

AgriFoSe2030 annual report

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Annual report 2020

Preamble

The Agriculture for Food Security 2030 programme (AgriFoSe2030) Phase II was launched in November 2020 and with that, the four-year long phase I ended. In going forward, AgriFoSe2030 will build on lessons learned from its first phase. We will also take on a different thematic structure, outlined by 'challenges' which the programme's original themes tie into. Just as in phase I, the programme primarily targets SDG 2.

AgriFoSe2030 will continue to work directly with researchers at universities and research institutes in sub-Saharan Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, supporting their involvement in and influence on international, regional, national as well as local processes to link science with policy and practices. Science and scientists have a crucial role to play to support transformation processes, and smallholder farmers in meeting future food and development demands. Science can offer technical and social solutions and support policy reform and new practices. This means going beyond academic journals and finding ways to collaborate with policymakers and practitioners to jointly frame problems, generate new knowledge, and make that knowledge relevant to specific contexts.

Communication between scientists, policymakers and practitioners, however, often remains low. This results in that scientific findings are not translated into policy and practice, and research is not informed by the needs, knowledge and experiences of policymakers and practitioners. Many researchers currently lack incentives and skills to engage with stakeholders and need training in how to communicate their research more broadly and how to co-generate knowledge effectively. This remains the niche for AgriFoSe2030.

Have a pleasant reading!

Sofia Boqvist
AgriFoSe2030 Programme Director



What is AgriFoSe2030 phase II?

The AgriFoSe2030 programme targets the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” in low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

The programme is developed by a consortium of scientists and science communicators from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Lund University, University of Gothenburg and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and collaborates with many universities, organisations and institutes in target regions. The programme synthesises and translates existing science into policy and practice, and develops capacity to achieve this.

A very important learning from phase I is that the programme needs to improve the framework for follow up, evaluation and learning. We have adopted a Theory of Change (ToC) approach, which will help the programme to reach its objectives. From programme to project level, everyone involved develops a ToC for their activities. During 2020, the programme also developed its strategy and methods for monitoring, evaluation and learning.

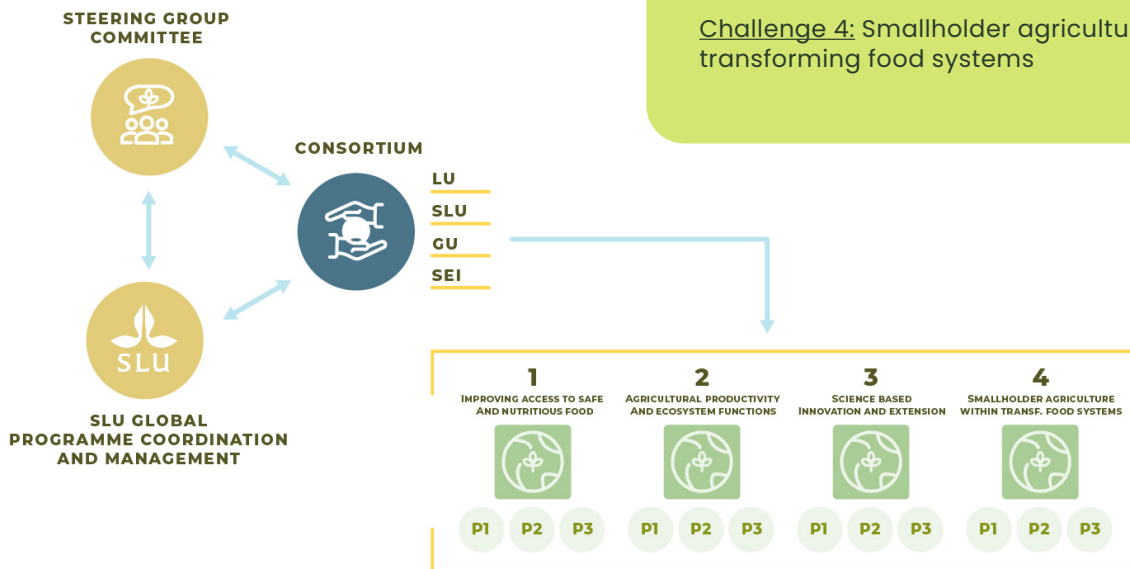
Phase II Challenges

Challenge 1: Improving access to safe and nutritious food

Challenge 2: Agricultural productivity and ecosystem functions

Challenge 3: Science-based innovation and extension

Challenge 4: Smallholder agriculture within transforming food systems



A schematic illustration of how the AgriFoSe2030 programme is organised.



