

Annual report 2025

2025 has been an important year for AgriFoSe2030. The establishment of science translation hubs in Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, the progress of the Southeast Asia Network, and the work carried out within the five change projects show that the programme is moving steadily towards its goals.

I am particularly encouraged by the growing ownership and increased engagement from leadership of AgriFoSe2030's partner universities. Integrating science translation into university courses, structures, and ways of working is essential for creating long-term sustainability. It will allow the knowledge, methods and partnerships developed through AgriFoSe2030 to continue to grow beyond the programme.

The progress made in 2025 gives us confidence that the programme is well positioned to build on these foundations and work towards lasting impact on sustainable food systems and food security. An important lesson from this year is that strengthening Global South leadership in science translation is most effective when grounded in strong local ownership and supported by continued collaboration, mentoring, and knowledge exchange.

The achievements presented in this report are the result of strong commitment and hard work. I would like to sincerely thank all colleagues, partners and participants for your valuable contributions during 2025.

Assoc. Professor Elisabeth Rajala,
Programme Director, AgriFoSe2030



About AgriFoSe2030

The AgriFoSe2030 programme addresses the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. Together with scientists, academics, and science communicators from Sweden and partner regions, AgriFoSe2030 translates existing science into policy and practice by driving projects that put research findings to use in the field, and by training researchers in science communication.

To do that, AgriFoSe2030 has established and supports three science translation hubs in sub-Saharan Africa and one network in South East Asia led by partner universities. As leaders of AgriFoSe2030 change projects, these hubs are the engine for science translation-enabled change on the ground.

In 2025, key focus for AgriFoSe2030 was to ensure long-term sustainability of the programme by embedding the AgriFoSe2030 science translation methods into university curricula, broadening partnerships with higher education institutions to expand adoption, and putting the AgriFoSe2030 methodology in action through locally led change projects.



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

Embedding the science translation model in partner universities

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the AgriFoSe2030 methodology, the programme shifted to a hub model in 2025, establishing regional hubs for science translation in Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. With hub leadership anchored in partner universities, the model fosters local ownership, regional collaboration, and reduces reliance on external coordination. Sustainability is also ensured through continuous knowledge exchange as the hubs collaborate in developing science translation courses, course materials and plans for regional delivery.

In 2025, all partner universities leading the hubs initiated high-level engagements with vice-chancellors and senior management to ensure that science translation is firmly embedded within their institutions.

Kenya Hub

Partner universities: University of Nairobi (lead), Maseno University, Embu University

The university teams collaborated to launch the Kenya Science Translation Hub, anchored within the Vice-Chancellor's office at the University of Nairobi. The hub engages key university leadership, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellors for Academic Affairs and for Research, Innovation and Enterprise, as well as the Director of Research and the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, to ensure alignment of research with policy and practice objectives.

To bridge the science-policy-practice gap the Hub formed the Research-Policy-Practice Linkages Committee. Members include the Hub Leader, representatives from partner universities, academics from partner universities, government representatives, and industry and extension leaders. Their goal is to ensure that research from partner universities addresses societal needs and reaches those who can use it.

A proposal to integrate science translation and Theory of Change courses into standard university curricula is overseen by the Deputy Vice-Chancellors in charge of Academic Affairs. Their first science translation course is scheduled to begin in January 2026.

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Uganda Hub

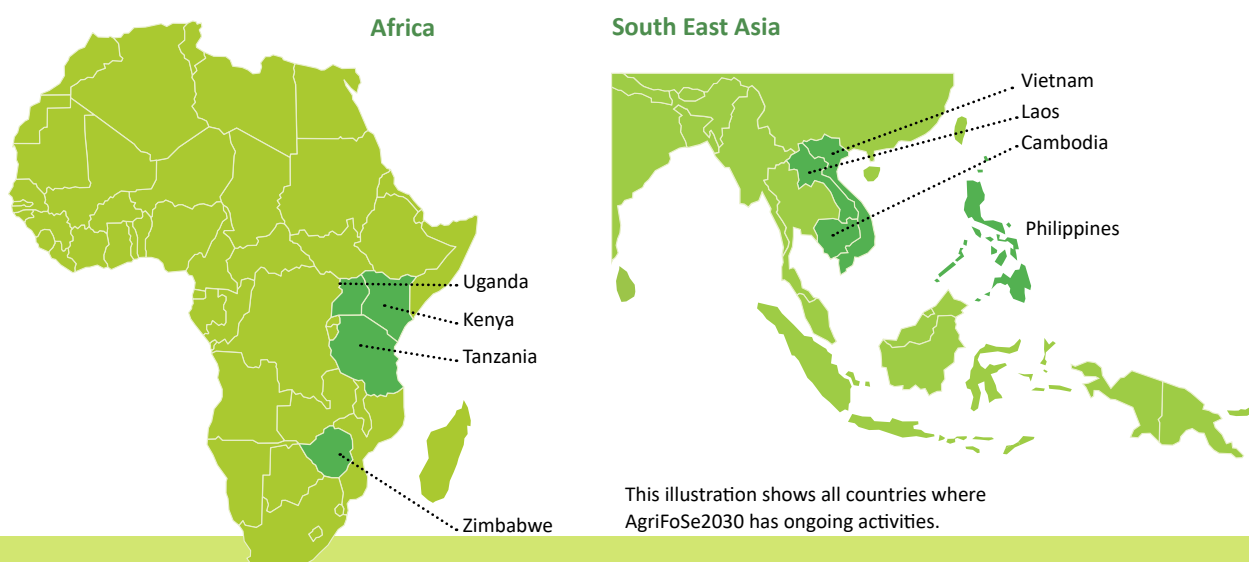
Partner universities: Kyambogo University (lead), Gulu University

