Tea pluckers in Nuwara Eliya uplands, Sri Lanka.

CGIAR

Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area Platform

Annual Technical Report 2024

Disclaimers

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The Artificial Intelligence (AI) software ChatGPT was used to support the editing of parts of this report, specifically to improve clarity, grammar, and style. ChatGPT was not used to generate the content of the report. All edits made with AI assistance were reviewed and validated by the authors to ensure accuracy, coherence, and alignment with the original intent.

Acronyms

AFSPMS	Agri-Food Systems Performance Measurement System
BRIGHT	Building Resilience, Inclusive Growth, and Holistic Transformation
CIP	International Potato Center
CoP	Community of Practice
FLW	food, land, and water
GAAHP	Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
GLOMIP	Global Market Intelligence Platform
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
JIRCAS	Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SP	Science Program

Table of contents

CGIAR Technical Reporting 2024

CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with CGIAR's Technical Reporting Arrangement. This annual report ("Type 1" Report) constitutes part of the broader CGIAR Technical Report. Each CGIAR Research Initiative/Impact Platform/Science Group Project (SGP) submits an annual "Type 1" Report, which provides assurance on progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes.

As 2024 marks the final year of this CGIAR Portfolio and the 2022-24 business cycle, this Type 1 Report takes a dual approach to its analysis and reporting. Alongside highlighting key achievements for 2024, the report also provides a cumulative overview of the 2022-24 business cycle, where relevant. This perspective captures the evolution of efforts over the three-year period. By presenting both annual and multi-year insights, the report underscores the cumulative impact of CGIAR's work and sets the stage for the transition to the 2025-30 Portfolio.

The 2024 CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- **Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and SGP Reports:** These annual reports present progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes and provide quality-assured results accessible via the CGIAR Results Dashboard.
- **Type 3 CGIAR Portfolio Practice Change Report:** This report provides insights into CGIAR's progress in Performance Management and Project Coordination.
- **Portfolio Narrative:** Drawing on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, as well as data from the CGIAR Results Dashboard, the Portfolio Narrative synthesizes insights to provide an overall view of Portfolio coherence. It highlights synergies, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and collective progress.
- **Type 2 CGIAR Contributions to Impact in Agrifood Systems: evidence and learnings from 2022 to 2024:** This report offers a high-level summary of CGIAR's contributions to its impact targets and Science Group outcomes, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for the three-year business cycle.

The Portfolio Narrative informs the 2024 CGIAR Annual Report – a comprehensive summary of the organization's collective achievements, impacts, and strategic outlook.

Elements of the Type 2 report are integrated into the CGIAR Flagship Report, released in April 2025 at CGIAR Science Week. The Flagship Report synthesizes CGIAR research in an accessible format designed specifically to provide policy- and decision-makers at national, regional, and global levels with the evidence they require to formulate, develop, and negotiate evidence-based policies and investments.

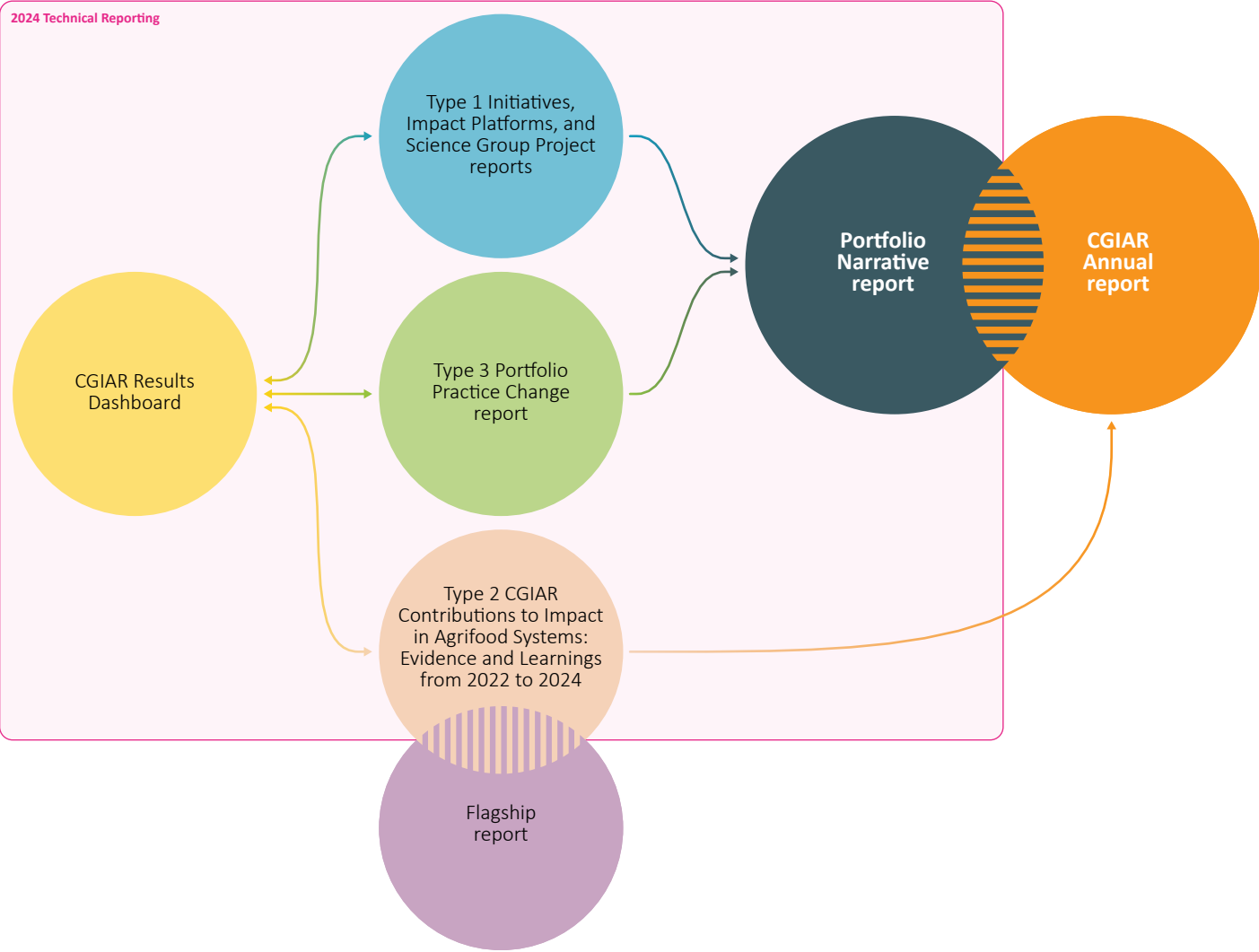The diagram below illustrates these relationships.

