
IFPRI *in* AFRICA



INTERNATIONAL
FOOD POLICY
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE







VISION

A world free of hunger and malnutrition

MISSION

To provide research-based policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition

IFPRI IN AFRICA

For over 40 years, IFPRI has worked with partners in Africa at the country, regional, and continental levels to provide cutting-edge, policy-relevant research on food and nutrition security for policymakers, development partners, and stakeholders. Sharing this research and engaging through capacity building and dialogue informs effective policies, programs, and investments to help ensure that all people have access to safe, sufficient, nutritious, and sustainably grown food.



What We Do

IFPRI's work is built around five key research areas that address Africa's most critical food policy issues. All of IFPRI's research work also integrates gender. IFPRI pursues many of its core research themes with the support of partners and through the CGIAR research programs to contribute evidence for country- and region-led policies and programs.

The following is a selection of our current work and highlights of recently completed work, covering the five research areas.

1 FOSTERING A CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY

Africa RISING • A multipartner project working to sustainably intensify three key farming systems—cereal-based farming systems in the Guinea-Savannah of West Africa; crop-livestock systems in the Ethiopian Highlands; and maize-legume-livestock integrated farming systems in East and Southern Africa—is supported by M&E conducted by IFPRI's HarvestChoice team, which now manages over 100 online agronomic and micro datasets generated by Africa RISING researchers.

Knowledge Lab on Climate-Resilient Food Systems • Building on IFPRI's long-term climate change work, this initiative applies integrated analytical tools and "big data" to evaluate policies and technologies for resilience. The Lab supports research on national strategies for resilient food systems, improving resilience along food chains, and scaling up community-led initiatives.

Small-Scale Irrigation Technologies • IFPRI is addressing critical questions about the links between irrigation, nutrition, and gender as part of this multipartner project to improve use of scarce water supplies in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Tanzania. Research looks at ways to increase adoption of irrigation technologies, measures for more equitable distribution, and economic and environmental impacts.

Data Africa • IFPRI researchers have developed an award-winning open source agriculture, climate, poverty, and health visualization engine for 13 African countries at the subnational level.

Southern Africa-TIED • The Southern Africa Towards Inclusive Economic Development (SA-TIED) program brings together regional and international partners to support policymaking for economic transformation. IFPRI researchers are taking the lead on climate adaptation and energy issues, including links to infrastructure, agriculture, trade, and migration, and facilitating dialogue to bridge the gap between research and policymaking.

2 PROMOTING HEALTHY DIETS AND NUTRITION FOR ALL

HarvestPlus • Biofortification provides a means to breed higher levels of micronutrients essential for human health and development into key staple crops. In Africa, HarvestPlus is developing and disseminating iron beans and pearl millet and vitamin A sweet potatoes, maize, and cassava. Working with hundreds of partners, HarvestPlus has released 124 varieties in Africa, and 4.9 million households are now growing and eating these healthier foods. To date, the largest number of crops are available or being tested in Africa. Countries are incorporating biofortification into their national health and agriculture strategies, and the African Development Bank has made biofortification a priority.

Urban Food Security • Rapid urbanization is driving major shifts in our global food system that threaten the urban poor's access to high-quality diets. This research initiative examines changes in urban food systems and diets, the role of urban agriculture, and governance of the informal food sector in Africa in order to address urban under- and overnutrition.

PROMIS • In Mali and Burkina Faso, PROMIS is tackling child acute malnutrition, using a preventive package of community-based behavior change communication combined with nutrient-supplement distribution. IFPRI's evaluation of this intervention finds it is delivering positive impacts on malnutrition screening, anemia, and stunting.

SELEVER • Evaluation of an agriculture-nutrition intervention package that includes poultry value chain development assessed the need for an intensive water, sanitation, and hygiene component in Burkina Faso. Findings point to the health risks to children of exposure to poultry feces and suggest that a community-oriented behavior change intervention could improve outcomes.

Transform Nutrition West Africa • Designed to accelerate reductions in maternal and child undernutrition, this platform—a partnership with several African organizations—supports improved policy and program decision making. The initiative is generating actionable knowledge for West African countries with a high burden of malnutrition and facilitating its use with local stakeholders.

