

bioRe® Foundation

Annual report
2025 / 2026

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“We strengthen organic farming by strengthening the people who make it possible.”

Anna Vetsch, President of the Board

Editorial

Dear readers & donors



This annual report focuses on the farmers who are advancing organic cotton cultivation in India and Tanzania, the smallholder farming communities, and the conditions needed for better livelihoods. Through concrete examples, we are pleased to show you the progress we have been able to achieve together.

While organic farming is a key component of a holistic sustainability approach, organic cotton remains a niche market worldwide: its share of global cotton production is estimated to be only one to three percent.

For the bioRe Foundation, the past year was shaped by continuity and focused further development. We are delighted to welcome Katrin Oswald as our new managing director. She builds on the foundation’s existing work, reinforces what has proven effective, and brings fresh perspective and momentum. Together with her, we are continuing our commitment – guided by the needs of farming families and in close cooperation with our partner organizations in India and Tanzania.

We hope you enjoy reading this report, now available exclusively in digital format.

Anna Vetsch
President of the Board
On behalf of bioRe Foundation’s Board

Growing stronger together

We are committed to building resilient farming communities and fostering enabling conditions for better livelihoods and sustainable development. This is a prerequisite for the long-term viability of organic farming, particularly with regards to cotton. For 29 years, we have worked to empower smallholder farming communities in India and Tanzania by shaping our work around the needs of local communities.

We work with communities across the villages where organic cotton farming families live. Lack of water, poor access to healthcare and education, degraded soils and climate change all threaten the health and future prospects of local communities, as well as the productivity of organic cotton farming. That is why we support smallholder farming communities in creating the right conditions for long-term development – including health, diversified income opportunities, healthy soils and access to knowledge.

Together with our long-standing partner organizations, the bioRe Association India and the bioRe Foundation Tanzania, we identify farming communities'

challenges and needs, develop possible forms of support with them, and implement projects jointly. Our work ranges from training in organic and biodynamic farming, promoting soil fertility and biodiversity, and strengthening the resilience of farming communities through access to health care, education, and clean water to fostering entrepreneurship, creating new income opportunities, and adapting to climate change.

Our work helps lay the foundations for more resilient smallholder communities, locally sustained solutions, and organic and biodynamic farming that secures livelihoods over the long term – for farming families and for nature.

“I traveled to Kasrawad in India and Mwamishali in Tanzania and saw firsthand how closely our partner organizations work with local communities and their needs. I was convinced immediately.”

Katrin Oswald, Managing Director since July 2025



A girl is watering a tree that was planted as part of the agroforestry project

Review 2025 / 2026

July 2025 Animation Schools

Synergies between the bioRe Animation Schools, the vocational training center, and the public school are being expanded. Capacity building for teachers is provided.



736
students in 18
Animation Schools



Januar 2026 Samvedna Care Center

The Samvedna Care Center was piloted, providing learning and behavioral support for 15 children with autism.

March 2026

335 members Women's entrepreneurship

32 women-led self-help groups were formed. Training sessions on financial literacy, leadership, and a workshop for printing on fabrics and scarves were held.

The “Women Gathering & Exhibiton” was held, where 200 women entrepreneurs showcased their work and exchanged experiences.



50
biogas units were repaired for organic farming families, providing clean cooking fuel and organic fertilizer from the slurry

throughout the year
Strengthening the organization
bioRe Association took important steps towards a self-sustaining revenue model, drawing on its own resources and strengths. Staff development also remained a priority, with regular workshops, review meetings, and targeted training helping the team grow in confidence and capability.

7'802
patients were treated during 283 visits by the Mobile Health Unit

50
farming families received sanitation services and awareness trainings



October 2025

30 years Coop naturaline: visit

High level representatives from Coop, Remei, and bioRe Foundation Switzerland visited Remei Ltd. and bioRe Association in India on the occasion of the brand Coop naturaline's 30th anniversary. The longstanding and ongoing partnership and its pioneering achievements were celebrated.

March 2026

Official visit

bioRe Association is proud to have received an official government visit: District Collector Bhavya Mittal was present for the inauguration of the bioRe Association's soil testing laboratory.



