

Scaling Coalition Executive progress summary

December 2025

Report



**THE SCALING
COALITION**

FROM INNOVATION TO
IMPACT – EFFICIENT,
SUSTAINABLE AND,
AT SCALE.

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Authors: Nicoletta Buono¹, Iddo Dror¹, March Shut², Agnes Schneidt² and Till Rockenbauch³

1. International Livestock Research Institute

2. CGIAR

3. GIZ

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Executive summary

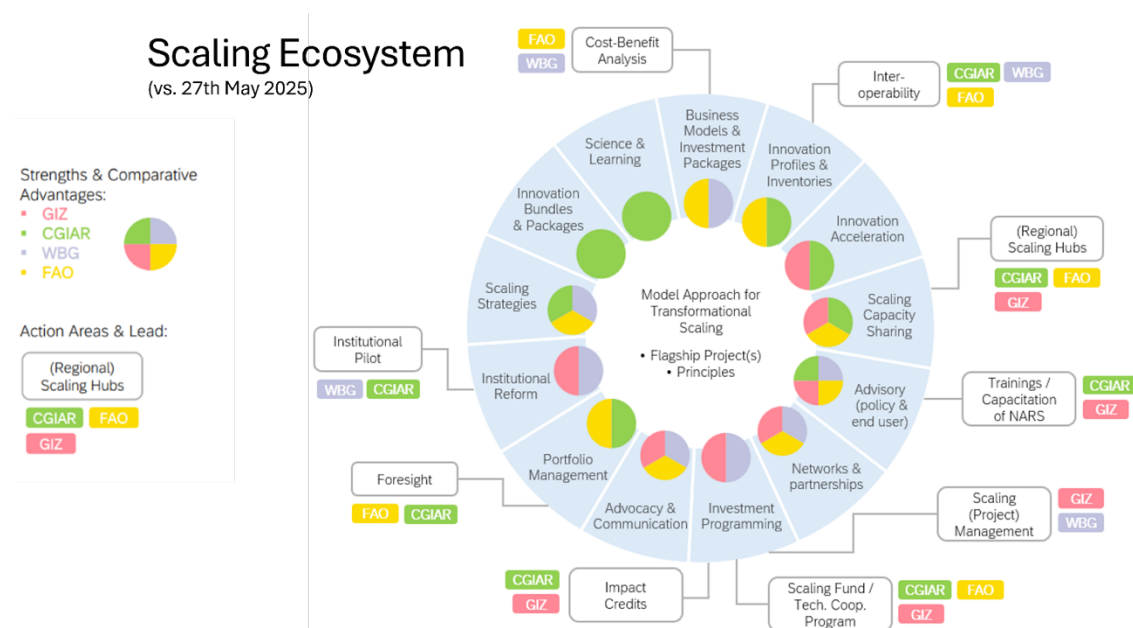
In 2025, the Scaling Coalition progressed from concept to coordinated action, strengthening its role as a multi-organization alliance advancing agrifood innovation at scale. Founding members—including CGIAR, FAO, the World Bank Group, GIZ, and later the Gates Foundation—established a shared vision, guiding principles, and a lean governance model supported by a CGIAR–GIZ Secretariat.

Across its three priority workstreams, the Coalition achieved notable milestones:

- **Interoperability:** Agreed standards and a federated approach for interoperable innovation management systems, supported by a time-bound action plan and pilots.
- **Capacity sharing:** Defined capacity development streams and launched a stocktaking exercise for mapping existing assets.
- **Partnerships and membership:** Expanded strategic outreach, strengthened links with scaling up communities of practice, and launched a Communications Working Group.

The Coalition strengthened global visibility through engagements at Tropentag and the FAO Science and Innovation Forum. Looking to 2026, the Coalition will shift from design to implementation—advancing an AI-enhanced scaling strategy module, formalizing governance, and initiating joint actions informed by the capacity stocktaking.

Figure 1: Scaling ecosystem concept developed during Scaling Coalition foundation workshop.



Overview

In 2025, the Scaling Coalition consolidated its foundation as a strategic alliance to accelerate the scaling and impact of agrifood innovations. Convened by CGIAR, FAO, the World Bank Group, and GIZ, and later joined by Gates Foundation, the Coalition advanced from concept to coordinated action, establishing shared vision, principles, and priority workstreams while beginning to demonstrate its value through concrete collaboration, technical progress, and public engagement.

