

AGROECOLOGY FUND: FINAL REPORT

Grant agreement #:

Lead Organization: Schola Campesina Aps (on behalf of the consortium: Elkana, ADI and Ecoruralis that are the main coordinators of the Bilim Agroecology alliance in ECA region)

Country (countries) of implementation: Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iran, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan.

Proposal Title: Sharing knowledge for a stronger agroecology movement in ECA region

Implementation starting date: 01/06/2022

Completion date: 30/11/2023

Amount Granted (USD): **\$132,000** (\$120,000 + Extra grant of \$12,000)

Date of report submission: December 30th

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SECTION 1 – ACTIVITIES REPORT

1. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: Please list the **organizations** that **participated in the implementation of this initiative**, type of organization (NGO, farmers organization, women organization, indigenous people organization, network, etc.) and their respective roles. Acronyms should be accompanied by the full name of the organization.

Role in the project can be one of the following:

- Lead organization and Fiscal sponsor
- Co-lead organization
- Part of Bilim alliance and implementing project activities
- Part of Bilim alliance
- Support to the digital platform for knowledge sharing
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Name of the organization	Country	Type	Role
Schola Campesina Aps	Italy	NGO	Lead organization and Fiscal sponsor
Ecoruralis	Romania	Farmers organization	Co-Lead organization
Elkana	Georgia	Farmers organization	Co-Lead organization
ADI – Agency for Development Initiative	Kyrgyzstan	(Women) farmers organization	Co-Lead organization
ANRD - Albanian Network for rural development	Albania	Community based organization	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Alica Foundation	Bosnia and Herzegovina	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Stina	Kosovo	Community based organization	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
ZZ Eko-Ilinden	Community based organization	Cooperative	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
AFZU	Ukraine	Farmers organization	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities

Grădina Moldovei	Moldova	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Ciftci-Sen	Türkiye	Farmers organization	Part of Bilim alliance
Tomiris	Tadjikistan	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance
Zher Ana–Astana	Kazakhstan	NGO / Community based organization	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Eco Action	Ukraine	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Okvir Zivota	Serbia	NGO / researcher	Part of Bilim alliance
RUSHNOI	Tadjikistan	NGO / Community based organization	Part of Bilim alliance
CENESTA	Iran	NGO / Community based organization	Part of Bilim alliance
Dyikan Muras	Kyrgyzstan	Seed-savers' network of women farmers	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Orzhas	Kazakhstan	Cooperative	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
The territorial branch of the Association "Women of the Agricultural Sector" of Uzbekistan in the Andijan region	Uzbekistan	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Andijan Institute of Agriculture and Agricultural Technologies	Uzbekistan	Academia	Part of Bilim alliance and implementing activities
Agro-Perma-Lab	Poland	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance
Hungarian Agroecology Network	Hungary	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance
CSIPN – Aborigen forum	Russia	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance
Ekolodji Denegli	Türkiye	NGO	Part of Bilim alliance
Nilüfer municipality	Türkiye	Municipality	Hosted Bilim forum / Part of Bilim alliance
Ekoder	Türkiye	Public cooperative	Hosted Bilim forum / Part of Bilim alliance
Jengalab	Italy	NGO	Support to the digital platform for knowledge sharing

2. **PLACES (S) OF IMPLEMENTATION:** Please inform the places whether this initiative has been implemented (communities, cities, departments, country (countries), etc.).



The project is aiming at **strengthening Bilim as a community** (thanks to internal tools as the Toolkit / Manual, internal communication, internal exchange of experiences on Bilim platform, Bilim Forum, etc.). In this regard, **it indirectly supports communities through Bilim organizations work.**

The project also foreseen activities to **directly strengthen some organizations** of Bilim community, which are the pilot agroecology schools and the national seminars. Part of the national seminars have been organized in rural communities, and others in more central places, as Universities, in cities.

Here below is a list of places (**ordered per activity**) where partner organizations are active and where the project outcomes are directed to.

