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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-first Session

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### Update on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative

#### Executive summary

This report summarizes recent progress in the development and implementation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative, with specific reference to:

- a) The ongoing increase in the overall number of HiH countries from 52 to 54 as of end of October 2022. This reflects the global interest and need for larger and ambitious programming by Members.
- b) Holding of the first Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum in October 2022 with member countries presenting their investment opportunities to partners and stakeholders including; development banks, investment funds and the private sector. With a total estimated investment of USD 3 billion, this generated significant interest and resulted in a number of commitments and investments for follow-up.
- c) The launching of the Sahel Regional Initiative, Dry Corridor in Central America and Panama Food Hub during the HiH Investment Forum.
- d) Development of global-level communications materials and a draft strategy to build internal capabilities and promote engagements with partners.

This report builds on information provided in previous reports to the Council. Additional information on the Initiative and details regarding the specific country investment plans are available on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative webpage on FAO's corporate website and on the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform.

### **Suggested action by the Council**

The Council is invited to take note of the progress made on the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative and to provide guidance, as deemed appropriate.

In particular, the Council may wish to:

- a) welcome the continued growth in the number of countries participating in the Initiative, with two additional countries joining the initiative since June 2022;
- b) recognize that all FAO Members may participate in the HIH Initiative, not only as beneficiaries but also increasingly as development and resource partners through multiple channels, including direct assistance to the participating countries, support to mechanisms such as the Flexible Voluntary Contribution or to the FAO HIH team directly;
- c) appreciate the HIH Initiative as a working platform for improved multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration and investment to accelerate agrifood systems transformation at national level;
- d) welcome recent efforts of the HIH to engage with other initiatives and corporate efforts across the four betters collaborating with a range of PPA's such as on Food Loss and Waste, and on the food system summit follow up;
- e) recognize the importance of the development of a dashboard and its function as a monitoring tool for providing regular, real-time progress to inform and improve the delivery and evaluation of the impact of the Initiative;
- f) acknowledge the progress made in developing communications materials to deepen internal understanding and engagement and develop partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels.

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## I. Introduction

1. This report responds to requests by the Council at its 168th Session (CL 168/5) to provide regular updates on progress and results achieved in the implementation of the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative.
2. The Director-General announced the Initiative on the side lines of the UN General Assembly in September 2019. In the following months, the Director-General invited FAO Members that met objective criteria to participate in the Initiative. Members met the criteria if they are Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), or Food Crisis Countries (as defined by the Global Network against Food Crises), and countries with large poor populations.
3. To date, 54 countries have expressed their desire to participate. .
4. Participating countries to date:
  - a. Africa (30): Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe;
  - b. Asia and the Pacific (11): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu;
  - c. Europe (1): Tajikistan;
  - d. Latin America (9): Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru; and
  - e. Near East and North Africa (3): Sudan, Syria, Yemen
5. Experience confirms that the HIH Initiative offers FAO Members and their development partners programmatic support and an innovative way of strengthening, expanding and sustaining ambitious national programmes for agrifood systems transformation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2 and 10.
6. Specifically, the HIH Initiative offers the Geospatial Platform, which is the world's largest and most useful platform for data and information exchange and analysis. Under the HIH Initiative, FAO technical task teams work with national counterparts to apply innovative analytical methods that help identify territories and populations in participating countries where programmes and strategic investments can unlock market-oriented opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth which have the real potential to eradicate poverty, end malnutrition and reduce inequality. It is interesting that a number of countries have also started to use the HIH approach at a local level e.g. provincial level.
7. A major milestone was achieved during the reporting period. The Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum (IF) was held on 18-19 October 2022 during the World Food Forum at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, in which 20 countries actively participated and presented their Investment Plans. The IF was considered very successful, partly due to the high-level presence of the member countries that had, for the first time, the opportunity to present their prioritised investment cases based on the support provided by the Hand-in-Hand team. Governments' participation included six Heads of State, 15 Ministers and high-level officials. A number of international financing institutions (IFIs), regional banks, investment and impact funds and private sector also attended and there was a strong participation in matchmaking meetings.
8. Part II focuses on the countries and regions, and provides highlights of the major progress delivered under the HIH in the form of the country level Investment cases as supported by HIH and presented by the member countries at the Hand-in-Hand IF. The report is divided by region hereunder for the 20 countries which participated. The selection was based on the countries' desire to demonstrate their progress and diversity of experience as well as to garner possible future

matchmaking and investment for poverty reduction. Additional country highlights and investment cases will be presented in future reports.

