

IFDC East and Southern Africa

Market Systems for Agribusiness • Resilience, Climate Adaptation, and Mitigation • Last-Mile Input Delivery • Technology Scaling • Soil Fertility Management • Seed and Fertilizer Sector Development • Enabling Environment • Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting

Founded in 1974, the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) is a non-profit public international organization that combines science-backed innovations with policy-enabling and market systems-based approaches. IFDC has been working to support the food security and economic development of smallholder farmers in Africa since 1975. In 2009, IFDC established its regional office in Nairobi and expanded its portfolio to include soil and crop management, input policy, output markets, and agribusiness development. IFDC has implemented activities in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia and currently has six country offices in the region. Through collaboration with national and regional partner organizations, governments, and donors, IFDC's work in East and Southern Africa has focused on bringing new technologies, partnerships, and markets for small-scale agriculture by supporting initiatives to develop competitive and sustainable agricultural value chains and create an enabling environment for agricultural intensification and private sector development.

Our Work in the Region

Sustain Africa – Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Ongoing – \$5 million, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands, Rabobank, Gates Foundation, International Fertilizer Association (IFA), Africa Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), and AGRA



Sustain Africa is a crisis response and resilience initiative that improves smallholder farmers' access to affordable fertilizers while promoting sustainable agricultural practices. As of 2025, Sustain Africa has supported agro-dealers and farmers in Sudan by facilitating access to 36,500 metric tons of fertilizer from Saudi Arabia, 500 metric tons of ammonium sulfate fertilizer from Madagascar, and 5,320 metric tons of certified Irish seed potato from the Netherlands, increasing access to affordable inputs and ensuring food security. Sustain Africa led workshops in Senegal and Mozambique to support the alignment of national action plans with the Africa Fertilizer

and Soil Health (AFSH) Action Plan through stakeholder engagement and the development of country roadmaps. This work involved integrating fertilizers and soil health into each country's national agricultural agenda. In Malawi, Sustain Africa supported the development of a finance and investment plan to guide the implementation of its fertilizer and soil health national action plan.

AfricaFertilizer – Africa-wide

2009-2026 – \$1.5 million annually, Gates Foundation, IFA, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the private sector

As the premier source of fertilizer statistics in Africa, the AfricaFertilizer initiative has collected, processed, and published fertilizer production, trade, and consumption data for major sub-Saharan markets since 2009. In 2025, AfricaFertilizer delivered a full suite of validated fertilizer statistics, forecasts, and market analytics in partnership with IFA. The initiative validated data in eight countries through nine Fertilizer Technical Working Group (FTWG) workshops, engaging more than 330 public and private sector stakeholders. Priority markets – Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria – received complete data packages, including short- and medium-term fertilizer demand forecasts that informed global fertilizer outlooks and national policy dialogues. In Nigeria, a dedicated Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium (NPK) Technical Working Group updated national blending data across more than 90 plants. AfricaFertilizer expanded data access through its website and dashboards, recording a 43% year-over-year increase in users. Despite funding constraints and institutional transition, the initiative maintained core services and safeguarded trusted fertilizer data for policymakers and its industry and development partners.

Toward Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship (2SCALE) – Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan

2012-2018, 2019-2025 – €190 million (€62.5 million through public funding), Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) and private sector and financial institution co-investment

2SCALE was the largest incubator of inclusive agribusiness in Africa, building networks that connected farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs (buyers and support service providers), enabling them to build and grow businesses. The program focused on 23 commodities, including staple crops, oilseeds, and feed and fodder. Phase 1 helped 600,000 farmers increase incomes and 2,500 entrepreneurs improve sales. 2SCALE finalized 69 agribusiness partnerships, with over €50 million co-invested by the private sector and €10.3 million in financially inclusive contracts. Phase 2 expanded access to nutritious foods for 1 million base-of-the-pyramid consumers; strengthened the livelihoods of 750,000 smallholders (50% women and 40% youth); and supported 5,000 micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises. After 13 years of implementation, 2SCALE closed out in 2025 by consolidating and transferring its approach, training national partners through Inclusive Agribusiness Clubs and its “Driving Inclusive Agribusiness” course, and institutionalizing coaching within agribusiness clusters to ensure continuity beyond the life of the program.



