

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL - OCTOBER 2019



**Production of Farmer Videos in Kenya, Benin and Mali for
Enhancement of Agricultural Advisory and Extension Services**

For further information, contact:

Alex Mutungi

EOA-I Continental Secretariat Coordinator
Biovision Africa Trust c/o icipe, P.O. Box 30772-00100 GPO
Duduville Kasarani, Off Thika Road, Nairobi Kenya.
Email: amutungi@biovisionafrica.org

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Best practices videos to enhance farmer uptake of Ecological Organic Agriculture techniques for biodiversity conservation in Africa.
Implementing Institution:	Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)
Partners:	Ecological Organic Agriculture-Initiative & Biovision Farmer Communication Programme (FCP)
Collaborator:	Access Agriculture
Project Leader:	Alex Mutungi
Technical Team:	Musdalafa Lyaga- omusdalafa@biovisionafrica.org Charles Kimani- ckimani@biovisionafrica.org Hudson Shiraku- hshiraku@biovisionafrica.org
Starting Date:	June 2019.
Completion Date:	30 April 2020
Grant Amount:	USD 4,600

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1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays a significant role in reducing poverty and serves as an engine for growth in developing countries. Additionally, it contributes to socio-economic wellbeing of the people through food production and employment (Aker, 2010). Based on its importance, several countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) including Kenya, Benin and Mali have put efforts into improving the sector. These efforts include the provision of extension services to change farmers' attitude to enhance their efforts on productivity.

Agricultural extension services have an important role in increasing quality of the production (Hosseinet al., 2008). The extension agents intervene to bring about change by providing knowledge and information that enable farmers to understand and adopt particular practices (Oakley and Garforth, 1985). Additionally, they play a vital role in technology transfer and promoting technology development (Moris, 1991). Extension facilitation is difficult and potentially a costly undertaking that is regularly provided by the government and partly by private agents.

On the other hand, farmers are seeking innovative ways to grow more food with less adversarial environmental impact. Intensification of agroecology/ecological organic agriculture presents that promise; encouraging more ecologically, biodiverse, resilient, sustainable and socially just forms of agriculture and food systems.

a) ICTs in Agriculture Extension

The demand for effective and appropriate extension services, dwindling government budgets, advances in telecommunication technology worldwide, globalization among others are setting the stage in shaping the future of extension services especially adoption of ICT. <http://www.fao.org/3/i3557e/i3557e.pdf>

ICTs provide an opportunity for developing countries, including Kenya, Benin and Mali to harness and utilize agricultural information and knowledge to improve productivity among farmers.

The promotion of ICTs in agriculture has mainly focused on its adoption and use by the extension officers. However, agriculture extension service provision is shifting towards employing participatory approaches that involve the end users of technologies in the creation and transfer of such technologies. There are, therefore, ICTs that enable horizontal communication hence allowing farmers to share information amongst them. Participatory video is one such ICT.

2. PROJECT OUTLINE

“Best practices videos to enhance farmer uptake of Ecological Organic Agriculture techniques for biodiversity conservation in Africa” is a one-year project (April 2019-April

2020) co-funded by Turing Foundation through Biovision Foundation and the African Union led EOA-Initiate supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The project's aim is to produce 10 Farmer Videos in Kenya, Benin and Mali for enhancement of Agricultural Advisory and Extension Services focusing on technologies that enhance biodiversity.

This Project is therefore designed to bridge the gap between research knowledge on agroecology/organic farming approaches and technologies in easy-to-understand formats and influence farmer knowledge and behavioral change through a step by step of how to do videos. Farmer videos trigger conversational exchange among farmers including those without access to the videos. The interactions catalyze collective reflection, evaluation and validation of knowledge, which in turn motivate experimentation and uptake of technologies and innovation using appropriate Participatory Farmer Videos (PV) for enhancement of Agricultural Advisory and Extension Services.

3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE

Overall overview of project implementation

The entire project was divided into two phases. The first phase comprised of research and holding of inception workshops in each of the three countries to identify key technologies that promote biodiversity to be targeted for the video production. The phase also entailed building long-term partnerships among farmers, and extension agents so that they can jointly identify, analyse, and promote biodiversity conservation.