Agroecology schools

1. One pilot agroecology school on drip irrigation took place in **Akmola oblast, Stepnogorsk – Karabulak (Kazakhstan)**
2. Four pilot agroecology schools for seed growers took place in 4 regions: **Jalalabad, Chui, Issyk-Kul and Batken (Kyrgyzstan)**
3. One pilot agroecology school on agroecology practices took place in **Andijan district of the Andijan region (Uzbekistan)**

- National seminars

4. **ANDR** (September 2023) *Agroecology as a response to climate change and benefits to farmers*. The workshop was attended by 13 youth part of the Rural Youth Hub¹, representing 5 different rural realities from: **Fushe Arrez, Pogradec, Maliq, Kukes, Durres (Albania)** and aimed to enhance the understanding of rural youth on the opportunities of agroecology to face the impact of climate change in agriculture.
5. **Stina** (15 June 2023) *Agroecology conference* took place in the **University of Prizren (Kosovo)**
6. **Elkana** (March 2023) National Workshop and seed exchange in **Tbilisi (Georgia)**. Open event for interested agroecological/organic seed savers.
7. **Elkana** (June 2023) International conference Organic Farming and Agroecology, at Hotel Fabrika in **Tbilisi (Georgia)**. Elkana organizes numerous activities in rural areas. E.g. for schoolchildren in **Akhaltzikhe municipality, in Zamo-Khodasheni, Akhmeta municipality**; training on grafting and distribution of saplings of indigenous varieties for fruit trees in **Tsnisi, Akhaltzikhe municipality**; seed exchange meetings also conducted in **Tsnisi and village Zemo Khodasheni**.
8. **ADI** (February 2023) in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) with 25 members of the Dyikan Muras network from the all country.
9. **EcoRuralis** (September 2022) Three days of seminar including Seed working group meeting, Bilim, Agroecology and fields work
10. **Zher-Ana** (September 2023) in the village of **Karabulak (Kazakhstan)**. At the occasion of the Earth Market (organized in the frame of a Slow Food project), the NGO Zher-Ana held a round table with the participation of farmers from both the agroecology school and the local fair to enable the sharing of experiences, successes, the results of the harvest using new knowledge, the difficulties encountered when using drip irrigation systems

¹ The Rural Youth Hub (RYH) is a platform in Albania of youth activism focused on supporting young people, especially those in rural areas, to raise their voice to influence in agricultural and rural policymaking, to make these processes oriented and closely linked to concerns, interests, and priorities of young people.

and organic fertilizers, and ways for the further development of the Agroecology school.

11. **Alica Foundation** (March 2023) Food Sovereignty and Agroecology. Sustainable agricultural production and preservation of family farms and rural life. Organized in the [University of Bijeljina, Pavlovića put bb, Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
12. **ZZ Eko Linden** (November 2022) Lucerne in the circular economy, in [Mustafino village, in the central part of North Macedonia](#).
13. Ciftci-Sen, (September 2022) workshop
14. **AFZU and EcoAction** (November 2022) Forum in [Kyiv city](#) followed by field visits in [Nalyvaikivka, Kyiv Oblast - rural region](#)
15. The territorial branch of the Association "**Women of the Agricultural Sector**" of Uzbekistan in the [Andijan region](#)

Bilim forum took place in Nilüfer municipality, Bursa province, Türkiye. It gathered the above mentioned organizations.

3. BENEFICIARIES:

(a) Please provide a short narrative describing the social groups beneficiaries of this initiative.

Each Bilim organization work with specific social group, and all of them work -more or less directly- with small-scale farmers in rural areas.

Almost all Bilim organizations are women-led (the leading staff are women), while many Bilim organizations are intentionally developing activities directed to women specifically.

Tomiris is intentionally developing activities directed to youth specifically.

Many Bilim organizations have direct contact with academia and research institute to strengthen their initiatives directed to smallholders in rural areas.