Figure 1. CGIAR's 2024 Technical Reporting components and their integration with other CGIAR reporting products.

Section 1: **Fact sheet, executive summary and budget**

Impact Platform name	Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area Platform
Director	Jean Balié
Start – end date	01 November 2023 – 31 December 2024
Links to source documents / website	https://www.cgiar.org/research/cgiar-portfolio/poverty-reduction-livelihoods-jobs/

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area Platform launched at the end of 2023 and was operational for a little less than a full year in 2024. This shorter than anticipated timeframe required an adjustment of ambition to focus on establishing a robust foundation for addressing critical poverty-related challenges within food, land, and water (FLW) systems. With a clear mandate to contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 8, and 10, the Platform swiftly identified and prioritized key issues to focus on within the year, such as economic disparities, social and structural inequities, and their impact on livelihoods. Recognizing the imperative for a more equitable globalization in FLW systems, the Platform leveraged its four core functions to begin to drive meaningful change through a three-pronged approach: research innovations, capacity building, and policy development.

Key achievements in 2024:

- **Establishment of a vibrant Community of Practice (CoP):** The Platform successfully created an active, balanced, and representative CoP, convening a diverse range of stakeholders. This CoP, with its thematic subgroups on poverty, inequity and employment, fostered collaborative action, knowledge exchange, and an enabling environment for being able to provide in the future the most appropriate research evidence and solutions, tailored to government needs and priorities. Through webinars featuring experts like the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and International Labour Organization (ILO) specialists, the CoP facilitated critical dialogue and built a shared understanding of poverty, employment, and inequality issues.

- **Development of a robust culture of measurement and evaluation:** The Platform prioritized bringing poverty dimensions into measurement and evaluation, contributing to efforts across CGIAR to improve impact measurement. The Platform promoted the use of a standardized approach, enriched by contributions from CGIAR Centers, the ILO and other organizations, for measuring poverty dimensions and promoting decent employment in FLW systems. In 2024, the Platform worked with the CGIAR Research Initiative on Market Intelligence to bring improved poverty measurement to the Global Market Intelligence Platform (GloMIP).

- **Capacity building and knowledge transfer:** The Platform actively engaged in capacity building initiatives, exemplified by the Building Resilience, Inclusive Growth, and Holistic Transformation (BRIGHT) project in Sri Lanka, a collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lankan partners and CGIAR Initiatives. This project enhanced poverty, employment, and food poverty surveys, demonstrating the Platform's commitment to data-driven interventions. Pilot projects in Peru and Mozambique by the International Potato Center (CIP) also showcased innovative, cost-effective poverty assessment methodologies. The Platform also contributed to CIP strategy formulation.

- **Amplification of CGIAR's external profile:** The Platform played a pivotal role in amplifying CGIAR's influence on the global stage. Notably, it represented CGIAR in the G20's Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty (GAAHP), with CGIAR recognized as a founding member. This engagement aimed to foster funder alignment and shape investment decisions in support of global efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. Furthermore, a partnership with the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) enhanced CGIAR's visibility within Japanese and regional agricultural research circles.

- **Integration of poverty reduction and decent jobs within CGIAR Portfolio development:** The Platform participated in the development of the new CGIAR Portfolio, providing thematic feedback on program proposals, and ensuring the integration of key Platform functions and topics into the new CGIAR poverty and employment hub. In particular, the Platform championed the importance not only of work but of decent work in rural economies, emphasizing the need for fair wages, social protection, and gender equality. The concept of decent jobs has been built into the new Science Program on Policy Innovations.

- **Pioneering a comprehensive Agrifood Systems Performance Measurement System (AFSPMS):** Recognizing the limitations of traditional productivity measures, the Platform initiated a collaborative research agenda with Cornell University to develop a comprehensive AFSPMS. This initiative aims to track CGIAR's performance across all five Impact Areas, fostering a more holistic assessment of agrifood systems transformation.

Despite the limited timeframe, the Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area Platform achieved significant milestones, establishing a strong foundation for future initiatives. The establishment of the CoP, the development of the measurement and evaluation framework, and the engagement in global policy forums demonstrate the Platform's commitment to impactful, evidence-based interventions. The Platform's contributions to the new Portfolio and its pioneering work on AFSPMS underscore its commitment to driving transformative change on poverty reduction, livelihoods and employment in FLW systems. These achievements in such a short period provide a compelling testament to the Platform's potential and its ability to deliver tangible results.

	2024 ▾
APPROVED BUDGET [1] ▷	$1.61M

[1] The approved budget amounts correspond to the figures available for public access through the Financing Plan dashboard.

Terraced farming in Peru.
Credit: J. Thompson

Section 2: **Progress towards Primary outcomes**

Impact Platform-level theory of change diagram

This is a simple, linear, and static representation of a complex, non-linear, and dynamic reality. Feedback loops and connections between this Platform and other Initiatives and Impact Platforms' theories of change are excluded for clarity.