The next phase entailed farmer video production and finally the “dissemination of the farmer videos phase”. Each project phase covers a period of 4 months. Below is a summary of the progress so far;

4. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

i. Inception Workshops

The inception workshop objectives in Kenya, Mali and Benin were to:

- i. Identify biodiversity related technologies and techniques practiced in the three countries,
- ii. Determine challenges associated with practicing the technologies,
- iii. Prioritize locally relevant biodiversity technologies to be targeted for the video production and
- iv. Develop working and collaborative arrangements between stakeholders and communities targeted.

a) Inception Workshop Kakamega, Kenya

The workshop in Kakamega Kenya took place in April 2019. It brought together participants representing various Agriculture stakeholders in Kakamega County, namely; farmers, farmer groups representatives, farmer teachers, extension workers, Ministry of Agriculture representatives and Agro-dealer representative.

The workshop design combined conceptual introductions with brainstorming in plenary sessions as well as working in sub groups on well-defined tasks. The participants took active roles in presenting outputs from the working groups. Video watching sessions were also held for both the partners and farmers in order to solicit their views and appreciation for the use of videos in extension to promote agrobiodiversity. There were also field visits to help understand the farming environment.

Through the workshop process and deliberations with stakeholders, the following technologies were agreed upon for Kakamega;

1. Establishing a Push pull plot
2. Indigenous trees
3. Integration of livestock and crops

Pictures from Kenya



A participant makes her point during the workshop session



Mr. Lyaga takes participants through the introduction session for the video watching session



A workshop session in progress with Mr. Werah looking on.



Mr. Wangalwa facilitates a session for identifying sustainable farming technologies that enhance agro-diversity



A workshop session in progress



Participants keenly follow the proceedings of the workshop.



Mr. Lyaga takes participants through an evaluation process for the videos watched.



A participant leads other participants in analysing the different farming technologies' contribution to agrodiversity.

b) Inception Workshop Cotonou Benin

The visit to Benin for the inception workshop covers two parts in order to achieve the four objectives above. The team conducted a field visit to understand the farming environment of the country, visited partners and then had the workshop with the farmers and stakeholders.

The team visited the Ministry of Agriculture headquarters in Cotonou and were well received by Damien Agueh who is the Director of Extension services in the country. He was impressed in the team's willingness to first understand the farming systems in Benin before producing the farmer training videos. The Director said his Department will work closely with the team in the dissemination of the training videos.

The team then met with the Access Agriculture team of Dr. Florent Okry (Programme Leader) and Jonas Wanvoeke (Project Manager) at the IITA campus in Cotonou. It was agreed in the meeting that Access Agriculture will host the produced farmer videos on their website www.accessagriculture.org and later the team met with the CEO of Association Interprofessionnelle du Coton who informed the group of the challenges cotton farmers were facing using heavy synthetic fertilizer and the need for a training video focusing on ESA technologies targeting cotton farmers. He was later joined by Dr.

Oumarou Balarabe who promised the team he will attend the partners' workshop and give his input.

The team conducted two workshops, one with farmers and the other one with partners. The participants were knowledgeable about the subject and were able to identify at least 16 ESA technologies and the challenges farmers were facing in practicing them. The participants expressed their willingness to work with the team in both production and dissemination of the videos.

Selected technologies for filming;

1. Crop rotation
2. Marketing organic products
3. Managing pests with biopesticides

Pictures from Benin



Alex Mutungi and Musdalafa Lyaga taking notes during the meeting with Damien Agueh the Director of Extension services at the Ministry of Agriculture Benin



The team poses for a photo with Access Agriculture staff after the meeting



The partners workshop



Farmers from Djidja demonstrate how they make Bio pesticide during the field visit



Farmers pose for a photo with the team after the workshop



Mr. Alex Mutungi listens to the CEO Association Interprofessionnelle du cotton talking about heavy use of chemicals in cotton farming



Team poses at the composting site in Ouidah



Farmer Fidel demonstrates how he uses manure from his poultry in growing pepper

c) Inception Workshop Bamako, Mali

The visit to Mali for the inception workshop covers two parts in order to achieve the four objectives above. The team conducted a field visit to understand the farming environment of the country, visited partners and then had the workshop with the farmers and stakeholders.

The Biovision team visited partners and stakeholders currently working under the EOA Initiative to explain to them about the project and seek collaborations. These included Universities, Non-Governmental organizations, Government ministries and farmers organizations. The visited organizations also came to the workshop.

The workshop was conducted in two phases; for farmers and stakeholders. The participants identified ESA technologies that promote biodiversity and the challenges farmers were facing in practicing them. They then narrowed down to the following technologies for prioritization;

- Composting
- Intercropping
- Seed banks

Pictures from Mali



Musdalafa Lyaga facilitating a workshop session with stakeholders in Mali



BvAT team keenly follow as they are explained to measures put in place to protect indigenous seeds.



Musdalafa Lyaga take notes during a field visit.



