

Portfolio 2023

Food Systems Section



*Cover Photo: Maize Farmer supported by APBREBES inspecting his crops used for farmer-saved seeds in Baihr-Dar, Ethiopia
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About

Global challenges cannot be tackled by one country alone. By their very nature they require collective action to complement national efforts. Through the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' (FDFA) global programmes, Switzerland seeks to influence and establish generally accepted standards and international normative frameworks to help address these challenges. Switzerland participates in intergovernmental processes, supporting and initiating global and regional initiatives, as well as innovative actions in selected countries.

In that regard, the Food Systems Section (FSS) of the SDC advocates for and supports international standards and innovations that promote efficient, sustainable and resilient food systems by transforming the way food is produced, processed, transported, sold and consumed. The Section invests in agricultural research, the exchange of new technologies, responsible investments and agricultural biodiversity.

Overall goal: Support transformation towards sustainable and resilient food systems in line with agroecological principles to achieve food security and nutrition, in pursuit of the right to adequate food for all, but with a particular focus on women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers in low- and middle-income countries.

Theory of change: If the FSS enhances agroecology, nutrition and inclusive markets responsive to the priorities of women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers and the FSS contributes to inclusive and effective governance processes, then food systems will become more sustainable and resilient, because the right to food and food and nutrition security for all will be realised through the implementation of global norms and standards and innovative and scaled-up approaches.

Strategy

Following the logic of food systems, the Section considers three thematic entry points: agroecological production, inclusive market systems and improved diets for healthy nutrition. An overarching component of global governance encompasses the three themes. A visualization is given in Figure 1.

Component 1: Agroecological Food Production

The FSS aims to address climate change, loss of biodiversity and declining land and water resources through the application of agroecological principles. It supports innovative initiatives to be tested and then scaled-up through international networks or organisations in order to influence or implement global norms or standards for instance on agrobiodiversity, integrated seed systems, ecological and organic agriculture, and sustainable landscape management. The FSS hence collaborates with partners from research, with national governments, cities, NGOs, civil society organisations, farmers' organisations and private sector actors.

Further, the Section also contributes to global and regional policy processes and aims at influencing private sector norms through standard-setting bodies.

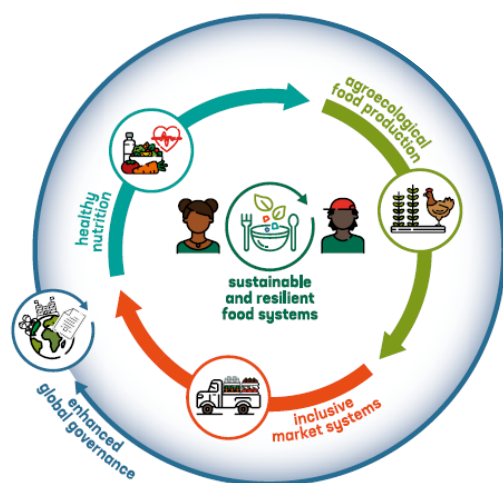


Figure 1: Key elements of the FSS strategic framework.

Component 2: Inclusive market systems

The FSS supports inclusive agricultural and food market systems built on diversified and sustainably produced agricultural and food products and promotes sustainable and equitable income opportunities and employment for decent livelihoods. To do so, the Section advocates for responsible investments to overcome the persistent failure of agricultural financial markets while raising the environmental, social and governance standards in smallholder agriculture and food production. A mix of blended finance instruments, notably the application of social impact incentive payments that allow the generation of additional measurable outcomes in food security, gender inclusiveness and climate-resilient agriculture is employed.

Component 3: Improved diets for healthy nutrition

In order to improve consumers' access to food that is sustainably produced, available, affordable and desirable for a healthy, safe and diversified diet, the FSS advocates for nutrition-sensitive policies and regulations as well as for scaled investments for nutrition. Together with global partners, the Section continues to promote strong multi-stakeholder collaboration. It is also engaged in global partnerships for innovation through research and initiatives for better data and monitoring of malnutrition in all its forms (e.g. on diet quality).

Furthermore, the Section supports behaviour change communication, social marketing and social mobilization, particularly among youth. It works towards improved information through education and health systems as well as transparent consumer information.

Component 4: Enhanced global governance

The FSS contributes to global governance mechanisms in order to achieve its overall goal of transforming food systems. This includes active participation in the different policy processes within the Committee on World Food Security, contributing to the UN Food Systems Summit and its follow-up actions, continuous dialogue with its multilateral partners IFAD, CGIAR, and UNCCD as well as with selected multi-stakeholder platforms. Particular effort is placed on including gender equality and rights (to food, to land, to seeds, etc.) in the dialogue with its multilateral partners, as well as agroecology and nutrition, for instance within the international research agenda.

Further, the FSS builds on bilateral programmes and innovation to inform global policy work and shaping. At the same time, the section supports the local implementation of globally agreed norms and frameworks.

About this Portfolio

This portfolio presents some of the current flagship initiatives and partnerships of the SDC's Food Systems Section. The following pages consist of the factsheets of the different projects, ordered according to the four strategic components. Projects may touch multiple strategic components. These are highlighted in the top left corner of each factsheet.

More information on the FSS strategic framework 2021-2024 can be found here:



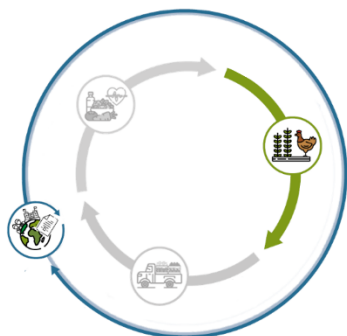
1. Agroecological Food Production



*Head of a user group standing on a CROPS4HD trial plot in Mtwara, Tanzania
Copyright: Bruce Campbell, SDC*

SysCom

Long-Term Farming Systems Comparison in the Tropics



Conventional agriculture based on high external inputs resulted in productivity increases but has high negative external costs. Alternative systems exist but information on their performance is scarce. This long-term systems comparison led by the Swiss Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL) provides scientific evidence on the productivity, profitability and environmental impacts of organic agriculture compared to conventional agriculture in four production systems of the tropics.

By 2050 more than half of the world's population will be living in the tropics with an associated increase in demand for food in an environment where low agricultural productivity, hunger, and poverty prevail. It is imperative to develop sustainable farming practices, which can help smallholder farmers in the tropics to increase their agricultural production, food security and income, while sustaining their natural resources capital.

Organic agriculture (OA) is a prominent alternative to conventional agriculture advocated for its joint benefits to health, environment, social welfare, biodiversity conservation and soil fertility. Nevertheless, OA has yet to resolve issues such as yield gap compared to conventional agriculture, pests and disease management and stabilization of soil organic carbon in the tropics.

In order to address this knowledge gap, the 'Long-term Farming Systems Comparison in the Tropics' (SysCom) programme has been gathering scientific evidence on the performance of organic agriculture in the tropics in comparison with conventional farming practices. In contrast to common mono-factorial short-term research, SysCom has a long-term engagement with a strong interdisciplinary focus covering agronomic, ecological and socio-economic dimensions, which are crucial in assessing the longer-term sustainability and productivity of different farming systems.

Targeted Outputs

- Science-based knowledge on the comparative performance of organic and conventional agricultural production systems in different agro-ecological regions in the tropics (India, Kenya and Bolivia) is made available and taken up by stakeholders.
- Sustainable agricultural production systems in project areas are fostered through participatory development of innovations addressing bottlenecks and by improved capacities of partner institutions

Results (2022)

By now, SysCom has established itself as an important research programme in the field of sustainability science. Launched in 2007/09, the long-term experiments (LTE) compare different agricultural production systems in Kenya, India and Bolivia. Long-term changes and the effects of contextual developments are monitored through the observation of agronomic, socio-economic and ecological parameters over time. The project sites were successfully established and are managed with and by local partners. Along with the LTEs, the Participatory on-farm Research (POR) was successfully implemented in partner countries with the aim of allowing direct application by the local stakeholders. They have achieved a good cooperation and participation of local farmers and other relevant stakeholders, conducive for the process of innovation development.

Region

Global; Bolivia, India & Kenya

Partners

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL); Biovision Foundation, Liechtenstein Development Service, Coop Sustainability Fund

Project objectives

Establish a scientific basis for discussions on the performance and potential of organic agricultural production systems in the tropics

Target Group

Local farmers and partners, the national and global scientific community, policy makers and other interest groups.

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase V: 2023-2025

Budget

SDC: 2'000'000 CHF
Total: 6'160'000 CHF

Contact

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Additional information:



World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies



Implementing sustainable land management is essential for reducing land degradation and achieving climate and livelihood resilience. WOCAT, the Swiss founded Global Sustainable Land Management Platform, offers robust and up-to-date knowledge and tools for evidence-based decision-making to implement the most appropriate practices within a given context to improve land resources, ecosystems and livelihoods. It promotes the documentation, sharing and use of knowledge to support adaptation and innovation in sustainable land management and brokers' knowledge between science, policy and societal partners.

With the United Nations' Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, a global call to action was launched to scale up successful pilot initiatives in areas of degraded land. Restoring ecosystem functions, increasing production, enhancing water security and climate resilience, reducing emissions, harnessing biodiversity, and improving rural livelihoods are major challenges to be tackled. Recognising these interlinkages, there is an increased interest from local and national governments in implementing and mainstreaming sustainable land management (SLM).

However, there is a number of hurdles to the scaling up of sustainable land management practices: limited access to knowledge; insufficient problem-solving capacities; weak institutional and legal environments hindering land tenure and property rights; lack of monitoring and systematic evaluation of impacts; limited access to funding; and a lack of innovative business models for SLM technologies.

Global networks and knowledge platforms such as the WOCAT play a crucial role in addressing these challenges, as they are in a unique position to place land and their users on the global agenda, to broker knowledge between science, policy and societal partners, and develop the capacity of institutions and stakeholders. Thus, they can foster improved coordination across governance scales, a better mobilization of knowledge for SLM, land degradation neutrality (LDN) and ecosystem restoration, and a better understanding of how change comes about and of where it is already happening.

Targeted Outputs

- Successful transition to a decentralized governance structure, functioning regional clusters in at least four regions as well as a secured multi-donor basket fund and a robust monitoring system to assess WOCAT's impacts.
- Capitalization on WOCAT database and tools through state-of-the-art analyses in collaboration with global, regional and national key SLM stakeholders.
- Capacity development and guidance to UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) parties and SLM stakeholders in the monitoring and implementation of LDN/SLM projects and programmes.

Results (2022)

WOCAT's growing recognition in recent years has made it a global reference on sustainable land management. The WOCAT Database is referred to in major assessment reports (e.g. IPCC report on Climate Change and Land), and used in the design and implementation of sustainable land management projects by e.g. the Global Environment Facility and accredited agencies such as the World Bank or the FAO.

WOCAT Global Database: Enhanced global, open access database, available in five UN languages. Strong increase of number of sustainable land management practices submitted to the WOCAT Database, totalling over 2'000, and nearly 90'000 visits since 2016.

Additional information:



Region
Global

Partners

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern, hosting WOCAT

Project objectives

Support countries and institutions around the world to scale up sustainable land management and foster related sustainable development goals addressed by the three Rio conventions

Target Group

International organisations, UNCCD and its parties, advisory services, non-governmental organisations, research institutes and academia.

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase IV: 2021-2024

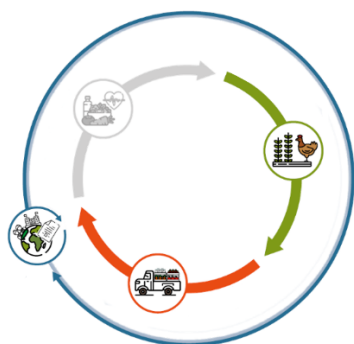
Budget

SDC: 1'000'000 CHF
Total: 2'000'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
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Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services / Youth in Agriculture



Rural Advisory Services provide millions of smallholder farmers around the world with the skills and knowledge they need to improve their livelihoods. The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) together with the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) develop and share innovative and contextual knowledge, and are uniquely positioned as global and regional networks with national foras in more than 80 countries. Together, they will develop and strengthen the ability of rural advisory services to better serve smallholder farmers.