The ongoing crisis situation made some Ukrainian Bilim organizations working with refugees. It is also the case of Ekolodji Denegli with Kurdish refugees.

(b) Please fill the table below informing **the total number of direct beneficiaries** in the first row, specifying % of women, % of youth, % of indigenous peoples, % Afro-descendants (for **non-African countries**, if applicable). The % is in relation to the total number of direct beneficiaries.

Table : Quantitative data on beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries	TOTAL of beneficiaries of the agroecology schools	%	ADI	Zher-Ana	Rural women Uzb.	Alica Found.	ANDR	Stina	Elkana, incl. School activities	Other Bilim organizations (ZZ Eko Linden, AFZU,...)
Direct beneficiaries of this initiative (quantitative)										
What is the total number of beneficiaries of this initiative?	1139	100 %	188	70	20	45	13	20	333	450
Of the total beneficiaries, how many are <u>adult women</u> ?	675	59,3 %	168	49	20	35	0	7	121	275
Of the total beneficiaries, how many are <u>adult men</u> ?	299	26,3 %	0	21	0	10	0	7	146	115
Of the total beneficiaries, how many are <u>youth women</u> ?	148	13 %	40	5	10	0	7	3	43	40
Of the total beneficiaries, how many are <u>youth men</u> ?	73	6,4 %	0	7	0	0	6	3	37	20
Identities and ethnic diversity										
What % of the total are Indigenous women	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
What % of the total are Indigenous men	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
What % of the total are Afro-descendants' women?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
What % of the total are Afro-descendants' men?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

4. **ACTIVITIES:** Please briefly describe the activities implemented with this grant, commenting changes or adjustments in relation to the original proposal.

The project *Sharing knowledge for a stronger agroecology movement in ECA region* is about strengthening the Agroecology movement and the agroecology organizations in the region. The activities implemented at various level (regional, national, local) are all aiming at consolidating the Bilim alliance and the local agroecology organizations in synergy and virtuous relation.

The partnering / networking dimension of the project is bringing the different initiatives together and enabling coordinated advocacy work, defense of traditional knowledge and culture, of farmers' seed systems, of Indigenous Rights and Human-Rights in rural areas. The **in-person regional forum**, along with the [Bilim platform](#) and the **four online meetings (13/12/22, 14/03/2023, 14/09/2023, 19/12/2023)**, are means to **keep the network together**, exchange amongst ourselves, feeling part of a community. The **agroecology schools pilot** projects and the **national seminars** are local activities that, along with the existing activities of the organizations, are **strengthening the organizations while nourishing Bilim as a regional alliance**. These activities have been supported by the **Toolkit and**

Manual. The **videos** and **reported local experiences** are practical means **share knowledge** amongst Bilim organizations and document our local agroecology initiatives.

In Annex you will find the deliverables linked to each output.

- Output 1 - Bilim forum press release
- Output 1 - Bilim alliance Plan of Action
- Output 2 - Agroecology schools pilot project – report of experiences
- Output 3 - Report of local experiences – accessible in all Bilim languages on Bilim digital platform
- Output 4 – Toolkit and Manual
- Output 5 – Videos (accessible in various languages in YouTube channel)
- The visual version of this report (directed to Bilim organizations)

Some adjustments have been made from the original project :

- The organization of six agroecology schools (instead of one)
- The cancellation of the national seminars in Tadjikistan and Serbia and the use of the funds for the organization of national seminars in Albania (ANDR) and Kazakhstan (Zher-Ana)

An extra grant of USD 12.000 have been received to enable more participation to the Bilim forum 2023 (Output 1).

5. POLICY ADVOCACY: *Please comment in more detail policy advocacy work carried out by your collaborative.*

The fact that Bilim alliance is existing enable coordinated advocacy work. This reality is an achievement per se.

The young Bilim alliance is working on three policy workstreams.