SPHERE OF **CONTROL**	SPHERE O

KEY FUNCTIONS

KEY FUNCTION 1
Convene a community of practice (CoP).

KEY FUNCTION 2
Deepen capacities of CGIAR and close partners.

KEY FUNCTION 3
Amplifying CGIAR's external profile and pathways to impacts.

KEY FUNCTION 4
Advise portfolio-level management and strategy.

PRIMARY OUTCOMES

PRIMARY OUTCOME 1
1 ▶
2 ▶ Increased adoption and mainstreaming of CGIAR research-based
3 ▶ innovations.
4 ▶

Green chillies from a wholesale market in Ratnapura district, Sri Lanka.

ACTION AREA OUTCOMES

IMPACT AREAS

SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

1 ▶ **1** · CGIAR partners develop and scale innovations that contribute to the empowerment of women and other social groups in food, land, and water systems.

RESILIENT AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

1 ▶ **2** · Due to CGIAR involvement, private sector actors invest in business practices or models that have the potential to improve livelihoods, climate resilience, promote sustainable and inclusive food systems, and boost consumption of healthy diets, especially among nutritionally vulnerable population groups.

GENETIC INNOVATION

1 ▶ **3** · National and private seed company breeding programs accelerate the development of varieties that provide larger scale benefits across the 5 Impact Areas.

POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

1 ▶
2 ▶ · Reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women and
3 ▶ children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

· Lift at least 500 million people living in rural areas above the extreme poverty line of US $1.90 per day (2011 PPP).

Weeding the rice fields at Dintor village.
Credit: CGIAR System Organization | Flickr

Summary of progress against the theory of change

The Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area Platform was established to support the achievement and measurement of CGIAR's Impact Area on Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods, and Jobs, and to demonstrate CGIAR contributions towards SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms within agrifood systems), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), and SDG 10 (Help reduce inequalities within and among countries by focusing on poverty reduction across all demographics and geographies). The initial focus of the Platform was on identifying and prioritizing the most pressing poverty-, inequality- and unemployment-related challenges in the FLW systems context. These include:

1. **Economic disparities:** Primarily driven by the acceleration of global wealth concentration. This is characterized by financial market deregulation, a lack of global regulatory harmonization, labor migration and the neglect of labor rights in globalization policies, and rapid but unevenly distributed technological advancements.

2. **Social and structural inequities:** Including the disproportionate impact of geopolitical conflicts on vulnerable groups, economic and social discrimination against marginalized groups, systemic biases in education and healthcare, inequitable employment opportunities, and the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on marginalized groups.

3. **Environmental degradation and climatic impacts on livelihoods:** Characterized as the effect of climate change and environmental damage on the ability of people to make a living.

Each of the above challenges has been caused or exacerbated by the lack of attention to the negative and unforeseen consequences of globalization as implemented by the international community and governments. A more equitable form of globalization, with greater emphasis on social issues, harmonized labor protection, and the internalization of environmental and social externalities is possible. The ambition of the Platform was to establish the link between these global challenges and the work of CGIAR, to help ensure that the intentions of CGIAR research to reduce poverty can be achieved.

The Platform was set up at the end of 2023 and began operating with a budget assigned for activities from April 2024, which would be the final year of the 2022-2024 CGIAR research business cycle. This necessitated a readjustment of priorities towards activities that would yield tangible results within the year, and putting in place approaches and frameworks to be used in the future. Despite the late start, the Platform quickly established a foundation for addressing the underlying issues affecting poverty, inequalities, and unemployment within FLW systems, based on the four functions of its theory of change. The Platform aimed to leverage these functions to implement a three-pronged approach, strengthening CGIAR's effectiveness and impact in these key areas:

- **Research innovations and technologies:** This involved establishing a new CoP on poverty, inequality and employment (Function 1), bringing together expertise from across CGIAR to identify, document and share advancements in agricultural and FLW research. This included learning from the technologies and other innovations that directly and positively impact poverty and decent jobs within the CGIAR Portfolio and providing further support to apply these in 2024. The Platform also aimed to use lessons learned to inform the new CGIAR Portfolio of Science Programs and Accelerators (Function 4) from 2025 onwards.

- **Capacity building:** This involved empowering stakeholders through capacity development activities (Function 2), as well as documenting and sharing best practices for effectively addressing poverty, unemployment, and inequalities in FLW systems. This included bringing in the many dimensions of poverty and considering the various ways to drive poverty reduction within programs, as well as ensuring that interventions are measurable and longer term, avoiding reversals in poverty reduction trends.

- **Policy development and advice:** This focused on shaping and documenting policies that support sustainable agrifood systems transformation with a pro-poor and decent employment lens (Function 3). This work also included influencing global policy discourse and supporting the shaping of a supportive global policy agenda by actively participating in key forums (e.g., G20 meetings and intergovernmental processes). The goal was to translate these efforts into revised policy frameworks and references at the country level, as was initiated, for example, in Sri Lanka.

As the Livelihoods Impact Platform had less than a year to produce tangible results, the decision was made to focus on essential outputs within the Platform's sphere of control that could be significantly progressed in 2024. The first of these was to establish an active, balanced, and representative CoP, which aimed to capture the diversity and transdisciplinary nature of knowledge and experience related to poverty and employment across CGIAR. Now established, it is intended that this CoP will become an influential network of experts and spokespersons within the new CGIAR Portfolio 2025-2030, capable of voicing poverty and decent employment concerns and solutions both internally and externally. The CoP engaged with selected CGIAR partners to enhance collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic dialogue on poverty reduction, decent job creation, and improved livelihoods.

