



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



FAO's support for accelerating Rural Digital Transformation in Africa

Ken Lohento

Digital Agriculture Specialist, FAORAF



WSIS ALFM C7: E-Agriculture



THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2023
14.30-16.15 CET



Strategic orientations for digital agriculture in Africa

FAO Science and Innovation Strategy



Strengthening
Science and
Evidence-
based
decision-
making

Supporting
Innovation
and
Technology
at Regional
and Country
Levels

Serving
Members'
better by
reinforcing
FAO's
capacities

<https://www.fao.org/3/cc2273en/cc2273en.pdf>

FAO in Africa (RAF)'s Framework for adoption of digital agriculture



INSIGHT

Governments &
country partners
use better data
and improved
analysis for
agrifood system
development
planning

INTERACT

Better
informed
digital support
to countries
for food
systems
transformation

IMPACT

Local digital
agriculture
ecosystems
strengthened to
deliver scalable
inclusive solutions
for SDG impact

<https://www.fao.org/3/cb8305en/cb8305en.pdf>



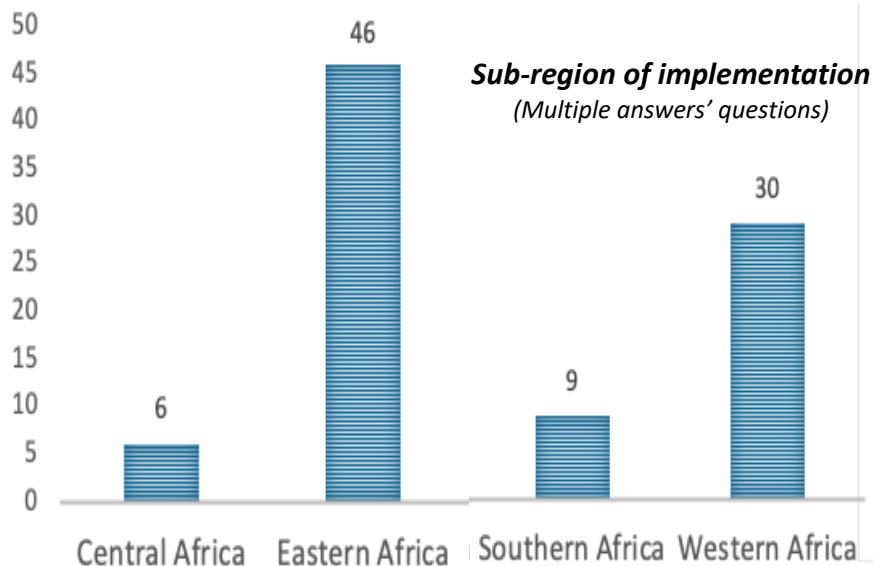
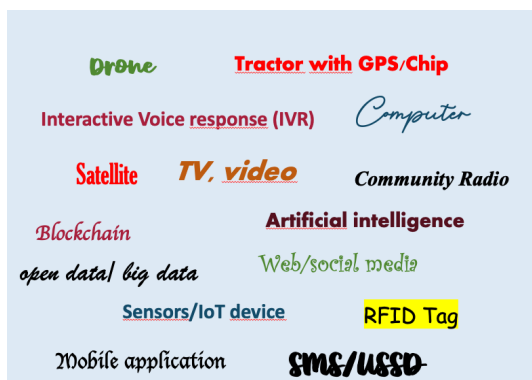
How has FAO been supporting digital agriculture in Africa?

(Study – some preliminary findings)

