CFC common fund for commodities

Annual Report 2024

Cover photos:
Above: Indian rural woman carrying dry grass. Adobe stock
Left, above: African elderly man. Adobe stock
Left, below: Agricultural technology in farming. Adobe stock
Right: Cacao Pods. Adobe stock

Common Fund for Commodities

Annual Report 2024

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common fund for commodities

Contents

Photo: Damnoen Saduak Floating market, Thailand. Adobe Stock

Photo: Woman stall holder at market, Zanzibar, Tanzania. © FAO / Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala

Photo: Marawi City, Philippines. © Noel Celis

The Year in Focus: **Anchored in Impact**

Dear Friends, Partners, and Champions of Justice

The past year was a true stress test of our collective resolve – a storm of needs and hopes, with over 360 project proposals arriving at our doorstep like sails on the wind, each carrying the aspirations of communities yearning for inclusive and sustainable growth. Yet, with limited financial wind in our own sails, we could approve only 18 projects, representing a total investment of USD 135.56 million, with the CFC contributing USD 18.55 million.

This is not a reflection of our ambition – it is a reflection of our current financial horizon, still too narrow for the scale of transformation our member states urgently seek. And yet, what we achieved in these constraints was far from routine. Each member of the CFC team played the role of a sailor on a stormy night – not merely keeping us afloat, but steering us with courage and conviction through turbulent waters, drawing us ever closer to our mission and vision. Behind every approved project stands not just a file or figure, but the steady hands and determined hearts of those who refused to drift, who chose instead to navigate toward impact, equity, and hope.

Anchored in the heart of mainland Europe, the Common Fund for Commodities continues to serve as a unique bridge – linking global capital with grassroots enterprise, connecting decision-makers with the unheard voices of rural producers. From this vantage point, we strive to reach the unreached, serve the unserved, and offer our Member States a moment to reflect and renew our shared human commitment: to build a world with as little poverty as possible, and dignity in every corner of economic life.

Despite these constraints, **2024's achievements stand tall.** The 18 newly approved projects will directly benefit **more than 196,000 smallholder farmers and their families,** with approximately **a quarter of beneficiaries being women**. These initiatives expand CFC's already impactful portfolio, which in **2024 alone supported over 540,000 farmers, sustained 11,800 jobs, and brought more than 113,000 hectares under sustainable cultivation.** These are not just numbers – they are milestones in the lives of communities now more **resilient, connected, and empowered**.

Every dollar we invest is more than capital – it is a vote of confidence in local ingenuity and the grassroots pulse of sustainable development. From the cocoa forests of the Amazon to vanilla farms in Madagascar, from the highland coffee cooperatives in Uganda to the bamboo innovators of Bhutan, our funding nurtures life-affirming enterprises where traditional finance dares not tread. Transformation, after all, does not trickle down – it rises from the soil, nourished by community, culture, and care. True transformation **grows from the ground up**.

Today, our portfolio spans **480 projects across 104 countries**, including **35 Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** and **15 'Absolute Sixteen' nations** – both LDCs and Landlocked Developing Countries, where challenges run deepest but impact resonates most. In **Chad**, support for the sesame value chain **revived key exports while reducing post-harvest losses by 40%**. In **Bhutan**, bamboo construction innovations are **creating jobs while cutting emissions**.

As we turn the page, we do so anchored in impact and propelled by the hopes of communities that dare to dream – and act. The tide of transformation is rising. With stronger support, we are ready to sail further.

The ACT Fund: A New Chapter

Launched in 2024, the Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund marks a bold next step. With a USD 100 million capitalization target and a USD 10 million technical assistance window, it aims to reach 200,000 farmers, restore 275,000 hectares, and unlock climate-smart, high-value exports.

But the ACT Fund is more than finance – it is a vehicle for justice. In the Philippines, Kennemer Foods integrates agroforestry, carbon credits, and youth empowerment. In Colombia, Colcocoa links regenerative farming with biodiversity preservation. These are scalable models that reward communities, not just markets.

Through partnerships like Ecotierra, we pioneer biodiversity credits and conservation-linked lending. Here, watershed protection and pollinator preservation are not 'extras' – they're core to financial viability.

Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC)

As outlined in Section III.2, Humanizing the Value Chains is our moral and economic compass. We are redesigning trade to embed fairness, dignity, and agency for producers. With projects like CSN+ in Peru (Section II.2), we turn REDD+ into revenue streams for local communities through eco-tourism and verified carbon credits.

HVC: From Survival to Sovereignty – A Value Chain Revolution

If there is one concept that defines our ethos today, it is this: Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC). As described in Section III.2 of this report, HVC goes beyond certifications and standards. It is a systematic redesign of value chains to restore fairness, dignity, and agency to producers. It means tipping farmers like we tip taxi drivers. It means using blockchain to ensure that the story of the product – and the hands that made it – is not erased at checkout.

By integrating ethics into every transaction – through guaranteed minimum pricing, upfront payments, and embedded technical assistance – we create a more humane, transparent, and resilient value chain. As an example of our work, consider CSN+ in Peru (Section II.2), a REDD+ initiative that doesn't just protect forests, but creates value chains in agroforestry and eco-tourism. With an investment of just USD 290,000 from the CFC, five pilot organizations were able to launch conservation models that now earn verified carbon credits. And they do so without compromising the autonomy of communities – working with them, not on them. This model of participatory governance ensures that conservation is not an imposition but a choice – a livelihood option with dignity and reward.

Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC) is, therefore, more than a technical fix – it is a moral and economic revolution. By embedding fairness into every transaction, we begin to reverse the decades-long imbalance that left smallholders, garment workers, and artisanal miners surviving on the margins while wealth pooled elsewhere in the chain.

When a farmer earns a **living income**, she does not simply buy more food – she hires help, sends her children to school, and invests in better tools or processing facilities. Over time, she evolves from a price-taker into a price-maker – from a subsistence farmer into an entrepreneur. This shift is transformative. Her **increased agency fuels local economies**, reduces dependency on aid or predatory loans, and allows rural communities to plan for the future, not just survive the present.

With HVC in action – through fair minimum pricing, blockchain-backed traceability, and Micro-repatriation – **producers retain more value at the source**. As incomes rise and stabilize, **household debt levels begin to fall**. Where once governments were

Photo: Adobe Stock

Photo: Adobe Stock

World interdependence of agricultural commodities

forced to borrow billions to plug fiscal holes caused by commodity price shocks, **they can now draw on an empowered rural base**. This is fiscal resilience born not of austerity, but of justice.

HVC, supported through vehicles like the ACT Fund, helps nations **move from debt-dependence to value-based self-reliance**. When a garment worker earns a wage she can live on – not just survive – she has dignity. When a coffee farmer knows their product's story will be seen and valued at checkout, they have pride. And when producing countries can retain a just share of global value, **they reclaim their economic sovereignty**.

This is not charity. It is a **recalibration of global trade**, one in which human dignity is the first input and shared prosperity the final output. HVC does not ask for more aid – it builds the infrastructure for a fairer world, where the hands that power our lives are no longer invisible or undervalued, but fully seen, fairly paid, and deeply respected.

Let us not settle for marginal improvement when transformation is within reach. HVC offers a path where living wages are the norm, not the exception – and where value chains become **freedom chains**, unbinding the potential of billions.

HVC is not charity – it's a restructuring of value creation. Blockchain, minimum pricing, and Micro-repatriation empower producers to retain value. As incomes stabilize, rural debt falls, and states gain fiscal resilience – not through austerity, but through equity.

Communicating CFC Stories: Voices from the GC36 Side Event

At the 36th Governing Council, our side event (Section VI.2) brought powerful stories from the field to life. From Bangladesh, Classical Handmade Products showed how jute and seagrass crafts can employ thousands of women through decentralized, home-based hubs. LadyAgri highlighted how bridging Africa's gender gap in agribusiness boosts both equity and returns. EFTA Tanzania revealed how local leasing unlocks SME potential, giving farmers vital access to machinery. Colcocoa in Colombia reminded us that biodiversity is not a trade barrier but a value-add – having planted over 47,000 native trees through its PlanT initiative.

With events like these, CFC introduces Member States to what works – solutions that are ready to scale without further trial and error. In a world of scarce resources, prudence is power. We must back what delivers.

We invite all Member States to contribute ideas to the next chapter of this dialogue at GC37 on 09 December 2025. Let's shape a better commodity future together.

Results that Matter

As detailed in Section V, our work aligns with the IRIS+ framework. In 2024, household incomes rose by up to USD 4,080. Women represented 34% of our beneficiaries. 68% of investments were in Africa, with expansion across Latin America and Asia-Pacific. These are not abstract figures – they are steps toward a fairer, climate-smart future where trade uplifts rather than excludes.

Strategic Framework 2025-2035: Charting the Next Horizon

As we look ahead, the CFC is developing a Strategic Framework for 2025–2035 to navigate a world shaped by climate shocks, evolving trade, and rising debt burdens in the Global South. Anchored in values – people over profit, ecosystems over extraction – it will harness frontier technologies like AI, remote sensing, and mobile finance to democratize innovation. The CFC will evolve from financier to convenor, aligning private capital, public policy, and local wisdom into one shared vision. Our expanded toolkit will include blended finance, gender-smart instruments, and real-time impact tracking. But we cannot do this alone. To build an inclusive financial system, the CFC must be empowered – with resources and partners – to meet this decisive moment.

Executive Summary

In 2024, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) faced unprecedented demand, with over 360 project proposals reflecting the aspirations of millions. Constrained by limited resources, we approved 18 projects, investing **USD 135.56 million** – directly benefiting **196,000 smallholders**, supporting **540,000 farmers**, and sustaining **11,800 jobs**.

We launched the **Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund**, a USD 100 million initiative to restore ecosystems and ensure justice in value chains. At the heart of our work lies **Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC)** – embedding fairness, dignity, and transparency into every transaction through innovations like blockchain, minimum pricing, and Micro-repatriation.

Across 104 countries, our projects continue to empower producers, proving that transformation rises from the ground up. Yet, over **1,500 unfinanced projects** remain, awaiting support.

We invite all partners to join us in rewriting the rules of trade – ensuring the hands that feed and sustain us are seen, valued, and fairly rewarded.

The Challenge: Commodity Dependence and Systemic Inequality

Commodity dependence remains a structural challenge for the developing world, with 95 of 195 UNCTAD member states relying on commodities for over 60% of merchandise exports (2019-2021). This dependence has left LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS vulnerable to external shocks, with price volatility disrupting fiscal planning and aggravating food insecurity.

The system enables hunger profiteering – powerful agribusiness corporations exploiting food crises for excessive profit. A mere 1% rise in food prices drives 10 million people into extreme poverty. During COVID-19, major agricultural traders saw profits increase over 1000% while distributing USD 53.5 billion to shareholders – more than needed to prevent hunger for 230 million of the world's most vulnerable.

Unprecedented Member State Support

We extend profound gratitude to our member states for their unprecedented expression of support – both vocal advocacy and quiet, invisible backing that enables our continued innovation. This collective commitment has been instrumental in our ability to do more with less, leveraging every resource for maximum impact.

Call to Action

The CFC stands as a unique platform where over three billion smallholders, workers, and producers – the very backbone of global commodity supply chains – can be recognized not merely as economic actors, but as rightful stakeholders in shaping a fairer world order. The case for the CFC is fundamentally one of ethics, morality, and justice. Let us make the CFC a sacred ground for reimagining commodity value chains – where inclusive, sustainable, and equitable models replace exploitation and exclusion.

We are working tirelessly to unlock new gateways and platforms that can transform these value chains, but our progress depends on Member States embracing the CFC's potential fully. Together, we must ensure that commodity value chains work for all – not just for some.

At a critical time like this, let us rise together to unlock the vast pipeline of promising proposals that remain unfinanced. Let us ensure the hands that feed, clothe, and sustain us are never left empty. With conscience, capital, and cooperation, we can rewrite the rules of commodity trade – for people, for planet, for posterity.

This is our moment. Let it not pass us by.

Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal
Managing Director
Common Fund for Commodities

Photo: Adobe Stock

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CFC **at a glance**

CFC **Highlights**

Expected impact (current loan portfolio)*

543,226
smallholder beneficiaries**

34%
women impacted

113,405
hectares cultivated

11,800
jobs supported

12
projects in LDCs

Organization

35 YEARS
of project experience

101
member states

9
institutional members

7
investment partners

9
Investment Funds

23
staff members of which **47.8%** are women

9
commodity experts, of which **33%** are women, form the Consultative Committee

* *As of 30 April 2025 based on most recent reports*

** *This statistic refers to the total estimated number of smallholder farmers and their household members. This figure is extrapolated from the number of direct smallholder farmer beneficiaries multiplied by the estimated household size of 4.8.*

Operations – 35 years supporting commodity producers*

480
projects approved

70
commodities financed

104
countries supported of which
35 are LDCs

1.08 billion*
of total project costs (in USD)

395 million*
of capital committed (in USD)

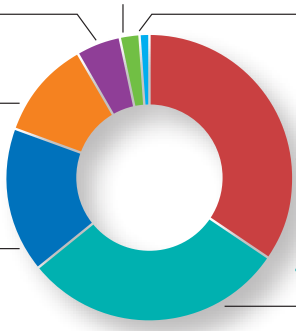
691.4 million*
co-financing/ counterpart contr. (in USD)

319.2
million**
disbursed (in USD)

** Amounts as submitted and approved by the Executive Board*

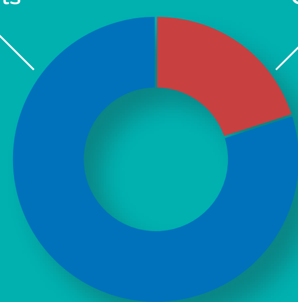
*** For the year ending 31 December 2024*

Commodity value chain*



**% based on number of projects*

CFC projects in LDCs*



**Grand total since 1989*

Photo: Adobe Stock

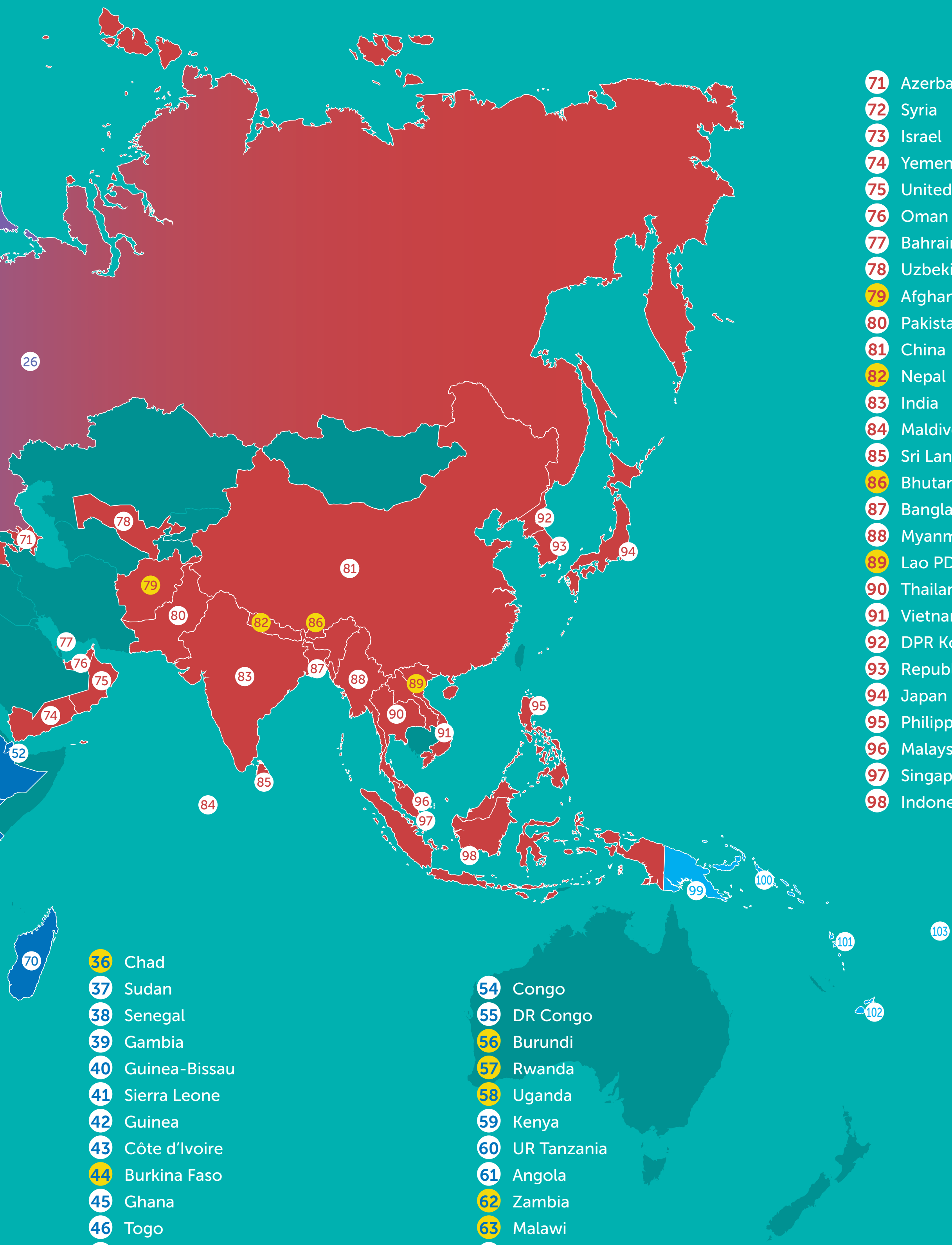
Countries participating in **CFC projects since 1989**

15 of the LDCs are also classified as landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). All of them are commodity dependent and host CFC projects*

- 79 Afghanistan
- 44 Burkina Faso
- 56 Burundi
- 50 Central African Republic
- 36 Chad
- 51 Ethiopia
- 89 Lao PDR
- 68 Lesotho
- 63 Malawi
- 34 Mali
- 82 Nepal
- 35 Niger
- 57 Rwanda
- 58 Uganda
- 62 Zambia

*Grand total since 1989
On 13 December 2023, Bhutan became the seventh country to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) category*

1. Mexico
2. Cuba
3. Haiti
4. Guadeloupe
5. Jamaica
6. Honduras
7. Guatemala
8. Nicaragua
9. Costa Rica
10. Trinidad and Tobago
11. Venezuela
12. Colombia
13. Ecuador
14. Peru
15. Bolivia
16. Brazil
17. Paraguay
18. Argentina
19. Uruguay
20. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
21. The Netherlands
22. Germany
23. France
24. Portugal
25. Spain
26. Russian Federation
27. Bulgaria
28. Turkey
29. Morocco
30. Algeria
31. Tunisia
32. Egypt
33. Mauritania
34. Mali
35. Niger



- 36 Chad
- 37 Sudan
- 38 Senegal
- 39 Gambia
- 40 Guinea-Bissau
- 41 Sierra Leone
- 42 Guinea
- 43 Côte d'Ivoire
- 44 Burkina Faso
- 45 Ghana
- 46 Togo
- 47 Benin
- 48 Nigeria
- 49 Cameroon
- 50 Central African Republic
- 51 Ethiopia
- 52 Djibouti
- 53 Gabon

- 54 Congo
- 55 DR Congo
- 56 Burundi
- 57 Rwanda
- 58 Uganda
- 59 Kenya
- 60 UR Tanzania
- 61 Angola
- 62 Zambia
- 63 Malawi
- 64 Mozambique
- 65 Namibia
- 66 Botswana
- 67 Zimbabwe
- 68 Lesotho
- 69 Eswatini
- 70 Madagascar

- 71 Azerbaijan
- 72 Syria
- 73 Israel
- 74 Yemen
- 75 United Arab Emirates
- 76 Oman
- 77 Bahrain
- 78 Uzbekistan
- 79 Afghanistan
- 80 Pakistan
- 81 China
- 82 Nepal
- 83 India
- 84 Maldives
- 85 Sri Lanka
- 86 Bhutan
- 87 Bangladesh
- 88 Myanmar
- 89 Lao PDR
- 90 Thailand
- 91 Vietnam
- 92 DPR Korea
- 93 Republic of Korea
- 94 Japan
- 95 Philippines
- 96 Malaysia
- 97 Singapore
- 98 Indonesia

- 99 Papua New Guinea
- 100 Solomon Islands
- 101 Vanuatu
- 102 Fiji
- 103 Samoa

Key Challenges:

- **Commodity Dependence: 90% of African LDCs and 67% of Island LDCs rely on commodities for over 60% of exports (UNCTAD, 2022).**
- **Trade Inequity: Cocoa farmers earn 2/kg vs.global prices of 12/kg; African coffee growers earn < USD 1/kg.**
- **Structural Barriers: Under MFN regimes, tariffs on processed agricultural exports from LDCs average up to 20%, discouraging local value addition.**
- **Financial Exclusion: Smallholders (80% of global food production) lack access to credit, insurance, and technology.**
- **No dedicated global fund for the SMEs, although they are the providers of most of the jobs.**

CFC's Strategic Interventions:

1. **Impact Investment:**
   - Blended finance, de-risking tools, and catalytic capital for smallholder agriculture.
   - Focus on gender equity – women produce 80% of food but earn 54% less than men.
2. **Technical Assistance (TA):**
   - Strengthening institutions, climate-smart practices, and digital impact tracking.
   - Supports SMEs in meeting certification/traceability standards for premium markets.
3. **Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC):**
   - Blockchain-enabled transparency to ensure fair wages (e.g., garment workers in Bangladesh).
   - Redirects value back to producers through ethical consumer engagement.
4. **Advocacy for Systemic Reform:**
   - Advocating for tariff reductions, South-South trade integration, and enforcement of Special & Differential Treatment (SDT).
   - Targeted support for the "Absolute Sixteen" (LDCs + LLDCs like Chad, Nepal, Uganda).

By the Numbers:

- **Smallholders: Manage 90% of farms, feed over three billions people.**
- **Gender Gap: Closing it could reduce global undernourishment by 17% (100M+ people).**
- **LDCs: 46 remain (vs. UN's 2020 target of 24), highlighting persistent vulnerabilities.**

Harnessing Commodities for Sustainable Growth

For generations, those who grow, mine, and harvest the raw materials driving the global economy have remained trapped in cycles of low income, volatile markets, and systemic poverty. The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) was founded to help change that – to challenge a global trade system that too often sidelines the very people who sustain it.

Born out of a broader UNCTAD vision, the CFC embodies a global commitment to make commodity markets fairer, more inclusive, and sustainable. One of UNCTAD's boldest initiatives, the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC), aimed to stabilize prices and ensure fair pay, laying the groundwork for structural change. The CFC became the IPC's financial engine – channeling investment, building partnerships, and delivering action where it mattered most.

Yet, the imbalance persists. Commodity-dependent countries still face sharp price swings and limited access to value-added markets, while profits concentrate in wealthier economies. In an era focused on sustainability and equity, such disparities are indefensible.

The CFC views commodities not merely as goods, but as lifelines – woven into the fabric of communities and ecosystems. That's why it supports smallholders with access to innovative finance, backs sustainability-focused enterprises, and collaborates with governments to build resilient, just markets. True development, after all, begins by addressing the root causes of inequality in global trade.

As the world confronts climate change, fractured supply chains, and shifting geopolitics, the CFC's mission has only become more vital. It isn't enough to make markets efficient – we must make them fair. Through strategic investment and systemic reform, the CFC remains a steadfast partner to developing countries, working to turn commodities into pathways for shared prosperity.

Commodity Dependence is a Structural Vulnerability

A country is considered commodity-dependent when over 60% of its merchandise exports consist of commodities. This is particularly problematic in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), where such dependence leaves economies vulnerable to market shocks and impedes structural transformation. As of 2022, UNCTAD reported that 90% of African LDCs and 67% of Island LDCs were commodity-dependent. Even in Asia, 50% of LDCs face similar constraints. Despite global commitments under the Istanbul Programme of Action to reduce the number of LDCs by half by 2020, from 48 to 24, the reality in 2025 shows 46 LDCs remain.

CFC MISSION

To contribute to poverty alleviation by strengthening the income-generating capacity of commodity producers and mitigating vulnerability to their economic well-being.

CFC VISION

To strengthen and diversify the commodity sector in developing countries and transform it to be a major contributor to poverty alleviation and sustained economic growth and development.

Sixteen countries, 13 in Africa and 3 in Asia, are both LDCs and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Known as the 'absolute sixteen', Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia, these nations suffer disproportionately from structural barriers, low fertilizer usage, and deep-rooted poverty. The CFC urges coordinated support to uplift these highly vulnerable economies. Their inclusion in global economic progress is not just a moral imperative, it is essential for the stability, sustainability, and equity of the international development agenda as a whole.

Through its continued advocacy and project support, the CFC remains committed to working with international partners, national governments, and local stakeholders to break the cycle of commodity dependence and unlock the long-awaited promise of structural transformation for the absolute sixteen, and for all who share in their challenges.

Structural Barriers to Equity in Global Trade

Despite decades of trade liberalization, global value chains remain structurally skewed against smallholder farmers and SMEs in commodity-dependent countries. In 2024, cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana earned just USD 2 per kilogram, even as global prices neared USD 11. Ethiopian coffee growers earned less than USD 1 per kilo. Such disparities highlight the enduring inequity at the heart of global trade – where those at the base of the value chain capture only a fraction of the final value.

Low farmgate prices trap producers in poverty, leaving little room to invest in fertilizers, improved seeds, or climate-resilient practices. This perpetuates a vicious cycle of low productivity, vulnerability to market shocks, and exclusion from formal finance. SMEs, meanwhile, face overwhelming compliance costs to meet global standards on certification, traceability, and sustainability – barriers that deny them access to premium markets and consolidate value among larger firms in wealthier economies.

Compounding these issues are deeply entrenched tariff structures. Under Most-Favoured-Nation regimes, agricultural exports from low-income countries face tariffs nearing 20%, particularly when value is added through local processing. This tariff escalation penalizes industrialization and locks countries into the role of raw material suppliers. Even within South-South trade, duties of 10–15% persist, undercutting regional integration and the diversification of trade partners.

Tackling these systemic constraints requires bold reforms. Developing country exporters need access to low-cost certification, targeted subsidies, and public guarantee schemes to compete fairly. Tariff barriers – especially those on value-added exports – must be dismantled, both globally and within the Global South. Strengthening and enforcing Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) provisions is essential to creating a trade architecture that enables – not obstructs – inclusive, climate-resilient development.

If the global community is serious about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, trade justice must move from rhetoric to reality.

Bridging the Financing Gap Through Impact Investment

Smallholder farmers are the unsung pillars of the global food system – managing 90% of the world's farms and producing nearly 80% of food by value. Their work sustains the livelihoods of close to 3 billion people. Yet, despite their pivotal role in ensuring food security, smallholders remain largely excluded from formal financial systems. The Common Fund for

The Organization of the Common Fund for Commodities

Establishment and Membership

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) is an autonomous intergovernmental financial institution, focussing on impact investment, within the framework of the United Nations. The Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities was negotiated in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from 1976 to 1980 and came into effect in 1989. Financing for the first development project was approved in 1991.

The Common Fund for Commodities is a partnership of 101 member states and nine institutional members. Membership of the Fund is open to all states that are members of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and intergovernmental organisations that focus on regional economic integration and have expertise in our areas of operation.

Governing Bodies

The governing bodies of the Fund are its Governing Council and the Executive Board. The Managing Director is the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund. The Executive Board is advised by a Consultative Committee, composed of nine independent experts, on technical and economic aspects of proposals submitted to the Fund. The Governing Council meets annually, and the Executive Board and Consultative Committee twice a year.

Headquarters

The Common Fund is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Commodities (CFC) views targeted investment in smallholder agriculture not just as a moral imperative, but as a strategic lever for reducing poverty, promoting economic stability, and strengthening global food supply chains.

Traditional financial institutions often perceive smallholders as high-risk due to limited collateral, small-scale operations, and exposure to environmental shocks. As a result, smallholders are frequently excluded from the very resources they need to thrive – credit, insurance, and investment in modern tools and technologies.

Impact investing provides a powerful alternative. By channeling patient, risk-tolerant capital into underserved agricultural sectors, it unlocks pathways to inclusive growth. These investments prioritize measurable social and environmental outcomes – such as food security, gender equity, and climate resilience – alongside sustainable financial returns. The CFC, through innovative financing structures including blended finance, de-risking instruments, and catalytic capital, is mobilizing both public and private resources to fill these financing gaps.

We are acutely aware that women are the backbone of agriculture in many developing countries, producing up to 80% of food, yet they earn just 54 cents for every dollar men make and face persistent barriers to land ownership and credit. This inequity persists despite women's stronger loan repayment records – for instance, Nigerian women farmers repay loans at higher rates than men. Empowering women in agriculture is not only a matter of justice but of global impact: it could reduce undernourishment by up to 17%, benefiting over 100 million people. The CFC is committed to advancing genuine gender equity by placing women at the heart of its agricultural investment strategies.

The CFC combines financial capital with deep, context-specific technical support, transforming commodity value chains into engines of inclusive growth. This integrated approach ensures that even the most vulnerable stakeholders – smallholder farmers, women, and youth – can fully participate in and benefit from global trade. Through strategic investments, strong partnerships, and a steadfast focus on equity, the CFC is building a future where prosperity is shared, and no one is left behind. The CFC invests in smallholders, not only boosting rural productivity and resilience but also advancing broader development agendas – from eradicating extreme poverty to transforming food systems and accelerating climate action. Scaling up inclusive finance for smallholders is not just a development priority – it is essential for global stability and shared prosperity.

Centering Technical Assistance in Inclusive Value Chain Development

The success of impact investments in commodity-dependent economies hinges on more than just funding. For local entrepreneurs, cooperatives, and farmers, particularly in fragile contexts, technical expertise is essential to translating finance into tangible outcomes. The CFC has long recognized this through its integrated TA approach, which supports communities in scaling sustainable production, improving market access, and meeting certification standards.

To this end, TA efforts focus on several strategic pillars:

- **Institutional and Regulatory Strengthening:** By supporting local governments in developing transparent, enabling frameworks for sustainable commodity trade and responsible investment, CFC helps lay the foundation for long-term economic resilience.
- **Project and Business Development Skills:** Customized TA equips local enterprises and SMEs with tools to design investment-ready projects, implement climate-smart agricultural practices, and improve operational efficiency – boosting their chances of attracting capital and succeeding in competitive markets.
- **Impact Measurement and Data Systems:** Using digital tools, remote sensing, and performance tracking, the CFC enhances beneficiaries' ability to collect and report on impact metrics – ensuring investor accountability and driving continuous learning.

Ethical Market Practices and Fair Wages: Humanizing the Value Chains

The latest addition to the CFC instruments, the Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC) initiative reimagines global commodity trade by addressing the ethical failures of traditional supply chains, where smallholder farmers and low-wage workers receive only a fraction of the final product's value. Despite powering billion-dollar industries, producers – like garment workers in Bangladesh earning well below a living wage – remain underpaid due to exploitative market structures. HVC, championed by the CFC, uses digital tools like blockchain and direct consumer engagement to create transparent, traceable, and fairer exchanges. By connecting producers and consumers, it shifts value back to the source, empowers ethical consumption, and promotes inclusive growth that reflects the real worth of labor and resources.

With a legacy rooted in the international quest for equity in global trade, the Common Fund for Commodities stands as a testament to what determined, cooperative action can achieve. For decades, it has brought together governments, investors, and communities to confront the structural injustices embedded in commodity markets. Today, building on this rich history, the CFC continues to evolve – pioneering innovative financing mechanisms, promoting inclusive technologies, and championing fairer value chains. In a world facing profound ecological, economic, and social challenges, the CFC remains steadfast in its mission: to drive sustainable development, empower the most vulnerable, and help shape a more just and resilient future for all humankind.

CFC **staff**

Photo: CFC


Photo: Adobe Stock

Photo: Stephen Kioko

II

II.1 Rooted in Resilience: a journey with Pamoja and Ten Senses Africa

Interview with Guillaume Maillard, Chairman, Co-founder, and CEO of Pamoja

When Guillaume Maillard joined Ten Senses Africa (TSA) in 2020 under Pamoja Farms, he inherited a business deeply entrenched in the challenges of seasonal, smallholder agriculture. Yet in just a few short years, his leadership has driven a transformation that is both measurable and meaningful. Under his direction, TSA has expanded its network of smallholder farmers fivefold – from 2,500 to 12,000 – while establishing one of East Africa's most sophisticated and socially responsible macadamia supply chains.

This growth has been anchored in sustainable farming practices, cutting-edge traceability systems, and a relentless focus on farmer empowerment – proving that ethical agribusiness can thrive at scale. But as Guillaume readily acknowledges, rapid expansion brings its own hurdles. From managing fragmented harvests to ensuring consistent quality across thousands of farms, TSA's success has been hard-won. The question now is not just how far TSA can grow – but how its model can redefine agricultural value chains across the continent.

Flexibility in finance, stability in impact

Reflecting on TSA's relationship with the CFC over the past five years, Guillaume is quick to highlight the human element: "Yes, we had a loan agreement, but more importantly, we had a relationship." TSA first received a CFC loan of USD 1.5 million, which was recently renewed for the same amount of 1.5 million – support that proved critical as the company navigated growth and operational hurdles.

