

Annual report 2021

Preamble

The Agriculture for Food Security 2030 (AgriFoSe2030) programme is progressing well and according to the plans. After the launch of the second phase of the programme, in November 2020, it has accelerated its activities, for example eleven active projects and a new series of AgriFoSe2030 training courses.

There has been fantastic engagement in AgriFoSe2030 at all levels, and I wish especially to highlight the engagement from all project partners. All project partners have been trained in using the Theory of Change approach for the development of specific outputs, outcomes and anticipated impact of their projects, thereby contributing to SDG2, but also to other relevant SDGs. The second phase has shown that the AgriFoSe2030 working model of supporting researchers involved in processes of translating science and knowledge to policy and practises, is effective.

In 2021, AgriFoSe2030 has also initiated and conducted several skills building courses focusing on synthesizing and communicating science and co-creating knowledge with agricultural policymakers and practitioners. These courses are aimed to strengthen the skills of researchers and junior researchers in the AgriFoSe2030 projects and at our collaborating universities. We have refined how we are engaging with the universities as co-hosts for the courses. There has also been a transfer of course modules and know-how for the collaborating universities, with the ultimated aim for them to include these courses in their own course curricula.

I have been greatly encouraged by the fantastic energy and deep commitment that many people in several countries put into the work. This engagement has ensured that 2021 has been a successful year. In this annual report, we have tried to summarise some of the key achievement during 2021 including some early signs of changes and impacts registered by some of our projects. I feel that we are off to a good start and I have great expectations for the programme to deliver on its goals.

Have a pleasant reading!

Sofia Boqvist

AgriFoSe2030 Programme Director

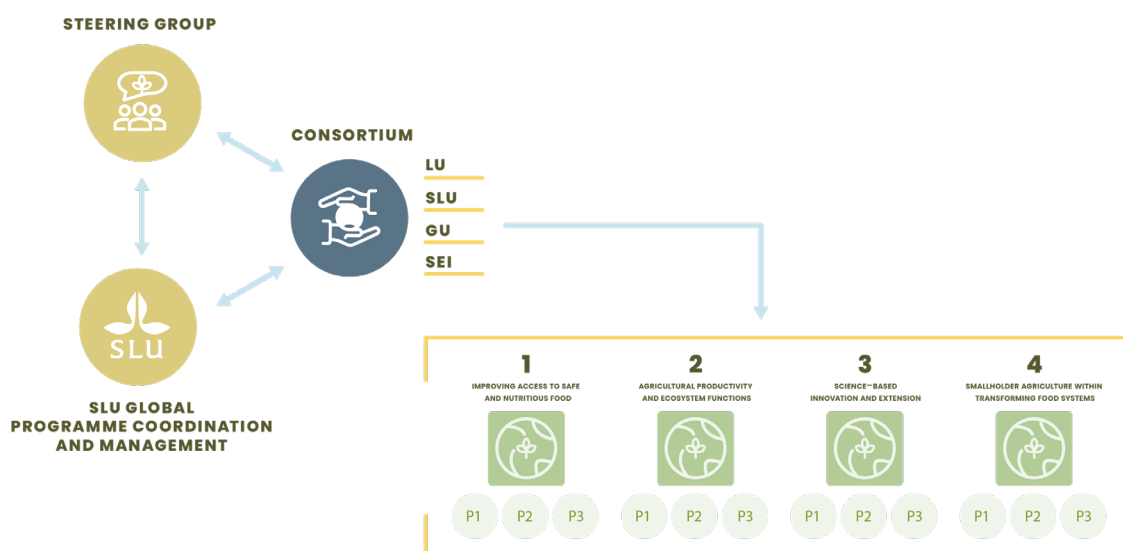


What is AgriFoSe2030?

The AgriFoSe2030 programme targets the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” in low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

The programme is developed by a consortium of scientists and science communicators from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Lund University, University of Gothenburg and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and collaborates with many universities, organisations and institutes in target regions. The programme synthesizes and translates existing science into policy and practice, and develops capacity to achieve this.

A very important learning is that the programme needs to improve the framework for follow up, evaluation and learning. We have adopted the use Theory of Change (ToC) – a systematic approach focusing on finding and enabling pathways to change, which will help the programme to reach its objectives. From programme to project level, everyone involved develops a ToC for their activities.



A schematic illustration of how the AgriFoSe2030 programme is organised.



