

Annual Report Koppert Foundation 2021

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

For the second year in a row COVID-19 had an influence on the implementation of a number of the projects that were supported. For example, group meetings for training smallholder 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 2021: Conny van Vliet left the working group and was not replaced to date.

The Education working group that was established in 2019 supports the general working group with the implementation of the educational projects.

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 assess the eligibility of the project. Here you can also find the application forms for small and large projects.

Every local Koppert website contains a short introduction to the 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 2021, the communications department provided assistance in the further development and implementation of communications about the 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 programme during the introduction days for new employees. In 2021 this was done several times. This led to positive reactions from new employees and also gave an impression of their involvement in social projects.

Projects - general

In 2021, a total of 25 projects were positively assessed and supported;

- 13 projects related to smallholder farmers; 82% of the financial contributions
- 10 projects for social responsibility / involvement of Koppert employees; 16% of the financial contributions
- 2 projects for education / innovation; 2% of the financial contributions.

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

- Africa: 12 projects, 85% of the financial contributions
- Europe: 11 projects, 7% of the financial contributions

- Asia: 2 projects, 6% of the financial contributions

A total of 15 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 cancelled, 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 for the years 2018 - 2021 next to each other for comparison.

Number of projects per focus area	2018	2019	2020	2021
Smallholder farmers	5	11	8	13
Employee involvement	5	13	7	10
Education/innovation	4	10	5	2
Total	14	34	20	25

Projects in 2021 - 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 smallholder farmers often also have an education component.

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

Smallholder farmer projects

Ethiopia: Agricultural assistance in Gambella (ZOA)

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 the 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 enabling 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 and the project is also challenged by the volatile security situation in the region. After lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2nd cohort of 150 host-community farmers and the 1st cohort of 50 refugee beneficiaries were trained in Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Organic Agriculture. A fruit nursery site has been established and 50,000 fruit tree seedlings (papaya, moringa, guava and lemon) have been distributed to the community. Also, a solar water pump and pipeline were installed to ensure irrigation of the crops in the dry season. Seeds and agricultural tools were provided to all 400 target families.

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

Nuru Ethiopia finished the second year of the 3-year project 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.

In 2021, over 1,800 farmers of 18 different cooperatives joined the programme and started to plant mung beans and ground nuts instead of maize. Nuru Ethiopia is further investing in optimizing yields through the ongoing engagements with the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), Ministry of Agriculture, and Arba Minch University to improve seed varieties, agronomic practices, and planting timing with information communication technology. Recently, Nuru Ethiopia won a grant from the Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance (AMEA) to deliver e-learning opportunities to farmers through their cooperative unions.

Syria: Rehabilitation of agriculture (Tearfund)

The aim of the project was to help 70 vulnerable households in two villages near Homs to support themselves after the war. The households received lambs, goats, poultry and bees with which these smallholder farmers could start their own farm again. Because this group already had experience with livestock and beekeeping, no (extra) training was needed. Participants could turn to

representatives of a nearby beekeeping institute for technical advice if needed. In addition to its own food supply, the project also generated additional income through the sale of milk, eggs and honey on local markets.

Testimonial of one of the beneficiaries:

‘The project has completely changed my life and the life of my entire family. I am so grateful. We finally have a stable income to live on. The joy I see in my children now is overwhelming. They are so much happier. It's wonderful to see that they have gained confidence and dare to look to the future. I think that the number of sheep will increase with time and that I can also produce more dairy products. I am very grateful for the help provided, because it is not only material, but also moral. The children, but also my wife and I have become stronger mentally, emotionally, psychologically and physically. I believe that my desire to take care of my family has been directly answered by God.’

Malawi: Food for Life (Art of Charity Foundation)

Food for Life is a project of the Art of Charity Foundation to improve maize cultivation in Malawi. Maize is the main staple food in Malawi but yield is generally low and farmers are forced to sell for low prices just after harvest due to cash-flow problems and lack of storage facilities. Food for Life trains farmers in making and using compost to improve maize yield and buys the harvest at a guaranteed price. The farmers work in groups of 7 and are also trained in other improved growing practices. At the beginning the farmers get a small amount of seed money to buy the necessary inputs. Group leaders meet with other group leaders from the nearby region; this ensures information exchange and learning from each other. The training period takes 3 years. On average, the yield of the improved system is 7 times higher than from "traditional" fields where no fertilizer is used. During the training the farmers have to give a small part of their harvest to Food for Life. The growers are paid in two instalments, one half directly after harvest, and one half 6 months later. This ensures that the farmers have money to buy inputs for the next season. After harvest, maize is stored in "PICS" bags, which create hermetic conditions to avoid attack by stored-product pests and then sold when prices are higher again. The price difference is used to cover transport and storage costs and to build up reserves to buy the seeds for the following year. The ultimate goal is a self-sufficient system that does no longer needs external funding. In 2021, 4600 farmers participated in the system. The plan is to increase this to 5600.

