

# ANNUAL REVIEW

bioRe® Foundation 2018/19



**HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIC COTTON promotes organic farming and thereby ensures a sustainable basis of life for 4,900 organic farmers in India and Tanzania. bioRe® Foundation is currently focusing on the observance of 5 selected human rights:**

**THE RIGHT TO ECOLOGY, EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND WORK.**



## PURPOSE OF THE BIORE® FOUNDATION:

- Promotion of organic farming through research and education
- Building an infrastructure in the following areas: Education, health, farming
- Organization structure and capital formation for the local implementation of the projects and direct collaboration with the farmers.

## ECOLOGICAL METHODS OF FARMING – a HUMAN RIGHT to a healthy environment\*

„Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family...” Art. 25, UDHR

Organic agriculture is especially resource-friendly and oriented towards the model of sustainability. Organic agriculture promotes biological diversity of plants and animals through diverse crop rotation, including the use of catch crops and by renouncing on any chemical plant protection. It also supports climate protection. The use of genetically modified organisms is forbidden.

„I learnt that organic farming must be thought of differently than just as «free of pesticides and chemicals». The organism must be thought of as a whole, it must be given space in order for it to live.”

Patrick Hohmann, founder of the bioRe® Foundation

## NON-GMO SEEDS for humans and for nature

Besides the education in the area of organic agriculture, bioRe® Foundation also promotes research projects with the goal of providing the farmers with high-quality non-GMO organic cotton seeds. Thereby, the right of the farmers to their own high-quality seeds is ensured and their independence is promoted.

„We don't work to get rich, but for the people which produce for us, in order to provide them with a free space for development and an alternative to the dept trap.”

Patrick Hohmann, founder of the bioRe® Foundation

The production of organic cotton seeds in India is a huge challenge. In 2002, the first genetically modified cotton seeds were introduced in India by the company Monsanto. In 2013, 95% of all cotton seeds in India were genetically modified.

In 2018/19, bioRe® India Ltd can beat back with **success in research** and already has non-GMO cotton seeds which can be propagated. Six of the non-GMO cotton seeds varieties from our research were approved for commercialization. The first organic non-GMO cotton seeds from the

bioRe® seeds research (in collaboration with Dr.Patil and the University of Dharward) are for extensive production in the soil. It is a huge milestone, after 9 years of intense research. As a pioneer in the production of organic cotton, we reached the point, where we can already provide the farmers with our own seeds.

„This year, I am happy to be using bioRe seeds: bioRe Power and Narmada Shakti Silver.” 90% of the seeds germinate. This makes this moment a very happy one for me.”

Tarachand Hiralal, bioRe farmer

One of the bioRe® Foundation’s main focuses lies on agricultural research (supported by *Coop*). The **long-term system comparison** in cooperation with the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (*FiBL*) compares the four existing local cultivation systems, which are: biodynamic, organic, conventional agriculture and the use of non-GMO cotton.

The system comparison offers demonstrative insights, which are accessible for the community of farmers. Additionally, in field trials in direct collaboration with organic farmers, participative, specific organic methods of pest control are being evaluated.

### **WAPRO - Water productivity in India**

Within the scope of the international water productivity project (WAPRO), we launched specific activities for the efficient use of the water in India available for the agricultural production and for improved organic cotton varieties.

The focus lies on water-friendly technologies and seeds and on the development of 100 women’s groups for a sustainable management of water resources.

Already, farmers are benefiting from drip irrigation for 150 fields and additionally, the specific field trials for drought resistant varieties are being developed.

The WAPRO program is being supported by the Agency for Development and Cooperation (*SDC*) and *Helvetas*.

## **EDUCATION FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

### **An investment in the future**

For a sustainable agricultural production, the soil fertility must be maintained and improved.

The bioRe® Foundation supports numerous trainings, in which agricultural experts and bioRe farmers teach soil improvement, minimal tillage, erosion control and pest control.

Such trainings include practical learning methods, where the farmers must implement everything practically after the theoretical training in order to see if the agronomic methods succeed.

Such an education transmits the standards of organic agriculture and eventually enables the production of high-quality organic cotton. These basics for sustainable production open up new perspectives for future farmer generations.

„Most of the work in the fields is done by women. But only 4.5% of the training participants are women. The traditional experience shows, that most women are prevented from going to the training by their husbands. Therefore, we make an effort to always demonstrate the meaning of the training participation for women for the well-being of the families.”

Charles Mabuga, Co-CEO bioRe® Tanzania Ltd.

Contrary to the harmful chemical synthetic pesticides, organic pest control is produced without any toxic substances. Organic compounds can be used selectively and control the pests in combination with beneficial insects. Farmers are advised to plant catch crops in order to attract beneficial insects to the fields which fight harmful insects.