Preserved indigenous seeds on display



BvAT team during a visit to the National University of Agriculture in Mali.

ii. Filming activities

Following the outcomes of the inception workshops conducted in Kenya, Benin and Mali, the technologies to be filmed were agreed upon, scripting and filming schedules produced, and the cast identified. The filming process has started with Kakamega. The filming crew was in Kakamega in September. The team was able to film the locations and conduct interviews for all the videos. In total, 6 farms were filmed, and 10 farmers interviewed on the three technologies and practices that were agreed on for Kenya that help in the conservation of biodiversity.

The team also travelled to Kirinyaga to film the integration of vegetables and poultry with macadamia farming. In total 3 farms were visited and two filmed before the filming was disrupted by the heavy rains. The filming is set to resume after the rains have subsided.

In November, Musdalafa Lyaga will be in Mali while Charles Kimani will be in Benin in December for the filming. This filming schedule was greatly shaped by the seasonality of crops.



Photos from the filming process

5. KEY PROJECT LESSONS AND CHALLENGES

Lesson

1. Farmers like being involved in the process of designing a solution to their problems – this way, they are more likely to own and adopt the solution.

Challenge

1. The team faced the challenge of language barrier as the language mostly spoken is French. During the wrap up meeting, it was agreed that the team consider engaging a translator during the Mali workshops.
2. The process of finalizing the contracts between Biovision Africa Trust and Biovision Foundation took quite a while. This has caused a setback in meeting deadlines for holding the inception workshops and filming.
3. Furthermore, there was a delay in disbursement of funds from the donor.
4. Finally, there is a specific problem that has affected the filming schedule. Kenya experienced unexpected heavy rainfall from the month of August that has caused serious delays in filming. The rains have since subsided and the filming crew is back in the field

Annex 1: Workshop Programme

Best practices videos to enhance farmer uptake of Ecological Organic Agriculture techniques for biodiversity conservation in Africa
Kakamega Inception Workshop
8th – 12th April 2019

A. Objectives of the Inception Workshop:

- a) The workshop is aimed at gaining a better understanding of the gaps within the farming systems in Kakamega and best farming practices to enhance biodiversity conservation within the region.
- b) The BvAT team will have the opportunity to present the framework of the project and other relevant information needed to implement the project.
- c) Founding a basis for partnership
- d) Enhancing networking and exchange between different partners and farmers.
- e) Creating a shared vision

B. Operating Details:

- a) Participants: Farmers, Farmers representatives, extension workers partners, representatives from the County Government, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders.
- b) Methodology: An open discussion and group activities will take place after every agenda item to be presented. Action points after every item will be noted and will be further discussed and summarized at the end of each day of the workshop.

C. Outputs

- a) Identified biodiversity conservation related technologies and techniques practised in Kakamega
- b) Determined why some farmers are not able to practice these technologies or challenges associated with practising the technologies.
- c) Prioritised locally relevant biodiversity technologies to be targeted for the video production
- d) Developed working and collaborative arrangements between stakeholders and communities targeted

Programme

Day 1 9 th April		Participants: Farmer group leaders
Time	Item	Description
9.30-9.45	Registration	
9.45-10.00	Introductions	Opening and welcoming of the participants and introductions.
10.00-10.30	Screening of video	Feed back on the use of videos
10.30-11.00	Tea break	
11.00-11.30	Group discussion	Mapping of Biodiversity practices in the farms
11.30-12.30	Presentation	Groups present their maps to other participants for discussions
12.30-13.00	Screening of the Video	A video on some of the biodiversity technologies and farming practices.
13.00-14:00	Lunch break	
14.00-14:30	Group discussions	Identifying reasons why farmers are not practicing the mentioned biodiversity conservation technologies
14.30-15:30	Presentations	Groups present their findings for discussions
15.30 – 15:45	Group discussions	Proposed interventions to help farmers adopt the technologies and working arrangements with BvAT on the production of the videos
15:45-16:30	Presentation of the	Groups present their findings for discussions on working and

