

Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture and Food Science (i4Ag)

As part of BMZ's special initiative "Transformation of agricultural and food systems"

The Challenge

Innovations have been developed in partner countries that evidence a particularly high potential for success as they respond to local conditions and the needs of the future target group. At the same time, many promising ideas remain undiscovered and unexploited. This is where i4Ag comes in. In a cooperative partnership with all relevant stakeholders, these new solutions are supported in their development. As they mature and become established in one area, these innovations can then be transferred for use in new contexts and be scaled.

The i4Ag fund, on behalf of the BMZ and as part of the *Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems* special initiative, identifies and promotes innovations in the agricultural and food sector. It also acts as an innovative implementation tool for the strengthening of food security over the long term, through, for example, COVID-19 emergency aid measures or emergency measures for the global staple food crisis.

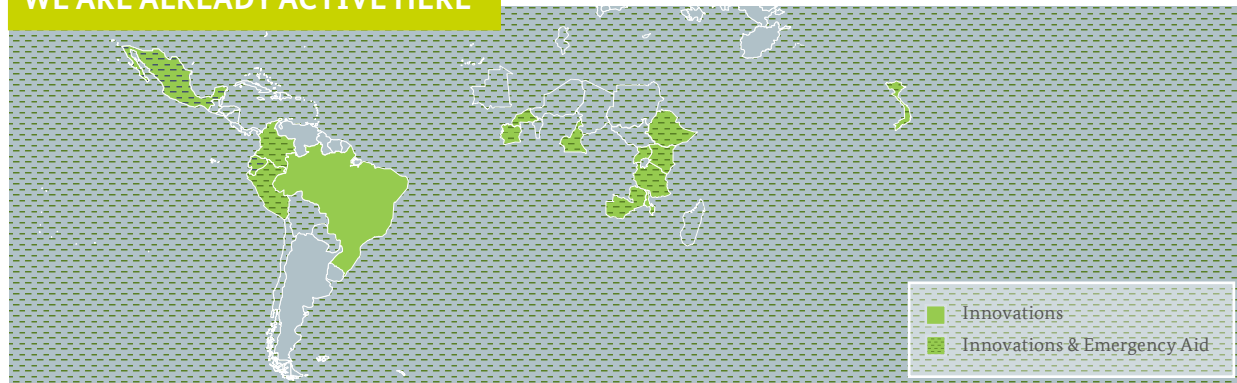
Promoting Innovation

The aim of the fund is to further develop innovations through partnerships with the broadest possible range of topics and to bring them to application in selected countries. Smallholder farms, their collectives and processing and production companies in the agricultural and food sector should be able to use and broaden the innovations' reach. Women and young people comprise an important target group, as they are not only users of the innovations but are also involved in their development.

Emergency Aid

Additional measures have been taken as part of the emergency aid programme to alleviate the consequences of economic and political crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the war of aggression against Ukraine.

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The global funds are aimed at achieving seven of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

At A Glance

-  Implementation: [BMZ Partner Countries 2030](#)
-  Duration: 2020 – 2027
-  Project Volume: 164.4 million Euros, incl.:
19.4 million Euros from the COVID-19 funds
20.5 million Euros co-financed by the EU
16.4 million Euros of Food Crisis Emergency Aid
-  Funding categories:
Technology: Digitalisation, Mechanisation, Renewable Energy
Partners and processes: Agricultural research, extension, policy and trade, Cooperation with the private sector and international organisations

Funding Goals

- Gender-sensitive innovations for sustainable agriculture and food sciences will be supported.
- Innovation projects correspond to achieving at least two of the three sustainability sub-goals for No Hunger: nutritional security, employment and income promotion, climate resilience, and natural resources protection.

Our Approach

Innovations are identified through targeted networking and competitive formats. Potential innovation partners are advised during the application process on an individual basis. If there is a good prospect for success, the submitted projects will then, in cooperation with the partners, be conceived into sub-projects of the fund with a specific goal and a corresponding strategy. The business models and gender strategies developed are intended to make the innovations self-supporting; gender equality should be taken into account. Knowledge and learning experiences will be continuously processed and distributed.

Selection of Innovations Funded

- Resource-conserving and climate-adapted practices that make more efficient use of harvest cycles and increase yields, e.g. by growing potatoes on rice paddy residues.
- Satellite and drone imagery that uses artificial intelligence to enable soil analyses on quality and carbon content.
- Mobile apps that make modern technologies accessible to smallholder farmers. These include digital harvest forecasts or intelligent cold chain systems.
- Participatory, applied research on agroecological pest management, e.g. with beneficial insects or fungi.
- Networks for the rental and use of agricultural equipment and machinery and the development of training platforms.

Selection of Emergency Aid Activities

- Emergency aid and resilience building against the impacts of the crises in partner structures of the Fair Trade Association in more than 30 countries.
- Procurement and distribution of production (e.g. seeds, organic fertilisers) and goods for the further processing of food (e.g. for preservation).
- Organisation and implementation of training (e.g. use and conservation of production inputs, use of local crops, diversification of cultivation and agribusiness).
- Support local production in more than 30 partner countries.
- Covid-19 emergency aid for small- and medium-sized companies in Africa.

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