



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



ISSUE

In some ways, it's the perfect storm. The world's population is skyrocketing towards 9.7 billion by 2050. The need for energy, water, and food is rising exponentially. Climate change – to which agricultural value chains strongly contribute – means rainfall patterns are less predictable, heat waves more frequent. Rural entrepreneurs are disproportionately affected, and yet demand for agricultural output is set to double over the next 30 years.

Sustainable, inclusive food and agriculture growth has enormous potential to contribute to delivery of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its SDGs. But the agriculture and agroindustry is riven with inequality, inefficiency, and dangers for the climate and environment: It accounts for almost 40% of the planet's land surface, nearly 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, and, as a productive sector, for the world's largest proportion of poor households.

The conventional, dominant model of high-input agriculture prioritizes intensification of agricultural production (e.g. via deep tillage, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, reliance on mono-cropping), drives biodiversity depletion, high carbon emissions, soil erosion, and water depletion, as well as food loss and waste. Climate change – higher temperatures, extreme weather events, flooding, soil erosion etc. – as well as external political, social and traditional agri-practice related factors compounded by the devastating socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are fanning the flames of risk along the entire agricultural and food value chains.

The challenges are huge, the need for action urgent, but all is not lost. How can the industry's vast resources be leveraged in a sustainable, equitable, climate-friendly way? Through viable, modern agribusinesses.

From the farm-gate, across processing and distribution, to final consumption and product recycling and disposal, they create significant sources of off-farm jobs and income, value, and acquisition opportunities for manufacturing firms. They help preserve land and resources. And they reduce food losses. Vibrant agribusinesses also ignite growth in other sectors, through higher demand for input, technology, transport, communication, and quality infrastructure.

More broadly, climate-smart, regenerative agri-production systems can help substantively change the way we produce and consume agricultural commodities, and adapt to evolving climate patterns, guiding us through the storm, to a brighter future.

SOLUTION

UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) provides multiple services including technical cooperation, research and policy advisory services, as well as normative functions.

UNIDO's Department of Agribusiness assists developing countries to add value to the output of their agricultural sector (food and non-food) and to generate off-farm employment opportunities in rural communities, thereby contributing to rural economic development and structural transformation.



Department of Agribusiness priorities include:



Fostering competitiveness and productivity in agribusiness in a socially inclusive manner



Supporting the creation of business opportunities for women and youth



Promoting resilient rural livelihoods



Improving food security and safety as well as nutrition



Facilitating the transition to a green economy

DIVISIONS



The Department mobilizes technical services from our three interlinked Divisions:

Agro-Industries and Skills Development

The Agro-Industries and Skills Development Division provides a range of specialized services and know-how to address the specific needs of Member States in the industrial processing of non-food agricultural produce and technical skills development to provide their populations with sustainable livelihoods.

The Division provides support to SMEs to enhance their productivity, competitiveness, and market access, especially through the introduction of technological and digital solutions, natural resources management in agribusiness, and innovative learning.

