AgriFoSe2030

Agriculture for Food Security 2030

Translating Science Into Policy & Practice

**AgriFoSe2030 annual report**
June 2023

# Annual report 2022

**Preamble**

The Agriculture for Food Security 2030 (AgriFoSe2030) contributes to SDG2 (Zero Hunger) through two pathways. First through direct outcomes contributed by change projects where the AgriFoSe2030 model for linking scientific results to policy and practice is applied. The second pathway aims to strengthen researcher & institutional capacities in science translation to contribute to improved practices and policies. Within these two pathways, the programme emphasises strategic engagement with policy makers, efficient communication, monitoring and evaluation of outputs and cross cutting gender, biodiversity, climate change and poverty reduction issues.

In 2022, the change projects started harvesting change stories and these stories illustrate the change processes in the various projects brought by applying the AgriFoSe2030 model as you will read in this report. Courses and trainings were organised with the aim to build capacity among the researchers and the institutes involved, and to strengthen institutional partnership primarily with AgriFoSe2030's three collaborating universities namely Kyambogo University and University of Nairobi in Africa and Nong Lam University in Asia. The mid-term review performed during 2022 concluded that 'all indications are that this [the AgriFoSe2030] model is an effective and successful way of working. There are many strengths and only a few areas to refine in the remaining term'.

I would like to thank our partners, funders, and stakeholders for their continued support and collaboration. I am confident that with your support, we will continue to make significant contributions towards sustainable agriculture and food security in low-income countries. It can be concluded that 2022 was a very productive year and that the programme progressed according to plans.

Have a pleasant reading!

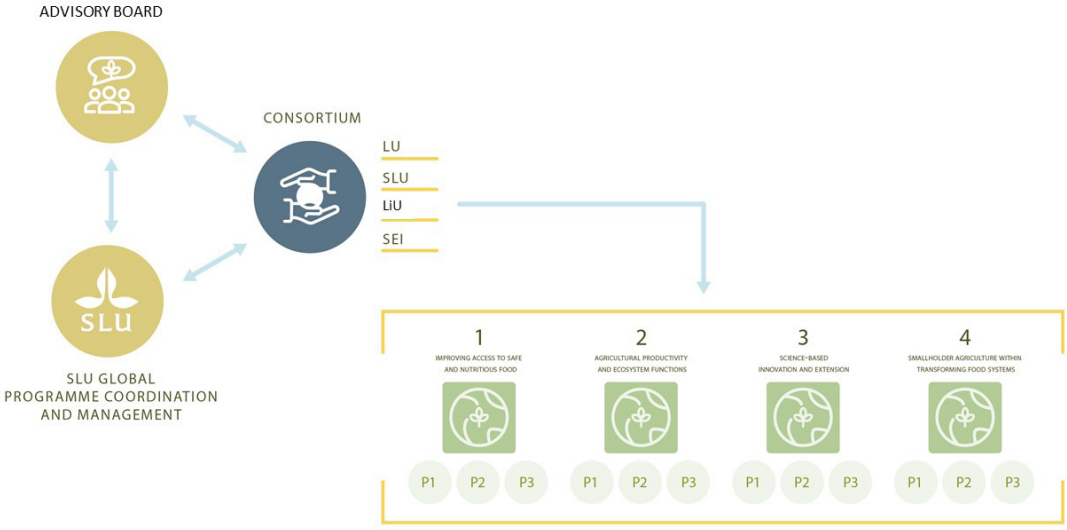
Sofia Boqvist
AgriFoSe2030 Programme Director

## What is AgriFoSe2030?

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 is that the programme needs to improve the framework for follow up, evaluation and learning. We have adopted the use of Theory of Change (ToC) - a systematic approach focusing on finding and enabling pathways to change, which will help the programme to reach its objectives. From programme to project level, everyone involved develops a ToC for their activities.




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.