A schematic illustration of how researchers from target countries and Sweden within AgriFoSe2030 collaborate and build capacity to synthesise, communicate and co-create scientific data and research findings in dialogue with various stakeholders, in support of evidence-based decision-making and improved practice, with the end goal of reaching SDG2.

Phase II activities

AgriFoSe2030 Phase II has seen the start of two projects during 2020 and the focus so far has been to draft project plans with relevant partner institutes and develop a ToC for each project. Two additional project plans were drafted and a number of project ideas were up for discussion to formulate new future projects, out of which at least one spans across all challenges. Each challenge has also developed a challenge ToC, supported by the Communication and Engagement team.

In addition, the programme has developed an overarching ToC framework for the entire programme. With the ToC as guidance, we have the ambition to follow the pathway to reach impact and outcomes through the programme's activities and outputs.

Challenge 1: Improving access to safe and nutritious food

Challenge 1 is in the process of developing new AgriFoSe2030 projects with colleagues in the Global South.

The first project will tackle how to improve quality of extension services and access to markets for smallholder goat producers in Laos and is led by Dr. Daovy Kongmanila. The second project looks at how to improve edible insects market access for women and youth in rural and urban areas in southern Africa, and is led by Dr. Robert Musundire.

Challenge 1 is coordinated by challenge leader Dr. Elisabeth Rajala together with assistant challenge leader Associate professor Assem Abu Hatab.



We are very excited to welcome new project partners in phase II and to further strengthen the interdisciplinary collaboration within- and across all challenges to improve access to safe and nutritious food. - Challenge 1

Challenge 2: Agricultural productivity and ecosystem functions

The focus for Challenge 2 in the start-up of phase II has been to develop a challenge ToC, a strategy document and appoint an advisory group.

The first project in Challenge 2 will work on agro-ecological parklands in Burkina Faso, led by Dr. Josias Sanou. A potential project is in development, looking at how invasive species are holding back sustainable production of agriculture in Kenya.

Associate professor Madelene Ostwald leads Challenge 2 together with assistant challenge leader Linda Hansson.



The time is ripe to work for improved productivity and ecosystem functions. Now the real work begins since our colleagues in Africa and Asia are so well prepared and eager to use their science in a more efficient way among policymakers and practitioners. - Challenge 2



Chemist in Tanzania. Photo: Mitchell Maher

Challenge 3: Science-based innovation and extension

Within challenge 3, the work during 2020 has focused on starting up the first project on “Agricultural biologicals” where stakeholders in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa together are looking at hurdles about the use of plant biologicals. Two postdocs have been appointed to lead this project and a ToC has been developed.

Two more projects are in the planning phase, one regarding physical extension service structures in different countries and one on digital extension services and their senders, users, opportunities and challenges. The challenge will especially focus on the role of female smallholder farmers in several of these projects.

Challenge 3 is coordinated by challenge leader Associate professor Johanna Wetterlind and assistant challenge leader Dr. Ylva Nyberg.



One of the things that we really like with AgriFoSe2030 is the collaborations with all the fantastic researchers in our projects. We are happy to be able to continue to build on some of the partnerships from phase I and we are looking forward to form new collaborations in phase II. - Challenge 3

*We are really looking forward to work with our projects to demonstrate how research can affect positive change in policy and practice.
- Challenge 4*

Challenge 4: Smallholder agriculture within transforming food systems

In challenge 4, four new projects are being developed and will be launched in 2021. Dr. Samuel Omondi leads an interdisciplinary project on governance of food systems for improved food and nutritional security in Kenya. In Uganda, one project will be focusing on smallholders’ contributions to more sustainable and resilient urban food systems. The project is led by Dr. Frank Mugagga.

The challenge will also work with a project in Vietnam, focusing on assessing the impacts of e-commerce in the fruit value chain on smallholder livelihoods. This project is a consortium between ICRAF and two national research institutes. The fourth project bridges Challenge 1 and Challenge 4 and focuses at enhancing capacity in Kenya for adaptation of nutrition and commercialisation policies to local contexts, coordinated by a team from the University of Nairobi.

Challenge leader Professor Magnus Jirstrom coordinates Challenge 4 together with assistant challenge leaders Dr. Heather Mackay and Dr. Karin Lindsjö.