Alive & Thrive • IFPRI's impact evaluations of the large-scale nutrition-focused social and behavior change communications programs implemented by Alive & Thrive have looked at effectiveness of health and agricultural extension workers in improving infant and young child feeding in Ethiopia. New studies will evaluate the impacts of health systems interventions designed to improve maternal nutrition in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso and of school-based platforms to improve adolescent nutrition outcomes in Ethiopia.

Compact2025 • Compact2025 is an IFPRI-led initiative to accelerate progress toward ending hunger by 2025. By building a knowledge base and bringing stakeholders together, Compact2025 is helping three focal countries in Africa—Ethiopia, Malawi, and Rwanda—to develop, scale up, and communicate policies and programs. It currently supports Ethiopia's National Information Platform for Nutrition and is helping Rwanda develop an Acceleration Center that will foster innovation to reduce hunger and malnutrition.

3 BUILDING INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT MARKETS, TRADE SYSTEMS, AND FOOD INDUSTRIES

Africa South of the Sahara Food Security Portal • By providing access to vital information, this platform supports improved food security for the world's poor and increased resilience of African systems to food and financial crises. The portal brings together international, regional, and country-level data, news, and research to help address countries' immediate food security needs and build long-term global food security.

Food Industries for People and Planet (FIPP) • Building on IFPRI's extensive work on value chains, markets, and nutrition, FIPP aims to make agrifood industries and food systems more inclusive, more efficient, and more conducive to healthy diets and environmental sustainability. This initiative addresses key policy questions through integrated country-, value chain-, and company-specific studies.

Fertilizer supply chains • Low-income regions are highly dependent on imported fertilizer, and their supply chains are marked by high levels of concentration. Research on fertilizer supply chains in Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda focuses on market structure, practices, and outcomes in each country to improve farmers' access to this critical input.

Improving trade integration • Researchers are providing African trade negotiators with evidence-based tools for better negotiation and techniques for handling informal cross-border trade flows, and have supported the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the integration of North African economies into trade mechanisms.



4 TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL ECONOMIES

Country Strategy Support Programs • Working closely with local partners and policymakers, as well as other CGIAR centers and donors, IFPRI's Country Strategy Support Programs build evidence to support agricultural transformation at the country and regional levels by conducting “on-the-ground” research, strengthening capacity, and fostering policy dialogue. Current programs in Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, and Nigeria contribute to a better understanding of the drivers of agricultural change and support country strategies for rural transformation. The programs provide country-specific support on a broad range of policy issues—from natural resource management, to inputs, to market access, to nutrition, to risk management—that shape food security and poverty outcomes.

- Collaborative analysis of household surveys in Ethiopia has substantial knowledge spillover effects, including use for evaluation of rural investments such as extension, roads, and schooling.
- Leveraging Food Systems for Nutrition in Ghana is looking at socioeconomic drivers of nutrition and will fill knowledge gaps related to the country's changing nutrition landscape.
- Work on Malawi's employment landscape and economic transformation is improving our understanding of what is needed to increase employment options for the large youth population.
- The Agricultural Policy Project in Nigeria is strengthening national capacity for evidence-based policymaking through collaborative work on agricultural mechanization and other agricultural development issues.

Mechanization and policies for labor-saving technologies • Rural transformation requires more efficient agricultural production, including mechanization as well as improved information and communications technologies and infrastructure. In conjunction with research on effective and efficient policies for mechanization, this effort emphasizes South-South learning to help African countries develop mechanization supply chains.

SPEED • Statistics on Public Expenditures for Economic Development (SPEED) provides extensive data on public expenditures to help governments better allocate their resources. SPEED provides a user-friendly tool that contributes to understanding of the spatial and temporal patterns of public investments in agriculture and the implications for food security and poverty reduction in 42 African countries.

ASTI • Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) is a comprehensive source of agricultural research statistics for low- and middle-income countries. Through its large network of national, regional, and international partners, ASTI collects and analyzes data from public and private agencies involved in agricultural R&D, and includes a data portal on women in agricultural research in Africa. Indicators for Africa provide a diagnostic and advocacy tool for increasing resources and improving the effectiveness of resource use.

