



# Trias empowers family farmers to become true climate heroes



Trias is an international ngo that promotes inclusive and sustainable entrepreneurship throughout Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Our mission is to empower member-based organisations of family farmers and entrepreneurs, so that they can act as powerful catalysts for social and economic change in their societies.

Together we strive towards an equitable economy and a just society worldwide. United in a common vision for sustainable change, we accompany these organisations in their organisational strengthening and institutional development.



In 16 countries, we support the realisation of dreams of millions of family farmer and non-farmer entrepreneurs



## TRIAS IN 2021



**143**  
staff members



**€ 13.8 million**  
Budget



**38**  
contracts with donors



Through strategic partnerships with **88** member-based organisations



Working with more than **187,443** family farmer and non-farmer entrepreneurs directly



Reaching **7,443,664** indirectly across 15 countries



Reached directly **46%** women and **54%** youth





## Strengthening farmer organisations

Trias supports organisations of family farmers to learn how to deal with climate change. In their local societies they play an important political and social role, provide basic services and are drivers of social and economic development.



## Agriculture as a solution

The impact of climate variability and change is already being felt and the effects of further temperature increase on global food production will be enormous. The livelihoods and wellbeing of the estimated 2.5 billion smallholder farmers, herders and fishers worldwide, will be seriously threatened given their dependence on natural resources. Especially rural women are at risk because of their relative invisibility in policy and programme development, their responsibilities for reproductive care work and their limited mobility.

At the same time, **the interlinkages between agriculture and climate change cannot be overestimated.** On the one hand, agriculture emits around 1/4th of greenhouse gases. On the other hand, its potential to provide solutions is enormous. This is why **Trias aims to increase the resilience of family farmers and supports them to contribute to climate mitigation and become true climate heroes and keepers of biodiversity.**

It is of utmost importance that farmer organisations **can withstand and absorb the negative effects of climate change and reorganize into stronger organizations.** At the same time, they can render their environment more sustainable and inclusive if they **actively choose to invest in ecological sustainability.** Family farmers, if properly supported, can contribute tremendously to lowering emissions, capturing CO2 and hence mitigating climate change.





# Building resilience

The first pillar of our work aims at building the capacity of farmer organisations and their members to cope with and adapt to climate change.

Adaptation starts from defining the gaps and mapping vulnerability to be adversely affected by a climate or weather event. In order to do so, Trias applies the Building Resilience Toolbox developed by our umbrella organisation Agricord and our strategic partner Food and Forest Finland (FFD).



Depending on the outcomes of this analysis, Trias supports farmer organizations to develop resilience in different ways, for example through:

- ▶ Increasing awareness on climate change and make information more reliable and accessible
- ▶ Supporting income diversification as a means to risk diversification and access to markets
- ▶ Focus on food security where security is at risk; especially with female headed households
- ▶ Social protection services, land tenure and safety nets
- ▶ Promoting risk reduction services, disaster risk reduction strategies, risk spreading mechanisms and adequate financial services
- ▶ Installing management and governance systems that incorporate climate change and ecological sustainability

Farmer organisations have a very important role to play to **advocate for the importance of a resilient agricultural system and lobby for inclusive policies and programmes supporting adaptation and resilience of family farmers.** As well as in linking farmers to and lobbying for climate smart solutions with the private sector. Trias provides assistance in developing lobby and advocacy skills, competencies and strategies.

## ▶ SUPPORTING CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA

In **Uganda**, Trias collaborates with the Zombo District Farmers Association (Zodfa) to start using the Building Resilience Toolbox. Through the methods specified in this tool, farmers were able to agree on the most severe climate hazards such as erratic rain patterns, droughts and hail stones. Consequently, based on their informed choices, Trias and Zodfa decided to invest increasingly in climate smart agricultural practices, such as:

- ▶ Soil and water conservation
- ▶ Soil fertility management through biofertilizers
- ▶ Integration of agroforestry in farming systems
- ▶ Use of improved crop varieties



Zodfa also started an awareness campaign on climate change within their broader network and started partnering with microfinance institutions to develop climate-related financial products for the farmers such as crop insurance and loans for green investments.

Learn more about this and related projects here →





## Building capacities to create more ecological sustainability

Recognizing nature's ecosystem services as the source of the farmer organisation's economic activity, as well as the members' livelihoods and wellbeing, **farmer organisations can opt to take targeted measures that have a positive impact on the environment and climate**. They will choose to play a role to re-create a planet that is livable and provide sustainable ecosystem services as a basis for all social life and consequently a sustainable economic development.

Also in this agenda, the farmers' organizations cooperate with academic institutions, private sector and government to develop local solutions that are innovative, inclusive and sustainable, and advocate and lobby for institutional policies and programs that support ecosystem restoration and mitigation.

