

Annual Report Koppert Foundation 2020

Preface

This is the fourth annual report of the Koppert Foundation. The three focus areas remained the same: small farmers, support for Koppert employees involved in social projects and education & innovation.

Due to the uncertain prospects that Covid-19 brought from spring onwards, the project board in accordance with the governance committee have decided to reduce the budget by 50%. Commitments already made have been kept. The available budget to accept new projects was therefore limited, and we learned to examine and select the applications extra critically.

Covid-19 also had an influence on the implementation of a number of the projects that were supported. For example, group meetings for training small-scale farmers could not take place for a long time.

Organization

The Koppert Foundation has a governance structure with a board, a project board, a general working group and a supporting education working group. The management structure and working method have been the guiding principle for the work processes.

Most applications come in via the website www.koppertfoundation.org. We now regularly see repeat requests coming in: after a project has been completed, the same organization comes back to us with an application for a new project.

The working group screens each application to see whether it fits within the focus and creates a picture of the applicant. Applications with a positive advice from the working group are submitted to the project board, which ultimately decides whether the project is financially supported. The working group has the mandate to decide themselves about contributions under € 500.

The composition of the working group has changed in 2020. Jacolien van der Sar and Jan Bunnik stopped as working group members. Markus Knapp and Dominique Struijk have joined the general working group. This was preceded by an internal vacancy to which many colleagues had responded. After a selection procedure, the aforementioned colleagues were selected.

The Education working group that was established in 2019 to support the existing working group with the implementation of the educational projects is now operational.

Publicity

The website www.koppertfoundation.org makes the Foundation visible to the world in the languages English and Dutch. There is a flow chart page to help the applicant to assess the eligibility of the project. Here you can also find the application forms for small and large projects.

Every local Koppert website now contains a short introduction to Koppert Foundation in the local language, with reference to the Koppert Foundation website and in some cases to the relevant subsidiary for further help and explanation. However, this has not yet led to much response.

During 2020, the communications department provided assistance in the further development and implementation of communications about Koppert Foundation activities and reporting on projects. The use of social media also receives attention.

From 2019, an introduction to the work of the Koppert Foundation was part of the program during the introduction days for new employees. In 2020 this happened again several times. This led to positive reactions from new employees and also gave an impression of their involvement in social projects.

Projects - general

In 2019, a total of 34 projects were positively assessed and supported;

- 8 projects related to small-scale farmers; 86% of the financial contributions
- 7 projects for social responsibility / involvement of Koppert employees; 2% of the financial contributions
- 5 projects for education / innovation; financial 13% of the contributions.

And geographically, by continent (number of projects, percentage of all contributions)

- Africa: 7 projects, 81% of the financial contributions
- Europe: 9 projects, 10% of the financial contributions
- Asia: 3 projects, 8% of the financial contributions
- Latin America: 1 project, 1% of the financial contributions

A total of 13 applications were rejected for various reasons: they did not fit the focus of the Foundation, it was difficult or impossible to assess the impact, projects requested were canceled, etc.

In addition, some projects were rejected that did not make it to the working group's agenda. All correspondence about this is filed.

The table below shows some key figures of the years 2018 and 2019 next to each other for comparison.

Number of projects per focus area	2018	2019	2020
Smallholder farmers	5	11	8
Employee involvement	5	13	7
Education/innovation	4	10	5
Totaal	14	34	20

Projects in 2020 - overview

The projects are briefly described below for each of the three focus areas, with a heading for each project with country (and project name, region) and a description of the project, collaborating partners if relevant, and the impact. In some cases, the classification may be somewhat arbitrary, because projects aimed at small-scale farmers often also have an education component as well.

The location of projects has been made visible on a Google interactive map with a short description and visual material (if available).

Small holder farmers

Ethiopia (Agricultural assistance in Gambella)

ZOA runs a three-year project in Gambella, in West Ethiopia. Due to influx of refugees from South Sudan the region is faced with high rates of malnutrition with majority of the population living in poverty. The project aims to improve the food security and livelihoods of the vulnerable host community and households in Jewi Refugee Camp.

The principal approaches employed are increasing productivity throughout the year and capacitating households to adopt sustainable uses of natural resources. Specifically, 300 families in the host community as well as 100 refugee households will receive support to form groups to produce vegetables, receive agricultural inputs and technical trainings to use modern agricultural practices and undertake backyard gardening. The start of the project was highly challenged by COVID-19 restrictions, resulting in activities requiring social gatherings such as capacity building trainings not implemented as planned.