9. This demonstrates how the countries have been able to move through the HIH process to a point of maturity to provide their Investment cases at an international forum. Some initial feedback from the forum is also indicated per country as the HIH matchmaking approach.

10. Parts III and IV refer to the ongoing efforts on Monitoring and Evaluation as well as the Communications products developed and strategy rollout. More details on each country, the government delivered IF Presentations can be accessed on the Hand in Hand [Initiative](#) website.

## II. Country Investment Notes

### A. Africa

11. With 30 participating countries, the African region is seeing steady, if incremental, progress, with some francophone countries making considerable advances. A side event was also organized on the Sahel during the HIH IF with high level political engagement and support for a Sahel focused regional initiative being launched.

12. The special consultation session for the Sahel was convened to provide a space for governments, subregional and regional bodies (African Union [AU], Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [CILSS], G5 Sahel for Development etc.) and development partners to reaffirm their commitment to work together in a joint plan and roadmap for scaled-up action to address the deepening crisis in the Sahel as well as to explore innovative ways of using HIH to increase the synergy of actions to a sustainable development of this part of the African continent.

13. During the consultation session, the need for action to address the deepening crisis was emphasized by the AU and multiple other subregional and regional partners. The Sahel has also been negatively affected by the ongoing global food crisis and merits specific additional support at the development and resilience interface for sustainable long term poverty reduction and improved food security.

14. The outcome of the consultation session was a confirmation by all partners participating to work together to take forward a regional initiative for the Sahel based on three Axes of Action: Axis 1: Ensuring land and water access, tenure, sustainability and governance; Axis 2: Transformation of agrifood production and post- production systems and trade; and Axis 3: Building technical and institutional capacities for transformational leadership.

15. Efforts around this regional initiative will be complementary to the ongoing individual country work and will also address and support opportunities for enhancing regional and subregional trade and investment.

16. In line with the HIH approach of country-led and country-owned programming, details on the country level progress focused on those who presented at the FAO IF held in October at FAO headquarters, in Rome during the World Food Forum are provided hereunder.

17. **Burkina Faso:** The Initiative started in April 2020 and the HIH team worked extensively with the government on several analytical products, including agricultural typologies and investment analysis. Based on the work done by the HIH team and national consultations and roundtables, the Government of Burkina Faso presented investment proposals on rice value chain development, peanut, non-timber forest products and cattle farming at the HIH IF.

18. During the HIH IF, an international non-governmental organization (INGO) expressed interest in collaborating in rice cultivation through innovative programs that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, scaling up ecovillages, and solar irrigation technologies.

19. **Congo:** The Initiative started in February 2020 and the HIH team worked extensively with the government on several analytical products, including agricultural typologies and investment analysis. The analysis identified four areas of interventions which were presented by the government during the

IF: cassava flour production, soy and maize production, poultry farming development and development of 13 agropoles for food polyculture, seed multiplication, market gardening, orchards, and nursery.

20. During the IF, potential collaboration with an IFI on climate or poverty focused funds was explored and will be followed up. Also an investment company has expressed interest in connecting the government with private investors by presenting them with more details on the potential of the government's different investment proposals. Another private investor is also interested to partner with the Government for plant production.

21. **Ethiopia:** The Initiative started in 2020 and in the reporting period the HIH team worked extensively with the Government on several analytical products, including agricultural typologies, rural poverty profiles, and a baseline survey and territorial analyses related to two of the government prioritized agro-industrial zones (AIZs) – Bulbula and Yirgalem.

22. The team also conducted analysis on institutional aspects and specifically on how to make the new AIZs more inclusive for the surrounding communities and to generate income conducive to poverty reduction and food security. Based on the consultations and HIH analysis, and in line with government priorities, investment cases delivered at the IF included on organic fertilizer, dairy, coffee and avocado.

23. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with investment companies and private sector alliances have developed and will be followed up on. Also a private company has expressed interest in working with the government on improved mechanization inputs as per their Investment plan, and with links to ensure smallholder participation. Another private investor is also interested to partner with the Government for a feasibility study on input supplies.

24. **Mali:** signed on to the Initiative in 2020. The Initiative supports the operationalization of two pilot agricultural growth zones (agropoles). The results of ongoing government analyses have informed the development of a detailed multi-year programme, which will be supported by the HIH Initiative. Three studies were recently undertaken and their results enabled the HIH team to obtain more data and information for each selected commodity and investment. The following are the key investment opportunities presented by the Government of Mali at the IF in October 2022: tomato, organic onion and cattle fattening.

25. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with an IFI on climate or poverty focused funds was explored and will be followed up. Also a private company has expressed interest in connecting the government with private investors by presenting them with more details about the potential of the government's different priorities. Another private investor is also interested to partner with the government for plant-based protein production. The government delegation also met the FAO South-South Cooperation Team at FAO headquarters and explored possibilities for collaboration.

26. **Niger:** Since the Government expressed interest in joining the HIH Initiative in September 2020, activities to shape the Initiative's approach in the country have progressed slowly due to presidential elections in December 2020 and in February 2021. The government and the HIH team prepared the agricultural typologies which enabled the identification of investment opportunities to improve food security and nutrition, sustainable use of natural resources and resilience to climate change. The investment cases presented by the government focused on: organic onion, dairy and Moringa production using small-scale irrigation.

27. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with a bank on carbon credits was actively explored and will be followed up on. A private company has expressed interest in working with the government on improved mechanization inputs. Another private company is also interested to partner with the government on their machinery supply needs. An interesting collaboration with a South American country was also developed.

28. **Sao Tome and Principe:** joined the HIH initiative in April 2021. It is unique insofar as it is a SIDS country and, within the HIH framework, has a dual focus on becoming 100 percent organic and on Blue Economy.

29. The following are the key investment ideas presented during the HIH IF in October 2022: promote Blue Cabotage (transport of people and goods in coastal waters); improve tourism and coastal environment; and modernize the artisanal fishing fleet. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with a regional grouping and one bilateral on the blue economy proposals was advanced and will be explored.

30. **Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe's HIH Initiative builds on the government's agrifood systems transformation agenda and support. This strengthens this effort with an advanced methodology that combines household-level data with Geographic Information System (GIS) and to identify good investment cases using the Stochastic Frontier Analysis (STA). With the Initiative's support, Zimbabwe has also attracted support under HIH from the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands, who have each committed USD 350 000 to target smallholder aggregation and infrastructure for reducing food loss and waste.

31. Zimbabwe is also one of the first countries to start using the HIH framework at a more localised provincial level to support investment planning in improved agrifood systems. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development organized a series of roundtable meetings to define priorities, deepen partnerships and prioritise their investment plans. The following were the investment cases presented by the Government of Zimbabwe during the HIH IF to achieve scale and impact in poverty reduction and to improve food security: scale up small-scale irrigation systems, increase availability of processed tomato, develop decentralized banana packing stations.

32. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with an IFI on agricultural services was developed and will be followed up on. A significant commitment to build the tomato processing plant was announced by the Minister for Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development. Another private company is also interested to partner with the government on their machinery supply needs. An interesting collaboration with a private input supplier on a range of products was also discussed.

### *B. Asia*

33. **Bangladesh:** joined the HIH Initiative in August 2020. In terms of governance structure, involvement of the private sector and commitments that have been made, the Government of Bangladesh is perhaps one of the most advanced in some senses of the HIH Initiative.

34. In October 2022, the mobilization of USD 500 million under the HIH from the World Bank was confirmed as part of the government-led Agriculture Transformation Programme (ATP), with a total value of USD 2.9 billion. Based on the HIH analytics and mapping, IFAD recently also committed USD 43 million for the Agriculture and Rural Transformation Program, and the Gates Foundation has also committed resources to this initiative. Earlier this year the government held executive HIH roundtables to facilitate efforts to engage national and local governments, development partners and private sector in assessing priorities for Investment notes in the HIH identified areas for intervention and investment. Based on the HIH support, the Government of Bangladesh presented investment notes on: potato, mango, onion and tomato.

35. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with an IFI strongly emerged with indications it is willing to fund projects in natural resources and more, based on the investment opportunities presented by the government. Other IFIs provided positive feedback on additional resources for the country and advised the country to pursue and highlight climate in future programmes and proposals.

36. **Bhutan:** joined the HIH initiative in June 2021. Agriculture is the main livelihood for more than half of the population of Bhutan and with its limited arable land, the country is putting in place policies to move from subsistence to commercial farming. The following are the major areas of investment as presented by the Royal Government of Bhutan during the FAO Investment Forum: organic strawberry, organic asparagus, aggregation centres and packhouses for strawberry and asparagus, quinoa and black pepper.

37. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with an IFI was developed and will be followed up.
38. **Lao People's Democratic Republic:** The Initiative started in March 2020 and the HIH team worked extensively with the government on several analytical products, including agricultural typologies and investment analysis. The analysis identified a number of interventions along the railway corridor that connects Lao People's Democratic Republic with neighbouring countries. The government held executive HIH roundtables to engage partners in assessing priorities for investment notes in the HIH identified areas for intervention and investment. Based on the HIH support, the investment notes were presented by the government on cassava, livestock and tea.
39. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on a USD 20-50 million project on expanding the area under irrigation and providing farm to market roadways in the priority areas were identified. Furthermore, a private company has expressed interest in investing in the country on their specified value chains and will visit the country by the end of the year. One other company is also interested in investing in the meat value chain. An investment firm is also interested in the livestock sector and follow up discussions are scheduled.
40. **Nepal:** Under the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, FAO and the World Bank supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to conduct a study and recommendations for a climate-smart agriculture investment plan (CSAIP) in Nepal. After a period of political changeover in the government, the HIH team supported ongoing stakeholder engagement processes to roll out CSAIP-related plans.
41. The team has also supported further mapping activities. They include a more refined-scale mapping of the territorial-level analysis to identify agro-economic potential in the target areas, as well as localized SDG poverty and food security data mapping. As a result of this work and the advancement of the support for the GIS and Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA), the government was able to prioritise the following investments which were shared at the IF: Large cardamom (also known as black cardamom), highland potato, timur pepper (also known as Szechuan pepper), and ginger.
42. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with an IFI was actively explored and will be followed up on. Also, a private company or trader has expressed interest in working with the government on the value chains and commodities identified.
43. **Solomon Islands:** The Initiative started in April 2020 and the HIH team worked with the government on developing the Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan (ASGIP) 2021-2030. It was thanks to the joint support of FAO and IFAD that the Ministry was able to develop ASGIP.
44. The following Investment cases originate from the CSAIP and were presented at the HIH IF by the government: poultry sector development and coconut. Some indications of support have already been received for these interventions and are being followed up at national level and also subregional and global HIH team level, including possible support through the South-South Cooperation and SIDS programmes.

### C. Latin America

45. In the eight participating countries of this region, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative has received the Governments' support at the highest level. In addition to intensive country-level work, **the Dry Corridor "Corredor Seco" regional** initiative was also launched at the HIH IF to tackle poverty reduction and food insecurity challenges through a regional approach. Initial support of USD 1 million was indicated by the Government of Brazil towards this approach.
46. The Central American Dry Corridor is 600 kilometres long and 100 to 400 kilometres wide, which covers 44 percent of the surface of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, and in which 11.5 million people live in rural municipalities, and more than half work in agriculture. Under the leadership of the Central American Integration System (SICA), Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and the

Central American Economic Integration Secretariat (SIECA), four plans for investment have been prepared, to promote the transformation from a dry corridor to a resilient Central American corridor based on the following investment areas:

- a. Technological innovation – Integrated water supply systems
- b. Technological Innovation – Digital Soil Nutrition Mapping
- c. Technological innovation – Agricultural climate risk zoning
- d. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and digital ecosystems for access to markets.

The total investment required is USD 260 million which will benefit 207 743 families and generate 265 000 jobs.

47. The **Panama Food Hub** was also launched during the HIH IF. The Panama Canal facilitates several key trading routes between the Americas and the rest of the world. It is of particular importance for global agrifood trade, with soybeans, grains and bananas as major commodity groups traded. The Canal is expected to gain prominence in the coming decade as Latin America - already the largest net exporting region for agricultural products - is projected to increase its agricultural trade surplus further.

48. This hub will help to increase effectiveness in the trade of food products and to add value to them. This is of extreme relevance not only for the region but also for sub-Saharan Africa and Near East given most of the growing import demand at the global level will come from sub-Saharan Africa, Near East and North Africa, which are large importers of agricultural commodities, in particular cereals. At the same time, continuing income growth and urbanization in China, India, and Southeast Asia will also drive food demand growth for several commodities. The Panama agrifood food trade hub will therefore play an important role in connecting Latin American exporters who rely on eastern ports with Asian importers.

