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**Agriculture for Food Security
(AgriFoSe) programme, phase 2 cost
extension 2025-2027**

Version 1.0

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1. AgriFoSe Programme: Phase 2 cost extension

1.1 Rationale: Supporting agricultural science translation for sustained impact

To increase productivity in smallholder farming systems in the Global South, it is crucial to connect evidence-based knowledge more closely with the processes that develop policies and practices integrating this research. However, researchers are rarely trained to establish these connections. Since the inception in 2015, AgriFoSe has focused on enhancing researchers' capacity to co-produce knowledge with multiple stakeholders, and to effectively translate scientific findings for a non-scientist use.

Our experience during the first two phases of AgriFoSe has shown that using a Theory of Change (ToC) approach to strategically design science translation to change practices and/or policies amplifies research impact. The programme's model, which includes training in research communication, impact monitoring, and policy engagements opportunities, has been effective and delivers promising results.

Building on the progress made, a cost extension of Phase 2 will enable AgriFoSe to continue devolving and institutionalising our working model at three partner university hubs in sub-Saharan African (SSA) and strengthen partnerships with research collaborators in South and Southeast Asian (SEA). This extension phase aims to initiate and foster sustainability processes beyond Swedish funding, thereby contributing to long-term capacity building and knowledge transfer.

The lead scientists at our three partner universities (**University of Nairobi (UoN) in Kenya; Kyambogo University (KyU) in Uganda and Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) in Zimbabwe**), as well as the Swedish part of the AgriFoSe team, are actively engaging with their institutions' top leadership. This leadership is committed to supporting the institutionalisation process and is exploring opportunities to demonstrate leadership in science-translation. Their goal is to enhance research impact within their regions through existing collaborative networks.

1.2 Difference between Phase 2 and the cost extension

The points below capture how the cost extension of Phase 2 will build upon the successes of the earlier AgriFoSe phases by transitioning towards a decentralized, sustainable, and institutionally rooted approach.

- Continues the overall mission of the AgriFoSe programme to support science translation into policy and practice¹, with an *increased focus* on work driven through university hubs and their networks, emphasizing the institutionalisation and sustainability of AgriFoSe's model at regional hubs.
- Expands into three specific partner universities in SSA i.e., UoN in Kenya, KyU in Uganda, and CUT in Zimbabwe while continuing to foster partnerships in SEA at a scaled-back level that aligns with the revised budget and timeframe. The emphasis in both regions is on building localized, sustainable capacity. In SSA, regional hubs of expertise are replacing previous Challenges, allowing for more effective, locally-driven

¹ AgriFoSe2030 phase I programme (2016-2019) & AgriFoSe2030 phase II programme (2020-2023)

solutions and enhanced resource-sharing. The extension phase will also use the partner universities' regional networks to *reach out to more universities*. In SEA, our work will focus on sustaining strategic connections and supporting capacity-building efforts, though with reduced scope.

- ToC and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) principles continue to guide the initiative, but with a *stronger emphasis on embedding science-translation capabilities within institutional structures* for lasting influence.
- Continue advancing "AgriFoSe change projects" as important flagships through a transparent selection process with university hubs and Swedish team collaboration, *transferring ownership to partner universities* to lead execution with support from the Swedish team, emphasizing institutional alignment, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable impact.

2. The AgriFoSe objectives and methodology

The overarching objectives of the AgriFoSe programme are:

- Increased capacity of scientists, mainly young and emerging researchers, to synthesise, analyse, and communicate science with different stakeholders
- Increased use of science-based knowledge in policies and practices
- Improved connection between science, policy, and practice.

Building on the successes of Phases 1 and 2, the Phase 2 extension aims to institutionalise and sustain the long-term impact of the AgriFoSe program. Central to AgriFoSe's approach is its ToC/MEL framework, which was developed and implemented during Phase 2. The Phase 2 cost extension will continue to utilize the same ToC framework². The adoption of the ToC/MEL approach in the programme is an innovative methodology for science translation and knowledge co-creation, offering flexibility, dynamic stakeholder engagement, reflective learning, and effective follow-up. This approach ensures that the programme remains adaptable and responsive to changing circumstances. By creating impact pathways, the ToC/MEL approach ensures greater coherence and impact. It also allows for continuous evaluation of programme strategies while systematically mapping and reporting significant attributable changes.

3. Description of the AgriFoSe Phase 2 extension

3.1 Institutionalisation of AgriFoSe in SSA

A mid-term review of Phase 2 highlighted the programme's strengths, such as a coherent structure, impactful capacity development, and effective delivery. The review recommended expanding the programme's reach by establishing SSA partner universities as regional hubs. This two-year cost extension will support this, allowing further development of these hubs to lead the institutionalisation of the AgriFoSe methodology.

