

# **AGRÓNOMOS SIN FRONTERAS FOUNDATION**

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2022**

### **Introduction**

The year 2022 has been a year of consolidation for the Foundation, both in Spain and Tanzania. Below, we present the achievements and activities carried out by the Foundation.

### **Activities in Tanzania**

#### **Internal Structure**

In Tanzania, the Foundation renewed the composition of its Board Members, which includes five Spanish members and four Tanzanians. The composition of the Board as an international Tanzanian NGO, officially recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is as follows:

- Abdul Kudra, President
- Gabriel Guzmán Uribe, Vice President
- Frank Mangola, Board Member
- Father Makombe, Board Member
- Esther Makasy, Board Member
- Carlos Madrigal Rosado, Board Member
- Marta Guzmán González, Board Member
- Silvia Frías Nebra, Board Member
- Francisco Javier de Lucas, Board Member

The appointment of Professor Kudra is particularly significant, as he is the Director of the Department of Crop Development and Horticulture at the Sokoine University of Agriculture, an institution with which we have close collaboration.

In the first quarter of the year, the position of the Foundation's financial manager was also renewed, and Irene Mongo, with university education in these fields and work experience at Save the Children, assumed this responsibility.

The vehicle equipment was strengthened with the addition of a vehicle donated by the American Foundation Feed the Future.

## **Ongoing Projects**

Regarding ongoing projects, we highlight the following:

### **1. Agriconnet**

The Foundation continued to carry out the European project for horticultural development in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. Their work focuses on the Iringa and Njombe regions, covering 123 villages with 2546 farmers trained in one year.

The project was visited by a significant European delegation, composed of eight ambassadors, including the Spanish ambassador to Tanzania.

Achievements include the establishment of nine avocado nurseries under our supervision, the creation of thirty-five new farms dedicated to this valuable product, and the development of one hundred and thirty-six family gardens.

### **2. Kalenga Primary School**

The ASF Foundation has initiated a school feeding and horticultural learning project for the 535 students of the Kalenga Primary School.

It began with an inventory of all the schools in the area affected by the Iringa canal. Three schools were chosen, and Kalenga Primary School was selected.

Subsequently, discussions were held with the Principal, teachers, and parents of the students.

In September 2022, an agreement reflecting the commitments of all parties was signed.

The Foundation is fulfilling all its commitments admirably. Before the end of the year, a one-hectare garden with drip irrigation was already in place, and a solar-powered pumping system was set up, with a reservoir to ensure regular water availability. Three consecutive filters were installed, and most importantly, everything was done in perfect harmony with our technicians and the parents of the students.

A second field was cleared and worked with the help of our tractor and the work of the students' parents for avocado cultivation, expected to take place in 2023.

Work on the kitchen, handwashing area, and dining rooms has also begun.

### **3. Promotion of the Mkoga Canal Project, Iringa**

The Foundation has been a driving force behind an ambitious irrigation and horticultural development project that can affect an area of more than six hundred hectares and benefit over three thousand farmers.

This project has been taken over by the Iringa Regional Government and has been scrutinized by numerous Tanzanian institutions. It is under consideration by a joint Spanish-Tanzanian commission convened by the Tanzanian Ministry of Finance.

The Foundation has contributed significantly to strengthening the project's quality and continuing institutional relations, given the limitations of the regional government.

Our contributions include obtaining water and soil analyses, studying water flow measurement, and identifying farmers and schools in the area.

The situation at the end of 2022 is complex. On the one hand, the regional government, while accepting many of our recommendations, continues to present the project management and budget items in its own way. They apply criteria that may benefit them budgetarily but have not been accepted by the binational technical commission.

On the other hand, it has been found that the Spanish authority responsible for debt relief counterpart projects finds this project challenging. The Ministry of Economy recognizes the project's importance but believes they cannot finance expenses other than strictly investments. This limitation would prevent the execution of a comprehensive project that includes not only infrastructure but also the necessary training and technical assistance work.

According to the Foundation's view, we cannot guarantee the success of this project without including expenses considered intangible, such as training costs, agricultural extension, cooperative training, certification schemes, etc.

These considerations also affect INCATEMA, a company that has been collaborating voluntarily but seems to have cooled its position due to the limitations outlined.

### **Trip to Tanzania**

This trip was made by the following individuals: Gabriel Guzmán Uribe, President of Agronomists Without Borders Foundation; Enrique Moriones Alonso, Research Professor at the "Instituto de Hortofruticultura Subtropical y Mediterránea La Mayora del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas CSIC"; Carlos Madrigal Rosado, audit expert and Senior Consultant at TÜV SÜD ATISAE; Marta Guzmán González, Doctor in Chemical Sciences and nutrition expert.