49. **Ecuador** joined the HIH Initiative in June 2020, and the Initiative supported the National Agricultural Plan (NAP) 2020-2030. FAO's HIH team has been working with the Government and local stakeholders on identifying opportunities to strengthen the cocoa value chain. As part of this effort, information on all national programmes and private initiatives were systematized, and main actors throughout the value chain identified.

50. Using the typology maps as an input, the Ministry of Agriculture has organized, on a territorial basis, three of their thematic projects that are part of their National Agricultural Plan. These projects focus on livestock, forestry and agriculture. Based on the government planning and with the targeting and STA support of the HIH, the following were the investment notes presented by the Government of Ecuador at the recent HIH IF in October 2022: Hass Avocado and Cocoa.

51. The Government of Ecuador has committed USD 45 million to this initiative.

52. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with a bank on carbon credits was actively explored and will be followed up on, (as well as investment company has developed and will be followed up on). A private company has also expressed interest in working with the government on improved agriculture production, focused on plant protein.

53. **El Salvador:** The Initiative started in February 2022 and worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in territories for the prioritized coffee sector. The Initiative in El Salvador supports the national programme "Increase of the Climate Resilience Measures in the Agroecosystems of the Dry Corridor of El Salvador" (RECLIMA) which has a fully compatible approach with HIH. The HIH task force is working together with the Salvadoran Coffee Council to obtain data on the coffee value chain.

54. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has reiterated its willingness to work together with partners to modernize the coffee sector. The presentation at the IF therefore focused on: improved productivity and efficiency, better post-harvest organization of small- and medium-scale producers and better positioning of Salvadoran coffee in international markets.



55. During the HIH IF, collaboration with Rabobank on joining their Acorn program on carbon credits was actively explored and will be followed up on.
56. **Guatemala:** Since April 2021, FAO has worked together with the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) to promote rural territorial competitiveness, without neglecting social inclusion and environmental sustainability.
57. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative supports investments with the objective of promoting agricultural economic development by incorporating innovation, technology, infrastructure and production support services, thus contributing to the reduction of poverty and food insecurity.
58. During the IF, the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Food, presented the following investment opportunities: agricultural development in cardamom, coffee, cocoa, basic grains and other agroforestry crops, research and development (R&D) and innovation on Farm, agro-industrial development in cardamom, coffee and cocoa, strengthening organizations and associative marketing and strengthening other value-adding initiatives.
59. As a result of the HIH IF, a regional bank is interested to support some investments when the government joins. A private company expressed interest in working with the government on improved agricultural inputs and another one on enhanced irrigation in coffee and another on investing coffee production in the country. An INGO is also interested to partner with the government on natural resource investments. An interesting collaboration with a South American country was also developed as part of South-South collaboration. Follow up meetings for the above are planned in Guatemala.
60. **Haiti:** The Initiative started in June 2020 and the HIH team worked extensively with the government on several analytical products, including agricultural typologies and investment analysis. The original HIH proposal is being confirmed due to political changes in the country. The proposal seeks to promote agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development by promoting family farming and invigorating public and private investments to make high socioeconomic impact in selected territories in Haiti.
61. Based on recent engagements with the government, past mapping and STA analysis, an investment note on yam was delivered to the IF by the FAO Representative due to recent political changes in the country. Some interest was expressed by a private company on yam and waste utilization as well as broad agriculture development and capacity enhancement. Follow up discussions are planned with the government through the FAO Representation due to current limited communications.
62. **Honduras:** joined the initiative in May 2021. The HIH Task Force has been supporting the government in developing tools for identifying priority territories and investment opportunities in alignment with the national agricultural policies. In particular, HIH in Honduras seeks to promote agricultural transformation and development of three value chains within a context of climate resilience and sustainability by enhancing public and private investments at a territorial level.
63. The Minister for Agriculture and Livestock presented the following investment opportunities during the IF: seeds for climate change, building climate resilience in the coffee subsector and strengthening the cocoa value chain.
64. During the HIH IF an interesting collaboration was initiated with another South American country on digital solutions in the context of South-South Cooperation. An engagement also started for a new collaboration under a regional institution on technologies (demand driven for Honduras). Based on the HIH forum, the National Commission of Investment is planning to organize a national level IF for private investors in the coming months.
65. **Nicaragua:** Since June 2022, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative has been supporting Nicaragua's National Rural Investment Program 2022-2031, which aims to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. Specifically, it supports investments in the dairy and coffee value chains, namely the "National Investment Program for Low-Carbon Livestock" and the "National Investment Program for the Sustainable and Resilient Development of Coffee in Nicaragua."