He recalls a time when operational flexibility mattered more than formal structure – delays in cash flow, accelerated payments to seize procurement opportunities, and constant, collaborative problem-solving. "We are working in a tough environment, with many daily challenges. Having partners who truly understand our realities made a big difference," he explains.

From cash flow to community uplift

Agriculture demands liquidity at harvest peaks. CFC's working capital facility filled this critical need, ensuring TSA could procure nuts-in-shell (NIS) when farmers needed income most. But CFC's support extended beyond finance. "The team really engaged with what we were doing on the ground," Guillaume says, noting that TSA's model goes beyond buying nuts – it's about reshaping rural livelihoods.

A proprietary traceability system used by TSA ensures that each nut can be traced from farmer to export. TSA's 50+ agronomists and field officers deliver training, support certifications, and distribute seedlings at subsidized prices through 25 collection centres, which also offer de-husking machines for the smallholders at no cost. These hubs improve efficiency and strengthen the ethical foundation of the supply chain.

To address the issue of smallholders selling produce prematurely due to financial constraints, Guillaume explains, "Last year, we began discussions with a bank to create a farmer pre-financing program. If school fees are due in January but the purchase season starts in March, farmers are forced to sell early to brokers at very low prices. With pre-financing, we smooth that cashflow mismatch and help farmers earn what they deserve."

Reframing the outgrower model

Unlike many contract farming schemes, TSA's approach is deliberately non-coercive. Farmers are free to sell to any buyer, but TSA's value-added services and premium pricing – typically 15-20% above market – make it the partner of choice. It is referred to as a 'smallholder programme,' a holistic system of support, not obligation.

This voluntary structure is becoming increasingly important under new EU regulations that require farmers to be grouped.

Sample farmer preparing her nuts for sell.

Photo: Stephen Kioko

Historically working with individuals, TSA is now forming formal groups while maintaining direct traceability and payment structures. "It's complex and expensive," Guillaume admits, "but it's the future of compliance and market access." Warehouses, equipment, and administrative capacity will have to be scaled to meet these demands.

As part of its inclusive strategy, TSA is also piloting procurement of additional crops such as organic peanuts. "Our farmers need income diversification to manage risk," Guillaume notes. "Peanuts come with challenges like aflatoxins, but we're working closely with our teams and customers to build this new value chain responsibly."

Weathering the macadamia market crisis

The years 2022 and 2023 saw an unprecedented oversupply of macadamia nuts, causing prices to plunge from USD 18/kg to just USD 8 or USD 9/kg. The combination of excess inventory and sluggish global demand left the market in dire straits. "There was no market," Guillaume states bluntly.

Despite the downturn, TSA maintained its operations, continuing to purchase nuts – albeit in smaller quantities – and retaining its entire workforce. Rather than idling, the company seized the opportunity to optimize its processes. "We used the downtime to improve everything – our yields, raw material management, and operational efficiency," Guillaume explains. This strategic approach allowed TSA to emerge stronger, turning a challenging period into a chance for refinement and growth.

Product diversification: turning waste into value

TSA is tackling up to 30% nut wastage – caused by immature seeds, insect damage, or mould – through innovative product diversification. Damaged nuts are pressed for cosmetic-grade oil, chopped and sold at discounted prices, or repurposed into nutrient-rich macadamia flour for use in bakeries. These efforts reduce losses and create new product lines that enhance both sustainability and profitability. TSA aims to reduce wastage to 15-20%, which will increase the value of the harvest and farmer income.

Towards a multi-crop future

The company has launched pilot programs for organic peanuts, with early harvests underway. The move enables income diversification and reduces dependency on a single commodity. "It's high risk, especially with aflatoxin issues," says Guillaume. "But we're solving that with close monitoring."

If successful, these pilots could lay the foundation for a diversified smallholder supply chain, aligned with TSA's traceability and quality-first model.

Photos: TSA Nursery at ATC Kaguru in Meru county. Stephen Kioko

Looking ahead: building stronger systems through diversification and decentralization

TSA's future strategy rests on diversification, decentralization, and systemic change. The goal is to reduce commodity dependency and empower smallholder communities to become resilient, self-reliant, and sustainably productive.

TSA is exploring additional value chains such as avocado and mango, alongside macadamia. Over 1 million cashew seedlings have been distributed in the past, and TSA now produces macadamia, avocado, and mango seedlings – growing over 200,000 seedlings annually. Instead of centralizing seedling production, In the coming year, TSA plans to support farmer groups to develop local nurseries. With training and support, these groups can manage nurseries themselves – making seedling access more local, equitable, and scalable.

> ***'We're building something enduring. This isn't just about profits – it's about people, the planet, and a more equitable supply chain. That's the vision we share with CFC.'***

This decentralization also shapes TSA's training approach. Delivered one-on-one or in groups of up to 100, sessions cover regenerative organic practices across all crops. Farmers learn to prune trees, apply safe organic inputs, and use vermicomposting to improve soil health. As Guillaume Maillard notes, "Organic doesn't mean doing nothing – it means doing the right things, using the right organic products, and nurturing stronger plants for the long term."

To support these efforts, TSA plans a major upgrade to its processing capacity, enabling product diversification like oil pressing and flour production for consumption by bakeries, as well as specialized processing for new crops. However, this scale of growth requires more than strategy – it requires support.

Currently self-financed, TSA needs both technical and financial assistance. Additional expertise is essential for nursery development and operational efficiency. Financial support would accelerate the scale-up of services and impact.

According to Guillaume, a transformative proposal would be the establishment of a national stabilization fund for Kenya's macadamia sector. Farmers currently face highly volatile prices – ranging from KES 80 to 150 per kilogram – which undermines long-term planning. A stabilization mechanism, supported by profits generated in good years, could provide a minimum guaranteed price. This would cushion farmers against market shocks and encourage more predictable, sustained investment during low-performing years.

Shared growth, shared purpose

TSA's story is one of resilience and collective success. By prioritizing traceability, certification, and farmer empowerment, the company is redefining sustainable agriculture in East Africa. With the right support, TSA plans to double its purchase volumes by 2028 – reaching 850 metric tons annually – and create new economic opportunities for thousands of smallholder farmers.

Guillaume reflects with quiet determination: "We're building something enduring. This isn't just about profits – it's about people, the planet, and a more equitable supply chain. That's the vision we share with CFC."

Photo: Luis Salgado

Photo: Luis Salgado

II.2 Bridging forests and futures: **redefining climate finance in Northern Peru**

In the lush, remote regions of northern Peru, an innovative fusion of climate finance and community-led conservation is redefining forest protection – and the lives of those who depend on them. This transformation is driven by two interconnected initiatives: *Café Selva Norte (CSN)* and *CSN+ (Conservación Selva Norte)*. Though they serve distinct communities, together they embody a holistic approach to rural development and climate action.

Developed and managed by the Canadian environmental finance company **Ecotierra**, both CSN and CSN+ are funded by the **Urapi Sustainable Land Use Fund**, a USD 50 million impact investment vehicle. While Ecotierra oversees project design and execution, CSN – a Peruvian coffee processor and trader – serves as the on-the-ground implementer. Central to this initiative is the **REDD+ Northern Forest Conservation Project**, a pioneering effort that bridges economic opportunity with ecological preservation.

This essay explores how this unique model leverages climate finance to empower local communities while safeguarding one of the world's most vital ecosystems.

CSN and CSN+ serve complementary roles:

- **CSN** provides trade finance to established coffee cooperatives committed to sustainable, deforestation-free agriculture, aiming to strengthen local economies while safeguarding the environment.

- **CSN+** is a REDD+ conservation initiative that funds agroforestry, ecotourism, and silvopasture activities while supporting small and medium-sized conservation areas. These efforts generate carbon credits through avoided deforestation and forest degradation.

REDD+ is a voluntary climate mitigation framework developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to incentivize developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the forest sector. It was established to protect forests as part of the Paris Agreement. 'REDD' stands for 'Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. The '+' stands for additional forest-related activities that protect the climate, namely sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Under the framework with these REDD+ activities, developing countries can receive results-based payments for emission reductions when they reduce deforestation. This serves as a major incentive for their efforts.

While CSN catalyzes growth among organized cooperatives, CSN+ empowers more marginal communities to take the first step in conservation, using a pioneering loan-based model that provides critical early-stage financing. Together, they tackle deforestation at both ends of the development spectrum – supporting those already practicing sustainable agriculture while enabling others to take the first step toward long-term forest protection.

"The key barrier for us was the time gap between starting conservation and actually seeing revenue from carbon credits," explains Luis, Ecotierra's Director of Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Finance. "We needed a way to fund that critical bridge period – and that's what CSN+ provides."

Photo: Luis Salgado

CSN+: bridging the finance gap

Through its **REDD+ forest conservation project**, CSN+ aims to conserve up to 200,000 hectares of forest through agreements with small and medium-sized private stakeholders. But before carbon credits can be generated and sold, these communities must undertake governance improvements, conservation planning, and early-stage productive activities.

"This gap between activity and income was a key bottleneck," explains Luis, Ecotierra's Director of Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Finance. "We needed a way to fund that critical bridge period". To address this, CSN+ – with bridge loans supported by USD 290,000 investment from the CFC – has enabled **five** pilot organizations to launch conservation initiatives immediately. These loans support forest patrols, strengthen governance structures, and fund early-stage sustainable models like ecotourism, agroforestry, and silvopasture.

"Many of the communities we work with have enough experience and capacity to move towards sustainable activities," notes Luis. "But they don't have the institutional credentials to qualify for conventional finance. We provide that first layer of risk absorption."

Luis adds that these loans are more than financial tools – they're enablers of credibility and transformation: "This funding absorbs the early-stage risk, giving communities the credibility they need to later access financing."

Beyond carbon: innovating climate finance

What sets CSN+ apart is its decision to forgo the common practice of pre-selling carbon credits – a common strategy that often locks in discounted pricing. While many conservation projects raise up-front capital by promising future carbon credits to large corporate buyers, CSN+ leverages loans instead.

The credits, certified under **Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)** using methodology VM0015, generate several social and

Photo: Luis Salgado

environmental co-benefits – enabling premium pricing for verified biodiversity and social impact.

“The carbon market is volatile,” says Luis. “By avoiding pre-sales, we give ourselves the flexibility to wait for favourable market conditions, which ultimately benefits the communities. It also allows us to sell the credits at higher prices, without discounts or unfavourable terms.”

Carbon credits are commercialized through **ElevaFinca**, a Urapi-affiliated platform that also exports CSN’s coffee. This vertical integration lets climate-conscious buyers purchase both physical goods and offset credits from a single origin – aligning conservation with trade.

This flexible model has already attracted co-financing: in one case, CSN+ provided one-third of the capital for an ecotourism venture, unlocking two-thirds in co-financing from the **Alianza Empresarial para la Amazonía**.

A pilot with global potential

Though still in early stages, CSN+ represents a **pioneering model** for community-based conservation finance. The first five conservation agreements are laying the groundwork for future expansion, and the goal of protecting 200,000 hectares remains firmly in sight.

“It’s one of the first projects in the world to use a loan-based bridge finance model for small and medium conservation areas,” says Luis. “If successful, we hope to replicate it across Latin America, especially through our upcoming Urapi 2 fund.”

Although currently a pilot project, the success of the REDD+ Northern Forest Conservation Project may lay the groundwork for broader replication. With Urapi’s second fund, Urapi 2, now seeking new opportunities, Ecotierra is looking to scale its model across Latin America and potentially North America and remain open to knowledge-sharing and partnerships that could extend the model globally.

“We want to show that climate finance is real,” says Salgado. “That it can be used not just to generate carbon credits, but to build truly sustainable futures – starting from the ground up.”

Building for the long-term

A key reason behind the project’s resilience is its co-designed, long-term approach. Unlike top-down interventions, CSN+ builds mechanisms in close collaboration with communities.

“We don’t impose a blueprint,” says Luis. “We build these mechanisms with the communities. It’s slower, but it significantly reduces the risk of failure. We want to be with these communities for at least seven more years, to ensure real, lasting change.”

Equally important is the link between conservation and market access. “Conservation by itself isn’t enough to pay for conservation,” Luis explains. “We need value chains. We need to connect these communities to markets.”

A model for the future of climate finance

With catalytic support from the CFC, CSN+ is pioneering a new approach to climate finance – one that bridges local knowledge, innovative funding, and global impact. Despite the modest initial investment, the project demonstrates how small-scale financing can unlock transformative opportunities.

Over the next two years, EcoTierra aims to attract additional investors by showcasing climate finance’s potential to deliver both environmental and economic benefits.

As the CFC and EcoTierra strengthen their partnership, a powerful truth emerges: conservation and commerce can thrive together. With the right support, local communities can become the most effective guardians of the world’s most vital forests.

For the communities of the Peruvian Amazon, this future is already unfolding.

Photo: Luis Salgado

Caption

Photo Luis Salgado:

Testimonials

Organization: Association for the Conservation of Aguajales and Renacales of Alto Mayo Río Avisado – Tingana (ADECARAM)

As a member of ADECARAM and resident of Tingana, I find the *Conservación de la Selva Norte* (CSN+) project truly transformative. The Bridge Funding Mechanism, backed by CFC, CSN, and Ecotierra, provides critical upfront support that turns our long-term conservation vision into immediate action.

This model has empowered us to strengthen forest patrols with drones and GPS technology, replacing guesswork with precise interventions. Beyond equipment, it improves working conditions for our community's forest guardians – ensuring both protection and livelihoods. Most importantly, it validates the value of our decades of conservation work.

With this support, we're not just preserving Tingana for future generations; we're demonstrating how carbon projects and climate financing can make community-led conservation thrive.

Bercelia Mestanza Cabrera
Founding Member of Tingana

Organization: Campesino Community of Copallín

As a founding member of Copallín's Campesino Community, I've witnessed how the Bridge Funding Mechanism – spearheaded by Ecotierra with support from CFC and CSN – helps us balance protection and progress. Unlike traditional development projects with limited impact, the CSN+ carbon project establishes long-term commitment to both conservation and sustainable production. The BFM funds urgent current needs, from patrols to sustainable agroforestry.

Our success lies in integrating silvopasture and shade-grown coffee/cacao systems, which reduce deforestation pressures and actually reverse deforestation trends along our conservation area borders. With six vital micro-watersheds originating here, our forest conservation directly safeguards water resources downstream.

The mechanism's flexibility allows us to implement innovative approaches like agroforestry and silvopasture, ensuring conservation benefits both ecosystems and families. Through the CSN+ partnership, we're creating a model for lasting impact.

Eufemio Ilatoma Sánchez
Coordinator and Founder, Campesino Community of Copallín

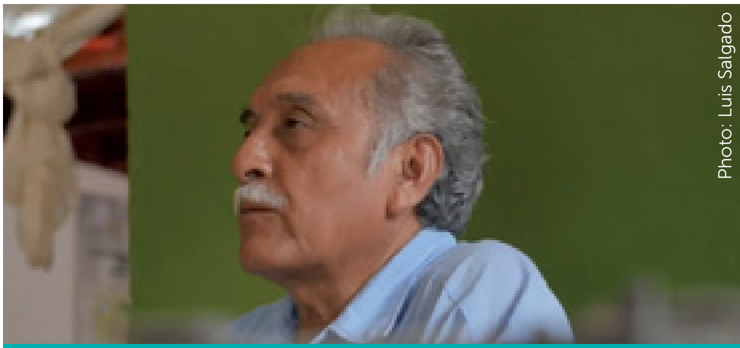


Photo: Luis Salgado

Eufemio Ilatoma Sánchez, Coordinator and Founder of Campesino Community of Copallín.

Agricultural Commodity Transformation Fund

II.3 ACT Fund in short

Photo: Adobe Stock

Transforming Agri-SME finance through the ACT Fund

The Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund is the CFC's flagship USD 100 million blended finance vehicle designed to catalyze sustainable growth for agricultural SMEs (agri-SMEs) in emerging markets. Through a combination of debt financing and technical assistance, the ACT Fund empowers agri-SMEs to strengthen rural livelihoods, promote climate resilience and enhance biodiversity across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The ACT Fund offers a tailored suite of financial instruments – including trade finance, working capital, and capex loans – to agri-SMEs that serve as vital links between smallholder farmers and high-value markets. A dedicated USD 10 million Technical Assistance Facility further supports investees with capacity building, regenerative agriculture practices, and supply chain traceability.

Impact strategy: driving inclusive regenerative agriculture

At the core of the ACT Fund's impact strategy is Inclusive Regenerative Agriculture (IRA) – an approach designed to boost smallholder incomes while addressing climate and biodiversity challenges. The fund integrates IRA through tailored loan financing and technical assistance, enabling agri-SMEs to adopt practices like no-till farming, crop rotation, and agroforestry.

These techniques improve soil health, sequester carbon, and enhance climate resilience. The strategy emphasizes inclusivity – particularly empowering women farmers – and is underpinned by a robust monitoring framework to measure outcomes such as productivity, environmental restoration, and improved livelihoods across smallholder communities.

SDG aligned impact

With the goal to finance 50–70 SMEs, the fund aims to deliver USD 216 million in direct payments to smallholder farmers cultivating 275,000 hectares of farmland sustainably while 1.6 million Mt of CO2 is targeted to be sequestered. With ACT's financing an additional 23,000 formal jobs will be created at rural SMEs.

Progress made in 2024

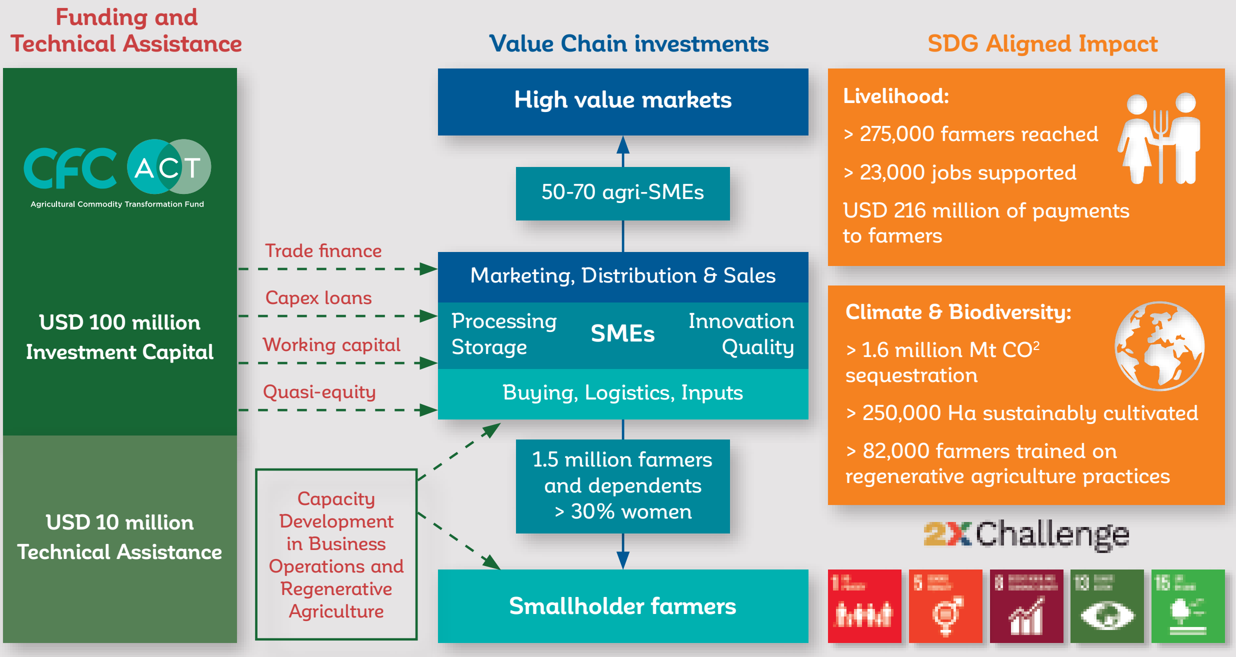
Building on the progress achieved in 2024, we're entering a pivotal phase as we move toward the ACT Fund's first closing. As we continue making strides, we want to share key updates highlighting recent milestones and the momentum driving us forward.

Fundraising Progress

Investor interest in the ACT Fund continues to grow. Four investors are currently active in the ACT dataroom, with one investor already passing its initial approval for an investment. We remain confident in securing sufficient commitments for the Fund's first close later this year. Additionally, with the support of the CFC TA Management team, we are actively fundraising for the ACT Technical Assistance Facility.

Dealflow Pipeline

A robust dealflow pipeline is one of ACT Fund's key strengths as an established lender in our sector. Currently, we have a total of USD 36 million in debt deals ready for investment. The first transactions will be executed promptly following the Fund's first closing.



Key ACT Fund Achievements to Date

Major achievements that are propelling the ACT Fund forward:

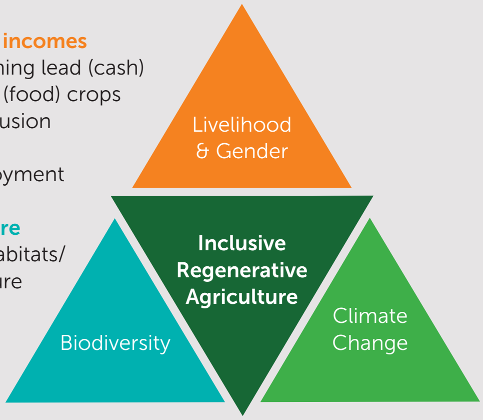
- **Junior tranche approved** – The CFC board approved a USD 20 million commitment to the first-loss tranche.
- **Legal structure & documentation completed** – Full legal documentation is in place and available for investor review.
- **Data room available** – Investors are actively utilizing the dataroom for due diligence.
- **Core team established** – A dedicated team is now operational in Amsterdam and Africa, with plans for further expansion post-closing.
- **Investment committee appointed** – A strong, independent investment committee is selected.
- **Service providers onboarded** – Our legal advisor and external fund administrator have been selected.
- **Climate & Impact Strategy developed** – We have formulated a position paper on ACT's Inclusive Regenerative Agriculture strategy, which underpins our Theory of Change. This paper has been reviewed by external experts and is available for interested investors.
- **Active investor engagement** – Several investors are in discussions, supported by ACT's dataroom containing key fund documentation.

With momentum building toward the launch of the ACT Fund, we are proud of the strong foundation we've built and remain committed to creating high-impact investment opportunities. The ACT Fund is more than a financial vehicle – it's a chance to leave a lasting legacy by transforming lives, protecting biodiversity, and combating climate change.

To the businesses and brands that thrive because of the hard work of smallholders and grassroots communities – this is your fund too. Here's your opportunity to give back to those who fuel your success, ensuring they thrive alongside you. Whether you're an individual, corporation, or private-sector leader, join us in this transformative journey. Invest in their future, strengthen your legacy, and drive measurable social, environmental, and financial returns.

Increased smallholder farmer incomes
- Diversification from combining lead (cash) crops with complementary (food) crops
- Female empowerment/inclusion
- indigenous communities
- Inclusive and decent employment

Biodiversity positive agriculture
- No conversion of natural habitats/ deforestation-free agriculture
- Biodiversity enhancing multi-cropping
- Agroforestry and shade-tree agriculture



Climate change resilience: adaptation and mitigation
- Rotational and multi-cropping systems combining food and cash crops
- Mulching, cover crops and conservative tilling
- Minimal/no chemical inputs
- Habitat conservation practices
- Living soils
- Shade tree inclusion

Photo: Women select coffee beans, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. © FAO/Eduardo Soteras

III.1 Humanizing the Value Chain (HVC): justice in every transaction

Behind every cup of coffee, every smartphone, and every piece of clothing lies an uncomfortable truth: Our global economy runs on systemic inequality. The farmers, miners, and factory workers who produce the goods that fuel modern life, too often earn pennies while corporations reap billions. This is not an accident of markets; it is the inevitable result of value chains designed to extract wealth from the vulnerable, and concentrate it in the hands of a few.

The Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC) initiative of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) confronts this injustice head-on. By leveraging technology, policy, and ethical business practices, HVC rewires supply chains to ensure fair compensation reaches the people at foundation. But this is more than an economic recalibration; it is a moral reckoning. Poverty is not inevitable; it is engineered. When a farmer works full-time yet cannot feed their family, when a garment worker sews luxury brands but cannot afford basic healthcare, that is not a market failure – it is theft disguised as commerce.

We live in an age of staggering abundance, yet billions remain trapped in preventable deprivation. The HVC model proves another world is possible: one where every transaction honours dignity, every link in the chain strengthens justice, and no one's labour is valued at less than what is required for a humane life. The challenge before us is not technical; it is a test of conscience. Will we cling to systems that treat exploitation as efficiency? Or will we build an economy where value flows justly, from the first mile to the last?

The CFC has long advocated for ensuring that smallholders and workers receive a fair share of the global commodity market. The HVC initiative represents a pioneering effort toward this goal. By integrating Micro-repatriation, blockchain-enabled traceability, and consumer engagement, the initiative offers a practical solution to redirect value back to producers. The HVC initiative was featured in the newsletter section of the CFC Annual Report 2023 entitled *'Humanizing the Value Chains through the Power of Digital Innovation.'*

CFC MISSION

To contribute to poverty alleviation by strengthening the income-generating capacity of commodity producers and mitigating risks to their economic well-being.

Structural issues in the global value chain

Those who have amassed the most power and capital bear the greatest responsibility for the deep and persistent poverty that afflicts the global economy: political elites who have failed to protect vulnerable communities; corporate executives who have engineered supply chains to maximize profit at the expense of human dignity; lobbyists who have obstructed fair regulation in favor of self-interest, and investors and landowners who extract value while excluding the poor from its returns.

Just as climate change is not only driven by major emitters and extractive industries but also by the energy we consume and the products we buy, inequality in global value chains is not solely the result of boardroom decisions or trade treaties. It is also embedded in the everyday choices we make: what we purchase, what we demand, and what we ignore. The Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC) approach calls us to confront this reality, to build systems where farmers earn a fair price, workers receive a living wage, and dignity, not just efficiency, becomes the measure of success.

Smallholder farmers, who grow much of the world's coffee, cocoa, and other staples, remain trapped in a system that is rigged against them. They face a "take-it-or-leave-it" market where intermediaries and multinationals dictate poverty-level prices while absorbing most of the profits.

- **Coffee:** Ethiopian farmers earned **less than USD 1/kg** (below the poverty line) in 2022, while climate disasters destroyed harvests.
- **Cocoa:** Ivorian growers got just **USD 2/kg** in 2024, though global prices hit **USD 11/kg.**

This is not volatility; it is **exploitation by design**. Farmers cannot invest, adapt, or escape poverty when the system steals their fair share. The question is not why change is needed, but who will act to bring it about.

Why minimum wages are not enough

When smallholder farmers earn less than a living wage – a wage sufficient for decent living standards – they face impossible choices between fertilizing crops or feeding children, between repairing homes or paying medical bills. Their labor puts food on our tables, yet too often leaves their own families hungry. This is not just an economic imbalance; it is a fundamental breach of human dignity. This wage suppression perpetuates cycles of poverty, limiting long-term economic development and forcing many producers into precarious working conditions.

A **living wage** is the minimum income necessary for a worker and their family to afford a decent standard of living. Unlike minimum wages, which are often set by law, a living wage reflects the real cost of living in a specific region. It includes essential expenses such as food, housing, healthcare, education, transportation, and a small margin for unexpected events or savings.

An instance from the garment sector exemplifies how traditional market structures fail to ensure fair wages without significantly raising consumer costs. In Bangladesh, despite a recent increase in the minimum wage for garment workers to USD 113 per month (Fair Labor, 2023), far below the estimated living wage of USD 238 per month (Global Living Wage Coalition, 2024). This is underscored by the fact that this increase only came after a decade of sustained pressure to improve conditions in the industry, particularly after the Rana Plaza building collapse in 2013, a tragedy that killed over 1,100 garment workers and injured thousands more.[1] In the wake of global outrage, the Bangladeshi government committed to improving labor standards and has since raised the minimum wage multiple times. The most recent rise marked a 56% increase from the previous rate of USD 75, which had remained unchanged since 2018.[2] While these policy changes reflect progress, the reality on the ground reveals that wages remain far below what is needed.

The power of choice: how HVC makes ethical action effortless

At its heart, the HVC initiative is not about mandates, it is about creating meaningful choice. If a coffee drinker in Berlin wants to thank an Ethiopian farmer, or a shopper in New York wishes to support a Bangladeshi seamstress, why shouldn't that option exist? HVC makes this connection simple, transparent, and guaranteed, with every cent reaching its intended recipient.

[1] https://www.lacommunis.org/en/bangladesh-struggle-for-minimum-wage-and-decent-working-conditions/
[2] https://www.onlineclothingstudy.com/2023/12/bangladesh-raises-monthly-minimum-wage.html

Photo: Women select coffee beans, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. © FAO/Eduardo Soteras

This is not charity; it is 21st-century accountability. Uber and Lyft did not just change how we move; they normalized embedded Micro-repatriation, making it easy for customers to support workers directly. Or take restaurants in America, where it accounts for 50% to 90% of a server's income. That is how powerful frictionless generosity can be. HVC brings this same model to global supply chains. The technology exists; what is missing is the will to implement it.

For forward-thinking brands, this is a historic opportunity. While ride-hailing apps made Micro-repatriation drivers universal, HVC lets companies pioneer the next ethical standard:

- ✔ **Prove authenticity in an era of greenwashing**
- ✔ **Build loyalty with conscious consumers (68% pay more for ethical goods)**
- ✔ **Future-proof against coming 'living wage' regulations**

When customers can see, appreciate, and uplift the people behind products with a phone tap, we shift from passive consumption to active solidarity, one revolutionary transaction at a time. The question is not whether this will happen, but which brands will lead the change.

A win for brands: authenticity without added cost

For brands, adopting the HVC model is not about absorbing new costs or sacrificing margins; it is about unlocking untapped value. The infrastructure for traceability and Micro-repatriation integrates seamlessly into existing supply chains, requiring minimal operational adjustment. In fact, this initiative creates a powerful competitive edge: brands that embrace HVC can differentiate themselves as leaders in ethical transparency, attracting the growing segment of conscious consumers who prioritize fairness alongside quality. Studies show that consumers are willing to pay more for products with verified social impact, meaning HVC does not eat into profits; it expands market share and builds long-term loyalty. By giving customers, the option to directly support workers and farmers, brands do not just sell products, they sell trust, connection, and a story worth paying for. This is the future of commerce, where profit and purpose are not at odds, but aligned.

HVC unlocks a powerful differentiator in crowded markets: **proof of ethical impact**.

- **Coffee brands** using HVC can show consumers exactly which farmers grew their beans, and let customers directly reward them. In an industry where 44% of consumers seek ethically sourced coffee (Fairtrade Foundation, 2023), this builds loyalty beyond marketing claims.
- **Cocoa companies** gain an edge with Gen Z shoppers, 75% of whom prioritize sustainability (McKinsey, 2023). Imagine a chocolate bar with a QR code linking to the Ghanaian farmer who harvested its cocoa, and an option to micro-repatriate it. That is storytelling no ad campaign can match.
- **Fashion retailers** combat greenwashing by verifying fair wages in their factories. With 66% of consumers willing to pay more for sustainable apparel (Nielsen, 2023), HVC turns ethics into a revenue driver, not a cost.

The math is simple: HVC helps brands **charge a premium, reduce churn, and future-proof their supply chains**, all while letting consumers fund the change. No profit sacrificed, just impact multiplied.

By providing transparent traceability through technologies like blockchain, consumers gain a clear, verified view of the journey their products take, and the people involved at every step. But transparency alone is not enough. The next crucial step is to **translate this visibility into tangible support** for those producers and workers whose efforts often go unseen and unrewarded. This is where ***Micro-repatriation*** comes in: by connecting traceability with a direct financial channel, the Humanizing the Value Chains initiative empowers consumers to not only understand the story behind their purchases but also to actively contribute to improving the livelihoods of the individuals who make those products possible.

Humanizing the Value Chains An initiative driven by consumer demand for a way to acknowledge producers' hard work through Micro-repatriation – an option the free market often overlooks.

HVC leverages technology to create transparent and equitable supply chain systems, ensuring fair compensation and value distribution to marginalized producers and workers, while addressing systemic injustices and restoring dignity and justice.

How HVC works

At its heart, HVC reimagines how value is distributed in global commerce:

- **Micro-repatriation** reframes these payments as a fair share, an act of restorative justice that repairs systemic imbalances, ensuring those who are most marginalized receive tangible, traceable benefits.
  - Unlike traditional Micro-repatriation, often perceived as charitable, **Micro-repatriation reframes these payments as a fair share**, an act of restorative justice that addresses systemic imbalances, ensuring that those marginalized receive tangible, traceable benefits.
- **Blockchain technology** ensures tamper-proof traceability by verifying that funds reach producers, providing transparency into working conditions, and powering real-time supply chain dashboards that track every step from origin to destination.
- **AI analytics** help brands and regulators identify wage gaps and align pricing models with actual living costs in production regions.

