

The project is envisioned to:

Develop a pool of policy analysts to sustainably support the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies for enhanced agricultural transformation and food security in Kenya.

The support will be through:

- Preparation and dissemination of high quality policy briefs and other knowledge products
- Facilitating dialogue in the agriculture sector
- Conducting studies that address pertinent policy issues in the sector
- Supporting planning and monitoring and evaluation in the sector

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PARTNERS



Nurturing a Network of Policy Analysts for Enhanced Agricultural Development and Food and Nutrition Security in Kenya



Background

In Kenya and most of Africa, efforts to fight poverty, end hunger and spur economic growth inevitably revolve around the agriculture sector. Recently, Africa has witnessed renewed interest in promoting agricultural production and food security through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The continental framework recognizes and emphasizes the need to strengthen capabilities and the policy and institutional environment required to trigger agricultural transformation. This includes interventions to strengthen the capacity for evidence-based planning, implementation and review, and to increase the capacity to generate, analyse and use data, information, knowledge and innovations.

Kenya is in the process of revising its National Agricultural Investment Plan to accommodate the provisions of the 2010 Constitution which introduced a devolved governance system, and to more adequately align it with the CAADP Malabo Declaration on accelerating agricultural growth and transformation. Not only have these developments introduced new categories of stakeholders in the agricultural policy-making process, they have also made it more complex. Evidence-based development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the plan will require that both state and non-state actors have the requisite capacity to inform and guide these processes. There is need to support the development of institutional and human resource capacity to support Kenya's agriculture sector with high-quality policy analyses and knowledge products in a sustainable manner to improve policy making, monitoring and evaluation and learning.

About the Project

AgriFoSe2030 and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) are implementing an initiative to contribute to efforts to address the human resource capacity challenge. The aim of the initiative is to develop the capacity of recent PhD graduates to undertake policy relevant research and analysis and disseminate their work to the policy-making community in support of agriculture and food security in the country. This entails implementing a blended learning approach tailored to the context of the young scientists, emphasising 'just in time' and 'on the job' learning involving mentoring, coaching, advising, and networking.

Approach

The blended learning approach will contribute to addressing the immediate policy analysis needs, and lay a firm foundation for increasing the pool of well-trained agriculture and food security policy analysts to inform policy making in Kenya. Beneficiaries of the capacity development project have been selected from among recent PhD graduates with demonstrated interest in Kenya's agricultural and food security policies. These scientists have completed different studies in the following *AgriFoSe2030* themes:

- i) Social and economic dimensions of smallholder agriculture
- ii) Multifunctional landscapes in agriculture
- iii) Increased productivity and diversity in smallholder cropping systems

Implementation of the initiative will involve several project components: technical workshops to enhance technical and communication skills; mentoring and coaching; online and

mobile instructional materials; participation in policy dialogue and dissemination forums; and evaluation of the project in achieving learning outcomes.

Partnerships

The project is implemented by ILRI with support from the *AgriFoSe2030* programme. ILRI (www.ilri.org) works to improve food and nutritional security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock. It is the only one of 15 CGIAR research centres dedicated entirely to animal agriculture research for the developing world. Co-hosted by Kenya and Ethiopia, it has regional or country offices and projects in East, South and Southeast Asia, and in Central, East, Southern and West Africa.

AgriFoSe2030 (www.slu.se/agrifose) is a programme developed by a consortium of scientists from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Lund University, Gothenburg University and Stockholm Environment Institute, and hosted by the Agricultural Sciences for Global Development platform. The program is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). *AgriFoSe2030* contributes to sustainable intensification of agriculture for increased food production on existing agricultural land. It aims at translating scientific research to information that supports better policies and improved practices within the agriculture sector. This translation is achieved through a set of activities, some of which aim to improve the capacity to synthesize and translate science into information that is directly applicable; some are about performing this translation *per se*.

Resource persons who mentor, coach and advise the post-docs are researchers and/or professors affiliated to Kenyan institutions.