Agricultural research for development is constantly generating new knowledge, advanced agronomic technologies, improved plant varieties and more environmentally friendly farming practices. However, about 70% of all agriculture-related research is never reaching the end-users due to underdeveloped Rural Advisory Services (RAS). RAS disseminate information about technologies, markets, inputs and financial matters and promote interaction between farmers, the private sector, research and education centres and government. As such, RAS are providing farmers with the skills and knowledge they need to improve their livelihoods.

The young generation has to play an important role in extension and rural advisory services. Agriculture and advisory services must be made more attractive to young people. Young professionals working in extension and rural advisory services deserve greater attention, and to be provided an opportunity to share their experiences, voice their concerns and communicate the challenges and opportunities for youth in extension.

The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) provides advocacy and leadership on pluralistic and demand-driven rural advisory services for sustainable development. GFRAS works through regional rural advisory services networks, country fora, and thematic working groups.

Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) is an international movement that enables and empowers young professionals from various backgrounds with an interest in the field of agriculture and food systems around the globe.

It aims to contribute to shape and transform our current food system, one that includes youth in decision making processes for a food secure world. YPARD operates as a network at global, regional and national levels. Based on their shared objectives and to increase their relevance in a very dynamic work environment, GFRAS and YPARD entered a strategic partnership taking shape through a Joint Global Secretariat and the development of a Joint Operational Plan for 2021-2025.

Targeted Outcomes

- Increase recognition of RAS and Youth in gender sensitive policies and investments related to agriculture.
- Strengthen performance of target groups in contributing to sustainable food systems.
- Facilitate and enhance effective and continuous knowledge generation and exchange on RAS and Youth engagement.
- Build functional and financially sustainable networks

Expected Results

- Increased number of revised agricultural related policies that promote pluralistic demand-driven RAS
- Increased number of countries demonstrating training and education standards for RAS providers, based on GFRAS principles of demand-driven, youth and gender sensitive approach
- Increased number of policy briefs and position papers on emerging youth-related issues from YPARD
- Increased number of country fora generating income to operate a secretariat

Region
Global

Partners
GFRAS, YPARD; AGRIDEA

Project objectives
Contribute to sustainable food systems for all men, women and youth in rural areas, through innovation and enhanced young professional's engagement.

Target Group
Regional networks and country fora, educational institutions on rural development and RAS; smallholder farmers and civil society organizations.

Financing Type
Core Contribution

Duration
Phase I: 2021-2025

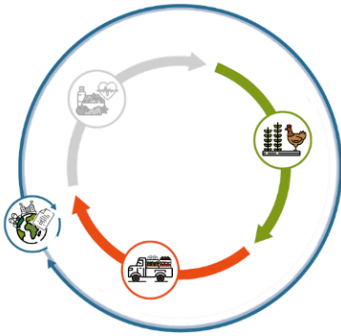
Budget
SDC: 3'950'000 CHF
Total: 11'000'000 CHF

Contact
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Additional information:



Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative



Current agricultural and food systems rely greatly on non-renewable external inputs, impact negatively on soils, water, biodiversity, nutrition and health. Switzerland supports the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative that promotes a viable alternative in Africa to ensure sustainable agricultural development, food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers in an environmentally sustainable manner, thereby contributing towards a more sustainable global food system.

Region

Sub-Saharan Africa; Senegal, Mali, Benin, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda

Partners

African Union (AU), Biovision Africa Trust

Project objectives

Mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

Target Group

Smallholder farmers and farmers' organizations

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase II: 2019-2023

Budget

SDC: 6'100'000 CHF

Contact

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The term Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) includes organic agriculture as well as ecological farming referring to production and processing methods which are sustainable and inclusive. EOA is a system that considers the agro-ecosystem in all its diversity, focusing on biological diversity, healthy use of soils, air and water and relying on renewable resources in locally organized agricultural systems while minimizing the use of external inputs like agrochemicals and inorganic fertilizers. EOA is less input intensive, and therefore more accessible for resource-limited rural people and has a high potential for improving the livelihoods of a large group of rural poor and particularly women.

The EOA-I is implemented by the African Union (AU) Commission following the AU Council's Decision on EOA. Despite its importance for the transformation and resilience of the Food Systems in Africa, the EOA-I did not yet receive appropriate attention by African member countries still prone to adopt so called modern agricultural models based on large scale farms, mechanization and highly depended on oil based inputs. So far, most of the public funds subsidizing agriculture are channeled for chemical inputs. Moreover, farmers fear social exclusion, low economies of scale, and less organized value chains. These issues have prompted mostly civil society organizations to call for initiatives that better equip stakeholders with relevant and functional knowledge, skills and desirable work ethics to steer the development of sustainable, resilient and productive farming systems in Africa. In response to such calls, the SDC together with other partners has been providing support to mainstreaming EOA in Africa.

Targeted Outcomes

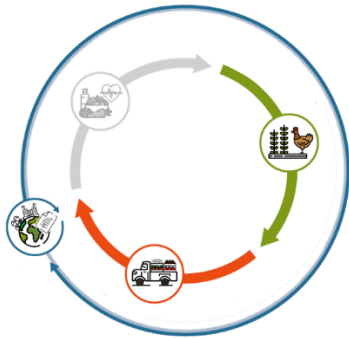
- Knowledge needed by EOA actors in various value chains is available
- Enhanced adoption of EOA practices by EOA value chain actors
- Increased share of EOA products at local, national and regional markets
- Enhanced management of EOA through coordinating, networking, advocacy

Results (2022)

In line with the expected results, yearly, over 40'000 farmers are adopting newly EOA practices in the 9 intervention countries. Over 40 types of EOA innovative technologies and 45 knowledge products were produced and disseminated among farmers and value chain actors. Marketing of EOA produces has been systematically improved following the market system approach. Trust building and low cost Participatory Guarantee Systems were developed. Comprehensive policy analysis on Status and Prospects of EOA in Africa were conducted. The Continental Steering Committee under the AU Commission strengthened further the regional EOA platforms, by kicking off EOA platforms for Central and Southern Africa, while the platform for Northern Africa is in planning. EOA indicators were newly included in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) indicators.

Additional information:





Region

Africa; Ethiopia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa

Partners

ETHZ Institute for Sustainable Agroecosystems

Project objectives

Co-design, test, implement and scale safe, (cost-) efficient and socially acceptable innovations to valorise urban and rural waste resources and improve food value chains.

Target Group

Smallholder farmers and urban underserved communities, private enterprises, local municipalities and organisations.

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2018-2023

Budget

SDC: 4'550'000 CHF
Total: 6'010'000 CHF

Contact

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Implemented by the Institute for Sustainable Agroecosystems of ETHZ and local partners, RUNRES seeks to improve the resilience and sustainability of food systems in four different rural-urban regions across Africa. It encourages nutrient & waste recycling by capturing waste streams and retrieving their nutrients through various innovative processes. The products then serve as fertilizer or animal feed for smallholder producers, allowing to generate a circular flow of nutrients in agriculture, reinvigorating regional food systems and improving livelihoods of farmers.

Currently, in many African city regions food waste and urban green waste is produced at vast volumes and is either not disposed of at all, or taken to an ever-growing landfill. In addition, cities produce vast amounts of human waste and struggle to cope with proper treatment and safe disposal. For regional food systems in Africa this has led to a radical nutrient imbalance as well as pollution: local farmers, suffering from a chronic lack of nitrogen, phosphorus, and other critical nutrients and organic matter, often reside within a few kilometres of urban centres poisoned by the uncontrolled release of these nutrients, which also harm the environment and human health.

Thus, efforts that seek to improve livelihoods across the rural-urban nexus are critical to socially equitable and ecologically sustainable development. RUNRES views a circular model of resource use based on capture, treatment and reuse of food processing and urban organic waste streams as a viable alternative to the linear system. By reimagining the rural-urban relationship, RUNRES seeks to create a transformed local economy, which supports circular flow of resources and thereby improves rural and urban livelihoods and the resilience and sustainability of regional food systems.

Targeted Outcomes

- Improved control of nutrient flows and recycling of nutrients across the rural-urban nexus.
- Development of locally suitable solutions through private enterprise, public investment, public/private partnerships, and civic science.
- Facilitate an enabling policy environment for the scaling and diffusing of selected innovations in partnership with policymakers and practitioners.

Highlighted Results

Maggot Farm in Rwanda

This private enterprise upcycles organic waste by means of Black Soldier Flies (BSF). The organic wastes are fed to BSF larvae. When the larvae reach maturity, they are harvested and sold to fish and chicken farmers as a source of high-protein animal feed. The process residues are used as nutrient-rich fertilizer. This innovation offers an affordable, local alternatives for animal feed and fertilizer and provides economic benefits to both farmers and entrepreneurs.

Co-Composting in South Africa

A public private partnership was established to harness the potential of co-compost production at a municipal scale. The public utility supplies dewatered sewage sludge, while the municipality supplies the garden/green waste, which is then co-composted by the private company. In addition to supporting the production of turf grass, this co-compost benefits nearby farmer-cooperatives by improving soil fertility management and yields.

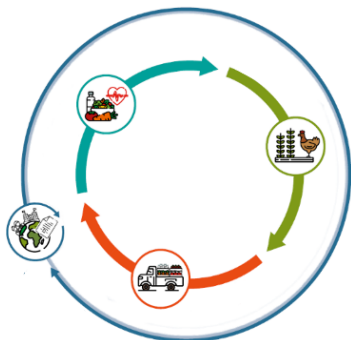
Cassava-Peel Processing in Rwanda

A small-scale cassava processing private enterprise recycles the non-utilized cassava peels, which account for approximately 30% of the weight of the tubers. Instead of rotting or being burnt, the cassava peels are chopped, pressed, solar-dried, and ground to produce flour, a process that renders the peels safe for animal consumption. This flour is sold to a gross retailer as a source of animal feed.

Additional information:



Consumption of Resilient Orphan Crops & Products for Healthier Diets



The production and sale of neglected and underutilised species (NUS) offers nutritional and health benefits for consumers, market opportunities for farmers and contribute to the sustainable use of biodiversity and climate change adaptation through agroecology. Achieving this requires building consumer access to NUS through a functioning seed system. CROPS4HD applies a PUSH-PULL-POLICY approach in Chad, Niger, Tanzania and India to strengthen seed systems, promote the production and consumption of NUS, and influence policies at all levels. The programme is being implemented by a consortium of SWISSAID the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA).

Region

Global; Chad, Niger, Tanzania, and India

Partners

SWISSAID, FiBL, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa; Alliance Biodiversity International - CIAT, World Vegetable Centre, APREBES and IISD Africa

Project objectives

Improve food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers, especially women, through sustainable use and conservation of farmers' varieties.

Target Group

Farmers, public sector organisations, private sector partners

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase II: 2021-2025

Budget

SDC: 9'900'000 CHF
Total: 13'100'000 CHF

Contact

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The current functioning of seed and food systems in the global south is not delivering satisfying outcomes to society as malnutrition remains widespread, incomes remain meagre and biodiversity and seed diversity are declining rapidly. Climate change and the degradation of land and water further push the environment and ecological systems under severe pressure. The steady decline of seed diversity threatens not only the seed basis of smallholder farmers and subsequently their livelihoods, but also the gene pool necessary for breeders to produce future crop varieties adapted to changing climates.

CROPS4HD adopts a so-called 'double PULL-PUSH-POLICY Model' intervention approach to strengthening seed systems. It focuses on factors that firstly drive the consumer demand for NUS (PULL) followed by the supply of agroecologically-produced NUS by peasants (PUSH). It further looks into factors that drive demand (PULL) and supply (PUSH) for the seeds of these crops.

The third component of the project is the POLICY work, which influences the enabling environment by advocating for change in seed laws and related food-system policies, including peasants' and women's rights at national, regional and global levels. The sustainable use of NUS and agroecological approaches contribute to increased livelihood resilience and including climate change adaptation through improved access to diverse and adapted seeds and healthier diets and diversified income generation opportunities.