² Rajala E, Vogel I, Sundin A, Kongmanila D, Nassuna Musoke M.G., Musundire R, Nasha Mulangala M, Chiwona-Karltun L, Magnusson U, Boqvist S. 2020. How can agricultural research translation projects targeting smallholder production systems be strengthened by using Theory of Change? *Global Food Security*. 28: 100475.

The hubs will develop a ToC/MEL framework for institutionalising AgriFoSe, including courses, training, and change projects. In alignment with Sida's cross-cutting priorities, all activities in this extension phase will address poverty eradication, gender inclusiveness, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and biodiversity protection, where appropriate. Insights from Phase 2 will ensure gender-sensitive analyses and the development of gender-transformative approaches to benefit both researchers and communities.

In East Africa, our collaboration with UoN and KyU has been solidified through institutional support, including Vice Chancellors' commitment to supporting AgriFoSe activities. In this extension phase, we will continue strengthening these relationships and build the capacity of CUT as a new hub for Southern Africa. With CUT scientists actively involved in AgriFoSe activities since the program's launch in 2016, the university is well-prepared to take on this expanded role. KyU and UoN will train a critical mass of experts at their institutions and support the establishment of the CUT hub through a Training of Trainers approach. The established relationships among the AgriFoSe teams at KyU, UoN, and CUT will foster cross-hub support and knowledge sharing, enhancing South-South capacity building.

The SSA hubs are well-placed to lead the work building new regional partnerships, and in supporting advanced training, mentoring and capacity development for a wider array of researchers, making use of AgriFoSe alumni within SSA and SEA where possible. Central to the hub universities work during this extension phase will be addressing the challenges faced by young scientists such as lack of mentorship, a deficiency in designing for research impact, poor communication skills with non-scientists, a lack of interest in research by policymakers and a lack of motivation by peers. The hub work aims to create a critical mass of scientists in these regions that can generate and disseminate inter-disciplinary research knowledge that informs policy and practice to address the continent's food security and poverty challenges.

The Swedish consortium³ possesses critical knowledge and capacity, and will serve as mentors to the regional hub universities regarding ToC and MEL work, cross-cutting issues, specific scientific expertise, or course support as required. The vision includes close partnership and knowledge transfer with an aim at sustained work beyond Swedish funding. The regional hubs will also strengthen and expand capacity within their own countries and neighbouring regions by leveraging their existing collaborations with regional universities (summarised in Annex 1), including those involved in Sida-bilateral programmes. Additionally, the hub universities will engage with policymakers through governmental institutions.

3.2 Continued Engagement in Southeast Asia

The engagement in SEA will continue, but at a lower intensity, and focus on nurturing the networks developed in Phase 1 and 2, possibly leveraging the region's existing, well-established science-policy-practice networks through the Asian based SEI office. Activities will mainly consist of webinars, and possibly also courses or parts of courses that can be provided digitally. Supporting AgriFoSe researchers' part of the AgriFoSe Programme to train their colleagues in science communication and stakeholder engagement will also be a component of this Phase 2 extension. The continuation or development of established South-South collaborations within projects initiated in Phase 2 will also be further explored.

³ Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Linköping University (LiU), Lund University (LU), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

3.3 Flagship change projects in SSA

Building on the positive experiences from the first two phases of AgriFoSe, change projects will continue to be a central focus and flagship initiatives during the cost-extension period of Phase 2. The change projects should be seen as ‘proof of concept’, exploring and building capacity around science-based agricultural development in the Global South. Increasing the capacity of researchers in the project teams to translate science into policy and practice and to achieve project outcomes are key objectives of AgriFoSe. These projects will engage a broad range of food system actors, and a transparent and inclusive process will guide the identification of projects during the Phase 2 extension.

3.4 Courses and trainings

During the Phase 2 cost extension, the migration of course responsibility will continue to UoN and KyU, and relevant courses will be migrated to CUT. This will mean capacitating hubs and their network institutions to train researchers in ToC/MEL and stakeholder engagement. This will be an important addition in Phase 2 extension, given the importance of ToC/MEL for AgriFoSe Universities in their work to translate science and knowledge for development. AgriFoSe course packages will be offered to PhD students and young researchers at these universities and their networks who can apply the tools to ongoing projects. For all course activities, the AgriFoSe alumni from Phases 1 and 2 will be drawn upon as catalysts to institutionalise the programme’s courses and other activities.