Portrait of Basanti Sisodiya

A school that opened the way

Basanti Sisodiya was born in 1999 in the small village of Saikheda. She grew up with her parents and four siblings in a simple mud house; the family made a living through organic cotton farming and manual labor. In an environment where education – especially for girls – is often set aside, her parents chose a different path: they encouraged Basanti Sisodiya to go to school. Thanks to the bioRe Association, they had access to one.

When the bioRe Animation School in Rampura was opened, Basanti enrolled in third grade. For her, the school was a turning point. It offered free access to quality education, dedicated teachers, digital skills, and creative learning – opportunities that had previously been difficult to find in her village. At the school, Basanti discovered a new world. She developed creativity, discipline, teamwork, problem-solving skills, and patience. Learning new things with curiosity and enthusiasm gave her confidence. Even as a student, Basanti wrote that she wanted to become a police officer.

After finishing school, Basanti completed a bachelor's degree in biology at a government college in Khargone. Her goal remained clear: she wanted to

join the police because she saw injustice and crime in her community. Through hard work, regular study, self-discipline, and the support of her family, she passed the competitive exam to become a police officer.

Today, Basanti lives in Saikheda again and works as a police officer and jail warden. "Unthinkable for women here, but Basanti has fulfilled her dream," says Aashish Joshi, CEO of bioRe Association India. For Basanti, her work is both an honor and a responsibility. She wants to create safety, help others and inspire women in society. For many families, she is now a role model – and an example of what education can make possible.

The bioRe Animation Schools

We help create enabling conditions for farming communities, including in education.

Education opens doors to a better future. Since 2006, the bioRe Association has supported children in remote Indian organic cotton farming communities through its Animation Schools, giving them access to solid primary education with a recognised school certificate.

- from kindergarten through fifth grade
- 18 Animation Schools
- more than 2'173 children have been able to attend school through the program
- bioRe Public School provide continuity from 5th to 10th grade and the bioRe vocational center promotes transition to working life

Please find further information about the Animation Schools on our [website](#).

Thanks to your donation, children can attend school

Your donation will enable the bioRe Foundation to provide children with access to education and strengthen further projects in farming communities.

Via our website at
biore-stiftung.ch/en/donations

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"Don't ever think that your dreams are too big; with self-confidence and hard work everything is possible."

Basanti Sisodiya, police officer





Bhurivedi

Small facility, big change

For Krishna Dawar, her new toilet is more than a small building next to the house.

It has changed the way she and her daughters feel in their own home.

What may seem like basic infrastructure has brought something deeply personal: safety, privacy, and dignity.

Krishna is an organic cotton farmer and lives in Bhurivedi village with her husband, Bhurkhya, and their four children – two sons and two daughters. Until recently, the family, like many others in the region, had no toilet in their home. Krishna and her daughters had to go to the forest, often early in the morning, searching for a place where nobody could see them. It was uncomfortable and time-consuming, but above all unsafe. “We had to watch out for people, especially men,” Krishna says. Snakes, insects, and other dangers were also a constant concern.

Through its sanitation project, the bioRe Association visited Krishna’s village to raise awareness about hygiene, health, and the benefits of toilets. The bioRe Association granted Krishna’s family 10’000 Rupees to support construction and maintenance. Without this support, she says, building a toilet would not have been possible.

Today, the family no longer has to leave their home for open defecation. For Krishna and her daughters, this means safety, privacy, and dignity. It also saves time and makes daily routines easier for the whole family. The hygiene sessions added another layer of change. Since the family has learned about handwashing, clean drinking water, safe food handling, and the importance of keeping the washroom clean, they pay closer attention to hygiene, and everyone is healthier.

In Bhurivedi, attitudes are slowly shifting. More people understand the importance of sanitation and hygiene, even if not every household has built a toilet yet, since it is hard to afford. Krishna knows that habits do not change overnight. But for her personally, the most important change is already clear: the embarrassment and fear of going to the forest have ended.

bioRe sanitation project

We help create enabling conditions for farming communities, including in healthcare.

