CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with the CGIAR Technical Reporting Arrangement. This Initiative report ("Type 1" report) constitutes part of the broader CGIAR Technical Report. Each CGIAR Research Initiative submits an annual "Type 1" report, which provides assurance on Initiative-level progress towards End of Initiative outcomes.

The CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and Science Group Project (SGP) reports, with quality assured results reported by Initiatives, Platforms and SGPs available on the CGIAR Results Dashboard.
- The Type 3 Portfolio Performance and Project Coordination Practice Change report, which focuses on internal practice change.
- The Portfolio Narrative, which draws on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, and the CGIAR Results Dashboard, to provide a broader view on Portfolio coherence, including results, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and synergies among the Portfolio’s constituent parts.

The CGIAR Annual Report is a comprehensive overview of CGIAR’s collective achievements, impact and strategic outlook, which draws significantly from the Technical Report products above. For 2023, the Annual Report and Technical Report will be presented online as an integrated product.

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</table>

Nature-Positive Solutions 1
**Fact sheet and budget**

**Initiative name**
Nature-Positive Solutions for Shifting Agrifood Systems to More Resilient and Sustainable Pathways

**Initiative short name**
Nature-Positive Solutions (NATURE+)

**Initiative Lead**
Carlo Fadda (c.fadda@cgiar.org)

**Initiative Co-lead**
Solomie Gebrezgabher (s.Gebrezgabher@cgiar.org)

**Science Group**
Resilient Agrifood Systems

**Start – end date**
01/04/2022 – 31/12/2024

**Geographic scope**
Countries targeted in the proposal
- Burkina Faso
- Colombia
- India
- Kenya
- Viet Nam

**OECD DAC**

**Climate marker adaptation score**
Score 1: Significant
The activity contributes in a significant way to any of the three CGIAR climate-related strategy objectives – namely, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and climate policy, even though it is not the principal focus of the activity.

**Climate marker mitigation score**
Score 1: Significant
The activity contributes in a significant way to any of the three CGIAR climate-related strategy objectives – namely, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and climate policy, even though it is not the principal focus of the activity.

**Gender equity marker score**
Score 2: Gender accommodative/aware
Gender equality is an objective, but not the main one. The Initiative/project includes at least two explicit gender specific outputs and (adequate) funding and resources are available. Data and indicators are disaggregated by gender and analyzed to explain potential gender variations and inequalities.

**Website link**

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The CGIAR Research Initiative on Nature-Positive Solutions (NATURE+) reported 126 results in 2023 and made significant advances toward End of initiative outcomes against the Initiative’s theory of change across all five Work Packages. This report covers many of the Initiative’s most salient achievements by country and by Work Package.

Results from 2023 ensure the Initiative is well positioned to achieve the majority of expected outcomes at the end of its initial phase.

---

**PROPOSAL BUDGET**

| 2023 | $8.57 |

**APPROVED BUDGET**

| 2023 | $6.38 |
Initiative-level theory of change diagram

EOI 1: Sustainably managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 2: Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 3: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 4: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 5: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 6: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 7: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 8: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 9: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 10: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 11: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 12: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

EOI 13: Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems. Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and wild animal species, including through soundly managed managed genebanks at the national, regional, and international levels.

End of Initiative outcome

Action Area

Impact Area

Sustainable Development Goal

Note: A summary of Work Package progress ratings is provided in Section 3.
Annual Technical Report 2023

Solutions is doing just that. But nature-based solutions, quite literally, need to be built from the ground up. Promised benefits of nature-based solutions are critical to fixing these crises, in tandem. In 2023, a supermajority of global leaders understand that nature-based solutions are needed. The accomplishments underscore how strong partnerships, particularly in countries — Burkina Faso, Colombia, India, Kenya and Viet Nam — can be found in Section 3 of this report, and in our 2023 country reports for Burkina Faso, Colombia, India, Kenya and Viet Nam. The work united local stakeholders’ knowledge, needs, and voices.