„I sowed my cotton in November along with sunflowers as a catch crop. In the beginning of February, I set up traps to catch the moths, which enable the most common cotton pests, the bollworm, to

propagate. These practical methods reduced the pests on my field.“

Azimio Ng'ondi, bioRe farmer

## **BIORE® INDIA LTD.**

The last season was satisfactory regarding the agricultural performance. But bioRe® India Ltd. suffered a big loss, as there weren't enough non-GMO cotton seeds available and the contaminated cotton had to be sold conventionally. Nevertheless, about 150 tons of ginned organic cotton could be sold in the bioRe supply chain. 2,994 organic farmers are registered at bioRe® India Ltd. The weather conditions were good for cotton, so there were no mayor pest infestations. The starting position for the coming season is on a good track in the area of seeds, even though the challenges persist.

The propagation of our first cleaned varieties and hybrids are taking place, so we can already provide the organic farmers with smaller quantities of non-GMO seeds. It is our intention to produce 80% of our own seeds, already for the next season. In order to obtain a financially sustainable profit and loss statement, it is necessary to produce enough non-GMO seeds for the farmers. All together, we focus on the development of selected regions as organic areas. bioRe® India Ltd. still runs its own cotton ginnery.

Additionally, ever more harvests from crop rotation are sold on the Indian organic market. During the last year, the organization was acknowledged as a research institute by the Indian state. This will open up additional research projects for the improvement of productivity.

## **BIORE® ASSOCIATION INDIA**

**The animation education program** is continuously growing and serves children in need. Currently, 18 animation schools are in operation, where 1'211 children are visiting primary school. The bioRe® team tries to find innovative ways and methods to design the animation schools in an interesting and informative way for the children. Since 2014, thanks to the generous support of *Coop*, zhe bioRe school campus offers further education opportunities through a secondary school and an integrated vocational training center for the children who have completed the basic training. In the past school year 593 students were registered.

**The Mobile Health Unit** has existed for 12 years and is still working efficiently. It travels to 6 different places in one week and offers health services in remote areas, where there are no hospitals, possibilities to get a diagnosis or medical staff.

bioRe® Association promotes **biogas plants**. Each interested farmer family, which builds and uses a biogas plant, receives a subsidy for its construction. The programs include monitoring and repairing existing plants.

We organize **sensitization campaigns for water and hygiene** in the villages. Over the course of the last year 100 toilets were built for the farmer families. Since the beginning of the project, 375 toilets were built.

The bioRe® Association founded and provided, in the scope of the **existence founding programs** the hand weaving plant Aavran with 19 employees and produces scarfs, kitchen towels and other fabrics according to the customer's wishes. In the village Choli there is a group of women who sew. About 12 women work in the sewing center and sew suits for women, school uniforms and children's clothes. That's how, also during the last year, many handmade products could be sold.

## BIORE® TANZANIA LTD.

In April 2019 Niranjan Pattni, our long-standing CEO and president of bioRe® Tanzania Ltd, retired after 20 years of hard work for bioRe. Niranjan Pattni will have two successions: Our long-standing employee Charles Mabuga as the Co-CEO for finances and administration and Marco Paul as the Co-CEO for production.

During the past season 2018/19, 1,906 organic farmers were registered at bioRe® Tanzania Ltd. The harvest was very good and brought 2,500 tons of ginned organic cotton.

## BIORE® FOUNDATION TANZANIA

The bioRe® Foundation Tanzania has again conducted numerous social projects in different villages in the regions of Meatu and Maswa throughout the last year. They are focusing on the **construction of wells, ovens and on agricultural education**. Thanks to generous donations 1000 efficient ovens and 5 additional wells for drinking water were built. For example, in the village Mwalugesha where a well for 56 families was built, in remembrance of our patron Hanne Helfenstein, donated by her family and friends.

Diverse agricultural trainings for hundreds of farmers were conducted. The participants of the trainings about the different agronomic methods obtained practical knowledge on sustainable tillage and organic pest control - the essential bases for the production of high-quality organic products, which are demanded on the market.