Targeted Outcomes

- Increased demand of urban and rural consumers for products from farmers' varieties/landraces, neglected and underutilised species and a healthy diet
- Smallholder farmers, agroecologically grow farmers' varieties/landraces, neglected and underutilised species as a viable business and improve their livelihoods.
- Regulatory frameworks, strategies and policies at local, national, sub-regional and global levels reflect the particularities of integrated seed systems, create an enabling environment for innovative market approaches and incentivise the consumption of healthy, diverse and agroecologically-produced food.

Expected Results

Pull:

- Increase the share of consumers with increased diversity in consumption of NUS at household level
- Decrease barriers to access markets for NUS in food systems and increase NUS volumes in markets

Push:

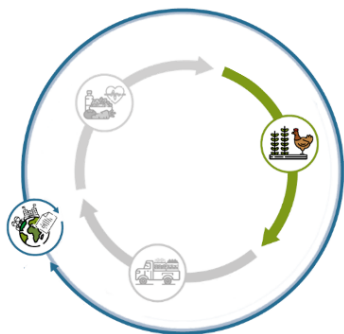
- Increase the number of NUS crops cultivated at farm level
- Increase the number of peasants with increased income

Policy:

- Increase the effectiveness of existing or newly introduced national and sub-national policies and legal frameworks in agriculture and food security for smallholder farmers
- Reach key policy makers and shapers

Additional information:





Region

Global

Partners

CABI, civil society organisations in the domain of food safety and health, agro-input dealers, organisations fostering agricultural employment

Project objectives

Build up the resilience of smallholder farmers so that they can face the challenges of climate change and plant health threats through the promotion of climate-smart approaches to crop production, thereby sustainably increasing incomes and the supply of safer and more nutritious food.

Target Group

Farmers, public sector organisations, private sector partners

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2021-2023

Budget

SDC: 3'600'000 CHF
Total: 28'000'000 CHF

Contact

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PlantwisePlus aims to help farmers face plant health threats in a changing climate. Through the provision of information on adequate and low-risk plant protection solutions, decision-making tools, and targeted climate risk analyses, the project will help countries to prepare themselves for and prevent plant health threats and to reduce crop losses. In the past, CABI and Switzerland have made a proven difference to livelihoods and food security of 50 million farmers worldwide.

Smallholder farmers in developing countries, especially women, are the most vulnerable and disproportionately affected by pests and climate change. Their access to reliable information about plant diseases, plant protection solutions and about adaptation through crop diversification is limited, however.

To make matters worse, climate change affects the biology, distribution and outbreak potential of pests and invasive species. In many countries there is no consistent mechanism for surveillance, rapid detection and response to deliver effective solutions.

In addition to better pest management, there is a need to develop and diffuse preventive measures to minimize the risk of infestation. A plant health system is defined as the collection of stakeholders within a region or a country whose activities promote healthy crops through their various functions, such as policy and regulation, input supply, extension and on-farm production. The net result of weak plant health systems is a failure to provide timely solutions and this, in turn, threatens food and nutrition security at household and community levels.

Using lessons learned from the Plantwise programme (2011-2020), in which a global plant clinic network has been established, the new PlantwisePlus Programme will help countries to predict, prepare themselves for and prevent plant health threats – thereby reducing crop losses and more comprehensively support farmers to grow the quantity of food required and also to improve the quality of food grown, in a changing climate. The major innovation of this programme is to evolve from curative advices to smallholders farmers to the development of a preventive plant health system.

Targeted Outputs

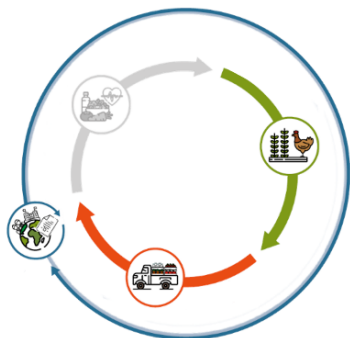
- *Pest Preparedness:* by strengthening detection and response to pest outbreaks, the programme will support countries with more consistent and coordinated mechanisms to detect, identify and respond to plant health problems.
- *Farmer Advisory:* by delivering digital advisory tools, the programme will boost sustainable agriculture and improve the capacity of public and private actors providing support to smallholder farmers to diagnose crop health problems and recommend sustainable solutions.
- *Pesticide Risk Reduction:* by enhancing the use of low-risk plant protection solutions, the programme will help reduce reliance on high-risk farm inputs that have adverse effects on human health and biodiversity, while promoting the demand for safer and locally produced food.

Results (2022)

CABI's scientific expertise in development is recognised worldwide. PlantwisePlus reached more than 3 Mio farmers in 2021 through the improved efficiency in the delivery of actionable information on plant health to farmers via partnerships with public, private as well as civil society organizations in more than 30 countries. Further, plant clinic networks continue to grow: in 2021, over 46'000 new plant clinic queries were recorded on the Plantwise Online Management System, for a cumulative total of over 780'000 queries in the system since its creation.

Additional information:





The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) is Africa's leading insect research institute contributing to plant, animal, human and environmental health. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, it works towards improving lives and livelihoods of people in Africa. icipe's development path is closely linked to Switzerland through longstanding partnerships with prominent Swiss experts and organisations, and financial support since 1972.

Insects and other arthropods are the most diverse and abundant forms of life on earth. They are also a paradox within the sustainable growth equation especially in tropical regions such as Africa where, on the one hand, they contribute to developmental stagnation because of their ability to severely impact humans, animals and plant health. On the other hand, because of their tremendous biodiversity, insects harbour great potential for development.

In Africa, insect pests are a key component among complexities of water scarcity, land degradation and poor soil health, which continue to hinder agricultural productivity and food security. Some insects are also disease vectors and are responsible for the transmission of debilitating human and livestock diseases, exacerbating Africa's already disproportionate share of the global disease burden. Simultaneously, many people in Africa, especially those living in fragile and marginalised areas rely on insect biodiversity, for instance beekeeping and silk rearing.

icipe was established in 1970, to address this paradox of insects and accompanying challenges. The Centre's mission is to use insect science for sustainable development, to ensure food security and improve the overall health of communities in Africa by addressing the interlinked problems of poverty, poor health, low agricultural productivity and environmental degradation. Since its founding, icipe has been developing and disseminating environmentally safe, affordable, acceptable and accessible tools and strategies to control insect pests and disease vectors. icipe's mandate further extends to the sustainable conservation and utilisation of Africa's rich biodiversity.

Targeted Outputs

- Control and reduce effects of invasive species affecting plant, animal and human health
- Develop push and pull techniques on crops such as vegetables
- Develop and promote the use of insects for feed and food
- Further investigate the effect of climate change on soil biology and biodiversity

Results (2022)

icipe achieved astonishing results in integrated pest management, in the control of invasive species, in the development and commercial promotion of bio-pesticides, and in the promotion of beekeeping methods. Estimates suggest that over the years 2017-2020 only, 480'000 farmers benefitted directly from these achievements through better yield stability.

Through the establishment of SMEs to manufacture and supply beekeeping and sericulture inputs, the More Young Entrepreneurs in Silk and Honey (MOYESH) project created employment for an estimated 4'760 people along the value chain. Eight projects supported by the BioInnovate Africa Programme, which seeks to enable collaboration between scientists, researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs, have fully transitioned into commercial enterprises. The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), a competitive grant scheme with the mission to strengthen the institutional capacity for quality doctoral training, has awarded 184 scholarships by end of 2021.

Region

Africa

Partners

Icipe, local private sector partners

Project objectives

Help alleviate poverty, ensure food security and improve the overall health status of peoples of the tropics by developing and extending management tools and strategies for harmful and useful arthropods.

Target Group

Farmers, young African researchers, public and civil society organisations and private sector partners.

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase IV: 2022-2024

Budget

SDC: 6'200'000 CHF

Total: 156'600'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
gdfs@eda.admin.ch

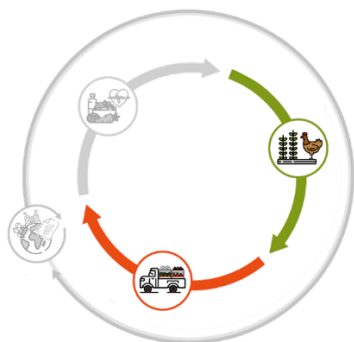
Additional information:



2. Inclusive Market Systems



Women in the Magomeni Market in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Copyright: Bruce Campbell, SDC



Region

MENA; Jordan, Yemen

Partners

IFAD, local communities

Project objectives

Reduce rural poverty and help poor communities in coping with the afflux of refugees and internally displaced persons due to the crises in Syria and Yemen.

Target Group

Host communities, ruminant farmers, Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons.

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2018-2023

Budget

SDC: 5'000'000 CHF
 Total Jordan: 23'991'000 USD
 Total Yemen: 13'400'000 USD

Contact

Food Systems Section
 gpf@eda.admin.ch

Switzerland is committed at the highest political level to help countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region coping with forced displacement. By co-financing two projects funded by IFAD in Jordan and Yemen, SDC will contribute to creating sustainable livelihoods for thousands of Syrian refugees or displaced Yemenis, and will support host communities to increase their income and food security by improving the quality of their small ruminants and cattle, as well as their value in the market.

Jordan and Yemen have been severely affected by forced displacement in the region, with direct consequences on their social, economic and environmental stability, exacerbating existing grievances. The economy of the Republic of Yemen has contracted by about 50% since 2014, increasing the proportion of the population affected by poverty to 71-78% by 2019. In Jordan, around 660'000 of the total population of 9.5 million are Syrian refugees.

Switzerland has been committed since the dramatic increase in refugees and internally displaced persons to help countries in the region cope with the influx of large numbers of vulnerable people by building resilience and creating the long-term conditions that will allow them to build a future for themselves and their children. At the same time, this approach aims to reduce the pressure on host communities and create new opportunities for them.

In Jordan, the development objective of the project is to contribute to reducing poverty and enhancing national food security by improving the productivity of small ruminants and to assist refugees and host communities to graduate out of poverty through a package of livelihood support. In Yemen, the project seeks to improve the food security and the incomes of small-scale farmers through increased agricultural production and strengthened resilience to climate risks. Key investments in rebuilding water infrastructure and protecting fields against erosion and floods will help households increase production and protect themselves against flood damage. A community-based approach is adopted for the identification of priority needs to ensure that the community takes strong ownership of all investments.

Targeted Outcomes

Jordan:

- Strengthened public and private sector capacity to enhance productivity of smallholder livestock farmers, increase incomes and build resilience.
- Strengthened rural poor people's productive capacities, market access and resilience through an approach which graduates them out of poverty and provides access to financial services.

Yemen:

- Enhanced resilience of livelihoods of agriculture households
- Strengthened environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people.

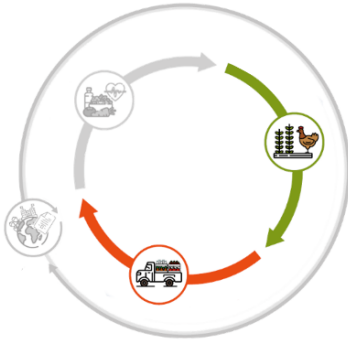
Targeted Results

- Enhance the productivity in the small ruminant stock without increasing the number of animals and create conditions for a more diversified and sustainable natural resource use.
- Increase the availability of grant-based income-generating available for on- and off-farm enterprises and the number of loans provided.
- Strengthen community and farmers institutions to ensure the effective provision of services and the long-term sustainability of project investments.
- Rehabilitate and improve small-scale community level water infrastructures for irrigation schemes and flood-based agricultural schemes.

Additional information:



Smallholder Safety Net Upscaling Programme



The Smallholder Safety Net Up-scaling Programme is a multi-donor public private partnership to support small and medium agribusiness enterprises, farmer organisations and financial intermediaries in providing effective services to their smallholder farmer customers and members, thereby reducing their farming and livelihood risks. The programme is designed to generate higher incomes and more jobs, notably for women, as well as increased food security, thereby contributing to improved livelihoods of an estimated 3 million smallholder households applying more sustainable farm practices.

