

**2021**  
**Impact  
report**



**SeedChange**

Formerly USC Canada

# Small Farms, Big Impact

Binta Kané, from the Safo area in Mali, has been farming for 10 years to support her family of four children. Thanks to your support, she learned how to produce natural pesticides and manure-based fertilizers. Her harvests have improved, providing her family with greater food security and a better income. THANK YOU!

Photo: Michele Cattani, SeedChange



# WE OWE YOU A BIG Thank you

In the past year, your generosity has helped thousands of farmers keep their families and communities safer by providing them with healthy and sustainable food.

**Almost 16,000 farming households around the world were empowered by your generosity in 2021.**

Thanks to them, many more households benefited from the food and seeds they grew. The result: stronger local food systems, and healthier, more resilient communities.

**None of this work would be possible without your support. Here are a few ways in which you made a BIG difference for farmers last year.**



**This is where your support went in 2021**

**SeedChange**, formerly USC Canada, is a non-profit founded in 1945 by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova and rooted in the notions of human dignity and equality. Today, we work with farmers around the world, including Canada, to strengthen their ability to grow food sustainably, using locally adapted seeds. By harnessing the power of good seeds, farmer leadership and global solidarity, we help communities thrive.

## Our vision

An equitable world sustained by just and resilient food systems.

## Our mission

To build food sovereignty by working with partners to enhance biodiversity, promote ecological food systems, and counter inequity.

**With your support, we play 5 key roles:**



**1. We are facilitators, sharing knowledge and connecting people working to seed change in different parts of the food system.**



**2. We are funders for our partners' work in promoting sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty.**



**3. We are trainers, supporting farmers who preserve seed diversity, farm sustainably and bring healthy food to markets.**



**4. We are incubators for innovative ideas. We document successes from the field to help agroecological practices spread.**



**5. We are influencers, encouraging policies that support small-scale farmers, protect seed diversity and prioritize sustainable agriculture.**



## Facilitator

**A new kind of partnership to better serve women farmers**

**Around the world, women farmers play a critical role in growing food for their families and communities and saving seeds, usually with very little formal support and limited access to resources.**

Thanks to your generosity, SeedChange has been supporting women farmers around the world for decades already. Our focus has long been to help them defend their rights and reduce the barriers they face as farmers, by seeking equal access to land, credit, and training in the ecological farming practices that help them most.

But women farmers also face barriers beyond the farm, like cultural norms that prevent girls from reaching their full human potential. Or, the risk of violence at home and in the community.

**In 2021, you helped us facilitate a cutting-edge new program called *Rural Women Cultivating Change*.**

This new 6-year program will support 30,000 farmers of all genders in Kenya, Tanzania and

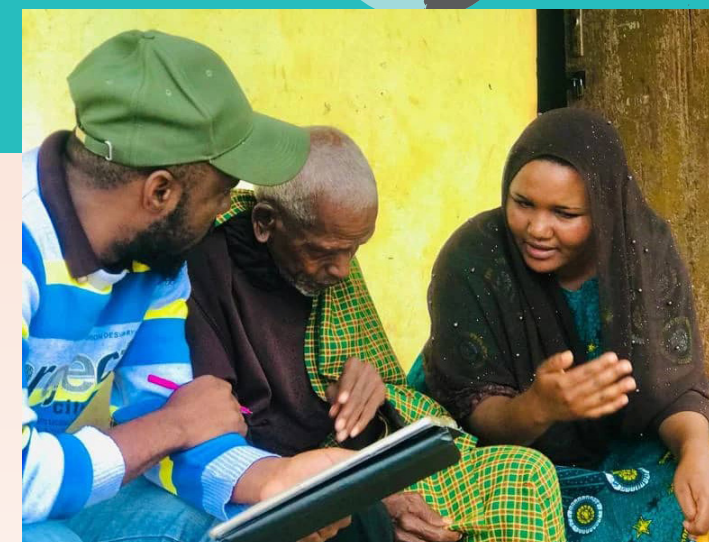


Photo: PELUM Tanzania

Mohamed Mapalala, from our new partner organization PELUM Tanzania, interviews small-scale farmers in Mamire village, Manyara region, to help shape local projects for Rural Women Cultivating Change.

Ethiopia to help women tackle all of the barriers they face, both on and off the farm.