### Project size 2018-19

Participation CHF 11'143

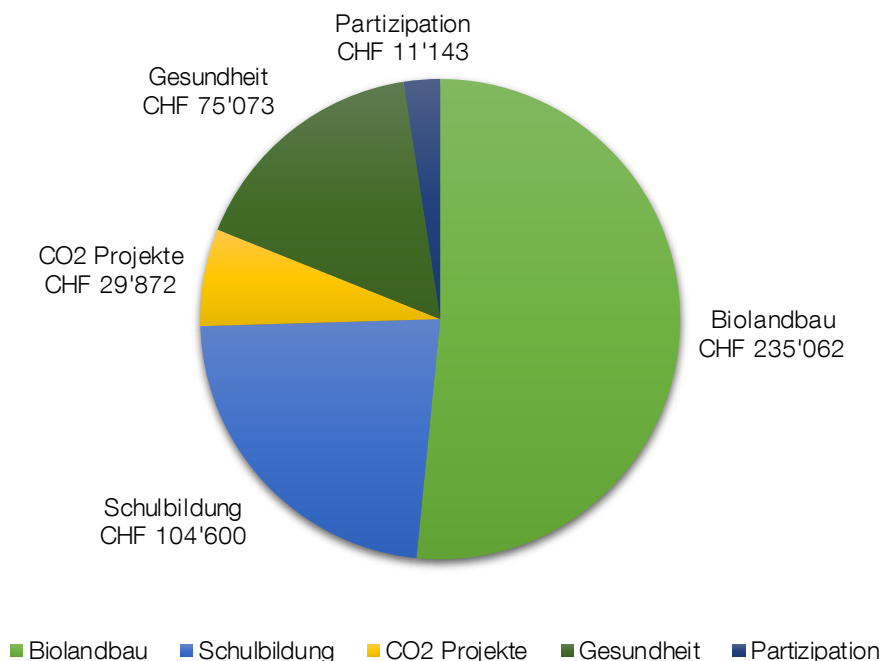
Health CHF 75'073

CO2 Projects CHF 29'872

School Education CHF 104'600

Organic Farming CHF 235'062

### Projektvolumen 2018-19



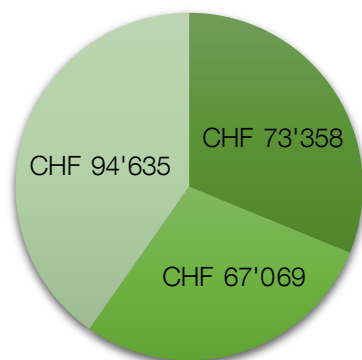
## Distribution of project funds for organic agriculture

Research CHF 73,358

Productivity CHF 94,635

Agricultural Education CHF 67,069

Aufteilung Projektgelder  
für Biolandbau



■ Forschung ■ Landwirtschaftliche Ausbildung ■ Produktivität

We are happy to send you the detailed annual statement upon request: [info@biorestiftung.ch](mailto:info@biorestiftung.ch)

### **COMMENTARY on the past business year by Christa Suter, CEO bioRe® Foundation:**

During the last business year, bioRe® Foundation has again received a big support from company donations, private donations and through foundations. The donations have slightly increased, to CHF 635,143 (previous year CHF 575,870). We could invest in numerous projects in the areas of organic agriculture (seeds, education, productivity increase) and expand concrete basic needs such as water supply, food safety and infrastructure in the health sector. Additionally, the school programs in India were significantly promoted. In total CHF 455,751 were used for the project funding.

Both companies, bioRe® India Ltd. and bioRe® Tanzania Ltd. have challenging years behind them. In this way, the massive spread of GMO cotton seeds in India also keeps the company from expanding and increasing the amount of organic cotton. Correspondingly, bioRe® India Ltd had to conduct a value adjustment. Thanks to the availability of our own non-GMO seeds, the company now has very good conditions for stabilization. bioRe® Tanzania Ltd. produced the expected quantities and presented a balanced result.

### **GET INVOLVED FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

Through your DONATION, you support also other activities of the bioRe® Foundation, such as school, water and other social projects and thereby ensure the basic human right to a dignified life for families in the south.

**MEMBERSHIP OR PATRONAGE** of the association "Friends of bioRe® Foundation" enables us to continue the projects in a sustainable way.

MEMBERSHIP CHF 100 /year

PATRONAGE CHF 1,000/year

COMPANY PATRONAGE CHF 5,000/year

We are happy to provide you with information.  
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The impact of bioRe® Foundation would not have been possible without the generous support of the numerous donors and patrons. Some donors accompany the social projects of the foundation, for example as long-standing school godparent and in this way, enable generations of children to have a better perspective for life through education.

**We give THANKS for your valuable support!**



**Foundation board of the bioRe® Foundation in 2018/19:**

Jürg Peritz (president)  
Patrick Hohmann  
Margrit Hugentobler  
Philipp Wyss  
Judith Schuler-Schmuki (until Dec. ,18)  
Emanuel Büchlin (until March ,19)  
Pia Bracher (since March ,19)  
Jürg Weber (since March ,19)  
Christa Suter  
Christa Suter, general manager

## Cooperations:

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Fibl

HELVETAS

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)



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**FiBL**



**HELVETAS**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten EDA  
Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA

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