



AgrInvest project

Enabling inclusive and efficient private sector investment in agri-food systems



KEY FACTS

- **Contribution**
USD 2.5 million

- **Duration**
2 years (2019-2021)

- **Resource partners**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

- **Countries**
Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Niger

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BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the **key role agri-food systems play in tackling global challenges such as malnutrition, poverty, the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and climate change.**

Such challenges are accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to disruptions in food supply chains rapidly pushing global food systems pushing them close to the breaking point.

Across the world, a wide range of stakeholders is supporting the transformation of food systems. However, their many independent initiatives lack a common framing of the complex interactions, interdependencies and trade-offs intrinsic to food systems. This often results in policy incoherence and poorly coordinated interventions.

In developing countries, and particularly in Africa, farmers, processors and other actors in agri-food systems struggle to access the financial resources needed to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to increase resilience to global shocks. The inability of financial institutions and private investors to assess profitable opportunities within agribusiness markets is just one of the barriers that hinder investment.

Against this background, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched the AgrInvest global initiative,

which aims at attracting private investments into agri-food systems aligned with the SDGs by leveraging public funds. The initiative strives to contribute to national development strategies, as well as to the upcoming Food Systems Summit to be convened by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2021. AgrInvest's overarching goal is to help stakeholders understand and manage the complex choices that affect the sustainability of agri-food systems, and to accelerate progress toward the SDGs.

Under AgrInvest, FAO, in partnership with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), is implementing the project "AgrInvest/Enabling inclusive and efficient private sector investment in agri-food systems". This project aims to foster SDG-aligned investments in agri-food systems in Africa to contribute to sustainable economic growth and boost rural employment, particularly for women and youths. With the financial support of the Government of Italy, the project is implemented in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Niger.

Interventions under FAO's AgrInvest-Food Systems Project are being adapted to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic in the target countries, by integrating these new aspects into their food systems analyses as a basis for policy advice and for the identification of private investment in more resilient and sustainable food systems contributing to, among other things, healthier local diets.

THE PROJECT

IMPACT

To reduce food insecurity and to foster employment and income generation.

The project aims at developing an approach to attract SDG-aligned investments in agri-food systems that may be replicated in other developing countries and regions with similar impacts.

OUTCOME

More inclusive, efficient and sustainable agri-food systems.

This outcome is to be achieved by creating a framework for coordinated action by different food system stakeholders to transform agri-food systems into viable mechanisms for sustainable development. Actions may include partnerships, policy dialogue and SDG-aligned investments.

OUTPUTS

- 1** Identification of major financing bottlenecks and sustainability issues of food systems and selected agri-food value chains.
- 2** Establishment of multi-stakeholder frameworks to structure public-private partnerships aimed at addressing major financing bottlenecks and sustainability issues identified in output 1.
- 3** Identification of relevant instruments to leverage private investments for sustainable food systems and selected agri-food value chains.
- 4** Promotion of SDG-aligned investments for food systems and selected agri-food value chains.
- 5** Proposals for financing, multi-stakeholder engagement and policy advocacy for the multi-stakeholder frameworks.
- 6** Systematization of a methodological approach and dissemination of project results and lessons.

The direct beneficiaries of the project include:



agribusiness small and medium enterprises (SME) and other local actors in agri-food systems (including producer and consumer organizations, input and service providers, traders, processors, retailers, wholesalers and exporters);



public and private investors and financial service providers; and



local and national authorities and regional organizations.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

To implement the project, FAO and ECDPM will work with:

- the Governments of Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Niger and their institutions;
- financial development institutions and public-private initiatives supporting agri-food systems;
- national and international research centres and organizations; and
- the project's donor agency, the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS), and other relevant international donors.

Contribution to the SDGs

Supported by the Government of Italy, the project contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular to the following goals:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

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