian Cooperation Project on Sustainable Agriculture (DMKNL)

TIMEFRAME
10/2019 – 10/2023

2 ZERO HUNGER

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Circle irrigation machines are an innovation in Mongolia

The ITD strengthens the exchange on innovative approaches for the transformation of agricultural and food systems, such as sustainable hydroponic systems, which require significantly less water and land to rear and cultivate ornamental and crop plants.



The Innovation and Transformation Dialogue in the BMEL's Bilateral Cooperation Programme

The GFFA 2023 addresses the topic “Transforming Food Systems – A Worldwide Response to Multiple Crises,” thus tying in directly with the UN Food Systems Summit. The objective of the GFFA is to advance discussions and explore partnership-based ways of global and national cooperation to create crisis-proof and climate-friendly food systems and preserve biodiversity.

With the Innovation and Transformation Dialogue (ITD), a new instrument in the Bilateral Cooperation Programme (BCP) of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), we aim to provide flexible and effective support for food system transformation initiatives beyond the GFFA, and to integrate new actors, topics, and formats into the BCP.

It addresses key actors from practice, science, and civil society, who have so far only been partially involved in the predominantly inter-ministerial dialogue formats. The participation of all stakeholder groups is a central

factor in system transformation. This is not an end in itself, but essential in order to break down prevailing mindsets and path dependencies, to find new and balanced solutions and to increase the legitimacy of the transformation. In the international context, it is always important to also question one's own position as an actor. A global transformation can only be successful if joint solutions are found that are recognised as beneficial by all those affected. In fact, the transformation of food systems opens up opportunities in all countries and for all stakeholder groups.

In terms of content, the ITD focuses on aspects of transformation that go beyond the previous priorities of the BCP (organic and sustainable agriculture, promotion of cooperatives, agricultural extension and training). Innovation here refers to both technical processes (e.g., digitalisation and breeding) and social practices in production and consumption, as well as governance structures.



In this respect, the ITD's focal points will include:

- Promotion of plant-based diets and alternative proteins
- Shaping of framework conditions for sustainable innovations in agriculture (in particular, seeds, digitalisation)
- Climate-food partnerships
- Nature-based solutions (e.g., biological plant protection, agrobiodiversity)
- Food-water-energy-waste nexus
- Opportunities of transformation for the European Neighbourhood
- Urban food policy
- Diversification and promotion of food sovereignty

The measures within the scope of the ITD also explicitly serve to familiarize German actors with the experiences and solutions from the partner countries.

ITD initiatives are flexible and will be targeted to bring the most added value to the stakeholders involved.

Planned initiatives include

- Bilateral and regional workshops and conferences
- Establishing clusters
- Supporting national dialogue processes in the partner countries

The ITD can also promote existing bilateral partnerships of universities, associations, civil society actors, cities, and regions that make a recognisable content-related contribution to food system transformation. The aim is always to use established capacities, contacts, and networks as effectively as possible for the initiatives.

Feel free to contact us with your ideas at any time!

Overview of All Cooperation Projects of the BMEL

COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	SDGs	TIMEFRAME
Argentina	German-Argentine Technical Dialogue on Innovations for a Climate and Environment-Friendly Agricultural Sector	2, 12, 13, 15	11/2021 – 10/2024
Brasilien	German-Brazilian Agricultural Policy Dialogue (APD)	2, 12, 13, 15	04/2021 – 03/2024
China	Sino-German Agriculture Centre (DCZ)	2, 12, 13, 17	02/2015 – 03/2025
China	Sino-German Animal Husbandry Cooperation Project	2	02/2015 – 12/2024
Côte d’Ivoire	Professionalising Cocoa Producers and Their Organisations in Sustainable Cocoa Production (PRO-PLANTEURS)	2, 5, 12	04/2015 – 05/2023
Ethiopia	Supporting Sustainable Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia (SSAP)	2, 6, 12, 13, 15	11/2014 – 12/2023
India	Indo-German Cooperation on Seed Sector Development	2, 15	07/2013 – 12/2023
India	Indo-German Cooperation on Agricultural Market Development	2, 12	08/2021 – 08/2024
Kazakhstan	Kazakh-German Agricultural Policy Dialogue	2, 12, 15	06/2009 – 12/2025
Kazakhstan	German Agricultural Training Centre in Kazakhstan	2, 4, 12, 15	11/2010 – 12/2024
Kazakhstan	Increase of Operational Competencies for the Sustainable Development of Dairy Production in Kazakhstan (Milk Competence Development)	2, 8, 12, 15	11/2019 – 10/2023
Morocco	German-Moroccan Agriculture and Forestry Dialogue (DIAF) – Component 1 “Organic Farming” and Component 2 “Inter-Farm Cooperation in the Agriculture and Forestry Sectors”	2, 12, 13, 15	10/2019 – 10/2023

COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	SDGs	TIMEFRAME
Mongolia	German-Mongolian Cooperation Project on Sustainable Agriculture (DMKNL)	2, 6, 12, 13, 15	04/2013 – 12/2024
Southern Africa	Strengthening Capacities of SACAU Members in Climate Resilience and Further Topics of Strategic Importance Through Peer Learning and Exchanges	2, 13, 17	11/2021 – 10/2024
Thailand	German-Thai Cooperation Project on Sustainable Cluster Farm Development in Thailand	2, 13	09/2020 – 08/2023
Türkiye	German-Turkish Association Partnership to Strengthen Associations of Agricultural Cooperatives in Türkiye	2, 8	04/2016 – 03/2023
Ukraine	German-Ukrainian Agricultural Policy Dialogue	2, 4, 12, 13	01/2006 – 12/2024
Ukraine	Improvement of Education at Agricultural Colleges in Ukraine (FABU)	4, 5	12/2021 – 12/2024
Ukraine	German-Ukrainian Cooperation in the Field of Organic Agriculture (COA)	2, 12, 15	06/2016 – 08/2023
Ukraine	German-Ukrainian Expert Dialogue on the Sustainable Development of the Fruit and Vegetable Sector	2, 4, 5, 12	01/2023 – 12/2025
Western Balkans	Agricultural Policy Dialogue with the Western Balkans	2, 4, 12, 13	07/2021 – 12/2024
Zambia	German-Zambian Agricultural Knowledge and Training Centre (AKTC)	2, 4, 12, 13, 15	08/2014 – 07/2024

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