The Hub has been successfully established and staffed, with strong leadership support from participating universities. Its launch already generated media attention, helping bring the science translation approach to researchers, policymakers, and the wider public. The hub is anchored at the Faculty of Social Science at Kyambogo University.

Science translation training proved successful, with senior management both leading and participating in introductory AgriFoSe2030 courses. Gulu University's first science translation training attracted local government representatives, while strong demand from staff emerged for additional training on understanding and using Theories of Change to plan and monitor research impact.

We are already seeing early results of this work. Staff are increasingly framing their research in terms of its potential to contribute to change at the local level and Gulu University management has expressed strong interest in integrating similar training into graduate programmes. Researchers from a partner university (Busitema University) have also expressed interest in hosting the courses for their staff.

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Zimbabwe Hub

Partner universities: Chinhoyi University of Technology (lead), University of Namibia, University of Zambia

The Hub was officially launched at the Chinhoyi University of Technology in February 2025. The AgriFoSe2030 methodology was introduced to Deans, Deputy Deans, Directors, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Innovation, Enterprise Development and Industrialisation, demonstrating strong institutional commitment and support for integrating the AgriFoSe2030 approach within the university.

The proposal to integrate AgriFoSe2030's courses into the university's curriculum was presented at the Vice-Chancellor's monthly leadership meeting and was well received. A roadmap to integrate AgriFoSe2030 approaches within the university has been set out and Chinhoyi University of Technology has already revised its postgraduate regulations to require students to translate research findings into goods and services to better align with Zimbabwe's Education 5.0 philosophy.

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Growing international reach

South East Asia Network

The South East Asia (SEA) Network is coordinated by SEI Asia, with activities carried out in partnership with four research institutes: the University of the Philippines; the National University of Laos in Lao PDR; the University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia; and Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry in Vietnam.

In 2025, the progress of the SEA Network has exceeded expectations. Headway was made in developing the Science Translation Learning Resource material designed as a five-module course. It includes conceptual frameworks, regional case studies, and practical exercises to strengthen researchers' capacity to translate scientific evidence into policy- and practice-relevant outputs. Hue University in Vietnam has expressed interest in integrating selected modules into existing academic courses, including agricultural extension, research methods, and communication.



Daovy Kongmanila, National University of Laos in Lao PDR, is presenting about AgriFoSe2030 at a conference. Photo: SEA Network

The SEA network is also developing a resource book tailored to South East Asian contexts, focusing on science translation with strong relevance to poverty eradication, gender inclusiveness, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and biodiversity protection.

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Building global connections

In 2025, AgriFoSe2030 was active and visible across nine countries and three continents, expanding its global connections and gathering interest in its science translation method.

- **Botswana:** AgriFoSe2030 participated in the Annual General Assembly Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building on Agriculture (RUFORUM) in Gaborone, Botswana, where we engaged with Deans of Faculties of Agriculture and promoted the AgriFoSe2030 approach within broader academic networks.
- **Laos:** Researchers from the SEA network shared science translation methods and lessons at a workshop in Laos in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Faculty of Agriculture at the National University of Laos. The SEA network also contributed to the 10th International and National Agricultural Science, Technology and Development Conference (ASTDC 2025). These engagements opened a dialogue with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACAIR), exploring opportunities to pilot AgriFoSe2030 science translation training modules and strengthened links with the Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET), supporting continued knowledge exchange and regional collaboration.
- **United Kingdom, Leeds:** Kenya Hub engaged partners from the University of Leeds through the FOSTA Health project that resulted in a joint training programme for 15 postdoctoral and early-career researchers from Leeds and Nairobi. In 2025, key focus for AgriFoSe2030 was to ensure long-term sustainability of the programme by embedding the AgriFoSe2030 science translation methods into university curricula, expanding partnerships with higher education institutions to expand adoption, and putting the AgriFoSe2030 methodology in action through locally led change projects.
- **Ethiopia, Tanzania, Rwanda:** Regional partners, including Gondar University (Ethiopia), Moshi University (Tanzania), and the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda), participated in the Science Translation Course in Uganda. They were highly positive and expressed strong demand for continued training.
- **Philippines:** AgriFoSe2030 presented research findings on barriers and enablers of digital extension service adoption in Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Philippines at the International Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development (IPOVCON) 2025 in the Philippines.
- **Global:** AgriFoSe2030 hosted a session at the Agri4D conference highlighting collaborations that have generated tangible change and reflecting on the conditions needed for future partnerships amid evolving development and funding landscapes.
- **Sweden:** A feature article "[How AgriFoSe2030 translates science into development impact](#)" published by [Global Bar Magazine](#) increased programme visibility as the publication reaches about 30,000 monthly readers.