66. The areas identified as priorities are “*Vía Láctea Ampilada*” for dairy and “*Zona Cafetalera Norte*” for coffee. During the IF, the Government of Nicaragua presented investment opportunities in dairy and coffee. During the HIH IF, two private companies have expressed interest in working with the government on livestock development and further follow up is planned.

67. **Peru:** The original HIH proposal is being confirmed due to political changes in the country. The proposal seeks to promote agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development by promoting family farming and invigorating public and private investments to make high socioeconomic impact in selected territories in Peru.

68. During 2021, the HIH team developed tools for identifying 11 priority territories in alignment with national agricultural plans. The HIH methodology of micro-region typologies, complemented by other tools from FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, zeroed in on family-farming territories and territorial development.

69. The HIH team worked together with national and regional governments to identify priority value chains. Based on the government planning and with the targeting and STA support of the HIH, the following investment notes were presented by the Government of Peru (Ministry of Production and Cajamarca Governor) at the recent HIH IF in October 2022: development of infrastructure for collecting and primary processing of fine aroma cocoa and equipment for turning cocoa mucilage into syrup, development of infrastructure for collecting, processing and packaging fan shells (“*conchas de avanico*”).

70. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with Rabobank on carbon credits (Acorn program) was actively explored and will be followed up on. A private company has also expressed interest in working with the government on green and innovative solutions to water management problems and could support waste treatment in Sechura Bay or fertigation solutions for cocoa farmers in Jaén.

#### *D. Near East and North Africa*

71. **Yemen:** The Initiative started in May 2020 and the HIH team worked extensively with the government on several analytical products, including the development of an updated vulnerability map, agricultural typologies and investment analysis. The analysis identified a number of opportunities for interventions answering to government priorities.

72. To facilitate the development of a national strategy and related investment notes, a series of consultations have taken place both in country and remotely. Based on the country level investments through the HIH and the strong government interest and analysis carried out to date through mapping and STA, the following investment cases were presented by the Government of Yemen during the HIH IF: horticultural seedling production, dairy, beekeeping (honey production) and coffee terraces.

73. During the HIH IF, potential collaboration with a number of investors was pursued, including with banks and the private sector.

### **III. Development of a dashboard**

74. The development of a programme dashboard has continued, with preliminary data from seven HIH countries made available earlier this year: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan and Yemen. The initial dashboard platform has been shared with the seven countries and was well received.

75. The dashboard architecture is now undergoing development to improve user experience and based on feedback received. Options being explored include a cloud-based data architecture that brings together information from a range of different sources and countries to make it available to all stakeholders. This is in accordance with the Organization’s effort to modernize its information and communications technology (ICT) approach, capacity and transparency as well as program monitoring processes. This is also in alignment with the Organization’s geospatial policies and procedures.

76. The dashboard is being designed to provide regular, real-time reporting of progress against programme milestones and SDG objectives. It will also provide key impacts and cost-benefit analysis, showcasing advancement in the areas of interventions such as the case of Bangladesh with the recent USD 500 million and USD 45 million support from the World Bank and IFAD respectively. The dashboard builds upon significantly resource-intensive analysis and information collection efforts with respect to time and labour. It has also required close consultations between host governments and multiple partners, all of which have informed the country's programmes supported by HII.

#### **IV. Execution of the communications strategy to capture and promote the progress of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative**

77. A global-level communications strategy was developed to capture and promote the progress of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to help boost confidence in the initiative's work, mobilize additional support and attract investments necessary to transform agrifood systems in participating countries. The strategy was developed based on in-depth review of HII background materials and semi-structured interviews with key internal and external stakeholders.

78. The communications strategy sets out to boost Hand-in-Hand's capacity to engage investors, donors and partners, and to generate buy-in from internal audiences. It provides a roadmap to amplify Hand-in-Hand's strengths - for example, it is the first initiative of a UN agency to identify impact investment opportunities without stipulating how investments should be spent, and governments have embraced the initiative - to facilitate its implementation at all levels.

79. It is crucial to promptly execute the communications strategy in order to build on the momentum created during the very first HII IF in October 2022. It would ensure that Hand-in-Hand facilitates partnerships between governments and international financial institutions and the private sector and build consensus on the strategic measures needed to transform agrifood systems.

80. Recent communications materials and all information on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative are available on its website: <https://www.fao.org/hand-in-hand/en>.