Feed the Future Sustainable Opportunities for Improving Livelihoods with Soils Space to Place (SOILS-S2P) – Ghana, Malawi, Niger, Tanzania, and Zambia

2023-2025 – \$27 million, USAID

SOILS-S2P was a collaborative effort led by the USAID Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security in partnership with IFDC, U.S. universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, and international and national soil experts. SOILS-S2P developed a low-cost Space to Place approach that leveraged digitized soil maps (Space) and farm(er)-level characteristics (Place) to deliver spatially appropriate soil fertility management recommendations, fostering the adoption of effective agronomic technologies and fertilizer recommendations while maintaining or surpassing current productivity levels. The project provided localized and improved recommendations for mixed production systems in sub-Saharan Africa, encompassing maize, cereal-root crops, and highland and agropastoral systems, to reduce fertilizer wastage by 60% for smallholder farmers over the subsequent two to three cropping seasons for the achievement of optimal returns.

Feed the Future Soil Fertility Technology Adoption, Policy Reform and Knowledge Management Project – Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda

2015-2018, 2019-2023 – \$15.26 million, USAID

Through this project, IFDC worked to bridge the gap between scientific research and technology dissemination to smallholder farmers; develop, pilot, and scale up soil fertility and agricultural productivity practices and technologies, such as the SMaRT approach to balanced fertilizers – Soil testing, Mapping, Recommendations development, and Transfer to farmers; support policy reforms and market development (e.g., fertilizer platforms and subsidy policy); and led the SOILS Consortium within the Soil Intensification Innovation Lab (SIIL).

Transform Soil Fertility Management in Ethiopia (TRANSFORM) – Ethiopia

2025-2028 – €14.3 million, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the European Union



The TRANSFORM project is a four-year initiative that aims to improve soil health and fertility management through inclusive, bottom-up, participatory approaches. In 2025, the project successfully established its governance, launching nationwide to modernize Ethiopia's soil health infrastructure. TRANSFORM mobilized over 10,800 communities and 1,440 innovative farmers through the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach. The program empowered 98% of trained small-scale entrepreneurs to produce organic fertilizers and established a National Technical Working Group for organo-mineral fertilizer commercialization. Technical milestones included upgrading Ethiopia's National Soil Information System (NSIS) and integrating research frameworks from the Capacity building for scaling up of evidence-based practices in agricultural production

in Ethiopia (CASCAPE) project. In addition, the establishment of 16 village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) and postgraduate scholarships strengthened both local financial access and national scientific capacity. Moreover, consultative workshops were conducted at national and regional levels to establish a multi-stakeholder platform for soil health and fertility management.

Triple Resilience (3R) – Mozambique

2023-2026 – SEK 132 million, Embassy of Sweden

The 3R program aims to build social, climate, and economic resilience in Mozambique by accelerating the shift from humanitarian aid to long-term sustainable development and increasing communities' ability to absorb, adapt, and transform in the face of recurrent shocks and stresses. In 2025, 1,888 internally displaced people and 217 participants (71% women and 38% youth) in the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration process were integrated into savings groups, farmer associations, and income-generating activities. 3R trained more than 16,000 farmers (69% women) on climate-smart agricultural practices through demonstration plots and community gardens, which contributed to increased productivity, sustainable natural resource management, and improved resilience. In response to El Niño's effects, 2,215 families received improved seeds to support productive recovery and food security. The program supported 204 VSLAs, enabling farmers to plan for seasonal investments and strengthen financial management. Collectively, these groups saved 33,807,163 Mozambican meticals (approximately U.S. \$524,465), with women contributing 58%.

Building Resilience and Inclusive Growth of Highland Farming Systems for Rural Transformation (BRIGHT) – Uganda

2022-2026 – €13 million, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

BRIGHT operates across 233 communities in Uganda, working with 6,660 farmer innovators and 1,349 community nutrition champions. To date, BRIGHT has empowered 89,483 households through the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach, with 79.3% of these households implementing plans that address multiple challenges. In total, 84,316 households participated in food and nutrition initiatives, with 85% achieving an acceptable Household Dietary Diversity Score, compared to 60% at baseline. The project trained 86,012 households on soil and water conservation, 71,517 on climate-smart practices, and 70,293 on integrated soil fertility management (ISFM), with 33,950 hectares now under sustainable practices, increasing incomes by at least 35% for 32,687 households.



BRIGHT has improved market access by training 80,650 households and 38 private sector partners, rehabilitating 77.4 kilometers of rural roads, and supporting farmer organizations. Financial inclusion has strengthened 540 VSLAs and financial partnerships. Additionally, 233 communities are implementing village vision plans, and 15 micro-watersheds have been restored and are being managed sustainably.