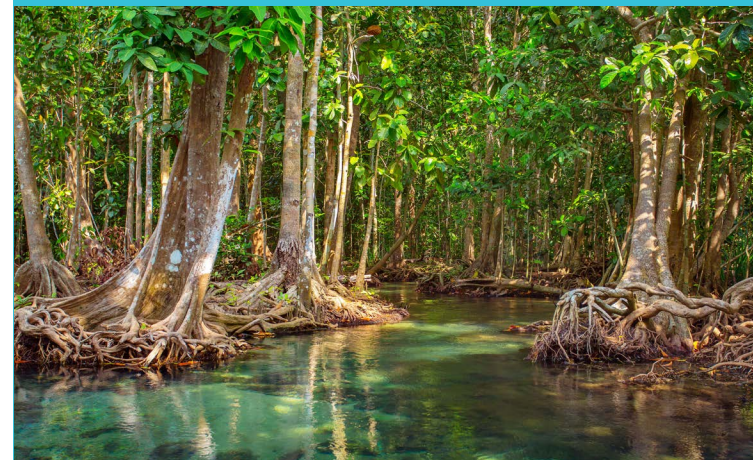
### ► I. NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Trias engages its partners in reflection and development of actions that involve **nature based solutions or solutions to restore nature with an aim to create communities that economically thrive and provide wellbeing to all** based on a healthy and balanced natural environment.

### ► PROTECTING MANGROVE FORESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is considered one of the most mangrove-rich countries in the world. Along with coral reefs and seagrass beds, these marine habitats provide ecosystem services to more than half of the Philippines' 1.500 towns and 42.000 villages, such as food, shelter for marine life, protection from winds and waves, and carbon sequestration. **Despite these benefits, considerable decrease in cover has been observed over time.**

In the province of Zamboanga Sibugay in West Mindanao, Trias partners with the organisation **Comfas**, the Coalition of Fisherfolk Associations in Zamboanga Sibugay. Comfas developed and practiced its own techniques in planting mangroves, such as nurseries established before planting mangroves, and no new species being introduced in areas where other mangrove species have indigenously grown. Currently, **around 12.000 hectares are under the conservation and protection of the federation.**





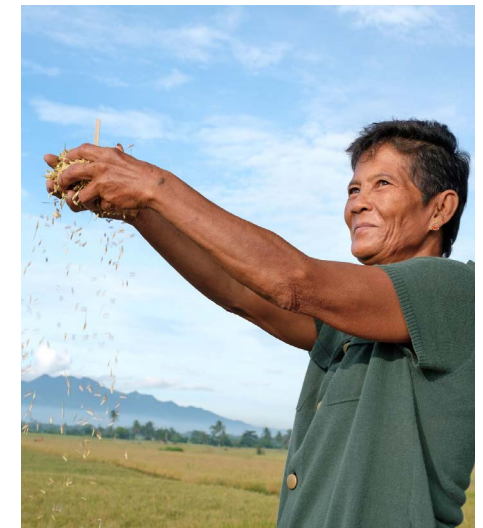
## ► 2. REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Family farmer organisations can contribute tremendously to lowering emissions, capturing CO<sub>2</sub> and hence mitigating climate change. Trias stimulates them to make these choices.

### ► LESS METHANE IN GUINEAN RICE PRODUCTION

In Upper Guinea, Trias has supported its partner Furproriz to reduce the emission of methane and greenhouse gasses that result from rice production. Rice, one of the most abundant crops grown and consumed globally, makes up 12% of global methane emissions and a staggering 1.5% of total greenhouse gas emissions. The members of Furproriz have been trained in the System of Rice

Intensification, which is known to reduce methane emissions by 22-65% through shallow and intermittent irrigation. Farmers were also trained in techniques that maintain the quality of the soil focusing on composting, the use of manure, crop association/rotation, anti-erosion slips etc. All of that, to further increase their adaptive and mitigative capacities toward climate change.



AGRICORD



## TRIAS IS A MEMBER OF AGRICORD

AgriCord is a global alliance of agri-agencies, mandated by farmers' organisations that strives to build strong, democratic, inclusive and professional farmers' organisations and cooperatives and in that way spur development. Currently, AgriCord entails 12 agri-agencies, which jointly support over 600 farmers' organisations in more than 50 countries worldwide.

r.p. Trias, Lode Delbare, Liefdadigheidsstraat 22, 1210 Brussels, Belgium – Photography: Amanda Lelis, Isabel Corthier – Design: weareblue.be



[www.trias.ngo](http://www.trias.ngo)

Trias – Kunstlaan 7-8, 1210 Brussels, Belgium – [info@trias.ngo](mailto:info@trias.ngo) – 02/513.75.34



Trias ngo



Trias ngo



@triasngo



@triasngo