AgriFoSe2030 brief
October 2023

Agriculture for Food Security (AgriFoSe2030) - Translating science into policy and practice

The challenge

Food insecurity is a significant challenge that affects millions of people worldwide, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia. Despite significant progress in agriculture and food production, smallholder farmers in these regions still face various shocks, such as climate change, market fluctuations, and limited access to resources and technologies, which contribute to their vulnerability and limit their capacity to produce enough food to feed their families.

The translation of science based knowledge into policy and practice is critical for addressing food insecurity. This is particularly true for smallholder farmers who account for approximately 80%, of agricultural production in the Global South. Science-based solutions that promote sustainable agriculture practices, improve agricultural productivity, and improve access to inputs, technology and markets, can significantly enhance the productivity and resilience of smallholder farmers. This includes creating an enabling environment for accessing resources, inputs, and technologies, as well as enhancing smallholder's capacity to adopt sustainable agriculture practices.

Thus, a transformation agenda towards reaching the ambitions of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – "... Ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture ..."– needs to recognise the contributions and interactions between researchers, policy makers and smallholder farmers as vital.

Supporting low-income countries to develop their own capacity to strengthen the scientific basis of agricultural policy and practice, and sustainably govern the transition towards a more resilient food system is critical, now more than ever.

The response: AgriFoSe2030

AgriFoSe2030 is a collaborative programme designed to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems

Goat management project in Laos. Photo: Davoy Kongmanila

in low-income countries in South and Southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. By utilising a knowledge co-creation approach, the programme brings together a network of researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers to develop context-specific solutions that are grounded in local knowledge and expertise.

AgriFoSe2030 aims to contribute to SDG2 and other relevant SDGs through:

- Increased capacity of scientists to synthesise, analyse, and communicate science with different stakeholders
- Improved connection between science, policy, and practice
- Increased use of evidence-based knowledge in agricultural policies and practices

The programme makes research insights accessible and actionable for policy makers and practitioners through leveraging the networks of consortium members and partners, fostering dialogue among relevant stakeholders and gathering ground-level narratives on how scientific knowledge can unlock pathways to food security.

The programme is committed to promoting gender equality and social inclusion, and considers inclusive and equitable agricultural systems as essential for sustainable development. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are also central in the programme.

AgriFoSe2030 activities

AgriFoSe2030 emphasises a theory of change approach detailing programme impact pathways which is implemented at different levels in the programme.

The programme is defined by the four key challenge areas that are described in detail in the text boxes overleaf. Within these challenges, the programme carries out the following activities in the AgriFoSe2030 target countries:

- Training and capacity building to increase the capacity of scientists to engage with smallholder farmers, extension services, value chain actors and policy makers co-create context-specific science based solutions
- Strategic stakeholder engagements, knowledge sharing and co-creation to support improved policies and practices increasing productivity and sustainability of small-scale farming systems
- High-quality synthesis and analysis of smallholder farming systems including state-of-the-art
- scientific knowledge and research findings that are relevant to agricultural policy and practice.
- Innovative platforms and knowledge networks that connect scientists, practitioners, policymakers, and development actors.
- Assisting target communities in developing their capacity to catalyse and govern sustainable smallholder transitions.

The programme is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and implemented by a consortium of scientists from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Lund University, Linköping University, Stockholm Environment Institute, in strategic partnership with University of Nairobi, Kyambogo University, Uganda and Nong Lam University in Vietnam. AgriFoSe2030 also collaborates closely with several local universities and research institutes in Asia and Africa.

A schematic illustration of how researchers from target countries and Sweden within AgriFoSe2030 collaborate and build capacity to synthesise, communicate and co-create scientific knowledge in dialogue with various stakeholders, in support of evidence-based agricultural decision-making and improved practice.

Edible insect aggregation point in Gwanda District, Zimbabwe. Photo: Robert Musundire

Challenge 1:
Improving acess to safe and nutritious food

Several million people in low-income countries suffer from low nutrient intake. Improving access to safe and nutritious food requires reducing pre- and post-harvest losses, connecting smallholders to markets, improving food safety and knowledge around lesser-known nutritious food. The challenge focuses on improving smallholder value chains for nutritious food products and reducing micronutrient deficiencies among smallholder households.

Challenge 2:
Agricultural productivity and ecosystem functions

Smallholder farming systems are often integrated in multifunctional ecosystems that need to be managed from the perspective of trade-offs and synergies between various desired environmental and socio-economic goals. The challenge focuses on supporting climate adaptation, soil management and diversity of plant and animal species to ensure sustainable farm productivity and improve smallholder resilience.

Challenge 3:
Science-based innovation and extension

Extension services for small-scale farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa and South and South-East Asia are often inadequate, fragmented and have neither been able to absorb and make use of scientific and technological changes nor created space for localised adaptation of scientific results. The challenge seeks to utilise new and locally adapted science-based innovation and extension for improving smallholder productivity and profitability.

Challenge 4:
Smallholder agriculture within transforming food systems

Demographic change, economic growth and rural-urban linkages impact food security but also create opportunities for market participation. Raising smallholder productivity requires interventions to remove barriers to technology use, enhance women's participation, and stimulate inclusive and efficient agricultural markets. The challenge seeks to encourage smallholder rural and structural transformations through enhancing the understanding of socio-economic and geographical contexts and providing science-based guidance in the design of locally relevant policies and practices.

AgriFoSe2030

Agriculture for Food Security 2030

Translating Science Into Policy & Practice

Africa

South and Southeast Asia

This map shows all countries where AgriFoSe2030 has ongoing projects.

Contact us:

Sofia Boqvist
Programme Director AgriFoSe2030
E-mail: agrifose@slu.se

Ng'endo Machua Muniu
Communications Lead AgriFoSe2030
E-mail: ngendo.machua@sei.org

More information:

Website: www.slu.se/agrifose