Toilets at home improve health, safety and dignity. bioRe Association raises awareness about hygiene and supports the construction of toilet facilities.

- 667 of grants offered to families to build toilets
- 45 awareness trainings (hygiene sessions) held
- more than 400 families reached through sessions

Learn more about the project on our [website](#).

Thanks to your donation, families have access to sanitary installations

Your donation enables the bioRe Foundation to provide families like Krishna Dawar’s with safe sanitation facilities and support other important projects to strengthen the resilience of farming communities.

Thank you for your donation!

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“We don’t have to wake up early and worry about people watching us anymore. For women and children, the toilet is safe and gives dignity to life.”

Krishna Dawar, organic cotton farmer and mother of four



Krishna Dawar in her home

Review 2025 / 2026

September 2025

Women's entrepreneurship

Two women's groups came together on their own initiative and reached out to bioRe Foundation Tanzania for support. They were then trained in entrepreneurship, financial literacy and gender equality.



2
women's groups

September 2025 & April 2026

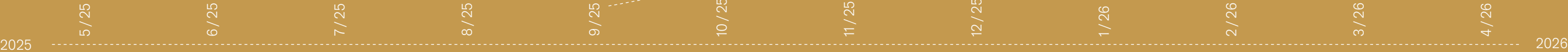
Agroforestry & beekeeping

Staff and champion farmers received training at Mwamishali Training Centre in dryland agroforestry and livelihood. Seedlings suitable for dryland conditions were identified. Farmers' needs were assessed, and seedlings were then distributed according to those needs.

5'786
trees planted



54
beehives were provided to support diversified livelihoods



4'100
families receive water of 104 wells

October 2025

Water wells

All of the 190 water wells and the functioning of the Water User Groups were analyzed in the Water Well Study. The results showed that 104 wells still deliver more than 4'100 families with water. The remaining wells face challenges including dried-up or salty water and flood damage. While Water User Groups were established not all are functioning independently yet and some need more support, which bioRe Foundation Tanzania is providing.



Photo: Juliette Chretien

5'749
stoves in daily use, 345 new stoves constructed

January & February 2026

Strengthening the organization

The organizational structure was further strengthened. The Board of Directors was restructured, bringing in new perspectives while ensuring continuity through members who had already been involved before. In parallel, key governance policies were put in place to support clear roles, accountability, and effective decision-making.



Portrait of Suzana John

From seeds to independence

For years, pressing sunflower oil meant a journey by cart to Mwanhuzi or Sanga-Itinje for Suzana John. Today, she can process sunflower seeds in her village. The oil press gives her and other farmers in Ng'hoboko a way to turn a crop into cooking oil, local sales, and additional income.

Suzana is a widow and mother of seven. When her husband died in 2011, their youngest child was five. Suzana plants sunflowers as a trap crop in her cotton fields: the flowers attract certain pests away from the cotton plants and help support a more balanced farming system without using pesticides.

With a loan from bioRe Foundation, Suzana and a group of farmers were able to acquire an oil press. Suzana presses sunflower oil and sells it locally. The income helps her cover daily costs and support her family. "It helps me a lot — especially because I am a widow," she says.

The project is already gaining momentum. In 2023, the microenterprise group received a loan of

32 million Tanzanian shilling; by 2025, they had repaid 10 million. As part of a revolving fund, these repayments can be used by bioRe Foundation to support other women's entrepreneurship groups in the future. Suzana sees the potential of their investment clearly: once the debt is paid, the income from the press can become profit. One day, she hopes to open a small shop.

For farmers in the community, the oil press brings practical relief. They no longer have to travel far to process their seeds, and the value stays with those who grow the crop. For Suzana, it is a step towards greater independence.

Sunflower oil press

We help create enabling conditions for farming communities, including opportunities to diversify their incomes.

Sunflowers are an important trap crop in organic cotton-based farming systems. They support pest control in cotton fields and provide valuable seeds. By pressing these seeds into sunflower oil, farming families can keep more of the value chain locally. Additionally, they can sell the oil cake that results from the pressing process which is used as animal feed.

Please find further information about the sunflower oil press project on our [website](#).