Another key achievement was the development and refinement of an approach for measurement and evaluation, designed to meet CGIAR's needs and aspirations for addressing poverty and promoting decent employment conditions within FLW systems. CoP members identified and documented a comprehensive set of key performance indicators (KPIs), metrics, and methodologies, for use in tracking and evaluating progress in this Impact Area across the CGIAR System. Contributions from CGIAR Centers, including the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), CIP, and IFPRI, were critical in developing a shared approach among CoP members for robust measurement and evaluation of poverty dimensions within agricultural and rural development interventions. The specific focus on decent job promotion and creation in food systems, which is now part of the CGIAR Portfolio in the Policy Innovations Science Program, was also the result of valuable contributions from CGIAR researchers and from crucial collaborations established with the ILO.

In the future CGIAR Research Portfolio, it is anticipated that some of the originally planned poverty reduction and employment outputs which unfortunately could not be prioritized in 2024 will be revisited. These include guidance documents that synthesize best practices, technologies, innovations and tools in a format usable by CGIAR researchers and partners to address specific poverty and employment challenges in the global agrifood system.

Section 3: **Key function progress**

Key Function 1: Foster global critical thinking

KEY FUNCTION 1		PRIMARY OUTCOME 1
OUTPUTS	**OUTCOMES**	1 ▶ Increased adoption and mainstreaming of CGIAR research-based innovations.
1 · Comprehensive CoP-Developed Poverty-Livelihood-Jobs Frameworks. **2** · Functional Thematic-Regional CoP with Partners.	2 ▶ **1** · Increased CGIAR-Partner Collaboration on Poverty and Livelihoods. 1 ▶ **2** · Shared Agri-Sector Vision and Roadmap. 2 ▶	

Fostering global critical thinking (Function 1) can take multiple forms. Like the other CGIAR Impact Platforms, the Livelihoods Impact Platform established a thematic CoP to identify priority areas and facilitate the collaborative action essential for addressing poverty, reducing inequalities, creating decent jobs, and ultimately improving livelihoods in the agrifood sector. Following the definition of its terms of reference and member identification, the CoP commenced monthly meetings in February 2024, including special events. While future plans include expanding membership to external partners, the CoP has already engaged with governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector including farmers' organizations through its activities. Subgroups were formed on themes such as employment conditions and specific regional issues, with upcoming topics including research on child and forced labor in food systems.
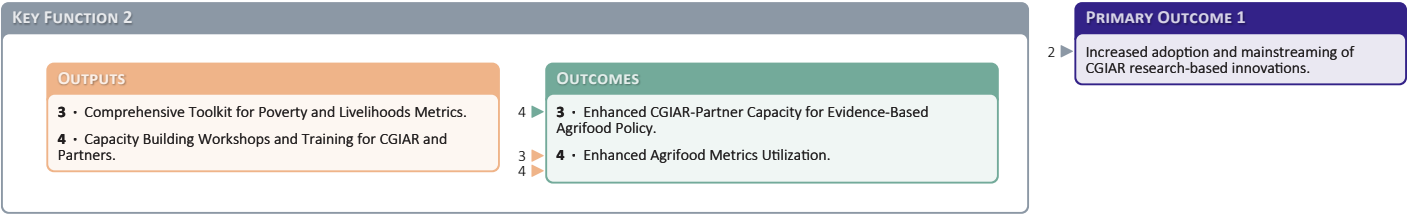
A key early output from the CoP was the Platform's theory of change and a survey highlighting a shared commitment and the need for development of knowledge and skills in poverty reduction, livelihoods and jobs. Responding to the CoP's recommendations, the Platform initiated activities to refine methods and address critical knowledge gaps across the CGIAR Portfolio. The Platform worked with CGIAR Initiatives and supported CIP, IRRI, and IFPRI in refining impact evaluation methods and developing innovative data collection approaches around poverty reduction, inequalities and employment. In the case of CIP and the CGIAR Research Initiative on Seed Equal, the support provided revolved around a potato impact evaluation in Peru. For IRRI and the CGIAR Research Initiative on Market Intelligence, it was about improving the methods to assess the impact on poverty and jobs within GloMIP, drawing a link between genetics research and poverty reduction. For IFPRI, IWMI and the CGIAR Research Initiatives on NEXUS Gains, Climate Resilience and Digital Innovation, it was a Sri Lanka-based project

in which a novel approach is being used to identify and collect data with many additional dimensions compared to usual surveys (e.g. on inequality and jobs) with the intention to provide more granular policy advice to the government.

To broaden its perspective, the CoP invited external speakers to its meetings and sponsored webinars on poverty reduction approaches outside the agriculture sector. Notably, Olivier de Schutter, the UN special rapporteur on poverty and inequality, provided historical context on public policy and emphasized the synergies between sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. Recognizing the limited focus on decent employment conditions in agrifood systems within CGIAR research, the CoP initiated the "CGIAR Decent Work Series" in partnership with the ILO. The first webinar featured sustainable enterprise development, equitable access to financial services, improved market access, and skills and learning for rural youth in agrifood systems. The ILO also presented their Policy Guidelines for the Promotion of Decent Work in the Agrifood Sector, fostering potential collaboration between the ILO and CGIAR. Another Platform webinar invited IFPRI to share expertise on foresight for poverty reduction.

CGIAR researchers have shared results and experiences on poverty measurement and tracking methods through the CoP. These efforts are intended to continue through the Policy Innovations Science Program, which aims to develop analytical and policy-oriented solutions tailored to government needs in addressing poverty, employment, and inequalities in agrifood systems. Already in late 2024, the CoP worked with the GENDER Impact Platform to engage with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) on youth matters, and with CIP on poverty in peri-urban food systems.

Key Function 2: Develop CGIAR and partner capacity

KEY FUNCTION 2

OUTPUTS

3 · Comprehensive Toolkit for Poverty and Livelihoods Metrics.

4 · Capacity Building Workshops and Training for CGIAR and Partners.