5 STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

Informal food retail • Research on the political economy of Africa's informal food retail sector, including sellers and consumers, increases understanding of the impact of both political and regulatory environments on agrifood systems, consumer access to food, and livelihoods, and points to ways to support and improve the contribution of this sector to nutrition and well-being.

Improving governance • IFPRI research in Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, and Zambia is exploring optimal ways of governing, from decentralization and improving basic services to improving young people's access to land and rewarding schoolteachers for student performance.

Gender

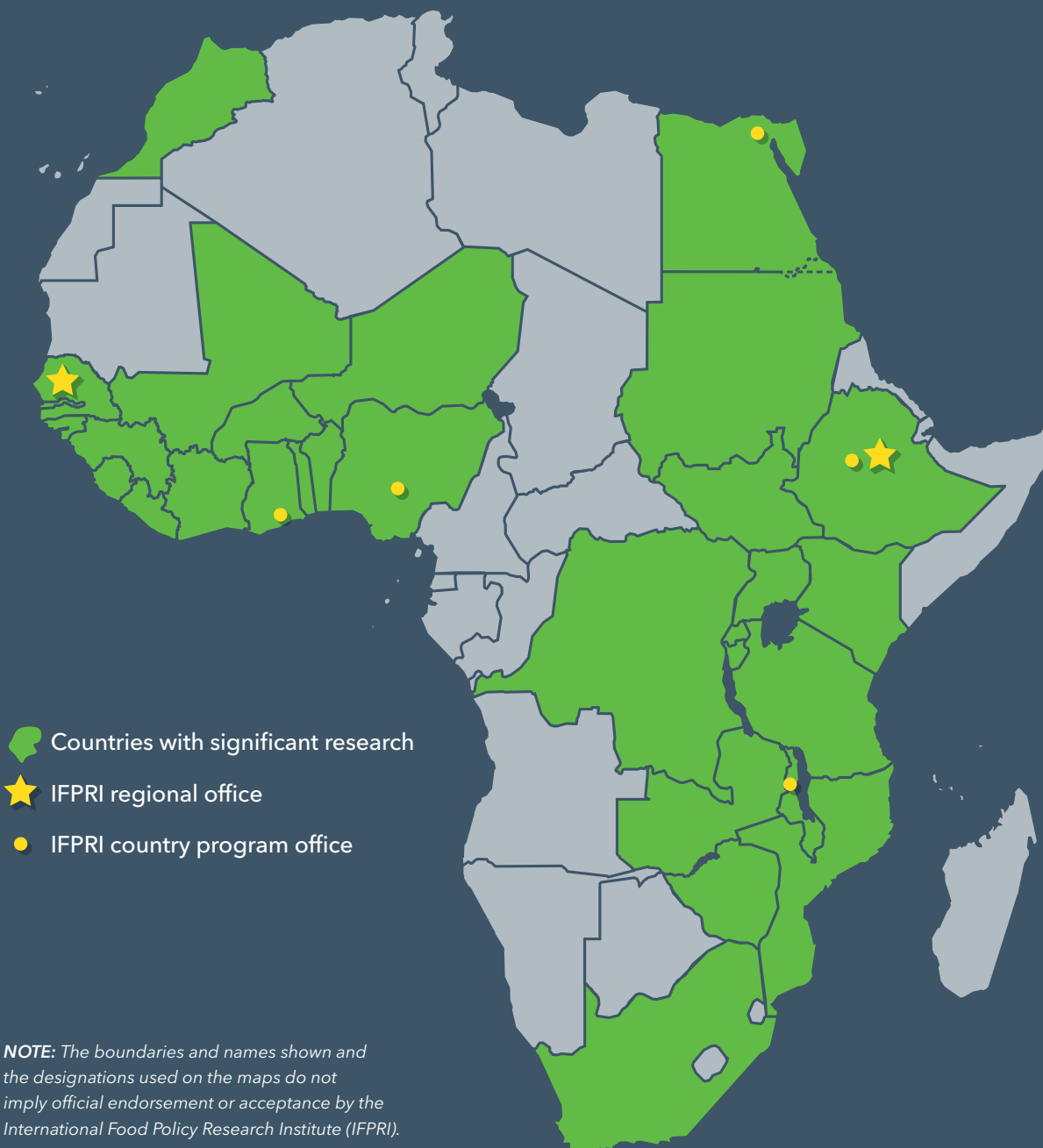
WEAI • The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, now being used in more than 50 countries, including over 20 in Africa, is an innovative measurement tool that helps to diagnose areas of disempowerment and design empowering development programs. Developed in collaboration with USAID and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, the WEAI is now being adapted for project-level work and value chain analysis.