Micro-repatriation

Micro Repatriation is the digital mechanism by which a small, voluntary portion of each purchase is ***repatriated***, returned directly to the hands of the producers and workers who create value at the very start of the chain.

Not charity, but rights

They are a **return of rightful income** and **dignity** that the current market system withholds.

Direct and transparent

Every cent is traceable – building trust for brands and consumers.

Restoring balance

Small amounts, big impact – millions of micro-contributions can help close the living wage gap without disrupting global trade.

Photo: A worker at a sewing machine. Adobe Stock

For too long, global value chains have been engines of extraction, drawing value from the communities who produce the world's goods and concentrating prosperity far from their origin. With Micro-repatriation, we flip the script: instead of merely extracting, we actively return value where it was created. This is not only a remedy to injustice, but also a smart reinvestment in the long-term resilience of supply chains. So, our answer is clear: We must move from extraction to fair repatriation, transaction by transaction, to take control of the 'value' in the value chains.

Or if seen from another angle, the distinction is crucial. Extraction treats smallholders and workers as resources, from whom efficiency and profit must be squeezed, often leaving them behind in poverty.

Repatriation, on the other hand, recognizes their foundational role and ensures that value flows back to those who generate it. Micro-repatriation is the mechanism that makes this practical, visible, and scalable: a direct, transparent return of value to the producers, farmers, and labourers who are all too often excluded from the upside of global trade.

Take the example of Shabana, a dedicated garment worker in Bangladesh. She takes pride in her craftsmanship, having stitched a high-quality piece of clothing now hanging in a store in Amsterdam. Yet, despite her skills and dedication, Shabana still struggles to provide for her family. Her daughter is at risk of dropping out of school because the family cannot afford tuition, and her home, damaged by seasonal floods, remains unrepaired.

Meanwhile, a customer halfway across the world, in Seoul or Amsterdam, buys that very garment. Moved by the story behind the product and the face behind the label, the customer wishes they could send Micro-repatriation of USD 1 or USD 2, as a gesture of gratitude. Today, however, there is no channel to make that human connection. The HVC initiative seeks to bridge this very gap, giving consumers the power to express appreciation beyond just the transaction, and giving workers like Shabana the opportunity to receive additional income that can make a tangible difference in their lives.

This shift in mindset will humanize supply chains by reconnecting products with people and empowering ethical consumers to be part of a fairer global economy. By fostering visibility and value for the invisible hands behind everyday goods, the HVC model offers a real, scalable solution to promote dignity, recognition, and shared prosperity across global trade.

How HVC complements the EU's DPP leadership

The EU's **Digital Product Passport (DPP)**, a cornerstone of the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)**[3], is already demonstrating its transformative potential. By mandating traceability for textiles, batteries, and electronics, the DPP has already given the Humanizing the Value Chains (HVC) initiative a vital foundation.

Take **H&M Group**, one of the first major brands piloting DPP for garments. Their early experiments with traceability, such as scanning a dress tag to see factory locations, align perfectly with HVC's mission. But while DPP reveals where a product was made, HVC adds the missing human dimension: who made it, under what conditions, and how consumers can directly improve those workers' lives.

HVC goes further, connecting the stories behind the product directly with the consumer. Through embedded Micro-repatriation and verified wage data, HVC transforms the DPP's

[3] The **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)**, which entered into force on 18 July 2024, aims to make products more environmentally sustainable and circular.

Photo: Asian workers in garment factory. Adobe Stock

transparency into tangible pathways to living income, turning passive disclosure into active empowerment. The EU has laid the tracks; now, with HVC, we can ensure the journey ends in fair wages, not just visibility. This synergy turns compliance into a **competitive advantage**. The DPP has given us the infrastructure; HVC delivers its **human purpose**. This synergy proves that regulation and innovation can work together – and that the next step, from traceability to economic justice, is within reach.

The ESPR's next phase could formally link DPP to living wage verification, a move supported by the German Supply Chain Act and upcoming EU corporate sustainability rules. HVC offers a ready-made tool to operationalize this vision.

Narrowing the gap to a living income

Every day, 524 million pieces of garments are sold globally, produced by approximately seventy-five million garment workers, 75% of whom are women. If just USD 0.50 in Micro-repatriations were collected per garment sold, this could translate into an additional USD 3.49 per worker per day, or about USD 105 per month. This would raise their monthly income to approximately USD 218, narrowing the gap to just USD 20 short of a living wage. With slightly higher Micro-repatriation amounts, workers could even surpass the living wage threshold, demonstrating how small contributions at the consumer level can lead to transformative impacts for millions.

Humanizing garment value chain with Micro-repatriation

524 million units of apparel were purchased per day worldwide
Produced by 75 million people, of which 75% are women

Additional income from increase in price

	+ USD 0.50	+ USD 0.75	+ USD 1.00	+ USD 1.50	+ USD 2.00
Yield	USD 262,000,000	USD 393,000,000	USD 524,000,000	USD 786,000,000	USD 1,048,000,000
Worker/day	USD 3.49	USD 5.24	USD 6.99	USD 10.48	USD 13.97
Worker/month	USD 104.70	USD 157.20	USD 209.70	USD 314.40	USD 419.10
Worker/year	USD 1,273	USD 1,911	USD 2,551	USD 3,825	USD 5,100

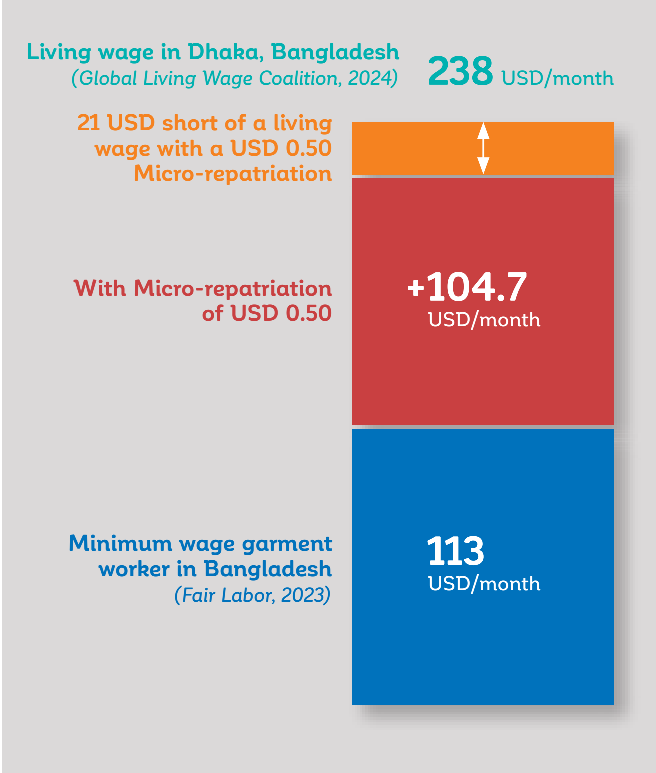
This model is not limited to garments; it can be applied across other sectors such as coffee, cocoa, and other agricultural commodities, where producers face similar income disparities. Without access to this kind of direct financial support, workers like Shabana remain trapped in poverty. Despite her skill and hard work, she cannot afford to send her children to school or repair her flood-damaged home. Micro-repatriation offers not just additional income, it offers dignity, choice, and a pathway toward a more stable and humane livelihood.

The power of pennies: how small changes can unlock billions for coffee farmers

The global coffee industry is a USD 460 billion market, with three billion cups consumed daily, yet the twenty-five million smallholder farmers who grow the beans often survive on less than USD 2/day. The math reveals an astounding opportunity: if just ten cents more per cup reached farmers instead of intermediaries, it would generate:

- USD 300 million daily (USD 109.5 billion annually) for the coffee farmers
- A 600% income boost for growers that now earn USD 14 per day.

How Micro-repatriation could help workers narrow the income gap



Humanizing coffee value chain using innovations

3 Billion cups of coffee consumed per day worldwide
Produced by ***25 million*** farmers

Increase in price (cents)

	1¢	1¢ 1¢	1¢ 1¢ 1¢	1¢ 1¢ 1¢ 1¢	1¢ 1¢ 1¢ 1¢ 1¢
Yield	USD 30,000,000	USD 60,000,000	USD 90,000,000	USD 120,000,000	USD 150,000,000
Farmer/day	USD 1.20	USD 2.40	USD 3.60	USD 4.80	USD 6.00
Farmer/month	USD 36	USD 72	USD 108	USD 144	USD 180
Farmer/year	USD 432	USD 864	USD 1,296	USD 1,728	USD 2,160

Humanizing opportunity in every chocolate bar

Imagine a German consumer scanning a chocolate bar. Through the blockchain-enabled Digital Product Passport (DPP), they see Kouamé's portrait alongside his story of cocoa farming. The consumer is then offered the option to micro-repatriate USD 1 (100% of the amount going directly to Kouamé). As an added incentive, the brand rewards consumers with messages like: *"You've supported 5 farmers, here is your discount."*

This approach goes beyond corporate storytelling. It anticipates regulatory requirements such as the European Union's forthcoming Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), which mandates demonstrable fair wages across value chains. It addresses concerns of greenwashing by replacing generic sustainability labels with transparent, verifiable impact.

Moreover, it aligns with consumer behaviour, as 68% of EU consumers are willing to pay more for ethically sourced chocolate (Fairtrade, 2023). In doing so, it transforms regulatory compliance into a source of competitive advantage.

The DPP has established the groundwork. HVC builds upon it, creating a future in which every chocolate bar sold not only documents the supply chain but also honours and uplifts the individuals behind it.

Let's move forward

The value chain is more than a series of transactions; it is a network of human lives. By recognizing our role in it, we can shift from passive participation to active transformation. The goal is not perfection, but progress: each small choice, multiplied across millions, can rebuild an economy rooted in dignity rather than extraction.

The Humanizing the Value Chains proves that **a fairer world is built transaction by transaction**, when we pause to see the hands that grow our coffee, stitch our clothes, and harvest our cocoa, and when we ensure their labour is met with dignity, not exploitation. This is not about charity, but **justice woven into commerce**; not about disruption, but **course-correction toward shared prosperity**. Every product carries a story; now is the time to rewrite it, one purchase, one Micro-repatriation, one conscious choice at a time. The future of trade must be measured not just in profit, but in **lives uplifted**. Together, we can make fairness the foundation, not the exception.

Join the movement. Demand transparency. Choose humanity. The power to redefine value chains starts with you.

To discuss how we could work together, contact us at managing.director@common-fund.org

III.2 Investing in biodiversity: a path to resilient ecosystems and sustainable returns

Introduction

Biodiversity loss is one of the most urgent environmental crises of our time, undermining the health of ecosystems that sustain both human and animal life. As habitats shrink and species vanish, the world is losing its natural capital – resources essential for food security, clean water, and climate stability. This article delves into how CFC can help counteract these losses by investing in biodiversity, while creating a pathway to ecological and economic resilience at the grassroots of commodity value chains.

With the potential to improve rural livelihoods, enhance ecosystem services, and generate sustainable returns for investors, biodiversity investment offers a compelling opportunity for financial institutions. Organizations such as the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) are uniquely positioned to drive this transformation by supporting agribusinesses that promote biodiversity through agroforestry and regenerative practices. Such initiatives not only strengthen climate resilience for smallholder farmers[1] but also contribute to more sustainable agricultural value chains.

[1] Smallholdings or small farms are defined as those of less than two hectares of land. Research in 2021 concluded there are more than 608 million farms globally, with small farms accounting for 84% of all farms and producing roughly 35% of the world's food. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X2100067X?via%3Dihub

As the financial case for biodiversity-focused investments grows, agricultural small and medium enterprises (agri-SMEs) and investors can play a key role in assessing biodiversity-related risks and opportunities. By integrating biodiversity into investment strategies, financial institutions and agri-SMEs can drive measurable poverty reduction as well as environmental and social impact while addressing one of the most critical challenges of our time.

Enhancing biodiversity through ACT Fund

Biodiversity investments are often held back by challenges such as underdeveloped markets for secondary products, perceived high short-term costs, additional labour requirements, and limited data on the tangible impacts of biodiversity-enhancing measures. Yet, forward-looking impact investors and innovative agri-SMEs are actively breaking down these barriers, revealing the untapped potential of biodiversity to deliver sustainable growth for smallholder farmers.

The paragraph *'Blended finance for biodiversity investments'* highlights the transformative potential of the Common Fund for Commodities' (CFC) Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund. This fund is designed to accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices among smallholder farmers across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. By focusing on agribusinesses dedicated to making a positive social, economic, and environmental impact, ACT Fund works to enhance biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, and increase incomes for the world's most vulnerable farmers. Through targeted financing and technical assistance, ACT Fund aims to create lasting, scalable change, empowering smallholders to thrive within regenerative ecosystems that sustain both people and planet.

In addition, we explore how Colcocoa, a Colombian processor and exporter of cocoa beans in the CFC's portfolio, encourages and supports biodiversity throughout its network of growers.

What is biodiversity?

Article 2 of The Convention on Biological Diversity defines biodiversity as: *'The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.'*

Photo: Kennemer Foods International

A crucial moment for biodiversity

Biodiversity provides essential natural services such as pollination, climate regulation, and nutrient cycling. It also plays a vital role in human well-being, from food security to medicine discovery. For a number of reasons now is a critical time for biodiversity and the people who depend on it:

Significant loss – Since 1970 there has been a 69% decrease in the global populations of various species, according to a 2019 IPBES report and WWF's Living Planet Report (2022).

Systemic risk – The WWF has estimated that inaction on biodiversity could result in cumulative costs of USD 10 trillion up to 2050 through changes in agricultural yields, extreme weather events, and the loss of potential medicines (Johnson et. al., 2022).[2,3] For example, it's calculated that losing pollinators at a global scale would result in a loss of 5–8% of all global crop production (Khalifa, et. al. 2021).

Uncertain tipping points – It is difficult to predict the moment an ecosystem will stop functioning, which is why it is important to take a precautionary approach now before it's too late.[4]

Valuable natural capital – The economic value of everything that comes from air, soil and water is now estimated to be USD 125-140 trillion, or 1.5 times global GDP.[5] Approaching nature as a capital resource may reverse its exploitation and halt depletion (Dasgupta, 2021).

Driving change through investment

Unlocking investment in biodiversity has a key role to play in addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss such as agriculture. The concept of financing biodiversity emerged alongside the economics of biodiversity during the 70s (Dasgupta, 2021).

They led to new asset classes and a shift in how organizations measure economic success to include protecting the environment. This progress is evident in several ways:

- International agreements, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), signed by 196 nations and solidified by the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).[6]
- The 2020 launch of the Finance for Biodiversity (FfB) Foundation which has brought together 170 financial institutions, representing more than EUR 22 trillion in assets.[7]
- Agribusinesses increasingly adopting sustainable practices such as regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, driven by compliance, differentiation, and profitability (Dasgupta, 2021).
- Smallholders increasingly engaging in biodiversity-friendly practices because of improved farm economics, standards compliance, land tenure, and access to markets (Torquebiau, ed., 2024).

Harnessing biodiversity to improve smallholders' livelihoods

The interdependencies between nature and agriculture are still being understood, but there is growing evidence that biodiversity can directly improve smallholder livelihoods (Torquebiau, ed., 2024).

To unlock these benefits, donor-funded programmes, financial institutions, and agri-value chain actors must integrate biodiversity, climate resilience, and smallholder empowerment, aligning their efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), GBF, and other global sustainability frameworks (WWF, 2022). The CFC looks to integrate relevant biodiversity measures in its operations.

Effective biodiversity projects address multiple goals simultaneously. They support diversified farming systems that enhance ecosystem health, climate resilience, and smallholder incomes through products such as honey and medicinal plants, while recognizing the essential role of indigenous and local communities in ecosystem conservation.

Financial institutions are beginning to recognize the importance of these synergies. The CFC's ACT Fund is one such example, financing agri-SMEs committed to expanding regenerative practices within their networks. The Fund benefits from the CFC's decades of experience supporting agri-SMEs that deliver positive economic and environmental outcomes, such as Kennemer Foods International[8]. The Philippine-based grower and trader of cacao beans works with smallholders to implement sustainable farming practices and increase incomes, while running initiatives such as a reforestation programme.

[2] https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2020/06/30/biodiversity-in-the-balance.html
[3] https://www.dnb.nl/media/4c3fqawd/indebted-to-nature.pdf
[4] https://www.oecd.org/env/resources/biodiversity/biodiversity-finance-and-the-economic-and-business-case-for-action.htm
[5] https://www.oecd.org/env/resources/biodiversity/biodiversity-finance-and-the-economic-and-business-case-for-action.htm
[6] https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/cop15-ends-landmark-biodiversity-agreement
[7] https://www.financeforbiodiversity.org/
[8] https://common-fund.org/cocoa-carbon-credits-kennemers-innovative-vision-shared-success

An increased focus on biodiversity in agriculture

Food production is the largest driver of biodiversity loss and agriculture poses a threat to 86% of species at risk of extinction.[9] This has intensified efforts to enable agricultural activities that support biodiversity.

In response, several targets have been designed to reshape the global food system:[10]

- **Target 3:** Conserve and manage at least 30% of land, inland water areas, marine and coastal areas, including where it is used for agriculture, by 2030.
- **Target 18:** Cut incentives harmful to biodiversity on the remaining 70% of land by USD 500 billion annually, while increasing positive incentives.
- **Target 10:** Ensure sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry, to preserve ecosystem services.
- **Target 15:** Businesses and financial institutions to assess, disclose, and reduce their biodiversity-related risks and impacts.
- **Target 19:** Raise at least USD 200 billion annually for biodiversity, using private finance and innovative solutions such as payments for ecosystem services.

For meaningful progress on biodiversity, public and private sectors must work together. Financial institutions often prioritize sustainable practices in agri-SMEs, while public bodies focus on protecting natural areas. This lack of coordination limits what's possible and wastes potential.

Where collaboration does occur, the results speak for themselves. In Uganda, ECOTRUST's restoration of ecological corridors evolved from a conservation project into a profitable model by attracting agribusiness investment and creating carbon and biodiversity credits.[11]

Better alignment among public bodies, investors, and agri-SMEs will unify efforts toward shared biodiversity goals, empowering smallholders to protect and sustain their land.

Unlocking the biodiversity investment opportunity

The role of biodiversity standards and guidance

A recent survey of 557 investors found that 46% are primarily focused on the risks posed by nature across their portfolios, while 37% are focused on opportunities arising from nature such as direct investments in nature improvements, markets or solutions). Only 18% were considering both (Pollination, 2023b).

However, formalized standards are emerging that may help to tilt the balance towards biodiversity investment opportunities by providing a greater level of certainty for investors, including:

- **Nature Target Setting Framework (FfB Foundation)**[12]: Guides asset managers in setting goals and tracking biodiversity loss drivers, such as pollution, resource use, and land/water changes.
- **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)**: Offers tools to assess nature's state and risks, promoting advanced biodiversity footprinting for financial institutions (TNFD, 2023).
- **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**: Provides standards for biodiversity reporting, including the new GRI Biodiversity Standard 2024.[13]
- **Partnership for Biodiversity Accounting Financials (PBAF)**: Supports 60 financial institutions in assessing biodiversity impacts, aligning with TNFD's LEAP approach and aiding GRI and CSRD reporting.[14]

Initiatives such as TNFD are making nature-related guidance accessible to organizations of all sizes worldwide. Its LEAP framework[15] empowers teams to identify nature interfaces, evaluate dependencies and impacts, assess risks and opportunities, and prepare for effective reporting on nature issues.

By integrating these assessments into their financial models, institutions like the CFC can proactively address nature-related risks, such as:

- Production disruptions from declining ecosystem services.
- Investment defaults affecting credit stability (The Sustainable Finance Platform, 2020).
- Financial risks from biodiversity losses impacting markets, regulations, and reputation (The Sustainable Finance Platform, 2020).

[9] https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/our-global-food-system-primary-driver-biodiversity-loss
[10] https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets
[11] See ECOTRUST's description of the Mobilizing More for Climate programme https://ecotrust.or.ug/kra-2/mobilizing-more-for-climate/ and an article on its bio-credits programme https://carbon-pulse.com/206290/
[12] https://connect.financeforbiodiversity.org/hubfs/Docs/FFB_Guidance_on_nature_target_setting_Framework_for_Asset_Managers_and_Asset_Owners.pdf
[13] https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/standards-development/topic-standard-project-for-biodiversity/
[14] https://www.pbafglobal.com/standard
[15] https://tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Guidance_on_the_identification_and_assessment_of_nature-related_Issues_The_TNFD_LEAP_approach_V1.1_October2023.pdf?v=1698403116

Photo: Amazon Rainforest in Anavilhanas National Park, Amazonas, Brazil. Adobe Stock

Risks and opportunities for agri-SMEs and small farmers

There is an element of risk with all forms of agriculture including those that support biodiversity. Agribusinesses should assess biodiversity impacts as a key component of natural capital to mitigate financial and environmental risks for them and the farmers they work with[16]. These could include:

- **Higher costs and lower yields:** For example, some pineapple agroforestry systems established in Mexico three centuries ago are maintaining up to 88% of the natural forest cover and about 70 species of woody plants, but only deliver 10% of the production volumes of modern systems (Torquebiau, ed., 2024).[17]
- **Delayed returns in multi-crop systems:** These systems require significant upfront investment, long maturation times, and market demand for multiple products.
- **Off-farm restoration costs:** Investing in off-farm biodiversity, such as ecological corridors, adds complexity and potential risk.
- **Climate change pressures:** By 2050, climate change may reduce the viability of crops such as coffee at lower altitudes, causing land-use conflicts as cultivation shifts upwards into areas of natural forest.[18]

However, if these risks are addressed effectively, investment by financial institutions and agri-SMEs in biodiversity can unlock significant opportunities (UNEP, 2023). These include:

- **Regulatory compliance:** Ensuring investees avoid harming biodiversity, deforestation, or marine ecosystems reduces legal and regulatory risks.
- **Ecosystem insurance and sovereign lending:** Examples include Barbados' debt-for-nature swap fund to finance long-term marine conservation.[19]
- **Biodiversity credits and innovative finance:** Tools such as sustainability-linked bonds and conservation loans support regenerative agriculture, benefiting biodiversity and smallholder livelihoods (UNEP, 2023).[20]
- **Strengthening of the missing middle:** Expanding affordable funding for agri-SMEs that struggle to access finance, known as the 'missing middle', enhances biodiversity and smallholder resilience.
- **Brand value through consumer demand:** UEBT's 2022 Biodiversity Barometer shows 54% of consumers prioritize biodiversity information on product packaging.[21]
- **Higher yields:** In Honduras, maize intercropped with beans and inga trees on degraded land yielded 350 kg more maize per hectare than monocultures, while boosting biodiversity (Torquebiau, ed., 2024).[22]
- **New revenue streams:** In Bolivia, a dynamic agroforestry system introduced by cocoa farmers in 1997 unexpectedly created strong market demand for fruits such as copoazú and asaí, significantly enhancing family incomes (Torquebiau, ed., 2024).[23]

[16] https://capitalscoalition.org/guide_supplement/biodiversity-4/
[17] The agroforestry system produces around 20 diverse products – such as avocados, bananas, coffee, and wood – bolstering food sovereignty and self-sufficiency. Since 2012, six million native trees have been planted across nearly 6,000 hectares.
[18] https://www.sustaincoffee.org/assets/resources/CountryProfile_Climate_Coffee_ALL.pdf
[19] https://www.iadb.org/en/news/barbados-places-climate-financing-firmly-agenda-idb-nature-conservancy-support
[20] https://www.biofin.org/index.php/news-and-media/ensuring-nature-positive-insurance
[21] The Biodiversity Barometer is a large survey of 1,000 people in each target country: Brazil, China, France, Germany, UK, USA. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/577e0feae4fcb502316dc547/t/6409db549975dd4b6aa32da1/1678367585952/UEBT+Biodiversity+Barometer+2022.pdf
[22] The Inga Foundation promotes the 'inga agroforestry model' which supports the first investments in trainings and nurseries, and provides key inputs.
[23] By systemically pruning the companion trees an increase in mean cocoa yield was achieved, from 138 to 590 kilograms dry beans per hectare (625 cocoa trees per hectare). Yields of companion crops also increased.

Pushing the boundaries of biodiversity investment

Innovative approaches to investing in biodiversity are evolving to amplify the benefits noted above.

Biodiversity credits

Biodiversity credits are tradable financial tools that reward positive biodiversity outcomes by funding measurable benefits for specific land or ocean areas.[24] Part of the expanding environmental market, they complement carbon credits and nature-based solutions (Pollination, 2023b).

Current biodiversity credit initiatives include 26 private sector-led, five government-led, and several independent projects (Pollination, 2023a). To grow this market, the British and French governments launched the International Advisory Committee on Biodiversity Credits[25] in 2023 to mobilize investment and establish standards, particularly for marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Blended finance for biodiversity investments

Achieving ambitious biodiversity targets requires innovative funding, risk-sharing partnerships, and the CFC is working to develop new models of blended finance.

The CFC's Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund exemplifies this approach. With a goal to invest USD 100 million in agri-SMEs across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, it promotes inclusive regenerative agriculture to enhance biodiversity and boost smallholder incomes.[26] ACT Fund aims to expand regenerative farming and forest-preservation to 275,000 hectares, providing USD 10 million in technical assistance to implement climate-smart practices such as multi-cropping, minimal tilling, cover crops, and agroforestry.

This is strengthened by ACT Fund's partnership with the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS), an initiative launched by the United States government, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the African Union.

Photo: Coffee Plantation in Manizales, Caldas, Colombia. Adobe Stock

[24] https://www.mirova.com/fr/idees/position-paper-instruments-de-marches-environnementaux
[25] https://iapbiocredits.org/
[26] https://www.common-fund.org/ACT-Fund

It aims to build a resilient food system grounded in diverse, nutritious and climate adapted crops grown in healthy, fertile soils. The CFC's contribution is its strong pipeline of proposals; it will identify viable VACS-aligned investment opportunities that are suitable for ACT Fund financing and technical assistance from VACS.[27]

Development Impact Bonds (DIBs) offer another promising model for mobilizing blended finance. DIBs combine private, public, and philanthropic funds to achieve specific environmental outcomes, with investor returns linked to verified results. The Asháninka Impact Bond in Peru, led by the CFC, illustrates this model by funding sustainable cocoa and coffee production to reduce deforestation and enhance ecosystem health, benefiting local communities and biodiversity.[28,29]

Colcocoa – strengthening biodiversity and livelihoods30

Colcocoa is an example of biodiversity investment in action. The Colombian cocoa trading company, founded in 2012 and supported by the CFC, partners with nearly 2,000 families in 12 cooperatives to advance sustainable cocoa farming, improve livelihoods, and protect biodiversity. Through its Echar Pa'lante programme, Colcocoa drives positive impact based on economic, social, and environmental metrics, focusing on healthier soils and increased biodiversity to create productive cocoa plantations.

In addition, the company's PlanT initiative promotes reforestation and carbon capture through a marketplace for carbon credits that is verified by global institutions and rewards small farms for environmental contributions. To date, PlanT has planted more than 47,000 trees, sequestering 2,400 metric tons of CO_2 on 71 hectares, and is now expanding to biodiversity conservation.

These activities align with the GBF by supporting agroforestry and regenerative practices, while enabling their assessment. They also ensure compliance with critical standards such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Gabriela Alvarez, Colcocoa's co-founder, says the company is guided by GBF goals: "We're working to 'translate' these goals into agronomic, economic, and social levers on the ground."

However, Colcocoa faces challenges in aligning financial market expectations with the lengthy timescales of biodiversity efforts. While metrics such as hectares under restoration and CO_2 sequestration show clear environmental gains, financial systems must recognize biodiversity's long-term value for Colcocoa's work to be fully integrated into its programme and Theory of Change. All parties should also be careful not to place too great an implementation and reporting burden on producers with few resources.

The company's proactive measures are helping to address these concerns and meet investor expectations. And by positively impacting nature and local communities, Colcocoa is creating a business case for biodiversity. In Gabriela's words: "Investing in biodiversity is fundamental, as the alternative has dire consequences."

Conclusion

This paper demonstrates just the tip of the powerful potential of investing in biodiversity and outlines key actions that could drive momentum. Increasing private investment in biodiversity-positive strategies has a critical role to play in closing the biodiversity finance gap, while expanding pilot projects will strengthen best practices for agri-SMEs and bolster the business case for financial institutions.

Investors can build on existing successes to streamline biodiversity integration and maximize synergies between climate and biodiversity efforts (UNEP, 2023). While governments can support this shift by redesigning or eliminating subsidies that harm biodiversity and adopting proactive policies that drive positive outcomes (Deutz et al., 2023).

Financial institutions also need to deepen their understanding of biodiversity-related risks and opportunities. Developing meaningful metrics and performance indicators is essential to support financial products that benefit biodiversity (Deutz et al., 2023).

Today, many biodiversity investments are driven by forward-thinking agri-SMEs and investors. However, recent regulations and accessible tools are mobilizing broader participation, moving the sector closer to a sustainable, long-term alignment with nature.

[27] https://www.common-fund.org/cfc-collaborates-us-department-state-vision-adapted-crops-and-soils-vacs-unlock-private-sector
[28] https://common-fund.org/completed-project-sustainable-cocoa-and-coffee-production
[29] https://golab.bsg.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-bank/case-studies/ash%C3%A1ninka-dib/
[30] Colcocoa and its initiative (sister company) PlanT were also covered in the 2022 article 'Promoting the role of smallholder farmers in the mitigation of climate change' https://www.common-fund.org/sites/default/files/Publications/CFC_AR_21_brochure.pdf

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Illustration: biodiversity. Adobe Stock

Photo: Woman stall holder at Fujoni market in Zanzibar, Tanzania. © FAO / Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala

IV

IV.1 Report on progress of **projects under implementation**

Whether natural resources are a blessing or a curse depends on how a country uses and manages them. The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) is mandated to make use of a country's commodities in ways that will bring income and prosperity for its people and the planet. CFC works to bring more income and productivity for the smallholders through a nexus between smallholders and the SMEs (small and medium enterprises) to localize the development through alleviation of poverty. In doing so, we try to provide priority to countries where poverty is widespread as are in LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

CFC implements projects in partnership with governments, international organisations, and other development partners from both private and public sectors. These partnerships support commodity development measures and actions that promote and accelerate the development, expansion, and modernisation of commodity sectors so that elements of commodity dependence can be addressed.

A country is considered to be commodity export dependent when more than 60 per cent of its total merchandise exports are composed of commodities. Given that commodity dependence can have a negative impact on a country's economic development, it is important to monitor the evolution of such dependence in countries throughout the world.

The CFC supports innovative commodity development financial interventions aimed at improving the structural conditions in markets and at enhancing the long-term competitiveness and prospects of particular commodities inter alia including:

- increasing earnings to sustain real incomes;
- enhancing sustainability in commodity value chain activities;
- promoting value addition and enhance the competitive position of marginalised participants in the value chain;
- contributing to enhancing food security; and
- promoting production, productivity, trade, quality, transfer and use of technology and diversification in the commodity sector.

The CFC exercises due attention to the fact that agriculture is a place-based activity and the strategies that reflects the local innovations clusters need to be acknowledged and factored in. As price takers, smallholders remain vulnerable to the fluctuation of the market and thereby making our job even harder.

Commitments, financing and disbursements

The operational guidelines of the Common Fund were originally adopted under the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities and entered into force in 1989. They remained in force until 31st December 2012. Under these operational guidelines, the Fund approved financing for 217 Regular projects, plus a further 150 Fast Track projects, totalling 367 projects, with an overall cost of USD 606.5 million. The Fund financed USD 245.7 million of this total (excluding cancelled projects)*. CFC financing accounts for about 41% of the overall project cost. The balance of the project costs was co-financed by other institutions and by counterpart contributions, either in cash and/or in kind (USD 360.8 million or about 59%), provided by the Project Executing Agencies, collaborating institutions, governments, or International Commodity Bodies (ICBs). Financing of projects by the Common Fund under the original operational guidelines comprises USD 231.8 million in grants (94%) and USD 13.9 million (6%) in loans[1].