Demonstrating the AgriFoSe2030 methodology with five change projects

Progress in change projects in 2025 demonstrates greater community engagement, adoption of sustainable practices, and improved links between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.



Group work activity during the review of the Kisumu County Food system Strategy in Kisumu, Kenya. Photo: Samuel Omondi

Strengthening governance of food and extension systems for agricultural resilience and environmental sustainability in Kenya

The project of the Kenya Hub aims to improve collaboration between researchers and policymakers to enhance agricultural resilience and environmental sustainability. During 2025, institutional and analytical foundation was established in Embu and Kisumu counties by securing county government involvement and joint planning. The project also identified key actors, coordination mechanisms, and gaps in existing systems.

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Strengthening urban food systems resilience to flood and drought risks through new strategic partnerships in Kasese Municipality and Mbale City, Uganda (RUFs)

In 2025, RUFs has coordinated workshops on organic composting and pesticide use aimed at strengthening farmer skills and promoting more climate-smart agricultural practices. These efforts support increased knowledge to improve farming practices.

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Whepukulu Juma briefed the farmers on the critical steps and best practices for a food nursery bed. Photo: RUFs



Kyambogo University and AgriFoSe2030 project empower rural women through dairy value addition and green energy. Photo: GEMVAM

Advancing gender-responsive milk value addition and enhancing access to sustainable markets and energy resources (GEMVAM)

Biogas digesters have been constructed in five communities in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). Community teams have been trained in the use of biogas-related products, with support from Wezesha Community Foundation.

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Empowering marginalized communities through sustainable food systems: capacity building in edible insect rearing, value-added processing, and entrepreneurial development in Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe (EMCSFS)

In 2025, the project:

- Developed branding and packaging for the project's flagship product line, "Exocrunch", increasing commercial potential and visibility of edible insects as a viable food source.
- Established a community centre providing equipment from processing to packaging to turn insects into finished food products.
- Conducted a market survey to support commercialization in Namibia.
- Developed two training manuals, Natural Resources Conservation and Management Training Manual and Value Addition Training Manual, for farmers and others interested in edible insect entrepreneurship.

[Read more.](#)



Community center in Chinhoyi's Mashonaland West Provincial Agricultural show grounds. Photo: Robert Musundire



Group photo from one of the workshops in the GenSens project.
Photo: GenSens

Strengthening gender-responsive agricultural extension training (GenSens)

During the year, the project organised its first training workshop, bringing together 30 participants, including principals and gender tutors from all state agricultural training colleges in Tanzania, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, demonstrating strong institutional interest and support.

Early outcomes include increased confidence among tutors to address gender issues in teaching and strong support from college leadership, with principals requesting similar training for additional staff.

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Towards a more established, connected, and sustainable AgriFoSe2030

The hub model has strengthened institutional ownership, enhanced regional collaboration, and created clearer pathways for translating research into policy and practice.

Across all programme components, there is growing evidence of increased engagement from partner universities, strengthened capacity in science translation, and early integration of programme methodologies into institutional systems. AgriFoSe2030 has also continued to expand its reach globally, including through SEA activities contributing to increased visibility of programme approaches and strengthened regional networks and partnerships.

Sustainability remains a key objective, particularly through the integration of science translation into partner universities and the growing leadership of Global South partners. Although many initiatives are still at an early stage – such as the establishment of the regional hubs and the SEA network – the programme is overall on track to achieve its intended outcomes and contribute to improved food security in the Global South.

AgriFoSe

2030

**Agriculture for
Food Security 2030**

Translating Science Into Policy & Practice

Contact us:

Assoc. Professor Elisabeth Rajala
Programme Director
E-mail: agrifose@slu.se

Silvija Marcinkevičiūtė
Communications and Engagement team
E-mail: Silvija.Marcinkeviciute@sei.org

More information:

Website: www.slu.se/agrifose