Thanks to your donation, farming families can add value to their crop

Your donation enables the bioRe Foundation to support groups of farmers in diversifying their incomes through small businesses such as oil pressing and to promote other important projects to strengthen the resilience of farming communities.

Thank you for your donation!

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Suzana John and Noveli Migungumalo pressing sunflower oil

"The oil press helps me to face the living costs. I don't suffer like before."

Suzana John, organic cotton farmer, widow, and mother of seven



Portrait of Mathias Mwigulu

Where trees and bees grow together

When visitors arrive at Mathias Mwigulu’s farm, they often stop and smile.

Around 300 trees grow on his agroforestry plot; between them stand eight beehives. For Mathias Mwigulu, the plot has become a place of pride – and a sign of what can grow from patience, training, and care.

Mathias is an organic cotton farmer and father of nine children. He first became interested in agroforestry when bioRe Foundation staff introduced the approach in his area. Later, he attended a training in agroforestry held by bioRe Foundation, in which he learned how to establish agroforestry plots in dryland areas and how beekeeping can support them.

“Bees are friends of the environment,” he says. They support pollination, help plants produce fruit, and strengthen the link between trees, cotton, and biodiversity. The training also changed how Mathias harvests honey: instead of traditional methods that could harm the bees, he now uses protective clothing, proper

equipment, and smoke pipes. Last year, he collected 80 litres of honey. This year, he plans to sell the entire harvest and use the income to buy more beehives.

Today, his plot inspires others. Together with bioRe Foundation staff, Mathias supports farmers who want to start their own agroforestry plots. Three farmers are already preparing to do so. The biggest challenge remains water: drought makes it difficult for young trees to survive. With better access to water and more resilient seedlings, Mathias hopes to expand the plot and add more beehives. His goal is simple: more trees, more bees, more honey, more income – and a farm that encourages others to begin.

Agroforestry and beekeeping

We help create enabling conditions for farming communities, including through agroforestry and enhanced biodiversity.

Since 2022, bioRe Foundation has been supporting farmers in establishing agroforestry plots with trees adapted to dryland conditions. The trees help improve soil, shade, and biodiversity, while strengthening farms against drought and climate risks.

Beekeeping complements this approach: bees support pollination and provide an additional source of income through honey. Farmers receive training, beehives, seedlings suited to their specific needs, and practical guidance to succeed in agroforestry and beekeeping step by step.

- 20 farmers with 131 beehives on 30 acres of land
- 5’786 trees planted in 2025 / 26

Please find further information about agroforestry and beekeeping on our [website](#).