Rural Entrepreneurship, Job Creation and Human Security

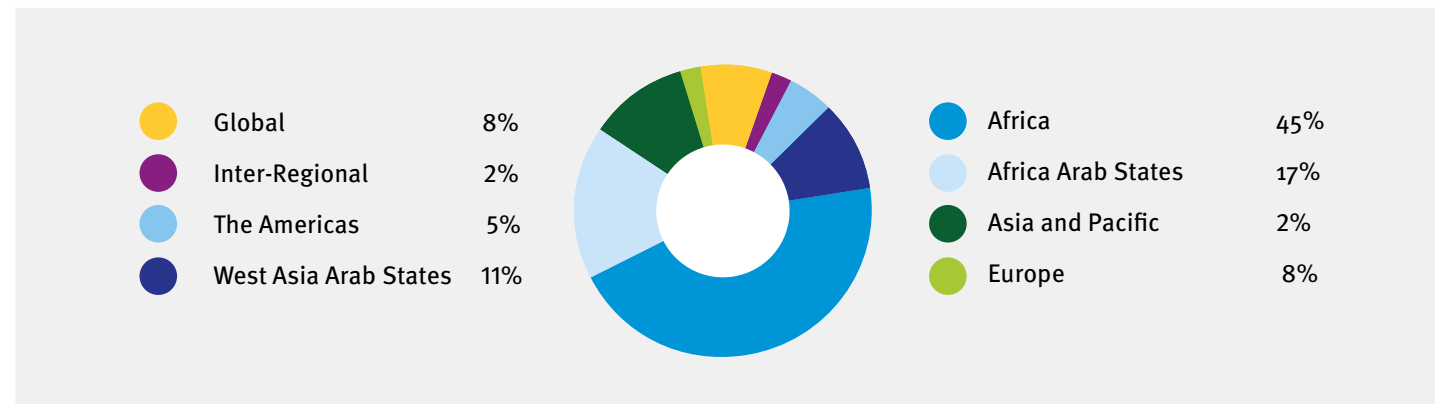
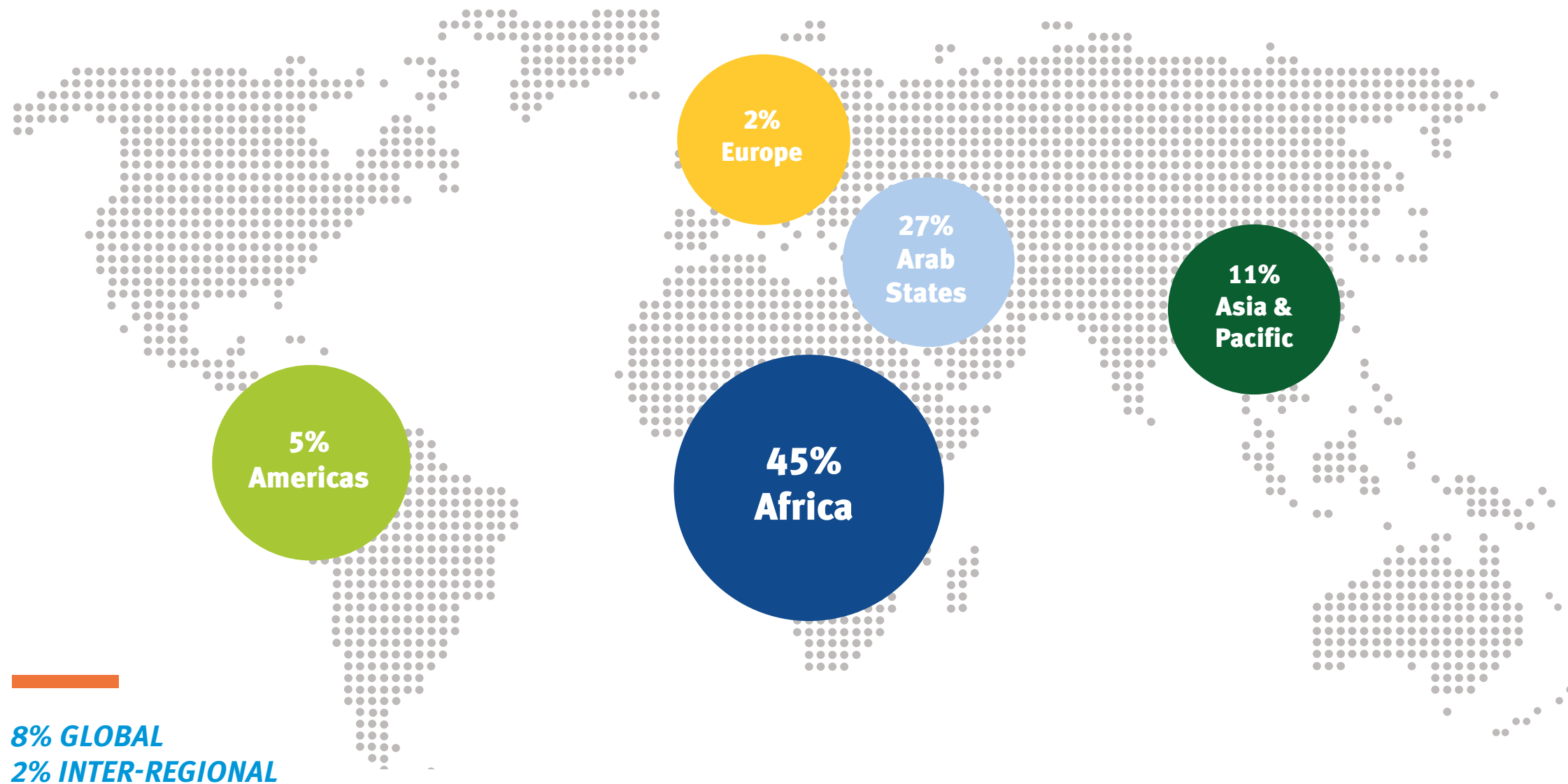
The Rural Entrepreneurship, Job Creation and Human Security Division provides technical cooperation services to improve livelihoods in rural communities through productive activities. The focus is on business activities among socially and economically marginalized people, including in particular women and youth, in the farm and non-farm sectors. Both entrepreneurial and technical human skills and capacities are strengthened and matched with opportunities for producing new and improved marketable products. Knowledge and technology introduced in the rural communities match the absorptive and innovative capabilities of the poor and vulnerable segments of rural society.