Key activities

73 activities
or projects
studied

26 questions

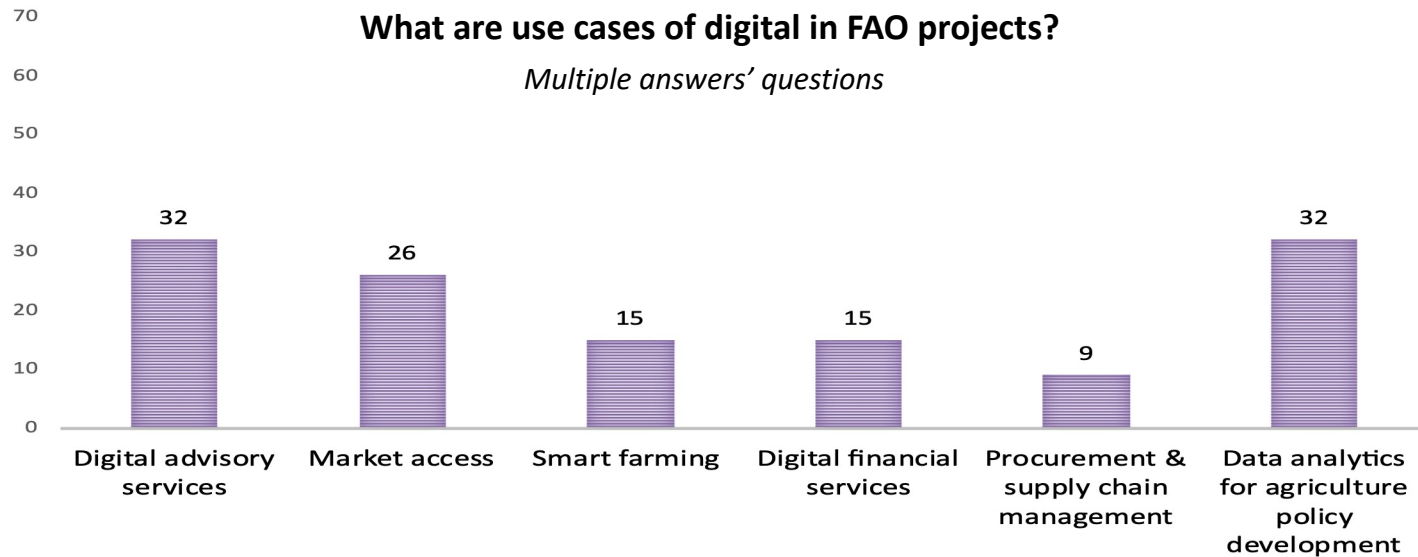


- **Training on the use of digital tools**
 - Development of mobile applications/digital platforms
 - Development of social media platform(s) or website(s)
- **Digital agriculture advocacy/networking**
- Use of digital devices (drones, sensors, etc.) on the field/on livestock
 - Publication on digital agriculture issues
- **Digital agriculture strategy development**
 - Provision/facilitation of digital finance
 - Provision of insurance leveraging digital (index-based, etc.)
 - Digital agriculture business models

Use of dozens of FAO and partner's digital tools



How has FAO been supporting digital agriculture in Africa?



Key digital activities/tools are related to

emergency projects -
(advisory + financial services mainly)

Addressing
natural hazards
climate change

- **3** digital projects **out of 4** are related to Corp Production (79%)
→ **Better Production highly rated**
Livestock (53%); Fisheries (39%); Forestry/Natural resources management (27%)
- **54%** of the projects declared that they have targeted **women** (*not only*); *but only one or 2 activities in the projects/activities identified focused on women*
- **A key provisional conclusion: more needs (& innovatively) to be done**



The DVI: An FAO Corporate Initiative



3 Key DVI activity/service Pillars

Pillar 1

eg. digital advisory & precision ag.