OUTCOMES

3 · Enhanced CGIAR-Partner Capacity for Evidence-Based Agrifood Policy.

4 · Enhanced Agrifood Metrics Utilization.

PRIMARY OUTCOME 1

Increased adoption and mainstreaming of CGIAR research-based innovations.

This function focused on knowledge and know-how transfer, conceived as a mutual learning opportunity. It is also considered an impact pathway through partner-implemented interventions that result from CGIAR research, influencing their behavior and approaches. This impact pathway centers on establishing a framework of KPIs, metrics, and methodologies essential for data-driven decision-making by governments and country partners within the agrifood sector. The Platform's strategy was to facilitate centralizing data management and develop standardized assessment frameworks and share these internally across CGIAR Centers and Initiatives, as well as with key partners interested in learning from CGIAR's accumulated knowledge and experience on poverty measurement and the analysis of employment issues. In this way the Platform would contribute to enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to make informed decisions that align with strategic goals for poverty reduction, job creation, and overall livelihood improvement.

The BRIGHT project in Sri Lanka, a collaboration between IFPRI, IWMI, Sri Lankan partners, CGIAR Initiatives and the Platform, exemplifies this approach. BRIGHT aims to enhance poverty, employment, and food poverty surveys using a panel data method and new survey modules. On 21 November, 2024, the BRIGHT partners held a capacity-building oriented webinar, focused on pro-poor economic recovery following recent Sri Lankan elections. The webinar showcased a new CGIAR-funded, nationally representative survey covering 6,500 households island-wide. In addition to its primary focus on poverty, the survey addresses issues highly correlated with welfare outcomes (poverty, malnutrition, food insecurity) such as water and energy security, agricultural productivity, and irrigation. The panelists included experts from the University of Peradeniya, the World Food Programme, Wayamba

University, and the Sri Lanka Institute for Policy Studies, and the audience engaged was primarily from Sri Lanka and South Asia.

Another example of the Platform's support to standardized assessment frameworks was the poverty impact assessment methodologies of CGIAR interventions, piloted by CIP in Peru and Mozambique. This focused on producing a robust approach to poverty assessment that would be less demanding and costly than the gold standard consisting of randomized controlled trials.

Along with the four other Impact Platforms, the Livelihoods Impact Platform participated in the consultation process to develop CIP's new strategy, providing substantial comments and suggestions on the strategy formulation and specifically the impact measurement challenges, approaches, methods, and tools with a focus on poverty and employment, that could be considered by CIP. This technical and capacity development support demonstrates the Platform's commitment to strengthening CGIAR Center-led strategies and their alignment with the overall CGIAR research and innovation strategy.

This pathway supports a systematic approach to improving measurement and evaluation, ensuring that policies and innovations are evidence-based and tailored to the real needs and conditions of rural and marginalized populations. The examples above show the progress the Platform was able to make in its first year to support CGIAR in developing standardized assessment frameworks and facilitating data management. This work on data utilization and evaluation methods has also helped to empower stakeholders through direct collaboration to co-design and co-implement activities in three countries, reinforcing CGIAR's commitment to scientifically sound, relevant, and optimal solutions in agricultural and food systems transformation that are pro-poor.

Key Function 3: Amplify external profile and pathways to impact

KEY FUNCTION 3		PRIMARY OUTCOME 1

KEY FUNCTION 3

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
5 · Dissemination of CGIAR Knowledge Products. **6** · Strategic Partnerships for Knowledge Exchange and Innovation.	6 ▶ **5** · Enhanced Stakeholder Adoption of CGIAR Innovations. 5 ▶ **6** · Enhanced Stakeholder Awareness of CGIAR Innovations. 6 ▶

PRIMARY OUTCOME 1

3 ▶ Increased adoption and mainstreaming of CGIAR research-based innovations.

Despite the tight timeline to develop activities and identify suitable space in global events to showcase CGIAR contributions in terms of global public goods addressing poverty and decent employment issues, the Livelihoods Impact Platform was active in amplifying the profile of CGIAR in targeted fora, and achieved good progress towards the expected outcomes under this function, of shaping policy and influencing investment and funding decisions.

In the absence of a global forum to specifically address poverty or employment, the Platform's focus in 2024 was supporting the process backed by the Brazilian presidency of the G20 to establish the GAAHP.   The GAAHP aims to support member countries in implementing policy solutions that enhance food security, nutrition, social protection, and sustainable agricultural practices. The need for this type of collective action is fully endorsed by CGIAR, and by delegation from the CGIAR Executive Managing Director, the Platform officially represented CGIAR in all preparatory and official discussions among G20 members and invited international organizations, including the Ministerial meeting and Heads of State meeting held in Rio de Janeiro in July 2024 and November 2024, respectively.

These efforts culminated in the recognition of CGIAR as a founding member of the GAAHP in September 2024, and a process is still ongoing to become a champion member of the highest GAAHP governance structure by early 2025. This engagement has helped to improve the alignment of those funders committed to supporting

GAAHP to recognize CGIAR's unique contribution and specialized technical expertise. It is expected that continued engagement with GAAHP, which is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), will help to shape investment decisions in support of global efforts to reduce poverty and eradicate hunger, particularly channeled through CGIAR funding to mobilize its research capacity and apply CGIAR policy experience to the GAAHP's basket of policy measures. As well as providing measures to the GAAHP basket that can be selected for use, some countries wishing to adopt specific policy measures may also require technical support, which CGIAR could offer.

The second targeted forum has been the engagement with the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) to advise on effectively integrating poverty reduction into JIRCAS' research strategy and programs. This collaboration aimed to support JIRCAS' leadership and advisory board in enhancing their research strategy and approach to effectively contribute to poverty reduction, drawing on the state-of-the-art approaches, methods, and tools promoted and deployed by CGIAR. This engagement offered a unique opportunity to enhance CGIAR's profile and visibility within Japanese and regional agricultural research circles, particularly through participating in JIRCAS's board meeting, which included various national research centers from Asia.

