



National Policies and Strategies for Food, Land and Water Systems Transformation

Initiative Lead and Co-Lead

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Primary CGIAR Action Area

Systems Transformation

Estimated 2022 - 2024 Budget

\$20 - \$25 M

Challenge

Despite improved economic growth in many low- and middle-income countries over the past decade, major inequalities persist. Rapid urbanization, migration, pockets of conflict, and other demographic and social challenges are likely to exacerbate these inequalities. By 2050, half of the population of Africa will be living in urban areas requiring special attention to the urban and peri-urban poor within national policies and strategies. In the absence of "Ministries of Food Systems", government actions towards the SDGs, and better integration of food, land and water systems, remains fragmented and uncoordinated. The need to make these systems more productive, resilient and responsive to growing demand has never been greater. Approximately 3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet, and more than 3 billion suffer one or more manifestations of poor nutrition. It is likely that food systems are already operating beyond some planetary boundaries, exerting increasing pressures on land and water systems. Transformations will require benefit optimization while managing complex trade-offs. Without coherent evidence-driven policy and planning, and amidst substantially growing risks and uncertainties, future policy on food, land and water systems transformation could result in poor investments, ineffective national programming, and growing inequalities. This initiative brings together a more unified science system, working with governments, the private sector, and funding organizations to champion and strengthen capacity for more collaborative, evidence-based and coordinated policy development and implementation that transforms food, land and water systems at (sub)national, regional and international scales.

Objective

This initiative will support prioritization of investments that transform food, land and water systems at the national level to achieve greater gender equality, inclusion, food and nutrition security, healthy diets, poverty reduction, and climate resilience. Working with country-led coalitions of government policy-makers, the private sector, funders and civil society organizations, we will develop new tools and adapt and apply a range of existing 1CGIAR tools to national and sub-national policies and investments, developing transformative strategies and plans that lead to more sustainable and equitable outcomes and provide investment entry points for funders, the private sector and others. Working with country-led coalitions and multi-sector coordination units we will co-design transformative programs, policies, and strategies that crowd-in multiple sources of funding and support implementation and analysis using political economy tools. This will facilitate integration of 1CGIAR innovations across initiatives, and support evaluation of program investments against poverty, food and nutrition security, equality, and climate resilience targets. We will also work at the science-policy interface with other 1CGIAR initiatives ensuring their work has policy synergy and that innovations are investment- and scale-ready to feed into national policies and investment plans. We will build think tank policy capacity, equipping a new generation of policy entrepreneurs in at least 20 next-generation policy institutes and will work with partners, including regional partners, to develop monitoring, knowledge management and accountability tools for food, land and water systems transformation.

Theory of Change

This Initiative provides new, and adapts existing, policy tools and platforms to transform food, land and water systems in ways that deliver equitable and sustained food and nutrition security, healthy diets, poverty reduction, gender equality and climate adaptation. It does this through four work packages implemented with coalitions of actors in at least 8 countries: 1) Strategic Planning analyzes existing policies and co-identifies policy goals and objectives with potential for transformation, while minimizing negative trade-offs using a range of economic, value chain and social modelling tools; 2) Investment Prioritization identifies policies and strategies that are cost-effective in achieving policy goals and multiple outcomes; it also guides governments, funders and the private sector on where and how to make investments that have greatest potential to deliver equitable and sustainable food, land and water system transformation, including working across 1CGIAR Initiatives to ensure coherence and synergy in policies and investment-ready, scalable innovations; 3) Intervention Implementation works with public, private, and civil society actors, translating investment plans into national and sub-national implementation programs, using impact evaluation and political economy tools to identify bottlenecks and key drivers of change; it also builds policy think tank capacity to better support governments; 4) Learning and Feedback creates a policy innovation exchange across countries and regions, building knowledge management tools and establishing a Community of Policy Practice (CoPP) to deliver future transformative policies, as well as improving the policy impact/transformation relationship using CGIAR tools to deliver multiple food, land and water systems transformations in support of least 50 million people.