# Current AgriFoSe2030 projects

*Following the development of the AgriFoSe2030 Theory of Change training material in 2021, out of the total 17 projects, 16 had finished their ToC impact pathways by end of 2022. One project under challenge 3 was yet to begin as they chose to start with a systematic review to inform their ToC.*

| Challenge | Project title | Main partners |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Improving access to safe and nutritous food | Smallholder goat production in Laos – improving quality of extension services and access to markets | National University of Laos, LAO PDR |
| | Improving market access and scaling up trading of safe and nutritious edible insects by women and youths in Zimbabwe | Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe |
| | Application of Black Soldier Fly (Hermetia illucens) rearing technology as a tool to improve environment safety, sustainability and rural development in South of Vietnam: Emphasis on aquaculture production | Nong Lam University, Vietnam |
| | Transformation of pastoral livelihoods through enhanced capacity for adaptation of nutrition and commercialization policies to local contexts: West Pokot, Kenya * | University of Nairobi, Kenya |
| | Gender-based approaches for improving food safety, value addition and marketing in livestock systems in western Uganda | Kyambogo University, Uganda |
| 2. Agricultural productivity and ecosystem functions | Agro-ecological practices for restoring Parklands – co-producing science-based skills and knowledge for increased agricultural productivity, Burkina Faso | L'Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA) and University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso |
| | Science-based and co-produced transformative Rangeland Management Practices – how to deal with encroachment of unwanted woody species, (TRAMAP) | University of Nairobi, Kenya |
| | Promotion of sorghum-cowpea intercropping systems in smallholder farming systems in South Africa for climate change adaptation | Nelson Mandela University, George, South Africa |
| | Participatory analysis of the conventional-agroecological intensification continuum for increased productivity and sustainability in the coffee-banana systems | Makerere University, Uganda |

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|---|---|---|
| | Sustainable rice-straw management for improving farmer livelihoods and low environmental footprint in rice-based production systems. | Nong Lam University, Vietnam |
| 3. Science-based innovation and extension | Agricultural biologicals: Identifying hurdles of use and by a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) analysis of stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa | University of Pretoria, South Africa, University of Nairobi, Kenya, and Kotobe Metropolitan University, Ethiopia |
| | Digitalization of Extension Services in the Southeast Asian Region | University of the Philippines Visayas; Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam, and Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia |
| | Functions in extension service pathways – Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Laos | National University of Laos, Lao PDR; University of Embu and University of Nairobi, Kenya, and University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka |
| | Women and extension: Arrangements needed for women to access, attend to and implement agricultural advice | University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania |
| 4. Smallholder agriculture within transforming food systems | Transformation of pastoral livelihoods through enhanced capacity for adaptation of nutrition and commercialisation policies to local contexts: West Pokot, Kenya * | University of Nairobi, Kenya |
| | Mapping knowledge-, practical-, and policy-level challenges to increase the role of smallholder farmers in e-commerce of fruit products in Vietnam | Fruits and Vegetables Research Institute, International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam |
| | Unlocking the potential of smallholders for urban food system resilience in Uganda | Makerere University, Uganda |
| | Governance of food systems for improved food and nutritional security in Nairobi, Kisumu and Nakuru Counties in Kenya | University of Nairobi, Mazingira Institute and Nakuru County Government - Kenya |

** The project is shared between two challenges*

**Courses on Translating Science into Policy and Practice**

Training and capacity building with researchers and other stakeholders through exchanges, courses and workshops to increase their capacity to synthesise, analyse and communicate science is a core objective in the AgriFoSe2030 programme.

In 2022, two online courses on Systematic Review were co-organised by University of Nairobi (UoN), Kenya and Nong Lam University (NLU), Vietnam. Two Translating science into policy and practice (online) courses were organised by Kyambogo University (KU), NLU and the University of Gothenburg.

The first cohort of the 8-month policy analysts training and mentoring programme at UoN was finalised followed by a joint workshop attended by first cohort (outgoing) and the second cohort (incoming). The programme enhances the capacity of researchers to engage in agricultural and food security policy processes in East Africa. It is co-hosted by KU, and supported by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and AgriFoSe2030.

**The Theory of Change approach - Guiding and monitoring change**

The AgriFoSe2030 programme works with a Theory of Change (ToC) approach which has played a strategic role in guiding project teams in stakeholder engagement and change processes and has also provided strategies for translating and communicating how science-based knowledge can be used to enhance food security.

During 2022 all 16 projects that had finalised their ToC impact pathways used the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework developed by the programme to track changes and to follow-up progresses and lessons learnt. All projects are guided by the AgriFoSe2030 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) strategy for reporting their progress, ground level changes and how their interventions are bridging science, policy, and practice.