Key Function 4: Advise Portfolio-level management strategy

KEY FUNCTION 4			PRIMARY OUTCOME 1

OUTPUTS

7 · Framework for Prioritizing Emerging Research.

8 · Investment Alignment Analysis Report.

OUTCOMES

8 ▶ **7** · Improved Funder Alignment with CGIAR Priorities.

7 ▶ **8** · CGIAR Research Shaping Policy and Investment Decisions.

8 ▶

4 ▶ Increased adoption and mainstreaming of CGIAR research-based innovations.

In 2024, the spotlight under this function was on the development of the new CGIAR Research Portfolio for 2025-2030. Despite its short one-year existence, the Livelihoods Impact Platform was able to harness its capacity and experience to actively participate in this process.

First, and in collaboration with the other Impact Platforms, the Platform advocated the importance of continuing the core Platform functions in the new Portfolio, exploring various practical options. Second, the Platform provided feedback, insights, and guidance to the new Science Program and Accelerator proposals. Third, the Platform Director was a member of the writing team for the Science Program on Policy Innovations. Once the decision was taken that the CGIAR Portfolio from 2025 onwards would not include Impact Platforms, the Platform ensured that its key functions were embedded into an Area of Work in the Policy Innovation Science Program, entitled the "CGIAR poverty and employment hub".

Moreover, given that one of CGIAR's five core Impact Areas is poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs, the Platform advised that CGIAR's ambition needs to go beyond creating jobs and generating higher income for farmers, and towards examining the quality of the jobs and livelihoods created through agricultural transformation. Recognizing the current challenges and sometimes hidden issues related to employment conditions in the agrifood sector across several countries in the developed as well as developing world, the Platform also advocated to emphasize the importance of providing decent work in rural economies, incorporating fundamental labor rights, gender equality, fair wages and basic social protection,

especially to youth. To achieve its intended impacts in poverty reduction and employment creation, these challenges need to be effectively integrated into CGIAR's 2025-2030 Research Portfolio, along with a renewed commitment to prioritizing poverty reduction and decent employment conditions as the foundation of any progress on SDGs. The importance of promoting decent employment in the agriculture and food sectors of developing countries is summarized in a blog co-written with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and building on inputs from ILO.

One of the biggest achievements of the Platform in 2024 was the pioneering of a new approach to measure, track, and assess CGIAR's performance in transforming agrifood systems, considering trade-offs and synergies across the five Impact Areas. Historical partial productivity measures like yields and water use efficiency are no longer sufficient for broader impact assessments, and the Platform addressed the need for more comprehensive metrics. Aligning with CGIAR's 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy, which necessitates tracking performance across all five Impact Areas, the Platform initiated a collaborative research agenda with Cornell University, funding the proof-of-concept phase for the development of a comprehensive Agrifood Systems Performance Measurement System (AFSPMS). The next phase from 2025 onwards will be to pilot this approach in 2-3 countries and to derive lessons on the influence CGIAR can achieve in driving FLW transformation through its interventions.

Key function progress rating summary

KEY FUNCTION	PROGRESS RATING & RATIONALE
1 Foster global critical thinking	🟢 On track The CoP on Poverty, Inequality and Employment was established in early 2024 and was active throughout the year. The CoP advised on Platform priorities, including showcasing and learning from experiences from outside CGIAR in this area of research, and supporting pilot research initiatives within CGIAR to test improved impact evaluation methods and innovative data collection approaches.
2 Develop CGIAR and partner capacity	🟢 On track The Platform made good progress in just one year on metrics refinement and development, by working with CGIAR partners to support interventions in Sri Lanka, Peru and at the global level, and by taking forward the development of a comprehensive agrifood systems performance measurement system to proof-of-concept level. Capacity development efforts also got underway in this first year, with 350 individuals taking part in Platform-led training.
3 Amplify external profile and pathways to impact	🟢 On track The Platform selected two main pathways to external impact, leading CGIAR support to the establishment of the GAAHP and bringing in CGIAR expertise, resulting in recognition of CGIAR as a founding member; and by advising JIRCAS on integrating poverty reduction into its research programming and strategy.
4 Advise Portfolio-level management strategy	🟢 On track The development of the future CGIAR Research Portfolio was the main opportunity for advising CGIAR on poverty reduction, livelihoods and jobs in 2024. The Platform was involved in proposal review and ensured that the important topics in this Impact Area would be integrated into one of the new Science Programs from 2025 onwards. The comprehensive AFSPMS will be an ongoing strand of Platform support to the Portfolio as a whole in future, in terms of how progress to impact is measured.

Definitions

🟢 **On track**

- ✅ Progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget.
- ✅ Can include small deviations/issues/delays/risks that do not jeopardize success of the key function.

🟡 **Delayed**

- ⚠️ Progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget in key areas.
- ⚠️ Deviations/issues/delays/risks could jeopardize success of the key function if not managed appropriately.

🔴 **Off track**

- ❌ Progress clearly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget in most/all areas.
- ❌ Deviations/issues/delays/risks do jeopardize success of the key function.
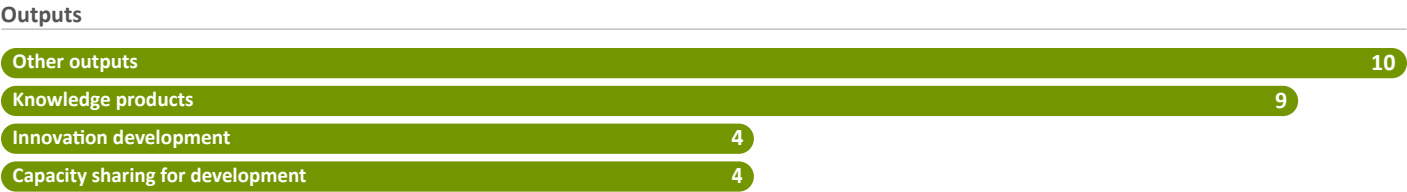
BRIGHT survey enumerators at work.
Credit: KCG field photo gallery

Section 4: **Quantitative overview of key results**

This section provides an overview of results reported and contributed to, by the CGIAR Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area Platform from 2022 to 2024. These results align with the CGIAR Results Framework and Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area Platform's theory of change. Further information on these results is available through the CGIAR Results Dashboard.