1. Farmers seed systems.

Gradina Moldovei has been challenging the national law on seeds, referring to the Moldovan Constitution and supported by international references such as the UNDROP and the ITPGRFA. The work carried out in Moldova has been shared with the community and inspiring other organizations.

Close collaboration on seed conservation, farmer's seed bank is ongoing, specifically between Gradina Moldovei in Moldova and ADI in Kyrgyzstan.

Concerns have been raised on the new EU legislation on Organic Heterogenous Material. Organizations being more aware of the opportunities and threats have been sharing them with the community for a possible common action. So far, no common position nor action have been agreed but organizations are more aware on the content of the new regulation.

2. UNDROP

EcoRuralis is an organization developing important expertise on UNDROP and supporting the process of integrating UNDROP at national levels. EcoRuralis therefore raised awareness on UNDROP and coordinated advocacy actions to influence the vote of the adoption of a working group and a special rapporteur on UNDROP. It also generated a website dedicated to UNDROP implementation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as training (see the Training on UNDROP implementation for Eastern European and Central Asian countries in January 2023) and training materials.

The advocacy work on UNDROP carried out in Ukraine by the different Bilim partners (AFZU, EcoAction, Platform of Knowledge on Agricultural development and rural innovations, Ukrainian Rural Development Network), supported by EcoRuralis, led to the policy process to integrate UNDROP in national legislation, to monitor this process and to better argue against the new land reform.

Links to two newsletters regarding the monitoring of the Rights of Peasants in crisis situation in Ukraine:

- the First number is regarding the Right to Food: UA - <https://arci.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Right-to-Food-Bulletin.pdf> / EN - <https://arci.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Right-to-Food-Bulletin-EN-print.pdf>

- the Second number is about the Right to Land: UA - https://arci.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Bulletin-Land_UKR.pdf / EN - https://arci.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Bulletin-Land_ENG.pdf

The Manual for the Implementation of Peasants Rights in Ukraine, which at the moment is available only in UA - https://arci.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Manual_UNDROP_UKR._print.pdf

3. Farmer-driven educational system

Bilim agroecology alliance is based on the more or less formal Agroecology schools. There is a permanent -and more discrete- advocacy work to make grassroots and farmer-led educational system supported and recognized. This goes hand in hand with the struggle for a better recognition of farmers' knowledge, experiences, wisdoms.

6. COMMUNICATION:

(a) Please comment in more detail communication work associated with this grant.

To promote and disseminate information within the Bilim community, internal channels such as the Bilim digital forum, Bilim WhatsApp group, regional Bilim WhatsApp groups, newsletters, internal mailing, trimestral Zoom community meetings, and smaller group meetings (depending on the and purpose) were utilized throughout 2023. The Bilim Forum in Turkey emerged as key event, along with various regional and interregional conferences involving different Bilim members.

For external communication, the web resources and various social media of Bilim organizations and mailing lists of different agroecology stakeholders were actively employed. Here are examples of communication channels for various events related to the Bilim Community. Moreover, the Bilim community as well as Bilim digital platform were presented or mentioned in various contexts during

regional and international agroecological meetings and conferences by Bilim community organizations.

Here are the examples of external and internal communication channels for various events related to Bilim community.

1. **Trimestral online meetings** of Bilim community were conducted in Zoom throughout 2023. These meetings held in English with simultaneous translation in Russian aimed to facilitate the exchange of news, updates and future plans between community members. The final meeting of the year has been held on 19 December 2023.

2. **Bilim Forum**, July 2023: Detailed information and the final report on Bilim Forum 2023 have been published on dedicated pages on the Schola Campesina website and social media. The hosts and partners in Turkey ensured extensive coverage in the local press, web resources, and social media of the city of Bursa and Nilufer municipality. In Kazakhstan, a regional newspaper for Stepnogorsk (home of Zher-Ana Astana organization) published an article on the forum, emphasizing the importance of agroecology in the region. The report of the Forum by Schola Campesina along with the co-created during the Forum action plan and the Bilim Community vision document was distributed in the community for reflections and comments. AgroPermaLab from Poland crafted their version of the forum report, which was also distributed among organizations and shared on the AgroPermaLab website. The WhatsApp group formed during the forum continues to be actively utilized by participants for ongoing exchanges throughout 2023.