Summary of progress against the theory of change

Progress towards outcomes

- Nature-Positive Solutions (NPS) work advances Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.
- The much-needed investment streams toward participatory research for innovating, the business cases for nature-positive solutions and reorienting policies to included true-cost accounting for food in agrifood systems
- NATURE+ expanded institutional seedbanks in Viet Nam, as part of an Initiative-wide network of such biological resources, as evidenced by the development of land-grants for biodiversity research and training 400 farmers on circular bioeconomy activities for the Encouragingly, global leaders understand that nature-based solutions are needed. Moreover, the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and Biodiversity stressed the importance of nature-positive production systems. To implement NATURE+ innovations at scale, we need to engage in nature-positive educational activities to sow crucial seeds.

7 Seed system development and agrobiodiversity

Women, schools and traditional knowledge

Members of the Tich En Tich Makwangla Women’s Group in Kisumu, Kenya, celebrate their inspired cooking briquettes that resulted from the Initiative’s work on building circular bioeconomy startups. Credit: Edwin Okoth for NATURE+
Progress by End of Initiative outcome

**Work Package progress**

**WP1: Conserve**

**Output**

**Outcome**

**EDO 3: Adoption of participatory, multi-disciplinary approaches.**

In Colombia, NATURE+ circular bioeconomic work is involving local stakeholders, government, and researchers in leading to the preparation of policy proposals and other entry points to boost circular, nature-positive economic activity in the way of empowering communities. For improved water and soil conservation, the Initiative identified muli-level Agrobiodiversity, Water and Soils (AWS) conservation decision support. Baselines and open-access information and benefits between ex- and in-situ conservation are being developed through the network on Agrobiodiversity, Water, and Soils (AWS) conservation conservation knowledge. Agrobiodiversity-water-soil revalue and apply traditional plant species inventory, analyzing seed systems of native crops, and GIS mapping of 200 households to assess local landrace diversity. Researchers built baselines for four crops (banana, oil palm, mango, and coffee) under the NATURE+ initiative. At four schools, the Initiative conducted research at three community demonstration farms outside Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, stockpiling fuel wood under a Shea tree. Credito: Chris Kettle, Alliance of International and CIAT.

**EOI 2: Uptake of NATURE+ innovations and pathways to engage in and benefit from value chains.**

EOI 2: Uptake of NATURE+ innovations and pathways to engage in and benefit from value chains. Progress by End of Initiative outcome

**EOI 3: Adoption of participatory, multi-disciplinary approaches.**

In Colombia, NATURE+ circular bioeconomic work is involving local stakeholders, government, and researchers in leading to the preparation of policy proposals and other entry points to boost circular, nature-positive economic activity in the way of empowering communities. For improved water and soil conservation, the Initiative identified muli-level Agrobiodiversity, Water and Soils (AWS) conservation decision support. Baselines and open-access information and benefits between ex- and in-situ conservation are being developed through the network on Agrobiodiversity, Water, and Soils (AWS) conservation conservation knowledge. Agrobiodiversity-water-soil revalue and apply traditional plant species inventory, analyzing seed systems of native crops, and GIS mapping of 200 households to assess local landrace diversity. Researchers built baselines for four crops (banana, oil palm, mango, and coffee) under the NATURE+ initiative. At four schools, the Initiative conducted research at three community demonstration farms outside Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, stockpiling fuel wood under a Shea tree. Credito: Chris Kettle, Alliance of International and CIAT.

EOI 3: Adoption of participatory, multi-disciplinary approaches.

**EOI 4: Acknowledgement of true cost accounting.**

EOI 4: Acknowledgement of true cost accounting.

**EOI 5: Uptake of NATURE+ evidence, tools, and methodologies.**

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### WP2: Manage

**Output:**
- Informal seed systems in place.
- Multistakeholder platforms in place.
- Performance metrics are in place for NBSV monitoring.
- Integrated protocols are in place for use of biodiversity, pests and diseases, management (agri) quality, water and soil testing for each location.
- Agreed action plans with integrated NBSV/Kb protocols statements.
- Protocols for participatory variety selection (PVS) and participatory plant-breeding (PPB) in place in at least three countries.
- Strengthened value chains for neglected species.
- Public procurement from seed/seed systems in place in at least two countries.