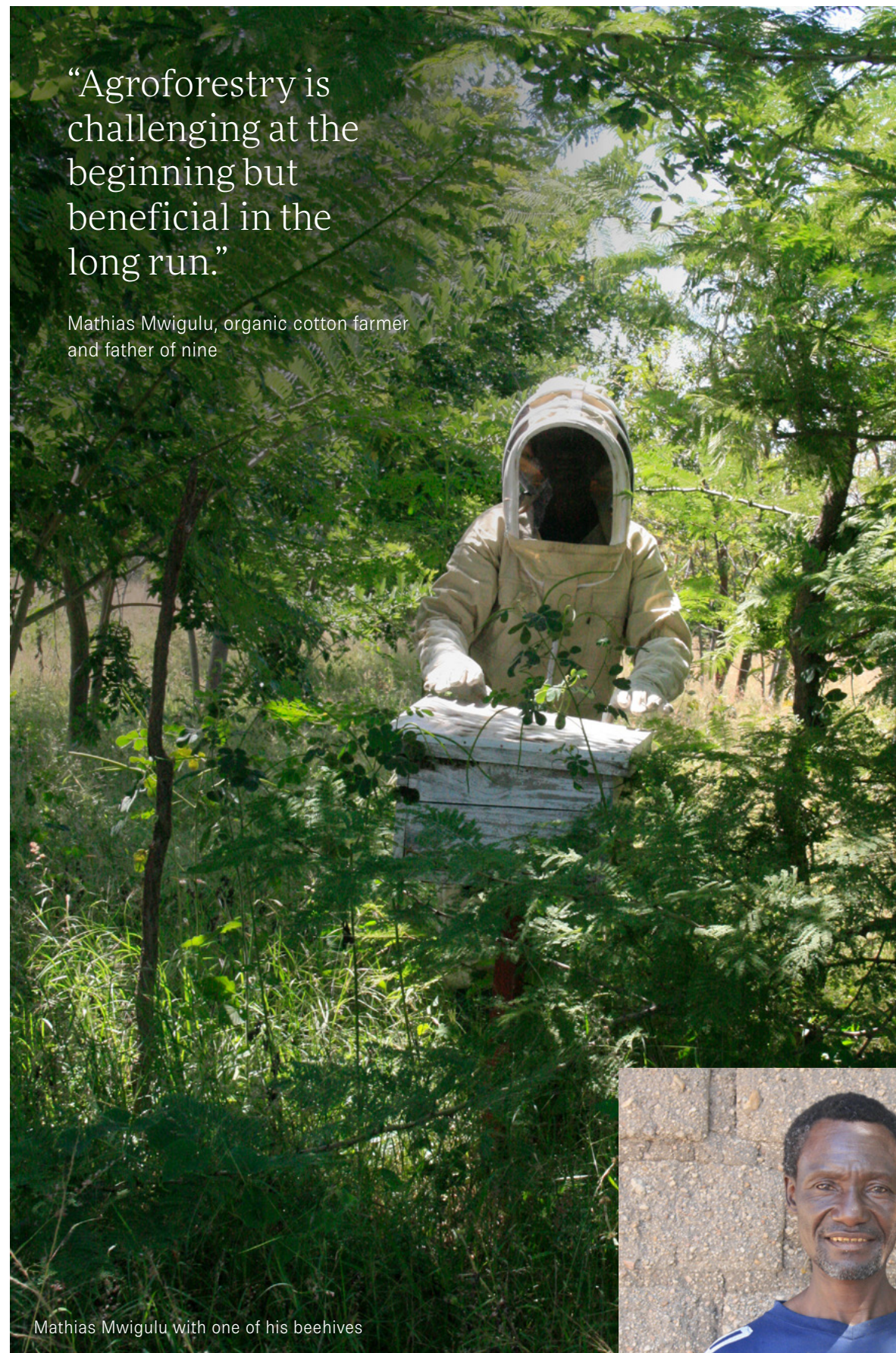
Thanks to your donation, more biodiverse and resilient farms can be created

Your donation enables the bioRe Foundation to support farmers in Tanzania, like Mathias Mwigulu, to establish and maintain agroforestry areas and support other important projects to strengthen the resilience of farming communities. Thank you for your donation!

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“Agroforestry is challenging at the beginning but beneficial in the long run.”

Mathias Mwigulu, organic cotton farmer and father of nine

Mathias Mwigulu with one of his beehives



Outlook 2026 / 2027

Switzerland

The bioRe Foundation's 30th anniversary

Next year, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary. This milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved and to look ahead to the future.



India

Women's entrepreneurship

In the coming year, two women's groups will receive targeted support. With the help of the bioRe Association, their ideas will be strengthened so that they can gradually create income-generating opportunities. In this way, a supportive environment for entrepreneurial activity will be established.



India

Stengthening the organization

Key priorities include developing sustainable revenue models and strengthening staff capacity. Strategic networking and communication will be further enhanced, alongside efforts to engage potential donors and expand project visibility.

Tanzania

Water wells

The data-driven insights from the Water Well Study will be used to improve access to drinking water.



India

Agroforestry

An agroforestry pilot will be introduced in autumn within cotton-based farming systems, starting with selected farmers in specific areas and supported by technical guidance from relevant partner organizations.

Tanzania

Women's entrepreneurship

The two trained women's groups will be supported in setting up and given a loan to run a rice and maize milling enterprise. Continued engagement of men for gender sensitization and promotion of women's leadership will remain a priority.



Tanzania

Agroforestry & beekeeping

The project moves toward an integrated livelihood approach — improving survival rates, expanding farmer participation, and scaling up beekeeping, honey production, and marketing as a diversified income opportunity.