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Highlights

Coalitions of policy actors across sectors (governments, donors, private sector, civil society, and policy researchers) at national and sub-national levels use emerging research evidence and tools from various 1CGIAR initiatives to develop policies and strategies that steer transformation towards more equitable and sustainable food, land, and water systems.

Co-developed evidence-based investment plans and scenarios across food, land and water systems, that crowd-in public and private resources (up to \$10 billion), and optimize impacts on inclusion and poverty, help manage trade-offs and identify optimal returns on potential investments (including from 1CGIAR innovations).

New capabilities in modelling tools, impact evaluation and political economy analysis enable countries to use evidence for more inclusive policy formulation, prioritization and implementation, as well as manage trade-offs that lead to more sustainable food, land and water systems for the benefit of the most vulnerable sections of society.

We will strengthen up to 20 next-generation public policy institutions to deliver on future policy development, knowledge management and transformation strategies through 2030 and beyond, including establishing specific skills in using tools for priority setting, evaluation, impact methods and social engagement, with a particular focus on strengthening processes of policy inclusion.

Rigorous impact evaluation and political economy tools support implementation and adaptation of policies and strategies including methods for addressing inclusion and distributional justice from investments, strengthening future models of private-public partnership and ensuring a continued focus on food and nutrition security, healthy diets, poverty reduction, gender equality and inclusion.

Work Packages

	Scope of Work	3-year Outcomes
Strategic Planning: Co-design policies and strategies for growth and rural transformation	Analyze current policies and bottlenecks to implementation and develop, adapt and use a range of data and tools from 1CGIAR (e.g. the Foresight Initiative) and partners to support country polices and plans that drive food and nutrition security, gender equality, decent jobs, climate resilience, and sustainable transformations in food, land and water systems across 8 countries.	At least 8 countries have priority policies and strategies, or make policy and strategy changes to food, land, and water systems transformations using 1CGIAR tools and evidence, that deliver equitable outcomes for food, nutrition and water security, job creation, environmental sustainability, and gender and inclusion.
Investment Prioritization: Supporting the implementation of public and private investments	Work with a coalition of actors (government, private sector, funders, civil society and other 1CGIAR initiatives) to translate policies and investment plans into priority targeted and co-designed large public, private and donor-funded investments and programs to deliver food, land and water systems transformations and inclusive multiple impacts.	At least 8 country governments have formed coalitions of the private sector, civil society, and donors, and translated their policies and strategies into investment plans and programs with clear budgets and implementation, knowledge management and accountability plans that incorporate investment-ready 1CGIAR technological, policy and institutional innovations.
Intervention Implementation: Next generation research analysis and policy capacity	Using impact evaluation, political economy tools and institutional analysis we will bolster impact, accountability and transparency through leading-edge research co-produced with public, private, and civil society partners. We will strengthen next-generation policy think tank capacity using novel tools and approaches (including linkage to the Digital Initiative) to deliver robust and politically-feasible policy innovations.	Governments work with 1 CGIAR researchers and 20 next-generation policy think tanks and institutes, using evaluation and political economy tools to track the impacts of government and other investment programs and to address policy implementation bottlenecks to ensure policies and strategies lead to more transformational and equitable outcomes.
Learning and Feedback: Building a Community of Policy Practice (CoPP) that strengthens impacts and supports a range of initiatives	Develop innovative communications and advocacy mechanisms with partner organizations, forming wider strategic alliances and working with countries and regional organizations to foster cross-country and regional learning, public policy dialogue, capacity development and mainstreaming of policy analysis, impact assessment and accountability tools.	Evidence based policy analysis tools, knowledge management tools and lessons learnt from across countries and regions are mainstreamed in country planning and investment priority-setting as well as being reflected in regional organizations setting targets and supporting governments to invest in them.

