

22 June 2021

Million Belay
General Coordinator
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
P.O. Box 571 Kampala, Uganda

Per Heggnes
Chief Executive Officer
IKEA Foundation
P.O. Box 11134 2301 EC Leiden The Netherlands

Re: Response to inquiry into funding the alliance for a green revolution in africa (agra)

Dear Million Belay,

Thank you for your letter from the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa regarding our funding to the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

The IKEA Foundation aims to contribute to an agri-food system that is inclusive, regenerative and circular. Such a system transformation is complex and requires working at different levels and with different stakeholders. Since there is not a single pathway towards this system change, but many approaches, we work with a variety of organisations that bring their unique views, and distinctive skills, expertise and approaches to the table.

We aim to build long-term relationships with our partners so we can drive lasting change together. We work with and through partners including AgroEcology Fund, Rainforest Alliance, Commonland, Food and Agriculture Organization, Biovision, IDH, Aidenvironment, Kilimo Trust and many others. We also indirectly support the work of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa through our funding to the AgroEcology Fund.

All our partners have different starting points, positions and strengths. Within our Agricultural Livelihoods portfolio, we partner with some organisations that have not yet completely moved to a regenerative and circular food system approach, but that hold great potential to influence the system. We partner with organisations and brands with clear commitments and credible plans in place to achieve this transformation.

We fund AGRA for a pilot project on crop diversification, finding new income streams and regenerative practices to improve soil health. As a Foundation, we value collaboration above exclusion and strongly believe in the power of togetherness. We think that an organisation like AGRA can learn a lot from the work and approaches of our other partners and vice versa.

We are aware of the report you refer to in your letter and the views reflected in it. Your letter has highlighted again the importance of accountability and legitimacy. We will continue to hold these against our funding decisions in our aim to achieve inclusive, regenerative and circular agri-food systems. We value and use the information to deepen our understanding of the landscape of stakeholders and approaches in agricultural development and in our discussions with partners about project effectiveness.

We hope that you understand our way of working and that we aim to support different organisations in their journey to demonstrate, learn from, improve and/or move towards sustainable, resilient, and culturally appropriate agroecological approaches.

Sincerely,



Per Heggnes

CEO, IKEA Foundation

Copied to:

Petra Hans, Head of Agricultural Livelihoods

Truus Huisman, Chief Communications Officer

Stelios Kyriakakis, Chief Operating Officer