	proposed interventions	collaborative arrangements with BvAT on the production of the videos
16:30-16:45	Recap	Summary of the day's discussions
16.45-17:00	Tea break and closure of day 1	
Day 2 11th April	Participants: Partners	
Time	Item	Description
9.30-9.45	Registration	
9.45-10.00	Introductions	Opening and welcoming of the participants and introductions.
10.00-10.30	Presentation and discussions	Introduction of the workshop programme, Presentation of the framework of the project and other relevant information needed to implement the project.
10.30-11.00	Screening of Video	Feed back on the use of videos
11.00-11.30	Group discussions	Groups identify various biodiversity conservation technologies
11:30-12:30	Presentation	Groups present their findings to participants for discussions
12:30-13:00	Screening of video	A video on some of the biodiversity technologies and farming practices.
13.00-14:00	Lunch break	
14.00-14:30	Group discussions	Groups Identify reasons why farmers are not practicing the mentioned biodiversity conservation technologies
14.30-15:30	Presentation	Groups present their findings of the various challenges for discussions
15.30 – 15:45	Group discussions	Proposed interventions to help farmers adopt the technologies and working arrangements with BvAT on the production of the videos
15:45-16:30	Presentations	Groups present their findings for discussions on working and collaborative arrangements with BvAT on the production of the videos
16:30-16:45	Recapp	Summary of the day's discussions
16.45-17:00	Tea break and closure of the inception workshop	

Annex 2: Workshop's Participants' List (Kenya)

Best practices videos to enhance farmer uptake of Ecological Organic Agriculture techniques for biodiversity conservation in Africa				Best practices videos to enhance farmer uptake of Ecological Organic Agriculture techniques for biodiversity conservation in Africa			
Kakamega Partners Inception Workshop 9 th April 2019				Kakamega Partners Inception Workshop 9 th April 2019			
No.	Name of participant	Organization	Signature	No.	Name of participant	Organization	Signature
1.	Catherine Akhayati	Isembe FAT		1.	Bernard N' Nyanjira	USAID CAMP FBO	0712206688
2.	Mary Likunda	Isembe Fat	may	2.	FLORA MUSANGA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	 0723777258
3.	Joseph Abuti	FARMER.		3.	DANARIC CHEPKWOL	WELTHUNGERHILFE KAKAMEGA	Duffoi 0710311028
4.	Caleb Musilwa	BVAT		4.	Caleb Musilwa	BVAT	0722221105
5.	THOMAS LUKORTI NANZAI	RANSIRI WIZINTIE		5.	Nicholas Omeri	K.F.N Kakamega Friends of Nature	 0724579951
6.	GAUDENTIA MUSANGA SHITAKHA	BAKHANA BICHINA WELFARE GROUP		6.	Michael Wangalwa	BVAT	0714803999 Mw
7.	TIMOTHY WANJA MUKWABI	HOUSE.		7.	JANE O. ODONGO	MOALFI	Jfj 0725861106
8.	PETER MWAKAYA AMUCHENSI	EAST WANJA CLUSTER		8.	JONAH KALANJE	KAKAMEGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASS.	 0721567880
9.	AGNES MUKILI	SHAMIKOLI FOREST CONSERVATION GREEN GROWERS	AS	9.	Leonard Muhanga	Nature Kenya	0724202393 LMuhanga
10	Michael Wangalwa	BVAT	Mw	10	Geoffrey Inganga	MARPA	 0702286452

Annex 3: Workshop's Participants' List (Benin)

sur les meilleures pratiques pour améliorer l'adoption par les agriculteurs des techniques d'agriculture biologique écologique pour la conservation de la biodiversité en Afrique

L'atelier du lancement de partenaires
8 Mai 2019

No.	Nom du participant	Organisation et contacts	Signature
1	DEGUENON Edgan Maxime	AMAP BENIN deguenonedgan@yahoo.fr	
2	ELEGBEDE Maunelle	Ministry of Environment / May 95 49 04 98 melegbede@yahoo.fr	
3	ZOUNDTI C. Gerard	National University of Agriculture gezoundti@gmail.com	
4	BOJIRENOU Delphine	BOJAN bojdelphine@gmail.com	
5	DAVIDO Thomas V.	ABEVCA / IABE thomasdavid@yahoo.fr	
6	LEGBAGATH SENA	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche senafrik@live.fr	
7	AMABOU Abolou	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche PSN 30530064	
8	DOSSEH Dickia	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche carmandosse@hotmail.com	
9	HANDEYAGNON ATDAS C.R. Euzèze	95407498 handeyagnon@gmail.com	
10	BALARABE Oumarou	PROJET TAZCO CIAD oumarou.balarabe@ciad.fr	
11	VOBOUHE S. Simplice	2292651056 IABE/IOVEPAR	

sur les meilleures pratiques pour améliorer l'adoption par les agriculteurs des techniques d'agriculture biologique écologique pour la conservation de la biodiversité en Afrique