However, they managed to scale up nursery stock as planned. In doing so, land preparation and clearing, bed preparation, shelter grass collection and fruit seeds procurement to grow fruit seedlings has been undertaken. They also managed to provide seeds and agricultural tools and started with the preparations for installing a solar water pump. At the end of the year they were able to start up trainings; Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Organic Agriculture training has been provided for a total of 150 targeted beneficiaries from the host community.

Ethiopia (Improve farmers livelihood in rural areas in South Ethiopia)

Nuru Ethiopia finished the first year of the 3-year project that the Koppert Foundation is financially supporting for the realization of a cash crop project within a larger project. This will stimulate and develop the capacity of cooperative members (farmers) to produce some types of legumes efficiently and sustainably for better nutrition of households and fair profit margins through cooperative marketing.

This project should lead to higher family incomes, better resilience in agricultural management and sustainable incomes for the members of the (12) professionalized farmers' cooperatives. Ultimately, more than 7,000 people in 1,200 families will benefit from the improvements. Nuru Ethiopia was able to scale up the cash crop program to 12 farmer cooperatives and activities are on-going with training

underway in small socially distant groups. Demo plots are prepared for reinforcing training principles. Over 2020 80% of supported farmer cooperatives achieved a net profit.

Uganda – Dynamic

The local organisation Rambia in Uganda applied for Koppert Foundations support in 2020. Rambia stands for 'Rwenzori Mountain Baghuma Integrated Association'; explaining that they are active in the mountainous area on the West side of Uganda, bordering to Congo-Kinshasa.

The project Rambia submitted was named 'Dynamic' (Driving Youth-led New Agribusiness and Microenterprise) and took place in the districts Bunyangabu and Kabarole. Many young people here are unemployed, the food situation is bad and the present population of small holder farmers is rather old.

The project management selected a group of 200 young farmers, and identified what these people needed to be able to develop their own business in agriculture. These farmers were trained in good agronomic practices, business skills and introduced to reliable agro-input suppliers and other players in the value chain. The project also supported the young farmers to organize themselves to exchange experiences about farming practices, marketing of their products and management of cashflow through so called VSLAs (Village Savings and Loan Associations). This also strengthened the local community.

8 groups of 25 young people directly benefited from this project. Most of them developed a positive attitude to agriculture and no do now farming as a business, not just as subsistence farming ('back yard garden'). The better farming practices and market access led to increased household incomes (+45%) more and diverse food and overall a better perspective for the future. Several young farmers have provided testimonies of this life changing experiences on video. Some 300 people have benefited indirectly from the project through accelerations in agro-inputs and marketing activities.

Koppert Foundation looks back on a well-designed project, properly managed, paying attention to agronomy, business and farmer organisation. Thanks to Rambia for the active communication and dedication to the local youth.

Syria (rehabilitation of agriculture)

Due to Covid and other problems in the country, Tear has unfortunately not been able to start this project in 2020 in its planned form.

Costa Rica - Trees for all

Koppert employees in the Netherlands received a number of articles with the NATURAL label in their 2020 Christmas package. These articles are linked to a donation to Trees for All. Trees for All plants trees, restores existing forests and thus also the habitat of many animals. In addition, people are made aware of the importance of the trees. Through these items in the Christmas packages, 80 trees are planted on behalf of the company assembling the package. Koppert Foundation in turn doubled this campaign with a donation to Trees for All for the planting of another 80 trees. Trees for All works with the 1-2-Tree principle: a tree is also planted in Costa Rica for every tree in the Netherlands.

Indonesia - TitanE

At the end of 2020, a financial contribution was made to the TitanE foundation. This organization works on sustainable development and poverty reduction in the Moluccas, Indonesia. The contribution enables the local construction of a number of energy-efficient nutmeg dryers. This is part of a larger project that aims to strengthen the position of nutmeg farmers in the value chain.

Uganda - Awoda

Koppert Foundation supported the Association of Women Development Actors (AWODA) in Uganda to train more than 780 farmers in sustainable farming and healthy nutrition. The training aimed at enhancing understanding of the natural environment and its components, and to use this understanding to improve their farming practices.

The farmers were trained in crop diversification, water conservation and soil fertility management. They learned how to establish a productive vegetable garden and how to use the vegetables produced to improve their diets. In addition, they were also trained on the use of energy-saving stoves for cooking.

The project also established 25 farmer gene banks/seed multiplication sites for banana, maize, potatoes and vegetables to provide the farmers with good quality seed and planting materials.

The training program resulted in increased resilience and economic viability of the family farmers by having diversified production practices, innovations, and diverse and nutritious diets, which leads to food security and sale of surplus produce for income. This helps to cope with regular expenditures as well as unforeseen costs and contributes to the stability of the households.

