Switzerland has a strong commitment to agri-development in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2018, Switzerland dedicated US$132 million to agricultural overseas development assistance (ODA), making it the 9th largest donor in this sector.

The Money Flows report assessed 146 Swiss-funded projects (total budget US$563.8 million), of which the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation contributes the lion’s share with over 96%. Some 51% of Swiss-funded agricultural research for development (AgR4D) projects had agroecological components, and just 13% of Swiss-funded projects focussed only on industrial agriculture and efficiency-based approaches. However, truly systemic agroecological projects are still a minority, and socio-economic dimensions such as decent working conditions and gender equity are largely neglected.

WHO IS RECEIVING SWISS SUPPORT?

The majority of Swiss-funded projects are led by Swiss or international institutions. In terms of budget, however, some 72% of investments are directed to international (and other) institutions. Far smaller sums are provided to Swiss and sub-Saharan institutions (17% and 11% respectively).