Region

Global; mainly Africa

Partners

ADA Microfinance; Local agribusiness enterprises, impact investors, Luxembourg's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Project objectives

Strengthen the resilience and the safety nets of at least three million smallholder households and altogether 15 million low-income and highly vulnerable people in developing countries

Target Group

Agribusiness enterprises, farmers' organisations and rural financial intermediaries; smallholder households

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2020-2023

Budget

SDC: 9'580'000 CHF
Total: 19'000'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
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Smallholder farmers are often locked into a 'low productivity-low income' poverty trap without access to effective and affordable risk-management instruments and services, such as drought and flood insurance; access to information on weather forecasts, market prices and sustainable farm practices; reliable contractual relationships with their input suppliers, processors and traders; certification of organic farming to safeguard soil fertility and fetch higher prices; high-quality inputs like drought-resistant seeds, to name but a few. Access to such a range of instruments and services would encourage smallholder farmers to start investing into sustainable farming while reducing their risk exposure, thus increasing their productivity and resilience.

Recognising the private sector as a primary engine for growth, SSNUP is designed to support agricultural value chain cooperatives and companies to develop and introduce farm risk reduction instruments and services for the smallholder farmers they work with. This will help the smallholder farmers escape the 'low productivity-low income' poverty trap and strengthen their livelihoods. Further, it will also benefit their input suppliers, processors, and traders creating a virtuous circle and sustained growth of entire agricultural value chains. A further outcome is an expansion of rural incomes and jobs needed for the large number of underemployed youth and women in the global South.

Targeted Outcomes

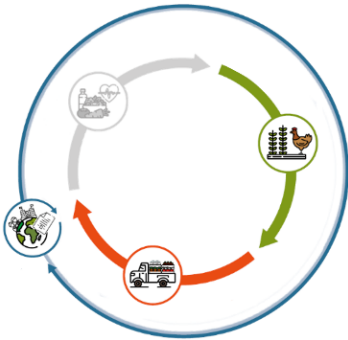
- Enhance farm productivity, agro-ecological sustainability and resilience against adverse weather events of smallholder households
- Sustainably grow the business transactions of agribusinesses, farmers' organisations, and rural financial intermediaries by creating added value for their smallholder clients.
- Create added value for more smallholder households through the replication of innovative and affordable financial and non-financial services as well as improved ESG practices by other agribusiness enterprises, farmers' organisations, and rural financial intermediaries.

Expected Results

- Enhanced production volume and reduced losses in the case of adverse weather of smallholder farmers trained on sustainable and climate-smart farm practices
- Increased number of smallholder farmers who are offered responsible, cost-efficient and innovative client-centric agricultural insurances and other financial services
- Increased number and types of new and improved innovative and affordable farm input and/or sales systems designed for smallholder clients.

Additional information:





The Transformative Land Investment project aims to improve land tenure security and livelihoods of 300'000 rural people through investors' practices for inclusive business and agroecology, and the adaptation of national policies and global frameworks. Implemented by a consortium of research and business development practitioners in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ghana, Laos and Myanmar, the project will contribute to Switzerland's global effort towards more sustainable food systems.

Region

Global; Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ghana, Laos, Myanmar

Partners

CIFOR-ICRAF, RECOFTC, LEI, SNV

Project objectives

Contribute to more sustainable food systems, with gender-sensitive and socially inclusive improvements in land tenure security, livelihoods, resilience and ecosystem health, among populations in the selected countries and beyond.

Target Group

Marginalized and vulnerable rural communities, civil society organizations, states including local authorities and businesses

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2020-2025

Budget

SDC: 8'950'000 CHF
Total: 10'790'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
gpf@eda.admin.ch

In many developing countries, a variety of efforts have been made to reduce the adverse impact of land-based investments (LBI), but most have fallen short or have revealed new challenges. Centralization of land acquisition processes and the exclusive use of environmental impact assessments have done little to improve protection of at-risk populations and ecosystems. Promotion of more smallholder-inclusive alternatives to plantation production systems, while showing promise, have yet to live up to their potential, with many such alternatives similarly associated with social differentiation and environmental pressures. A variety of guidelines and principles for responsible investments provide important guidance.

However, only few companies and governments have to date incorporated such principles into their policies and practices. The lack of capabilities, resources and/or incentives, but also the lack of political will and weak compliance mechanisms contribute to this. With such guidelines generally focusing on *what* business should do, rather than *how*, LBIs also struggle to translate theory into practice, with the necessary technical support structures and partnerships all but absent. Further, in order for such investments to support sustainable food systems transformations, they need to contribute more meaningfully to social, ecological, governance and societal priorities.

This project therefore seeks to promote a paradigmatic shift towards Transformative Land Investments (TLI), which are understood as "investment initiatives that follow VGGT and the 13 internationally agreed agroecological principles, with sustainable business models that recognize and respond to the complex interplay between environment, governance, social inclusion and societal priorities".

Targeted Outcomes

- Land-based investors actively integrate potential environmental and socio-economic impacts as standard practice
- National government agencies and ministries adopt and effectively implement policies and regulatory frameworks and incentive mechanisms that better foster Transformative Land Investment
- Multilateral and bilateral organizations and initiatives adopt commitments, guidelines and financing strategies that more effectively promote TLI and the VGGT of Land principles

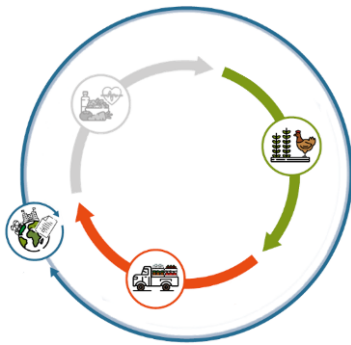
Expected Results

- Development of an Investment Risk-Reward assessment tool and validation in countries
- Business Transformation Labs are established in all countries and supported and informed by a gender-sensitive toolkit
- Multi-stakeholder platforms are put in place to engage all actors and ensure the social and environmental positive impact of investments
- Engagement with national authorities to improve the existing enabling environment
- Good practices of the countries are fed into regional and global networks, and private sector initiatives

Additional information:



Agricultural Enterprises Lending Incentives Africa



Region

East Africa; Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda

Partners

Global Development Incubator as institutional host of ACELI

Project objectives

Improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers and rural poor people, particularly women and youth, - and their household members - in agriculture and across their food value chains in East Africa while promoting climate-smart and agro-ecological practices.

Target Group

East African agri-enterprises; smallholder farmers and the rural poor

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2020-2025

Budget

SDC: 9'490'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
 gfs@eda.admin.ch

ACELI Africa is a market-led platform to catalyse finance for credit-constrained East African agricultural businesses that offer potential for income and job creation. Special incentives are provided for investments promoting food security, nutrition, climate-smart production, as well as for those with a gender and youth inclusive approach. Key Swiss added values are the up-scaling of social impact financial instruments pioneered by SDC with partners, the involvement of the largest Swiss private impact investor, and the focus on two SDC priority countries.

Agriculture in Africa lags far behind its potential. The productivity of the sector, as well as public and private investments are far too low to cope with an increasing demand for food. It is estimated that in the coming 10 years, 11 million youth will join the labour market in Sub-Saharan Africa alone. While the agricultural sector makes up more than a quarter of the gross domestic product and employs a large majority of the population in East Africa, the sector remains with less than 5% of the lending market, largely underfinanced.

As successful experiences in Latin America show, agri-SME's bear a considerable potential to boost the agricultural sector, if sufficiently financed. Agri-SME's transact directly with smallholder farmers, and they employ an increasing number of rural women and youth.

ACELI Africa is a market-led platform promoting increased financial lending into the agricultural sector by banks and by impact investors in selected countries in East Africa (Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda). ACELI Africa attempts to close the "missing middle" by catalysing finance for credit-constrained SMEs by providing financial incentives as well as technical assistance for lenders and for agri-SME's. Additional impact bonuses are provided for investments promoting food security, nutrition, climate-smart production, as well as for those with a gender and youth inclusive approach.

Targeted Outcomes

- Increased number of agricultural businesses qualifying for ACELI facilitated loans.
- Increased lending to agricultural businesses through adapted risk-sharing mechanisms.
- Support innovative business models to drive operational efficiency and financial sustainability.
- Use data to optimise financial incentives and build evidence for policy reforms.

Results (2022)

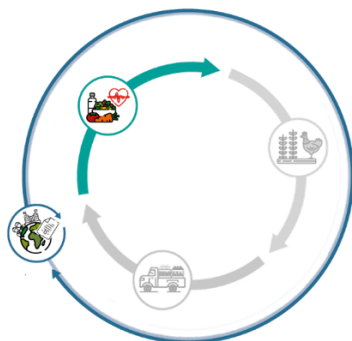
- Since 2020, ACELI Africa facilitated 570 loans to 530 agri-SME's by 31 lenders in the target countries for a total loan capital of USD 71M.
- From the 570 loans paid out, 64% classified for the gender bonus, 14% for the youth bonus, 41% for the nutrition bonus and 19% for the climate smart bonus.
- Thanks to these loans a total amount of USD 147M were paid out to 469'000 supplier farmers (44% women).
- The 530 involved agri-SME's employed an additional 12'000 full-time positions (40% women).
- Analysis of national bank policies revealed structural and systemic barriers for lending in the agricultural sector, which need to be addressed by policy makers.

Additional information:



3. Improved Diets for Healthy Nutrition





Nutrition relevant policies, strategies, and sound programs are crucial to eliminate the rising hunger and malnutrition. The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement brings together governments, civil society, donors, UN agencies, researchers and private sector to support countries to combat all forms of malnutrition leaving no one behind. SDC, aligned with Switzerland's 2030 SDG Strategy to transform food systems and champion better nutrition, contributes by strengthening civil society engagement and by fostering a food systems approach to deliver nutritious, sustainable and healthy diets in an equitable manner.

Region

Global

Partners

SUN Movement Secretariat;
Save the Children UK

Project objectives

Strengthen national and regional food systems in which all stakeholders are incentivized and supported to produce and consume more nutritious and diversified food from local and sustainable production.

Target Groups

Civil Society Network members of the SUN Movement, on global, regional and national levels and in particular youth networks; malnourished people who will benefit from more effective and targeted interventions and policies.

Budget

SDC: CHF 3'050'000

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase III: 2023-2025

Contact

Food Systems Section
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Despite many efforts and some improvements until 2015, millions of people are still and again suffering from severe food insecurity and acute malnutrition. In the current context of overlapping systemic crises, as much as 50% of the global population may not be able to afford even half the cost of a nutritious diet. Nutrition must be part of any emergency and long-term response plan as a foundation that underpins all other development initiatives.

The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement was launched in 2010 by the United Nations Secretary General, to serve as a broker and a platform supporting countries to scale up their nutrition actions to end malnutrition in all its forms. The objective of the movement is to foster collaboration and alignment between nutrition and other development objectives, fostering the co-creation and implementation of an enabling national environment and addressing previous governance failures.

By now, SUN evolved into a global movement of 65 countries and 4 Indian states, known as the SUN Countries. Support to SUN Countries is provided by the SUN Global Support System (GSS), formed of the Movement Secretariat (SMS) in Geneva and the four SUN Networks – SUN Donor Network (SDN); SUN Civil Society Network (CSN), SUN Business Network (SBN) and the UN Nutrition network. With its support to the CSN, the SDC will ensure that civil society stakeholders and in particular women and the most marginalized such as youth, are empowered and capacitated via trainings and technical assistance to contribute to national and global policy dialogues, to the design and implementation of national nutrition action plans and to tap into additional funding.