Amea – local membership Kenya

Amea is a global network for accelerating the professionalization of farmer organizations. Being organized helps smallholder farmers to get a better position in their value chain. Since helping smallholder farmers is high on the Koppert Foundation's agenda, we supported Amea through paying the membership fee of the local Amea network in Kenya. This provides access to much of Amea's network and knowledge. It also gives a platform to showcase the IPM curriculum for plant doctors (and other stakeholders) that CABI and Koppert Foundation developed together.

The membership also gives Koppert Kenya access to the local Amea network and helps building bridges with other organisations that interact with smallholder farmers who practice farming as a business.

Meanwhile discussions are pending between Amea and Koppert networks in Latin America and Asia to explore if membership of a local network in those areas could provide benefits.

Projects involving Koppert employees (or relatives)

Koppert Foundation hands out Christmas gifts

In 2019 Koppert organized a charity dinner together with the Foundation, Ridder Catering, Bakker Ammerlaan and other sponsors. A number of colleagues had been involved in this and this turned out to be a successful event.

Of course, such an initiative could not be picked up again last year due to Covid limitations. That is why the Koppert Foundation set out to surprise these people. In collaboration with local baker Ammerlaan and other sponsors, the Foundation put together a Christmas package. With this joint effort, 125 families in Lansingerland received a Christmas present.

The Netherlands - national Bike-to-work day

September 24, 2020 was the national 'bike-to-work' day. 75 enthusiast Koppert employees came to work by bicycle, even though the weather was not really nice that day. They cycled a total of 1660 kilometres and the Koppert Foundation sponsored an amount for every kilometre travelled. The total amount went to the Bike4work project of the 'Cycling out of Poverty' foundation. Bike4work helps farmers in Uganda with a transport bicycle. Male and female farmers can use this to bring their products to the market.

These bicycles are special because with the help of a special construction, the bicycle can also be used for pumping water.

Thus, the sporty Koppert employees plus a few spontaneous donations ensured that 5 farmer families received a fantastic bicycle.

The Netherlands, Delft - Neighbourhood guide in local district

In the Covid time we were all more at home, but there is less mutual contact. Colleague Paul Leistra devised and created a 'Neighbourhood Book' at the kitchen table together with a few other residents of Buitenhof district in Delft (the Netherlands). The book is delivered in the letterbox by a neighbour and participants should pass it on to someone else. But before doing so, the intention is to add something to it: the initiators have designed all kinds of assignments for this. There is a suitable assignment for everyone. In this way, the Neighbourhood Book roams through the neighbourhood and strengthens the mutual bond. In this way the neighbours get to know each other better. Other neighbourhoods and other cities have shown interest in the idea in the course of 2020.

The Netherlands - Kees Zuidgeest advises hobby growers of 'Eigen Spijs'

Eigen Spijs ('Own Food') is a greenhouse with 25 vegetable gardens in De Lier (the Netherlands). The project started in August 2019. The participants are all kinds of people; the social element is very important at Eigen Spijs. The coffee table is therefore an important place. About half of the participants are retired and are very happy with pastimes in the vegetable garden (and at the coffee table). The other half is not or partly active in the formal labour process due to other circumstances. The crops grown are very diverse, from various cabbages to chard and from various types of lettuce

to carrots and tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans and melons. Several participants also planted fruit trees and ornamental plants and flowers. The rule at Eigen Spijs is that everything may be grown, as long as the law allows.

There is a lot of knowledge among the participants about cultivation and the like. Although some are less experienced, but have other reasons for gardening. They exchange experiences and advise each other. Less knowledge is available about biocontrol . though. The company AgroCare sponsored the necessary biocontrol products. To supplement the missing knowledge, Koppert consultant Kees Zuidgeest regularly visited the project (and, within the Covid rules) to increase the participants' practical skills to enable a biological approach.

Netherlands - Buddy network

'Buddy Network' is a professional volunteer organization dedicated to the support of adults and children with a chronic and/or life-threatening illness, elderly people who feel lonely and/or have a very limited social network and people with early dementia and their caregivers.

Support is provided through the deployment of professionally trained volunteers (buddies). One of our colleagues put forward this goal, based on the experiences in this volunteer work that his daughter shared at home. The Koppert Foundation made a financial contribution to increase the expertise of this "buddy" network.

Lansingerland - Santa Claus

Santa Claus (a socially involved Koppert colleague) asked for help from the Koppert Foundation. As a result, the children of families depending on the local food bank in the area where Koppert is based, received presents and a treat.

The Netherlands, Breda - Summer camp

Since 1970, Stichting Zomerkampen Breda (Foundation Summercamp Breda) has been organizing great summer camp weeks for children from 6-16 years old at the beginning of the summer holidays. At the Sparrenhof camp site, on the outskirts of Tilburg, children experience a fantastic camp week, full of adventure, laughter and fun activities.

