



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Hand-in-Hand
Initiative

Colombia

HAND-IN-HAND INITIATIVE | 2026 INVESTMENT FORUM



IMPORTANT NOTES

FAO'S HAND-IN-HAND INITIATIVE

The investment opportunities presented in this document derive from government-led investment plans developed under FAO's Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative. The Initiative supports countries in identifying high-impact agrifood system investments through a combination of data-driven territorial analysis, value chain assessments, and close collaboration with national counterparts. Using the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform, the Initiative integrates geospatial, biophysical, and socio-economic data to identify priority "green zones" where agricultural potential and poverty incidence overlap, creating strong opportunities for transformative investment. Based on these analyses, national governments lead the development of investment plans that identify priority value chains, key bottlenecks, and potential investments required to accelerate agrifood system transformation. These investment opportunities aim to raise incomes, improve nutrition, and empower poor and vulnerable populations, while strengthening resilience to climate change and supporting the sustainable management of natural resources. The Initiative focuses on territories where targeted investments can generate the greatest impact in reducing poverty and hunger, contributing to progress towards Sustainable Development Goals SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), while balancing economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS

The opportunities presented in this document are derived from government investment plans and reflect national development priorities identified through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. FAO provides analytical and technical support in the identification and assessment of these opportunities and facilitates engagement with potential partners. The concepts presented are indicative and require further structuring and discussion with the relevant governments and potential investors. This document therefore presents a pipeline of government-prioritized agrifood investment opportunities that have been pre-screened using FAO's Hand-in-Hand analytical tools. FAO can support interested partners by facilitating technical exchanges and follow-up discussions with relevant government counterparts.

IMPACT TAGS

Investment cases are classified across four impact areas to highlight their primary development contributions and ensure comparability across countries and value chains.



Livelihoods

Income, productivity, jobs, and market access



Gender & Youth

Inclusion and opportunities for women and young people



Planet & Environment

Climate resilience and sustainable resource management



Digital

Use of technology to improve efficiency and access

Building the foundations for inclusive and sustainable agrifood growth

KEY INVESTMENT SIGNALS

POPULATION

52.0M

(MILLION)

RURAL MONETARY
POVERTY

42.5%

(%)

AGRICULTURAL LAND

40.0M ha

(MILLION HECTARES)

INVESTMENT CASE



DYNAMIC AGRIFOOD MARKET

- 7.1% growth in agricultural value-add in 2025
- Agricultural exports up 19.3% in 2025
- 40M ha with agricultural potential; only 7M currently in use
- Strategic logistics hub with Pacific and Caribbean access



STRONG POLICY & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- Government-backed rural transformation agenda strengthening agricultural competitiveness
- Policy focus on climate resilience, sustainable production, and bioeconomy development
- Active participation of Boyaca and Cordoba authorities



ENABLING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- 17 Free Trade Agreements and 11 active free zones
- Equal treatment for foreign investment: tax, VAT and tariff incentives
- Innovation ecosystem of 1,110+ startups across 26 sectors
- Skilled labor force and competitive operating costs

COLOMBIA: INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Strategic investments advancing inclusive and sustainable rural transformation



INVESTMENT PLAN COLOMBIA	INVESTMENT CASE 1. BOYACA: AGROINDUSTRIAL CENTER	INVESTMENT CASE 2. CORDOBA: SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK
IMPACT TAGS 	IMPACT TAGS 	IMPACT TAGS
INVESTMENT USD 75.3 million	INVESTMENT USD 28.7 million	INVESTMENT USD 46.6 million
NPV USD 55.3 million	NPV USD 15.5 million	NPV USD 39.8 million
AVG IRR 24.6%	IRR 20.2%	IRR 27.3%
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES 22.0 thousand	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES 7.0 thousand	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES 15.0 thousand
INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES 69.0 thousand	INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES 21.0 thousand	INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES 48.0 thousand
AVG PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE +USD 8,187	PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE +USD 8,464	PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE +USD 8,057
GHG IMPACT -139.9 thousand tCO2-e	GHG IMPACT -58.6 thousand tCO2-e	GHG IMPACT -81.3 thousand tCO2-e

1. BOYACA: AGROINDUSTRIAL CENTER



An integrated agro-industrial, logistics and commercialization hub for six smallholder value chains across 48 municipalities of Boyaca

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT

USD 28.7M
(MILLION)

NPV

USD 15.5M
(MILLION)

IRR

20.2%
(%)

RATIONALE

- Boyaca has high agricultural potential but smallholders capture little value-add
- Up to 97% of dairy, fruit and vegetable output cannot be stored or processed
- Strategic location: 3 hours to Bogota's 15M-consumer market
- Supported by strong public-sector commitment and local sourcing policies

KEY BOTTLENECKS

1. Cold-chain & storage gap + no large-scale processing

PPP

33,778 m² Agro-industrial Center (USD 23.4 million):

- 30 warehouses (~330 m² each)
- 8,250 m² urban infrastructure
- 9,000 m² processing plant with 600 m² cold-chain capacity (50,000 L milk + 80 t food / day)

2. Quality & hygiene deficits limit access to premium and export markets

PPP

2,500 m² zone hosting five anchor companies serving regional and international markets (USD 0.3 million)

3. Fragmented markets and weak producer aggregation increase intermediation costs

PPP

Commercialization initiatives (USD 4.6 million):

- 750 m² retail zone with 20 leasable units (650 m² admin area)
- Capital fund to support smallholder farming
- Public-procurement strategy with 30% target from smallholder farmers

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS



DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
7.0K
(THOUSAND)



INDIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
21.0K
(THOUSAND)



PER CAPITA
INCOME INCREASE
+8,464
(USD/PERSON)



GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
-58.6K
(THOUSAND tCO₂-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.

1. BOYACA: AGROINDUSTRIAL CENTER (cont'd)



An integrated agro-industrial, logistics and commercialization hub for six smallholder value chains across 48 municipalities of Boyaca

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT

USD 28.7M
(MILLION)

NPV

USD 15.5M
(MILLION)

IRR

20.2%
(%)

RATIONALE

- Boyaca has high agricultural potential but smallholders capture little value-add
- Up to 97% of dairy, fruit and vegetable output cannot be stored or processed
- Strategic location: 3 hours to Bogota's 15M-consumer market
- Supported by strong public-sector commitment and local sourcing policies

KEY BOTTLENECKS

4. Inadequate supply-chain management causes heavy losses

PPP

100 m² area cutting food loss and waste by 70% across the six value chains through organic-residue management

5. Women and youth face limited access to productive resources, skills, and economic-empowerment opportunities

PPP

Technical assistance hub (USD 0.4 million): 2,428 m² of product-analysis labs and experimental plots delivering operations training with a gender lens

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS



DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
7.0K
(THOUSAND)



INDIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
21.0K
(THOUSAND)



PER CAPITA
INCOME INCREASE
+8,464
(USD/PERSON)



GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
-58.6K
(THOUSAND tCO₂-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.

2. CORDOBA: SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK



Transforming extensive cattle ranching into productive, climate-smart silvopastoral systems across 8 priority municipalities

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT

USD 46.6M
(MILLION)

NPV

USD 39.8M
(MILLION)

IRR

27.3%
(%)

RATIONALE

- Cordoba: Colombia's 2nd-largest cattle hub, accounting for 9.3% of the national herd
- 1.4M ha apt for meat and dairy production; extensive ranching limits productivity
- Colombia is the world's 12th-largest beef producer, with exports growing 126% in 2025
- Growing global demand supports long-term market expansion (4.1% CAGR through 2033)

KEY BOTTLENECKS

1. Limited adoption of sustainable practices, low diversification, and inefficient use of land and water

Private

9,000 ha to multi-strata systems (1.3M trees), 750 ha forage banks, solar water reservoirs and electric fencing (USD 16.0 million)

2. Low livestock productivity and limited genetic performance

PPP

22,500 cattle plus a reproductive-genetics center producing 13,200 embryos and 13,500 AI straws/year (USD 17.2 million)

3. Deficient milk collection infrastructure causes quality loss

Private

16 refrigerated milk tankers (1,000 L each) and 1,500 milking parlors for on-farm collection (USD 5.6 million)

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS



DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
15.0K
(THOUSAND)



INDIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
48.0K
(THOUSAND)



PER CAPITA
INCOME INCREASE
+8,057
(USD/PERSON)



GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
-81.3K
(THOUSAND tCO2-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.

2. CORDOBA: SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK (cont'd)



Transforming extensive cattle ranching into productive, climate-smart silvopastoral systems across 8 priority municipalities

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT

USD 46.6M
(MILLION)

NPV

USD 39.8M
(MILLION)

IRR

27.3%
(%)

RATIONALE

- Cordoba: Colombia's 2nd-largest cattle hub, accounting for 9.3% of the national herd
- 1.4M ha apt for meat and dairy production; extensive ranching limits productivity
- Colombia is the world's 12th-largest beef producer, with exports growing 126% in 2025
- Growing global demand supports long-term market expansion (4.1% CAGR through 2033)

KEY BOTTLENECKS

4. Beef and dairy sectors sell undifferentiated products with little processing or branding

PPP

1,500 m² cheese plant with Codelac cooperative producing 2,500 kg/day (USD 1.1 million)

5. Fragmented commercialization systems and weak traceability limit market efficiency

PPP

1,850 m² livestock auction infrastructure (16,000 head/month) with digital trading and territory-wide traceability (USD 1.7 million)

6. Underutilized livestock residues limit circular-economy opportunities

Private

1,500 units (6 m³ each) producing 360,000 L biofertilizer/week (USD 4.2 million)

7. Women and youth face limited access to skills training and empowerment opportunities

Public

Sustainable-ranching programs for 3,000 farmers, prioritizing women and youth (USD 0.8 million)

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS



DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
15.0K
(THOUSAND)



INDIRECT
BENEFICIARIES
48.0K
(THOUSAND)



PER CAPITA
INCOME INCREASE
+8,057
(USD/PERSON)



GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
-81.3K
(THOUSAND tCO₂-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Hand-in-Hand
Initiative

Colombia

HAND-IN-HAND INITIATIVE | 2026 INVESTMENT FORUM

*Click here to see full
Investment Note:*



*Click here to request a
bilateral meeting:*