Targeted Outcomes

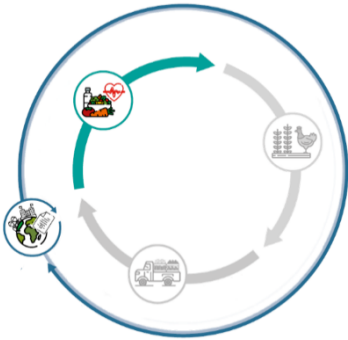
- Strengthen the civil society actors, in particular women and youth, to contribute to the implementation of gender responsive national and sub-national multi-stakeholders multi-sectoral nutrition action plans.
- Strengthen food-system approaches at institutional level and in countries while championing more focus on nutrition in food systems transformation pathways

Results (2022)

SDC's engagement in the SUN Movement is jointly managed by the Food Systems and Health Sections. It has changed and increased over time. SDC engagement in 2012 started with a support to the SUN Multi-Partner-Trust-Fund (Pooled Fund 1.0). It then became an active member in the SUN Donor Network and co-shaped and contributed to the Pooled Fund 2.0. In 2017, SDC engaged as co-funder of the SUN Civil Society Secretariat. In 2019, SDC increased its steering contribution to the Movement and sent a representative to the ExCom and took over the financing of the donor network facilitator. In these roles, SDC contributed very actively in the development of the new SUN Strategy 3.0 (2021-2025), and will continue to push for a strong focus on all forms of malnutrition with a food systems' perspective and aligned with countries' priorities.

Additional information:





Poor diets and all forms of malnutrition are the main drivers of ill health and premature mortality globally, with negative spill over effects on the environment and economy. SDC, aligned with Switzerland's 2030 SDG Strategy to transform food systems and champion better nutrition, supports the generation and dissemination of the first routinely collected and internationally comparable public data on diet quality to contribute to a better understanding of dietary trends and inform the design of policies and interventions.

Most countries, at all levels of development, experience multiple forms of malnutrition, including undernutrition and overnutrition. Unhealthy diets and diet-related non-communicable diseases are one of the world's most serious but least-addressed sustainable development challenges, impacting human and planetary health and undermining economies in all countries. Pressing global issues, such as malnutrition and poor diets, urgently need standardised, regularly produced global indicators to inform policies that are fit-for-purpose.

While global data on access to food is available since 2014 through the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), and despite the acknowledged fact that diets have major health and environmental impacts, indicators of diet are not part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets. We know *how much* people eat (quantity) but not *what* they eat (quality). It is thus essential to monitor diet quality to diagnose problems, design policies and actions that improve food systems and promote the consumption of healthy and sustainable nutrition for all at national and international levels, and in particular for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

The Global Diet Quality Project seeks to fill this major gap in global diet quality data and beyond providing the first ever global baseline data on diet quality. This data set will be a catalyst for improved nutrition globally, raising the prominence of the issues surrounding diet quality and initiate additional high-level conversations to create change and improve accountability of key stakeholders that drive diets, health and food systems outcomes.

Targeted Outcomes

- Develop, test and ensure uptake as appropriate by users of the suite of indicators to measure diet quality and preliminary indicators of impact on environment and climate of diets.
- Collect and analyse data to fill global and national knowledge gaps on the state of diet quality to inform analysis and decisions for nutrition, health, and food systems-related policies and programmes.
- Engage with stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to ensure long-term uptake of indicator and scaling up globally.

Results (2022)

The previous phase funding supported the development of new indicators of dietary factors related to non-communicable diseases. More work will be done to turn these different indicators into global recognized standards (for ex. MDD-W minimum dietary diversity for women; Global Dietary Recommendation score (GDR) or sugar-sweetened soft drink consumption). Another major achievement of the project so far is the adaptation of the Diet Quality Questionnaire (DQQ) to national level contexts in more than 100 countries. These customized questionnaires are available on the launched open access website, with user guides, training slides on how to use the DQQ and how to construct diet quality indicators. A first report on "Measuring what the world eats" was launched in 2022 with data for 41 countries.

Additional information:



Region

Global

Partners

GAIN, GALLUP, Harvard School of Public Health

Project objectives

Generate the tools to collect data, design new indicators and release the first global, public, free and gender disaggregated diet quality database, to inform on diet quality in 140 countries and serve as a catalyst for interventions that can be taken to improve health-promoting and disease-preventing diets.

Target Groups

National and international policy- and decision-makers; populations in low- and lower-middle income countries

Budget

SDC: CHF 2'000'000
Total: CHF 4'122'935

Financing Type

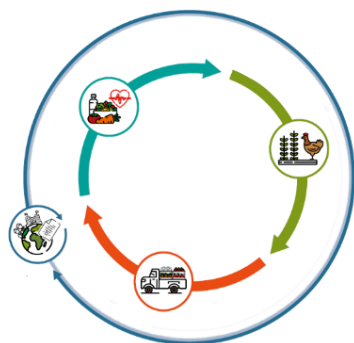
Program Contribution

Duration

Phase II: 2023-2024

Contact

Food Systems Section
gdfs@eda.admin.ch



Region

Global; Bangladesh, Kenya, Rwanda

Partners

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, ETH Zurich, Sight and Life, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA)

Project objectives

Improve nutrition and health, and reduce poverty by locally-led actions to increase the demand and supply of healthy, local, diverse, agroecologically produced foods in 2 city ecosystems each in Bangladesh, Kenya and Rwanda.

Target Groups

Inhabitants of the city ecosystems – especially women, youth and vulnerable groups, municipal city governments, education and health sectors.

Budget

SDC: CHF 7'580'000

Total: CHF 10'537'000

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2020-2025

Contact

Food Systems Section
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The Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) project aims to improve nutrition and health, and to reduce poverty by increasing the demand and supply of diverse, agroecologically produced foods. Implemented by a Swiss public private consortium, NICE focuses on women, youth and vulnerable populations. City governments in two secondary cities each in Bangladesh, Kenya and Rwanda will be supported, and learning between cities, incl. Swiss cities, will be facilitated to contribute to the global discourse on sustainable food systems.

Globally, almost 12% of the world's population suffers from hunger and over 2 billion people do not have regular access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, while concurrently overweight and obesity are rising among adults, adolescents and children. This presents the global community with an unprecedented challenge. Moreover, current food systems emphasize productivity and economic growth, colliding with concerns about climate change, the degradation of natural resources, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss.

The call for urgent food systems transformation has never been louder. Secondary cities hold strong potential to actually implement such transformations. By 2050, 70% of the world's population will live in cities, the majority of them in secondary cities. While urban dwellers are more exposed to the availability of processed food and changing diets, the poor are vulnerable to food insecurity, lack of access to fresh and nutritious foods and food price hikes. Food will continue to be produced predominantly in rural, semi-rural and peri-urban areas, which need to be linked through both physical and digital infrastructure to city consumers.

NICE applies a food system perspective to improve nutrition and health. The selected secondary cities adapt proven solutions from a toolbox according to their specific needs to: reduce all forms of malnutrition; positively impact health; improve income-generation and food security; support agroecology and biodiversity, thus enhancing overall food system resilience. NICE works in partnership with country representatives and ensures city level interventions are consistent with national policies making their in-country scale up and expansion highly likely.

Targeted Outcomes

- Involve women and youth in urban governance structures that incentivise food systems for improved nutrition.
- Make the enhanced availability and production of affordable, healthy, diverse, agroecologically produced foods available for city populations.
- Increase city population's knowledge and create demand for the consumption of nutritious and agroecologically produced foods.

Expected Results

- Establish and foster food systems platforms in the selected cities for joint advocacy and collaboration on and within urban food systems.
- Establish and strengthen the farmers' hubs model of Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture
- Conduct qualitative formative research focusing on food and nutrition practices and especially purchasing patterns
- Ensure robust monitoring and evaluation of the whole project and lessons learned are recorded and shared within and across countries

Additional information:

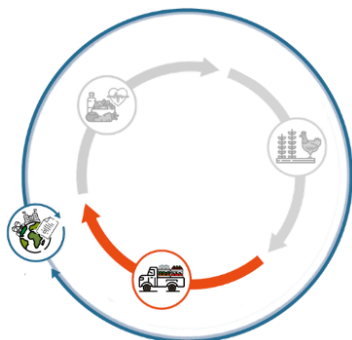


4. Global Governance



*Swiss representative of the Food Systems Section in a multilateral policy process in Rome, Italy
Copyright: Christina Blanc, SDC*

Intergovernmental Authority on Development Land Governance Project



Land is a source for livelihoods and a valuable economic asset in the Horn of Africa. Drawing on experiences from other land related partnerships at national, regional and global levels, Switzerland supports the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to translate continental and global land governance frameworks and guidelines into practice in order to improve access to land and tenure security for all, especially for vulnerable groups like pastoralists, women and youth.

Land has a central role in agriculture and natural resources management and thus for both, the livelihoods and economic well-being of people. There is a need to improve productivity of Africa's lands in order to reduce conflicts, poverty and inequality. Cognizant to that, various strategic frameworks incorporating land governance were developed. These frameworks include the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, the AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the 2010 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The IGAD Land Governance Project was launched in 2015 as a joint initiative of the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) and the IGAD Secretariat with the aim to implement the AU Declaration in IGAD Member States. For this, periodic regional platforms are convened to facilitate experience sharing and dissemination of best practices in land policy formulation, implementation and monitoring.

Further, issues of land policies within common agricultural policy frameworks are appropriately captured and addressed by the project. Lastly, it seeks to establish mechanisms for progress tracking and periodic reporting on progress achieved by IGAD Member States in implementing the AU Declaration.

Targeted Outcomes

- Adoption of participatory negotiated land planning methods by cross-border authorities and multi-stakeholders in the Somali cluster (Mandera).
- Revision of land, family, and civil laws as well as land related policies in IGAD Member States to enhance security of tenure for women.
- Implementation of appropriate frameworks and instrument for securing land tenure for marginalized groups and preventing conflicts.
- Strengthened capacity of IGAD and Member States to implement the AU Declaration on Land.

Results (2022)

IGAD's capacity in land governance has been built up, and IGAD established a Land Unit within the Natural Resource Division. The Land Unit provides regular support to IGAD's member states in inclusive land governance.

The IGAD Land Governance program has been developed and approved by donors including SDC and is currently being implemented in the Somali cluster (Mandera). The project has been successfully established in close collaboration with selected member's states (Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia) as well as with the relevant local authorities. Activities on strengthening participatory and inclusive land governance are implemented as planned under the specific circumstances of the Somali cluster.

Region

Horn of Africa; Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya

Partners

IGAD, African Land Policy Centre

Project objectives

Improve access to land and security of land rights for all users in the IGAD region by implementing the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa.

Target Group

Pastoralists, local authorities, policy makers and parliamentarians

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase II: 2019-2023

Budget

SDC: 3'515'000 CHF

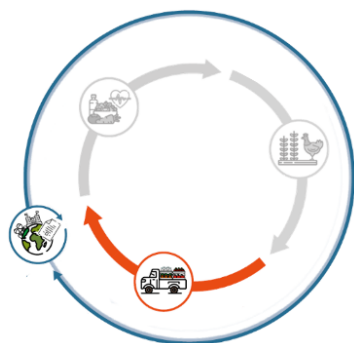
Total: 15'520'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
 gfs@eda.admin.ch

Additional information:





Land rights are powerful resources for people to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Switzerland joins others in supporting the Global Land Tool Network for its advocacy work and efforts to provide practical land tools available for authorities to ensure that all people, including women, youth and vulnerable groups, have access to land and tenure security. Switzerland brings in the experiences from other land related partnerships at national, regional and global levels.

Region

Global

Partners

GLTN, UN Human Settlement Programme

Project objectives

Improve tenure security for all, including for women, youth and vulnerable groups in both urban and rural settings.

Target Group

International and implementing partners at country level, national and local authorities

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase II: 2018-2023

Budget

SDC: 3'350'000 CHF

Total: 45'000'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
 gpf@eda.admin.ch

Insecure land tenure condemns the poor and vulnerable to the margins of society and economies, fuels conflicts, drives unsustainable land-use patterns and destroys the livelihoods of those in most need. Equitably-accessed and sustainably managed land is key to enabling the poor to exercise the fundamental right to be free from hunger and poverty, and to live in dignity. Thus, fundamental change in land tenure security and land governance is needed.