**Mid-term review**

A mid-term review of Phase 2 of the AgriFoSe2030 programme was conducted during September-November 2022. An excerpt from the mid-term review read that 'Overall, the review finds that AgriFose2030 is running well and is showing early results in terms of strengthened capacities and science-led practices and policies in the focus countries and regions', and that 'The programme shows many strengths, including a coherent architecture for projects and effective capacity development processes'. A set of valuable recommendations for the remaining part of the programme was also availed.

**Examples of emerging change processes in some selected AgriFoSe2030 Projects**

***Digitalization of Extension Services (DES) in the Southeast Asian Region***

- **<u>The Change observed:</u> Building public extension agency capacity through trainings**

This change project aims to explore the availability and quality of digital advisory information to ensure the accessibility and timely benefits of digital extension services to smallholder farmers. A two-day training was organised by the DES research team with the participation of 53 extension staff from commune and provincial levels with the aim of raising awareness on digital agriculture and extension services.

Previously, the public extension departments were hesitant to collaborate with research institutes like Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF) but due to their urgent need and the right timing of the DES project, they contacted HUAF to organise and design the training. Part of the training was a discussion by all participants on how to improve and digitalise extension services and the roles of different stakeholders. Participants also learnt how to form virtual chat

groups which connects all extension workers and formed farmers' chat boxes to enable exchange of information. As a result, all participants including the board of directors of extension centres were satisfied with the training and were keen on organising follow up activities.

***Transformation of pastoral livelihoods through enhanced capacity for adaptation of nutrition and commercialisation policies to local contexts: West Pokot, Kenya***

- **<u>The Change observed:</u> Engagement of smallholder farmers in local government policy making processes**

Intensifying socio-economic and climatic challenges require the uptake of locally adapted technologies and new ways of working to attain the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 2 which aims to reduce hunger and malnutrition. With an orientation towards practical demonstration, the project team identified peer-to-peer learning as an important mechanism for encouraging the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

In April 2022, AgriFoSe2030 project leaders organised a three-day exchange visit of 22 stakeholders comprising farmers and West Pokot government officials to Bungoma county. The aim was to foster learning from other farmers, county government officials and the Bungoma agricultural training centre on farm diversification, value addition, group formation and management of farmer field schools. West Pokot farmers and government officials were inspired by the improvements in farmer's wellbeing and organisation capacity in Bungoma county. The stakeholders from West Pokot also observed good working relationships including active farmer participation and attention to farmers' opinions by county government officials in Bungoma.

Following the exchange visit, the West Pokot County government organised a full week training session for their staff and 40 selected farmers on the management of group dynamics. Despite scarce resources and fixed county government budgets, the project has encouraged changes in mindset of the West Pokot County government, towards seeking farmers' views and prioritising funding and capacity development for farmer group training. These changes emphasise the importance of shared learning between farmer communities as an integral part of local capacity building initiatives.

***Unlocking the potential of smallholders for urban food system resilience in Kasese and Mbale, Uganda***

- **<u>The Change observed</u>: Recognising smallholder farmers as key players towards enhanced urban food system resilience**

Prior to this change project Resilient Urban Food Systems project (RUFS_Uganda), local officials and other stakeholders in Mbale and Kasese knew little about what kinds of foods smallholder farmers produced, in what quantities or the challenges they faced. The aim of the project was to change this to a situation where urban authorities and other key stakeholders in Mbale and Kasese have a positive attitude towards smallholder farming and that they recognise smallholder farmers as key players in the urban food system.

The RUFS_Uganda project mobilised smallholder farmers across River Nyamwamba transect in Kasese Municipality and its urban region, local leaders and other stakeholders in a series of participatory workshops, field visits and training sessions.