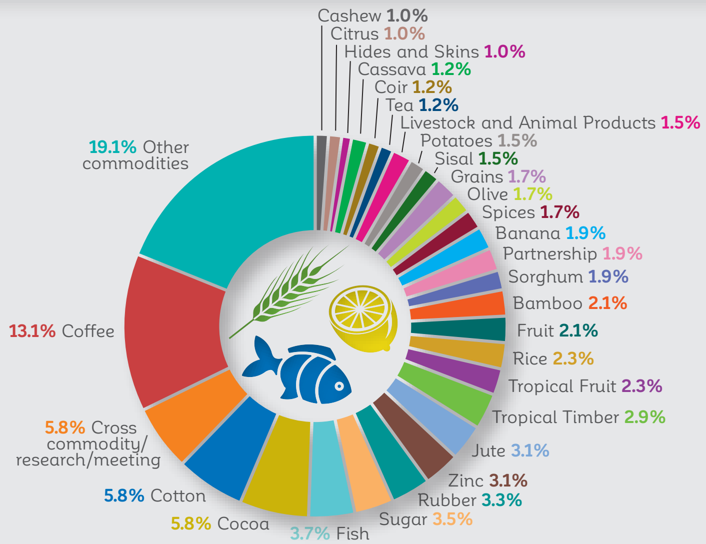
Recognizing the new challenges and opportunities facing the CFC Member Countries, led to adoption of the reform package of the CFC, including updated operational guidelines which became effective on 1 January 2013. Under the new operational guidelines, the Fund currently has 86 Regular projects plus a further 27 Fast Track projects, (a total of 113 projects) at various stages of preparation and implementation, with an overall cost of USD 480 million. In addition, the Fund is participating in 9 Investment Funds with Equity and partnership financing, which together have the total assets under management of USD 723 million. Of the total project cost of USD 480 million, CFC contribution totals USD 98.8 million or about 21%*. The balance account was paid as co-financing and/or counterpart contribution by the proponents under the new operational guidelines. The Fund financing comprise of USD 94.4 million in loans/ equity etc. (95%)and USD 4.4 million in grants (5%)[1].

According to the Fund's audited statements, the direct project related disbursements in 2024 (unaudited) stood at USD 0.19 million as a grant and USD 15.26 million as loan/equity etc. (for both Capital Account and Operations Account)[2]. Special efforts are in place to streamline the components of the Agreements between the Fund and the Recipient of resources to reduce the delays between the approval of the project and commencement of actual implementation on the ground and more of these efforts will be in place in 2024.

The CFC has funded projects addressing over 71 different commodity products, in partnership with investment funds and equity investors. The commodities funded include abaca, arachis, bamboo and rattan, bananas, cashews, cassava, castor seeds, citrus, cocoa, coconuts, coffee, coir, copper, cotton, fish, fonio, groundnuts, gum arabic, hides and skins, jute, lead, maize, meat and livestock, medicinal herbs and plants, olives, palm oil, paprika, potatoes, rice, natural rubber, shea nuts, sisal, sorghum and millet, soybean, cane sugar, tea, timber, tropical fruits, spices, and zinc. Most of these are produced almost entirely in developing countries and in partnership with investment funds, among which are the Africa Agriculture & Trade Investment Fund (AATIF), African Agriculture SME Fund, Eco Enterprise Fund, Moringa Agroforestry Fund, SME Impact Fund, and agRIF Cooperatief U.A.

Distribution of Projects per Commodity

as of 31 December 2024*



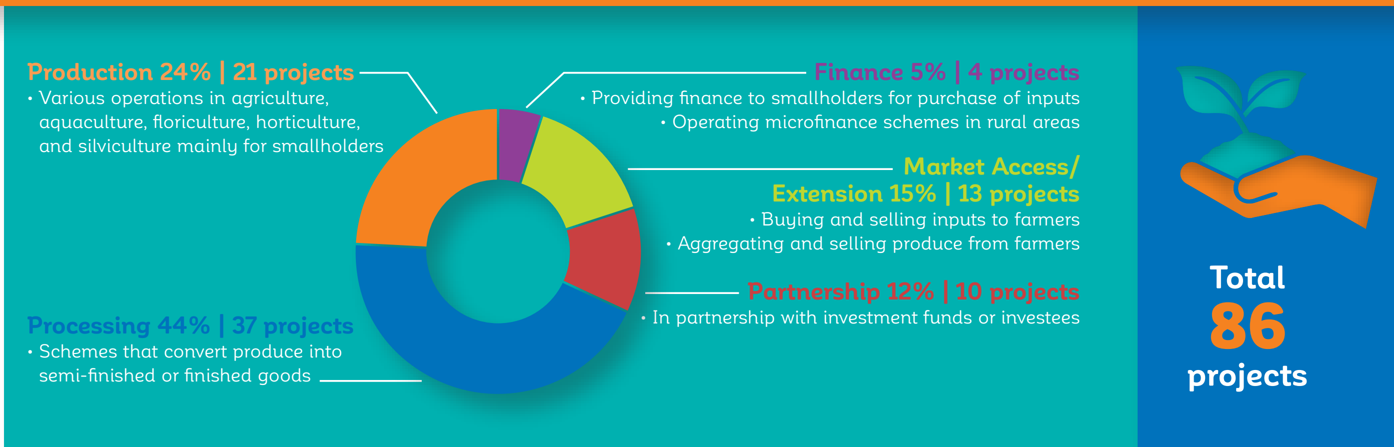
*Total number of commodities reported – 70 commodities (excluding Cross commodity/research/meeting)

CFC-supported regular projects by type

The types of projects have been reclassified following the reform of the CFC in 2014, reflecting a greater emphasis on public-private sector cooperation. The focus is on the commodity value chain, and to monitor its integration into various related activities, the CFC classifies its funded projects into the following categories. The table below presents the classification of 66 regular projects at various stages of implementation or in the preparatory phase.

[1] As reported to the 36th Meeting of the Governing Council (CFC/GC/36/3)
[2] For the year ending 31 December 2024

Distribution of regular projects by value chain*



*Since 2013

As of 31 December 2024, a total of 226 regular projects had been financially closed. The financial resources recovered from completed CFC grants/loans projects are returned to the pool of Second Account resources or the First Account Net Earning Initiative once the project account is closed and are available to finance new projects.

Participation of Private Sector: Private companies provide social, technical, commercial, and financial contributions to projects funded by the CFC, driving greater innovation. Furthermore, to promote and assess the developmental impact, replicability, and sustainability of project results, both within and across countries, relevant private companies are required to document, report, and communicate their findings. This includes both operational and financial performance, as well as the impacts achieved. In the past, over 150 private firms have shared the results of their CFC projects at dissemination workshops, whilst many other operating companies are actively involved in recording, establishing, and maintaining consistent and systematic reporting of impact in projects or interventions that receive CFC financial support. The private sector's interest in technical cooperation with CFC projects is growing daily. Proposals from the private sector seeking finance for specific commodity development activities are also on the rise.

CFC works with the UN agencies: As an organization born out of the UNCTAD (UN Trade and Development) process, CFC always remain engaged with UNCTAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the Office of Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) etc. Our aim is to identify and implement innovative measures to enable the sustainable contribution of the commodity sector to economic development, including ways to reduce vulnerability to volatility in commodity prices, as well as to enhance activities in developing countries to improve access to markets.

CFC for innovation: With our base in the in the innovation rich the Netherlands, It is natural that CFC will endeavour to act as a bridge between the developing and the developed world to transfer technology and innovations. It is expected that a good number of portfolios are enriched by Dutch/European entrepreneurs and businesses, which we wish to present as an example of win-win enterprises in our quest to create agripreneurs in the developing world. Countries in the developing world face significant technological challenges, but they also have increased access to a larger pool of scientific and technical knowledge than was previously available. CFC endeavours to take advantage of this innovation and scientific knowledge as it explores local innovations as well as indigenous knowledge.

Overall, the state of commodity dependence remained as persistent, if not more so, than in previous years. As per latest UNCTAD report on commodity dependency 2023, between 2019 and 2021, only 12% of advanced economies were on the list, compared to a staggering 74% of the world's least developed countries. A total of twenty-nine out of the thirty-two nations classified as having low human development in 2021 were commodity dependent, according to the UN's Human Development Index. This gloomy update only makes a strong case for the continuity of the CFC, it also makes a much stronger case for significant enlargement of CFC's impact and reach.

IV.2 Operational & completed projects in 2024

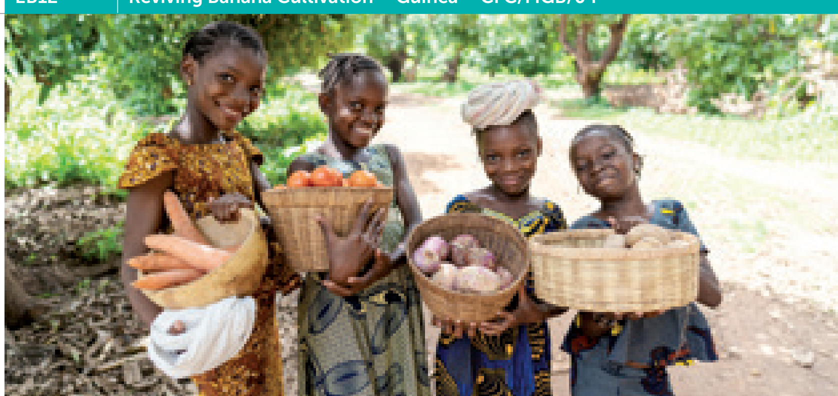


Photo: Adobe Stock

Photo: Local Cambodian seller in floating market. Adobe Stock

"Through its support for impact-driven, sustainable enterprises, the CFC is helping to transform commodity-dependent economies from the ground up. By empowering rural entrepreneurs, it is reshaping global value chains to be more inclusive, fair, and sustainable – proving that local solutions can drive meaningful global change."

Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya, (EB Chair)

Photo: Market in Praia, Island Santiago, Cape Verde. Adobe Stock

IV.3 Active projects in 2024

1. SME Agribusiness Development in East Africa – CFC/2012/01/0076 FA

Submitting Institution	**MatchMaker Fund Management (MMFM)**
Location	**Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia**
Commodity	**Miscellaneous**
Total Cost	**Euro 10,000,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 520,000 (Loan – First Account Net Earnings Initiative (FANEI))**
Co-financing	**Balance to be sourced from other consortium partners**

Project Description

The SME Impact Fund (SIF) provides meso-level financing to SMEs in agribusiness in East Africa. SIF provides financing as loans, from USD 65,000 to USD 650,000, with an average loan size of USD 200,000. SIF provides financing for SMEs in local currency, at competitive rates ranging between 18-20% per annum, for a period up to 60 months. Project partners are currently Dutch NGO's like Hivos and Cordaid, and private investors including MatchMaker Associates (MMA). The local banking partner is National Microfinance Bank (NMB) Bank of Tanzania, which gives SIF strong outreach to cover rural districts in Tanzania. Technical partners include Financial Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST), MatchMaker Associates (MMA), and Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) with Business Development Services (BDS) project. The target fund size could not be reached in the second closing, and the fund is scheduled for final exit in 2025. However, through the investments, SIF has reached 19,000 smallholder farmers and supported 2,500 jobs. SIF estimates that it has supported the livelihood of 98,000 beneficiaries through its investments.

2. Partnership with the Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF) – CFC/2012/01/0268 FA

Submitting Institution	**Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF)**
Location	**Africa**
Commodity	**Miscellaneous**
Total Cost (Target Fund Size)	**N/A (Evergreen Fund)**
CFC Financing	**USD 2,000,000 (Equity – First Account)**
Co-financing	**Main other current investors are the EU, KFW and Deutsche Bank. The associated grant based Technical Assistance (TA) Facility is being financed by the German Ministry for Development Cooperation and Economic Development (BMZ).**

Project Description

The Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF) is an innovative public-private partnership dedicated to realising the potential of Africa's agricultural production and related manufacturing, service provision and trade through sustainable investments across the entire value chain. AATIF investments foster agricultural value chain enhancement and is complemented through a TA Facility that provides grant funding for projects to strengthen the developmental aspects of individual investments. This TA Facility is managed by the CFC under a service agreement.

AATIF was established in 2012 and thus far the TA Facility develops an average of nine TA projects per year with project budgets ranging from EUR 6,000 to EUR 500,000. The TA Facility is providing support to investee companies that focus on enhancing direct impact beyond the company itself, specifically targeting lower-income communities. This type of TA support assists AATIF investee companies to create local economic opportunities and employment, for example through the establishment of a smallholder farmer outgrower scheme. The TA Facility also supports investee companies with advisory and technical support that improve business operations and efficiency, as well as capacity development of staff.

3. Commercial Meat Processing/Marketing in Lagos – CFC/2013/02/0042 FT

Submitting Institution	**ESOSA Investments Ltd.**
Location	**Nigeria**
Commodity	**Livestock**
Total Cost	**USD 250,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 120,000 (Zero interest loan)**

Project Description
ESOSA Investments Ltd. is a small-scale meat processor operating in Lagos, Nigeria. In 2015, the CFC provided a USD 120,000 loan to support ESOSA in (i) acquiring additional processing equipment, (ii) increasing its profit and product diversification by introducing a range of new snacks, pastries etc., and (iii) strengthening its local supply chains by providing 100 pig farmers with improved breeds and training in improved animal husbandry.

The intervention is expected to create new employment opportunities for about 500 farmhands while the Fulani nomadic cattle herdsmen are also expected to benefit from the advantages of an enhanced commercial beef production.

4. Partnership with the Africa Agriculture SME Fund (AAF-SME) – CFC/2013/02/0084 FA

Submitting Institution	**Africa Agriculture SME Fund (AAF-SME)**
Location	**Africa**
Commodity	**Miscellaneous**
Total Cost (Target Fund Size)	**USD 80,000,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 2,000,000 (Equity)**
Co-financing	**Other main investors: Agence Française de Développement (AFD), PROPARCO, Spanish Government (AECID) and African Development Bank (AfDB)**

Project Description
The AAF-SME Fund is Africa's first Impact Investing Fund with a focus solely on food producing and processing Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs) throughout the continent. AAF-SME is being complemented through a Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) that provides grant funding with an emphasis on the establishment of out-grower schemes. The CFC joined the Fund on the second close in May 2014.

The fund has invested in eight different agricultural SMEs across Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) that focus on different value chain segments, from mixed farming operations to organic fertilizer production. The proceeds are mainly used for follow-on investments for existing portfolio companies, till the fund is scheduled to close.

Through its investments, the AAF-SME fund has supported local employment and strengthened commercial relations of smallholders with AAF-SME funded companies, which source their raw materials for processing.

5. Partnership with the EcoEnterprises II Fund (EcoE II) – CFC/2013/02/0085 FA

Submitting Institution	**EcoEnterprises Partners II L.P. (EcoE II)**
Location	**Latin America**
Commodity	**Miscellaneous**
Total Cost (Target Fund Size)	**USD 40,000,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 500,000 (Equity)**
Co-financing	**Main other investors: Dutch Development Financial Institution (FMO), Interamerican Development Bank (IADB) and European Investment Bank (EIB)**

Project Description
The CFC joins the EcoE II fund to invest in small companies with a proven business model at expansion stage which are active in the sustainable agriculture and forestry (products) sector in Latin America. The targeted investee companies supply into a growing market for organic food products and certified wood predominantly in the US.

Since its first closure in 2011, the fund has disbursed in debt and equity investments across different portfolio companies, which are engaged in eco/organic niche products such as tea, juices, baby food and dried fruit. Overall, the fund has supported local employment and connected raw material smallholder suppliers. In addition, EcoE II's portfolio companies manage land in either a sustainable or conserved manner.

EcoE II is scheduled for final exit in 2025.

Photo: Dried fruit. Adobe Stock

6. Partnership with the Moringa Agroforestry Fund – CFC/2013/02/0086 FA

Submitting Institution	Moringa Agroforestry Fund S.C.R.
Location	Latin America/Africa
Commodity	Miscellaneous
Total Cost (Target Fund Size)	Euro 100,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,349,613 (Equity)
Co-financing	Main other current investors: FMO, PROPARCO, Spanish Government (AECID) and Latin American Development Bank (CAF)

Project Description

The CFC provides equities to the Moringa Agroforestry Fund (Moringa) which seeks to invest agroforestry projects in Africa and Latin America. These projects are expected to commercially compete with deforestation drivers such as cattle ranching, crop farming and timber harvesting. At the same time, Moringa investments are required to have a demonstrable positive impact on the environment and the livelihoods of local populations, while generate a clear positive impact on local populations and the environment. Moringa investments were complemented through a Technical Assistance (TA) Facility managed by the CFC, the TA Facility was closed effective as of 31 December 2024.

Through its investments, Moringa targets a total of 8,000 new jobs created with an income effect on 35,000 dependents. In addition, about 60,000 out-growers are expected to be associated to commercial investments of Moringa, with a development impact on 340,000 dependents.

7. Rural Injini (Engine) Inclusive Maize Trading & Processing – CFC/2013/03/0120

Submitting Institution	Joseph Initiative Ltd. (JI)
Location	Uganda (LDC)
Commodity	Maize
Total Cost	USD 1,929,000
CFC Financing	USD 500,000 (Financed by the Dutch Trust Fund)

Project Description

The project aims to support Ugandan smallholder farmers to efficiently bulk and process maize to sell to regional wholesalers. Joseph Initiative Ltd. (JI) takes an integrated approach to trading, combining rural collection centres with village buying agents to collect maize in small quantities from remote farmers and making payments to them on the spot.

JI's business model concentrates on 'bottom of the pyramid' farmers producing 1 metric ton or less per year, as they are below the aggregation thresholds for commercial traders. A reliable market and access to inputs and finance will increase farmers' incomes. Inclusion of a large number of producers, increasing productivity and potentially reducing the current 40% post-harvest losses could lead to substantial improvement in Uganda's food security.

8 and 9. Scaling Smallholder based Premium Coffee Production in Congo and Rwanda – CFC/2014/05/0079 and CFC/2014/05/0079 FT

Submitting Institution	COOPAC Holding Ltd.
Location	Congo DRC (LDC), Rwanda (LDC)
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 3,931,880
CFC Financing	USD 1,500,000 loan (of which USD 750,000 by the Dutch Trust Fund)
Counterpart Contribution	USD 2,194,660 – Root Capital; USD 87,220 – COOPAC Holding Ltd.

Project Description

COOPAC is an enterprise dealing in coffee production, processing, and export of premium specialty coffee. Founded in 2001 with 110 coffee farmers in the Gisenyi region in Rwanda, coffee beans are sourced from over 9,000 smallholder farmers in Rwanda and 7,000 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

COOPAC is among the few Rwandan coffee suppliers benefiting from 3 major coffee production standards: Fairtrade (FLO), Organic, and Rainforest Alliance.

Financing from the CFC allows COOPAC to increase its wet coffee-washing capacity in the DRC, a critical technique in producing quality coffee, and by adding value through processing and certification. Part of the loan is used for working capital purchases to scale sourcing of its organic coffee from smallholders in both countries. With the goal of scaling coffee production up to 16,600 farmers by 2024, COOPAC hopes to create much-needed jobs and improve smallholders' yield and net income.

10. Tolaro Global Cashew Factory Expansion, Benin – CFC/2015/06/0032

Submitting Institution	**Tolaro Global**
Location	**Parakou, Benin (LDC)**
Commodity	**Cashews**
Total Cost	**USD 5,464,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 1,500,000**
Co-financing	**Tolaro Global USD 464,637, other financiers USD 3,500,000**

Project Description
Tolaro Global is the leading cashew processing company in Benin. Founded in 2010, the company processes and exports more than 3,500 metric tons (MT) of cashews to premium markets in Europe and the United States, with a value of almost USD 4 million. The company buys raw cashews from 7,000 smallholder farmers and employs more than 650 workers, thus creating significant economic impact in Benin.

The CFC is financing the company's expansion plans. The project entails the acquisition of equipment to increase the processing capacity of Tolaro from 3,500 MT in 2018 to 20,000 MT by 2023. The number of farmers delivering raw cashew nuts to Tolaro is expected to increase from 7,000 to 15,000 by 2023. The number of factory jobs is expected to increase from 650 to 1,500 over the same period.

11. Accelerating Lending to Food & Agri sector in East Africa Supply Chain Financing – CFC/2015/07/0028

Submitting Institution	**Financial Access Commerce and Trade Services (FACTS)**
Location	**Kenya, Uganda (LDC)**
Commodity	**Miscellaneous Commodities through Supply Chain**
Total Cost	**USD 7,000,000[1]**
CFC Financing	**USD 1,200,000 (of which USD 200,000 by Dutch Trust Fund)**
Counterpart Contribution	**USD 10,300,000**

Project Description
Factoring, as a form of supply chain finance, can play a critical role in injecting much-needed short term liquidity in value chains. The demand for factoring services, which support producers and traders to scale activities, however remains largely unmet in many developing countries. Since 2015, FACTS has worked to counter this by servicing the factoring needs of SMEs in Kenya and Uganda.
In 2018, the CFC and FACTS East Africa B.V. signed a USD 1,200,000 loan agreement to support and scale FACTS' impact on agricultural value chain participants. FACTS continued service to its portfolio of clients through the COVID-19 pandemic with the backing of shareholders and creditors.

[1] Total Project cost is the outstanding factoring portfolio of the Company. In particular, since the CFC entered into a 9-month facility, the total project cost is considered for the outstanding factoring portfolio for the year 2019 only. The factoring portfolio for the year 2019 amounted to EUR 3.2 million.

12. Irrigated Perfumed Rice and Normal Rice Production in Thiagar, Senegal – CFC/2015/07/0030

Submitting Institution	**Coumba Nor Thiam (CNT)**
Location	**Senegal (LDC)**
Commodity	**Rice**
Total Cost	**Euro 3,150,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 1,459,800**
Counterpart Contribution	**USD 1,690,200**

Project Description
Coumba Nor Thiam (CNT) is the third largest rice processing company in Senegal, with 30 years' experience in the production and processing of normal and perfumed rice. Since 1987, CNT has been growing into a successful rice company, currently employing 2,500 outgrowers on 3,000 hectare (ha) of land and running a 500 ha own plantation in the Northern River Valley region. With a milling capacity of 120 ton/day, CNT is currently processing 15,000 ton/year of paddy rice.

CFC financing, part of which provided by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)), will be financing the purchases of farming and irrigation equipment, necessary for the upscaling of CNT's profitable rice milling business. After the investment, the company is expected to increase its processing capacity to 40,000 tons by 2026, while adding 750 smallholders to its outgrower network bringing the total to 3,250 farmers. In total 16 new processing jobs are expected to be created.

Photo: Adobe Stock

13. Upscaling the Integrated Production and Processing of Selected Estranged Oilseeds, Nigeria – CFC/2015/07/0032

Submitting Institution	EFUGO Farms Nigeria Ltd.
Location	Nigeria
Commodity	Oilseeds
Total Cost	USD 3,893,500
CFC Financing	USD 1,500,000
Counterpart Contribution	USD 2,393,000

Project Description

Efugo Farms Limited (EFL), is an agro-industrial company producing various crop and livestock products, established in 1987 and based in Abuja, Nigeria. The company has focused in the production of edible oils (from groundnuts, soybeans, sesame) and non-edible oils (from castor beans, shea butter and neem seeds), responding to the high domestic demand for such products.

Having already established a modern processing plant, Efugo sought financial support for the acquisition of crucial processing machinery and the procurement of seeds from smallholder farmers.

In line with Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) financing, the CFC term loan provides Efugo with both the necessary working capital for its sourcing activities and the funds needed for its CAPEX expansion. In the lifecycle of this project, Efugo will engage with more than 20000 smallholder farmers, while creating 110 additional processing jobs and providing a significant income source to about 500 youth/women engaged in the harvesting of neem seeds and shea nuts.

14. Commercial Farm, Uganda (Kapanua Project) – Asili Farms Ltd., Uganda – CFC/2015/07/0078

Submitting Institution	Asili Farms Masindi Ltd.
Location	Uganda (LDC)
Commodity	Maize
Total Cost	USD 3,361,229
CFC Financing	USD 1,200,000
Counterpart Contribution	USD 2,161,229

Project Description

Asili Farms is a mechanized farming company that manages dual-season production of high-quality maize and soybeans for supply to regional food processors. Asili became operational in January 2014 and is farming under a conservation agriculture and precision farming approach to maximize yields. The ultimate strategic goal of Asili is to have commercial farming operations on around 6,500 ha. As part of the Agilis Partners Ltd. Holding, Asili Farms (AF) benefits from the guaranteed demand from the sister-company Joseph Initiative Limited (JI, also a borrower of a CFC loan), which is marketing Ugandan grains and pulses with extensive regional market access.

CFC resources are used to further expand commercial farm operations as well as to scale out Asili's engagement in training small-scale farmers in commercial maize and soya production.

15. Start-up of Innovative Agriculture Finance Company for Cocoa, Philippines – CFC/2016/08/0064

Submitting Institution	Kennemer Foods International Inc.
Location	Philippines
Commodity	Cocoa
Total Cost	USD 11,600,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,400,000
Counterpart Contribution	USD 10,200,000

Project Description

Kennemer Foods International, is an agribusiness company specialized in the production, processing and trading of high-quality cocoa, sourced directly from smallholder farmers. Capitalizing on the knowledge and technology transfers, through its long-standing partnership with Mars, Kennemer sought to enhance its sourcing activities by enabling the plantation of new cacao trees, ensuring higher yields and better livelihoods for smallholders.

Nevertheless, access to finance remains a challenge for smallholder farmers in the Philippines, limiting their ability to undertake the essential investments for such an expansion. To alleviate this problem, Kennemer set up an affordable smallholder financing mechanism, through its subsidiary, Agronomika Finance Company.

Partnering with other impact investors, such as FMO, CFC provided the necessary funding for the operations of Agronomika. Smallholder beneficiaries are expected to improve their yield from 0.5MT/ha to 2MT/ha, increasing their average annual income from USD 625 to USD 3,750, while more than 50,000 hectares of new cacao trees will be planted.

Final repayment of the loan facility is scheduled for 2025.

16. agRIF Cooperatief U.A. – The Netherlands – CFC/2016/09/0089

Submitting Institution	agRIF Cooperatief U.A.
Location	Netherlands
Commodity	Partnership
Total Cost (Target Fund Size)	USD 200 million
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000

Project Description
AgRIF is an impact investing fund that focusses on debt and equity investments into financial intermediaries who are active in, and have a clear commitment towards, financing the agricultural sector. The fund addresses the scarcity of financial services in developing countries and seeks to enhance financial inclusion in the agricultural value chain, with a focus on smallholder farmers and rural Micro, Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

AgRIF invests globally in countries classified as eligible by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. While microfinance institutions are to be the major group of clients, agRIF will also invest in small banks, agricultural leasing companies and other financial intermediaries to the agricultural sector down to subsistence farmer level with individual loan size below USD 1,000. Up to 10% of its funds are allocated to debt financing of producer organizations and SMEs working in the agricultural value chains. agRIF is managed by Incofin Investment Management.

17. Acquisition of a processing plant for the aquaculture sector – Peru – CFC/2016/09/0122

Submitting Institution	Acuacultura Tecnica Integrada del Peru S.A. (ATISA)
Location	Peru
Commodity	Shrimp
Total Cost	USD 4,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,500,000 (Loan)
Co-financing	Acuacultura Tecnica Integrada del Peru S.A. (ATISA): USD 200,000 Owner: USD 1,850,000

Project Description
ATISA, is a shrimp aquaculture company located in Tumbes area, North Peru, led by a female entrepreneur who co-founded the business with her husband in 1997. Specialized in breeding, production, and distribution of premium shrimps, ATISA farms produces shrimps for both local and international markets and is recognised through its own brand called COOL!. ATISA is the first Peruvian company that obtained the GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture certification in 2016.

By investing in modern shrimp cultivation techniques and sustainable farming practices, the CFC supports ATISA's ambition to introduce organic shrimps and compliance with new social and environmental aquaculture certification standards. ATISA also intends to expand into shrimp processing to increase its offering of peeled shrimps, a high value product with less volatile commodity prices than unprocessed whole or headed shrimps.

18. Africa Food Security Fund – Ghana – CFC/2016/09/0124

Submitting Institution	Zebu Investment Partners
Location	Africa
Commodity	Partnership
Total Cost	USD 100 million
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000 (Equity)

Project Description
The Africa Food Security Fund (AFSF) is an impact investing fund that seeks to invest in small and medium size businesses (SMEs) active along the agricultural value chains across Africa with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. The fund's investment mainly focuses on primary production, agricultural input and service providers, as well as agro- and food- processing companies.

AFSF finished its second closure in 2020. The target capitalization has been set at USD 100 million and AFSF's lifetime is set for 10 years. The fund is the follow up fund of the AAF-SME Fund that commenced its operations in 2014 of which CFC invested USD 2 million. Main partners are CDC, DGGF, EIB, African AFDB, BOAD and BIDC as key institutional investors into AFSF.

19. EcoEnterprises Fund III – CFC/2017/10/0066

Submitting Institution	EcoEnterprises Fund
Location	Latin America
Commodity	Partnership
Total Cost (Target Fund Size)	USD 100,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000

Project Description

The EcoEnterprises Fund III (EcoE III) is an impact investing fund that invests in Latin American SMEs which source raw material from collectors or smallholder farmers for value added processing. The target sectors are sustainable agriculture, agro-forestry, aquaculture, and wild- harvested forest products. EcoE III seeks to invest in growing companies that cater for increasing demands for organic food products and certified wood in the US.

The CFC has become a shareholder of EcoE III at its first closure in late 2018. EcoE III is expected to make 18 long-term capital investments, size between USD 2-6 million, within an average duration of 6-8 years. EcoE III aims at the creation of at least 5,000 jobs and to connect 25,000 small-scale producers.

20. Formulation and fertilizer distribution for smallholder farmers, Côte d'Ivoire – CFC/2017/10/0111

Submitting Institution	AGRITEC S.A.
Location	Côte d'Ivoire
Commodity	Fertilizer
Total Cost	Euro 2,003,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,100,000
Co-financing	Coris Bank: Euro 530,000
Counterpart contribution	Euro 530,000

Project Description

Founded in 2010, AGRITEC S.A. is a distributor of agricultural inputs (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) and equipment (irrigation and spraying systems), based in Abidjan. The company has established a network of 60 sales outlets reaching up to 300,000 farmers across the country, providing them with crucial products for the increase of their productivity. To improve access to fertilizers for smallholder farmers located in remote areas, AGRITEC sought to build a dry bulk fertilizer blending and packaging station in Yamoussoukro.

Partnering with Coris Bank, CFC provided a USD 1,100,000 loan.This will provide resources for capital expenditures associated with the factory building and the purchase of relevant equipment. The successful project completion is expected to create 120 new jobs, while it is estimated that smallholders' productivity, accessing AGRITEC's inputs, will increase by 38%, resulting in a significant increase of their incomes.

21. Integrated Lime Production in Bahia – Brazil – CFC/2017/11/0005

Submitting Institution	Jan Stap B.V.
Location	Brazil
Commodity	Citrus Fruits
Total Cost	Euro 2,375,000
CFC Financing	Euro 1,000,000
Counterpart Contribution	Euro 1,375,000

Project Description

In 2012, the Torres group established its production of Tahiti limes in the municipality of Pojuca, in Bahia State, Brazil. The group entered the production business with the goal to vertically integrate and control its supply chain in order to obtain the Fair Trade and Global Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification.

In December 2018, the CFC signed a loan agreement with the subsidiary Jan Stap B.V., to support the expansion of the group's sustainable lime plantation. While providing an environmental alternative to consumers in Europe, the plantation also contributes directly to local income generation and economic conclusion in one of the poorest municipalities of Brazil.

Photo: Torres

22. Expanding the Vanilla Value Chain – Tanzania – CFC/2018/12/0066

Submitting Institution	**Natural Extracts Industries Ltd.**
Location	**Tanzania**
Commodity	**Spices**
Total Cost	**USD 1,800,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 500,000 (Loan)**
Counterpart Contribution	**Other impact financiers USD 1,300,000**

Project Description

Natural Extracts Industries (NEI) is a for-profit social enterprise producing, processing, and exporting green vanilla into vanilla pods and extracts to international traders and retailers in the flavours industry. NEI has created a vertically integrated vanilla chain since 2011 by directly sourcing from 5,000 smallholder farmers. Its team of agronomists and field officers are assisting the farmers with training in good agricultural practices and other services throughout the full cycle from planting of the vines, pollination of the flowers to harvest of green vanilla. NEI has planted over 200,000 vines to date and use mobile-based technologies to reliably trace the quality and origin of vanilla on farmer level.

The CFC has extended a USD 500,000 working capital loan ensuring its farmers direct access to markets amid the challenges of COVID-19 and declining global vanilla prices. More than 5,000 farmers are expected to benefit from NEI's inclusive sourcing model over the facility's 5-year tenor.

23. Livestock Farming Cameroon – CFC/2018/12/0022

Submitting Institution	**West End Farms**
Location	**Cameroon**
Commodity	**Livestock**
Total Cost	**USD 2,000,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 1,000,000**
Counterpart Contribution	**USD 1,000,000**

Project Description

West End Farms is an integrated mixed farming SME company, based in Yaounde, Cameroon. Established in 2001, WEF has gradually developed to the largest commercial pork producer of the country adding to local food security. The company also grows maize, cassava and soya on a 300ha fully mechanized farm to produce feed for its porkers. Operating in a country which traditionally has been a net pork importer and where the efforts of local farmers to increase domestic production are hindered by poor infrastructure and high cost of feed, WEF endeavoured to upscale its business model.

Joining the Africa Agriculture SME Fund (AAF-SME), CFC provided WEF USD 1 million for the financing of the construction of a modern finishing facility in Yaounde as well as supporting working capital needs. CFC financing will enable WEF to increase its annual production from 8,000 to 20,000 animals, while 60 new jobs will be created, 40 % of which female.