**EDD 1:**
- Mens and women farmers are increasing using on local seed actions for high-quality seeds.
- Mens and women farmers are in the communities coordinating their efforts to produce a diversity of crops.
- Mens and women farmers in target sites use integrated soil, water, biodiversity protocols.
- Youth and women will benefit from these value chains and public procurements in terms of jobs and incomes.
- Local policy promotes NATURE+ production.

**EDD 2:**
- National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) and other development actors in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) implement participatory, multidisciplinary approaches that make science and technology more impactful, relevant to local contexts and agro-food systems (AFS) contexts and smallholder needs, and sustainable through local sector take-up (2022-2025), to be followed by the 2030-2035 policy (NBSV) engaging better access and benefits from, value chains based on the outputs of biodiversity conservation, innovative science and technology transfer, and circular economy principles.

### WP3: Restore

**Outcome:**
- Women and youth in the target countries' five-year plans to integrate the conservation of landscapes, with county authorities, NATURE+ activities are now part of two counties’ five-year plans to integrate the conservation of landscapes, with county authorities, NATURE+ activities are now part of two counties’ five-year plans to integrate the conservation of landscapes, with county authorities, NATURE+ activities are now part of two counties’ five-year plans to integrate the conservation of landscapes, with county authorities, NATURE+ activities are now part of two.

**EDD 1:**
- National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) and other development actors in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) acknowledge that true cost accounting should and will be adopted by agricultural systems (AFS) through local sector take-up (2022-2025), recognized by management of economic incentive schemes and policy and policy advice to account for the true cost of local biodiversity.

**EDD 2:**
- National and sub-national policies in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) use NATURE+ evidence, tools, and protocols to support the development and implementation of nature-positive solutions.

### EOI 1

- Burkina Faso: ZvPX (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX)
- Colombia: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- Viet Nam: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- Kenya: ZvPX (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX)
- India: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)

### EOI 2

- Burkina Faso: ZvPX (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX)
- Colombia: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- Viet Nam: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- India: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)

### Colombia: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)

- Burkina Faso: ZvPX (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX)
- Colombia: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- Viet Nam: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- India: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)

### Viet Nam: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)

- Burkina Faso: ZvPX (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX) (ZvPX)
- Colombia: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- Viet Nam: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
- India: DvPv (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv) (DvPv)
On track with the participation of several green-economy innovators in farmers' associations. Workshops on farms and identified waste valorization solutions with on-site and during an invigorating 3-day workshop (blog, video).

WP4: Recycle

Outcome

- Awareness is raised within communities on the responsibilities with rural waste recycling.
- Women and youth are aware and able to implement businesses for waste recycling.
- Selected young entrepreneurs and women are coached and they set-up skills to recycle rural waste.
- Waste recycling is mainstreamed into national policies and practices.

WP5: Engage

Outcome

- Women and men (incl. smallholder farmers) in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are able to implement businesses for waste recycling.
- Women and youth are aware and able to implement businesses for waste recycling.
- Waste recycling is mainstreamed into national policies and practices.

Public and private investment actors use NATURE+ innovations and pathways to engage more directly in and benefit more equitably from these commercial waste recycling business management.

Decision-support tool for development of national policies and practices.

