



INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

IFPRI



IFAD

Investing in rural people

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE IFPRI and IFAD partnership



2016

Working Together to Ensure  
Food and Nutrition Security

# Celebrating the IFPRI-IFAD Partnership

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) were both created in response to the food crises of the 1970s. We have worked together for more than 20 years to catalyze agricultural and rural development and improve food security in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. IFAD and IFPRI have strengthened the productivity and resilience of smallholder farmers and other rural people, with a particular focus on helping expand their access to innovative local farming methods, climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies and financing, and more profitable markets. To further promote rural development and transformation, IFAD and IFPRI have built cutting-edge information systems and tools that deliver sound data and analyses to governments, donors, farmer organizations, and other stakeholders. As a result, the two organizations have fostered evidence-based policy making and investments that promote agricultural growth and rural development.

Our partnership has played a key role in driving inclusive and sustainable transformation in rural areas. We look forward to deeper collaboration in the years to come in our mutual quest to strengthen food and nutrition security, fight poverty, and build resilience.

**Shenggen Fan**  
Director General, IFPRI

**Kanayo F. Nwanze**  
President, IFAD

## Collaborating to Accelerate Agricultural Growth

Early collaboration between IFAD and IFPRI in the 1990s took place in a context of stagnant investment in agriculture, despite low productivity, and persistent rural poverty and hunger. In 1995, IFAD called on IFPRI to provide input on agricultural policies for the groundbreaking Mashreq and Maghreb (M&M) project. Together with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), IFPRI supported capacity building and scientific collaboration among economists working on the development problems of the low rainfall areas in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The M&M project helped accelerate the diffusion of new technologies—such as multi-nutrient feed for livestock and drought-resistant plants—and increased take-up in other countries. A major achievement of M&M scientists and IFPRI and ICARDA economists was influencing a gradual shift in agricultural policy and investment in most M&M countries, from emergency response during droughts to production alternatives designed to mitigate future effects of similar weather events.

This brochure highlights key examples of IFAD and IFPRI's partnership starting in the late 2000s. From these years, the partnership focused on building evidence that confirmed the important role that small farmers play in reducing poverty.







Department for International Development used this study to rationalize the inclusion of FFS in a £43 million project in Uganda.

From 2009 to 2012, IFAD and IFPRI engaged in a [Strategic Partnership](#) with a focus on market access and climate change. The partnership involved applied policy research, knowledge management, and knowledge sharing between IFAD, IFPRI, and selected countries: Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, and Viet Nam. The aim was to bolster countries' capacity to identify and formulate innovative solutions to strengthen small farmers' access to markets and resilience to climate change.

In Ghana, IFAD and IFPRI found that agricultural development in the country's northern region was constrained by low public expenditure, inadequate infrastructure, and farmers' lack of information on consumer demands. For example, half of what northern farmers produced were grains, but Ghanaian consumers buy only a small amount of grains, which limited northern farmers' profits. [Research results presented in 2011](#) encouraged the Government of Ghana to increase public investments in the northern region to help farmers diversify their crops, access higher-value urban markets, and increase their incomes.

For Morocco, the IFAD-IFPRI partnership developed a model to assess the impacts of free trade agreements on the agricultural sector. The resulting study, [Trade Liberalization and Poverty in the Middle East and North Africa](#), which looked at impacts across the MENA region, showed that small-scale farmers, who were not ready to participate in the global market, would be adversely affected. In response, the Moroccan government designed policies to prepare these farmers to compete globally, including measures to enable farmers to modernize production methods and start cultivating high-value crops.

In Mozambique, IFAD and IFPRI helped build the capacity of important market intermediaries, including traders, agri-dealers, and farmer organizations, which improved farmers' ability to market their products more profitably. In Viet Nam, IFAD and IFPRI analyzed various crops and identified rice as having the largest potential to mitigate climate change—rice accounted for 57 percent of the country's agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To incorporate GHG mitigation into Viet Nam's rice production growth strategy, IFPRI presented the [Low Emissions Development Strategy](#) as a solution, which received support from the Vietnamese government.

More recently, the president of IFAD and the director general of IFPRI co-authored a chapter called “Strengthening the Role of Smallholders” in IFPRI’s flagship [2016 Global Food Policy Report](#). The chapter outlined how vital small farmers are to ensuring both food and nutrition security and positive climate action. It also identified solutions that can increase farmers’ resilience, including climate-smart mitigation and adaptation financing, technology, and techniques such as zero-tillage farming, along with social protection.