GAAP2 • The Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project, now in its second phase, works with partners in several African countries on the nexus of women's empowerment and food security. GAAP2 is developing and validating a measure of women's empowerment (the project-level WEAI) for use by agricultural development agencies to diagnose key areas of disempowerment, design evidence-based strategies to target, engage, and empower women, and monitor project outcomes.

GCAN • The Gender, Climate Change and Nutrition Integration Initiative works with USAID and partners to support programming that brings together climate resilience, gender equity, and nutrition goals, including in Zambia and Nigeria.

Where We Work

To respond to demand for food policy research and deliver holistic support for regional- and country-led development, IFPRI maintains a strong regional and country presence.



Africa Regional Office

The Africa Regional Office contributes to local research and capacity building for reducing poverty and ending malnutrition. As a key component of this work, the office supports regional efforts to foster agricultural growth and development.

ReSAKSS

The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) is a knowledge-brokering platform led by IFPRI that provides continental, regional, and country-level support for improved investment and policy design to facilitate the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). ReSAKSS provides data and related analytical and knowledge products to facilitate CAADP benchmarking, review, and mutual learning processes. ReSAKSS is organized around four nodes: one at the Africa-wide level (ReSAKSS-AW) and three at the regional level—East and Central Africa (ReSAKSS-ECA), Southern Africa (ReSAKSS-SA), and West Africa (ReSAKSS-WA).

Enhancing Mutual Accountability. To strengthen mutual accountability processes at the country and regional levels, ReSAKSS, in collaboration with country stakeholders, the African Union Commission, NEPAD, and other partners, facilitates the adoption of improved agriculture joint sector reviews (JSRs). Since 2014, ReSAKSS has conducted assessments of JSRs in 21 countries and two regional economic communities. ReSAKSS also provides technical assistance to the CAADP Biennial Review process, which reviews continental progress toward meeting the 2014 Malabo Declaration commitments.

Promoting Evidence-Based NAIPs. Together with local and international partners, ReSAKSS supports the development and implementation of next-generation Malabo-compliant national agricultural investment plans (NAIPs) through (1) a NAIP Toolbox to guide NAIP design; (2) a NAIP Experts Group of more than 200 researchers to provide technical support to countries; and (3) a NAIP Task Force to provide training, backstopping, and quality control to local experts. ReSAKSS has guided the formulation of NAIPs in 25 countries.

Establishing Country SAKSS Platforms and eAtlases. ReSAKSS works with national governments to set up and strengthen country-level SAKSS that support CAADP implementation and provide country-level data and analyses. SAKSS platforms are now operational in 14 countries. ReSAKSS has also developed more than 20 country-level eAtlases that map agricultural, socioeconomic, and biophysical indicators for policy analysis and has held country workshops to review the underlying data and train country experts.

AGRODEP

The African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium aims to increase capacities for evidence-based policymaking and to position African experts as leaders in the study of Africa's strategic development issues. With over 200 members, the Consortium facilitates use of economic modeling tools and access to datasets, provides training and research grants, and supports collaboration between African and international researchers.

Malabo Montpellier Panel

This international agriculture experts group provides high-quality research to help governments implement policies and programs that benefit smallholder farmers in Africa and support the goals of the Malabo Declaration. The annual forum convenes decision-makers to assess strategies for meeting agriculture and food security goals.

Senegal Agricultural Policy Support Project

In partnership with Senegal's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment, IFPRI, Michigan State University, and other partners have helped to strengthen Senegal's policy system for formulating, implementing, and monitoring agriculture sector policies. The project has coordinated one of the most comprehensive agricultural data collection efforts in Senegal and used the data to analyze the cereal and horticulture sectors and the effectiveness of Senegal's fertilizer, seed, and mechanization policies.

