



INTERNATIONAL
FOOD POLICY
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

IFPRI *in* AFRICA

Partnering for Evidence-Based Transformation





OUR VISION

A sustainable world free of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition

The International Food Policy Research Institute works with partners in Africa to provide cutting-edge, policy-relevant research on food and nutrition security and agrifood systems transformation for policymakers, development partners, and stakeholders from the local to the continental level. Co-creating this research and engaging through capacity sharing and dialogue informs effective policies, programs, and investments. With over 50 years working in the region, long-standing partnerships, and 10 offices across the continent, IFPRI brings a deep knowledge of the African context to the design of research and engagement activities. IFPRI fully supports Africa-led transformation to ensure nutrition and food security.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Africa is undergoing a profound, multidimensional transformation, propelled by a dynamic youth population, urban growth, adoption of technology, vibrant entrepreneurship, expanding regional integration, and evolving governance structures, which are reshaping economies, societies, and agrifood systems. Yet the pace of change has been uneven, and the full potential of agrifood systems to drive inclusive transformation remains underutilized. To meet this challenge, African leaders have charted a clear path and ambitious agendas: Agenda 2063, the CAADP Kampala Declaration and 2026–2035 Strategy and Action Plan, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), regional economic community strategies, and national flagship programs all define an ambitious, Africa-driven agenda for agrifood systems transformation.

While the ambition is clear, the path is challenging. Food insecurity, malnutrition, climate risks, natural resource degradation, inequality, debt pressures, conflict, and global market volatility intersect with institutional constraints, funding uncertainty, and implementation gaps. Yet fresh opportunities are opening, including a new generation of home-grown solutions, such as councils of the wise, as well as global innovations, new technologies, and finance opportunities, with potential to support sound policy design and effective implementation at scale. IFPRI supports Africa-led efforts to meet the challenge and seize these opportunities to increase well-being for all and reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition sustainably.

WHAT WE DO

IFPRI's strategy in Africa reflects our commitment to generating high-quality evidence that can drive transformational impact – by informing policies, shaping investments, and fostering resilience – and building the capabilities needed to successfully deliver Africa's ambitious development agenda.

IFPRI's strategy in Africa focuses on achieving impact through world-class research, analysis, and evidence-building, capacity development, and innovative communications and knowledge sharing in support of Africa's agenda for inclusive agrifood systems transformation. This strategy is grounded in a partnership-first approach with African institutions and the critical need to turn goals into effective action through implementation and delivery capability. IFPRI works with partners to generate the evidence and tools that help African institutions move from policy aims to sustained impact. Our work is built on four strategic pillars that support African goals and align with IFPRI's global mission.

- 1. Partnering for impact:** Deep, structured collaboration with African institutions to shape, test, and scale home-grown solutions. Partnerships include longstanding collaborations with continental bodies such as the African Union, regional organizations, national governments, universities, think tanks, farmer networks, private-sector actors, and civil society. These partnerships stress alignment with CAADP-Kampala commitments and the priorities of regional economic communities and national governments.
- **CAADP and AfCFTA.** IFPRI's work at the continental level is anchored in our engagement with the CAADP and AfCFTA implementation processes, building on multilevel presence in Africa, our decades of work with CAADP and AfCFTA partners, and commitment to their ambitious visions. The CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035 focuses on intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, financing, nutrition security, inclusivity, resilience, and governance. The AfCFTA aims at accelerating intra-African trade and boosting Africa's trading position in global markets by strengthening Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations. To support policy design and implementation at the country level to meet these continental goals and commitments, IFPRI's integrated, systemwide approach helps ensure that policy, investment, and governance reforms are implemented effectively and at scale.
- **Country and regional offices.** IFPRI's longstanding presence in Africa, with offices now in 10 countries, facilitates partnerships at the national and local levels. Staffed by experts from across IFPRI's main areas of research, these offices are uniquely positioned to engage with local partners both within country and in

neighboring countries. Research and engagement programs reflect the specific context and priorities of governments and partners, allow for co-creation, and contribute to capacity building for the long-term.