3.5 Communication & engagement

During the extension phase, AgriFoSe will work directly with the existing communications units of each hub to support the establishment of tailored communication and engagement functions in relation to the regional AgriFoSe activities and initiate establishment of a hub communications team comprising representatives from participating universities. Interventions that can simultaneously improve communications around science translation and support other essential functions- for instance funding, staff training and annual reporting- will be prioritized. This may include digital directories for receiving and compiling impact stories, self-paced training modules on science communication and engagement, media mapping frameworks that identify suitable outlets and digital tools for disseminating and monitoring impact of AgriFoSe’s messaging. The AgriFoSe web platform will be reorganized with easy online access to resource material from phase 1 and 2. Key outputs will be disseminated and amplified through cross postings on web platforms of university hubs and partners and on the AgriFoSe website/social media.

Continuing to build capacity for stakeholder engagement and knowledge co-creation will be an essential component of the Phase 2 extension. This will be done at and through the hubs and involve curricula development but also local workshops and events, arranged by the hubs, involving researchers, farmers, agripreneurs and policy makers. These workshops will help position the hub universities more firmly in the development landscape in their countries. It will also be a chance for hub universities to strengthen their Research for Development (R4D) profiles and further shape their own science translation agenda. The universities within the hubs will also be able to share their experiences on how to best build capacity for stakeholder engagement and knowledge co-creation with other partner universities.

3.6 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

During the cost extension, we will maintain the MEL strategy developed in Phase 2, with minor adjustments to track outcomes in the institutionalisation process. The MEL approach will focus on three main tracks:

1. **Institutionalisation process:** Self-assessments and reflective monitoring with partners to identify strengths, support needs, and track institutionalisation progress.
2. **Flagship change projects:** Using Phase 2 MEL tools—Key Stakeholder Meetings Tracker, After Action Reviews, and Change Stories—to monitor progress via ToC-based reviews.
3. **Programme-level MEL:** Tracking progress on programme ToC through key performance indicators, qualitative reporting, and annual outcome harvests.

Training and mentoring will support MEL capacity at each hub, alongside the gradual adoption of the AgriFoSe working model. Annual work plans, budgets, and end-of-year narrative and financial reports, including audits, will be shared with Sida to document and analyse progress similar as for Phase 2. At the end of the extension, an internal programme-wide evaluation will capture achievements relative to the ToC, similar to the mid-term review after the first two years of phase 2.

3.7 Outputs and outcomes

The anticipated outputs can be summarised in three categories:

1. High-quality, policy and practice-relevant knowledge syntheses and analysis on smallholder farming systems, tailored for key actors.
2. Structured platforms, research exchanges, and knowledge networks to connect scientists, practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders for innovative knowledge exchange and action at multiple scales.
3. Training and capacity building with researchers and other stakeholders through exchanges, courses, and workshops to increase the capacity of scientists to synthesise, analyse, and communicate science with different stakeholders.

During the cost extension, the projected outcomes include:

- Continuing migration of AgriFoSe functions and activities to regional hub universities, demonstrating institutional capacity building.
- Implementation of diverse research and capacity-building change projects addressing food security and livelihood challenges, leading to innovative solutions and evidence-based practices for agricultural development.
- Greater involvement of various innovation actors, including agripreneurs, value chain actors, and private sector service providers, in promoting agricultural innovation and sustainability.
- Enhanced connectivity of smallholder farmers to value chains and market opportunities through science-based innovation platforms, leading to increased profitability and sustainability of smallholder production systems.

- Strengthened capacity of local universities and scientists to support knowledge-based innovations, thereby contributing to improved agricultural practices and increased productivity among smallholder farmers.

4. Organisation and financial management

SLU Global continues to be the programme host and responsible for the programme's overall management. This includes financial authority and management. The AgriFoSe organisation comprises a programme management team (i.e., Programme Director, Deputy Programme Director, the three SSA hub leaders and the Swedish experts, senior communication officer, ToC expert and financial manager), three university hubs in SSA and an SEA network.

Instead of establishing a new advisory board following the conclusion of the previous one's mandate after the first four years of Phase 2, the management team will rely on relevant experts within their networks for guidance and support as specific questions or challenges arise.

5. Budget

The AgriFoSe phase 2 cost extension budget (see Annex 2) consists of budget lines for: 1. Common activities within the hubs, 2. Hub support for the African partners, 3. SEA network, 4. Programme-wide communication and engagement, 5. Hub and SEA network support for the Swedish partners, and 6. Programme support. The total budget for the current phase 2 extension proposal (2025-2026) is 20 million SEK. Comparing the Phase 2 cost extension budget with the first four years of Phase 2 budget, more dedicated support will be allocated to the hub universities. This will be needed as the AgriFoSe methodology will be further institutionalised at the hub universities, and the programme will work through the partner universities' network. To support the institutionalisation processes, we will build on experiences gained during phases 1 and 2, and there is a separate budget line for Swedish AgriFoSe experts. As ToC is the basis of AgriFoSe, there is also a budget line for dedicated ToC support for the institutionalisation processes. The budget line for the Swedish partners has been reduced compared to phase 2, and the Swedish partners have less operational and more supporting roles. The budget also includes support and development to nurture the AgriFoSe network in SEA. The budget allocates funds for audits of SEI (refer to budget item 4) and SLU (refer to budget item 6). For the Swedish consortium partners, two separate audits will be conducted: one for SLU and another for SEI. The audit for SLU will also cover costs incurred by LiU and LU. This approach is chosen because LiU and LU will have minimal expense items—primarily salaries and travel—which can be reimbursed by SLU through invoicing. Meanwhile, SEI's budget line includes running costs for communication and dissemination, necessitating its own audit. This arrangement is designed to minimize audit expenses for LiU and LU. The changes in activities reflected in the budget, compared with the first four years of Phase 2, are in line with the recommendations provided in the Phase 2 Mid-term review.