L'atelier du lancement de partenaires
9 Mai 2019

No.	Nom du participant	contacts	Signature
1.	ATTINKPATO EMILE	65-61-11-33-6707960	
2.	GUEDEGBE Augustin	65409828	
3.	KPASSA Sèchémin	60358377	S
4.	OKOU Rosaline	66693284	⊙
5.	BINONWA Aïeudonne	97765038	
6.	AGOKOUN B. Fidel	67-73-36-29 34-25-06-75	
7.	AGOSSOU N. Laurent	97901814 64112222	
8.	VOBOUHE S. Simplice	entreprisegrc@gmail.com 96651096	
9.	BOJIRENOU Delphine	97131163	
10	Henri René	96791096	
11	David Okou	97701814	
12	Eliou Dji...	95407498	

Annex 4: Workshop's Participants' List (Mali)

Vidéos sur les meilleures pratiques pour améliorer l'adoption par les agriculteurs des techniques d'agriculture écologique et biologique pour la conservation de la biodiversité en Afrique			
Atelier du lancement de partenaires - Mali 03 juillet 2019			
No.	Nom du participant	Organisation et contacts	Signature
1.	Coulibaly Paul	D.N.E.F. 76388156 paul.bernardelle@gmail.com	
2.	COULIBALY Amadou K.	IPR/IFRA akonotie@yahoo.fr	
3.	SISSOKO Fayane	IER fagaye_sissoko@yahoo.fr	
4.	Sarikou SENOU	D.N.A. 7770834 senousarikou@yahoo.fr	
5.	Siriki fane	IPR/IFRA de kaolingu fanestki@gmail.com	
6.	Modibo Dolo	I.P.R./IFRA vendolo86@gmail.com	
7.	Seydou Tangara	AOPP seytangara@yahoo.fr	
8.	BASSE Diali Couanda	REMIATRAE Bie	
9.	Modiba Konote	76343078	
10.			

Vidéos sur les meilleures pratiques pour améliorer l'adoption par les agriculteurs des techniques d'agriculture écologique et biologique pour la conservation de la biodiversité en Afrique			
Atelier du lancement des agriculteurs - Mali 04 juillet 2019			
No.	Nom du participant	Contacts	Signature
1.	Soupien DEMBELE	76488159 dsoupien79@yahoo.fr	
2.	Diameussa Kane	76314867	
3.	Maimouna Sank	68848935 648935	
4.	SACKO AbdouLaye	79256862	
5.	Namora Kane	74843304	
6.	Aboukane Diarra	79015054 info.professionmurgie@yahoo.fr	
7.	Hamidou A Diawara	75135829 diawaram72002@yahoo.fr	
8.	Assane T Baktie	76333077	
9.	Modibo Dolo	74.00.66.86	
10.	Amadou K Coulibaly Seydou Tangara	IPR/IFRA Katibougou AOPP	

Annex 5: Updated Work Plan For 2019

ACTIVITY / WORK PLAN	Name of Responsible Person:
	Alex Mutungi
	Date:
Date: 1st October 2019	
Project Name: Best practices videos to enhance farmer uptake of Ecological Organic Agriculture techniques for biodiversity conservation in Africa	

Work Plan to Achieve Objective 1-List objective	2019			
Main Activities to Result 1.1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1.1: Hold a forum of key stakeholders in each of the target countries with the participation of key stakeholders including farmers, extension service workers, researchers, community based organisation, partners and Government officials .				
1.1.2: Identify, profile and characterise all possible key ecological organic agriculture techniques focusing on sustainable land use practices, biodiversity conservation and enhancing environmental resilience techniques				
1.1.3: List EOA technologies and practices to be documented-is this activity worthy to be in a work plan? Just listing? Or can be paraphrased?				

Work Plan to Achieve Objective 2-List the objectives	2019			
Main Activities to Result2.1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.1.1: Produce scripts from the information gathered from the workshop and desk top reviews				

2.1.2: Conduct location scouting to identify fields for filming and farmers to be interviewed				
2.1.3: On site Filming and interviews				
2.1.4: Voicing of scripts and editing of the videos				
2.1.5: Pre-testing the video with selected target audience.				

Work Plan to Achieve Objective 3-List objective	2020			
Main Activities to Result 3.1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.3.1: Design guidelines on the use of the videos by target audience				
2.3.1: Identify and organize farmer video viewing clubs in the target countries				
2.3.2: Training partners on video viewing clubs sessions				
2.3.3: Screening of the videos				
2.3.4: Uploading the videos on popular online platforms e.g. Access Agriculture website, Ag tube, EOA websites and partner websites and social media platforms and BvAT you tube channels				
2.3.5: Monitoring and evaluation on the use of videos and capturing feedback from farmers and partners				