A colleague has been a volunteer and actively involved in this since 2011 and submitted an application to the Koppert Foundation, which resulted in a financial contribution to the 2020 anniversary year summer camp. Unfortunately, Covid prevented the summer camp to take place in 2020. But the plan is to make up in 2021.

Thanks to these and other sponsorship contributions and of course the efforts of volunteers such as our colleague, children from families with little financial means can also enjoy a carefree holiday for a week.

Education / innovation

The Netherlands - development of a circular incubator

BlueCity Lab is a circular hub with a workshop in Rotterdam. The 'Circular incubator' project of BlueCity lab in Rotterdam aims to realize a smartly designed incubator that is modular, safe, cheap and can be made all over the world. The BlueCity Lab team wants to develop a manual that explains how lab equipment needed for experiments with biodesign is developed in the most circular way possible. They want to prepare this manual by developing their own equipment, and use this knowledge as an open source blueprint for many wetlabs around the world. For example, this knowledge can also be of added value in emerging economies for experiments with and cultivation of biomaterials and even food. Koppert Foundation has supported this project.

India - Using biological control as part of IPM

The IPM curriculum for plant doctor training that CABI and Koppert jointly developed and evaluated for Kenya, has been tailored in 2019 by local CABI experts and consultants from Koppert India to the locally relevant pests and diseases, and the products available for biological approaches. Koppert Foundation and Koppert India contributed to this with respectively financial resources and local knowledge.

In 2020, this training was performed by CABI and Koppert India consultants to a group of Indian advisers and future trainers from different origins. The 2-day training focused on recognizing natural enemies in the field using discovery learning approaches, better understanding non-target effects of chemical pesticides on the ecosystem, and on measures for the conservation of existing natural enemies as well as the correct application of biological control products.

The Plantwise training modules for plant doctors are designed to provide support to agricultural advisory staff in diagnosing plant health problems based on symptoms and then providing appropriate management recommendations, considering all forms of plant protection, including biological control. However, the frequency of recommendations for biologically-based plant protection measures is lower than one would expect considering the availability of products registered for use. This training was designed to increase the awareness of the plant doctors for biological control.

Sierra Leone - 1000 schools project of the Street Child Netherlands Foundation

The main beneficiaries of this initiative are vulnerable children whose parents do not have sufficient financial resources to cover basic costs of education. This initiative makes these families independent of their children's work, allowing the children to go to school. The seed bank set up in this project lends a family 2 bags of seed. The school contributes to the dissemination of knowledge about good agricultural practice.

The 2 bags provided yield approximately 6 bags of product. After the first harvest, the original seed is paid back. This ensures that the program can continue. 2 bags are used to feed the family. The remaining crop is sold in a cooperative way and the profits go directly to the local school in the form of teacher salaries, improvement of facilities and school materials.

With the amount donated, the organisation supports a total of 120 families (3 schools / communities, approx. 40 families per school / community) in generating a stable income. This income allows the children in these families to go to school.

Education working group - Netherlands, Nature's little helpers

In 2020, the education working group has adapted the teaching materials of the educational kit 'Nature's little helpers' to the changed requirements for education. Primary school teachers can use these materials to make children (age 8-10) at Dutch primary schools enthusiastic about nature, and thus make the children more aware of how insects, fungi and bacteria contribute to the health of our food. In doing so, they also encourage them to play outside and explore their surroundings more often, strengthening their relationship with nature.

Education Working Group the Netherlands - IMC Weekend School

Every Sunday at the IMC weekend school, young people between the ages of 10 and 14 meet enthusiastic professionals (volunteers) who talk passionately about their field of work. Members of the education working group have put together such a day in 2020 to present the working domain of Koppert. Unfortunately, implementation was not possible due to Covid restrictions. Fortunately, at the beginning of 2021 it was possible to conduct the lesson day with four colleagues at one of the locations of IMC Weekendschool Rotterdam.

On this day they told about the use of natural enemies against pests and the use of the Black Soldier Fly. Through these lessons, the children broaden their view of society, discover where their talents and interests lie and improve skills such as collaboration and research. In this way, the young people prepare themselves in a playful way for the most important step after their school life: making motivated choices for the future.

Financial year report 2020

Opening balance	€ 225,81	Expenses	
Income		Donations to projects	€ 176.922,53
Koppert BV	€ 183.000,00	Settling costs made by Koppert BV in 2019	€ 1.658,61
Other donations	€ 295,80	Website	€ 1.850,42
		Office supplies	€ 785,28
		Closing balance	2303,77
Check	€ 183.521,61	Check	€ 183.520,61