## Building Resilience to Conflict

In the midst of heightening violent conflicts in the MENA region in 2010, IFPRI conducted the first extensive country-specific research, [How to Build Resilience to Conflict](#), with funding from IFAD. The study evaluated the links between conflicts, food and nutrition security, and rural development, and identified policies to enhance the resilience of those affected, particularly the rural population. The project’s researchers analyzed conflicts in Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

The joint study presented significant evidence that food insecurity is one of the main drivers of conflict. Therefore, policy makers need to prioritize food and nutrition security not only to help people recover from conflict but also to minimize future conflicts. To assist policy makers in developing sound food and nutrition security policies, in 2013 IFPRI collaborated with IFAD, the [IFPRI-led CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets \(PIM\)](#), and other partners to develop and launch [Arab Spatial](#). This is an online information storehouse that aggregates food security and development information from MENA governments and international institutions.

IFAD and IFPRI’s work on conflict encouraged strong commitments from governments and the international community to champion food and nutrition security. In 2014, the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation in

Egypt drew from the joint research when he discussed the ministry’s strategy for achieving food security and the role the water sector can play. In Yemen, international donors made a strong pledge of US\$ 7.5 billion in 2012 toward the country’s development.

Arab Spatial has been endorsed and used by international organizations, think tanks, and universities. From 2013 to July 2016, the website had more than 27,000 page views. More recently, IFAD has used Arab Spatial to inform regional and country policies and resource allocation. At a joint workshop in 2014, “Enhancing Resilience to Conflict in Arab Countries through Research and Arab Spatial 2.0,” the director of IFAD’s Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia division noted, the “tool will further help IFAD in project design and targeting, and will make IFAD projects more sustainable and impactful.” The successes of Arab Spatial led to the creation of four country-specific spatial tools by IFPRI, IFAD, and other partners in 2014 and 2015: [Iraq](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Palestine](#), and [Yemen](#). Yemen Spatial is currently helping the government monitor the implementation and impact of their National Food Security Strategy. Since Iraq Spatial’s inception in 2014, it has identified key policy and regulatory constraints to the country’s agricultural productivity, which has informed





the government's policy and reform agenda. Lebanon Spatial is scheduled for release in late 2016.

## Guiding Investments and Policy Making

Reliable, timely data are crucial to making strategic investments and designing cutting-edge policies in food and nutrition security, yet such data are often lacking in developing countries. To fill this gap, IFAD and IFPRI teamed up with other partners to build real-time tools to guide public investments and drive inclusive rural transformation.

In 2005, IFAD gave IFPRI a grant to analyze different rural regions in Ecuador. The aim was to develop solutions to help smallholder farmers overcome market and institutional barriers, such as lack of access to credit. IFPRI developed an innovative and practical policy-making tool—a typology that analyzes and ranks rural development projects and interventions based on their risks, potential impact on poverty, and costs. Funds are then allocated by the government to the current top-ranking projects and interventions, optimizing the government's budget while addressing poverty and rural development. In 2009, IFAD and IFPRI presented the results to the heads of the

## PARTNERING TOWARD NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE

With a grant from the Canadian government in 2013, IFAD set out to make its work more nutrition-sensitive. IFAD joined with the IFPRI-led [CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health \(A4NH\)](#) to support integration of nutrition into its investments and corporate activities. Over the first three years of partnership, IFAD and A4NH worked to integrate nutrition more fully into country strategies and IFAD-funded projects. At the same time, the partnership supported IFAD's corporate strategy and global and national advocacy efforts on nutrition and agriculture, and raised awareness and capacities in nutrition and agriculture at headquarters and the country level. In addition, studies were initiated on how to design nutrition-sensitive projects. Since 2013, the number of nutrition-sensitive projects financed by IFAD has increased, reaching one-third of all project designs in 2015. IFAD has also approved an [Action Plan for Mainstreaming Nutrition](#). Furthermore, nutrition has been highlighted as a priority in IFAD's current [Strategic Framework](#), and a number of related publications have been issued, including [Improving Nutrition through Agriculture](#) in 2014 and a Scaling Up Note, [Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Rural Development](#), in 2015.

National Public Investments Systems for Latin America during their biannual meeting in Peru. IFPRI and partners are planning a regional workshop to present the framework of the typology to ministries of finance and agriculture in Central America in 2016.





IFAD and IFPRI both contribute significantly to the [Agricultural Market Information System \(AMIS\)](#). AMIS is an inter-agency online resource that encourages major players in agrifood markets to share data, best practices, and methodologies across the main producing, consuming, and exporting countries of four important crops: maize, rice, soybeans, and wheat. Its secretariat is housed at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is formed by numerous [international organizations](#). IFPRI's most substantive contribution to AMIS is the Excessive Food Price Variability Early Warning System, one of AMIS's early warning systems, which gives policy makers daily visual alerts when world markets are experiencing excessive food price fluctuations. IFAD provides its in-country networks and expertise to make AMIS indicators, data, and analyses more relevant to governments and rural poor people.