For the first time, we've paired local organizations with expertise in women's empowerment with other local organizations with expertise in agroecology and rural economic development. **Together, these new partners interviewed 1,800 farmers last year to help them design projects focussed on women's most pressing priorities.**

Global Affairs Canada is the key funder of Rural Women Cultivating Change, but it's your donations that made it possible for us to invest our time in facilitating this exciting new program. **Thank you for your powerful support for women farmers!**







## Influencer

### Building a movement for climate-friendly agriculture in Canada

**Agricultural land has enormous potential to pull greenhouse gasses out of the atmosphere and into the soil, but only if farmers are using practices that are good for the climate and for biodiversity.**

Many Canadian farmers want to do so, but with thin profit margins, they can't afford the cost of transitioning to new practices. **Thankfully, you helped farmers advocate for climate-friendly agriculture in 2021.**

Thanks to your support, SeedChange continued to play a lead role in "Farmers for Climate Solutions", a coalition of 24 Canadian organizations that seeks to influence the policies and programs that shape farmers' options for climate action.

Together, we advocated for greater government support to help farmers transition to climate-friendly practices, and we won! **In August 2021, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched a \$200 million "On-Farm Climate Action Fund" to provide that support.**

We also helped the climate conversation move forward by bringing together farmers, economic experts and policy researchers in order to identify ways the government could better support farmers' climate action goals.

**Thank you for helping us pave the way for more climate solutions on Canadian farms!**



## Incubator

### Helping women's coffee sales hold strong, despite the pandemic

Last year, you helped family farmers in the community of Plan de Mangos, Honduras, gain access to an important new piece of equipment: a solar coffee dryer.

Anastasia Fyk, fourth generation buckwheat farmer with her father Don Fyk (left) and her uncle Ben Fyk (right) at FFF Farms near Garland, Manitoba.



Photo: Anastasia Fyk

Anastasia Fyk's family migrated to Canada from Ukraine four generations ago. They've been growing buckwheat and other grains on their land on the east side of Garland, Manitoba, ever since.

As a young farmer, Anastasia Fyk is passionate about finding more ways to build up the ecosystem in her farm's soil so it can capture and transform more carbon. That's also why she participates actively in the work of Farmers for Climate Solutions.

*"I just think that there's so much potential. If we had the government's support and incentives for different practices, equipment, techniques, and educational support, we could really go a long way."*

Solar coffee dryers look like greenhouses with deep shelves. Inside, up to 20 farmers can slowly dry their coffee beans. It improves the coffee's quality and helps it fetch a better price. The result: better income for women and their families, which translates into better opportunities for the next generation.

**Since 2017, you've helped build three solar dryers in Honduras, and one more is planned.** In all locations, women farmers played key roles



## Funder

### Saving valuable seeds and traditions in Timor-Leste

**Community seed banks allow communities to keep seeds safe. They also create a space where farmers can share seeds, knowledge and important stories with each other.**

In Timor-Leste, farmers use their seed banks not only as a backup for their household seeds, but also to showcase Timor-Leste's wild foods. As an important part of their traditional food culture, these wild plants are a source of food and medicine that was especially important during years of occupation and war, when many Timorese relied on them for survival.

**Last year, you helped family farmers in Timor-Leste build two new seed banks, and maintain four others.**

A brand new seed bank was built in the town of Hera, and another seed bank was added to our partner RAEBIA's Eco-Farm and Biodiversity Learning Center just outside the capital city, Dili.

Thanks to your support, more communities have a place to keep their seeds safe and share their knowledge of the farming and foraging practices that are so central to their culture.

That's not all. **Through these seed banks, you helped family farmers access 25% more varieties of staple crops like maize, beans, cassava and taro, and 30% more varieties of vegetables.** This increased access to diversified seed means better harvests for farmers, and more diversity in their families' diets.

in advancing the project. You also helped our partner organization work with women to sign an agreement with a local organic and fair-trade cooperative, to resell their shade-grown coffee. This helped women get their coffee to market, even during the pandemic's disruptions.

**By supporting simple yet effective investments like these communal solar coffee dryers, you've opened new doors for family farmers in Honduras. Thank you!**



Photo: Katie Breen

Saving diversity: farmers display both their cultivated and wild foods at a community seed bank in Batara, Timor-Leste.



Photo: Katie Breen

Serafin de Santus, a farmer and veteran of the war, lives in Fadobloko, Timor-Leste. He's an active participant in his community seed bank.