Sustainable Food Systems

The Sustainable Food Systems Division promotes food systems that deliver food and nutrition security without compromising economic, social, and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations. The Division is responsible for identifying, developing and managing programmes to improve the competitiveness of the food and agribusiness sectors through access to support services, finance, markets and trade opportunities.

The Division contributes to the capacity-building of support institutions and skill development agencies through its advisory and convening activities, contributing to a number of global and regional initiatives and platforms.

GLOBAL PRESENCE



107
ONGOING
PROJECTS



46
COUNTRIES
WORLDWIDE



\$227M
TOTAL
BUDGET

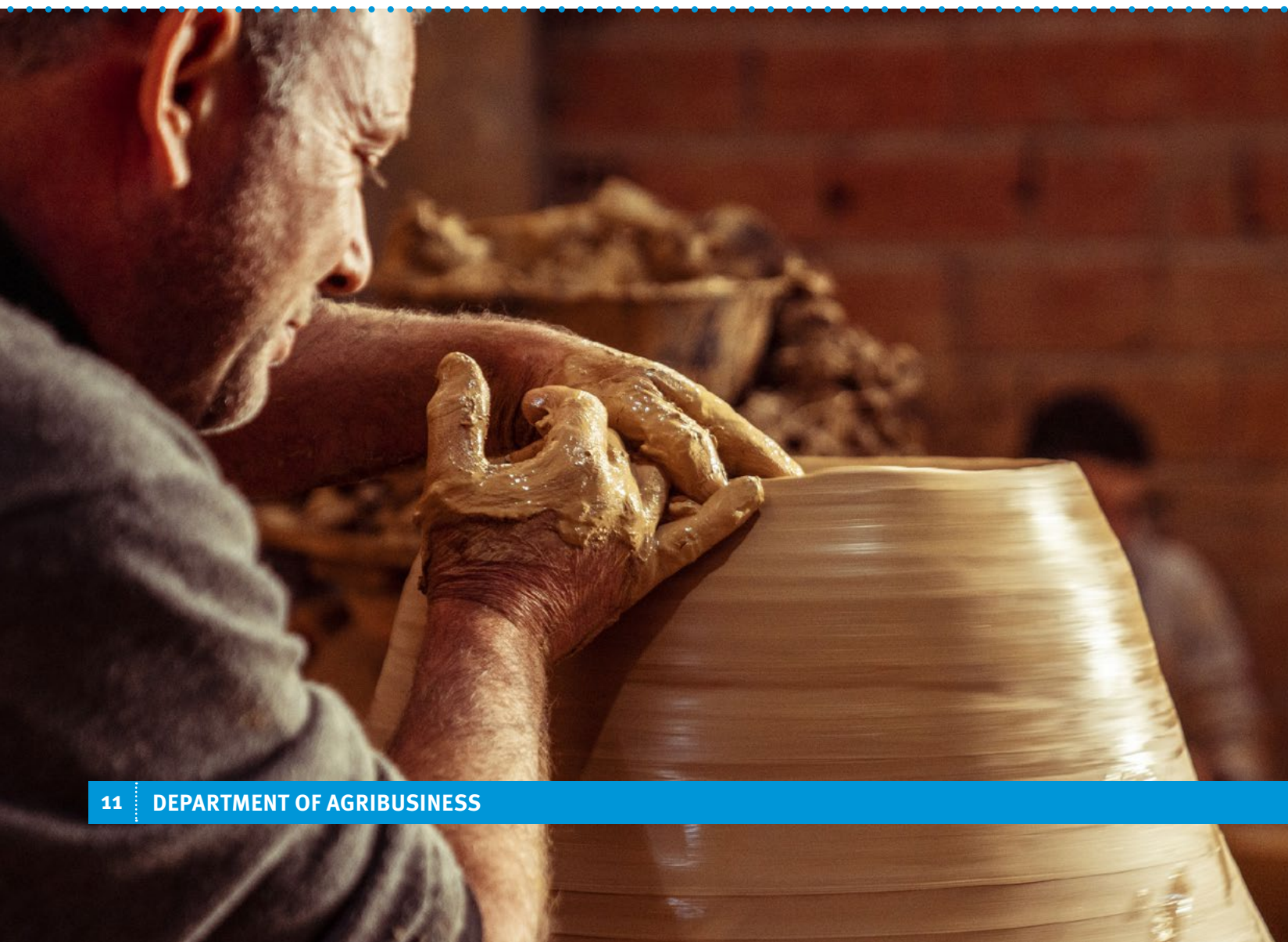
HOW

The Department supports UNIDO's Member States in accelerating their agribusiness development and enhancing the competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized agribusiness enterprises. The expertise of the Department is focused on:

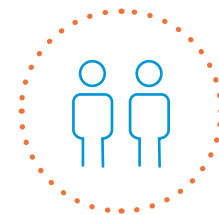
- Delivery of technical cooperation in developing countries (including in fragile contexts) for the benefit of agro-based (e.g. food, leather, textiles, wood) and agro-related industries (e.g. agricultural equipment sectors);
- Support in the development of agribusinesses in rural areas, improving food security and the creation of shared prosperity;
- Analysis of agro-value chains and related market systems;
- Promotion of food safety (in particular in relation to processing of agro-food commodities), including its integration in regulatory frameworks;
- Promotion of investment in agribusiness and value chain development through partnerships with International Finance Institutions (IFIs)
- Delivery of agribusiness technical and vocational education and training (TVET) that responds to market needs (using the Public Private Development Partnership approach) and creates decent employment opportunities (particularly for youth and women);
- Organization of conferences and expert group meetings on topics related to our mandate, as well as publication of specialized training manuals, guides and electronic media;
- Review of local/national policies and regulations on the issues above, as well as support in the development of policy/regulatory reforms and exposure to relevant international good practice.
- Development of sector and sub-sector agribusiness strategies

SYNERGIES

The Department's services are aimed at the macro, meso and micro level, working from the bottom up to maximize synergies among the three levels.