24. Olivado Working Capital Kenya – CFC/2019/14/0027

Submitting Institution	**Olivado**
Location	**Kenya**
Commodity	**Fruits**
Total Cost	**Euro 1,500,000**
CFC Financing	**Euro 500,000**
Co-financing	**AgriFI Kenya: Euro 1,000,000**

Project Description

Olivado EPZ ('OEPZ') is a Kenyan fresh avocado trader and the world's leading producers of organic extra virgin avocado oil. It operates an integrated farmer-to-market model sourcing the avocados directly from over 2,800 smallholder farmers. The avocado oil is sold for export to traders and retailers in over 30 countries. In 2019, the company installed a biogas plant to utilize all waste and by-products from the avocado oil production to produce energy and fertilizer.

The CFC has extended a trade finance loan to accommodate the increasing international demand for responsibly farmed organic avocado oil. The loan will be used to buy more avocados from the existing farmers and to integrate some 160 new smallholders into Olivado's value chain each year. Every farmer who sells avocados to Olivado joins the certified organic and fair trade program, gaining access to extensive agronomic training programs, 95% guaranteed offtake agreements, and cash advances.

25. Fruits and Spices Madagascar – Working Capital – CFC/2019/15/0010

Submitting Institution	SCRIMAD GROUP
Location	Madagascar
Commodity	Fruits
Total Cost	Euro 2,400,000
CFC Financing	Euro 1,200,000
Co-financing	Euro 1,200,000

Project Description

Created in 1993 and based in a Least Developed country (LDC)-Madagascar, Scrimad is focused on aggregating and processing organic fruits and spices, sourced from local smallholder farming cooperatives. Over the last 5 years, SCRIMAD has been transformed from a small family business to a leading processor and exporter of fruit and spices from Madagascar, establishing significant strategic partnerships with actors such as Ethiquable, a French cooperative specialized in fair trade products.

The CFC financing to Scrimad provides the company with the working capital necessary to meet the growing demand for its products and increase its overall operational capacity and profitability. During the duration of this facility, the number of Scrimad smallholder suppliers is expected to increase from 2,000 to 3,000.

26. Goldtree – Sierra Leone – CFC/2019/15/0022

Submitting Institution	Goldtree Sierra Leone Ltd.
Location	Sierra Leone
Commodity	Palm oil
Total Cost	USD 2,600,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000
Co-financing	USD 1,600,000

Project Description

Goldtree Sierra Leone Ltd., established in 2007, is a palm oil producer now strategically repositioned to serve the growing global demand for certified organic crude palm oil (CPO), which commands a price premium and demonstrates lower price volatility compared to conventional palm oil. The company's supply base includes plantation farms and close to 10,000 organic and RSPO certified smallholders. With improved agronomic practices and high-yielding varieties introduced across both outgrower and nucleus farms, Goldtree aims to increase its CPO output to above 10,000 MT, targeting premium markets in Europe and Asia.

In 2023, a USD 1,000,000 trade finance facility was signed with Goldtree to support their growing sourcing and export of organic and deforestation free palm oil.

27. High quality cocoa from communities – Colombia – CFC/2020/16/0021

Submitting Institution	Cafexport Colombia S.A.R.L.; Hacienda la Tentación SAS
Location	Colombia
Commodity	Cocoa
Total Cost	USD 2,518,630
CFC Financing	USD 1,384,630
Co-financing	USD 1,134,000

Project Description

Cafexport's cocoa trading business was established in 2012 under the brand name Colcocoa to export fully traceable and certified sustainable cocoa beans to. At the time, Cafexport already exported coffee to major corporate buyers. With support of the CFC, Cafexport is looking to expand its own cocoa trading activities and cocoa production in Colombia. For this, the CFC has committed both a trade financing facility and an investment loan.

The project aims at reaching over 1,500 additional smallholders and providing them with off-take opportunities to significantly boost incomes. The additional income generated for smallholders is estimated to amount to USD 1,905 per year. Besides, by providing agronomic advice, reached smallholders can significantly increase crop yields and improve diets. In a region with very scarce formal employment opportunities, the project targets creating 20 permanent jobs, of which 40% are planned for women.

Photo: Elephant grass. Adobe Stock

28. Scaling-up export of natural & handmade home decoration products – Bangladesh – CFC/2020/16/0036

Submitting Institution	**Classical Handmade Products**
Location	**Bangladesh**
Commodity	**Natural Fiber**
Total Cost	**USD 2,000,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 1,000,000**
Co-financing	**Incluvest BV: USD 1,000,000**

Project Description

Classical Handmade Products BD ('CHP' or the 'Company') is a privately held company producing home decoration products from indigenous raw material such as seagrass, elephant grass, jute. The Company was incorporated in 2008 by Mr. Tauhid, who currently is the owner and the CEO of the Company. Finished goods are exported to Europe and the USA.

CHP operates a decentralized business model. CHP is operating in the Northern part of Bangladesh, with 20 decentralized units in Rangpur and Bogra, with a primary production facility in Nilphamari. Jessore is the only location in the South of Bangladesh. The Company employs 1,500 people, and provides regular work to about 2,500 people, mostly women, located in various rural villages.

The market of handmade home decoration is dominated by developing countries; internationally Bangladesh competes with Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Pakistan and Indonesia. China competes by selling quasi-industrial products. The competitive advantage of the Company is its decentralized business model that promotes economic inclusion.

The Company intends to scale up its operations, and the intended investments aims at increasing its production capacity and current volumes of sales by 3x during the course of the investment.

29. Scaling processing and export of macadamia oil and nuts (Exotic) from smallholder farmers – CFC/2020/16/0038

Submitting Institution	**Exotic EPZ limited**
Location	**Kenya**
Commodity	**Macadamia Oil and Nuts**
Total Cost	**USD 2,200,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 1,100,000**
Co-financing	**USD 1,000,000**

Project Description

Exotic EPZ Limited ('Exotic') is a female owned agribusiness from Kenya, processing and exporting macadamia nuts and oils to the European market. The company sources unprocessed macadamia nuts-in-shell directly from over 1,300 smallholder farmers. The nuts are aggregated in over 10 collection points distributed in over 10 counties in Kenya. In the factory in Nairobi the nuts are dried, processed and then exported. The company's main customer is Red Rivers Foods, a leading U.S. supplier of premium and ethical nuts and specialty snacks.

Kenya is currently the third-biggest producer of macadamia nuts, after South Africa and Australia. The growing global demand for the nuts stems from their versatility, as it can be used in various food products such as cakes and sweets. It can also be converted into oil to be used in food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics products.

Exotic was acquired by current 3 female owners mid-2017 and is the sole women-owned processor and exporter of macadamia nuts in Kenya, in a sector being traditionally male dominated. The company's mission is to source, produce and supply the finest quality products in the nuts and oils value chains whilst empowering small-scale producers, particularly rural women farmers.

The CFC approved a total of USD 1,100,000 loan financing to Exotic. In February 2022, a USD 600,000 million trade finance loan agreement with Exotic was signed for the purpose of pre-financing macadamia nuts with certain buyers including Red Rivers Foods. The remaining USD 500,000 loan financing from the CFC is not yet signed and its purpose is for increasing production capacity at Exotic processing facility in Nairobi.

30. Carbon-neutral processing of avocados and avocado oil – CFC/2020/17/0008

Submitting Institution	Olivado EPZ Ltd.
Location	United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya
Commodity	Avocado
Total Cost	Euro 2,000,000
CFC Financing	Euro 1,000,000
Co-financing	Euro 1,000,000

Project Description

Olivado EPZ ('OEPZ') is a Kenyan fresh avocado trader and a leading producer of organic extra virgin avocado oil. It operates an integrated farmer-to-market model sourcing the avocados directly from over 2,800 smallholder farmers and installed a biogas plant in 2019 to produce biogas and fertilizer from the avocado waste generated through the oil processing.

Ensuring complete traceability from farm to bottle, Olivado has a rigorous farm-to-market system reliably tracing the quality and origin of avocado on farmer level. A dedicated team of field officers regularly visit the farms and support the farmers during cultivation. To exploit unmet market demand for avocados and avocado oil, the company is expanding its carbon-neutral business model to Tanzania. The Tanzanian oil extraction plant, Olivado Tanzania EPZ Limited, commenced operations in 2020.

The loan will allow Olivado to further grow its farmer-to-market model based on a Fairtrade and Organic certification scheme and pay smallholders in advance. Through this strengthened relationship with the CFC, Olivado expects to include up to 5,000 smallholder farmers in its inclusive small farmer program in Kenya and Tanzania, enjoying premium prices and a secure income. Olivado will be one of the few, if not the only, carbon positive Agri-processor in Kenya.

31. Enimiro Integrated Value Chains – Uganda – CFC/2021/18/0027

Submitting Institution	Enimiro
Location	Uganda
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 1,800,000
CFC Financing	USD 800,000
Co-financing	USD 1,000,000

Project Description

Enimiro is a privately owned, organically certified exporter of vanilla, coffee and dry fruits from Uganda. Through its vertically integrated supply chain, it sources raw materials directly from over 1,100 farmers in 5 Ugandan regions. Founded in 2019, it has built a unique model of organic certification schemes with full digital traceability and monitoring software to allow for transparency of the supply chain and data for certification in the smallholder farming sector. Its traceability technology enables the end consumers to have visibility of the supply chain from farm-to-fork and confidence to meet the social responsibility standards. The company is EU Organic certified; Fairtrade and UTZ certifications are currently in process.

The company has built several collection points for the farmer network to deliver their product directly, reducing concerns of contamination and increasing quality assurance. Smallholder farmers working with the company benefit from access to a direct market for their produce, agro-inputs, agronomical training and a quality premium. The collection points also act as agro-hubs, where several products such as fruit, vanilla and coffee can be commercialized.

32. Coffee Planet – United Arab Emirates – CFC/2021/18/0014

Submitting Institution	Coffee Planet LLC
Location	United Arab Emirates
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 10,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 2,000,000
Co-financing	USD 8,000,000

Project Description

Headquartered in Dubai, United Arabic Emirates, Coffee Planet LLC was established in 2005 as a provider of freshly ground coffee/fresh milk vending machines for highway convenience stores. In 2008, Coffee Planet opened, in Dubai, a new UTZ, BRC, HACCP and ISO 22000 certified roaster of over 4,320 tonnes roasting capacity per annum. This enabled the company to become the largest specialty coffee roaster in the Middle East, with over 200 employees.

Coffee Planet is focused on end-to-end coffee solutions for diverse local and international customers. Currently, Coffee Planet provides a wide range of B2B and B2C coffee solutions. Coffee Planet serves 800+ local and international customers and operates over 5,000 coffee machines across the UAE.

In 2022, CFC signed a USD 2 million trade finance loan agreement with Coffee Planet to finance the sourcing, roasting and export of conventional and certified coffee for 2 strategic partners. The loan will allow Coffee Planet to increase its indirect sourcing of coffee beans from 2,000 additional producers by 2027.

33. Robust International, Cashew, Singapore – CFC/2021/19/0012

Submitting Institution	**Robust International**
Location	**Singapore**
Commodity	**Cashew**
Total Cost	**USD 5,000,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 2,000,000**
Co-financing	**USD 3,000,000**

Project Description

Robust International, founded in 2006 and based in Singapore, is an agricultural commodities trader with a strong presence in Africa since 2011. The company specializes in raw cashew nuts (RCN) and sesame seeds, which account for 36% and 56% of its revenues, respectively. Robust has built a broad supplier network across Africa – sourcing 95-98% of its commodities from the continent – working closely with local aggregators and cooperatives. With major export markets in China, India, Vietnam, Turkey, the Netherlands, France, and the USA, the company is now implementing a strategic shift to evolve from a traditional trader into an integrated agri-processor guided by ethical sourcing principles. As part of this transformation, Robust is investing nearly USD 50 million in local infrastructure across Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, and Chad, including warehouses and processing equipment.

To fully capitalize on these infrastructure investments and expand its inclusive sourcing model, Robust International requires additional working capital. The Common Fund for Commodities commitment is USD 2 million to support the company's procurement of raw cashew nuts and sesame seeds from smallholder farmers in CFC member countries. This funding will enable Robust to strengthen its supply chains, improve farmer incomes, and reinforce its role in adding value locally while maintaining competitiveness in key global markets.

Photo: Cashew fruit. Adobe Stock

34. Gulu Agricultural Cotton – Uganda – CFC/2021/19/0055

Submitting Institution	**Gulu Agricultural Development Company**
Location	**Uganda**
Commodity	**Cotton and Sesame**
Total Cost	**USD 15,000,000**
CFC Financing	**USD 1,500,000**
Co-financing	**USD 13,500,000**

Project Description

Gulu Agricultural Development Company (GADC) is an aggregator, processor, and exporter of cotton and sesame. It was established in Gulu, northern Uganda, in 2009 by its owner and CEO Bruce Robertson with the encouragement of the Ugandan government, following the end of the civil war.

Based out of three ginneries and a sesame processing facility in the region, GADC operates an outgrower network through which it offers a market as well as inputs and training on best agricultural practices for approximate 50,000 smallholders. Of these, GADC has direct contractual relationships with more than 30,000 farmers that have been certified organic and fair trade to obtain a premium on their supply. Among the direct beneficiaries are a large number of refugees from conflict zones in the region.

35. MUTA, Oilseeds, Colombia – CFC/2022/20/0057

Submitting Institution	MUTA (Reaceico SAS)
Location	Colombia
Commodity	Used Cooking Oil (UCO) – Oilseeds
Total Cost	USD 1,070,000
CFC Financing	USD 450,000
Co-financing	USD 620,000

Project Description

Muta (Reaceico SAS) is a Colombian circular economy company that collects and recycles Used Cooking Oil (UCO) produced from vegetable seeds. With operations in 10 cities in Colombia and a central warehouse in northern Colombia, Muta processes, cleans, packages, and exports the UCO mainly to the United Kingdom, where recycled UCO is transformed into biofuel. The company is mainly owned by Mr. Alejandro Caiaffa, a known actor of environmental and social change in the North region of Colombia with more than eight years' experience in the recycling industry. While a relatively young company, the company had received capex and working capital from main banks in Colombia to support company growth an increase capacity for processing and storage UCO for export. Harris Tobias Ltd, its main client based in the United Kingdom, is a known buyer of recycled fats and oils and has been buying to Muta for the past years. The client had also provided advances for sourcing more UCO, showing a strong commitment between both parties.

The company collects UCO mainly from hotels, restaurants, and café's using a mobile app end to end throughout its value chain. The operational model starts with the generators request for collection where a collection date is set (through an app), and the UCO is collected at the generator premises with a company truck. Muta certifies the orderly collection of UCO to the generator as the company itself is officially certified to do so. Once collected, the UCO is cleaned/filtered to remove impurities, and a moisture check is performed. The recycled oil is stored in tanks and exported. As of 2021, Muta collected from more than 2,000 generators, mainly restaurants. International clients use refineries that allow UCO as raw material to produce biodiesel or other complementary bioenergy products.

36. Sunterra, Coffee, Colombia – CFC/2022/20/0115

Submitting Institution	Sunterra SAS
Location	Colombia
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 2,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000
Co-financing	USD 1,000,000

Project Description

Sunterra is a Colombian exporter of specialty coffee (rated +84 cup points), committed to transparent and traceable sourcing from smallholder farmers across all Colombian coffee regions. Established in 2016 and headquartered in Huila – one of Colombia's prime coffee-growing areas – Sunterra operates a proprietary mill in El Puente that offers free post-harvest processing access to farmers. The company is fully owned by Mr. Vicente Mejia Isaza, an experienced agricultural trader, and has attracted support from Yunus Social Business Fund and working capital from Bancoldex. Sunterra supplies a diversified portfolio of international clients in the USA, Europe, and Asia, including its primary partner, Ally Coffee, a reputable global roaster and trader. With processing, drying, and storage capacities of 8,000 kg/hour, 30,000 kg/week, and 300,000 kg respectively, Sunterra pays farmers local market prices and later rewards them with a premium once coffee is shipped and paid for – ensuring full transparency throughout the value chain.

To support its continued growth and meet rising demand, Sunterra sought financing to overcome working capital constraints in its cash-intensive sector. The company has experienced significant growth in recent years but has occasionally had to turn down commercial opportunities due to limited financing. To help Sunterra scale its operations and capitalize on market momentum, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) provided a USD 1 million trade finance revolving facility. The funding is used to procure high-quality specialty coffee, with tripartite agreements in place involving reputable international buyers – ensuring a secure, transparent, and impact-driven deployment of funds.

37. Meridia Netherlands, Ghana, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire – CFC/2022/20/0123

Submitting Institution	Meridia Land B.V.
Location	Netherlands, Ghana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast
Commodity	Land Mapping & Titling
Total Cost	Euro 1,350,000
CFC Financing	Euro 300,000
Co-financing	Euro 1,050,000

Project Description

Meridia is a SaaS (Software as a Service) provider that utilizes GIS (geographic information system) technology to facilitate land mapping and land rights documentation. Established in 2015 in The Netherlands, the company provides its services to agribusinesses to map their commodity supply chains, making them more transparent, while eliminating environmental and social risks such as deforestation and forced/child labor, and to drive land security for smallholder farmers in developing countries.

The CFC is providing working capital financing to bridge the long payment cycles from the signature of contracts to final payment after delivery of services. The loan repayment will be based on the cash flow from Meridia's service agreements contracts with about 13 global food and beverage companies like Unilever, Cargill, Mondelez among others.

To date, Meridia has mapped over 100,000 land parcels, provided legal land documentation to over 10,000 farmers, and registered over 50,000 shade trees in Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Indonesia. Meridia has about 160 employees, of whom 65 are full-time employees and 95 are freelance contractors.

38. Fairtrasa, Fruits, Peru – CFC/2022/20/0132

Submitting Institution	Fairtrasa Perú S.A.
Location	Peru
Commodity	Fresh fruits
Total Cost	USD 2,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000
Co-financing	USD 1,000,000

Project Description

Fairtrasa Perú sources sustainably produced fresh fruit (mango, avocado, ginger, and others) from smallholder farmers across Peru, including rainforest regions.

The Fairtrasa Group has been among the pioneers in supporting socially and environmentally sustainable production methods among smallholders in Latin America.

It sources from smallholders which it assists in setting up cooperatives for the purpose. These cooperatives receive market access, training, prepayments, assistance in obtaining and managing certifications among others. Where possible, Fairtrasa Perú assists the cooperatives in developing their capacities to a level where they can independently manage exports to Fairtrasa's European sales offices. It was the first Latin American company to export Fairtrade avocados.

In addition to its work on improving livelihoods of smallholders, Fairtrasa differentiates itself as an environmental and climate pioneer. Its products hold various organic certifications and several products hold additional certifications such as Demeter biodynamic. Recently, it has started promoting regenerative agricultural practices among its smallholder suppliers and has achieved the Regenerative Organic Agriculture certification for part of its supply.

39. Organic Africa Holdings, Herbs, Spices, Zimbabwe – CFC/2022/20/0257

Submitting Institution	Organic Africa Holdings
Location	Zimbabwe
Commodity	Spices
Total Cost	USD 3,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 850,000
Co-financing	USD 2,150,000

Project Description

Organic Africa was established as a Zimbabwean social enterprise by its CEO Dominik Collenberg in 2007.

Organic Africa produces certified herbs, spices, essential oils, and indigenous medicinal plants, such as basil, calendula, cornflower, ginger, paprika, devils' claw, baobab powder, baobab seed oil, marula oil, ximenia oil, and mafura butter. The company sources raw materials from its own farms, smallholder farmers and wild collectors. Over 60% of its employees and suppliers are women.

Organic Africa sources most herbs, spices, and medicinal plants from the farms owned by its two subsidiaries, Stevia Zimbabwe, and La Rochelle Organics. After sourcing the raw material is centrally dried, sorted and packed for shipping.

B'Ayoba and KaZa, two other subsidiaries of the group, collect baobab fruits, oil seeds and plants from wild collectors, and process into baobab fruits powders, baobab dry fibres and natural oils.

40. Coffee Planet, United Arab Emirates – CFC/2022/21/0105

Submitting Institution	Coffee Planet LLC
Location	United Arab Emirates
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 13,200,000
CFC Financing	USD 3,000,000
Co-financing	USD 10,200,000

Project Description

Based in Dubai, UAE, Coffee Planet LLC was established in 2005 as a provider of coffee solutions at convenience stores. In 2008, Coffee Planet opened a new UTZ, BRC, HACCP and ISO 22000 certified processing facility of over 4,320 MT coffee roasting capacity per annum. This enabled the company to become the largest specialty coffee roaster in the Middle East, with over 200 employees. As a certified roaster in the specialty segment of the market, its business model is focused on complete coffee solutions for diverse local and international customers. The company provides full traceability and control over its value chain.

Currently, it provides a wide range of B2B and B2C coffee solutions, serving 800+ local and international customers, operating over 5,000 coffee machines across the UAE. It has signed coffee bean and consumables supply agreements with several major blue-chip companies.

Coffee Planet follows an integrated value chain operating model (crop to cup model), which involves the complete in-house management of its value chain, from the sourcing of coffees beans to the in-house roasting and packaging of coffee products and finally the distribution of coffee, relevant consumables, and related equipment as well as staff training, machine servicing and maintenance. The business model of Coffee Planet is focused on complete coffee solutions for diverse local and international customers.

Photo: Adobe Stock

41. Café Selva, Coffee, Peru – CFC/2022/21/0136

Submitting Institution	Café Selva Norte SAC
Location	Peru
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 14,500,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000
Co-financing	USD 13,500,000

Project Description

Café Selva Norte SAC (CSN) is a Peruvian specialty coffee company established in 2018 as a joint venture between four local coffee cooperatives and Urapi, a Canadian impact fund. CSN focuses on sourcing, processing, and exporting high-quality arabica coffee to buyers in North America and Europe. Beyond trading, CSN actively supports its smallholder suppliers by offering affordable agricultural inputs and extension services to promote agroforestry practices, which enhance productivity and climate resilience.

These practices also generate carbon credits, providing smallholders with additional income and fostering long-term supplier loyalty. CSN operates a state-of-the-art dry mill, launched in 2021, and plays a central role in supporting farm-level transformation.

To support CSN's growing operations and strengthen its supply chain, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) provides USD 1 million in harvest capital. The financing is structured as a tri-partite trade finance facility and is used to purchase coffee from smallholder farmers. The investment enables CSN to maintain steady procurement during harvest seasons, ensuring timely payments to producers and reinforcing its commitment to inclusive, climate-smart value chains.

42. Ecotierra, Coffee, Peru CFC/2022/21/0190 FT

Submitting Institution	Transition Capital Café Selva Norte S.E.C.
Location	Peru
Commodity	Forestry, Coffee, Spices
Total Cost	USD 13,290,000
CFC Financing	USD 290,000
Co-financing	USD 13,000,000

Project Description

Conservación Selva Norte (CSN+) is a conservation project developed and managed by Canadian impact investor Urapi Sustainable Land Use Fund. CSN+ leads forest conservation initiatives across coffee-growing regions in Peru, working directly with smallholder communities. These initiatives provide communities with resources to effectively monitor conservation and promote agroforestry-based livelihoods – such as coffee, vanilla, honey, and ecotourism – as alternatives to deforestation-based livelihoods. The conservation efforts generate verified carbon units (VCUs) tied to avoid deforestation, which serve as a key revenue source. Sales of these VCUs are managed by ElevaFinca, a Urapi subsidiary that also markets low-carbon coffee through the Café Selva Norte (CSN) project, creating opportunities for buyers to purchase low-emission coffee or offset supply chain emissions.

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) provides USD 290,000 in financing to the CSN+ efforts to scale up productive agroforestry activities and establish smallholder cooperatives. The funding will be provided as loans to the participating communities for early-stage implementation costs, including capacity building, livelihood investments, and the setup of community organizations. Repayment will come from the sale of VCUs, which will also serve as the underlying security.

By backing diverse agricultural value chains such as coffee, honey, and vanilla, the investment supports sustainable land use, enhances smallholder incomes, and contributes to global climate mitigation through forest conservation.

Photo: Vanilla. Adobe Stock

43. JKCC General Supplies Ltd, Coffee, Uganda – CFC/2023/22/0041

Submitting Institution	JKCC General Supplies Limited
Location	Uganda
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 11,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,000,000
Co-financing	USD 10,000,000

Project Description

JKCC General Supplies Limited, founded in 2017 and based in Nabbingo, Uganda, is a green coffee trading and processing company focused on high-quality Arabica and Robusta exports. Established by entrepreneur Julius Kalulu, JKCC emphasizes traceability and direct sourcing from smallholder farmers as part of its mission to uplift Uganda's coffee sector. Operating primarily in the EU and North American premium markets, JKCC supplies notable international clients such as Bercher Coffee, ECOM, and Olam. A key innovation is the active involvement from the moment of founding the company by the Consortium of Central and Western Farmers Association (COCEWEFA), which includes over 3,700 member farmers. However, due to limited working capital, JKCC currently cannot absorb all the production of COCEWEFA's farmers, restricting its ability to meet growing international demand.

To scale operations and enhance processing capacity, JKCC launched an ambitious growth project supported by leading impact investors. To complement this effort, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) proposed a USD 1 million trade finance facility, renewable annually for up to five years. The CFC financing aims to address JKCC's working capital needs, enabling the company to increase coffee procurement from its farmer network, strengthen supply chain resilience, and meet rising demand in premium export markets.

44. Opportunities and Challenges of the EU Deforestation Regulation in Agri-commodity Value Chains, Global South – CFC/2024/24/0005 FT

Submitting Institution	UNCTAD
Location	Global South
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 540,000
CFC Financing	USD 229,850
Co-financing	USD 310,175

Project Description
UNCTAD identified the need to develop a comprehensive report examining the opportunities and challenges emerging from the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) for agri-commodity value chains in the Global South, with a focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). The study explores the potential market, social, and environmental impacts of the regulation, assess related financial risks and compliance costs, and provide policy recommendations to mitigate unintended consequences that may hinder progress toward the SDGs. Special attention will be paid to supporting exporting countries affected by the regulation.

To address this critical knowledge gap, the CFC is supporting UNCTAD in conducting and publishing this forward-looking study. The project leverages UNCTAD's technical expertise, global reach, and long-standing collaboration with the CFC. As no similar assessments exist to date focusing on commodity-dependent LDCs and LLDCs, the study will play a pioneering role in informing policy and investment decisions. It is expected to broaden the scope of impact investment opportunities considered by the CFC.

Completed projects in 2024

1 and 2. Commercial Farm Development in Central and Northern Ethiopia – CFC/2012/01/0030 and CFC/2013/01/0030 FT

Submitting Institution	Solagrow plc.
Location	Ethiopia (LDC)
Commodity	Potatoes and others
Total Cost	USD 6,255,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,100,000 (loan, of which USD 750,000 financed by the Dutch Trust Fund)
	USD 120,000 Liquidity support under Fast Track
Counterpart Contribution	USD 5,155,000

Project Description
Solagrow provides seed potatoes supplemented by seeds from other crops and mechanization services to organized outgrowers and other small farmers. The company works together with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR) for new potato varieties and technologies. In addition, the company produces quality food crops for local and export markets on its own nucleus farms, thereby integrating Ethiopian smallholder farmers through the provision of inputs, cropping technology and market access.
After experiencing several severe setbacks due to external shocks, Solagrow is currently consolidating its operations into a specialized potato seed business, focused on producing disease-free planting material using innovative and cost-effective multiplication methods for the local Ethiopian market. This business model will ensure the availability of high quality potato seed material in Ethiopia beyond the CFC loan.

3. Modern Processing & Value Chain Development for Prosopis Charcoal and Nutritious Animal Feeds, Kenya – CFC/2014/04/0107 FT

Submitting Institution	Start!e Limited (Social Enterprise)
Location	Kenya
Commodity	Timber
Total Cost	USD 214,000
CFC Financing	USD 100,000 (Zero interest loan, financed from the Dutch Trust Fund)
Co-financing	USD 15,000
Start!e Limited (Contribution)	USD 99,000

Project Description
In 2014, Start!e Ltd presented a proposal to turn the unwanted spread of the tree Prosopis Juliflora in Kenya's semi-arid areas into an income opportunity for the affected communities by setting up value chains for sustainable charcoal animal feed from the Prosopis fruit pods.

The CFC supported the initiative with a USD 100,000 loan disbursed in December 2014. The investment aims to: (i) enhance the collection of Prosopis; (ii) improve the carbonisation process; (iii) build customer relationships with a few, higher volume consumers and wholesalers; (iv) improve logistics; and (v) increase fundraising.

Photo: Floating market, Ayutthaya, Thailand. Adobe Stock

4. Intensified Livelihoods Improvement and Environmental Conservation through Social Business Activities (Natural Fertilizer, Myanmar) – CFC/2015/07/0020 FT

Submitting Institution	Swanyee Group of Company
Location	Myanmar (LDC)
Commodity	Fertilizer
Total Cost	USD 236,171
CFC Financing	USD 117,600 (Loan)
Counterpart Contribution	USD 118,571

Project Description

There are many distributors of chemical fertilizers in Myanmar, but only a few of them are engaged in the supply of natural and bio fertilizers. The Swanyee Group is active in selling organic agricultural inputs mainly to smallholder farmers in Myanmar. It has a research department that has been experimenting with the production of natural fertilizers, in the form of vermiculture. The core of the project is to expand the current levels of vermiculture-based liquid and compost fertilizer. The project aims to demonstrate that organic fertilizers can be offered at lower costs than chemical fertilizers with effective social, economic and environmental impact.

The development impact of the project is the reduction in fertilizer costs for farmers from USD 60/acre to below USD 50/acre.

5. East African Nuts & Oilseeds – Kenya – CFC/2018/12/0056

Submitting Institution	Ten Senses Africa Ltd.
Location	Kenya
Commodity	Nuts
Total Cost	USD 4,200,000
CFC Financing	USD 1,500,000 (Loan)
Counterpart Contribution	USD 600,000
Co-financing	USD 2,100,000

Project Description

Established in Kenya in 2006, Ten Senses Africa Ltd. (TSA) is a processor and trader of organic macadamia nuts. TSA sources macadamia nuts from a network of 5,000 organically certified smallholder farmers in Kenya. In 2022, the company was fully acquired by Pamoja Farms, a Switzerland based company with investments in four farms in Tanzania, specializing in Macadamia, Bananas and Coffee. Ten senses is the Kenyan macadamia arm of Pamoja.

TSA's business model revolves around sustainable and traceable sourcing of macadamia nuts. The company focus on organic certification and responsible production and consumption practices, supported by various international certifications such as USDA Organic, Fairtrade, and FSSC 22000. TSA's operational strategy includes providing agricultural extension services to farmers on the field, ensuring high-quality production and compliance with organic standards.

To source macadamia nuts from small holder farmers, the company have a lean and innovative operation with 28 buying centres located around Mt Kenya, where the majority of farmers are located. Ten Senses uses an owned software app connecting all its operations, including macadamia prices per Kg, so certified farmers working with Ten Senses knows in real time the field prices offered.

The company operates processing facility in the Athi River Export Processing Zone, capable of processing 6,000 MT annually, employing over 90 full-time and 200 part-time employees.

With CFC's support, TSA expects to reach 10,000 of smallholder suppliers, of which 30% women. The average annual net income of smallholders is expected to increase from USD 750 to USD 980 with about 400 new jobs created.

On November 2024, the project successfully repaid all outstanding amounts to the CFC, and the project is now financially closed.

6. Mercon Coffee Group – CFC/2020/17/0047

Submitting Institution	Mercon Coffee Group
Location	Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Vietnam
Commodity	Coffee
Total Cost	USD 50,000,000
CFC Financing	USD 5,000,000
Co-financing	USD 45,000,000

Project Description

Headquartered in the Netherlands, Mercon B.V is a vertically integrated group active in the origination, processing and wholesale trading of green coffee. Mercon is one the largest coffee traders in the world, sourcing raw green coffee from all major coffee producing regions and supplying leading coffee roasters such Starbucks, Nespresso and Lavazza.

Mercon has recently initiated LIFT, an innovative, sustainable production platform that provides tools, training and services to smallholder farmers improving their productivity and raising their quality of life.

In 2021, CFC signed a USD 5 million revolving working capital loan agreement with Mercon, to fund the necessary cash advances to LIFT farmers in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and Brazil. During the duration of the credit facility, the number of farmers participating in the LIFT program will increase from 3,200 to 5,800, with coffee sourcing increasing to 670,000 60 kg/bags from 370,000 per year. The overall number of certified farmers will increase to 6,700 from 4,736.

7. Finding Opportunities for Niche Commodities from Developing Countries in the Health Food Market – CFC/2019/14/0001 FT

Submitting Institution	UNCTAD
Location	Selected Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries
Commodity	Other stimulant crops
Total Cost	USD 240,000
CFC Financing	USD 120,000 (Grant)
Co-financing	USD 120,000

Project Description

This project, implemented in partnership with UNCTAD, aims to explore how LDCs and LLDCs can better harness their biodiversity and traditional knowledge about health foods or nutraceuticals to create jobs, expand exports, and achieve inclusive growth. In particular, the project will study the potential of selected LLDCs as suppliers of health enhancing foods and identify the policy measures needed to expand their exports in this sector.