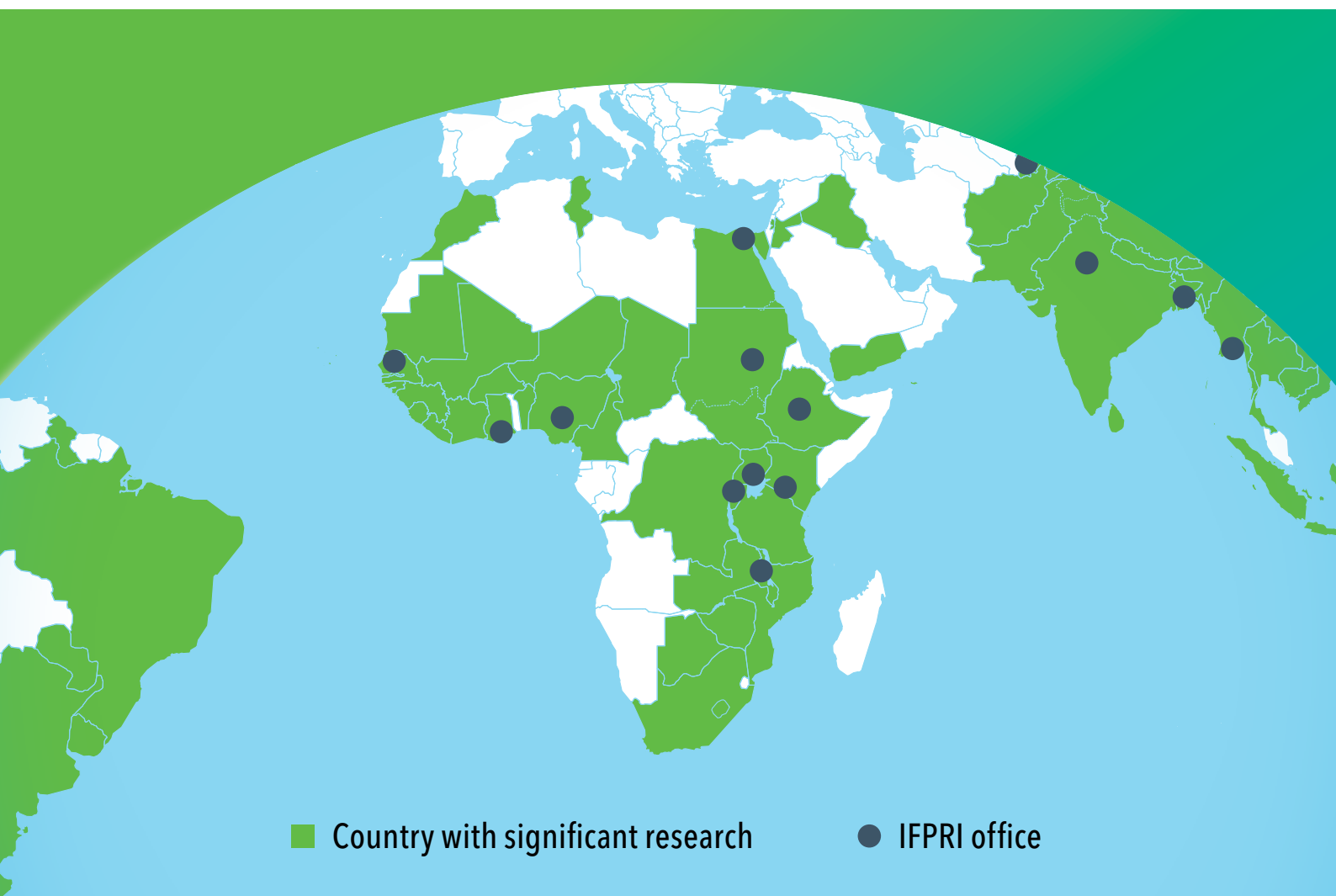
- 2. Cutting-edge research and analysis:** Rigorous, forward-looking research to inform critical policy choices. IFPRI works with partners to carry out research on rural and urban systems, primary production and value addition, financing and market integration, and the enabling policy and delivery systems required for scale. Across this work, we prioritize youth opportunity and women's agency. Our analysis informs agricultural policies and investment to build resilient, inclusive, climate-adaptive agrifood systems and support development of new economic opportunities in agrifood systems.
 - **Toolkits.** IFPRI's research generates evidence and analysis to inform policy and investment across Africa's agrifood systems. Tools include surveys, foresight and modeling of policy impacts, rigorous economic and policy analysis deploying advanced econometrics, and applied research.
 - **Conflict-affected areas.** As conflict and crises increasingly affect African food systems, IFPRI has increased its expertise and facility in working in fragile and conflict-affected areas, and developed methods for conducting research and policy analysis in these situations. This work provides essential data and analysis for aid agencies and governments, focusing on rural and urban food systems, primary production and value addition, financing, and market integration.
- 3. Enhancing policy and institutional capability:** Strengthen the capacity of African public institutions and research systems for policy research, design, and implementation. IFPRI supports partners to design implementable, evidence-based solutions, track progress, and accelerate reform cycles by building tools and talent to plan, finance, and deliver reforms through capacity development and analytical work.
 - **Analytical work.** Research and analysis on political economy, institutional diagnostics, expenditure efficiency, and operational systems inform and strengthen policy implementation and impact through foresight and policy evaluations.
 - **Capacity development.** Technical training, organizational and leadership development, and knowledge-sharing programs strengthen African institutions. Policy convenings and dialogues organized with partners facilitate high-impact discussions that translate research into action. Support to national and subnational policy execution and monitoring, and regional mutual accountability aims to sustain reform.
- 4. Innovation in communications, data, and digital delivery:** Use modern knowledge-sharing systems to bring actionable evidence to decision-makers in real time. IFPRI invests in innovative ways to make research actionable and widely accessible to inform and engage policymakers, investors, and civil society.
 - **Knowledge systems.** IFPRI deploys cutting-edge knowledge-sharing systems and strengthens regional knowledge systems to ensure evidence reaches decision-makers, businesses, and civil society, including through digital platforms, on-line convening tools, and regional and national forums.
 - **Data and knowledge accessibility.** IFPRI aims to ensure technical research findings and knowledge products are accessible and context-relevant for diverse stakeholders, including through use of local languages. In conjunction with research, IFPRI facilitates data access, including through dashboards and AI-supported policy tools, to help governments and investors make informed decisions.