Kenya: Compost lab (Afrisol Foundation)

Afrisol Foundation runs a Biogas Innovation Centre and a small experimental farm near Nairobi, Kenya. The centre collects animal dung and organic waste from smallholder farmers and uses this for biogas production. This biogas is used for cooking. The remaining bio-slurry is used to make dry and liquid organic fertilizer which is either sold or given back to the farmers. The Koppert Foundation supports the Composting Lab where small scale farmers are trained in the use of organic fertilizers through practical training and showcases of new innovations. This helps the farmers to make the farm more sustainable in a circular and budget-friendly way.

Kenya: Support for project description Mastercard project (Latia)

Latia Agribusiness Solutions (LAS) is an agricultural education center in Kenya of which Koppert Kenya is one of the shareholders. Latia is secondary partner in the KCB (Mastercard) Foundation project Young Africa Works (KCB-YAW), a project that aims to create 1.6 million job opportunities setting up 28,000 small greenhouses and training 114,000 youths. The anchor project partners seem to be struggling to deliver on the set targets. This created an opportunity for the secondary partners to step in. The Koppert Foundation provided funding to Latia for the formation and operation of a consortium of partners that designed an alternative greenhouse system and bid to the KCB Foundation. As this operation was successful, Latia is now given full management of a demo farm with 100 small greenhouses and has the opportunity to train 400 – 1200 youths in Integrated Crop Management per year.

Kenya: Tree nursery for Makueni Food Forestry (Latia)

For the operation of the Makueni Food Forestry project (see below) tree seedlings were required. For this purpose, we called upon the expertise of Latia and supported them to set up a nursery to supply the seedlings. In this way Makueni will receive high quality seedlings and Latia can use the nursery to generate income.

Kenya: Makueni Food Forestry

The objective of the Makueni Food Forestry project is to develop and implement a tailor-made programme of blended (mobile and face-to-face) training and education in food forestry by effectively co-creating food forests for and with targeted members of rural communities in Makueni; i.e. local (female)smallholders and food entrepreneurs. With the support of the Koppert Foundation, the project has developed a comprehensive food forestry training for both class face-to-face and digital versions. The training has five modules covering an introduction to food forestry, designing food forestry, water management, soil management and planting and maintaining a food forest. So far, the project has trained 170 farmers in two years. To make follow-ups manageable, farmers have formed 5 self-help groups. After introducing syntropic agroforestry in the second year, all farmers trained earlier were invited back for a demonstration of how to prepare syntropic beds and planting. This method has attracted many farmers in the area, such that the demand for the training is very high. More farmers will be trained in 2022.

Ghana: Irrigation systems (Pumping is Life)

As in 2020, we contributed to a project of the Dutch 'Pompen is Leven' and Ghanese 'Pumping is Life'. They built wells ranging from 40-70 meters deep with solar pumps, water tanks and small-scale irrigation systems. Furthermore, there is support for animal husbandry, small-scale arboriculture and nursery of cashew seedlings. The farmers receive agricultural training from CEAL, partner of the Dutch ELPG.

The project gives the communities more possibilities to grow crops outside the rainy season and sell their produce, it creates employment for farm work in the dry season and access to potable water.

Uganda: Training smallholder farmers (Awoda)

More than 900 families with a piece of farmland participated in a sustainable agriculture training in Nyabirongo, Uganda, in 2021. The training was aimed at promoting sustainable farming, increasing yields and improving living conditions.

AWODA's training is thus not only focused on cultivation, but makes a big difference in the local community and the chain around them. The good results also affect the environment positively, so that more farmers want to adopt the approach in subsequent growing seasons.

In addition to the training, visits were made to Biglad and Tripple F Agro Ecological Farms, as well as knowledge-sharing meetings between plant doctors and farmers. This reached 620 farmers.