The data used to create the graphics in this section were sourced from the CGIAR Results Dashboard on 04 April 2025. These results are accurate as of this date and may differ from information in previous Technical Reports. Such differences may be due to data updates throughout the reporting year, revisions to previously reported results, or updates to the theory of change.

OVERVIEW OF RESULTS BY CATEGORY

Outputs

Other outputs	10
Knowledge products	9
Innovation development	4
Capacity sharing for development	4

Of the total 27 results, the Platform led 17 results and was a contributing partner to a further 10 results.

NUMBER OF RESULTS BY IMPACT AREA CONTRIBUTION

| Nutrition, health and food security	Poverty reduction, livelihoods and Jobs	Gender equality, youth and social inclusion	Climate adaptation and mitigation	Environmental health and biodiversity
15	9 / 17	11	9	9
15	**26**	**11**	**9**	**9**

● **2 = Principal:** Contributing to one or more aspects of the Impact Area is the principal objective of the result. The Impact Area is fundamental to the design of the activity leading to the result; the activity would not have been undertaken without this objective.

● **1 = Significant:** The result directly contributes to one or more aspects of the Impact Area. However, contributing to the Impact Area is not the principal objective of the result.

This graph shows that the Platform's results contributed to all five CGIAR Impact Areas. In addition to the Poverty, Livelihoods and Jobs Impact Area, Platform results also made significant contributions to Nutrition, Health and Food Security, followed by Gender Equality, Youth and Social Inclusion.
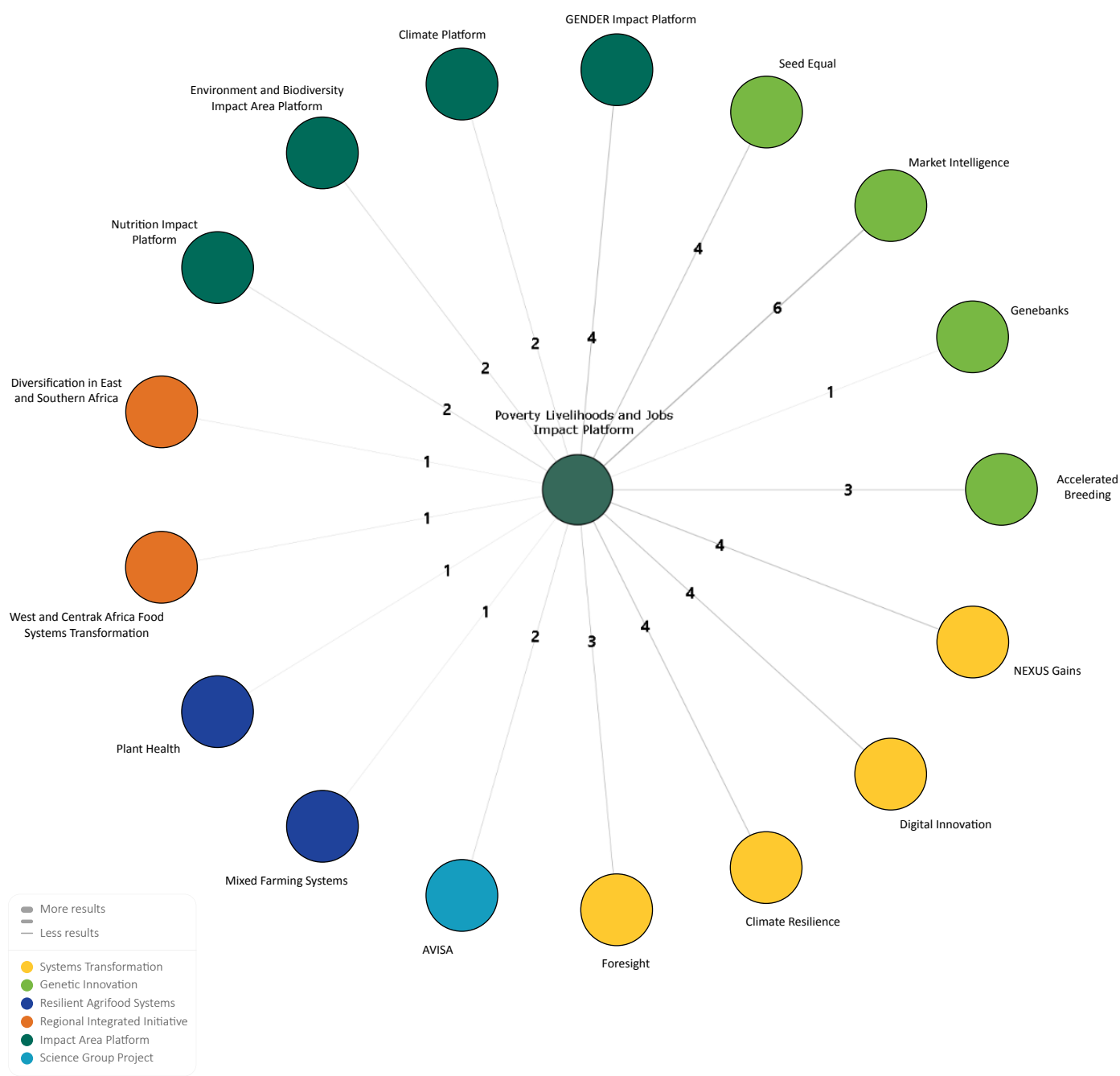
NETWORK OF EXTERNAL PARTNERS BY TYPE