3. Co-funded. **Pilot Agroecology Schools**: Publications about the pilot agroecology school in the Stepnogorsk region of Kazakhstan, organized by Zher-Ana Astana, were featured in various regional media, including videos on YouTube and social media in the local language. The Slow Food Earth Market, where participants from Agroecology schools showcased their products, received extensive coverage in the local press.

4. Co-funded. The information and updates on the key events related to the **UNDROP** were disseminated by EcoRuralis, Schola Campesina, and other active Bilim members promoting the declaration. Bilim members used Bilim digital forum and WhatsApp group to distribute information about the Resolution on the UNDROP working group creation aiming to gain more support at the governmental level. The International Forum on the rights of peasants in Ukraine on 12 December was actively organized the Ukrainian Bilim organizations with support of EcoRuralis, and Schola Campesina to disseminate information and as a participant.

5. Co-funded. The Agroecology Schools **Toolkit** was published on the Schola Campesina website, social media, and the Bilim digital forum in both English and Russian. It was also shared by its co-creators, AgroPermaLab (Poland), on their web resources

6. Not-funded. In support of the Agroecology Schools Toolkit, the webinars and discussions "**Thursday Dialogues**" were conducted. A total of 10 online dialogues, along with 3 additional dialogues on Agroecology and Knowledge sharing, were held with active participation not only from all Bilim community organizations but beyond. These dialogues, conducted in English with Russian simultaneous translation, were recorded, and the presentation recordings are available on the Schola Campesina YouTube channel. Information about all Bilim open online events was shared in

FAO Family Farming, La Via Campesina Europe mailing groups, and among other agroecology stakeholders.

7. Not-funded: Three **agroecology newsletters** dedicated to Bilim community experience sharing were created and sent in the first 9 months of 2023 by AgroPermaLab in both English and Russian. The newsletters, along with Bilim agroecology stories based on interviews with Bilim organizations, are available on the AgroPermaLab website.

8. Not-funded **Quality Assurance of Farmers' Seeds webinar** and discussion took place on November 20, 2023 in English with simultaneous translation in Russian with the participation of the Bilim Community and a much wider audience. The recording is accessible on Schola Campesina's YouTube channel, webpage, and social media platforms. Information about the event was disseminated through social media channels and various stakeholders' mailing groups.

9. Co-funded. **The International Conference on Organic Farming and Agroecology co-organized by Elkana** was held on 23 July 2023 in Georgia was promoted by the dedicated webpage www.conference.elkana.org.ge created for the event. A presentation of Bilim has been made in the conference and a press release has been distributed. The other national seminars have benefitted from the same kind of dissemination.

(b) Please inform in the Annex 1 communication outputs associated with this grant.

RESULTS: Considering the objectives defined in your collaborative proposal:

(a) What are the main results? (please give us numbers, if applicable)

It is a real challenge to capture the outcomes of a project dedicated to build solidarity, trust and cooperation (and even difficult is to provide quantitative results). The fact that we communicate and share knowledge amongst Bilim organizations is an achievement per se, as we are building a feeling of movement, of community, we feel connected to each other which is in some cases crucial when sometimes at national level no many allies are to be found. The dynamic boosted through the project activities are probably reaching beneficiaries or creating new social connections that we might never know about (Drip irrigation agroecology school in Kazakhstan for example is generating social dynamic at local level which are very difficult to report here because of the language barriers with the partner organizations and because of the impossibility for the organization itself to capture everything).