Counting to the end of September, 720 farmers have grown and eaten a range of fruits and vegetables for the first time, which they previously ignored. As a result, the number of families having three meals a day with at least 5 different types of food has increased enormously. Finally, 38 farmer groups were trained in saving and borrowing. This has stimulated local entrepreneurship and provided a new form of income for the smallholder farming families

Uganda: Sustainable farmer family learning (COSIL)

COSIL is implementing a sustainable farmer family learning and agroecology project, targeting 750 farmer families in western Uganda. The agroecological interventions focus on the most vulnerable groups for which health food is most important, for example, the provision of suitable nutrient-rich food for small children. 30 farmer family groups were trained at farmer field schools in sustainable

organic agriculture technologies including manure composting, kitchen gardens, and natural pesticides to increase crop and vegetable production. Vegetable seeds, tree seedlings and fodder trees are provided to households for income generation and to improve nutrition. The project also promotes the construction and use of fuel-efficient stoves to reduce fuel consumption and release the manure, earlier used as fuel to be composted into organic fertilizer.

Uganda: Wobulenzi town academy

In the spring of 2021, the Koppert Foundation made an amount of €4000 available for an agricultural project of the Wobulenzi Town Academy (WTA) in Lukomera, Luwero District, Uganda. WTA is a secondary school that offers education to 600 students (400 internal and 200 day students). Many students can be classified as orphans or vulnerable children.

Due to COVID-19 only part of the money transferred has been used for the purchase of tools and seeds. In addition, the water pump has been built and some money has been spent on local workers to keep the crops clean and harvest them in the absence of students.

Contact has been made with the Foundation for Farming in the Netherlands, which also has a branch in Jinja – Uganda. It has been agreed that a trainer will be sent to Lukomera to train teachers, students from Wobulenzi Town Academy, as well as members of the local church and residents of the village to train on location in the field of agriculture. Due to COVID-19, the appointment has unfortunately been postponed.

Indonesia: Dryer for nutmeg farmers in Maluka (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.

Global climate change has a major impact on the weather, also on the Moluccas. Local farmers are experiencing the harmful consequences of this. Seasons are no longer climatically recognizable and rainfall has increased enormously. This is very detrimental to their crops, and they cannot properly dry the harvested nutmeg and mace in the usual way. These crops are important for the local economy.

TitanE Foundation, together with local farmers, has developed a dryer based on adapted technology. This makes it possible to dry the products in a sustainable and climate neutral way, with an even better end product compared to traditional methods. This results in a higher market price that benefits the development of the village community. The energy for the dryer comes from solar energy and coconut husk briquettes (previously considered waste). This contributes to a circular economy. With the contributions received from the Koppert Foundation and others, a total of 15 dryers have been produced. Production means for manufacturing have been developed and realized. A workshop for small-scale serial production has been set up. The farmers don't get the dryer for free; repayment is made in kind. This fills a 'revolving fund' which is in turn used for the production of new dryers.

Social responsibility projects

Uganda: Support teacher salaries (CCP)

Several Koppert employees and board members have been involved as board members in the school of the CCP (Christian Childcare Programme) in Mbale Eastern Uganda for years. The contribution that was requested is therefore linked to the social involvement of Koppert employees.

The school suffered badly from the severe lockdowns in Uganda in 2020 and 2021. Schools began to start up again in the course of 2021, but many students come from poor families who are also suffering from the economic disaster caused by COVID-19. The support is mainly intended to provide the more than 50 teachers and other staff with 50% of their salary until August. After August, the new group of students started and income returned to normality.

The Netherlands - National Bike-to-work day

After the good experience of last year, this year we again took part in the national 'bike-to-work' project. It happened to fall exactly in the Vitality Week organized by Koppert in September. This challenged 75 enthusiastic Koppert employees to come to work by bicycle. Some of them cycled over really long distances, up to 200 km! A total of 2600 kilometres was cycled 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 used to bring their products to the market. With the help of a special construction, the bicycle can also be used for pumping water. In this way, the sporty Koppert employees, plus a few spontaneous donations ensured that 5 farmer families received a fantastic bicycle.

KoCo run - Running for a good cause

A total of 457 colleagues took part in the 2nd virtual KoCo Run/Walk on Saturday, 8 May 2021. Participants from 20 countries ran and walked a combined 2645 km in the spirit of unity with colleagues around the world.

The children's fund MAMAs was selected as charity for the KoCo Run/Walk. The Koppert Foundation supported this worthy cause and donated 25 euros for every participant who finished the run or walk.