Research Priorities

IFPRI's current portfolio in Africa aligns with IFPRI's [five major research themes](#) for 2026–2030 as well as the priorities set by African development strategies. Work is ongoing across Africa through numerous partnerships and projects, with support from a wide range of donors. The portfolio address 10 strategic research priorities outlined in [IFPRI's Africa Strategy](#):

- 1. Macroeconomic and structural change:** Examining trade policy, debt dynamics, and their implications for food security, rural development, and overall growth.

- 2. Trade, markets, and regional integration:** Advancing market access and regional trade to strengthen agrifood systems integration.
- 3. Agrifood system transformation:** Promoting productivity growth, value addition, and resilience in agrifood systems, including food security, nutrition, and agrifood livelihoods in Africa's rapidly growing urban areas.
- 4. Labor, jobs, and youth in agrifood systems:** Identifying pathways for inclusive employment in agrifood value chains.
- 5. Technology and innovation in agriculture:** Clarifying the role of digitization, artificial intelligence (AI), and agri-tech in boosting access to productivity-enhancing inputs and services.
- 6. Financing smallholder farmers and small and medium agrifood enterprises:** Identifying and evaluating alternative financing models (including blended finance), public-private mechanisms, risk-sharing tools, digital financial services, and policy reforms to crowd in private capital.
- 7. Nutrition, health, and inclusive growth:** Tackling malnutrition (both undernutrition and obesity) and diet-related health challenges through multisectoral approaches.
- 8. Climate, conflict, and resilience:** Understanding how climate change and instability shape food security and economic resilience, focusing on management of key natural resources.
- 9. Natural resource management:** Improving the governance of, and investments in, natural resources for enhanced food and environmental systems and food system transformation.
- 10. Governance and institutional reform:** Improving public sector investment prioritization, effectiveness, and accountability in agrifood systems.



Our Recent Impact

Through high-quality, research-based evidence and partnerships with African institutions, IFPRI has helped African governments and partners to improve food and nutrition security, facilitate agriculture-led growth, and build resilience, helping millions of people. A few examples illustrate this broad impact.

Food fortification. The HarvestPlus initiative, which supports planting and consumption of biofortified staple crops, collaborated with partners to provide evidence that was pivotal to the African Union's adoption of a continentwide policy declaration on food fortification and biofortification.

Public expenditures. In Rwanda, the Institute's modeling work informed the design of the government's 2024–2029 Strategic Plans for the Transformation of Agriculture, and in Malawi, findings on the fertilizer subsidies informed the government's decision to pare down subsidies from 50 to 35 percent of the agricultural budget.

Social protection. IFPRI played the principal role in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), one of the largest safety net programs in the region, which now covers about 8 million people.

Natural resources and sustainability. IFPRI worked with the Niger Basin Authority to develop the first-ever basin-level "nexus guidance" to help manage water and natural resources for 160 million people; the governments of the Niger Basin adopted this guidance as a basis for an operational plan for 2026–2030.

CAADP partnership. IFPRI has been a key technical partner to CAADP from its inception and played a leading role in providing technical support for the design of CAADP roadmaps at continental, regional, and national levels; developing data-driven monitoring frameworks that track progress and inform policy decisions; building capacity for evidence-based policymaking by working with policymakers, national research institutions, and think tanks; and mobilizing investment through reviews of agricultural public expenditure, investment planning, and impact assessments.

Learn more

Visit IFPRI's Africa website: <https://africa.ifpri.info/>

Visit IFPRI's website: www.ifpri.org

Read about IFPRI's strategy in Africa: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/158218>

Read about IFPRI's new strategy: www.ifpri.org/strategy/

Read about IFPRI's strategy for engagement with CAADP: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/174069>



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