

Resilient Efficient Agribusiness Chains (REACH) in Uganda Project

REACH aimed to improve farmers' market engagement, strengthen household resilience, and increase availability of agricultural support services for 40,000 farmers and businesses in the rice and potato value chains. By employing a market systems development approach, REACH bolstered local markets so they could function more effectively, sustainably, and beneficially for poor farmers.

Uganda

2016-2021

Budget

€13,286,700

Donor

Embassy of the
Kingdom of the
Netherlands in Uganda

Implementing Partners

Cardno Emerging
Markets
KIT Royal Tropical
Institute

Goals Met

- 30 firms/MSMEs signed Memoranda of Cooperation with the project.
- U.S. \$4,852,622 leveraged from business partners and district local governments to facilitate business and infrastructure activities.
- 36,398 farmers (62% women; 38% youth) were trained on farming as a business, climate-smart agriculture, and resilience.

Results

- 40,859 farmers were reached, including farmers benefiting from partnerships but not trained (1,544); farmers benefiting from both training and partnerships (10,219); and farmers trained but not yet benefiting from partnerships (29,096).
- 20% of project farmers reached optimal yields (2 mt/acre for rice and 5.5 mt/acre for potato), a 10% increase from the baseline.
- 67 kilometers of rural feeder roads were fully rehabilitated to facilitate market access for farmers in partnership with district local governments; these roads also improved access to health and education services for 149,083 community members.
- The project facilitated the introduction of 11 innovative business practices, such as commercial production of new Dutch potato varieties, commercial lowland rice seed production, cost-effective and practical screenhouses for production of early generation seed potato, automated chip processing equipment, gravity flow irrigation systems for year-round potato production, and modern multistage rice mills to replace single stage mills.
- Full-time employment was created for 27 individuals and work placement was provided for 73 graduates (45 male; 28 female), 23% of whom were formally employed afterward.
- Resilience of project farmers increased; 89% began applying at least three resilience measures (climate-smart agricultural practices, joint decision-making, access to finance, and income diversification) and 79% adopted all measures.
- 6,627 potato and 17,532 rice farmers earned an additional U.S. \$10.2 million from increased productivity.
- By 2024, REACH-facilitated agribusiness linkages between farmers and 26 private sector firms, including banks, will have assisted 63,139 farmers and created 847 full-time jobs; total additional income for farmers from partnerships signed during the project is projected to reach U.S. \$27 million.