The Netherlands – Hobby growers project 'Eigen Spijs'

'Eigen Spijs' is a greenhouse with 25 vegetable gardens in De Lier (Netherlands). The project was started in August 2019. The participants are people from all walks of life; the social element is very important. The coffee table therefore has an important place. About half of the participants are retired and very happy working in the vegetable garden (and sitting at the coffee table). The other half is not active or only partly active in the labour process due to circumstances. The crops are very diverse, from various cabbages to chard and from types of lettuce, to carrots and tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, beans and melons. Several participants also have fruit trees and ornamental plants and flowers. The rule at Eigen Spijs is that everything may be grown, as long as the law permits it. The participants have a lot of knowledge about cultivation. Some are less experienced, so experiences are exchanged and the growers advise each other. Less knowledge is available about biology. To supplement the missing knowledge, Koppert consultant Kees Zuidgeest visited the project for the second year in a row to share practical skills of the biological approach with participants.

The Netherlands: Lions Maasland

A Koppert colleague who is very active in Lion's Maasland received a contribution to support fundraising activities for a project in health care in Indonesia.

The Netherlands: Breast cancer association

A Koppert employee is active on the board of the Breast Cancer Association Netherlands (BVN). The Breast Cancer Association of the Netherlands (BVN) is a patients' association. She helps members by teaching them how to keep control of their lives and treatment, provide access to good and reliable information and create a place for contact between fellow patients. Furthermore, BVN ensures that the interests of the patient are represented in, for example, hospitals. The Koppert Foundation supported BVN with a financial contribution.

The Netherlands: 11-cities tour without borders

A colleague had a wonderful experience by accompanying a relative on the famous 11-cities tour, normally a 1-day skating tour in Friesland in the north of the Netherlands. This time it was a 3-day tour by bike. For all participants the bike tour was a special challenge due to their different handicaps. The foundation supported the initiative with a donation for costs and time spent.

The Netherlands: Santa Claus Lansingerland

Like last year, 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: Food Garden Rotterdam

11 years ago the Food Garden initiative was started in an abandoned area of the harbour in Rotterdam. With the help of a large group of people with a distance to paid employment, the area was transferred into a green oasis where vegetables and fruits are grown and provided to local minimum earners. 10 years ago, Koppert sponsored a small greenhouse on the premises. As the plastic cover needed replacement this was now sponsored by the Koppert Foundation. The foundation also sponsored one of the Food circles in the Food Garden 5 years ago and has organized workshops in which Koppert employees took part.

The Netherlands: Christmas gifts Lansingerland

Sponsored by Ridder Catering, Bakker Ammerlaan and Stolk Anthuriums, the foundation arranged a Christmas gift for minimum earners in Lansingerland. An enthusiastic team of colleagues put together and handed out bags to 200 families in the local municipality of Lansingerland.

Education/ innovation projects:

Nature's little helpers

In 2020, the education working group 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.

The Netherlands: IMC weekend school Rotterdam

Every Sunday young people between the ages of 10 and 14 meet enthusiastic professionals (volunteers) who talk passionately about their field of work at the IMC weekend school. Members of the education working group put together such a day in 2020 to present the working domain of Koppert. The implementation was not possible due to COVID-19 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.

Our colleagues shared their knowledge on 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. It helps young people prepare themselves for the most important step after their school life in a playful way: making motivated choices for the future.

Other activities:

AMEA local membership Latam

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 for the new local AMEA network in Peru. This provides access to much of AMEA's network and knowledge. A Koppert colleague from the Koppert Peru is involved in the development of the network.

The membership also gives Koppert Peru (and other members of the Koppert network in Latam) access to the local AMEA network and helps building bridges with other organizations that interact with smallholder farmers who practice farming as a business.

East West Knowledge Transfer collaboration

Although no concrete project and no money has been spent on it in 2021, the interaction between East West Seed Knowledge transfer and the Koppert Foundation has become more concrete. The aim is to develop a working relationship and identify specific domains where both parties can benefit.

Financial year report 2021

Financial year Koppert Foundation 2021			
Opening alance	€	2,303.77	Expenses
Income			Donations to projects
			€ 297,035.83
Koppert BV	€	290,000.00	
Other donations	€	10,529.15	Website
			€ 596.54
			Office supplies
			€ 915.26
			Closing balance
			€ 4,285.29
Check	€	302,832.92	Check
			€ 302,832.92