Hence, as the world's population grows and moves around, as we face the uncertainties of climate change, rapid urbanization and increased demand for food, and as inequality and exclusion come to dominate our economies, we must design and implement land systems that work for all people and the planet. The Food System Section (FSS) promotes a normative environment favorable for secured access to land and improved tenure security of smallholder farmers, particularly of women, youth and vulnerable groups. It supports policy initiatives, reforms and tools that lead to regulatory frameworks that protect and respect the land rights of smallholders.

The GLTN network constitutes a technical platform that provides methodologies and land tools for responsible and equitable land governance. Such land tools are practical ways to solve problems in land administration and management. It is a way to put principles, policies and legislation into effect. This includes methods like a simple checklist for conducting a survey, a set of software and accompanying protocols, or a broad set of guidelines and approaches. On a global level, the GLTN complements SDC's advocacy work through its support to the International Land Coalition (ILC), where ILC provides space for civil society to influence land-related processes.

Targeted Outcomes

- Accelerate reforms of the land sector across organizations, regions and countries.
- Institutionalize inclusive and gender-responsive land tools and approaches to scale up tenure security interventions.
- Improve monitoring of land-related commitments and obligations for evidence-based planning and policy decisions.
- Share and develop capacities, knowledge and resources on land tenure security among international and national actors.

Results (2022)

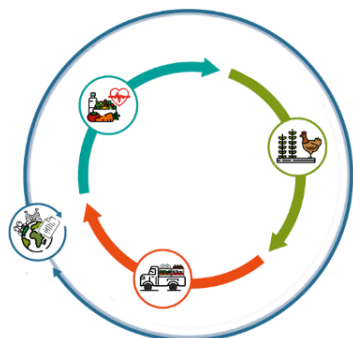
The SDC core contribution allowed the GLTN to develop its own strategy with a related monitoring and reporting plan as well as a revised governance structure. Additionally, a GLTN Partnership Charter, a Gender Strategy as well as a Sustainability Plan were developed.

The SDC support seeks to strengthen the GLTN through various measures, for instance by establishing an effective mechanism for collaboration on programme development and implementation as well as knowledge management platforms. It seeks to further establish a global reporting mechanism on land governance and tenure security and, relatedly, enhance the capacity of relevant national and international organizations to collect and analyze data. More generally, it seeks to strengthen land sector coordination at international and national levels.

Additional information:



Human Rights in Food Systems



Realizing the right to food and nutrition is critical for food systems transformation. Building on Switzerland’s strong engagement for human rights-based approaches, the project addresses the structural causes of hunger by ensuring that rights-holders such as small-scale farmers, women and youth can claim their food system-related rights and participate in governance mechanisms, and by supporting duty bearers in the effective implementation of instruments in 14 countries and globally.

The right to food is the right of every individual, alone or in community with others, to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, adequate and culturally acceptable food that is produced and consumed sustainably, preserving access to food for future generations. As human rights are interdependent, indivisible and interrelated, violating the right to food may impair the enjoyment of other human rights, such as the right to life, health, work, and water. Relatedly, the right to food is closely related to the right of access to resources such as land, water, forests and seeds, which are essential to those who produce food for their own consumption.

It will strengthen the support for a rights-based transformation towards sustainable, resilient and just food systems. Further, it will advance a right to food framework within global governance mechanisms and aim to promote a human rights-based approach, seeking to assess inequalities, which lie at the heart of development challenges, and redress discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power. Lastly, as plans, policies and processes related to food security should be anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international law standards and norms, the mandate will focus on developing the capacities of both duty-bearers to meet their obligations, and rights-holders to claim their rights.

There is thus an urgent need to address structural and systemic human rights challenges, posed by growing poverty, inequality and lack of multilateral engagement. The current industrial agricultural model also tends to reproduce itself, undermining attempts to transform the global food systems and to overcome its multiple burdens on the environment, biodiversity and the communities. It is important to adopt a human rights-based approach to governance and place human rights at the centre of the recovery efforts, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Therefore, the SDC co-finances the People-centered Food Systems (PCFSy) project of the John Hopkins University and the Rights-based and Agroecological Initiatives for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) project of Fastenaktion, which are described in more detail in two separate factsheets. Further, the SDC funds the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur was established by the Human Rights Council in 2000 to respond to the necessity for an integrated and coordinated approach in the promotion of the right to food.

Region

Global

Partners

OHCHR and two Consortia led by Fastenaktion and John Hopkins University

Project objectives

Improve the access of the most marginalized and poor people affected by hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and climate change to healthy, safe, sustainable, affordable and nutritious food by using a human rights-based approach.

Target Groups

Peasants, agricultural workers, small farmers, in particular women and youth indigenous people, and their households and communities; duty-bearers such as government officials as well as policy-makers.

Budget

SDC: CHF 4'600'000

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2022-2025

Contact

Food Systems Section
 gdfs@eda.admin.ch

Targeted Outcomes

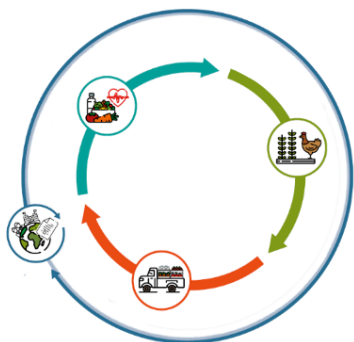
- Civil society organizations and vulnerable rural populations are empowered to claim their rights related to food systems and to participate in policy processes
- Policy-makers and other duty-bearers have increase information, knowledge, tools and capacity to translate international human rights instruments into national food regulations and policies.
- Institutions at the global level increasingly use human rights to frame food-related regulatory and policy frameworks and system transformations.

 Additional information:



Human Rights in Food Systems

Rights-based and Agroecological Initiatives for Sustainability and Equity



Region

Global; Philippines, India, Nepal, Kenya, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Bolivia and México

Partners

Fastenaktion with Vétérinaires sans Frontières, Searice, Rural Women Assembly, Dreikönigsaktion Austria and Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología

Project objectives

Enhance access to healthy, safe, sustainable, affordable and nutritious food by empowering rights-holders to claim their rights and participate in governance mechanisms.

Target Groups

Individuals and their households & communities, which are rights-holders such as peasants, agricultural workers, small farmers, indigenous people, pastoralists.

Budget

SDC: CHF 2'000'000
Total: CHF 4'345'000

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2022-2025

Contact

Food Systems Section
gfs@eda.admin.ch

Realizing the right to food and nutrition is critical for food systems transformation. Building on Switzerland's strong engagement for human rights-based approaches, the project addresses the structural causes of hunger by ensuring that rights-holders such as small-scale farmers, women and youth can claim their food system-related rights and participate in governance mechanisms, and by supporting duty bearers in the effective implementation of instruments in 10 countries and globally.

The root causes of hunger and poverty are inequality and lack of justice, weak access to basic social services and productive assets like land, water, seeds, technology and markets. Exclusion from political discourse and decisions make peasants - especially women - vulnerable to violations of their rights and integrity. The situation is further exacerbated by conflicting claims for access and user rights to land and water between different groups of peasants (e.g. farmers and pastoralists). Demands from industry, construction, mining and large-scale plantations violating peasants' traditional rights pose additional challenges.

The Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) provides a major building block for food system governance transformation. It proposes that States formulate, in partnership with peasants and other people living in rural areas, public policies that advance and protect the right to adequate food; sustainable and equitable food systems; and promote other specific rights such as the right to land, water, and seeds. Despite the adoption of the UNDROP in 2018 and the existence of numerous other international instruments, wide awareness and capacity gaps remain.

With a cross-continental, multi-actor, participatory and inclusive approach, the RAISE Consortium aims at advancing the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) by influencing three interlinked factors: awareness of rights, supportive regulatory frameworks, and practical implementation. Agroecological principles orient the design of the project towards sustainable food systems to realize different relevant human and peasants' rights.

Targeted Outcomes

- Improve peasants' knowledge on their rights and empower them to claim their rights.
- Enhance the awareness of duty bearers on peasants' rights to bring forward their implementation
- Strengthen global frameworks on peasants' rights through influencing UN mechanisms
- Create global awareness among potential alliance partners to further advance peasant rights.

Expected Results

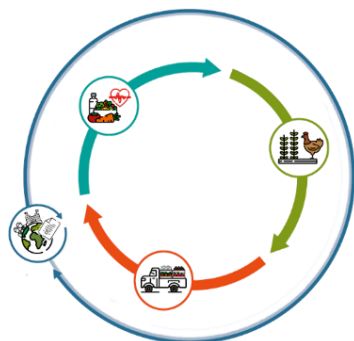
- National regulatory frameworks on food systems and their implementation are reviewed with peasants' participation.
- Duty-bearers in focus countries are addressed through advocacy documents and events focusing on peasants' rights, other human rights and/or agroecology-based food systems.
- Peasants' rights are thematised during relevant international meetings and submissions are made to existing UN Human Rights Council mechanisms.
- Experiences of the Consortium and its member organisations and associated implementing partners are documented for wider sharing.

Additional information:



Human Rights in Food Systems

People-centered Food Systems



The People-centered Food Systems Project applies a human rights-based approach to food systems. The project aims to identify, characterize, and address constraints that impede marginalized and vulnerable food system actors from participating in decisions that inhibit them from realizing their rights to food security, healthy diets and improved nutrition outcomes; adapting to and mitigating against climate change and other food system-related challenges; and fully contributing to and benefiting from their food systems.

Human rights are of critical importance for ensuring food security and improving nutrition outcomes due to their basis in human dignity, their substantive legal requirements in food systems, their demand for effective participation of communities in decisions affecting them, and their emphasis on the accountability of governments for adherence to obligations. It is thus critical to prioritize human rights in global and local food policies.

Translation of human rights into national laws is routinely lacking and even when progressive laws exist, their adequate implementation on the national and local level is often not guaranteed. In many cases, rights holders are not aware of their rights or are unable to participate in decision-making. Duty bearers often lack knowledge of international human rights and norms, or do not understand the situation of rights-holders. Women, youth, as well as pastoralists in particular are often not granted their rights and find themselves excluded from participation in decisions that concern their daily lives.

Working with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, the project aims to identify and address constraints and lack of accountability of governments that impede the ability of rural and peri-urban food system actors to participate in decisions and inhibit them from realizing their rights to food security at both the global and national levels. Initial project activities will take place in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Honduras, and Uganda with the intention of scaling up the approach to other countries and producing global guidance on these issues.

Region

Global; Cambodia, Ethiopia, Honduras, Uganda

Partners

John Hopkins University; IIRR, Rikolto, Alliance Bioversity International - CIAT

Project objectives

Contribute to more sustainable food systems, with gender-sensitive and socially inclusive improvements in land tenure security, livelihoods, resilience and ecosystem health, among populations in the selected countries and beyond.

Target Groups

Marginalized and vulnerable rural communities, civil society organizations, states including local authorities and businesses.

Budget

SDC: CHF 1'600'000
Total: CHF 3'200'000

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2022-2025

Contact

Food Systems Section
gfps@eda.admin.ch

Targeted Outcomes

- Increase awareness, access to information and capacity among national right-holders and beneficiaries.
- Assist key stakeholders in co-designing and building national legal and policy frameworks
- Co-design and integrate human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms specifically adapted to food systems' conditions in existing monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Increase the policy coherence between global norm setting processes for food systems and the right to food at national and sub-national levels.

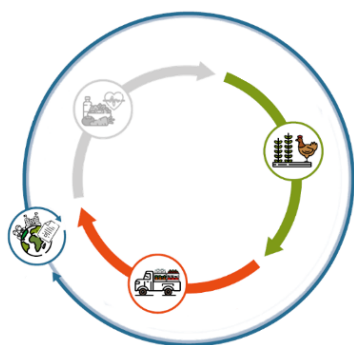
Expected Results

- Enhance access to information and capacity scores of national organizations of rights' holders in the target countries.
- Identify necessary changes in national legal and policy frameworks through the organization and facilitation of dialogues and consultation workshops between rights' holders and duty bearers.
- Written document on country- and international-level human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms.
- Design and implement a policy coherence analysis between global norm setting processes for food systems and the right to food and UNDROP at the international level.