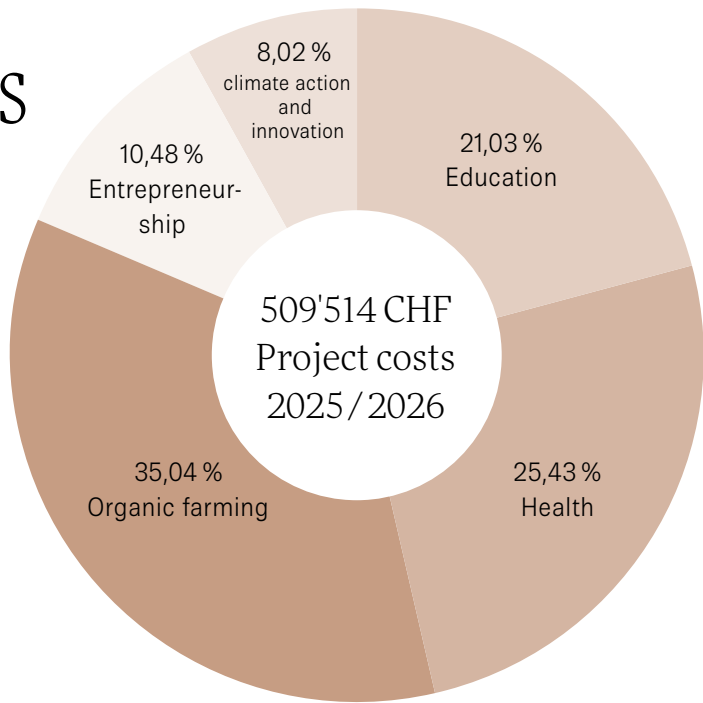


Switzerland

Strategy development from 2027 / 2028

Together with our partner organizations in India and Tanzania, we are working intensively on the further development of our strategy from 2027 / 2028 onward. The new strategy is intended to sharpen the foundation's future focus, build on proven approaches, and strengthen collaboration in a targeted way. One important aspect is the further refinement of impact measurement, with which we aim to systematically capture and highlight the progress, changes, and challenges within our projects. This will help us to better understand which approaches are particularly effective, where adjustments are needed and how our work strengthens farming communities in the long term.

Project expenses



The financial statement can be downloaded on our [website](#).

Sustainable Development Goals

Our work with farming communities is part of a larger global effort. Through our projects, we contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, our work supports eight of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs.



Learn more about our work and our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals on our [website](#).

Team



Anna Vetsch
President of the Board



Katrin Oswald
Managing Director



Roy Mor
Vice-President of the Board



Stefanie Kägi
Member of the Board



Pia Bracher
Member of the Board



Simon Hohmann
Member of the Board

Thank you!

With heartfelt thanks

We are deeply grateful to all donors, partners, and supporters who made our work possible over the past year. Your contributions are far more than financial support: they enable us to work together with the bioRe Association India and the bioRe Foundation Tanzania to create lasting impact with and for farming communities.

We are especially grateful to Coop and Remei, who have generously supported our holistic approach to sustainability from the very beginning and continue to accompany us on this path.

We would like to give particular recognition to the farming communities themselves, whose determination, openness, and willingness to actively drive development forward together are at the heart of this work. We deeply appreciate the farmers' commitment, energy, and perseverance. We also warmly thank the bioRe Association India and the bioRe Foundation Tanz-

ania for their close relationships with local communities, their professional expertise, and their constructive collaboration. They play a decisive role in ensuring that change is not only planned, but put into practice.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our institutional donors: the Coop Sustainability Fund, Remei AG, Panoco Trading Co., NOC, Canal Co., Stiftung Umwelt Arena Schweiz, and UVO Stiftung. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your trust, your long-standing commitment, and your valuable support.

Create impact with us!

Looking ahead, we need people and organizations who are willing to join us in this work. Your donation helps strengthen farming communities in India and Tanzania and makes locally rooted solutions possible.

Support our work and help improve living conditions where they matter most – with impact that lasts.

Thank you for your donation!

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Cotton field in Tanzania



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