



## **We are the Solution: Celebrating Family Farming in Africa!**

An Overview



NEW FIELD  
FOUNDATION

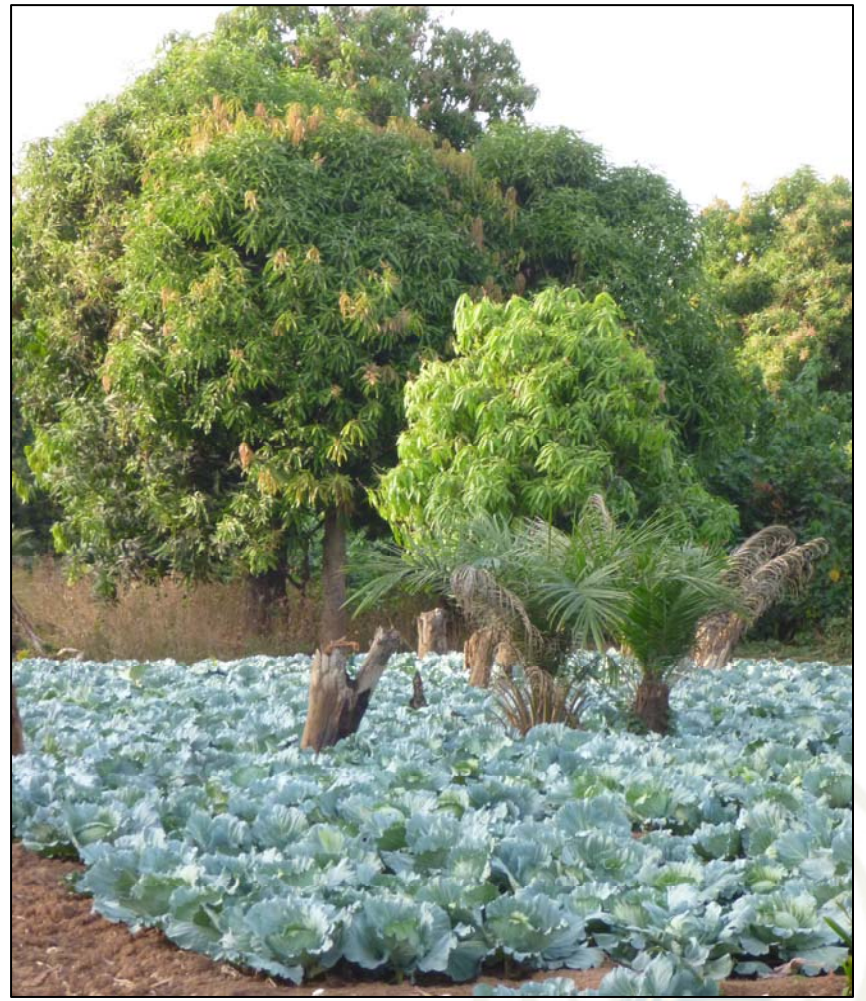


**We are the Solution: Celebrating Family Farming in Africa** is a campaign led by African farmers to address the food crisis. The initiative, which is continent-wide, involves rural women's associations, community leaders, and farmer federations in an effort to improve, promote, and share traditional agricultural knowledge and practices as a viable alternative to Green Revolution methods.



# Context

In 2007, during the Nyéléni food sovereignty conference held in Bamako, Mali, farmer organizations expressed concern over the introduction of the new green revolution in Africa. In the face of the food crisis, initiatives such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), a multi-million dollar project launched by the Bill and Melinda Gates and Rockefeller Foundations, presented a new challenge to peasant small-holder farmers, especially women.



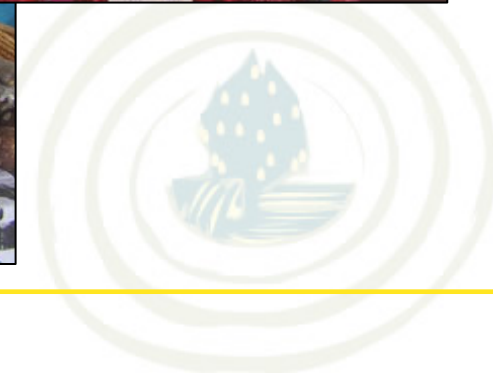
As women in sub-Saharan Africa are responsible for 70% of food production, 100% of food processing, 50% of animal husbandry, and 60% of agricultural marketing, they are disproportionately affected by shifts in resources to institutions and by the introduction of agricultural practices that produce food in bulk for export rather than for local markets.



The Green Revolution approach creates dependence on high yield seeds, as well as costly chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and has been shown in many parts of the world to drive smallholder farmers off the land and into greater poverty.

# What's Happening Now

The campaign is initially focusing on Women and Biodiversity and will encourage and support women leaders from rural women's associations to assume leadership responsibilities within the structure of the Pan-African campaign.





The project emphasizes the recognition of the traditional knowledge of African women in agricultural production and supports them to build their capacity to share this knowledge and advocate for its wider recognition as a viable alternative to the Green Revolution. The project will rely on rural women's organizations already engaged in the practice and promotion of ecological agriculture to enhance their expertise and their activities and share best practices on a larger scale.



A three year plan and budget has been developed by Fahamu ([www.fahamu.org](http://www.fahamu.org)), which is coordinating the Women and Biodiversity campaign.

Initial funding has been provided collaboratively by C.S. Fund, Grassroots International, New Field Foundation and The Christensen Fund. Additionally, New Field has established the We are the Solution Fund for contributions to the campaign, to which it is contributing matching funding of \$50,000.



The women's campaign was officially launched during the World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal in February 2011 with the following objectives:

- To strengthen the work of 12 rural women's associations and their leaders through organizational and individual capacity building activities.
- To facilitate the participation of 75 rural women participants in media and advocacy activities so what they can engage in decision-making processes in local, regional and global campaigns.
- To mobilize and sustain an Africa-wide action oriented network of 1,000 stakeholders for information sharing, partnership and advocacy.



# For more information



For more information about the campaign or contributing to its success, please contact

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