

FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE  
for

# Food Security

in Sub-Saharan Africa

GEF Integrated Approach Pilot



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



## THE ISSUE

The challenge of food security in Africa will intensify in the coming decades. Demand for food will increase sharply in Africa as the African population is set to double by 2050, and as the population in parallel become more affluent. At the same time, with a chronic food deficit, one-quarter of its population undernourished, the lowest crop yields in the world and poor soil quality, Africa's starting point in terms of food security is challenging. Climate change will further exacerbate the risks facing agriculture in Africa, which is dominated by small farms with few assets and limited capacities to adapt.

As countries embrace intensification and modernization of agriculture, it is important to draw lessons from the Asian Green Revolution. While the Asian region recorded considerable increases in yields and saved an estimated 18-27 million hectares from being brought into production, now, nearly four decades later, negative environmental consequences of excessive withdrawal of water and overuse of chemical fertilizers are emerging.

Without compromising natural capital and vital ecosystem services in Africa, agriculture can meet the sharp increase in the demand for food by focusing on smallholder farmers. African countries therefore need policies and practices that will ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of their production systems for food security. This is very much in line with aspirations of African leaders as expressed in the Malabo Declaration of 2014.

## OUR APPROACH

There is a clear way forward that involves shifting agricultural production toward environmentally friendly options. In this regard, the GEF has launched a new flagship program on food security. *Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa* will focus specifically on the natural resources — land, water, soils, trees and genetic resources — that underpin food and nutrition security.

Through multi-stakeholder frameworks that engage smallholder farmer groups, private sector entities, governments and scientific institutions at national and regional levels, the GEF can increase focus on integrated and holistic approach to environmental management for food security. With growing focus on market opportunities for food crops, engaging private sector is crucial need for promoting sustainability and resilience in food value chains. At the same time, improved access to knowledge from scientific institutions will help inform policy options and investment opportunities for managing ecosystem services in smallholder agriculture.

The integrated approach will facilitate the scaling-up of practices that support aspirations for food security and generate global environmental benefits. It will promote the integrated management of natural resources in smallholder agriculture and thereby help smallholders strengthen soil health, improve access to drought-tolerant seeds, adjust planting periods and cropping portfolios, and enhance on-farm agro-biodiversity.

## THE PROGRAM

Twelve African countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda) will participate in the program. These countries are all located in the dryland regions, which face the greatest threat of environmental degradation in smallholder farms. Therefore, they are well placed to harness good practices for long-term sustainability and resilience of food production by reducing land degradation and biodiversity loss, recovering natural vegetation and increasing soil carbon.

While the context and realities of each country is different, the program will be designed to align with existing initiatives in the agriculture sector. Specifically, the program will enable the creation or strengthening of institutional frameworks that promote integrated approaches in smallholder agriculture; promote scaling-up of interventions for sustainability and resilience; and ensure effective monitoring of ecosystem services and global environmental benefits through application of innovative tools and practices.

The program will enable GEF to engage with a broader spectrum of key development partners in the area of agriculture and food security. Building on over two decades of cooperation with national governments in Africa, the program will a wide range of institutions as partners, including GEF Agencies, sub-regional organizations, research and academic institutions, community-based organizations, and civil society organizations.

From this variety of sources, the partners will bring together more than US\$900 million. The priorities of participating countries will drive GEF financing for the program, primarily through baseline investments that address the needs of smallholder farmers.

### Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa *An Integrated Approach*

**Engage** Multi-stakeholder Institutional Frameworks

**Act** Enabling environment and incentives  
Working at scale—Scaling-up of interventions

**Track** Monitoring and Assessment

*Adaptive Management and Learning*

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The program will foster sustainability and resilience for food security by creating or strengthening institutional frameworks, scaling up integrated approaches, and monitoring and assessment of global environmental benefits. This will contribute to maintaining globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services, bringing 5 million hectares (ha) of landscapes under improved production practices, and an additional 5 million ha under sustainable land management. It will also support a transformational shift towards a low emission and resilient development path, mitigating 10-20 million metric tonnes of carbon.