Different stakeholders engaged their rich collection of knowledge, skills, expertise, and experiences and contributed to the production of critical actor and food flow maps, capacity needs assessments and undertaking peer-to-peer knowledge exchange. The interactions elicited valuable insights into Kasese's urban region food system (e.g. local policy priorities, actor

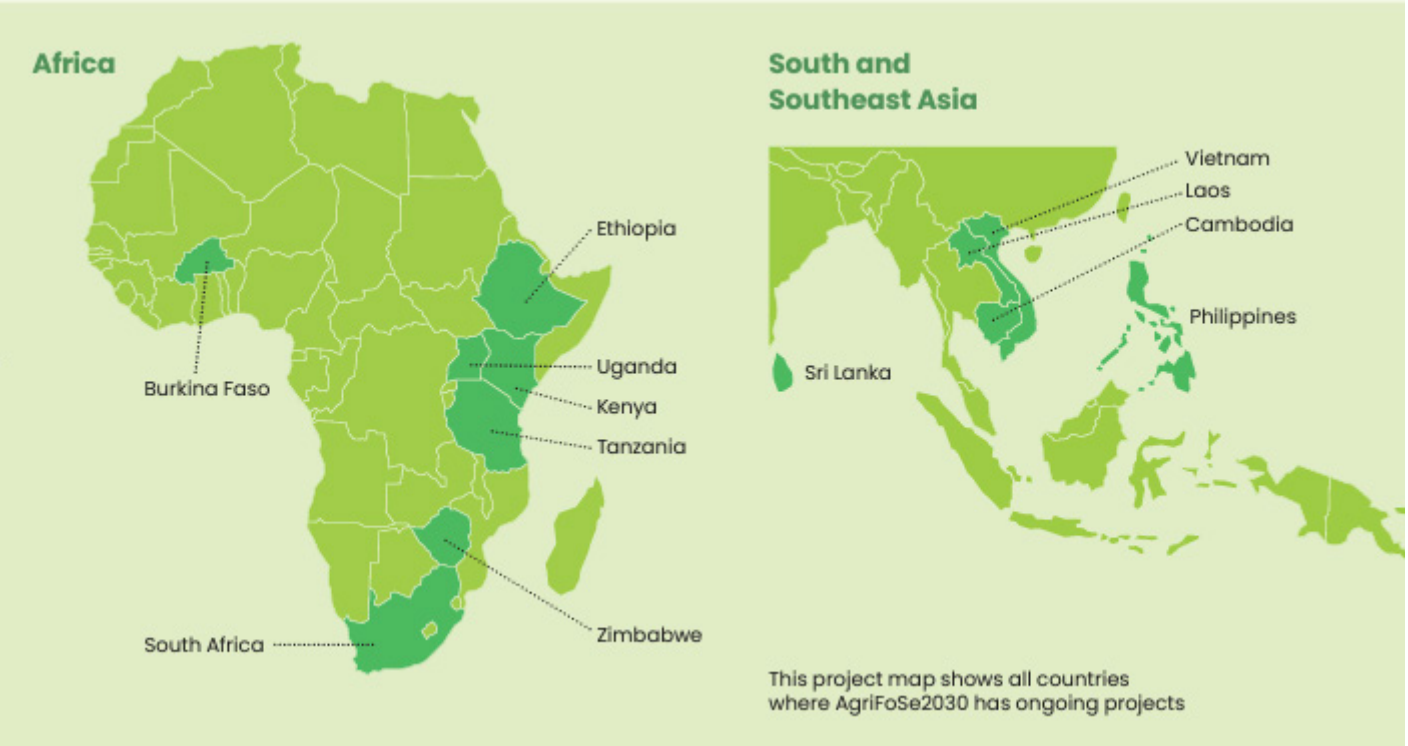
relations, capacity gaps, risks and vulnerabilities, constraints etc.). More importantly, it raised greater awareness and appreciation of the value of smallholder farmers to the area's food system.

These engagements have triggered action by the local leaders who resolved to commit financial resources in their future budgets to support smallholders. It also incentivised smallholder farmers to mobilise and organise themselves better by formally registering as groups to create the critical mass they need to influence decision-making processes.

**Coming year within AgriFoSe2030**

2022 was a productive year and the MTR performed concluded that the working model developed within the programme functions well and is relevant for attaining the programme's objectives. The programme showed impact on local level through change projects and capacity building activities. During the year extra emphasis was put on building stronger institutional partnerships with the three collaborating universities.

This has resulted in increased collaborations and closer partnership particularly with the two universities in Africa (UoN and KU). This work will continue in 2023 when the programme will start the process of migrating courses and trainings to the partner institutes. We encourage interested readers to visit the AgriFoSe2030 website- https://www.slu.se/agrifose for new activities.



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**Facebook: AgriFoSe2030 - network group**