Annex 1

The AgrifoSe Hub universities' networks

Hub UoN	Hub KyU	Hub CUT
Uganda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makerere University • Kyambogo University • Busitema University • Mbarara University • Gulu University • Uganda Martyrs University Ethiopia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addis Ababa University • Bahir Dar University of Agriculture • Jimma University • Markos University • Mekelle University Tanzania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sokoine University of Agriculture • University of Dar es Salam • Mzumbe University Rwanda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnegie Mellon University • University of Rwanda • African Peace and Prosperity Institute • National University of Rwanda • Adventist University of Central Africa Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Eldoret • Joost University • Embu University • Maseno University • Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology • Egerton university • Moi University • Kenyatta University • Muranga University of Technology • Karatina University 	Uganda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makerere University • Uganda Christian University • Makerere University • Uganda Christian University • Islamic University in Uganda • Uganda Mbarara University of science and technology • Kabale University • Gulu University • Muni University • Soroti University • Busitema University • Bishop Stuart University Tanzania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sokoine University of Agriculture • University of Dar es Salam • Mzumbe University • Moshi University Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Nairobi • Kenyatta University • Embu University • Moi University Rwanda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Institute of Policy Analysis and Research(IPAR-Rwanda) 	South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Pretoria Zambia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Zambia Namibia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Namibia Zimbabwe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zimbabwe Open University • Gwanda State University Pretoria • Manicaland University of Applied Sciences Zambia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Zambia Mozambique <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universidad Aberta Malawi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livingstonia University

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Annex 2

Detailed AgriFoSe Phase 2 cost extension budget

AGRIFOSE2030 PHASE 2 cost extension BUDGET (000' kr)	2025	2026	2027	Total
TOTAL COSTS FOR THE PROGRAMME				
1. Common activities within the hubs	3600	3640		7240
2. Hub Support	1150	1150	0	2300
3. SEA Network (SEI)	350	350	0	700
4. Programme wide communication and engagement	1100	1150		2250
5. Hub and SEA network support	2350	2350	0	4700
6. Programme support	1245	1305	260	2810
Total	9795	9945	260	20000
1. COMMON ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HUBS				
Change projects	2600	2640		5 240
Courses and trainings for researchers	700	700		1 400
Regional network activities on the AgriFoSe approach	300	300		600
Total	3600	3640	0	7 240
2. HUB SUPPORT (African partners)				
2a Costs related to all 3 Hub partners				
Hub leader (incl OH & facilities)	900	900		1800
Communication and engagement at hub level	150	150		300
Travels, meetings and presentations (incl OH and facilities)	100	100		200
Total	1150	1150	0	2300
3. SEA NETWORK (SEI)				
Network coordinator	150	150		300
Communication and engagement	100	100		200
Networks activities	100	100		200
Total	350	350	0	700
4. PROGRAMME WIDE COMM. & ENGAGEMENT (managed by SEI)				
Strategic engagement and communication (incl OH & facilities)	800	800		1600
Outreach, communication and ToC (incl OH and facilities)	200	200		400
Travels, meetings and presentations (incl OH and facilities)	100	100		200

External audit (incl OH and facilities) (SEI)		50	50	100
Total (SEI)	1100	1150	50	2300
5. HUB AND NETWORK SUPPORT (Swedish partners)				
Experts Sweden	1800	1800		3600
Travels, meetings and presentations (incl OH and facilities)	150	150		300
ToC support	400	400		800
Total	2350	2350	0	4700
6. PROGRAMME SUPPORT (managed by SLU global)				
Programme director (incl OH & facilities)	355	355		710
Deputy programme director (incl OH & facilities)	260	260		520
Senior economist (incl OH & facilities)	242	242		484
Comm. support (incl OH & facilities)	188	188		376
Travels, meetings and presentations	200	200		400
External audit		60	60	120
Final review			200	200
Total (SLU Global)	1245	1305	260	2 810