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Impact Area Contributions

Nutrition, health & food security	At least 50 million people benefit from better food and water security because of policies and strategies that integrate 1CGIAR innovations, research, and evidence in their prioritization, targeting and implementation.
Poverty reduction, livelihoods & jobs	At least 10 million women and youth, and marginalized groups, benefit through increased and more inclusive investments under large government, private sector, and donor-funded programs. The initiative will contribute to employment generation and improved efficiency beyond the farm, across food, land and water systems.
Gender equality, youth & social inclusion	At least 10 million youth and women, as well as marginalized groups, benefit and are empowered through better returns from shared food, land and water systems as a result of strategies and programs designed and implemented with explicit attention to equity and inclusion.
Climate adaptation & greenhouse gas reduction	Climate impacts, especially on the poorest and most marginalized, are minimized through activities and policies that are less fragmented and from reduced trade-offs leading to improvements in climate adaptation and resilience responses, as well as contributing to net carbon capture and retention in agri-food systems.
Environmental health & biodiversity	Governments better manage environmental trade-offs and achieve food, land and water system transformations that succeed in strengthening environmental health and biodiversity in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems under pressure from economic and demographic growth.

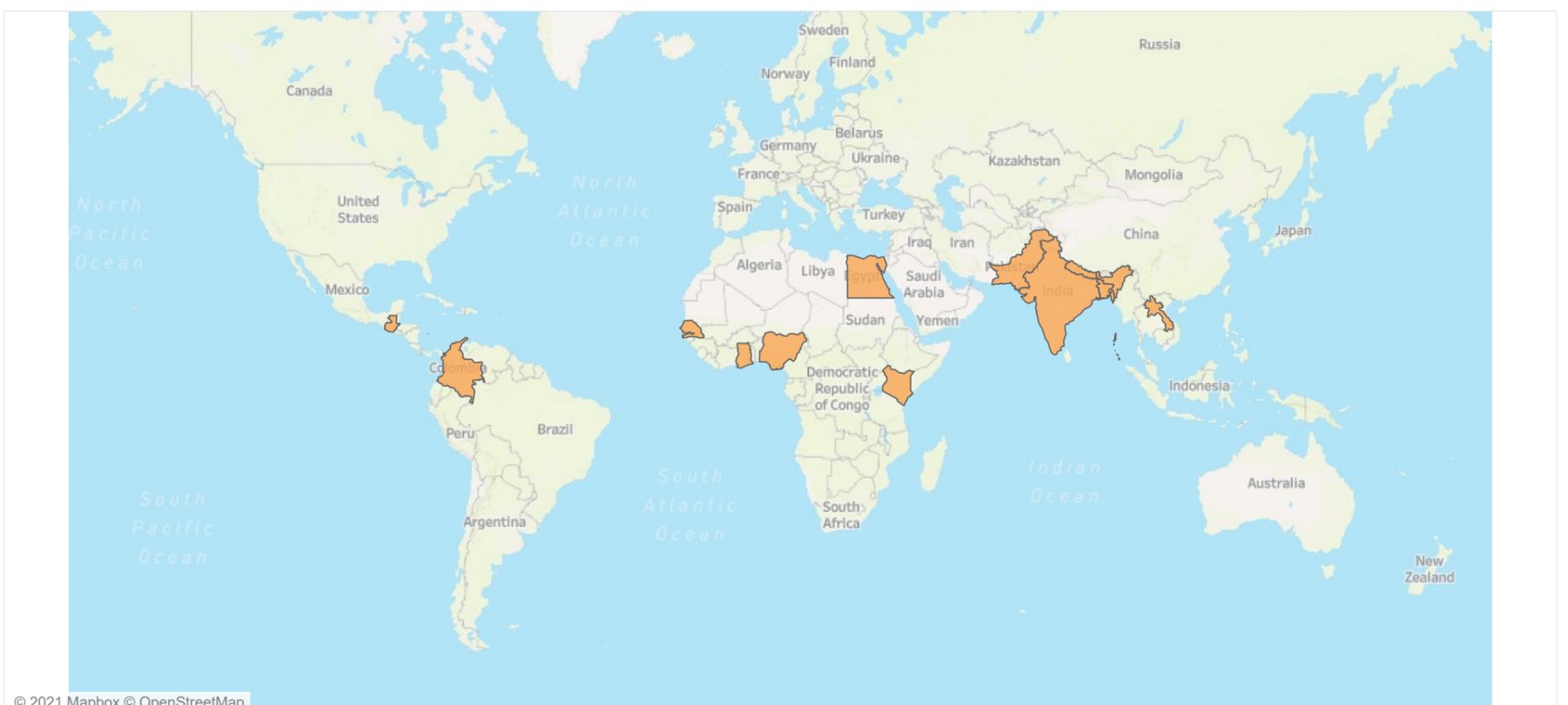
Impact on SDGs



Regions

Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA), East and Southern Africa (ESA), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), South Asia (SA), South East Asia and the Pacific (SEA), West and Central Africa (WCA)

Countries



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Innovations

A coalitions-based approach to country-led food, land and water systems transformation: Composed of champions from key ministries, policy advisors, academia, the private sector, media, and civil society this ensures that research-based advice translates into viable investments and measurable improvements in people's lives, attributable to 1 CGIAR at the country level.

Accessible tools, including digital tools, for country-led policy and investment prioritization, and capacity to use these: A suite of economy-wide and food, land and water systems-specific investment prioritization tools that are open access and easy to use at country level.