WP5 progress against the theory of change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam:</td>
<td>Women and men (incl. smallholder farmers) in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are able to implement businesses for waste recycling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya:</td>
<td>Women and men (incl. smallholder farmers) in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are able to implement businesses for waste recycling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso:</td>
<td>Women and men (incl. smallholder farmers) in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are able to implement businesses for waste recycling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia:</td>
<td>Women and men (incl. smallholder farmers) in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are able to implement businesses for waste recycling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India:</td>
<td>Women and men (incl. smallholder farmers) in five Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are able to implement businesses for waste recycling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WP4: Recycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam:</td>
<td>National and subnational policies on free and voluntary trade agreements (VAT) acknowledge that true cost accounting should already be applied to agricultural inputs (2022-2025), followed by management of economic incentives schemes and policy by policy actors to account for the true cost of food (2025-2030).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya:</td>
<td>National and subnational policies on free and voluntary trade agreements (VAT) acknowledge that true cost accounting should already be applied to agricultural inputs (2022-2025), followed by management of economic incentives schemes and policy by policy actors to account for the true cost of food (2025-2030).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso:</td>
<td>National and subnational policies on free and voluntary trade agreements (VAT) acknowledge that true cost accounting should already be applied to agricultural inputs (2022-2025), followed by management of economic incentives schemes and policy by policy actors to account for the true cost of food (2025-2030).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia:</td>
<td>National and subnational policies on free and voluntary trade agreements (VAT) acknowledge that true cost accounting should already be applied to agricultural inputs (2022-2025), followed by management of economic incentives schemes and policy by policy actors to account for the true cost of food (2025-2030).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India:</td>
<td>National and subnational policies on free and voluntary trade agreements (VAT) acknowledge that true cost accounting should already be applied to agricultural inputs (2022-2025), followed by management of economic incentives schemes and policy by policy actors to account for the true cost of food (2025-2030).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Work Package progress rating summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORK PACKAGE</th>
<th>PROGRESS RATING &amp; RATIONALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Progress rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WP 1 is making steady advances towards achieving the theory of change. During this year, partnerships have been strengthened at national and local levels, and at least three NATURE+ innovations are expected to significantly contribute to planned impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Progress rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WP 2 is well on track to achieve the desired impact, with all the required partnerships for implementation in place and strengthened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Progress rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WP 3 is well on track to deliver on the planned theory of change, with strong implementation progress in 2023.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Progress rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WP 4 is well on track to achieve the desired impact, with all the required partnerships for implementation in place and strengthened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Progress rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apart from Colombia, all baseline data were collected by 2023 and baseline reports were drafted. True cost accounting findings have been disseminated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definitions**

- **On track**
  - Annual progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change.
  - Can include small deviations/issues/delays/risks that do not jeopardize success of Work Package.

- **Delayed**
  - Annual progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in key areas.
  - Deviations/issues/delays/risks could jeopardize success of Work Package if not managed appropriately.

- **Off track**
  - Annual progress clearly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in most/all areas.
  - Deviations/issues/delays/risks do jeopardize success of Work Package.

**Key results**

**Overview of reported results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Knowledge products</th>
<th>Innovation development</th>
<th>Capacity sharing for development</th>
<th>Other outputs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2023 results</strong></td>
<td>74</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**2023 results by geographic focus**

**Number of knowledge products by type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
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</table>

**Number of partners with global focus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research organizations and universities</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private company (other than financial)</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization (other than financial or research)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Institution</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public-Private Partnership</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29 March 2024
**Number of individuals trained by the Initiative**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Unspecified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>3,513</td>
<td>3,773</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of policies by stage and by type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Legal Instrument</th>
<th>Policy or Strategy</th>
<th>Program, Budget, or Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stages**

- **Stage 1:** Research taken up by next user, policy change not yet enacted.
- **Stage 2:** Policy enacted.

**Policy types**

- **Legal instrument:** Legal instruments include laws, which are defined as Bills passed into law by the highest elected body (a parliament, congress or equivalent); or regulations, which are defined as rules or norms adopted by a government.
- **Policy or strategy:** Policies or strategies include written decisions on, or commitments to, a particular course of action by an institution (policy); or a (government, NGO, private sector) high-level plan outlining how a particular course of action will be carried out (strategy). These documents set the goalposts but then require other instruments for implementation.
- **Program, budget or investment:** These are implementing mechanisms that often follow from a strategy, policy or law. There is typically a well-defined set of actions outlined over a specific period of time and with a specific budgetary amount attached.

**Impact Area contributions**

- **Climate adaptation and mitigation:** 89
- **Gender equality, youth and social inclusion:** 112
- **Poverty reduction, livelihoods and jobs:** 160
- **Nutritional, health and food security:** 102
- **Environmental health and biodiversity:** 54
- **Nature-positive solutions:** 17

Over 200 partners contributed to NATURE+ results in 2023. Partners are spread across the globe.
Women employed by the National Tree Seed Center of Burkina Faso extract seeds from herbaceous plants as part of a collaboration with NATURE’s RESTORE Work Package. The tree seed center conserves and distributes seeds of trees, shrubs and herbaceous species, the latter which prepare the land for tree introduction. 