The findings from the country-case studies and the assessment of the demand of nutraceuticals in advanced markets have been compiled in a comprehensive policy publication, released in early 2023. During the year 2023 several dissemination events are expected to take place.

In addition to indicating how products could link to potential markets, the publication also makes recommendation for regulatory and institutional capacities of LLDCs to meet the demands of importing countries and assess measures that need to be taken to attract impact investors to the sector. A feature article summarising the findings has been published in 2023.

Photo: Adobe Stock

"The CFC's impact extends far beyond financial support. By placing gender, sustainability and technology at the heart of its investments, the CFC is driving true economic inclusion. With a strong focus on women, youth, and tech-enabled solutions, the CFC is fostering inclusive growth and strengthening communities. These efforts ensure that all smallholders – regardless of gender or age – have the tools, resources, and support they need to build resilient, thriving livelihoods. Together, these initiatives help lay the groundwork for reducing poverty and ensuring prosperity reaches those who need it most."

Ambassador Mirjam Blaak (GC Chair)

Photo: Coffee farmer, Adobe Stock

IV.4 Technical Assistance Facility overview

The CFC TA Facility (TAF) team stands at the forefront of impactful collaboration with impact investment funds in the agricultural commodities sector with a proven track record in successfully designing and managing technical assistance (TA) initiatives with different types of actors, across various agricultural value chains and diverse geographical regions.

Technical Assistance in agricultural value chains – benefits and challenges

A recent brief reviewing technical assistance (TA) in blended finance transactions found that the sectors with the highest rates of TA usage are energy, financial services, and **agriculture**.[1] In the agriculture sector, TA typically includes tailored advisory services, technical support, and capacity development designed to help recipient organisations operate more efficiently and effectively, while aligning with goals of sustainable growth and positive social and environmental impact.

The demonstrated **benefits of well-designed, tailored TA** include improved efficiency and effectiveness for the organisation receiving the support which enhances the *'potential for long-term sustainability, systemic impact, and ultimately improving investment viability'*.[2] For early-stage companies, TA can play a critical role in de-risking investments and increasing investment readiness. Many businesses across agricultural value chains are not considered investable by established financial institutions or lenders and for those companies targeted pre-investment TA can unlock financial opportunities and improve their capacity to absorb capital. In contrast, more mature companies, which present lower risk, may still benefit from adapted TA to professionalise, grow, or scale their operations.

Challenges associated with **TA in agricultural value chains** are not unique to the sector but are common across industries. Small and growing businesses often lack the financial and human resources required to access, manage, or fully absorb TA. On the investor side, demonstrating outcomes, measuring impact, and attributing change to TA remain persistent challenges, largely due to the absence of standardised methodologies for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) in the TA space.

TA deployed through impact funds is predominantly post-investment, whereas TA provided by public development banks and social lenders tends to focus on pre-investment support. While the attribution of impact is often more straightforward in pre-investment TA – since it typically addresses specific

[1] 'Blending with Technical Assistance' (2023). Convergence. Data Brief. September 2023.
[2] 'What Small And Growing Businesses Need to Scale Up: the Case for Effective Technical Assistance' (2018). Spring Impact, Numbers For Good, Argidius, March 2018.

Photo: AATIF

gaps identified during due diligence and may directly lead to financing – most TA in the agricultural sector continues to be deployed post-investment.[3]

In recent years, practitioners have made efforts to **standardise TA measurement tools** and improve attribution of outcomes from the tailored TA activities and support. However, the scarcity of comparable data, combined with the widespread use of individualised impact measurement methodologies by investors, continues to hinder a comprehensive assessment of TA's overall efficiency and effectiveness.

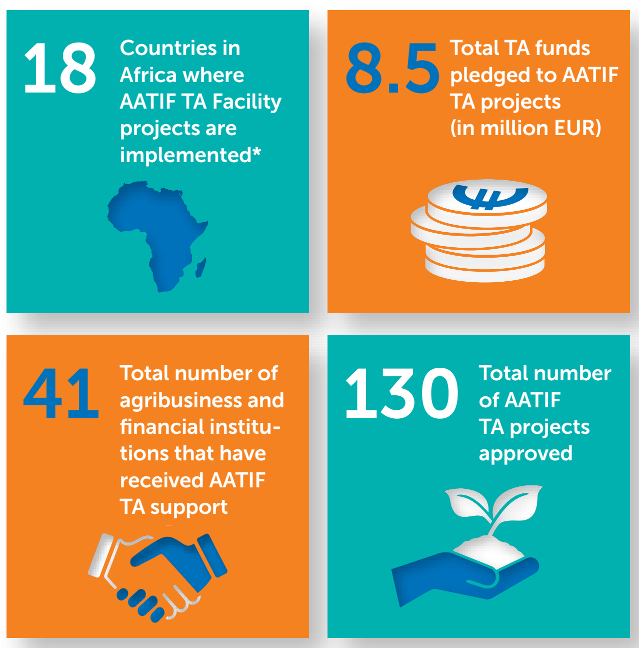
The CFC & Technical Assistance Facility management

From CFC's longstanding TA management experience we know that timely and tailored TA is a powerful tool that can help improve the operational capacity and profitability of agribusinesses and other beneficiaries. Examples include **capacity development initiatives** through staff training on health and safety in a processing plant, farmer training on good agricultural practices, or training to staff of financial institutions on applying S&E aspects to credit appraisal processes. **Technical and financial advisory services**, for example market research, feasibility studies for business expansion, technical advice, or support in setting up a Social and Environmental Management System of the organisation, are other examples of how TA targets various business areas.

TA can also play a crucial role in **knowledge creation and dissemination** on agriculture and agri-finance, seen through value chain analyses, climate change studies, or feasibility studies, with a specific focus on smallholder supply chains and sourcing models recognizing their significance in sustainable development. The TAFs currently managed by the CFC are also engaging in **impact assessment** through various ways (e.g., baseline and endline studies or other impact assessment endeavours).

The expertise of CFC's TAF team includes tropical agriculture, agroforestry, project and project portfolio management, finance, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) expertise, and impact assessment. The multidisciplinary team works in tandem with CFC's financial and administrative colleagues to ensure seamless coordination and implementation of services. Harnessing this collective expertise, the TAF team is committed to enhancing the operational capacity and profitability of targeted agribusinesses and financial institutions while enhancing the businesses' contributions to improved livelihoods of the smallholder farmers in their supplying networks.

At present, the CFC provides TA Facility management services for the Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF)[4] since 2013 and is – after nine years of successful operations – currently wrapping up the closure of the Agroforestry Technical Assistance Facility of the Moringa Fund.[5] By the end of 2024, CFC's dedicated TA Facility team has developed 150 TA projects with an aggregate approved budget reaching EUR 10.5 million,



* Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

[3] 'Technical Assistance provided by Impact Investors to Agricultural Value Chain Actors' (2023). ADA/SSNUP and Tameo Solutions. December 2023.
[4] https://www.aatif.lu/home.html
[5] https://www.moringapartnership.com/agroforestry-technical-assistance-facility/

which comes with an additional EUR 4.3m in cost contributions from the project partners. The project partners' cost contributions is a strong testament to the relevance of the TA interventions, illustrates their strong commitment to the TA activities, and lays the crucial foundation for the long-term sustainability of the initiative after the TA projects come to an end. Through these TA projects, the CFC TAF team has provided indispensable support to 51 agribusinesses and financial institutions, fostering growth and resilience across diverse agricultural value chains spanning 25 countries throughout Africa and Latin America.

Additionally, the CFC TA Facility is spearheading the launch of a new EUR 10m TA Facility for the Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund[6], a new impact investment fund developed by CFC and presently in advanced inception phase.

Strengthening sustainability in Côte d'Ivoire's banking sector: a seven-year technical assistance journey with NSIA Banque

In 2018, AATIF approved a USD 30 million loan to NSIA Banque Côte d'Ivoire (NSIA CdI) to support agricultural lending in Côte d'Ivoire and through subsidiaries in Benin, Guinea, Senegal, and Togo. As one of the first commercial banks in the region to prioritise agricultural finance, NSIA CdI has over 60 years of experience in the sector. AATIF and NSIA Côte d'Ivoire signed a facility agreement for a second loan (EUR 20 million with a 5-year tenor) in September 2023, for which a first disbursement took place in the fourth quarter of 2023.

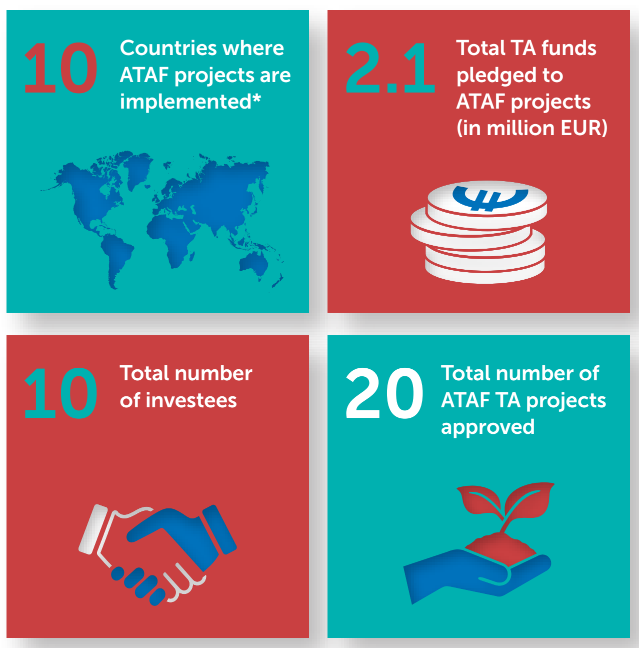
Alongside the loan financing, the AATIF TA Facility began supporting the bank through a series of projects aimed at strengthening its sustainability capabilities. What started as targeted support for the bank's Social & Environmental (S&E) Coordinator evolved into a follow-up TA project incorporating broader staff training on S&E risk assessment. As a result, a comprehensive Social & Environmental Management System (SEMS) has been adopted across the bank's operations, and three in-house S&E specialists have been trained to sustain and scale this work internally.

Building on this foundation, NSIA CdI independently pursued and became the **first African company to obtain the LUCIE 26000 Corporate Social Responsibility label**, aligned with the ISO 26000 standard. This process and achievement have provided actionable recommendations to further enhance the bank's ESG performance.

Following this milestone, NSIA CdI partnered again with the TA Facility to launch a **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mapping project** covering Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions – critical for aligning with emerging climate standards and regulatory expectations. Recognising the need to embed climate risk management into its core strategy, the bank has now initiated a new TA project to **implement the Taskforce for Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations**, including physical and transition risk assessments, climate scenario analysis, and integration of climate risks into governance structures. This aligns with the bank's strategic goals and anticipated Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO) regulations.

On the agricultural front, NSIA CdI aims to enhance its position in the agri-financing sector in Côte d'Ivoire. To support this, the TA Facility is helping the bank develop a dedicated **agricultural lending strategy**, with a focus on financing local processors and cooperatives in key agri-commodity value chains, such as cacao, coffee, and cashew.

Over seven years, NSIA CdI's engagement with the AATIF TA Facility has deepened significantly, highlighting how targeted expertise can empower institutions to pursue sustainability goals they may otherwise struggle to achieve alone. This partnership underscores the impact of TA in driving meaningful change within African financial institutions and the broader agricultural ecosystem.



* Benin, Belize, Brazil, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nicaragua, Togo

[6] https://www.common-fund.org/ACT-Fund

Photo: Adobe Stock

V

CFC's Impacts in 2024

Photo: Millet. Butaleja District, Uganda. © FAO/Stuart Tibaweswa

As an impact investor, the CFC is committed to financing investments that generate positive social, economic and environmental impacts across the developing world. To credibly and effectively uphold this commitment, the CFC recognises the need for a robust and efficient system for impact measurement and management (IMM).

To this end, the CFC's Executive Board approved a new impact strategy in October 2018. This chapter describes how the CFC's impact strategy has been operationalized to bring about measurable impacts in 2024. IMM remains an area of rapid development in the international development community and the CFC seeks to adopt the best emerging practices. In this edition of the CFC's impact report we take particular note of the recommendations by Impact Frontier's Impact Performance Reporting Norms[1] to report and present the CFC's Impact Management Approach and Portfolio Impact Performance. For impact stories from the CFC's portfolio please see Section II.

[1] https://impactfrontiers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Impact-Performance-Reporting-Norms-V1.pdf

V.1 CFC's **Impact Thesis**

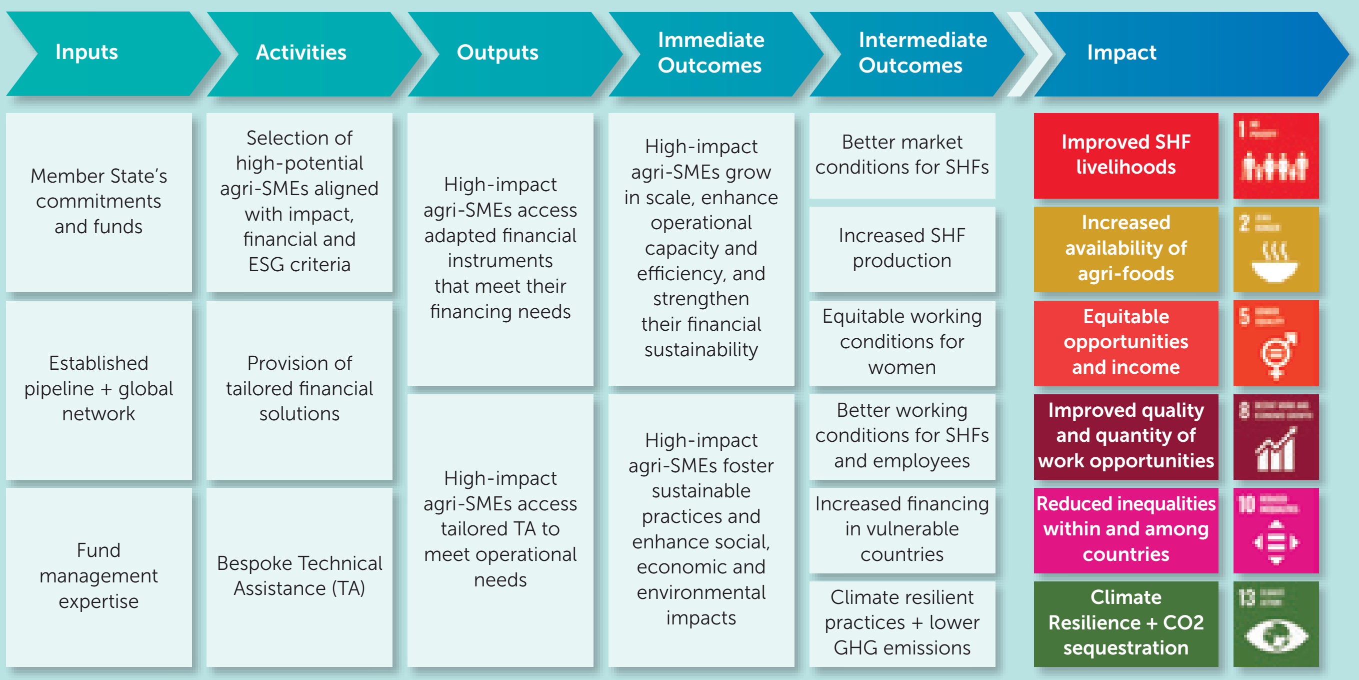
Commodities are the foundation of both global progress and daily life, forming the backbone of industries, economies, and essential goods. From the food we eat to the materials that build our homes, commodities shape the world around us. Yet, while end users often take their availability for granted, the reality is far more complex. In many commodity-dependent countries, smallholder farmers rely on these very commodities for their survival. Unlike large-scale producers, smallholder farmers face unstable prices, limited market access, and vulnerability to climate change, leaving them trapped in cycles of extreme poverty.

As highlighted in the UN Trade and Development Report 2024[2], economic cycles and commodity prices in the commodity-dependent nations are closely linked with global financial market volatility, often amplifying economic instability. The expansion and financialization of extractive industries further complicates this landscape, posing a significant challenge for commodity-exporting countries, especially as they navigate the energy transition and a shifting global growth wave.

To break cycles of extreme poverty and build resilient economies, ensuring fair and sustainable commodity supply chains is more important than ever. In this pursuit, the CFC serves as a catalyst for positive change by providing financing for agricultural SMEs that connect primary commodity producers to higher value markets; in doing so, it helps smoothen smallholder incomes and reduce their dependence on financial cycles. By targeting specific commodity value chains, we ensure that the economic benefits of global markets reach those farmers that are most vulnerable. It is therefore our **mission to contribute to poverty alleviation by strengthening the income-generating capacity of commodity producers and mitigating risks to their economic well-being**.

With this mission in mind, we have developed a simplified and comprehensive version of our Theory of Change (ToC). Our ToC acts as a roadmap, detailing the connections between the CFC's activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts, leading to well-defined impact goals connected to our core SDGs.

Guided by our ToC, we translate the CFC's mission into action by taking a strategic, impact-oriented investment approach that targets value chains with the potential to uplift impoverished communities, especially those in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Our investments do not only support livelihoods but also enhance local value creation, strengthen economic resilience, and drive sustainable growth across commodity-dependent member states. By doing so, we foster long-term, meaningful improvements that extend beyond individual farmers to benefit entire communities.



2 https://unctad.org/publication/trade-and-development-report-2024

V.2 CFC's **Impact Management Approach**

At the CFC, we have dedicated significant time and effort to refining our approach to effective impact monitoring, environmental and social (E&S) risk assessment, and stakeholder communication. As pioneers in agricultural impact investing, we recognized early on the need for specialized impact monitoring systems and ESG tools. In the absence of comprehensive industry-wide frameworks, we developed our own methodologies, drawing from multiple sources to establish a robust system for measuring and managing impact. We also give due consideration to the needs and limitations of SMEs, being the main target group for CFC financing, in terms of their limited capacity to implement sophisticated IMM models.

Over time, as global frameworks evolve, we continuously refine our processes, integrating emerging best practices and new tools to enhance our effectiveness. Staying true to our mission, we have consistently applied lessons learned – both from our own experience and from leading actors in the field – to strengthen our capacity, improve risk mitigation strategies, refine impact indicators, and enhance data interpretation.

Our impact management approach is structured around three interconnected pillars that guide our impact efforts:

1. The first pillar is our **SDG Impact Framework**, which serves as the foundation of our impact monitoring; aligning our investment strategy with our core Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This foundation ensures that our investments contribute meaningfully to globally recognized development objectives, reinforcing our commitment and accountability to sustainable development.
2. The second pillar, **Impact Monitoring**, integrates insights from the Global Impact Investing Network's (GIIN) IRIS+ Taxonomy to create a robust Impact Monitoring System. By integrating industry-leading indicators, we are able to comprehensively assess social, economic, and environmental impacts across our core SDGs, ensuring that our investments drive measurable and meaningful change.
3. The third pillar, **ESG Risk Management**, focuses on a rigorous due diligence process and advanced risk rating tools aligned with the IFC Performance Standards. This framework enables us to systematically identify, evaluate, and mitigate potential risks across our portfolio, ensuring that our investments uphold the highest environmental, social, and governance standards while maintaining financial returns.

Together, these pillars create a structured yet adaptable system that ensures that our impact monitoring and risk management systems remain both consistent and responsive to new developments in the field. This adaptability allows the CFC to effectively support portfolio companies while incorporating the latest advancements in impact investing.

SDG Impact Framework

Stage in investment process: investment thesis

Impact Monitoring

Stage in investment process: portfolio monitoring

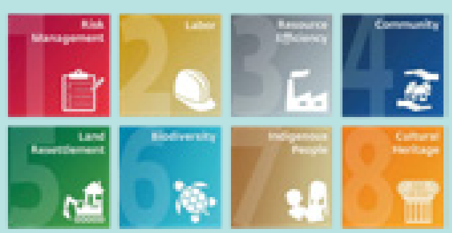
GIIN IRIS+

- Number of agri-SMEs financed
- Number of smallholder farmers reached
- Number of female smallholder farmers reached
- Additional net income
- Ha sustainably cultivated

ESG Risk Management

Stage in investment process: origination, due diligence & monitoring

IFC International Finance Corporation



SDG Impact Framework

Driven by a commitment to make social, environmental and economic change, we at the CFC recognise the importance of assessing and reporting on the actual impacts of our agricultural investments. Measuring impacts ensures that CFC resources are effectively improving livelihoods, strengthening local economies, and fostering inclusive growth. With this purpose in mind, the CFC implements the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the impact framework through which we monitor and measure portfolio-wide impacts.

The SDGs represent a global call to action aimed at eradicating poverty, safeguarding the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. These goals integrate economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development, addressing the root causes of poverty and promoting global growth. Acknowledging the cross-cutting economic role of commodities, CFC-financed projects are positioned to drive progress across all 17 SDGs. However, the CFC's impact management strategy focuses on making direct and measurable contributions to six selected core SDGs, prioritizing areas where commodities can have the most significant and tangible impacts. These include: SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

It is important to note that the selection of these priority SDGs does not exclude others. Commodity issues are interconnected with all SDGs. For instance, CFC financing is often used to promote regenerative agricultural practices, such as pesticide replacement and sustainable irrigation, inherently impacting non-core SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation. Similarly, gender equality is a key consideration in every commodity project, with a gender lens applied throughout the CFC's investment analysis and lifecycle. The SDGs serve as a universally recognized development framework, which we translate into action by prioritizing specific SDG targets, with progress measured through the use of IRIS+ indicators, as explained in the upcoming Impact Monitoring Section. Below, we present our impact rationale for each one of our core SDGs.

CFC's six core Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1 NO POVERTY

SDG 1 – No poverty – end poverty in all its forms everywhere

The United Nation's 2030 Agenda recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms, including extreme poverty, is one of the greatest current global challenge and a fundamental requirement for sustainable development. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic shocks from 2020 to 2022 severely disrupted global efforts to combat poverty. In 2020, the global extreme poverty rate rose for the first time in decades, erasing three years of progress.[3] The UNCTAD Commodities and Development Report 2023[4] further highlights the urgency of addressing poverty, particularly in commodity-dependent developing countries (CDDCs), where economic vulnerability and inequality remain significant challenges. One of the most pressing challenges facing CDDCs is the economic instability driven by commodity price volatility– which perpetuates poverty and inequality– compounded by the global shift toward decarbonization, which threatens their economies as demand for traditional commodities declines. Addressing these issues is central to the CFC's mission, which focuses on fostering economic resilience and poverty alleviation for commodity producers.

To help mitigate these challenges, the CFC plays an important role in stabilizing smallholder incomes by financing SMEs that work directly with farmers, ensuring fair farm gate prices, fair wages and a more predictable revenue stream. Additionally, the CFC supports economic diversification by funding underserved commodity sectors in vulnerable regions, fostering resilience and creating new opportunities for sustainable growth.

Through these efforts, the CFC directly contributes to SDG 1 by strengthening local economies, reducing rural poverty, and supporting the long-term stability of CDDCs.

While the CFC contributes to all targets under SDG 1, our strongest impact is observed in the following specific targets:

SDG Target	Description
Target 1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than USD 1.25 a day
Target 1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
Target 1.4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
Target 1.5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

[3] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf

[4] https://unctad.org/publication/commodities-and-development-report-2023#:~:text=UNCTAD%27s%20Commodities%20and%20Development%20Report%202023%20outlines%20how,in%20the%20context%20of%20the%20global%20energy%20transition

Photo: Afghanistan ©FAO/Hashim Azizi

SDG 2 – Zero hunger – end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Smallholder commodity producers are the backbone of agricultural and food production systems, playing a vital role in enhancing resilience and reducing hunger. Yet, despite their contributions, they remain among the most vulnerable groups, particularly across rural areas where households depend on small-scale farming for both sustenance and income. This vulnerability is reflected in global food insecurity trends. According to the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report[5], as of 2023, 733 million people faced hunger, while 2.33 billion experienced moderate to severe food insecurity. Although progress has been made, 148 million children under five suffered from stunting in 2022, and if current trends continue, one in five children under five will be affected by stunting by 2030.

Access to credit is a critical driver of agricultural productivity and sustainability, enabling smallholder farmers and SMEs to invest in better practices, purchase essential inputs like seeds and fertilizers, and adopt innovative technologies. By providing loans and financial instruments, the CFC helps bridge funding gaps in developing countries, fostering more resilient food systems. Alongside financial support, the CFC offers technical assistance, equipping farmers and enterprises with knowledge on modern farming techniques, sustainable practices, pest management, and efficient water use. These skills enhance crop yields, quality, and marketability, while also helping farmers meet international standards, opening new markets and increasing their food supplies.

The CFC is committed to a world where everyone has access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food. By investing in SMEs that support smallholder farmers, the CFC helps increase productivity and strengthen resilience to external risks. By focusing on improving access to credit and technical assistance, the CFC enhances SME's capacity to purchase from, or provide for, smallholders in food-insecure regions. In doing so, we directly contribute to enhancing food supplies and improving livelihoods where they are needed most. In the upcoming Impact Monitoring Section, we present the Impact Monitoring System used to monitor and measure impacts related to SDG 2.

While the CFC contributes to all targets under SDG 2, our strongest impact is observed in the following specific targets:

SDG Target	Description
Target 2.3	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
Target 2.4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
Target 2.a	Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

[5] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf

SDG 5 – Gender Equality – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The world remains far from achieving gender equality by 2030. Women continue to be underrepresented in public life and leadership, and at current rates, achieving parity in management positions would take 176 years.[6] The situation is particularly critical in rural areas, where women constitute an average of 38.5% of the agricultural workforce; a figure that rises above 50% in 25 developing countries, most of which are in the African continent.[7] Despite their vital role in agriculture, women continue to face severe disparities in access to land, finance, technology, and fair income.[8] These systemic inequalities contribute to economic dependency and limit productivity in commodity-dependent areas. Addressing this disparity requires urgent and targeted action to challenge gender-biased norms, eliminate harmful practices, and repeal discriminatory laws that obstruct women's full participation and empowerment in the agricultural sector.

Recognizing the cross-cutting and transformative potential of investing in women, the CFC is deeply committed to advancing gender equality by applying a gender lens to its investments, actively prioritizing women-led enterprises, employment opportunities for women, and greater female representation in leadership. To safeguard against gender-based risks, the CFC integrates gender considerations into due diligence, whilst also tracking progress and ensuring positive impacts on women using key 2X Challenge-aligned indicators, such as female leadership, employment, and ownership. This approach helps us identify and support SMEs that either already demonstrate gender balance and inclusive policies or show strong potential to do so; particularly those with the capacity to create meaningful impact for women smallholders.

While the CFC contributes to all targets under SDG 5, our strongest impact is observed in the following specific targets:

SDG Target	Description
Target 5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
Target 5.a	Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth – promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all

Progress towards achieving SDG 8 faces the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing trade tensions, rising debt burdens in developing countries, and escalating geopolitical conflicts. These pressures disproportionately affect developing countries, particularly those with large rural populations engaged in informal and vulnerable employment. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 90% of agricultural jobs worldwide are informal.[9] This rural workforce often lacks job security, stable incomes, social protection, or avenues for social dialogue, highlighting the urgent need for structural transformation in rural labour markets

The CFC recognizes the vital role that decent employment plays in fostering sustainable and inclusive development. Our investments are therefore designed to promote employment across key – often under-served – agricultural value chains. These value chains are labor-intensive and crucial to many developing economies, making them strategic levers for widespread employment generation. These investments play into SDG 8's wider strategy of reducing overreliance on narrow sets of exports, stabilizing local economies, and protecting communities from external shocks.

The CFC prioritizes not just the quantity of jobs but their quality; we do this by financing SMEs that are committed to fair farmgate prices, decent wages, and safe working conditions that form the foundation of productive and dignified work. These are elements that we monitor by using a select group of IRIS+ indicators such as smallholder income, farmgate prices and number full-time and parttime employees. Our inclusive investment approach focuses on upgrading value chains where SMEs, smallholder farmers and women are central actors. By doing so, we support broader goals such as reducing inequality and empowering marginalized groups, thus reinforcing the interconnected aims of the SDGs.

6 https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf
7 https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8dde9b01-6771-45bc-ad39-cf194b616f9f/content
8 Women in agriculture continue to face significant barriers to essential resources such as high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and technology. Removing these barriers is critical, as it enables women to reach or exceed the productivity levels of their male counterparts – thereby increasing overall agricultural output and directly advancing SDG 1 and SDG 2.
9 https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_protect/@protrav/@travail/documents/publication/wcms_869188.pdf

While the CFC contributes to all targets under SDG 8, our strongest impact is observed in the following specific targets:

SDG Target	Description
Target 8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
Target 8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
Target 8.7	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
Target 8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities – reduce inequality within and among countries

Progress toward reducing global inequality is facing a critical setback. Currently, half of the world's most vulnerable nations are experiencing slower economic growth than wealthier countries. According to the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report, 90% of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition live in these vulnerable countries, half of which are already in debt distress or face a high risk of it.

To combat this inequality, the CFC supports investments across the world's most vulnerable regions, including numerous Least Developed Countries (LDCs). We finance projects in LDCs that have the potential to impact those in extreme poverty, but would otherwise go unfinanced due to their country risk. Additionally, we specifically target interventions that clearly benefit identified vulnerable groups such as smallholder farmers, women and indigenous, tribal and ethnic communities. By focusing on these groups, we help to elevate the economic status of marginalised groups and promote equitable opportunities.

A key element of our strategy is supporting the 'missing middle': SMEs that are too large for microfinance yet too small or risky for traditional commercial lending. These enterprises play a vital role in local economies but frequently lack the financial resources needed to scale and reach broader markets. By providing catalytic funding, the CFC empowers SMEs and smallholder farmers to grow, improve their market access, and secure better prices for their goods. This not only boosts incomes but also strengthens their integration into the global economy, contributing to reduced economic disparities both within and across countries.

While the CFC contributes to all targets under SDG 10, our strongest impact is observed in the following specific targets:

SDG Target	Description
Target 10.1	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
Target 10.2	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
Target 10.6	Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
Target 10.b	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

SDG 13 – Climate action – take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The global climate crisis continues to accelerate with rising global temperatures and climate risks. Climate change, driven primarily by human-induced greenhouse gas emissions, is causing rapid global warming that threatens ecosystems, biodiversity, food security, sea levels, and land stability, disproportionately impacting vulnerable regions and jeopardizing progress across multiple SDGs.[10] Communities in commodity-dependent regions are suffering from extreme weather and increasingly frequent and more intense disasters, causing food insecurity and hindering livelihoods.

The CFC recognises that smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to climate change, as their livelihoods depend heavily on agriculture, and they often reside in regions prone to severe climate variability. At the same time, the CFC acknowledges that conventional agricultural practices can place considerable pressure on natural ecosystems and, in some cases, contribute to the acceleration of climate change. This dual awareness underscores the importance of promoting sustainable, climate-smart approaches that both safeguard smallholder livelihoods and reduce the environmental footprint of agricultural production.

We are therefore devoted to promoting sustainable agricultural practices that reduce environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions while strengthening climate resilience. Recognizing the critical role of low-carbon technologies in commodity production, the CFC finances SMEs that implement and/or promote regenerative practices. These practices not only lower carbon footprints but also enhance soil health and generate tangible economic benefits for smallholders. Practices such as no-till farming, crop rotation, and agroforestry improve soil fertility, increase water retention, and boost yields, leading to more reliable incomes. At the same time, these practices help sequester carbon and buffer farms against climate-related shocks, such as droughts or floods. By enabling smallholders to integrate these proven techniques, CFC investments support a transition toward farming systems that are both economically viable and climate resilient.

In addition to financing, the CFC provides technical capacity building through training, workshops, and practical resources that promote climate-smart agriculture – such as drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation systems, and sustainable land management. By offering both financial and technical support, the CFC empowers smallholder-linked SMEs to adopt sustainable practices that protect the environment and smallholder livelihoods.

While the CFC contributes to all targets under SDG 13, our strongest impact is observed in the following specific targets:

SDG Target	Description
Target 13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
Target 13.b	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

Impact Monitoring

Impact Monitoring System

Measuring the impact of the CFC's investment portfolio using the SDG framework presents inherent challenges due to the global and national scales at which SDG targets are monitored. The absence of official guidelines for private sector and civil society reporting further complicates the ability to directly link the contributions of individual organizations or projects to the advancement of specific SDGs. Additionally, the complexity of attributing specific outcomes to particular interventions makes impact measurement and reporting a demanding task.