Soil Fertility Stewardship Project (PAGRIS) – Burundi

2020-2026 – €20.3 million, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

PAGRIS, or *Projet d'Appui pour une Gestion Responsable et Intégrée des Sols*, is an innovative project aiming for ecologically sustainable land management through three key approaches: (1) implementing integrated land stewardship strategies at plot level in collaboration with farming households; (2) enhancing slope and watershed management through collective community action; and (3) fostering an enabling institutional environment for improved fertilizer availability and utilization. More than 136,000 households have been taught to develop plans to improve landscape management, manage soil erosion, reach stewardship agreements, and implement ISFM practices through collective community action, covering a total of 38,000 hectares. In addition, the project facilitated the distribution of 37,000 metric tons of lime to about 90,000 households to address soil acidity on about 20,000 hectares.

Private Seed Sector Development (PSSD) – Burundi

2018-2024, 2024-2026 – €8.5 million, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



PSSD promotes a private sector-led seed industry in Burundi, providing farming households with sustainable access to certified seed and agricultural advisory services. In its first phase, the project expanded commercial seed production and marketing, strengthened seed services, and supported approval of the national seed plan. Now in its second phase, PSSD2 aims to double the production and incomes of 220,500 farming households. From July 2024 to December 2025, the project trained 18,409 smallholder farmers, 58% women, through 1,593 community-led demonstration plots. It supported 62 private seed entrepreneurs who created 4,800 jobs and produced and sold 4,123.1 metric tons of certified seed to 150,447 farming households. PSSD2 also established contracts

with 10 public and private implementation partners and supported the revision of the 2012 Seed Law, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2025.

Accelerating Agriculture and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development (A3-SEED) – South Sudan

2020-2025 – \$10 million, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

A3-SEED supported the commercialization of South Sudan's seed sector, helping the country transition from humanitarian relief toward a sustainable and adaptive agriculture sector. Through partnerships with private seed companies, outgrowers, and agro-dealers, the project strengthened seed production, marketing, and last-mile distribution. In 2025, A3-SEED trained 1,687 farmers, including 154 women and 384 youth. Of these, 615 farmers adopted improved agricultural practices across 38,299 hectares, nearly double the 19,452 hectares reached in 2024. The project also established 24 demonstration plots, implemented four targeted outreach and dissemination activities, promoted climate-resilient farming techniques, and contributed to the creation of new jobs.

Potato Value Chain Capacity Building (PCB) Project – Kenya

2018-2025 – €2.3 million, Embassy of Ireland

PCB aimed to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and families through the adoption of new technologies, including certified potato seed and new potato varieties. PCB trained farmers on good agricultural practices and improved farm management. The project also supported market access. In 2025, the PCB project handed over the Nyandarua County Government Communication Strategy to the County Governor. The strategy's purpose is to ensure that all stakeholders – farmers, youth, women, people with disabilities, service providers, and private sector actors – are well-informed about Nyandarua County's agricultural policies, plans, and opportunities. Additionally, the project engaged the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) to review the Seed Certification Policy and convened a national seed policy dialogue to share findings, align stakeholders, and develop an implementation plan to ensure farmers' access to quality, affordable seed. A final high-level closeout workshop brought together key partners to reflect on the lessons learned throughout project implementation. Participants also discussed the project's successes, challenges, and emerging opportunities.

Transfer Efficient Agricultural Technologies through Market Systems (TEAMS) – Mozambique

2021-2022 – €3.6 million, Embassy of Sweden

TEAMS facilitated sustainable last-mile input systems for farmers by collaborating with local agro-dealers, input companies, and the government for improved inputs and agricultural practices, including soil fertility management and climate-smart agriculture, benefiting 8,788 farmers. Additionally, TEAMS diversified farming systems to include horticultural crops, resulting in a significant rise in net annual income. Two unique features that created broader socio-economic impact were its gender mainstreaming efforts, which enabled 5,085 women to access labor-saving technologies and low-cost irrigation systems, and the reintegration of 610 ex-guerillas and their families through training in climate-smart agriculture and business skills in collaboration with the Peace Process Secretariat. Notably, five ex-combatants established input retail shops, enhancing access to improved inputs, while nine secured leadership positions in farmer groups.

Supporting Agricultural Productivity in Burundi (PAPAB) – Burundi

2015-2019 – €33.5 million, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

PAPAB aimed to increase food production sustainably by promoting climate-resilient agricultural techniques and strengthening farmer-market linkages for enhanced profits and investments. This involved two main components: improving soil fertility and increasing farm productivity and market access. The project utilized an integrated farm planning approach to foster inclusive household decision-making, ensuring ownership and sustainability. As a result, PAPAB significantly boosted agricultural productivity and income for 865,666 farming households through Component 1 and 59,575 through Component 2. In Burundi, the integrated approach improved the well-being of 69% of trained households, particularly benefiting women-headed households with a 98% income increase and men-headed households with a 100% increase, highlighting the project's impact on income growth compared to nonparticipating farmers.