Methodological innovations in supporting and monitoring policy implementation: An integrated package of policy and implementation tools, including knowledge management tools, that can identify intended and unintended consequences, provide learning and fine-tuning of implementation processes, as well as communication of successes and, where necessary, enable adaptation.

Cross-country policy exchange: This will accelerate the production and compilation of, and access to, reliable data that is crucial for decision making through a policy exchange that promotes evidence-based and more inclusive policy making and accountability between countries and regions.

Supporting innovations in investment programming: Working with public and private sector actors, strengthen policy environments for innovations and scaling of investments through identification of priority investment pathways for different actors, including private sector crowd-in, to transform technological, institutional and policy interventions into investment-ready ideas.

Key Partners

Demand	Academic, Training and Research	FARA, ASARECA, WECARD, IICA
	Government	Ministries of Planning, Health, Finance, Local Government, Gender, Labor, Agriculture, Water and Land, and Sub-National Authorities in focus countries
	Multilateral	Africa Union commission (AUC), AU Development Agency, ASEAN, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, IICA, UN ECA
	Other	Bilateral and multi-lateral funders
	Private Sector	Private sector companies and financial institutions
Innovation	Academic, Training and Research	Akademiya 2063, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Africa Economic Research Consortium, Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI)
		National Policy Think Tanks, Networks, and Development Institutions in focus countries - e.g. Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research, Centre d'Etudes de Politiques pour le Development in Senegal, Egyptian Center for Public Policy Studies, El Centro de Estudios sobre Desarrollo Económico in Colombia, ISRA-BAME in Senegal, and the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) in Nigeria
		Overseas Development Institute, Universities including those in the Global North
	Other	Other 1CGIAR Initiatives (including Digital Tools, Foresight, Regional Integrated Initiatives)
	Other Public Sector	National agriculture, land and water research organizations in focus countries
Scaling	Academic, Training and Research	FARA, ASARECA, WECARD, IICA
	Government	Ministries of Planning, Health, Finance, Local Government, Gender, Labor, Agriculture, Health Water and Land at national and sub-national levels in focus countries
	Multilateral	Africa Union commission (AUC), AU Development Agency, ASEAN, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, IICA, UN ECA, AfCFTA
	Other	Bilateral and multi-lateral funders
	Private Sector	Private sector companies and financial institutions including AfDB, ADB, IADB

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Theory of change