IFPRI Makes a Difference

IFPRI contributes to policies and programs that benefit millions. Through research and capacity building, IFPRI's work informs better policy decisions, agenda-setting, and investments made by governments, funders, and partner organizations. In Africa, IFPRI's work has contributed in many ways, including:



Investing in Social Protection: Long-term work on evaluation of Ethiopia's social safety net program has helped ensure the program's contribution to reducing malnutrition and improving living conditions, benefiting 8 million people.



Supporting Agricultural Transformation: IFPRI's evaluations have led to improvements that support agricultural growth and boost incomes. In Ethiopia, IFPRI's technical support to the Agricultural Transformation Agency has helped to expand a program that has brought affordable, quality seeds to 1.4 million farmers.



Building Enabling Environments: Technical assistance from IFPRI's Program for Biosafety Systems contributed to the passage and implementation of many biosafety policies in African countries interested in using biotechnology to develop new crop varieties, such as drought- and insect-tolerant maize, insect-tolerant cowpea, and disease-resistant banana.



Building Capacity: IFPRI played a catalytic role in the development of a collaborative master's degree program in agricultural and applied economics, which has enrolled about 1,000 students in 12 countries to meet strong demand for African agricultural economists.



Scaling Up Pro-Poor Public Investments: Priority-setting for public spending can have major impacts on poverty. In Africa, IFPRI's support to CAADP's goals includes helping countries develop national agricultural investment plans (NAIPs). NAIPs have led to an 85% increase in public spending on agriculture since the early 1990s, a 4% increase in labor productivity, and substantial benefits to the poor, including helping about 1 million people move above the poverty line.



Improving Infant and Child Nutrition: Analysis provided by IFPRI under the Alive & Thrive program in Ethiopia has helped improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices for children under 2 by reaching 2 million mothers.



Reducing Rural Poverty: Evaluation of Nigeria's Fadama II rural development program showed welfare benefits to rural households stemming from provision of extension services, rural roads, and local institutional capacity building. The expanded program, Fadama III, has benefited about 4.8 million poor people.



Improving Cash Transfer Programs: After IFPRI's evaluation of Egypt's Takaful and Karama program found that beneficiaries use cash transfers to improve household well-being, including for education and higher quality food, the government expanded the program, reaching 8.2 million beneficiaries in 2019.



Collaborating for Development: IFPRI supports the agricultural and rural development work of African countries by outposting research staff as part of country strategy support programs, with a focus on 11 countries that together account for 60% of Africa's rural population.

CGIAR Research Programs

Two IFPRI-led CGIAR Research Programs promote collaboration and synergies across the CGIAR network and with many partnership organizations on critical cross-cutting issues in Africa. Gender and equity are considered across the work of these programs.

Policies, Institutions, and Markets–PIM

PIM is working in more than 15 African countries, with a focus on Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda. PIM provides support to African decision-makers by:

- Compiling and analyzing data to inform policy debates and decisions in areas such as agricultural growth and rural transformation, youth employment, land registration and markets, and promotion of improved seed, mechanization, and other technologies.
- Working with governments, private sector companies, and NGOs to test innovations, including policies and programs, to improve the welfare of poor rural populations. These include innovative extension and advisory services methods; interventions to strengthen value chains; crop insurance products; social protection mechanisms; approaches to securing community land rights; and women's empowerment.
- Investing in long-term partnerships with African organizations, including the African Land Policy Centre, the African Union Commission, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, CAADP, and many regional research organizations.

Agriculture for Nutrition and Health–A4NH

Addressing nutrition and health challenges in Africa is central to the A4NH research agenda. Nigeria and Ethiopia are focus countries. A4NH researchers support better health and nutrition through:

- Facilitating research on food system transformation, which can drive growth, jobs, and healthy and sustainable diets across Africa. A4NH is generating data and knowledge on national food system transformation in Nigeria and Ethiopia; food safety of perishable foods in formalizing and informal markets; aflatoxin mitigation in food staples; and potential of biofortification in ending hidden hunger.
- Interacting with policymakers to provide them with the data and resources needed to guide appropriate policy development. Work with public sector stakeholders includes national-level partnerships such as collaborations with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute; regional-level dialogues, including Transform Nutrition West Africa; continentwide engagement, including support to the CAADP's nutrition and gender indicators; joint research and capacity development with the AU's Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa; and support for the CGIAR Antimicrobial Resistance Hub, based in Nairobi.

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