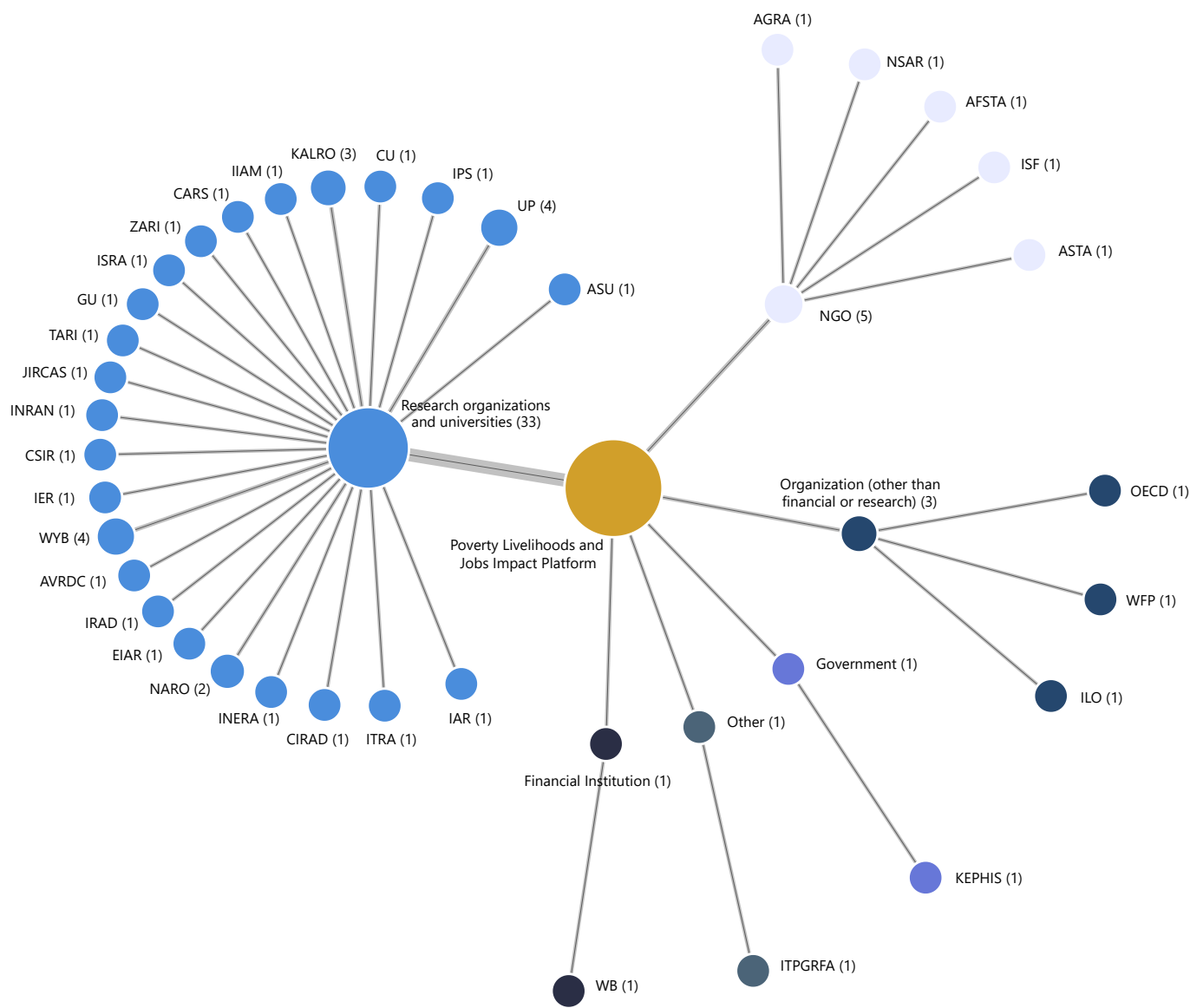
This diagram shows the external partners that worked with the Platform. The Platform worked most with research organizations/universities, followed by non-governmental organizations. The numbers in brackets represent the number of results each partner has contributed to, reflecting the scale and diversity of collaborations. To allow for a clearer view, a maximum threshold of five partners was applied for each typology.
The list of partner acronyms is available available here.

INTERNAL NETWORK OF COLLABORATIONS

GENDER Impact Platform

Climate Platform

Seed Equal

Environment and Biodiversity
Impact Area Platform

Market Intelligence

Nutrition Impact
Platform

Genebanks

4

2

4

6

Diversification in East
and Southern Africa

2

2

1

Poverty Livelihoods and Jobs
Impact Platform

Accelerated
Breeding

1

3

West and Centrak Africa Food
Systems Transformation

1

1

4

1

4

NEXUS Gains

1

2

3

4

Plant Health

Digital Innovation

Mixed Farming Systems

Climate Resilience

AVISA

Foresight

More results
Less results

- Systems Transformation
- Genetic Innovation
- Resilient Agrifood Systems
- Regional Integrated Initiative
- Impact Area Platform
- Science Group Project

This diagram shows the Initiatives and Platforms with which the Livelihoods Impact formally collaborated. The Platform worked with the Market Intelligence Initiative on the highest number of results, followed by Seed Equal, NEXUS Gains, Digital Innovation, Climate Resilience and the GENDER Impact Platform. Connections are sized according to the number of shared results, highlighting the depth of collaboration across the CGIAR Portfolio.

Vegetable farmer in Badulla district, Sri Lanka.

A vegetable shop in Ratnapura district, Sri Lanka.