Credit: Courtesy of Barbara Vinceti, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
Results made contributions across all the CGIAR Impact Areas and SDGs. NATURE+ successfully engaged with a variety of partners, including over 90 NARES. Colors represent the number of different partners which collaborated on results with external partners contributing to results, per country.

### Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to achieving End of Initiative outcomes. Many of the Initiative's partners have had positive collaborations with CGIAR Centers and projects, which has facilitated NATURE+ engagement and implementation at work sites across the Initiative's five target countries. The Initiative has also established new partnerships and strengthened or formalized others, due, in part, to the growing awareness of nature-based solutions as critical components of addressing the concurrent crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food and nutritional insecurity.

Several partnerships merit highlighting in relation to End of Initiative outcomes progress in 2023. This includes involving many local farmer organizations at intervention sites. NGOs, governments at the national and subnational levels, and, in addition, through its partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (MAFF), NATURE+ activities are embedded in the Food System Transformation agenda of the 2030 National Action Plan (NAP).

For example, in Kenya, several partners, including the Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA), which brings together stakeholders ranging from governments to farmer organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, national and international research organizations and universities (General), NGOs (other than financial or research) International and National (General), and NGOs Local (General), have been critical to implementation. Initiative work in Kenya can also credit its success to strong relationships with county governments and farmers' organizations in those counties which allowed for NATURE+ to be embedded in the County Integrated Development Plans.

In Colombia, NATURE+'s WP4 (Recycle) worked closely with the Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (or SENA, the National Learning Service) to implement activities focused on strengthening circular economy solutions. In Kerala, India's BAIF Development Research Foundation has played a critical role in NATURE+ activities in the country. BAIF helped the Initiative and the Alliance.

In Vietnam, several partners, including the Vegetable Research Institute, the Plant Resources Center, the National Agricultural University in Hanoi, the Vietnam Rice Research Institute, the Vietnamese Genebank, and UNDP. These partners were critical to the initiation and the implementation of Initiative activities, including research related to neglected and underutilized species (as described in Section 3) as well as promoting circular economy solutions. In Maharashtra, the Indian state where NATURE+ research activities are taking place.

The Initiative research partners include the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and the MPKV Rahuri Agricultural University in Maharashtra, the Indian state where NATURE+ research activities are taking place.

In Burkina Faso, close collaboration with communities in target sites. BAIF also co-launched the circular bioeconomy innovation hub, in collaboration with communities in target sites. BAIF also co-launched the circular bioeconomy initiative activities across all WPs, and facilitated contact and engagement and implementation at work sites across the Initiative's five target countries. The Initiative has also established new partnerships and strengthened or formalized others, due, in part, to the growing awareness of nature-based solutions as critical components of addressing the concurrent crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food and nutritional insecurity.

In Mexico, partnerships and Nature-Positive Solutions’ impact pathways research and academia, and the donor community to dialogue on conditions when key partnerships are in place. NATURE+ has over 200 partners spread across the globe. These include international and national research organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, national and international research organizations and universities (General), NGOs (other than financial or research) International and National (General), and NGOs Local (General), have been critical to implementation. Initiative work in Burkina Faso was enabled by close collaboration with NGOs, farmers' groups and a wide, informal network of tree nurseries, underscoring how research-for-development work can be coordinated and implemented even under complicated sociopolitical conditions when key partnerships are in place.

In Costa Rica, the National Agricultural Research and Extension Service (ORDESA) to implement activities focused on strengthening circular economy solutions. In Ethiopia, NATURE+ activities are embedded in the Food System Transformation agenda of the 2030 National Action Plan (NAP). In Colombia, NATURE+'s WP4 (Recycle) worked closely with the Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (or SENA, the National Learning Service) to implement activities focused on strengthening circular economy solutions. In Vietnam, several partners, including the Vegetable Research Institute, the Plant Resources Center, the National Agricultural University in Hanoi, the Vietnam Rice Research Institute, the Vietnamese Genebank, and UNDP. These partners were critical to the initiation and the implementation of Initiative activities, including research related to neglected and underutilized species (as described in Section 3) as well as promoting circular economy solutions. In Maharashtra, the Indian state where NATURE+ research activities are taking place.