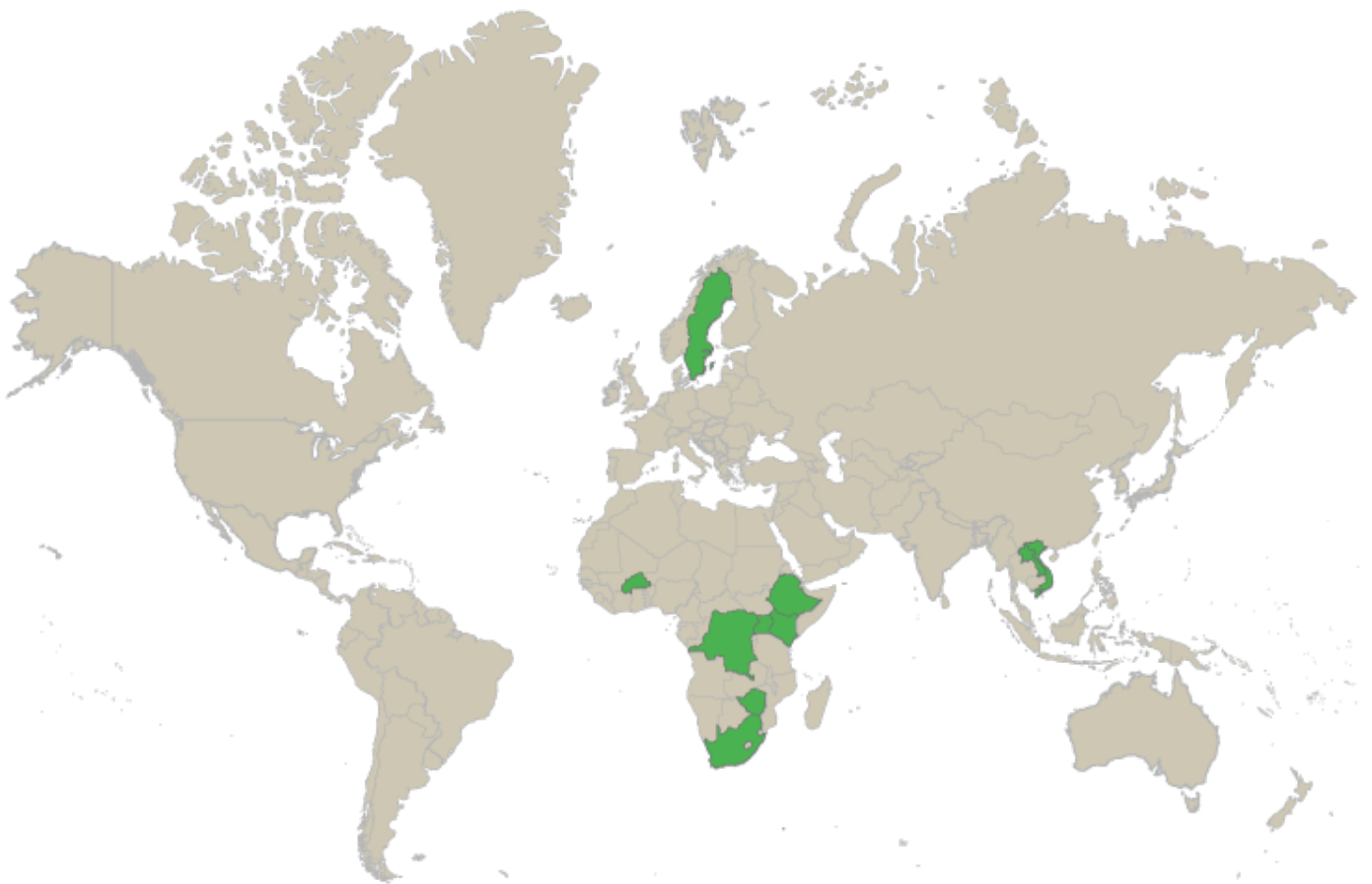


Cattle in Uganda. Photo: Sofia Boqvist

AgriFoSe2030 going forward:

The AgriFoSe2030 programme is looking forward to begin this second phase together with our continuously growing network of excellent researchers in the Global South and all involved key stakeholders.

We are also excited to work consistently with ToC as our programme approach and are continuously developing and learning in how to reach further on our programme's impact pathway.



Countries where AgriFoSe2030 is active with different projects. Illustration: Cajsa Lithell

AgriFoSe 2030

Agriculture for
Food Security 2030

Translating Science Into Policy & Practice



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