Additional information:



Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society



Plant variety protection legislation in accordance with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is gaining importance in developing countries. This kind of legislation often neglects the existing informal seed systems and Farmers' Rights. SDC supports APBEBES, a network of civil society organizations, to raise awareness and contribute to capacity building on alternative legislation that better reflect smallholders' needs and practices.

Plant variety protection (PVP) is gaining importance in developing countries. In bilateral as well as multilateral free trade agreements, the existence of a PVP legislation figures among the prerequisite for developing countries and very often it is the UPOV system, which is recommended to be adopted. Alternatives to UPOV, which suit better the context of rural communities in developing countries, are commonly neglected, although for World Trade Organization (WTO) members such alternatives are allowed.

This raises concerns such as restrictions of Farmers' Rights, limits on local adaptation of protected varieties, lack of safeguards against misappropriation and erosion of biodiversity. The ownership and control of seeds also raises serious concerns for sustainable agriculture. There is general agreement among academics and experts that the UPOV system, which was designed for the agricultural systems prevailing in developed countries is inappropriate for developing countries.

A few developing countries, such as India, Ethiopia, and Malaysia developed so called "sui generis" PVP legislation in order to facilitate access of smallholder farmers to improved varieties, to ensure Farmer's Rights, to maintain biodiversity and public interest. Because of the complexity of the issue, the different interests of the different stakeholders and the one-sided information on the benefits of UPOV, developing countries are in need for specific assistance in this sector. APBEBES advocates for farmer's rights in the UPOV system and supports developing countries in preparing adequate policies.

Targeted Outcomes

- Increase awareness of governments and other relevant actors in developing countries on the use of available policy space to develop appropriate plant variety protection legislation and implement Farmers' Rights.
- Increase understanding of the operationalization of Farmers' Rights, the impact of UPOV as well as other alternative sui generis PVP systems.
- Sensitize UPOV of issues and concerns relevant to developing countries including implementation of Farmers' Rights.

Results (2022)

- APBEBES continuously advocates for Farmer's Rights and defends the interests of developing countries in all accessible UPOV events. APBEBES very often is the sole representative of the CSO community in the UPOV events, which are dominated by the seed industry, and has therefore access to relevant documentation.
- APBEBES produced a tool to develop national PVP legislation as an alternative to UPOV.
- APBEBES supports selected countries and especially CSO in developing countries to advocate for sui generis PVP legislation.
- APBEBES publishes regularly relevant documents and reports on PVP and UPOV.

Region

Global

Partners

APBEBES

Project objectives

Operationalize Farmers' Rights and achieve plant variety protection legislation in developing countries that is fair and equitable, appropriate to their agricultural conditions, reflects the smallholder farmers' needs and practices, and promotes agro-biodiversity.

Target Group

Developing countries, in particular its policy makers, parliamentarians, civil society and farmer organisations; and UPOV Secretariat and UPOV Members.

Financing Type

Program Contribution

Duration

Phase I: 2018-2023

Budget

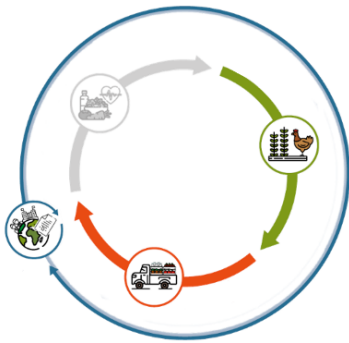
SDC: 320'000 CHF
Total: 640'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
gfs@eda.admin.ch

Additional information:





Region

Global

Partners

ILC; local CSO

Project objectives

Secure land rights, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of those who live on and from the land.

Prioritise women, whose leadership brings the greatest change.

Target Group

Women, youth, family and peasant farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase IV: 2022-2024

Budget

SDC: 3'100'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
 gpf@eda.admin.ch

Equitable land rights are key to progress on human rights, sustainable and resilient food systems and a sustainable planet. ILC is a global network of organisations working on people centred land governance in over 80 countries. ILC aims at securing land rights for people, who live on and from the land. SDC supports ILC since it contributes to many Swiss core interests such as peaceful and democratic societies, and addresses growing inequalities in food systems – particularly gender inequality.

The “Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forest and Fisheries” (VGGT), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Principles on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDRP) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inclusive Business Guidelines constitute highly important global normative and reference frameworks. However, substantial gaps remain as to their implementation and generally the promotion of equitable access to land and fair land governance at country level in a context of increased environmental stress, demographic / urbanization pressure and land related investments.

Founded in 1995, ILC has been a dynamic global alliance regrouping today more than 300 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from 84 countries and 8 intergovernmental organizations focusing primarily on supporting its members to achieve impact at country level and leveraging that impact into regional and global processes towards land governance that puts people at its centre. ILC is taking part or promotes global campaigns, organises side events in key policy events, and supports members to develop and submit shadow reports used in international human rights treaties.

Since 2009, the SDC has collaborated with ILC and lives an active and open dialogue with the organisation. Engaging with a renewed partnership period for the strategy 2022-30 recognises ILC’s institutional legitimacy and credibility as a global actor, as well as its significant achievements at country and global level.

Targeted Outcomes

- **Governance:** People’s organisations take the lead or the driving force in sustainable, innovative and influential National Land Coalitions to advance people-centred land governance
- **Accountability:** Key actors produce and use people's data on land to strengthen governments and corporations accountability
- **Advocacy:** Global and regional processes recognise the right to land as key to addressing the climate emergency and other global challenges

Results (2022)

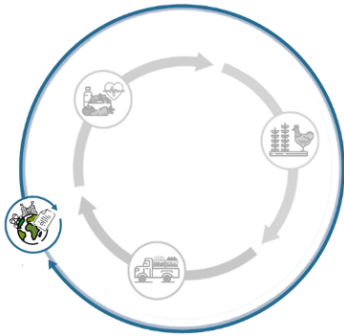
Recent examples of campaign wins include the successful prevention of a military exercise on pasturelands in Sinjajevina, Montenegro, the legislation for recognition of indigenous land rights in protected areas in Panama and the passage of the Land Rights Act in Liberia, recognising the customary land rights of 3 million Liberians. Key results and insights of previous phases include:

- The collective work of ILC’s network has helped secure land rights for 1.7 million people and 100 million hectares of land.
- Successful partnerships led by ILC members influenced the adoption of 83 ‘people-centred’ policies and laws on land rights in 29 countries.
- ILC has developed a monitoring tool, LandEx, which enables members to gather people’s data on land rights to hold governments and corporations accountable.

Additional information:



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



1.5 billion people in more than 100 countries are affected by desertification and 42% of the world's poor live in these areas. 12 million hectares of land are lost to desertification every year. One of the three Rio Conventions, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) links sustainable land management to social and economic development to achieve its goal of combating desertification and land degradation as well as mitigating the effects of drought.

Desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) are challenges of a global dimension, contributing to and aggravating economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration. They thus continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries. In affected countries, particularly in Africa, the UNCCD works to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs that incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.

Addressing DLDD involves long-term integrated strategies that simultaneously focus on the improved productivity of land and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources. The UNCCD plays a central role in addressing these issues through capacity-building, the sharing of successful experiences, technology transfer, the provision of scientific support, awareness-raising, mobilization of resources and the provision of assistance to countries in implementing policies at national, regional and international levels in order to alleviate poverty in drylands, to maintain and restore soil productivity and to mitigate the effects of drought.

Switzerland ratified the Convention in 1996 and contributed approximately CHF 16 Mio until 2022. Switzerland's commitment is long-term and focuses on some of the least developed countries in Africa. Further, the SDC entered manifold bilateral engagements at country level to contribute to the implementation of the Convention.

Targeted Outputs (Core Contribution)

- Reduction of the area affected by desertification/land degradation and contribution to land degradation neutrality.
- Integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) into the implementation of the UNCCD and land degradation neutrality.

Swiss Objectives (Voluntary Contribution)

- Advance the policy work of the Secretariat, in particular with regards to land tenure and to land-based opportunities, through national consultations and in support to the Civil Society Organisations panel;
- Identify financing opportunities to strengthen land governance and build a business case for responsible and sustainable public and private investments in land tenure within the context of activities to combat DLDD;
- Ensure that all stakeholders, and particularly those representing the most vulnerable population, are empowered and can be represented in the UNCCD meetings and processes. This would include least developed country parties, CSOs, women, youth and indigenous peoples' groups.

Region

Global; particularly Africa

Partners

UNCCD Secretariat, country representatives, civil society

Project objectives

Combat desertification and mitigate effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Target Group

Vulnerable populations living in areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought.

Financing Type

Core & Voluntary Contribution

Duration

Phase XII: 2023-2024

Budget

SDC: 600'000 CHF

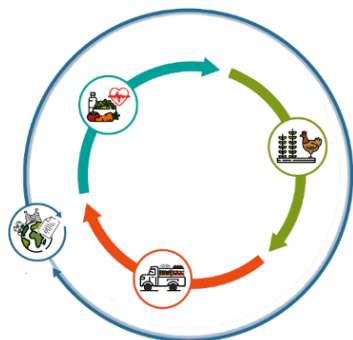
Contact

Food Systems Section
 gpfs@eda.admin.ch

 Additional information:



Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research



'CGIAR' is a global research for development partnership for a food secure future. Its research is focussing on reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security and improving natural resources and ecosystem services. With its new strategy, governance structure and research portfolio, CGIAR has a unique role in providing international and global public goods through high-quality research, partnership, and leadership. Switzerland is a founding member of the CGIAR.

Mandate

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future that unites international organizations engaged in agricultural research. CGIAR's mission is to deliver science and innovation that advance transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. CGIAR science is dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security and improving natural resources and ecosystem services. CGIAR research is carried out by 15 renowned international agricultural research centers, with most centers located in the global south. They work in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector. Funding is provided by national governments, multilateral funding and development agencies, national governments and leading private foundations.

2030 Research and Innovation Strategy

With the new 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy, CGIAR is designing its activities to realize transformative change across five impact areas: Nutrition, Health and Food Security; Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs; Gender Equality, Youth and Social Inclusion; Climate Adaptation and Mitigation; and Environmental Health and Biodiversity. CGIAR aims for impact at scale globally and regionally by focusing its research along three Action Areas: Systems Transformation; Resilient Agrifood Systems and Genetic Innovation. For each area, a number of thematic system-wide initiatives, involving collaboration among different CGIAR centers and partners have been developed. This is complemented by a number of regional initiatives which are a key vehicle for the co-design and co-delivery of innovation, capacity development, and policy change.

At present, 33 thematic or regional initiatives are being implemented, which will be executed by the following seven approaches:

- Embrace a systems-transformation approach, seeking multiple benefits across five SDG-linked Impact Areas;
- Leverage ambitious partnerships for change in which CGIAR is strategically positioned;
- Position regions, countries, and landscapes as central dimensions of partnership, worldview, and impact;
- Generate scientific evidence on multiple transformation pathways;
- Target risk-management and resilience as critical qualities for food, land, and water systems;
- Harness innovative finance to leverage and deliver research through new investment and funding models; and
- Make the digital revolution central to CGIAR's way of working.

Strategic Coherence

The clear mandate of the CGIAR is reflected in the organization's approach to reach impact on food security, nutrition and health, on poverty reduction and improving livelihoods and on gender and social inclusion, while strengthening the resilience to climate and other shocks and preserving environmental health. These objectives are all at the same time central to the implementation of the Swiss International Cooperation Strategy. CGIAR represents one of the key multilateral partners of the SDC Food Systems Section, with fully compatible objectives on promoting agroecology, healthy nutrition, inclusive markets and empowering women and youth. The Food Systems Section has designated half of its core funding to the CGIAR initiatives which are most directly aligned with its own programmatic framework.