Strategic alignment and governance

The Coalition was formally launched through its founding meeting in March 2025, where members aligned on a shared vision, value proposition, guiding principles, and a lean, action-oriented modus operandi. The Coalition's formal existence enables further alignment between major organizations that share similar challenges around innovation management and scaling, creating opportunities that no single institution could achieve alone.

A Secretariat arrangement (CGIAR–GIZ) was confirmed to support coordination, convening, and follow-up. Throughout the year, monthly online meetings provided a stable operating rhythm, enabling continuous alignment, rapid feedback, and coordinated progress across workstreams. Building on this experience, members agreed to move toward the adoption of a simple governance and membership framework, designed to remain lightweight while clarifying engagement modalities, roles, and expectations as the Scaling Coalition matures.

Progress across priority workstreams

Interoperability of innovation management systems

Interoperability appeared as a flagship technical priority in 2025. A high-level technical workshop co-convened by CGIAR, FAO, and the World Bank Group in May in Rome delivered a shared conceptual and operational foundation for interoperable innovation portfolio management.

Key outcomes include:

- Agreement on minimum shared innovation data and quality criteria (evidence-based and timely).
- Adoption of a pragmatic, federated approach, including a proposed neutral “Rosetta Stone” layer rather than full system harmonization.
- A concrete, time-bound action plan with designated leads and follow-up pilots feeding into Q3–Q4 2025 activities.

Capacity sharing for scaling

The Capacity Sharing Workstream advanced from concept to structured design through a dedicated in-person workshop in Bonn in September 2025. Partners co-developed a shared vision for capacity development that supports national institutions, development partners, and private sector actors to scale innovations more effectively.

Progress includes:

- Definition of coherent activity streams (tailored capacity support, opportunity-driven collaboration, community learning, institutional reform, MELIA, and communication).
- Launch of a stocktaking exercise to map existing capacity assets and approaches across organizations.
- Agreement that priority actions emerging from the stocktaking will be identified and sequenced as the basis for joint implementation in the next phase.

Partnerships, networking, and membership

The Coalition clarified a flexible, problem-driven engagement model that allows differentiated levels of participation while keeping governance lean. Priority outreach partners were identified (including AfDB, CABI,

UNDP, and ICRA), and linkages were established with existing communities of practice to avoid duplication and amplify impact.

As planned in the 2025 roadmap, CGIAR assumed the role of co-chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Working Group of the Scaling Up Community of Practice, strengthening alignment with the wider scaling ecosystem (Figure 1) and enhancing the Scaling Coalition's external reach and influence.

To support coherent positioning, a dedicated Communication Working Group was established to develop a joint communication strategy and core communication products, including key messages, briefs, and event materials.

Public engagement and visibility

In line with its go-public roadmap, the Scaling Coalition increased its external visibility through two major international events:

- Tropentag, Bonn (September 2025) – introduction of the Coalition to the global research and development community.
- FAO Science and Innovation Forum (SIF), Rome (October 2025) – positioning the Coalition within global agrifood innovation and policy dialogues.

These engagements marked a shift from internal consolidation to outward-facing engagement.

Outlook 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, members have already agreed on a transition toward implementation. Within the framework of the Scaling Coalition, CGIAR will implement a project to develop an AI-enhanced scaling strategy module, building on interoperability and portfolio management work. In parallel, the Coalition will formalize its lightweight governance and membership system and translate findings from the Capacity Sharing stocktaking into a prioritized set of joint actions. Together, these steps position the Coalition to move from design and alignment to piloting, delivery, and demonstrable impact.

Annexes

- Previous report (available on requests)
- Interoperability workshop in Rome May 2025: [Draft interoperability workshop report v2 .docx](#)
- Capacity Sharing workshop in Bonn September 2025: [Summary CapSha Workstream Meeting Sept 8-9 2025.docx](#)
- Scaling Coalition foundation meeting in Montpellier, March 2025 [Founding Meeting Notes \(extended version\).docx](#)
- Scaling Coalition meeting in Paris, May 2025 [Scaling Coalition Workshop Report 180625.docx](#)
- LinkedIn link https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7412007105273954305?updateEntityUrn=urn%3Ali%3Afs_updateV2%3A%28urn%3Ali%3Aactivity%3A7412007105273954305%2CFEED_DETAIL%2CEMPTY%2CDEFAULT%2Cfalse%29



Contact: Scaling@cgiar.org

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