*"We are very lucky: with this program we can collect all of the wild plants, and transfer the information to the younger generation. If we didn't have this program we could not transfer the information to the younger generation and the wild plants would be lost. And then the younger generation would only be dependent on the rice, and the food that is imported from outside".*

**Thank you for keeping Timor-Leste's seeds and food culture alive through its growing network of community seed banks!**



Photo: FIPAH

Farmers from the community of Plan de Mangos, in the Intibucá region of Honduras, visit their new solar coffee dryer.





## Trainers

### Getting Canadian farmers the training they need

Time and time again, farmers tell us that peer exchanges are one of the best ways to expand their knowledge of farming practices – much better than relying on companies selling farming inputs, like fertilizers and pesticides, for their main source of training.

It's a little known fact that farmers in Canada today do not have as much access to quality training and plant breeding support as they once had. Historically, the federal government played a major role in supporting public plant breeding to develop new crops adapted to the needs of Canadian farmers. It also ensured that knowledge from agricultural research reached farmers, helping them improve their farming practices and harvests. But over the past several decades, these government services have disappeared.

Thanks to your support, our Canadian field program, *The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security*, helps fill this gap by offering one of the most innovative and comprehensive seed education programs in the country.

Our field days, workshops, webinars, mentorship programs, and podcasts help farmers learn how



Want to sample some of the learning opportunities you made possible for farmers? Check out our very own podcast, **SeedHeads/Les Semeurs**.

Available wherever you get your podcasts!

to foster more diversity on their farm. **In 2021, our increased offer of virtual events meant we were able to reach a record level of 2,400 farmers.**

**In addition to offering quality peer-to-peer training, you helped us run 116 research trials last year, to expand farmers' access to ecological seed varieties.** Thanks to you, farmers are adapting and sharing better seeds for crops like African eggplant, rutabaga, radicchio, carrots, wheat, oat, and potato.

**Thank you for helping us rebuild a strong local seed system with Canadian farmers!**

Paterne Mirindi and Hamidou Maïga had been working to adapt the seeds of African varieties of eggplant, amaranth and other vegetables for the Quebec climate, to meet the needs of the African diaspora. In 2021, they worked with SeedChange to create trials so other growers could access their seeds and help adapt them.

*"I think SeedChange deserves a mention, because it allowed us to gather and get to know each other. Before, we were working alone, in silos. We didn't know each other, and it helped us launch a project that has a common goal: promoting seeds, for eggplants now and maybe more vegetables later. We are very determined."* –Paterne Mirindi



Hugo Martorell, Quebec Regional Coordinator for our Canadian field program, discusses with farmers Paterne Mirindi and Hamidou Maïga at the Senneville Seed Hub, in Quebec, where multiple training events take place.

Photo: Sharif Mirshak



Photo: Jonah Langelotz

### Meet Jonah Langelotz FARMER DONOR

#### A young farmer's commitment to global solidarity

Jonah Langelotz first started farming in 2014 while pursuing his undergraduate degree in International Development at the Canadian Menonite University. At the time, one of his instructors was Kenton Lobe, a former Chair of SeedChange's Board of Directors. "Kenton was a huge influence in my life at this time. He encouraged students to think about food and where it comes from."

As a practicum during his degree, Jonah worked at a small farm with a greenhouse and market garden. After graduating he set out to gain more growing experience by joining a farm workers' co-op growing vegetables through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

In the spring of 2018, he discovered a participatory plant breeding project for wheat that was run by SeedChange's Canadian program, *The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security*.

Jonah already believed it was essential for Canadian farmers to regain some of the seed saving and plant breeding skills they lost in the last century, so he enthusiastically enrolled. It wasn't long until he decided to make a generous first donation to SeedChange – a very significant gift for a young farmer like him, reflecting his passionate commitment to this unique work.

**"I decided to become a donor because I really appreciated the program. I've seen how other programs or research led by industry or private organizations don't always take farmers into account. I really liked how the program put trust in farmers, and affirmed that they had knowledge and skills that are equal to other professionals"**

*"As a farmer I like to support the work of other farmers, especially globally and those that don't have the means we do here. It felt like a natural move to become a donor."*

Jonah now lives and works in rural Manitoba, on his father in law's farm. He's working hard to increase crop and livestock diversity and use better rotation and cover crop techniques to improve his soil's health. He's also planting more perennial crops, and finding ways to rely less on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

While he spends his days focussed on what he can do here, the struggles of other farmers' around the world are never far from his mind.