Region
Global

Target Groups

Farmers, public sector organisations, private sector partners

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase X: 2022-2024

Budget

SDC: 54'000'000 CHF

Total: 1'200'000'000 CHF

Contact

Food Systems Section
gpf@eda.admin.ch

Institution

Head of Organisation:

Chair CGIAR System Council: Jürgen Voegele;
 Chair CGIAR System Board: Lindiwe Sibanda

Headquarters: Montpellier

Members: 64 States and IOs
Number of Research Centres:

15 (2021)

Number of staff: 9'173 (2021)

Established in: 1971

Board:

The System Council is the highest decision-making body and comprises 20 voting members.

One CGIAR

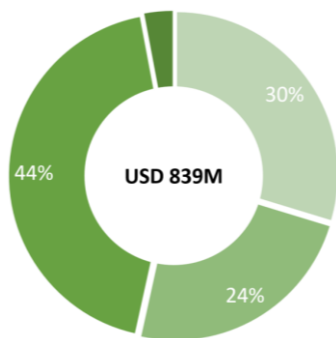
In late 2019, CGIAR began an ambitious transformation process, termed "One CGIAR", aiming to unlock its combined resources. The new reformulation includes: a sharper mission and impact focus, a unified governance structure, a stronger institutional integration, a new research modality (the system wide initiatives), and the ambition to provide more pooled funding.

The One CGIAR transition is based on the premise that CGIAR's people, together with partners, can have more impact when brought together under fewer institutional boundaries and supported by empowered management, clear governance and an integrated operational structure. In early 2023, the CGIAR Integration Framework Agreement (IFA) was approved by the boards of all One CGIAR Centers and signed by their Board Chairs. The IFA was created to confirm and clarify the path to One CGIAR. Its successful completion paves the way for a united CGIAR to move forward with confidence.

A special focus will be placed on 1) agroecology and healthy diet for nutrition, 2) poverty reduction and resilience of the poor to climate change, 3) partnerships, in particular with the private sector and producer-consumer organizations; and 4) gender and youth issues. Further, Switzerland seeks to:

- Strengthen the coherence of the research portfolio and establish clear and strong links between initiatives to take trade-offs and synergies of different pathways for transforming food systems into account.
- Articulate and discuss research approaches on specific themes of importance to Switzerland to ensure that results are inclusive and contribute to each of the five defined impact areas.
- Share, discuss and use relevant strategic orientations of the CGIAR portfolio as well as results in particular those in agroecology and nutrition within SDC, in Switzerland as well as internationally.

Revenues by Source of Funding (2021)

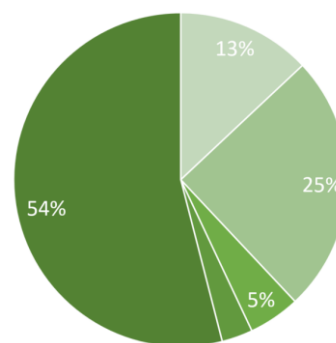


■ Windows 1 & 2 ■ Bilateral
■ Window 3 ■ Other

Switzerland and CGIAR

Switzerland is one of the founding members of CGIAR and has always played an important role in setting strategic directions and priorities. Especially during the last years, Switzerland took a pivotal role in the reform process which led to the new governance system. Further, being the eight largest contributor to the CGIAR Trustfund, Switzerland is part of the Systems Council (SC). The SC is the strategic body of the CGIAR System Framework that reviews the strategy, mission, impact and continued relevance of the CGIAR System. Switzerland is a member of the European Initiative on International Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD), which aims to promote effective and harmonized investments in Agricultural Research for Development. EIARD's voice in the System Council is considerable, as the members together represent 40-60 % of the CGIAR's budget.

Expenditure by Region (2021)



■ Americas
■ Asia
■ Central and East Asia and North Africa
■ Europe
■ Sub-Saharan Africa

Results

The technologies and knowledge developed by CGIAR and its partners have not only delivered significant gains in terms of reduced hunger and improved income for smallholders across the developing world, they have also contributed to sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, as the following examples from the 2021 Annual Report illustrate:

- The adoption of improved grain legumes and dryland cereal varieties has helped 19 Mio people to meet their dietary energy requirements .
- 36 Mio farmers have adopted mitigation technologies for low emissions agriculture on 69 Mio hectares of land.
- 750'000 farmers adopted best practices in rice farming and increased their yields by 11-20% and income by 15-25%, while at the same time reducing chemical fertilizer and pesticide inputs.

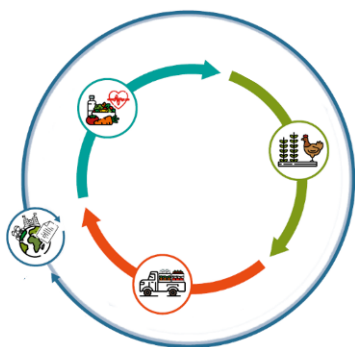
Additional information:



Switzerland's Medium Term Objectives

In addition to portfolio monitoring and active participation in the System Council, Switzerland will focus its dialogue on monitoring themes that are important for the achievement of the Swiss cooperation objectives in coherence with the GPFS framework.

International Fund for Agricultural Development



IFAD aims at transforming rural economies and food systems by making them more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable. During 2022-2024, IFAD plans to lift 68 million poor rural women and men out of hunger and poverty, en route to doubling its impact by 2030. IFAD is one of the 15 priority multilateral organizations of the Swiss international cooperation and shares its priorities of leaving no one behind; addressing issues of climate change, nutrition, gender and youth; and engaging more with the private sector and promoting innovation.

Mandate

IFAD is the only multilateral organization with a universal mandate focused on reducing poverty and food insecurity in rural areas through agricultural development. It seeks to enable poor women and men in rural areas to improve their food security and nutrition, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience to climate change. As a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) and international finance institution, IFAD has a dual mandate: it provides grants and loans on favorable terms to developing countries, as well as to middle-income countries affected by wide-spread rural poverty, while also engaging in policy processes at both global and national levels.

Its grants and loan-financed programmes seek to improve access to financial services, markets, technology, land and natural resources. They are implemented by national authorities, while IFAD supervises their implementation and provides advisory services on both technical and policy matters. IFAD also provides expertise in the agricultural sector and supports innovation to help small-scale agriculture become more market-oriented, sustainable and climate resilient, and benefit from functioning agricultural value-chains.

IFAD has 178 Member States, and counting. More countries join because of IFAD's unique role and value proposition as a development partner that is both a UN agency and an International Financial Institution, focused exclusively on reducing rural poverty and hunger. A unique feature of IFAD is that while only developing Member States are eligible for IFAD's support, all Member States can contribute — and most do.

On average over 100 countries contribute to each replenishment of the Fund, which takes place every three years. Contributions range from just a few thousand dollars from the smallest and poorest Member States to tens of millions from others, including both traditional and emerging donors.

Medium-Term Objectives

With its focus on promoting rural transformation and empowering extremely poor and food-insecure rural people, IFAD focusses on contributions to SDGs 1 (eradicate extreme poverty), 2 (end food insecurity), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and inclusive economic growth) and 10 (reducing inequalities), 13 (climate), 14 + 15 (natural resources) and 17 (effective partnerships). To achieve an inclusive and sustainable rural transformation, IFAD focuses on the following areas:

- Increased social, human and financial capital of poor rural people;
- Strengthened institutions of and for poor rural people;
- Enhanced productivity, profitability, resilience, and diversification of poor rural people's economic activities;
- Greater, and more gainful participation of poor rural people in rural, national or international economies;
- Sufficient and affordable nutritious food and other agricultural products for a growing population; and
- Enhanced environmental goods and services.

Region

Global; Rural Areas

Target Groups

Farmers, public sector organisations, private sector partners

Budget

SDC: 47'000'000 CHF
Total: 1'550'000'000 CHF

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase 13: 2022-2024

Contact

Food Systems Section
gfps@eda.admin.ch

Institution

Head of Organisation:

President: Alvaro Lario (Spain)

Headquarters:

Rome

Members: 178 States

Number of effective programmes:

207 (2021)

Established in:

1977

Board:

The Governing Council is the highest decision-making body and comprises all member states. The Executive Board consisting of 18 members and 18 alternate members is the operational and administrative decision-making body.

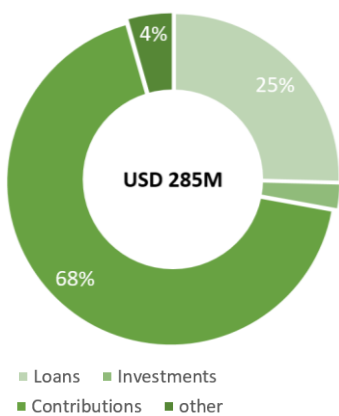
Strategic Coherence

IFAD's mission to transform rural economies and food systems is reflected in the organization's approach to reach the most remote areas and support millions of rural people in increasing their productivity and incomes, accessing markets, finding jobs and building resilience to climate and other shocks. These objectives and areas of work are all central to the mandate of the Swiss development cooperation and are well aligned with the four main objectives of Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-2024. In addition, IFAD12's specific foci on increasing the engagement with the private sector and promoting innovation (including digitalization) resonate well with specific priorities of Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-2024.

In order to strengthen the collaboration with the private sector, Switzerland supported the expansion of the 4P (public-private-producers-partnerships) approach. In 2021, eleven new projects had a full-fledged 4P approach, which corresponds to 58% of all new value chain projects, and 44% of all new projects. Due to Swiss advocacy, these projects consider the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land (VGGT) and the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI), the development of which Switzerland assisted in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

In support of IFAD's work in fragile context, Switzerland advocated for the strengthening of Conflict sensitive programme management (CSPM) knowledge and the mainstreaming in IFAD operations. The Implementation of the IFAD strategy on fragility throughout IFAD11 has raised awareness and equipped country teams with the necessary skillsets to develop more fragility-sensitive and realistic programming. This has resulted in higher ratings for programme effectiveness.

Revenues (2021)



Switzerland and IFAD

Switzerland has been an IFAD member since 1977 and has contributed nearly USD 356m to the institution. It has also provided significant supplementary funding that contributed to improving IFAD's development effectiveness and addressing particular challenges.

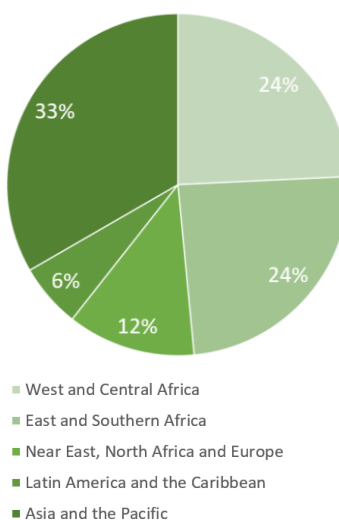
Further, Switzerland is a member of the Executive Board representing the constituency composed with Germany, Luxembourg and Russia. While Germany holds the constituency member seat, Switzerland has been the alternate member on a rotating basis with Luxembourg. Switzerland is also a member of the Audit and Evaluation Committee in 2023. Thanks to a 22 year long partnership of SDC with the Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), Switzerland's contribution to the improvement of the whole evaluation system of IFAD is well recognized.

Switzerland's Medium-Term Objectives

As a member of and contributor to IFAD, Switzerland focuses in particular on the following issues in IFAD12:

- The IFAD portfolio reflects and takes the post-Covid agricultural and economic realities well into account.
- IFAD operationalizes its new financial architecture, i.e. the new borrowing framework and graduation policy is linked to financial sustainability, and initiates programmes and projects entirely in that logic.
- IFAD substantially enhances its engagement with the private sector and leverages the Swiss contribution to the Private Sector Financing Programme for additional private sector investments in IFAD's portfolio.
- IFAD includes agroecology – including nutrition and gender – in its new projects and is ready to give it bespoke programmatic discussion and application.

Expenditure by Region (2021)



Results of Swiss cooperation with IFAD

During IFAD11, the Fund delivered its highest-ever Programme of loans and grants, worth US\$3.46 billion, or 99% of its Results Management Framework target of US\$3.5 billion. This translated into 78 investment projects, including two regional lending operations, across 74 countries, and 71 grants. The average project size was US\$38.3 million, slightly below the RMF11 target of US\$40 million but well above the 2016 baseline value of US\$28.6 million.

Additional information:



