



REPORTING 2025 EVIDENCE



Climate-Smart Agribusinesses in Eastern Africa are Investment-Ready with the Support of AI-Enabled Risk Assessment Tools

OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS

In 2025, AI-enabled risk assessment tools were piloted to support enhanced investment-readiness for climate-smart agribusinesses in Eastern Africa. The tools applied structured analytical frameworks integrating enterprise, finance, and climate data to generate standardized diagnostics comparable in scope to traditional advisory assessments, while reducing time and transaction costs. In parallel, the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) accelerator methodology informed the World Bank's Soil Health Innovation Agenda in Kenya, supporting structured venture selection, assessment, and capacity development processes.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: REGIONAL



COUNTRY: Sub-Saharan Africa; Eastern Africa

SDG TARGETS



13.1 - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.3 - Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change

CONTRIBUTING EXTERNAL PARTNERS:

The World Bank

HIGHLIGHTS

- AI-enabled, multi-agent diagnostic tools were piloted in Eastern Africa with five agribusinesses operating in the honey, poultry inputs, rice, solar irrigation, and soybean value chains.
- The diagnostic tools produced finance, climate, and behavioral risk assessments comparable to consultant-grade outputs while reducing cost and time requirements.
- Pilot applications demonstrated strong replicability and analytical reliability of the AI-enabled risk assessment tools.
- AICCRA accelerator methodology informed the World Bank's Soil Health Innovation Agenda in Kenya and contributed to designing and delivering the Soil Health Innovation Challenge.
- Ten early-stage ventures were selected, assessed, and enabled across soil testing, precision agriculture, biofertilizers, and carbon sequestration tracks.
- Technical sprints, advisory sessions, and diagnostic tools from the AICCRA accelerator playbook provided targeted support to strengthen the scientific and commercial feasibility of participating ventures.

ELABORATION OF OUTCOME/IMPACT STATEMENT

During 2025, a suite of AI-enabled risk assessment tools significantly reduced the cost and time required to deliver investment-readiness and acceleration support to climate-smart agribusinesses in Eastern Africa. The tools applied structured, multi-agent analysis to produce finance, climate, and behavioral risk diagnostics comparable to consultant-grade outputs at a fraction of the cost and time (2).

The tools were piloted with five agribusinesses previously engaged through AICCRA interventions and demonstrated strong reproducibility and analytical reliability. The assessments integrated enterprise data with external climate and financial datasets, enabling standardized benchmarking across firms operating in the honey, poultry inputs, rice, solar irrigation, and soybean value chains (3).

In parallel, the AICCRA accelerator methodology informed the World Bank's Soil Health Innovation Agenda in Kenya and contributed to the design and delivery of the Soil Health Innovation Challenge (1, 5, 6). Through this collaboration, 10 early-stage ventures were selected, assessed, and enabled across thematic tracks, including biofertilizers, carbon sequestration, precision agriculture, and soil testing (4).

Technical sprints focused on generating tangible outputs within 2-3 months), advisory sessions, and diagnostic tools drawn from the AICCRA accelerator playbook ensured that each venture received targeted support grounded in scientific and commercial feasibility.

Together, these workstreams demonstrate how evidence-based acceleration and AI-enabled diagnostics can systematically strengthen investment-readiness, improve operational and risk transparency, and expand access to climate-aligned finance for agribusinesses across Eastern Africa.

EVIDENCE

1. Playbook for the design and implementation of food systems-focused accelerator programs in Africa (2024). available [here](#)
2. Accelerators, Bootcamps & AI Risk Management: Streamlining Risk Management Services for Food Systems Enterprises (2025). available [here](#)
3. Climate and finance Risk Assessments of five agribusinesses using AI tools (2025). available [here](#)
4. From selection to scale: Understanding early-stage soil health innovations in Africa (2025). available [here](#)
5. Role of the AICCRA Accelerator Playbook in shaping the World Bank Soil Health Innovation Program Agenda (2025). available [here](#)
6. Support for the World Bank Soil Health Innovation Challenge (2025). available [here](#)

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The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

AICCRA is a project that helps deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture. It is led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank. Learn more at aiccra.cgiar.org



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