To address these challenges, we have adopted the Impact Reporting and Investment Standards (IRIS+), developed by the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN), as the CFC's principal impact monitoring and reporting tool. Since its launch in 2008, IRIS+ has established itself as a widely recognized system for measuring and managing impact. The IRIS+ taxonomy provides a structured framework with over 500 standardized metrics, updated biennially, offering clear definitions and detailed reporting guidelines for organizations. Each metric is directly linked to a specific SDG and corresponding targets, ensuring alignment with global UN development priorities. As of 2017, more than 5,000 organizations were utilizing IRIS+, and a 2019 GIIN survey indicated that 62% of impact investors used IRIS+ for impact reporting.[11]

By integrating IRIS+ with the SDG framework, we have adopted a comprehensive Impact Monitoring System that enhances

[10] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42398-023-00287-4
[11] https://thegiin.org/publication/research/impinv-survey-2019/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

reporting credibility and facilitates comparability across projects. This system enables more effective communication of results to stakeholders, ensuring transparency and accountability. To streamline impact assessment, we have mapped the most relevant IRIS+ metrics to the SDGs that align with the CFC's mission and investment priorities. This approach involves selecting core indicators that are applied across investees for aggregation and annual reporting, while additional indicators are determined on a case-by-case basis to capture project-specific nuances. A detailed evaluation is conducted for each new investment to ensure the most relevant metrics are used. In doing so, we ensure that, by using a mix of core and case-specific output and outcome impact indicators, we proxy for long-term impacts. We employ these quantitative indicators to capture the broader context of investee companies and their stakeholders in a manner that is both straightforward and comparable.

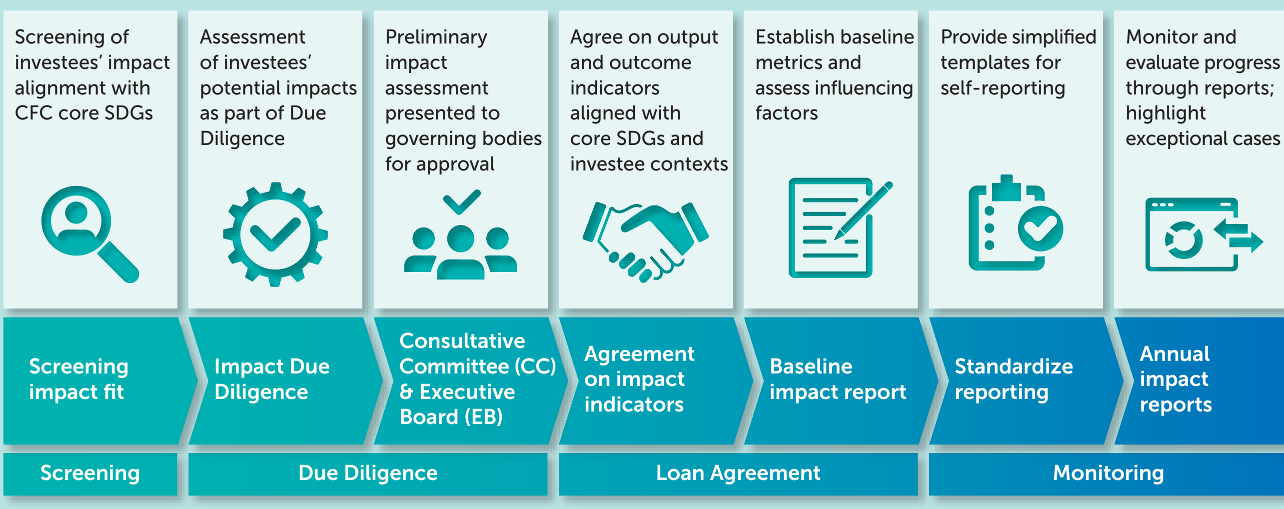
This metrics system is implemented by embedding **impact considerations across five key dimensions**. These dimensions form the foundation of our Impact Monitoring System, widely used by leading impact investors to ensure meaningful and measurable outcomes:

1. **What** – Defines the specific outcomes targeted by the investment, such as improving environmental sustainability, increasing food security, or enhancing access to education.
2. **Who** – Identifies the beneficiaries of the investment, with a particular focus on underserved or vulnerable populations.
3. **How Much** – Quantifies the scale, depth, and duration of the impact, assessing how many individuals or ecosystems benefit and for how long.
4. **Contribution** – Evaluates the added value of the investment by assessing what outcomes were achieved beyond what would have occurred in its absence.
5. **Risk** – Assesses the likelihood that the intended impacts will not be realized, accounting for uncertainties such as market fluctuations, regulatory changes, or environmental shocks.

Together, these five dimensions offer a comprehensive framework for measuring, managing, and communicating impact. The CFC uses this framework to identify potential impacts specific to agri-SMEs, define appropriate indicators, collect and analyse performance data, and assess the effectiveness of its investments in driving positive change. This multidimensional approach enables us to clearly compare and monitor impact performance across the CFC's portfolio. This approach is operationalized by embedding impacts from these five key impact dimensions throughout each stage of our investment cycle.

Impact Monitoring Throughout the Investment Cycle

The CFC acknowledges that the impact investing sector still lacks a fully developed, standardized system that enables all investors to consistently measure and track their impact. While different frontrunners have made notable progress in assessing social and environmental (S&E) outcomes and impacts, the rapid proliferation of new tools, frameworks, and standards highlights both advancements and persistent challenges. To address this gap, the CFC has established a rigorous yet streamlined process for monitoring impact across its investments. Our structured approach ensures that impact data is systematically reported and collected from each investee, allowing for continuous assessment, accountability, and data-driven decision-making.[12]



[12] This pertains to the investments made by the CFC's investment operations and not to the technical assistance management services provided to other impact funds.

The CFC's impact monitoring process is embedded throughout the Fund's investment cycle. We begin by screening investees for impact alignment, followed by a due diligence assessment of their potential future impacts. We then present a preliminary impact evaluation to the CFC's governing bodies for their approval. Once approved, we collaborate with investees to define output and outcome indicators tailored to both our core SDG goals and their specific contexts. Subsequently, we establish their baseline impact metrics while assessing influencing factors and provide simplified self-reporting templates to support investees. Lastly, we collect impact reports from investees on an annual basis to monitor and evaluate progress relative to their baseline. We then aggregate and report impacts to our governing bodies and stakeholders, with a particular focus on highlighting exceptional cases that demonstrate significant impact achievement.

Impact Monitoring – A Work in Progress

Even though we implement a rigorous impact monitoring process, the CFC primarily relies on self-reported impact data for its annual reporting, filling gaps with estimates based on previous years. The CFC acknowledges the significant limitations of this self-reported data, including investees' delays in reporting, potential misinterpretations of indicators, and concerns regarding the accuracy of the information provided.

Our experience as an impact investor has shown that SMEs have significant difficulties in measuring their impact consistently and in line with sustainability reporting standards. Sustainability reporting standards are becoming more intricate and costly, yet neither our investees nor the CFC have the capacity to allocate additional resources for standard adherence. Additional financial and administrative burden from stricter impact reporting could further strain SMEs, potentially undermining our mission to support smallholder farmers. This makes it increasing difficult for the CFC to collect the impact data required to assess the Fund's contribution to the depth and duration of outcomes. Moreover, the IRIS+ framework does not yet provide clear metrics or methodologies for assessing Investor Contribution under the 5 Dimensions of Impact, adding to these challenges.[13]

To address these complexities, the CFC is developing a new impact model that derives annual impact figures based on investees' financial data and case-specific assumptions. The goal of this methodology is to create a tailored set of supplementary impact data and assumptions for each project, enabling the aggregation of indicators within the broader context of the total CFC portfolio. This approach does not replace self-reported data but complements it, ensuring timely, reliable impact measurement for aggregation and reporting. All assumptions used are backed by literature or directly sourced from investee data.

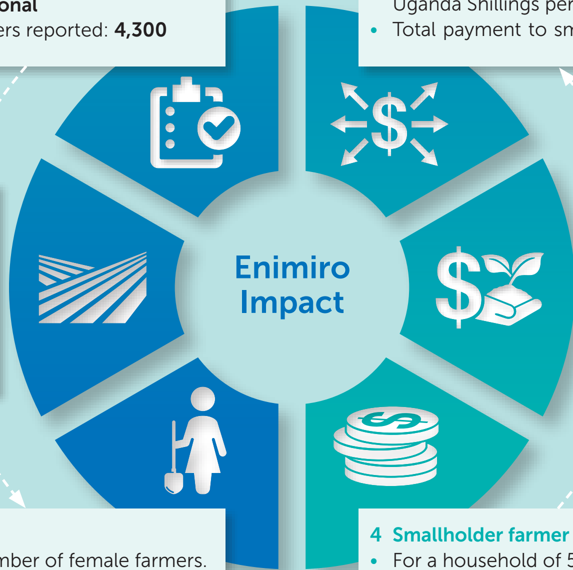
Photo: Fujoni, Zanzibar, Tanzania. © FAO / Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala

[13] https://s3.amazonaws.com/giin-web-assets/iris/assets/files/guidance/IRIS-five-dimensions_June-2020

Box 1

1 Reported volumes, prices & suppliers
- Total vanilla organic purchase volume: **109,191.8 kg**
- Total vanilla conventional purchase volume: **111,052.23 kg**
- Enimiro's average farm gate price for 2024: **UGX 18,000 for Organic, UGX 12,000 for Conventional**
- Total number of smallholder suppliers reported: **4,300**

2 Hectares indirectly impacted
- An average vanilla farm size in Uganda is assumed to be 0.4 hectares per farmer.
- The number of hectares indirectly impacted = 4,300 × 0.4 = **1,720 hectares**



3 Female smallholders reached
- The report does not specify the number of female farmers.
- If an assumption is made that 30% of the farmer network consists of women (based on regional gender inclusion statistics in agriculture) :
- 4,300 × 0.30 = **1,290 female farmers**

4 Smallholder farmer income
- For a household of 5 people, annual extreme poverty threshold: 2.15 × 5 × 365 = USD 3,923 per household per year
- The estimated smallholder income from vanilla sold to Enimiro: **USD 204.12 per year** (5.2% of poverty threshold).
- This is below Uganda's minimum wage of USD 415.23 per year.

5 Average payment per smallholder
- Total number of smallholder suppliers reported: **4,300**
- 3,297,081,160 / 4,300 = 767,000 UGX per farmer
- Average payment per smallholder farmer = **approx. USD 204.12 per farmer per year**

6 Estimated payments to smallholders
- (109,191.8 × 18,000) + (111,052.23 × 12,000) = 1,964,454,400 + 1,332,626,760 = 3,297,081,160 UGX
- average USD/UGX exchange rate for 2024 is 3,756.89 Uganda Shillings per US Dollar.
- Total payment to smallholders = **approx. USD 877,609.182**

Based on the model depicted above, the CFC's USD 2,477,000 trade finance disbursements to Enimiro in 2024 supported direct vanilla purchases from approximately 4300 smallholder farmers. These direct vanilla purchases led to an average additional income of USD 204.12 for each farmer and impacted 1,720 hectares of land.

We are in the process of developing impact models such as this one for each investee. However, it is important to note that self-reported impact data will still be routinely collected from investees; the aim is to derive standardized impact variables from impact models whilst complementing them with the impact data reported.

As an example, Box 1 illustrates how impact values were derived for Enimiro, a Ugandan SME sourcing vanilla from smallholder farmers. Using reported financial indicators and validated assumptions from public sources, the model estimates Enimiro's impact and the CFC's contribution to this impact, providing a structured approach to enhance CFC's overall impact measurement.

ESG Risk Management

In addition to measuring and monitoring the positive impacts of investments, we at the CFC recognize the equal importance of assessing potential social, environmental, and governance (ESG) risks associated with the CFC's investee companies.

By investing in agri-SMEs at various stages of the agricultural value chain across Latin America, Africa, and Asia, the CFC operates in industry segments and regional contexts that carry inherent risks. These include environmental risks such as land degradation, deforestation, and unsustainable water use; social risks, including child labor, unsafe working conditions, gender inequality, and displacement; and governance risks, such as a lack of transparency and weak corporate oversight.

To mitigate these challenges, the CFC has implemented a comprehensive ESG framework that integrates a Social and Environmental Management System (SEMS) Toolkit directly into its investment cycle. This structured approach ensures that environmental and social (E&S) considerations are embedded in every stage of the investment process, enabling proactive risk identification, mitigation, and ongoing monitoring.

Social and Environmental Management System (SEMS) Toolkit

In order to identify, measure and manage the abovementioned ESG risks across its investments, the CFC team systematically implements, the CFC's SEMS Due Diligence Toolkit. This SEMS toolkit was co-developed in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and integrates international frameworks, including IFC Performance Standards, IFC Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines and UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES).

The CFC's SEMS Toolkit consists of four key components designed to ensure compliance with industry standards, enhance risk mitigation, and promote sustainable investment practices.

The E&S Screening Tool serves as the first element, used before due diligence to identify potential environmental and social risks. This questionnaire evaluates compliance across four key areas: working conditions, resource use and conservation, pollution prevention, and community engagement. Based on preliminary interviews and documentation, it helps the CFC detect early warning signs of non-compliance and prioritize focus areas for further investigation.

Following the screening, the E&S Due Diligence Checklist provides a more detailed assessment during due diligence. Developed in alignment with the IFC Performance Standards, the ILO guidelines, and the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES), the checklist evaluates nine critical risk categories, including labor conditions, pollution prevention, biodiversity conservation, community health, and indigenous rights. By benchmarking against internationally recognized guidelines, the checklist ensures that investees meet high standards of E&S performance.

Building on the checklist, the E&S Risk Assessment assigns a risk score based on the severity and mitigation capacity of identified risks. This categorization, ranging from high risk (below 25%) to low risk (above 75%), determines the level of action required. High-risk investees must develop a corrective action plan, while medium-risk companies may need targeted improvements. Issues flagged are categorized as conditions precedent (requiring resolution before fund disbursement), undertakings (to be addressed during the loan period), or recommendations (advisory improvements without contractual obligation).

To ensure ongoing accountability, investees classified as high risk or requiring specific undertakings must submit an Annual E&S Performance Report. This report tracks progress on implementing corrective measures, ensuring that social and environmental risks are continuously monitored and mitigated. The CFC reviews these reports to adjust oversight levels and ensure sustained compliance with impact and sustainability objectives.

E&S Screening Tool

- Screen E&S compliance and identify E&S red flags for due diligence.
- Use the **E&S Screening tool** (questionnaire) to explore four key areas:
  - working conditions
  - resource use and conservation
  - pollution prevention
  - community engagement and safety.

During Screening

E&S Due Diligence Checklist

- Co-developed with ILO.
- **IFC Performance Standards**.
- IFC EHS Guidelines.
- UNDP SES Toolkit.
- Incorporates gender, industry standards from **GenderSmart** and **2X investment** communities.
- Specific checks for both farming and processing firms across **ten key parameters**.
- information on policies, compliance, risk management, and sustainable practices.

During Due Diligence

E&S Risk Assessment

- Generate risk scores across the ten key focus areas, with **topic-specific risk criteria**.
- Scores are consolidated to provide an **overall company risk score**.
- Based on final risk score, prepare a list of investment conditions: **conditions precedent; undertakings; recommendations**.

During Due Diligence

Annual E&S Performance Report

- **Annual E&S performance reports** requested to assess progress and action plan implementation.
- Outlines measures to prevent, mitigate, offset, and monitor adverse impacts and risks.
- Requires implementation of an effective monitoring system to address identified gaps.

During Implementation

1

Origination and Screening Phase

Screen ineligible applications and identify E&S risks to focus on during due diligence.

1. **Prospecting:** Assess eligibility and apply the Exclusion List. Non-compliant applications are rejected.
2. **Selection for pre-due diligence:** Preliminary E&S assessment, qualifying proposals go to Consultative Committee.
3. **Consultative Committee (CC):** IMs present and consult on E&S risks. CC rejects or approves and sets conditions for due diligence.

2

Investment Deep Dive

Evaluate compliance with E&S standards.
Selection of investees aligned with E&S Guidelines of the Fund.

4. **Desktop Due Diligence:** Assess E&S compliance, evaluating risks across the nine elements of the Due Diligence Checklist. Provide guidance for the on-site DD.
5. **Executive Board (EB):** EB makes final approval based on preliminary E&S risk assessment.
6. **On-site Due Diligence:** IMs verify data, assess management, and check high-risk areas on the ground using the On-site Due Diligence Checklist.
7. **Final Due Diligence Report:** finalize E&S Risk Assessment and outline compliance actions.
8. **Term Sheet:** Terms, due diligence cost-sharing, and approval conditions are agreed upon.

3

Investment & Post-Investment Phase

Identify E&S requirements and agree on E&S action plan.
Monitor through Annual E&S Reports.

9. **Loan agreement:** Terms, disbursement conditions, and E&S requirements are formalized. Agree on Annual E&S Progress Report, if applicable.
10. **Disbursement:** Funds are released upon verification, including E&S conditions.
11. **Annual E&S report:** High-risk projects with undertakings submit annual reports . IMs and Impact Manager review compliance. Accompanied by regular monitoring site visits for selected projects.

ESG Throughout the Investment Cycle

In order to ensure effective minimisation of ESG risks, we integrate ESG considerations at every stage of the CFC's investment cycle. This proactive approach is designed to embed sustainability into the very fabric of our investment decision-making and portfolio management processes.

The CFC's E&S risk management framework spans eleven distinct steps, each carefully structured to assess, monitor, and manage ESG-related risks. From the early stages of project screening and due diligence, to project approval, disbursement, implementation, and eventual exit, ESG risks are systematically evaluated and addressed.

This comprehensive process is guided by internationally recognised frameworks, most notably the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards, ensuring alignment with best practices in sustainable finance. These standards provide a robust benchmark for assessing potential environmental and social impacts, fostering accountability, and promoting stakeholder engagement.

By applying these standards consistently, the CFC not only mitigates adverse environmental and social impacts but also maximises the potential for positive, long-lasting change in the communities and ecosystems in which it invests. In doing so, the CFC strengthens the resilience and sustainability of its portfolio while supporting investee companies in achieving compliance and improving ESG performance over time.

The CFC's commitment to impact monitoring, ESG risk management, and stakeholder accountability is not static but continuously evolving. By building a solid foundation rooted in recognized frameworks and best practices, while also developing proprietary tools in response to the unique needs of agricultural impact investing, we have established a forward-looking approach. This approach provides a solid basis for our impact reporting, one that we are actively strengthening through the development of a new methodology aimed at enhancing the depth, reliability, and resilience of our reporting practices.

Photo: Ramandhani, a local entrepreneur, prepares chapati at the Fujoni market. Fujoni, Zanzibar, Tanzania. © FAO / Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala

"As global crises – from climate disruption to economic turbulence – increasingly affects rural communities, the CFC's support for agribusiness SMEs offers more than just funding – it strengthens their ability to adapt. By helping these businesses navigate the growing risks of a changing climate and connect to fairer, more transparent markets, the CFC is empowering farmers to sustain their work with dignity and secure a more stable future for their communities."

Mr. Hocine Irekti (CC Chair)

VI

VI.1 **Empowering the Global South:** CFC's 36th Governing Council **champions technology-driven transformation**

Photo: Mr. Georges Rebelo Chikoti. CFC

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) Governing Council successfully concluded on 11-12 December 2024 at The Hague Marriott Hotel, The Netherlands. Representatives from Member Countries, international organizations, and institutional observers gathered to advance strategic priorities, celebrate operational achievements, and chart the Fund's future direction – with a shared vision of bridging the gap between the Global South and North through technology-enabled transformation and human-centered value chains.

The meeting unanimously elected H.E. Ms. Mirjam Blaak Sow (Uganda) as Chairperson of the Governing Council for 2024 and 2025. Ambassador Caroline Kitana Chipeta (Tanzania), Ambassador Rekha Gunasekera (Sri Lanka), Ms. Anna Tofften (Sweden), and Mr. Jin Yuan (China) were elected as Vice-Chairpersons representing their respective regional groups.

A shared commitment to inclusive growth

H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Chikoti, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS), delivered a powerful keynote, stating:

"The OACPS and the CFC are not mere partners of convenience – we are allies united by a shared purpose. Together, we are committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality by empowering smallholder farmers and SMEs through innovative, equitable solutions. By harnessing technology and fostering inclusive policies, we can ensure that farmers in the Global South are not left behind by global market demands, such as those under the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)."

2024 Milestones: scaling impact through innovation

In 2024, the CFC approved 18 projects under its Open Call for Proposals, with a total project value of USD 135.56 million. The Fund contributed USD 18.55 million, prioritizing regenerative agriculture, climate resilience, and livelihood improvements for smallholder farmers. To date, the CFC has supported 480 projects worldwide, with a cumulative investment of USD 344.55 million, driving sustainable transformation across commodity-dependent communities.

Advancing the ACT Fund & new partnerships

The Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund continues to expand its reach, integrating climate resilience with farmer livelihoods through partnerships with Development Finance Institutions and impact investors. A landmark collaboration with the U.S. Department of State under the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) will scale private investment in climate-smart agriculture and soil health.

Additionally, the CFC secured a USD 500,000 grant from the Central Africa Forestry Initiative (CAFI) to promote deforestation-free agricultural value chains in the Congo Basin – a critical step in aligning economic growth with environmental sustainability.

Strategic vision for 2025–2035

The Council endorsed the development of the CFC's Strategic Framework for 2025–2035, allocating USD 200,000 to guide long-term priorities. This roadmap will enhance the Fund's role in fostering technology-driven, inclusive value chains that empower the Global South while ensuring sustainable commodity production.

A call to action: equity, innovation, and global solidarity

Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director of the CFC, underscored the urgency of collective action:

"Our mission is clear – to empower smallholder farmers and SMEs, who form 70% of the workforce in low-income countries yet remain underserved. By leveraging advanced technologies, carbon trading, and regenerative farming, we can bridge the divide between the Global South and North, ensuring climate resilience and economic progress go hand in hand."

He urged Member States to champion the Integrated Programme of Commodities (IPC), emphasizing:

"Only through strategic, human-centered interventions in commodity value chains can we still achieve the SDGs. The time to act is now."

Looking ahead

The 37th Annual Meeting will convene on 9-10 December 2025 in The Hague, with an open invitation for Member States to host.

A unified pledge for a sustainable future

The 36th Governing Council was more than a meeting – it was a global call to action, marked by an unprecedented show of solidarity. The CFC extends its deepest gratitude to all Member States for their overwhelming participation – a testament to our shared commitment, so strong that even the halls of The Hague Marriott seemed to brim with collective energy and purpose.

The Fund reaffirmed its dedication to equity, innovation, and shared responsibility, urging governments, businesses, and civil society to unite in building a more inclusive, resilient world.

Because in the end, we share not only the challenges – but one planet, and one future.

Chairperson for 2025

H.E. Ms. Mirjam Blaak Sow (Uganda)

Vice-Chairpersons for 2025

African Region Group: H.E. Ms. Caroline Kitana Chipeta (Tanzania)
Asian and Pacific Region Group: H.E. Ms. Rekha Gunasekera (Sri Lanka)
Latin American and Caribbean Region Group: (To be confirmed later by the group)
OECD Group: Ms. Anna Tofftén (Sweden)
China: Mr. Jin Yuan (China)
Russian Federation: (To be confirmed later by the group)

Photo: H.E. Mr. J. Eduardo Malaya. CFC

VI.2 Empowering change: **showcasing global best practices in poverty alleviation** at GC36

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) convened a compelling side event on December 11, 2024, as part of its 36th Governing Council Meeting in The Hague, Netherlands. Under the theme *'Harnessing Best Practices: Empowering Smallholders and Advancing Gender Equality to Alleviate Poverty and Hunger,'* the event brought together a diverse group of global leaders, innovators, and development stake-holders committed to tackling poverty through sustainable and inclusive solutions.

Opening the event, H.E. Mr. J. Eduardo Malaya, Ambassador of the Philippines to the Netherlands, stressed the importance of collective action and the power of partnerships in creating lasting development. His remarks were followed by those of H.E. Mr. Fernando Simas Magalhães, Ambassador of Brazil to the Netherlands, who shared Brazil's experiences under the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and emphasized the need for collaborative initiatives to address deep-rooted systemic challenges. Mr. Jin Yuan, Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of China to the Netherlands, provided a strategic overview of China's success in poverty alleviation, highlighting how targeted policies and innovation in the commodity sector have lifted millions out of poverty.

Photo: CFC

Photos: Mr. Md. Tauhid Bin Abdus Salam, CHP. CFC

Photo: Mr. Jeremy Lefroy, EFTA. CFC

A central highlight of the event was the presentation of four transformative projects that exemplify effective, community-driven development:

Classical Handmade Products (Bangladesh)

Presented by Mr. Theo Baert and Mr. Md. Tauhid Bin Abdus Salam, this initiative showcases how preserving traditional crafts can empower artisans, sustain cultural identity, and provide long-term livelihoods.

Photo: Ms. Gabriela Álvarez, Colcocoa. CFC

Colcocoa (Colombia)

Led by Ms. Gabriela Álvarez, the project focuses on sustainable cocoa farming and ethical sourcing, positioning Colombia as a global leader in high-quality, responsible cocoa production.

LadyAgri Impact Investment Hub (Ireland)

Introduced by Ms. Hilary Barry and Ms. Ayélé Sikavi Gabiam, this hub strengthens women-led agribusinesses and fosters inclusive food systems through targeted investment and support.

EFTA (Tanzania)

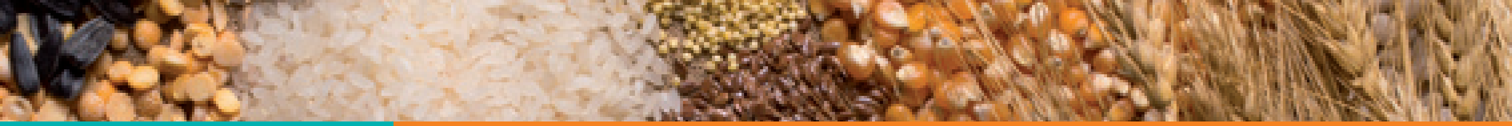
Presented by Mr. Jeremy Lefroy and Mr. Kees Verbeek, this initiative delivers innovative leasing models that help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access financing, thereby promoting local economic growth.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director of the CFC, delivered a strong call to action. He urged member states to leverage the Governing Council as a platform for sharing proven, scalable solutions that can be adapted globally. He also emphasized the symbolic role of The Hague – not just as a hub of international peace and justice, but as a city committed to fighting poverty and hunger. “In an AI-driven world, poverty has no place,” he declared.

The side event not only showcased impactful, on-the-ground solutions but also reinforced the CFC’s pivotal role as a driver of systemic change. By bridging global insights with local realities, the event underscored a critical truth: the path to eradicating poverty and hunger lies not in isolated efforts, but in the deliberate scaling of what works. As the discussions came to a close, one message resonated above all – turning best practices into lasting progress demands more than innovation; it calls for bold leadership, strategic collaboration, and a collective commitment to ensure that development is truly inclusive and sustainable.

As poverty resurges instead of receding, we no longer have the luxury of trial and error. It’s time to scale up the ideas, concepts, and pilot programs that have proven effective – to lift smallholder farmers and workers out of the depths of poverty.

Photo: Ms. Hilary Barry and Ms. Ayélé Sikavi Gabiam, LadyAgri. CFC



VII Financial Reports

Photo: Adobe Stock

Statement of Financial Position – First Account, as at 31 December 2024

(expressed in United States Dollar and Special Drawing Rights)

	2024 USD	2023 USD	2024 SDR	2023 SDR
ASSETS				
Non-current				
Right of Use Asset	275,400	444,300	211,200	331,100
Promissory Notes	31,435,200	33,212,800	24,104,300	24,747,300
Debt Securities	64,545,200	63,887,600	49,492,900	47,603,400
Participations in Investment Funds	1,489,100	1,432,400	1,141,800	1,077,900
Non-current assets	**97,744,900**	**98,977,100**	**74,950,200**	**73,759,700**
Current				
Debt Securities	9,843,700	10,754,900	7,548,100	8,013,600
Participations in Investment Funds	209,100	105,900	160,400	68,300
Prepayments and other short-term assets	164,100	269,100	125,800	200,500
Amounts receivable from Members -/- provision	803,500	852,300	616,100	635,000
Loan Receivables	0	0	0	0
Cash and Cash equivalents	765,100	1,584,100	586,700	1,180,400
Accrued Income on Investments	879,600	932,500	674,500	694,800
Recoverable Taxes on goods & services	54,400	32,100	41,700	23,900
Other current assets	3,883,400	4,130,700	2,977,800	3,077,800
Other receivables	1,514,900	1,385,200	1,161,600	1,032,100
Current assets	**18,117,800**	**20,046,800**	**13,892,700**	**14,926,400**
Total assets	**115,862,700**	**119,023,900**	**88,842,900**	**88,686,100**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Paid-in-Shares of Directly Contributed Capital	100,545,300	102,371,700	77,097,600	76,278,400
Net Earning Programme	13,071,100	13,090,800	10,022,900	9,754,100
Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)	1,086,600	1,963,400	833,200	1,463,000
Total Equity	**114,703,000**	**117,425,900**	**87,953,700**	**87,495,500**
Liabilities				
Non-current				
Lease liabilities	165,300	382,100	126,800	284,600
Turkey settlement	156,600	156,600	120,100	116,700
Accrued liabilities	151,000	147,500	115,800	109,900
Non-current liabilities	**472,900**	**686,200**	**362,700**	**511,200**
Current				
Lease liability	180,300	159,700	138,300	119,000
Accrued liabilities	506,500	752,100	388,200	560,400
Current liabilities	**686,600**	**911,800**	**526,500**	**679,400**
Total liabilities	**1,159,500**	**1,598,000**	**889,200**	**1,190,600**
Total equity and liabilities	**115,862,700**	**119,023,900**	**88,842,900**	**88,686,100**

Statement of Financial Position – Second Account, as at 31 December 2024

(expressed in United States Dollar and Special Drawing Rights)

	2024 USD	2023 USD	2024 SDR	2023 SDR
ASSETS				
Non-current				
Promissory Notes	5,008,500	5,312,100	3,840,500	3,958,100
Debt Securities	53,262,100	53,254,100	40,841,100	39,680,300
Participation in Investment Funds	2,423,400	2,270,100	1,858,200	1,691,500
Loan Receivable -/- Provision	4,222,900	3,045,300	3,238,100	2,269,100
Non-current assets	**64,916,900**	**63,881,600**	**49,777,900**	**47,599,000**
Current				
Debt Securities	9,191,900	10,550,400	7,048,300	7,861,200
Amounts receivable from Members -/- Provision	0	0	0	0
Loan Receivables -/- Provision	4,870,000	6,154,600	3,734,300	4,585,900
Cash and Cash equivalents	3,740,800	5,730,200	2,868,400	4,269,600
Accrued Income on Investments	1,406,400	1,540,700	1,078,500	1,148,000
Receivable from Dutch Trust Fund	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	7,743,600	5,001,500	5,937,800	3,726,700
Current assets	**26,952,700**	**28,977,400**	**20,667,300**	**21,591,400**
Total assets	**91,869,600**	**92,859,000**	**70,445,200**	**69,190,400**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Paid-in-Shares of Directly Contributed Capital	24,424,500	24,728,100	18,728,600	18,425,200
Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)	65,034,300	66,159,700	49,868,000	49,296,400
Total Equity	**89,458,800**	**90,887,800**	**68,596,600**	**67,721,600**
Liabilities				
Non-current				
Belgium Settlement	327,400	347,300	251,100	258,800
Luxembourg Settlement	3,500	3,500	2,700	2,600
Turkey Settlement	234,900	234,900	180,100	175,000
Non-current liabilities	**565,800**	**585,700**	**433,900**	**436,400**
Current				
Payable to Dutch Ministry	0	0	0	0
Other payables	1,845,000	1,385,500	1,414,700	1,032,400
Current liabilities	**1,845,000**	**1,385,500**	**1,414,700**	**1,032,400**
Total liabilities	**2,410,800**	**1,971,200**	**1,848,600**	**1,468,800**
Total equity and liabilities	**91,869,600**	**92,859,000**	**70,445,200**	**70,038,700**

Statement of Profit or Loss – First Account, for the year ended 31 December 2024

(expressed in United States Dollar and Special Drawing Rights)

	2024	2023	2024	2023
	USD	USD	SDR	SDR
Income				
Net Income from Investments	2,311,500	1,988,700	1,741,200	1,490,700
Other Income	1,802,500	1,740,000	1,357,700	1,304,300
Unrealized (loss)/gain on investments	(339,000)	0	(255,300)	0
Unrealized (loss)/gain on investment funds	163,700	(738,300)	123,300	(553,400)
Realized Exchange (loss)/gain on Operations	1,700	8,700	1,300	6,500
Unrealized Exchange (loss)/gain on translation of balance sheet items	(1,111,800)	1,142,400	(837,500)	856,300
Total income	**2,828,600**	**4,141,500**	**2,130,700**	**3,104,400**
Expenses				
Staff Salaries & Benefits	(2,852,800)	(2,698,500)	(2,148,800)	(2,022,700)
Operational Expenses	(354,600)	(372,200)	(267,100)	(279,000)
Meeting Costs	(106,300)	(121,900)	(80,100)	(91,400)
Premises Costs	(228,000)	(209,900)	(171,800)	(157,300)
PPF/Legal and Due Diligence Facility	0	0	0	0
Advocacy	0	0	0	0
Information Dissemination	0	0	0	0
Contingency/Extra ordinary items	0	0	0	0
Total expenses	**(3,541,700)**	**(3,402,500)**	**(2,667,800)**	**(2,550,400)**
(Loss)/Profit for the year	**(713,100)**	**739,000**	**(537,100)**	**554,000**