**"Farmers in Canada are not that different from farmers in other countries. We are still trying to grow food for people. We are all global citizens and we share many of the same struggles in farming"**

But while farmers share the same goal, Jonah knows that his colleagues in the Global South are at a disadvantage when it comes to dealing with climate change and the increasing privatization of seed – the two biggest challenges he sees for farmers today.

**"I know that by virtue of colonialism and privilege, we are set up better in Canada. But for many of the farmers around the world, they're just not in the best place."**

That's why Jonah decided to renew his donation to SeedChange again in 2021. He says he's proud to do his part to support quality programs for farmers around the world, helping them keep seeds in the public domain and expand their knowledge of ecological farming practices.

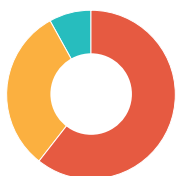
**As a donor to SeedChange, your support made it possible for Jonah to participate in our Canadian seed breeding projects.**

Now, he's making it possible for other farmers around the world to get the same kind of support.

**That's the ripple effect of solidarity, in action!**

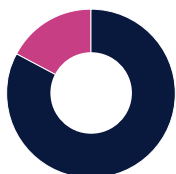


## Summary



**Revenue: \$5,635,791**

- Support from general public and foundations: **60.7%** (including SeedChange Foundation)
- Global Affairs Canada: **31.3%**
- Other (including investment income): **8%**



**Expenses: \$5,633,891**

- Program: **83%**
- Non-program: **17%**



**SeedChange Board members** Karim Salabi, Bernard Ndour, Nicole McDonald, Alejandro Argumedo, Sarah Crocker, Kim Delaney, Alicia Fowler, Boaventura Eugenio Monjane, Constanza Monterrubio Solis, Dr. Padmapani L. Perez, Dr. Priscilla Settee, Ericka Moerkerken, Tiffany Traverse.

**SeedChange Foundation members** Alicia Fowler, Robert C Kamp, Bruce Lourie, Troy Mitchell, Bernard Ndour, Catherine Rowe.

**Staff** Leticia Ama Deawuo (Executive Director), Lauren Brander, Katie Breen, Kath Clark, Nicole Davies, Aabir Dey, Marie Dulude, Kaitlyn Duthie-Kannikatt, Teresa Garavito, Kate Green, Stephanie Hughes, Helen Jensen, Christy Kelly-Bisson, Victoria Machakaire, Elodie Mantha, Hugo Martorell, Marta Monaghan, Beatriz Oliver, Gioconda Ortega-Alarie, Denise Paradis, Norbey Perez, Brent Preston, Karen Ross, Élodie Rousselle, Sheila Rao, Andrew Rushmere, Pratap Shrestha, Gabriela Warrior Renaud.

*Board and staff lists as of October 2021*

## SeedChange Summary Financials for the year ending April 30, 2021

**Net assets** **247,854**

### Statement of revenue and expenses

Global Affairs Canada	1,760,565
Support from general public	834,770
SeedChange Foundation	275,000
Other (including private foundations)	2,314,036
Other revenue and investment income	451,420
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>5,635,791</b>

Program expenses	4,674,440
Non-program expenses	959,451
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>5,633,891</b>

**Net revenue over expenses** **1,900**

## SeedChange Foundation Summary Financials for the year ending April 30, 2021

**Net assets** **6,230,346**

### Comprised of

Lotta Hitschmanova Legacy Fund	5,089,286
Stewart Moore Endowment	341,708
Manson & Mary Toynbee Endowment	201,245
Kurt & Evelyn (Russell) Haas Endowment	108,311
Rick McTaggart Memorial Fund	27,763

### Statement of revenue and expenses

Bequests	344,967
Investment	837,845
Other	(8,826)
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,173,986</b>

Administrative & fundraising expenses	277,549
Contribution to SeedChange	275,000
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>552,549</b>

**Net revenue for the year** **621,437**

*For audited financial statements, please visit our website at [weseedchange.org/accountability](http://weseedchange.org/accountability) or contact us.*

**Donate today**

**You make this life-changing work happen.**



Donate online. It's easy, fast, safe and secure.  
[weseedchange.org/donate](http://weseedchange.org/donate)



Call our toll-free number: **1.800.565.6872** and press 1



Please mail your cheque to SeedChange  
**56 Sparks Street, Suite 600, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5B1**

**SeedChange**

We are a registered Canadian charity: 11927-6129-RR-0001

SeedChange was founded by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova in 1945 as the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada (USC Canada).



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