MICRO LEVEL



At the micro level, the Department builds human capital and supports enterprises along value chains and sectors. With a special focus on agribusiness and food systems, the Department delivers targeted capacity-building activities in the areas of productivity enhancement, food safety and quality compliance and packaging. The Department works closely with individuals, including women, youth and disadvantaged groups, aspiring to enter the agro-industrial workforce or to set up businesses.

MESO LEVEL



At the meso level, the Department's technical assistance enhances institutional capacities for service provision, competences and business process solutions. Technical assistance includes equipping institutions with new technologies in production, logistics, and compliance. To support strong domestic institutions for sustainable and inclusive agribusiness sector growth, the Department uses its convening function to establish private-public partnerships or private sector-driven service centres of excellence across agro-value chains, ensuring the provision of specialized services needed for the development of the target value chains and industries. This includes, for instance, rural transformation centres; micro-financing institutions; food processing and collection hubs; service centres including on packaging; food safety centres of excellence; and technical and vocational education and training centres.

MACRO LEVEL



At the macro level, the Department provides policy support at the national level, supporting governments in their efforts to create the conditions for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It also promotes best practices through the development and dissemination of guidelines in the “farm to fork” continuum. The Department contributes to global deliberations related to sustainable food systems, agricultural commodities and agro-value chains in partnership with other United Nations agencies and international institutions to develop norms, frameworks and guidelines for agri-food value chain development, as well as industrial infrastructure including integrated agro-industrial parks, SME development, food safety, industrial biotechnology and biodiversity.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Department is engaged in a number of partnerships with a range of actors across the globe. These partnerships are designed to scale up impact, facilitate investment flows, create synergies with other projects and programmes, and to provide holistic integrated services to UNIDO's Member States.



UN Agencies

The Department has joined forces with other UN agencies to scale up its activities and enable the provision of integrated services to Member States for enhanced development impact. For example:

- UNIDO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are working together to address global challenges related to agribusiness and agro-industry development, bio-energy, economic recovery in post-crisis countries and the organization of global forums.
- The partnership with the World Trade Organization (WTO) / Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) focuses on joint

global dialogue programs as well as technical cooperation projects, through a global partnership platform on food safety private standards and schemes.

- A new partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) promotes local food processing to enhance sourcing from local and regional suppliers to WFP food markets.
- The Department has also expanded partnerships with a number of UN and EU Agencies (e.g. UNICEF, ILO, UNCTAD, ETF, WorldSkills International) in the framework of technical education, skills development, future of jobs and creative economy.

International Finance Institutions (IFIs)

The Department is working with IFIs to scale up technical cooperation activities to attract large-scale private and public investment in the agribusiness sector.

The Department is an implementing partner of the World Bank (WB) for large-scale agribusiness projects and programmes.

it also expanded its partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), which resulted in the launching of new AfDB-funded projects on agro-food parks in Senegal, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania.



Academia

The Department partners with a number of universities and research institutes for knowledge products. It also has a long-term partnership with the International Union of Food Sciences and Technology to promote food sciences and technology in developing countries.

The Business Sector

The Department has a number of business sector partnerships in the agribusiness and skills development sectors. These partnerships create a win-win situation where the business sector has business benefits, while the Department supports the host Government achieve its development objectives. Examples include:

- The “Cotton for Life” initiative, in partnership with Better Cotton Initiative, Filmar and other fashion brands
- Training programmes for youth with Hitachi Construction Machinery, Hewlett Packard and the Hewlett Packard Foundation, Komatsu, Festo Didactic and the Volvo Group, among others.
- The Learning and Knowledge Development Facility (LKDF) is a prominent initiative under the Department that brings together multinational and national business sector partners, experts and other stakeholders around technical and vocational training.





For more information,
visit our website:





Vienna International Centre
Wagramerstr. 5, P.O. Box 300,
A-1400 Vienna, Austria



+43 1 260-0



www.unido.org



unido@unido.org



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