During this trip, the quality of the current ASF Foundation team in Tanzania was evident, currently composed of five individuals: Dastan Ndunguru, Acting Director, two agricultural technicians, a community development specialist, and a finance manager. Also noteworthy is the good relationship with local public

entities, which attended the opening of the primary school project mentioned above.

During the visit, computer equipment donated by TÜV SÜD ATISAE and sports equipment from the Athletic Club Foundation were delivered.

Among the reflections of this trip, the special relevance of avocados was considered. Both climatic and soil conditions, as well as economic and market circumstances, justify special attention to this topic.

The importance of water resources in the dry season was also observed, a problem exacerbated by climate change. The current use of water in the area is highly inefficient, both on the part of farmers and the administration. The Foundation must make every effort to promote more rational and ecological behaviors, with a long-term vision.

### **Collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)**

This university has collaborated by sending volunteers who have participated in our programs.

In October 2022, we visited the university and its practice fields. Since then, we have agreed on collaboration regarding avocados to create a practical manual in Swahili and organize a specialized course in Iringa.

### **Activities in Spain**

#### **Organizational Structure**

The Foundation in Spain has been working thanks to the selfless collaboration of volunteers, especially the President, Gabriel Guzmán, a doctor in agricultural engineering, Carlos Madrigal, and Marta Guzmán, a doctor in chemical sciences specialized in nutrition. They traveled to Tanzania at no cost to the Foundation, along with Dr. Enrique Moriones Alonso, a research professor at CSIC, who continued to support the Foundation throughout the year.

Additionally, a secretary was hired for six hours per week. María Alejandra Prato, a student at the school, volunteered to promote social networks and the Foundation's website.

#### **Board Members Renewal**

In 2022, the composition of the Board Members was simplified and is now composed of the following individuals:

- Gabriel Guzmán (President)
- Fernanda Serrano (Vice President)
- Ana Romero (Board Member)
- Jaime Olmos (Board Member)
- Federico Morais (Board Member)
- Jesús Pelaz (Board Member)
- Jose Luis Antón (Board Member)
- José Palacios (Board Member)
- Carlos Suárez (Board Member)

### **Master's in Development Strategies and Technologies**

The Foundation signed a collaboration agreement with the Complutense University of Madrid for the Master's program, which is organized annually in conjunction with the Polytechnic University of Madrid. This program is a reference among postgraduate programs in Development Cooperation in Spain.

The objective was to host two students in Tanzania for ten weeks, providing academic guidance and facilitating logistics and accommodation.

The stay and work took place between October 4, 2022, and the Christmas of the same year.

The program was successfully completed.

### **Collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Madrid**

The Foundation has received technical support from several professors at the School, including Carlos Gregorio Hernández Díaz Ambrona, Rubén Moratíel, and Cristina Rodríguez. Additionally, they have the support of their Director, José Palacios Alberti, who is a member of the Foundation's Board Members.

### **Visit to Spain by the Foundation's Director in Tanzania**

The Foundation facilitated the trip of Dastan Ndunguru to Spain so that he could personally meet the various collaborators and institutions that support us and discuss the Foundation's main projects and challenges. The visit included a trip to La Mayora in Malaga.

This visit was necessary and has strengthened our relationship.

### Other Institutional Support

The Foundation has received support from the following institutions:

- **INCATEMA:** The Foundation received a grant of eight thousand euros, following the agreement signed in 2017. They also received technical support from this company to promote the Iringa Canal project.
- **Nuevos Cultivos:** This organization contributed part of its members' income, amounting to fifteen hundred euros in 2022.
- **TÜV SÜD ATISAE:** Other in-kind donations included four computers and four tablets donated by TÜV, through the intervention of Carlos Madrigal, which were delivered to the ASF Foundation Tanzania and the Kalenga Primary School in Tanzania.
- **Athletic Club Foundation:** The Athletic Club Foundation donated two sets of jerseys, pants, and socks for Tanzanian schoolchildren.
- **Nexio Asesores:** This company continued to provide support for accounting, administrative management, and legal advice.
- **Baetica:** This communications company continued to offer guidance and IT services to the Foundation throughout the year.
- **Instituto de Hortofruticultura Subtropical y Mediterránea La Mayora:** This institution initiated advisory support through its former Director, and they intend to sign a collaboration agreement in 2023. The Foundation aims to make this institution a reference in avocado production, considering this product particularly suitable for the development of horticulture in the Iringa region.

Madrid, January 2023.