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Section 6: CGIAR Portfolio linkages

Nature-Positive Solutions' internal portfolio network

Connections are sized by the number of reported results. Collaborations where only one result was reported with a linkage between two Initiatives are excluded.

Portfolio linkages and Nature-Positive Solutions’ impact pathways

Section 7: Adaptive management

RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORTING RATIONALE

Changes to internal communication.

Although progress has been made in enhancing the communication between WPs and within countries, there are still gaps and more can be done to better connect the dots internally and ensure efforts are aligned, streamlined, and coordinated.

How do we work together to identify opportunities for synergies across WPs and countries?

This will be achieved by creating a master workplan for each target country integrating all WP activities into one file per country. Country focal points will oversee the activities of all WPs and ensure efforts are aligned, streamlined, and coordinated.

Furthermore, country-level workshops which also include national partners, will be organized to enhance our coordination (e.g. an India pause and reflect (P&R) workshop has already been run; a Viet Nam P&R workshop is planned).

Changes to external communication.

There is a need to define a stronger narrative for 2024 and taglines for communicating the Initiative’s results and achievements – it is important to be able to tell the story of the Initiative’s contribution to the adoption of nature-positive solutions.

The country briefs that integrate the results achieved by all WPs per country serve as a good communication product for outreach. Organizing joint sessions where all WPs are represented would also enhance our messaging of Nature+ (e.g. the session organized in the Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum and explore other strategic conferences and forums).

Ensure prioritization towards activities that support integration between WPs and that more heavily contribute to achieving End of Initiative outcomes.

A mechanism to prioritize activities that enhance integration of WPs and maximize the outcomes expected by Initiative-end is needed.

A session in our P&R workshop is dedicated to discussing which solutions would be targeted and where to achieve high impact. Our strategy is to integrate and consolidate our resources where there is high potential for achieving outcomes.

Changes required to enter into partnerships more efficiently.

Entering and securing partnerships has been challenging in 2023. We need to explore more efficient ways of doing this in 2024 (grouping Centers’ budgets within the Initiative to enter into partnerships as one body).
Kenyan farmers aggregate land for nature-positive activity

Three groups of Kenyan farmers agreed to dedicate their small land parcels to create aggregated farms to implement and scale nature-positive solutions.

Many Kenyan smallholders face declining production due to land fragmentation, land degradation, and lack of investment. Three community-led groups supported by NATURE+ agreed to aggregate small parcels of land to create larger, nature-positive farms. These farms will be used to restore land, increase production, and attract investment to scale-up nature-positive interventions.

In Vihiga, a model farm of 2 hectares, will foster adoption of the same nature positive practices at landscape level. The different models are located in three relatively different social and farming contexts. But they have several things in common: strong community models are aligned with county-level, five-year agricultural development plans. Project beneficiaries are women, men, and youth (although participating farmers’ median age trends are well above the median age of Kenyan participants). Much of the farmland dedicated to production potential. Two of these are land fragmentation (the division of landholdings into very small parcels through inheritance). Farmers are often limited by lack of access to value chains and technical knowledge, access to seeds, and deforestation, subsequent erosion and overuse of chemical inputs) during the challenges listed above, including access to planting material, small plots through inheritance. Farmers are often limited by lack of access to value chains and technical knowledge, access to seeds, and deforestation, subsequent erosion and overuse of chemical inputs). This initiative brings ideas on better utilization of pieces of land, which have barely been utilized. We are optimistic that the permaculture aggregated farms will revolutionize agriculture, food security, and income levels among farmers.
A small selection of the several maize landraces produced in Nariño, Colombia. Increased conservation of agrobiodiversity, including unique landraces and neglected and underutilized crop species, is one focus of the CGIAR Research Initiative on Nature-Positive Solutions.

Credit: Andrea Gomez, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center

A family at a NATURE+ intervention site in Viet Nam.

Credit: Courtesy of Diego Naziri, International Potato Center