Statement of Comprehensive Income – First Account, for the year ended 31 December 2024

(expressed in United States Dollar and Special Drawing Rights)

	2024	2023	2024	2023
	USD	USD	SDR	SDR
(Loss)/Profit for the year	(713,100)	739,000	(537,100)	554,000
Items that will not be reclassified to profit and loss	0	0	0	0
Items that will be reclassified to profit and loss:				
Project payments	(183,400)	(72,100)	(138,100)	(54,000)
Total comprehensive income for the year	**(896,500)**	**666,900**	**(675,200)**	**500,000**

Statement of Profit or Loss – Second Account, for the year ended 31 December 2024
(expressed in United States Dollar and Special Drawing Rights)

	2024	2023	2024	2023
	USD	USD	SDR	SDR
Income				
Net Income from Investments	2,413,600	2,138,800	1,818,100	1,603,200
Income from Loans	532,700	771,400	401,300	578,200
Realized Exchange (loss)/gain on Operations	55,500	(7,700)	41,800	(5,800)
Unrealized (loss)/gain on Investment Funds	67,800	212,200	51,100	159,100
Unrealized Exchange (loss)/gain on translation of balance sheet items	(183,900)	75,000	(138,500)	56,200
Total income	**2,885,700**	**3,189,700**	**2,173,700**	**2,390,900**
Expenses				
Project Payments	(197,500)	(100,900)	(148,800)	(75,600)
Administration fee on investment portfolio	(1,367,700)	(1,302,000)	(1,030,200)	(975,900)
Provision for overdue loan	(2,445,700)	(2,439,700)	(1,842,200)	(1,828,700)
Total expenses	**(4,010,900)**	**(3,842,600)**	**(3,021,200)**	**(2,880,200)**
(Loss)/Profit for the year	**(1,125,200)**	**(652,900)**	**(847,500)**	**(489,300)**

Statement of Comprehensive Income – Second Account, for the year ended 31 December 2024
(expressed in United States Dollar and Special Drawing Rights)

	2024	2023	2024	2023
	USD	USD	SDR	SDR
(Loss)/Profit for the year	(1,125,200)	(652,900)	(847,500)	(489,300)
Items that will not be reclassified to profit and loss	0	0	0	0
Items that will be reclassified to profit and loss	0	0	0	0
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	**(1,125,200)**	**(652,900)**	**(847,500)**	**(489,300)**

Directly Contributed Capital, as at 31 December 2024 (USD)

	First Account			Second Account		
	Outstanding Contributions[1]	Payments		Outstanding Contributions[1]	Payments	
		Cash	Promissory Notes		Cash	Promissory Notes
Afghanistan	0	399.412	361.825	0	0	0
Algeria	0	862.744	0	0	0	0
Angola	0	61.786	0	0	339.823	403.176
Argentina	0	0	372.135	0	635.460	43.481
Bangladesh	139.906	95.062	0	0	308.154	344.595
Benin	4.824	344.491	344.595	0	0	0
Bhutan	0	3.424	3.446	0	338.969	341.149
Botswana	4.824	344.491	344.595	0	0	0
Brazil	0	1.692.815	0	0	701.208	0
Bulgaria	733.319	284.202	0	0	0	0
Burkina Faso	4.824	344.491	344.595	0	0	0
Burundi	0	34.239	34.459	0	308.154	310.136
Cameroon	0	990.853	0	0	0	0
Cape Verde	0	342.393	344.595	0	0	0
Central African Republic	9.648	346.588	344.595	0	0	0
Chad	14.473	364.254	344.595	0	0	0
China	0	3.807.113	3.828.452	0	0	0
Colombia	0	1.060.568	0	0	0	0
Comoros	0	342.393	344.595	0	0	0
Congo	1.045.945	0	0	0	0	0
Dem.Republic of Congo (Zaire)	0	1.213.098	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	0	833.938	0	0	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	0	1.273.830	0	0	0	0
Cuba	0	291.399	292.947	0	393.960	291.232
Denmark	0	599.933	394.217	0	718.430	0
Djibouti	0	388.206	344.595	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	126.968	0	0	699.028	0
Egypt	0	616.445	506.555	0	0	0
Equatorial Guinea	0	734.443	0	0	0	0
Eswatini (former Swaziland)	0	94.101	358.377	0	262.885	0
Ethiopia	38.595	187.975	172.298	0	171.197	172.297
Finland	0	586.004	589.258	0	154.611	25.476
Gabon	300.859	455.118	0	0	0	0
Gambia	9.649	346.588	344.595	0	0	0
Germany	0	5.954.753	5.927.037	0	657.485	96.087
Ghana	0	1.085.935	0	0	0	0
Greece	0	347.901	344.595	0	0	0
Guatemala	0	423.346	0	0	408.621	0
Guinea	24.122	13.911	3.446	0	338.969	341.149
Guinea-Bissau	0	342.393	344.595	0	0	0
Haiti	14.473	348.685	344.595	0	0	0
Honduras	37.906	37.758	0	341.149	339.823	0
India	0	370.828	368.717	0	560.088	89.445
Indonesia	0	449.328	113.717	0	579.573	132.592
Iraq	1	878.501	0	0	0	0
Ireland	0	3.455	3.446	0	615.094	102.700
Italy	0	2.558.455	2.570.680	0	612.520	113.180
Jamaica	0	48.056	48.243	0	612.816	123.854
Kenya	0	906.469	0	0	0	0
Dem. People's Republic of Korea	716.758	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Korea	0	517.919	520.339	0	0	0
Kuwait	0	941.579	0	0	0	0
Lao People's Dem. Republic	0	387.130	348.041	0	0	0

Directly Contributed Capital, as at 31 December 2024 (USD)

	First Account			Second Account		
	Outstanding Contributions[1]	Payments		Outstanding Contributions[1]	Payments	
		Cash	Promissory Notes		Cash	Promissory Notes
Lesotho	0	342.393	344.595	0	0	0
Madagascar	0	48.209	0	0	703.374	0
Malawi	14.473	348.685	0	0	0	344.595
Malaysia	0	832.788	854.596	0	0	0
Maldives	0	34.239	0	0	308.154	344.595
Mali	14.473	40.531	34.460	0	308.154	310.136
Mauritania	38.595	395.774	344.595	0	0	0
Mexico	0	170.697	0	0	770.650	148.631
Morocco	0	471.279	3.446	0	375.021	127.221
Mozambique	0	439.549	324.988	0	0	0
Myanmar	19.297	342.665	347.352	0	0	0
Nepal	4.824	310.251	310.136	0	34.239	34.459
Netherlands	0	752.209	1.481.759	0	730.118	0
Nicaragua	0	98.166	0	0	653.459	0
Niger	4.824	344.491	0	0	0	344.595
Nigeria	0	124.171	120.608	0	624.220	93.005
Norway	0	347.901	354.933	0	608.489	97.605
Pakistan	0	871.363	0	0	0	0
Papua New Guinea	0	120.151	0	0	699.703	0
Peru	0	1.074.903	0	0	0	0
Philippines	0	614.978	0	0	785.857	0
Portugal	0	171.346	0	0	447.097	101.535
Russian Federation	6.426.700	6.368.048	0	0	0	0
Rwanda	14.473	348.685	344.595	0	0	0
Samoa	0	342.393	344.595	0	0	0
Sao Tome and Principe	0	734.443	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	360.373	361.825	0	0	0
Senegal	0	959.157	0	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	14.473	348.685	344.595	0	0	0
Singapore	0	227.143	230.879	0	411.896	61.005
Somalia	349.420	344.491	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	2.547.890	0	0	619.883	0
Sri Lanka	0	422.309	427.298	0	0	0
Sudan	115.784	290.011	241.217	0	102.718	103.379
Sweden	0	874.180	909.731	0	640.618	98.474
Syrian Arab Republic	0	916.910	0	0	0	0
United Republic of Tanzania	62.716	198.462	172.298	0	171.197	172.297
Thailand	0	485.578	472.095	0	0	0
Togo	0	763.530	0	0	0	0
Trinidad & Tobago	0	680.870	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	0	959.840	0	0	0	0
Uganda	86.838	380.145	344.595	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	1.025.636	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	0	3.166.031	2.855.649	0	664.193	0
Venezuela	0	878.775	0	0	0	0
Yemen	9.649	688.981	689.190	0	0	0
Zambia	186.454	912.100	0	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	725.106	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**11.488.755**	**68.306.642**	**33.212.807**	**341.150**	**19.415.954**	**5.312.086**

[1] As stated in Schedule B of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, Members in the category of least developed countries as defined by the United Nations shall pay only 30% of the number of shares exceeding 100, over a period of three years. The remaining 70% (of shares exceeding 100) shall be paid as and when decided by the Executive Board. This remaining 70% is also included in the Outstanding Contributions.

Voluntary Contributions, as at 31 December 2024 (USD)

	Pledge (3rd 5YAP)		Payments Cash up to 31 Dec. 2023	Payments Cash 2024	Payments Total 31.12.2024	
Country	Currency	USD[1]	USD	USD	USD	SDR
Austria[3]	USD	2.000.000	2.000.000	0	2.000.000	1.490.224
Belgium[3]	EUR	3.000.000	3.235.542	0	3.235.542	2.410.842
Cameroon	USD	0	7.994	0	7.994	5.956
China	USD	2.000.000	2.000.000	0	2.000.000	1.490.224
Denmark	DKR	2.188.064	794.987	0	794.987	592.355
Ecuador	USD	0	45.311	0	45.311	33.762
Finland	USD	2.000.000	2.011.089	0	2.011.089	1.498.487
France[3]	USD	15.000.000	2.385.648	0	2.385.648	1.777.575
Germany	USD	22.549.790	22.549.790	0	22.549.790	16.802.120
India	USD	5.000.000	5.000.000	0	5.000.000	3.725.560
Indonesia	USD	1.000.000	1.000.201	0	1.000.201	745.262
Ireland	USD	250.000	250.000	0	250.000	186.278
Italy	USD	15.000.000	14.999.999	0	14.999.999	11.176.680
Japan[3]	USD	27.000.000	32.231.940	0	32.231.940	24.016.408
Luxembourg[3]	USD	150.000	149.989	0	149.989	111.759
Madagascar	USD	8.643	8.616	0	8.616	6.420
Malaysia	USD	1.000.000	999.922	0	999.922	745.054
Netherlands	USD	17.000.000	19.560.207	0	19.560.207	14.574.546
Nigeria	USD	150.000	150.000	0	150.000	111.767
Norway	USD	22.490.000	22.446.462	0	22.446.462	16.725.130
OPEC Fund[4]	USD	29.250.000	29.250.000	0	29.250.000	21.794.528
Papua New Guinea	USD	0	70.055	0	70.055	52.199
Republic of Korea	USD	300.000	300.000	0	300.000	223.534
Singapore	USD	250.000	250.000	0	250.000	186.278
Sweden	USD	2.345.996	2.345.996	0	2.345.996	1.748.030
Switzerland[3]	USD	6.000.000	3.000.000	0	3.000.000	2.235.336
Thailand	USD	1.000.000	1.000.000	0	1.000.000	745.112
United Kingdom[2]	STG	5.438.060	7.399.909	0	7.399.909	5.513.762
Total		**182.370.552**	**175.443.658**	**0**	**175.443.658**	**130.725.188**

[1] Amounts pledges have been converted to USD equivalent using the IMF rates of 23/12/24
[2] Payment of MOU of GBP 4,270,000 received considered as contribution under Article 18.1.(e)
[3] Not a member of CFC
[4] Observer

2024 Administrative Budget, Summary

	2024	2024
	USD	EUR
Staff Costs	3.211.900	2.946.600
Operational Costs	595.100	545.900
Meeting Costs	139.700	128.000
Contingency	10.500	10.000
Total	**3.957.200**	**3.630.500**

To: the Governing Council of the Common Fund for Commodities

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL REPORTS

Our opinion
The summary financial statements 2024 (hereafter: 'the abbreviated financial reports') of the First Account and Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities, based in Amsterdam, is derived from the audited financial statements 2024 of the First Account and Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities.

In our opinion the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements 2024 of the First Account and Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities.

Abbreviated financial reports
The abbreviated financial reports do not contain all the disclosures required by the International Financial Reporting Standards. Reading the abbreviated financial reports and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the First Account and Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities and our auditor's report thereon. The abbreviated financial reports and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on those financial statements of June 27, 2025.

The audited financial statements and our auditor's report thereon
We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements 2024 of the First Account and Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities in our auditor's report of June 27, 2025.

Responsibilities of management board for the summary financial statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of the abbreviated financial reports in accordance with the accounting policies as applied in the 2024 financial statements of the First Account and Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities.

Our responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the abbreviated financial reports are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which we conducted in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standard 810, "Engagements to report on summary financial statements".

Amsterdam, June 27, 2025

Grant Thornton Accountants en Adviseurs B.V.

ValidSigned door S. Thakur - Rana
op 27-06-2025

Sabreena Thakur-Rana RA

Photo: A Woman cassava farmer, Zanzibar, Tanzania. © FAO / Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala

Photo: Adobe Stock

ANNEX I

Governors and Alternate Governors as of 31 December 2024

Chairperson of the Governing Council during 2024:

H.E. Ms. Mirjam Blaak Sow (Uganda)

Vice-Chairpersons during 2024:

Africa: H.E. Ms. Mirjam Blaak Sow (Uganda)
Asia and Pacific: H.E. Ms. Rekha Gunasekera (Sri Lanka)
China: Mr. JIN Yuan
Latin America and Caribbean: Mr. Diego Sadofschi (Argentina)
OECD: Ms. Anna Tofftén (Sweden)
Russian Federation: Mr. Alexander Dyukarev

Country	Governor	Alternate Governor
Afghanistan	H.E. Mr. Mohammed Asif Rahimi	Mr. Sayed Mahdi Alavi
Algeria	H.E. Ms. Salima Abdelhak	Mr. Abdelmoumene Senoussaoui
Angola	H.E. Ms. Maria I. Resende Encoge	Mr. Anatólio Mikotene Domingos
Argentina	H.E. Mr. Mario Javier Agustín Oyarzábal	Mr. Diego Emilio Sadofschi
Bangladesh	Mr. Md. Selim Uddin	H.E. Mr. Tareque Muhammad
Benin	H.E. Ms. Corinne Brunet	Amb. Angelo Dan
Bhutan	H.E. Mr. Tenzin R. Wangchuk	Mr. Passang Dorji
Botswana	H.E. Ms. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba	Ms. Nancy Neo Chengeta
Brazil	Minister Grace Tanno	Mr. Juliano Rojas Maia
Bulgaria	Mr. Petar Dimitrov	-
Burkina Faso	H.E. Mr. Léopold Tonguenoma Bonkoungou	Mr. Hadi Honoré Yonli
Burundi	Hon. Marie Chantal Nijimbere	Mr. Sébastien Nzimana
Cabo Verde	c/o H.E. Mr. José Filomeno de Carvalho dias Monteiro	-
Cameroon	Mr. Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana	H.E. Ms. Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua
Central African Republic	c/o H.E. Mr. Daniel Emery Dede	-
Chad	c/o H.E. Dr. Bachar Brahim Adoum	-
China	Mr. ZHAO Chunfeng	Mr. JIN Yuan
Colombia	H.E. Ms. Carolina Olarte Bácares	Mr. Marco A. Velazquez Ruiz
Comoros	c/o H.E. Mr. Mohamed Chatur Badaoui	-
Congo	Mr. Randy Aymand Noël Kamba	-
Costa Rica	H.E. Mr. Arnoldo Brenes Castro	Ms. Sofia Cob Briceño
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani	H.E. Mr. Aly Toure

Country	Governor	Alternate Governor
Cuba	Mr. Carlos Fidel Martín Rodríguez	H.E. Ms. Anet Pino Rivero
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	c/o H.E. Mr. JO Chol Su	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	H.E. Mr. Paul Empole Efambe	Mr. Jean-Claude Omba Olenga
Denmark	To be nominated	-
Djibouti	H.E. Mr. Aden Mohamed Dileita	-
Ecuador	H.E. Mr. Andrés Terán Parral	Mr. Javier Llorca-Vega
Egypt	H.E. Mr. Emad Magdy Hanna Kamel	Ms. Dahlia Tawakol
Equatorial Guinea	c/o H.E. Mr. Juan Ndong Nguema Mbengono	-
Eswatini	Mr. Newman S. Ntshangase	Mr. Mluleki S. Dlamini
Ethiopia	H.E. Mr. Eshete Tilahun Woldeyes	Amb. Fortuna Dibaco Cizare
Finland	Mr. Antti Piispanen	-
Gabon	H.E. Ms. Marie Paulette Parfaite Amouyeme Ollame épouse Divassa Bofi	H.E. Mr. Serge Thierry Mickoto Chavagne
Gambia	H.E. Mr. Pa Musa Jobarteh	Mr. Ousainou Senghore
Germany	Dr. Peer Hoth	Mr. Oliver Knoerich
Ghana	Hon. Kobina T. Hammond	H.E. Mr. Francis Danti Kotia
Greece	Mr. Apostolos Michalopoulos	Ms. Eleni Karaiskou
Guatemala	H.E. Mr. Eduardo Sperisen Yurt	Ms. Débora Maria Cumes Mariscal
Guinea	Mr. Emile Yombouno	Mr. Housseine Bangoura
Guinea-Bissau	c/o H.E. Mr. Helder Jorge Vaz Gomes Lopes	-
Haiti	Mr. Hervey Day	c/o Ambassador
Honduras	Mr. Mauricio Guevara Pinto	Mr. David Ernesto Wainwright
India	Dr. M. Balaji	Mr. Satya Pinisetty
Indonesia	Mr. Tri Tharyat	Mr. Boby Wahyu Hernawan
Iraq	Mr. Riyadh Fakher Al-Hasani	Mr. Munther Abdulameer Asad
Ireland	H.E. Ms. Ann Derwin	-
Italy	Mr. Lucio Loiero	Mr. Simon Carta
Jamaica	The Honourable Floyd O'Brian Green	H.E. Dr. Richard Brown
Kenya	c/o H.E. Ms. Halima Yussuf Mucheke	To be nominated
Kuwait	c/o Ambassador	Mr. Ibrahim Aldai
Laos	Mr. Samly Boutsady	H.E. Mr. Kingphokeo Phommahaxay
Lesotho	The Honourable Lejone Mpotjoana	H.E. Ms. Mantoetsi Liteboho Mohatonyane
Madagascar	H.E. Mr. Jean-Omer Beriziky	Mr. Eric Ratsimbazafy
Malawi	H.E. Dr. Naomi A. Ngwira	Mr. Richard Chiputula
Malaysia	Dato' Yusran Shah Bin Mohd Yusuf	Dato' Abdul Hadi Bin Omar
Maldives	H.E. Mr. Moosa Zamir	H.E. Mr. Hussain Zamir
Mali	H.E. Mr. El Hadji Alhouseini Traore	Ms. Mama Mininian Bore
Mauritania	c/o H.E. Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Brahim Khlil	Mr. Mohamed Moctar Alaoui
Mexico	Mr. Rogelio Ramírez de la O	H.E. Mr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez
Morocco	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Basri	Ms. Sanaa Ziati
Mozambique	Mr. Claire Mateus Zimba	Ms. Joaquina Gumeta
Myanmar	H.E. Mr. Htun Ohn	Mr. Myint Thura
Nepal	c/o Ambassador	To be nominated
Netherlands	Mr. Paul Zwetsloot	Ms. Carlijn Ashmead
Nicaragua	Mr. José de Jesús Bermúdez Carvajal	H.E. Mr. Carlos J. Argüello Gómez
Niger	H.E. Mr. Idé Alhassane	Mr. Issoufou Garba
Nigeria	Dr. Evelyn N. Ngige	c/o Ambassador
Norway	Ms. Elisabeth Walaas	Ms. Kristin Hefre
Pakistan	H.E. Mr. Suljuk Mustansaar Tarar	Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Haider
Papua New Guinea	Mr. William Dihm	c/o Ambassador
Peru	H.E. Ms. Franca Deza Ferreccio	Ms. Sandra Luisana Rodríguez Sánchez
Philippines	H.E. Mr. J. Eduardo Malaya	Ms. Nolet Fulgencio
Portugal	Mr. Joaquim Miranda Sarmento	Mr. José Carlos Azevedo Pereira
Republic of Korea	H.E. Mr. Sang Mok Choi	Mr. Chang Yong Rhee

Country	Governor	Alternate Governor
Russian Federation	Mr. Alexander Dyukarev	Ms. Tatiana Romanova
Rwanda	Mr. Richard Niwenshuti	Mr. Antoine Kajangwe
Samoa	To be nominated	-
Sao Tome and Principe	c/o Ambassador	-
Saudi Arabia	Mr. Abdulaziz A.S. Alturki	Mr. Saeid M. Alkahtani
Senegal	H.E. Ms. Ramatoulaye Ba Faye	Mr. Henry Pierre Sarr
Sierra Leone	Mr. James Vibbi	Mr. Didan Sankoh
Singapore	H.E. Mr. Hung Seng Tan	-
Somalia	c/o Ambassador	-
Spain	Mr. Jaime Camps Almiñana	Mr. Oscar Vía Ozalla
Sri Lanka	Ms. Ameena Mohin	H.E. Ms. Rekha Gunasekera
Sudan	Ms. Omaina M.A. Alsharief	Ms. Rasha Beshir Ahmed Yousif
Sweden	Ms. Anna Tofftén	-
Syrian Arab Republic	H.E. Mr. Milad Atieh	Mr. Loai Al Oja
Thailand	Mr. Sedthakiat Krajangwongs	Mr. Chantanon Wannakejohn
Togo	Mr. Kommabou Fandjinou	Mr. Seyiram K. Amefian
Trinidad & Tobago	Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein	Ms. Nela Dwarika-Ali
Tunisia	H.E. Mr. Skander Denguezli	Ms. Haifa Ben Alaya
Uganda	Mr. Emmanuel Mutahunga	H.E. Ms. Mirjam Blaak Sow
United Arab Emirates	c/o Ambassador	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Simon Calvert	-
United Republic of Tanzania	Dr. Hashil T. Abdallah	H.E. Ms. Caroline Kitana Chipeta
Venezuela	Mr. Rubén Darío Molina	H.E. Mr. Hector Constant Rosales
Yemen	H.E. Ms. Sahar Mohammed Abduljabbar Ghanem	Mr. Mohammed Fakher
Zambia	H.E. Mr. Sylvester Mundanda	Ms. Lina Mutandwa Chambwe
Zimbabwe	mb. Albert Chimbindi	H.E. Mr. Ammon Mutembwa
Andean Community (CAN)	c/o Amb. Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinel	-
African Union (AU)	c/o H.E. Josefa Leonel Correira Sacko AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE)	c/o H.E. Albert M. Muchanga AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, Mining (ETTIM)
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	Dr. Carla Natalie Barnett	-
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe	-
East African Community (EAC)	H.E Veronica M. Nduva, CBS	Director for Trade
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	c/o H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray	-
European Union (EU)	Mr. Regis Meritan	-
Southern African Development Community (SADC)	c/o H.E. Elias Mpedi Magosi	-
West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU/UEMOA)	c/o Mr. Abdoulaye Diop	-

Photo: Adobe Stock

ANNEX II

Member States, Institutional Members and Votes as of 31 December 2024

Country	Region	No. of votes	LDC
Afghanistan	Asia	357	X
Algeria	Africa	395	
Angola	Africa	391	X
Argentina	LAC	496	
Bangladesh	Asia	426	X
Benin	Africa	347	X
Bhutan	Asia	343	
Botswana	Africa	347	
Brazil	LAC	1,024	
Bulgaria	Europe	417	
Burkina Faso	Africa	347	X
Burundi	Africa	343	X
Cameroon	Africa	389	
Cabo Verde	Africa	343	
Central African Republic	Africa	349	X
Chad	Africa	351	X
China	Asia	3,000	
Colombia	LAC	490	
Comoros	Africa	343	X
Congo	Africa	351	
Costa Rica	LAC	393	
Côte d'Ivoire	Africa	476	

Photo: Mud crab farmer, Bangladesh. © FAO/Masudur Rahaman

Country	Region	No. of votes	LDC
Cuba	LAC	584	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Asia	355	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Africa	476	X
Denmark	Europe	643	
Djibouti	Africa	343	X
Ecuador	LAC	391	
Egypt	Africa	476	
Equatorial Guinea	Africa	347	
Eswatini	Africa	355	
Ethiopia	Africa	366	X
Finland	Europe	535	
Gabon	Africa	368	
Gambia	Africa	349	X
Germany	Europe	4,362	
Ghana	Africa	426	
Greece	Europe	309	
Guatemala	LAC	401	
Guinea	Africa	357	X
Guinea-Bissau	Africa	343	X
Haiti	LAC	353	X
Honduras	LAC	372	
India	Asia	621	
Indonesia	Asia	575	
Iraq	Asia	376	
Ireland	Europe	309	
Italy	Europe	2,065	
Jamaica	LAC	380	
Kenya	Africa	387	
Kuwait	Asia	351	
Lao People's Dem. Republic	Asia	345	X
Lesotho	Africa	343	X
Madagascar	Africa	360	X
Malawi	Africa	351	X
Malaysia	Asia	768	
Maldives	Asia	343	
Mali	Africa	351	X
Mauritania	Africa	366	X
Mexico	LAC	469	
Morocco	Africa	449	
Mozambique	Africa	360	X
Myanmar	Asia	355	X
Nepal	Asia	345	X
Netherlands	Europe	1,086	
Nicaragua	LAC	382	
Niger	Africa	347	X
Nigeria	Africa	440	
Norway	Europe	549	
Pakistan	Asia	407	
Papua New Guinea	Asia	389	
Peru	LAC	445	
Philippines	Asia	580	
Portugal	Europe	309	

Country	Region	No. of votes	LDC
Republic of Korea	Asia	490	
Russian Federation	Europe	4,257	
Rwanda	Africa	351	X
Samoa	Asia	343	
Sao Tome and Principe	Africa	345	
Saudi Arabia	Asia	357	
Senegal	Africa	382	X
Sierra Leone	Africa	351	X
Singapore	Asia	441	
Somalia	Africa	347	X
Spain	Europe	1,126	
Sri Lanka	Asia	413	
Sudan	Africa	413	X
Sweden	Europe	929	
Syria	Asia	382	
Thailand	Asia	449	
Togo	Africa	358	X
Trinidad and Tobago	LAC	353	
Tunisia	Africa	380	
Uganda	Africa	395	X
United Republic of Tanzania	Africa	380	X
United Arab Emirates	Asia	347	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Europe	2,550	
Venezuela	LAC	401	
Yemen	Asia	544	X
Zambia	Africa	505	X
Zimbabwe	Africa	343	
EC	Europe	0	
AU	Africa	0	
COMESA	Africa	0	
EAC	Africa	0	
CAN	LAC	0	
CARICOM	LAC	0	
SADC	Africa	0	
ECOWAS	Africa	0	
WAEMU/UEMOA	Africa	0	
TOTAL		**57,364**	

LDC: Least Developed Country
LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean Countries

Institutional Members of the Common Fund for Commodities

African Union (AU) – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Andean Community (CAN) – Lima, Peru
Caribbean Community (CARICOM) – Greater Georgetown, Guyana
Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA) – Lusaka, Zambia
East African Community (EAC) – Arusha, Tanzania
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – Abuja, Nigeria
European Union (EU) – Brussels, Belgium
South African Development Community (SADC) – Gaborone, Botswana
West African Economic & Monetary Union (WAEMU/UEMOA) – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Designated International Commodity Bodies (ICBs)

1 International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)
2 International Coffee Organization (ICO)
3 International Copper Study Group (ICSG)
4 International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)
5 International Grains Council (IGC)
6 International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG)
7 International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR)
8 International Nickel Study Group (INSG)
9 International Olive Council (IOC)
10 International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)
11 International Sugar Organization (ISO)
12 International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
13 FAO – Intergovernmental Sub-Group on Bananas
14 FAO – Intergovernmental Group on Citrus Fruit
15 FAO – Intergovernmental Sub-Committee on Fish Trade
16 FAO – Intergovernmental Group on Grains
17 FAO – Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres
18 FAO – Intergovernmental Sub-Group on Hides and Skins
19 FAO – Intergovernmental Group on Meat and Dairy Products
20 FAO – Intergovernmental Group on Oils, Oilseeds and Fats
21 FAO – Intergovernmental Group on Rice
22 FAO – Intergovernmental Group on Tea
23 FAO – Intergovernmental Sub-Group on Tropical Fruits

Institutions with Memoranda of Understanding

The Common Fund for Commodities has concluded Memoranda of Understanding with the following institutions:

1 African Development Bank (AfDB)/African Development Fund
2 African Export-Import Bank (AFEXIM)
3 Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
4 Authority for Integrated Development of the Liptako-Gourma Region (ALG)/L'Autorité de Developpement Integré de la Region du Liptako-Gourma
5 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
6 Grupo de Paises Latino Americanos y del Caribe Exportadores de Azúcar (GEPLACEA)
7 Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
8 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
9 Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
10 OXFAM
11 Sistema Económico Latino Americano (SELA)
12 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
13 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
14 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
15 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
16 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
17 United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
18 United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
19 West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)/Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA)
20 Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DBCCI)
21 Council on Smallholder Agricultural Finance (CSAF)

Abbreviations

AAF-SME	Africa Agriculture SME Fund
AATIF	Africa Agriculture Trade and Investment Fund
ACT	Agricultural Commodity Transformation Fund
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AFC	Agronomika Finance Corporation
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFSF	Africa Food Security Fund
ALG	Authority for Integrated Development of the Liptako-Gourma Region
AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
ATAF	Moringa Agroforestry Technical Assistance Fund
AU	African Union
BDS	Business Development Services
BMZ	German Ministry for Development Cooperation and Economic Development
CAF	Latin American Development Bank
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CDDCs	Commodity Dependent Developing Countries
CFC	Common Fund for Commodities
CFGBV	Community Forest Group BV
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
COMIFAC	Central African Forests Commission
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CSAF	Council on Smallholder Agricultural Finance
CSN	Café Selva Norte
CSN+	Conservación Selva Norte
DBCCI	Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industries
DIB	Development Impact Bond
DPoA	Doha Programme of Action
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DTF	Dutch Trust Fund
EAFCA	African Fine Coffee Association
EB	Executive Board
EC	European Commission
ECLAC	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EcoE II	EcoEnterprises Partners II L.P.
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDB	Sri Lanka Export Development Board
EFTA	Equity For Tanzania Ltd.
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
EU	European Union
EU-APSAN	Enhancing Crop Productivity and Climate Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security
EUCORD	European Development Co-operative
FACTS	Financial Access Commerce and Trade Services
FANEI	First Account Net Earnings Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FMO	The Netherlands Entrepreneurial Development Bank
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSP	Financial Service Provider
FTESA	Food Trade East and Southern Africa
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GC	Governing Council
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEPLACEA	Grupo de Paises Latino Americanos y del Caribe Exportadores de Azúcar
GI	Geographical Indication
GIIN	Global Impact Investing Network
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Ha	Hectares
IADB	Interamerican Development Bank
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAG	Inter-Agency Working Group
ICAC	International Cotton Advisory Committee
ICBR	International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan
ICBs	International Commodity Bodies
ICCO	International Cocoa Organization
ICDT	Islamic Centre for Development of Trade
ICO	International Coffee Organization
ICRISAT	International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organization
INBAR	International Bamboo and Rattan Organization
IOOC	International Olive Oil Council
IPoA	Istanbul Programme of Action
ISO	International Sugar Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IYM	International Year of Millet
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute
LDC	Least Developed Country
LLDCs	Land Locked Developing Countries
LMICs	Low- and Middle-Income Countries
MD	Managing Director
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MT	Metric tonne
NEI	Natural Extracts Industries Limited
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMB	National Microfinance Bank
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SELA	Sistema Económico Latino Americano
SEMs	Social and Environmental Management Systems
SFF	Schmidt Family Foundation
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIF	SME Impact Fund
SMEs	Small and medium sized enterprises
SSA	Sub Saharan Africa
TA	Technical Assistance
TAF	Technical Assistance Facility
TAHA	Tanzania Horticultural Association
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	UN Economic Commission for Africa
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN-OHRLLS	UN Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VECO	Vredeseilanden Country Office
VPoA	Vienna Programme of Action
WAEMU/UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WUR	Wageningen University and Research

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Mission & Vision Statement

Mission

"To contribute to poverty alleviation by strengthening the income-generating capacity of commodity producers and mitigating vulnerability to their economic well being"

Vision

"To strengthen and diversify the commodity sector in developing countries and transform it to be a major contributor to poverty alleviation and sustained economic growth and development"