The main results are that -through the knowledge sharing- we could build a community which generated more knowledge sharing. Each organization can now benefit from the sharing of other organizations; and this through different means supported by the project: **Digital platform, Online meetings, In-person forum, the Report of local experiences**, even the **Toolkit/Manual** is collecting experiences to disseminate them and even more with the associated **Thursday dialogues** (webinars) and the **Newsletters**. The knowledge sharing is greatly facilitated by the Bilim digital platform available in local languages.

*(b) Are there any **unexpected results** generated by this intervention?*

As facilitators / coordinators, we did not expect to enter in the field of conflicts. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has not been the only element that complexify the cooperation and the building of trust amongst agroecology organizations. We did not avoid the situation and -even if complex- we found out that our efforts to build an agroecology alliance in the region is actually also building bridges amongst people that would not consider working together otherwise.

Another underestimated results in the myriad of possibilities of local (sub-regional) project to emerge. Now CENESTA is collaborating on Participatory Plant Breeding with ADI, Zher-Ana is inspiring Cow on the Balcony in Kyrgyzstan, RUSHNOI have been training young Tadjik from Tomiris in a summer camp, the Balkan Seed Network can take inspiration from Gradina Moldova, etc. etc.).

(c) What are the main changes resulting from this intervention?

The project is contributing to generate changes on the following:

- The strengthening of the agroecology organizations in the region that now feel part of a community, in a common policy process of transformation and of defending farmer's rights.
- The progressive building of a trust system amongst farmers organizations, specifically driven by the work on seeds.
- The progressive awareness of farmer's knowledge within the community, and on the longer term at policy level
- Awareness raising in Bilim organizations and in the society of farmers' rights and empowerment to use UNDROP to fight for it
- Awareness on *agroecology* as a useful concept to defend smallholders' rights, to recognize the value of local knowledge and farming systems and to make farmers's knowledge circulating (through agroecology schools)

7. MAIN CHALLENGES:

(a) What challenges have been experienced during the implementation of this initiative?

The diversity is a strength and is also bringing complexity. The diverse identities, and feelings about identities brought unexpected challenges to the cooperation and make the building of a trust system even more crucial. Historical, recent and protracted conflicts and hindering the capacity of organizations to collaborate.

The difficult launch of Bilim digital platform. Being a new tool, even if co-created, the platform is hardly integrated in the daily functioning of the organizations. Some active individuals are populating the platform but its potential benefit is far to be reached in 2023.

(b) How did your collaborative overcome these challenges?

These challenges made the necessity of having a common ground essential: Agroecology (Nyéléni Declaration), Human-Rights (UNDROP, UNDRIP) are our basis to move forward together. A part from that common ground, we had to deeply believe in each other and overcome the misunderstanding through dialogue and trust. This is a long process and we now understand clearly that Bilim agroecology alliance have the mission of building trust, not as a minor task.

Jengalab team took part to Bilim forum to deeply understand the barriers to the easy use of the Bilim digital platform. An important delegation of 3 people (2 self-funded and 1 covered by the project) organized workshop and interviews during the forum to collect inputs and insights in order to improve the platform easy utilization.

(c) What would your collaborative do differently if you could start again?

More efforts and more caution regarding the sensible issues -linked to past, ongoing, protracted conflicts and crisis- that affect our region.

8. FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:

(a) What are the new opportunities that this initiative has opened to your organization and partners?

- Subregional partnerships and projects (seed conservation, seed legislation, pastoralism, ..)
- Coordinated advocacy work at regional level
- New organizations are joining

(b) How will you build on what has already been accomplished?

With this strengthened alliance, we will now enter in a process of finding a more structured way to function together and an agreed governance model (for the Bilim alliance and for the Bilim digital platform).

After the forum (July 2023) we agreed on an action plan (see Annex) and decided to be an informal alliance (for now), clearly non project-orientated, that has a political agenda based on Human-Rights (UNDRIP, UNDRIP), that open the possibility for collaborations (specifically, for now, on seeds).