**BURKINA FASO**

GEF Agency: IFAD  
 GEF Financing: \$7.26M  
 Co-Financing: \$39.5M

**BURUNDI**

GEF Agencies: IFAD+FAO  
 GEF Financing: \$7.39M  
 Co-Financing: \$46.7M

**ETHIOPIA**

GEF Agency: UNDP  
 GEF Financing: \$10.23M  
 Co-Financing: \$112.7M

**GHANA**

GEF Agency: World Bank  
 GEF Financing: \$12.76M  
 Co-Financing: \$22.0M

**KENYA**

GEF Agencies: IFAD+UNEP  
 GEF Financing: \$7.20M  
 Co-Financing: \$65.2M

**MALAWI**

GEF Agencies: IFAD+FAO  
 GEF Financing: \$7.15M  
 Co-Financing: \$47.0M

**NIGER**

GEF Agency: IFAD  
 GEF financing: \$7.63M  
 Co-Financing: \$60.32M

**NIGERIA**

GEF Agency: UNDP  
 GEF Financing: \$7.13M  
 Co-Financing: \$51.0M

**SENEGAL**

GEF Agencies: IFAD+UNIDO  
 GEF Financing: \$7.21M  
 Co-financing: 27.85M

**SWAZILAND**

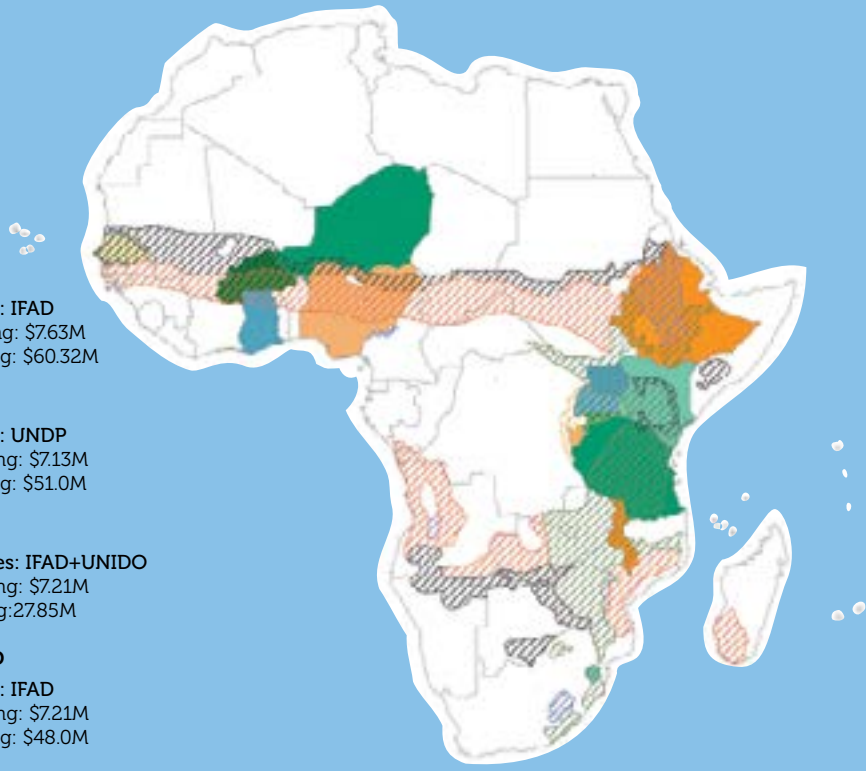
GEF Agency: IFAD  
 GEF Financing: \$7.21M  
 Co-Financing: \$48.0M

**TANZANIA**






GEF Agency: IFAD  
 GEF Financing: \$7.15M  
 Co-Financing: \$42.9M

**UGANDA**

GEF Agencies: UNDP+FAO  
 GEF Financing: \$7.13M  
 Co-Financing: \$48.0M



**Farming System**

-  Agro-pastoral millet/sorghum
-  Cereal-root crop mixed
-  Highland perennial
-  Highland temperate mixed
-  Maize mixed

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$14.5 billion in grants and mobilized \$75.4 billion in additional financing for almost 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector to address global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are: Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AFDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for

Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office–Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank (WB), World Wildlife Fund US (WWF-US).

[www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)



CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