In 2012, IFAD, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Netherlands, and the United States Agency for International Development funded the IFPRI-facilitated project Technical and Capacity Strengthening Support for Country-Level Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS) in selected African countries. This project sets up in-country networks to support continuous data and evidence generation to improve the design and implementation of agricultural programs and interventions in African countries.

## 2020 CONFERENCES: RESPONDING TO EMERGING ISSUES

For more than two decades, IFAD has been a key supporter of IFPRI's [2020 Vision Initiative](#), which promotes a shared vision for action to meet the world's food needs while reducing poverty and protecting the environment. IFAD has sponsored four 2020 conferences, high-level global events that have featured the Fund at the forefront of dialogue, debate, and consensus-building on critical and emerging issues that are highly relevant to IFAD's work. IFPRI's [inaugural 2020 Conference](#) in 1995 in Washington, DC, laid the groundwork for regional strategies for sustainable growth. The 2001 conference held in Bonn—"[Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020](#)"—looked at the role of agricultural growth, in which smallholders play a vital part, in advancing food security. The 2011 conference in New Delhi—"[Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition & Health](#)"—focused on how investments in agriculture can achieve nutrition security and good health for the world's poorest people, in line with IFAD's continued efforts to integrate nutrition into its projects and strategies (see Box 1). The 2014 conference held in Addis Ababa—"[Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security](#)"—probed how farmers and poor people can better cope with increasing shocks and stresses. As stated by IFAD President Kanayo Nwanze in his [keynote](#) address: "Resilience is built through partnership-based approaches that respect the dignity of the recipients, foster ownership, and ensure sustainability."

The crucial first step to establishing the networks was to conduct a thorough [assessment](#) of each country's analytical and capacity needs. Twelve countries have completed this assessment, and by 2015, networks were successfully established in 10 countries: Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda. Twenty-one eAtlases—mapping tools presenting disaggregated and high-quality data on agricultural, socioeconomic, and biophysical indicators—were developed for all existing and upcoming country SAKSS. Through this project, IFPRI, IFAD, and other partners are helping promote evidence-based decision making in these African countries.

# Looking Forward

Prioritizing inclusive agricultural and rural development is critical to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. For over 20 years, IFPRI has been contributing to IFAD's important work as the specialized United Nations agency dedicated to investing in rural people to drive inclusive rural transformation. Together, IFAD and IFPRI have been building the evidence base to aid IFAD's member states in making investments, designing policies, and taking actions toward improved productivity and resilience for the rural population.

For example, IFAD and IFPRI are currently working on strengthening and scaling up IFAD-supported rural livelihood projects in India and Bhutan that will reach

about 2 million households in each country, and helping integrate smallholder farmers into Southeast Asian agricultural and food markets.

IFAD's support to IFPRI has been instrumental in putting emerging issues facing food and nutrition security, rural development, and poverty reduction at the forefront of international dialogue and discussions. Going forward, the two organizations will tackle emerging global challenges facing small farmers, including the current economic slowdown and the need to improve regional integration of agricultural markets. IFPRI will continue to partner with IFAD to fulfill their shared goals of inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development led by smallholder farmers to improve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty.

## About IFPRI

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), established in 1975, provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition. The Institute conducts research, communicates results, optimizes partnerships, and builds capacity to ensure sustainable production, promote healthy food systems, improve markets and trade, transform agriculture, build resilience, and strengthen institutions and governance. Gender is considered in all of the Institute's work. IFPRI collaborates with partners around the world, including development implementers, public institutions, the private sector, and farmers' organizations.

### IFPRI Headquarters

2033 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA  
Phone: +1-202-862-5600 | Fax: +1-202-467-4439  
Email: [ifpri@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri@cgiar.org) | Web: [www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org)

## About IFAD

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. The conference was organized in response to the food crises of the early 1970s that primarily affected the Sahelian countries of Africa. It resolved that "an International Fund for Agricultural Development should be established immediately to finance agricultural development projects primarily for food production in the developing countries." IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries. Seventy-five percent of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods.

### IFAD Headquarters

Via Paolo di Dono, 44  
00142 Rome, Italy  
Phone: +39-0654591 | Fax: +39 065043463  
E-mail: [ifad@ifad.org](mailto:ifad@ifad.org) | Web: [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Cover— CIAT/Georgina Smith; p. 3—Nestle; p. 4—CIAT/Neil Palmer; p. 5—IFPRI/Liangzhi You; p. 6—CGIAR-CIP; p. 7— CIAT/Georgina Smith.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Copyright © 2016 International Food Policy Research Institute. All rights reserved. Contact [ifpri-copyright@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri-copyright@cgiar.org) for permission to republish.