9. LESSONS LEARNED: *What are the main lessons learned by your collaborative?*

1. The major one is the importance of the trust environment, which has to be supported through in-person meetings and adapted digital tools. Agroecology approaches are long term process with long term achievements and no direct results. It requires important facilitation efforts to create friendly and trust environment.
2. Farmers knowledge -and particularly women knowledge- is still very under-valued in the region and a long way is ahead to make it recognized. These efforts are key to develop agroecology. The Agroecology school model is a major leverage in this respect and it is very long term process to build them.

3. Farmer seed system is one of the best opportunity to collaborate and mobilize women knowledge.
4. Working on raising awareness on Human Rights is a fundamental tool for food producers communities to build agroecology
5. The facilitation work has to be of high quality, high humanity and high humility, with extreme caution, authenticity and transparency.
6. Alternative approaches to market are also fundamental to build agroecology local food systems. Successful experiences are implemented in some part of the region. It's an important leverage to engage women and youth protagonism.

10. **STORY TO SHARE:** *The Agroecology Fund would like to disseminate stories of grantees. Please use this space to tell something interesting about this intervention that you would like to share with a broader audience.*

See the Report on local experiences

SECTION 2 - FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Did your organization receive funding from other sources for implementing this initiative?
() Yes () No.

If yes, and if possible, please provide us with the names of these other funders (optional)

In addition to the USD 33000 dedicated to the organization of the Bilim forum, additional funds have been received to support the participation to the forum from FAO REU and the Heinrich Böll foundation (Poland).

2. In terms of the %, what is the share of this grant in the amount of funds you have received to support this initiative?

Co-funding applies only to the organization of the Bilim forum (output 1) and is 20%.

34000 by Agroecology Fund, combined with 1500 from Heinrich Böll foundation (Poland) and 5000 from FAO REU.

For the rest of the project no co-funding applies.

3. Please submit the financial report using the Excel file template, detailing final accounting budgeted vs. actual expenditures.
4. Budget narrative: Please add any information relevant to explain actual expenditures.

The national seminars in Tajikistan and Serbia could not be organized. Instead one has been organized in Albania and the remaining fund of one national seminar (USD1000) has been transferred to support the participation of Bilim organizations to Bilim forum.

ANNEX 1 – COMMUNICATION OUTPUTS

1. Please fill in the table below informing communication outputs (publications or audiovisual material) produced as part of the actions supported by this grant. You can share the link or send us a copy in a separate pdf file.
2. Links to the outputs of the project

Description	Links
Output 1 - Bilim forum press release and report	https://www.scholacampesina.org/eastern-europe-and-central-asia-eca-agroecology-network-forum/ https://www.scholacampesina.org/bilim/
Output 2 - Agroecology schools pilot project – report of experiences	https://www.scholacampesina.org/agroecology-schools-central-asia/
Output 3 - Report of local experiences – accessible in all Bilim languages on Bilim digital platform	Sent in PDF
Output 4 – Toolkit and Manual	https://agropermalab.org/en/projects/thursday-dialogues-2023/ https://www.scholacampesina.org/bilim/ https://agropermalab.org/en/projects/thursday-dialogues-2023/
Agroecology Newsletters and Stories from Bilim Network	https://agropermalab.org/en/material/eca-agroecology-newsletter-from-bilim-network/ https://agropermalab.org/en/material/agroecology-stories-from-bilim-network/
Output 5 – Videos (accessible in various languages in YouTube channel)	<p>The 13 recorded videos of the AGROECOLOGY SCHOOLS’ TOOLKIT: THURSDAY DIALOGUE 2023 are available on YouTube on The description of each Thursday Dialogues -developed by Agro_Perma_Lab is available on https://www.scholacampesina.org/webinars/ and on https://agropermalab.org/en/material/agroecology-schools-toolkit/</p> <p>Videos from Zher-Ana Astana are available here:</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cte135NNLIQ/?iqshid=NjFiZTE0ZDQ0ZQ%3D%3D https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzxfwCBuHCUs&list=PLRsPmERcJ4n4q3CksLzJzSMXJU</p>
The visual version of this report (directed to Bilim organizations)	https://www.scholacampesina.org/bilim/ > See Visual report