Amplified
Farmer
Productivity

Pillar 2

eg. digital finance & marketplaces



Market
Support
Services

Pillar 3

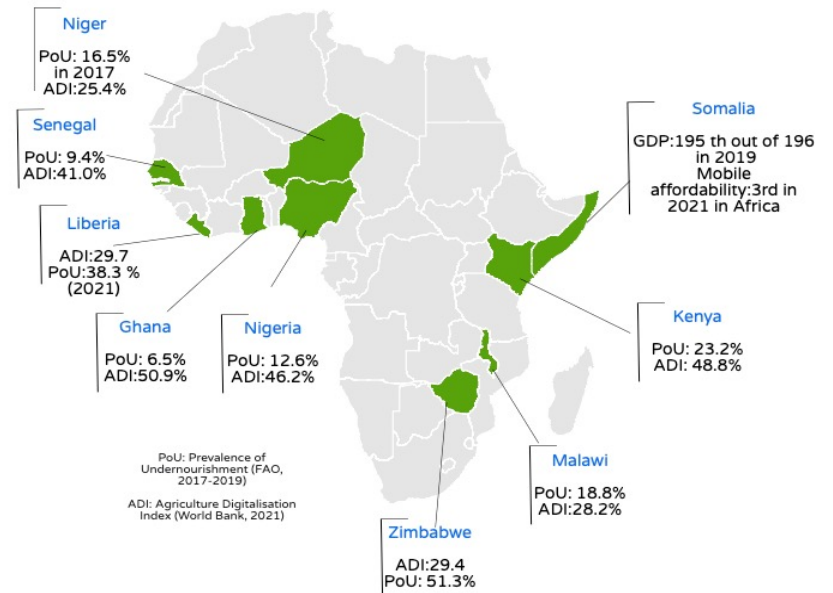
eg. digital health, edTech & civi



Transform
Village
holistically

Fostering digital transformation to
combat hunger, poverty, and
inequality in rural areas

Current Africa DVI Countries





DVI Implementation – e.g in Liberia

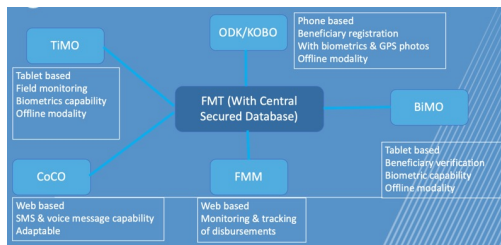
- **In the framework of the Project:** *Building Resilience of Youth, Women, and Vulnerable Groups through Social Protection Floor in Liberia using ICT (UNHSTF)*
- Project Co-led by ILO, with involvement of UNDP, UN Women and WFO
- **Targets:** Central Region of Liberia ; **Three Digital villages supported**
- **Services:** All pillars and beyond : agriculture, finance, markets, employment, education, health, income security, human security
- **Key beneficiaries:** Young farmers and women farmers
- **Status:** Scoping assessment on the localities conducted with ITU support



e-registration, EW-EA systems, Cash and inputs dissemination via e-vouchers

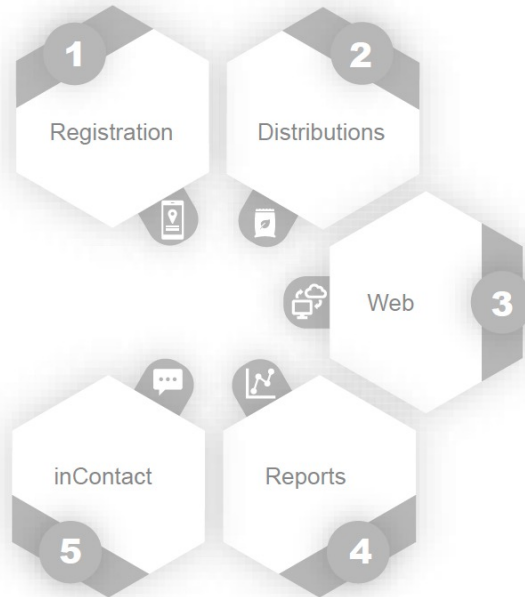
Emergency and Resilience at FAO

E-Platform / FMT
in Somalia



IDEA platform
Identification,
Delivery and
Empowerment
Application (IDEA)

Burkina Faso, CAR,
Ethiopia, Mali,
Mozambique,
Somalia, South Sudan,
Uganda, *Ukraine*



Upcoming new collaboration between FAO RAF & AfDB



in the framework of the
**African Emergency Food Production
Facility (AEFPF)** established following
the war in Ukraine

Strengthening emergency preparedness with
digital tools in Horn of Africa

Enhancing **Early Warning Systems** via digital
tools ; **e-registration - e-vouchers...**



Less than 30% of SH farmers are currently reached by digital agriculture in SS Africa;
actual impact is even weaker.

Huge gaps

More than ever, multistakeholder collaboration for **scaling up** sustainable, inclusive and locally adapted digital agriculture initiatives is critically needed to achieve better impacts and SDGs



Thank you
Merci

ken.Lohento@fao.org