Links to other publications related to the project

DATE	Description	Link
20/07/2023	Bilim Forum communication (Schola)	
15-20/07/2023	Bilim Forum communication (Turkey)	https://www.nilufer.bel.tr/haber/nilufer-uluslararası-agroekoloji-forumuna-ev-sahipligi-yapiyor https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9DP_k6dtd4 https://www.bursadabugun.com/haber/nilufer-belediyesi-nden-dogu-avrupa-ve-orta-asya-agroekoloji-forumu-1625745.html https://www.nobetcigazete.com/bursa-da-agroekoloji-uygulamalari-forumu-gerceklestiriliyor/50064/ https://www.bursahakimiyet.com.tr/bursa/bursa-nilufer-uluslararası-agroekoloji-forumuna-ev-sahipligi-yapiyor-1089430 and many others
20/07/2023	Bilim Forum communication (Kazakistan)	Prestij newspaper Stepnogorsk, Kazakhstan
	Elkana on Bilim forum	https://www.elkana.org.ge./article/173
20/07/2023	Agropermalab (Poland) Report on Bilim Forum	https://agropermalab.org/en/projects/forum-for-agroecology-bilim-community-summary/
2023	Pilot Agroecology School Zher-Ana Astana (Kazakhstan) on drip irrigation	https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cte135NLIQ/?igshid=NjFiZTE0ZDQ0ZQ%3D%3D https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxfwCBuHCUs&list=PLRsPmERcJ4n4q3CksLzJZsMXJUTJc_j_a
	National seminars in Central Asia	PDF
	Zher-Ana Astana (Kazakhstan) Seminar during the bigger Slow Food event	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIgkmWWQ2cA

23 June 2023	International Conference. Organic Farming and Agroecology in Georgia. 23 June 2023	https://www.conference.elkana.org.ge/
2023	Training on UNDROP implementation for Eastern European and Central Asian countries International forum on the rights of peasants in Ukraine 12 December 2023	https://www.undrop-implementation.info/post/international-forum-for-the-rights-of-peasants-to-be-hosted-by-ukraine-in-december-2023 https://www.undrop-implementation.info/post/international-forum-for-the-rights-of-peasants-to-be-hosted-by-ukraine-in-december-2023
2023	Agroecology Schools Toolkit	https://agropermalab.org/en/projects/thursday-dialogues-2023/ https://www.scholacampesina.org/bilim/ in Russian
January-September 2023	Thursday Dialogues on Agroecology Schools	https://agropermalab.org/en/projects/thursday-dialogues-2023/ https://www.youtube.com/@scholacampesina
2023	Gradina Moldovey Work on Farmers' Seeds	https://gradinamd.com/dezvoltarea-agriculturii-de-familie-perspectivale-alimentatiei-si-agriculturii-in-moldova/ https://gradinamd.com/gradina-moldovei-presents/
20/11/2-23	Farmers Seeds Webinar	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9nj9OpzBAs
January-September 2023	Agroecology Newsletters and Stories from Bilim Network	https://agropermalab.org/en/material/eca-agroecology-newsletter-from-bilim-network/ https://agropermalab.org/en/material/agroecology-stories-from-bilim-network/

ANNEX 2 – PHOTOS AND OTHER VISUAL OUTPUTS

If possible and appropriate, please send us photos that **could be used to publicize your story in AEF social media, website and reports**. Please share only photos that can be published and that do not cause any embarrassment to the people being photographed. We ask you please to send high resolution photos as separate attached files (or links in Drive or via We Transfer <https://wetransfer.com>).

Please fill the table below informing the name of photographer, date (month and year), and description. Use your organization's acronym and number to name the photo files (see example below). This will allow authorship identification when AEF uses these photos.