A schematic illustration of how researchers from target countries and Sweden within AgriFoSe2030 collaborate and build capacity to synthesize, communicate and co-create scientific data and research findings in dialogue with various stakeholders, in support of evidence-based decision-making and improved practice, with the end goal of reaching SDG2.

Eleven active AgriFoSe2030 projects

During 2021, there are eleven active AgriFoSe2030 projects (see list) in sub-Saharan Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia) and in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines) involving in total 16 universities and research institutes and a large number of researchers, practitioners, civil society actors and policymakers in AgriFoSe2030 target countries. The aim with these projects is not only to create a change and contribute to reaching SDG2 targets in partner countries – but also to train the scientists in these projects to plan and implement change processes leading to project objectives.

Active AgriFoSe2030 projects during 2021		
Project nr	Project title	Main Partners
1	Smallholder goat production in Laos – improving quality of extension services and access to markets	National University of Laos, LAO PDR
2	Improving market access and scaling up trading of safe and nutritious edible insects by women and youths in Zimbabwe	Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe
3	Transformation of pastoral livelihoods through enhanced capacity for adaptation of nutrition and commercialization policies to local contexts: West Pokot, Kenya	University of Nairobi, Kenya
4	Gender-based approaches for improving food safety, value addition and marketing in livestock systems in western Uganda	Kyambogo University, Uganda
5	Agro-ecological practices for restoring Parklands – co-producing science-based skills and knowledge for increased agricultural productivity, Burkina Faso	L'Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA) and University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
6	Science-based and co-produced transformative Rangeland Management Practices – how to deal with encroachment of unwanted woody species, (TRAMAP)	University of Nairobi, Kenya
7	Agricultural biologicals: Identifying hurdles of use and by a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) analysis of stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa	University of Pretoria, South Africa, University of Nairobi, Kenya, and Kotobe Metropolitan University, Ethiopia
8	Digitalization of Extension Services in the Southeast Asian Region	University of the Philippines Visayas; Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam, and Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9	Mapping knowledge-, practical-, and policy-level challenges to increase the role of smallholder farmers in e-commerce of fruit products in Vietnam	Fruits and Vegetables Research Institute, International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam
10	Resilient Urban Food Systems in Uganda (RUFUS Uganda)	Makerere University, Uganda
11	Governance of food systems for improved food and nutritional security in Nairobi, Kisumu and Nakuru Counties in Kenya	University of Nairobi, Kenya and Mazingira institute, Kenya

Courses in translating science into policy and practice

Building the capacities to synthesize, analyse, and communicate science with different stakeholders is a core objective in the AgriFoSe2030 programme. During 2021 two systematic review courses, one in Africa and one in Southeast Asia were held. An eight month training programme, hosted by University of Nairobi was also launched, engaging eight researchers from Uganda and six from Kenya, enhancing their capacity to engage in agricultural and food security policy processes in East Africa.

The AgriFoSe2030 Theory of Change approach - Guiding and monitoring change

The AgriFoSe2030 programme works with a Theory of Change (ToC) approach guiding all projects towards a series of desired changes and goals. Therefore, all project partners have, in the start up phase of their projects, gone through an extensive ToC training. They have developed impact pathways on how their project will create impact and change towards the overall programme goals contributing to ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. All projects are reporting their progresses and changes guided by the AgriFoSe2030 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) strategy on how their projects are bridging science, policy, and practice.

Examples of emerging change processes in some selected AgriFoSe2030 projects

- **Smallholder goat production in Laos – improving quality of extension services and access to markets**
 - » The change observed: Extension service staff improved their knowledge and smallholder farmers are adopting new practices.

A key objective in this project has been to improve the quality of the extension services for goat producers in Laos. To reach this change, the project activities have targeted farmers, researchers and extension officers from the Department of Technical Extension and Agri.-Processing (DTEAP), and the Provincial/District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFO/DAFO) and enabled knowledge exchange between these groups. After these knowledge exchanges, almost 50% of the participants improved their skills connected to goat production and the extension officers now feel more confident and better prepared to support the goat producers.

The project team has also seen a change in attitudes among the smallholder farmers toward the extension officers. They feel a greater trust and compliance, and smallholders have, through the project and the knowledge exchanges, adopted improved practises (e.g. improved production of fodder and better disease prevention, improved building of goat pens).



Goats feeding on improved grass fields. Photo: Daovy Kongmanila, project manager.

- **Transformation of pastoral livelihoods through enhanced capacity for adaptation of nutrition and commercialisation policies to local contexts, West Pokot-Kenya**
 - » The change observed: Change in how local stakeholders, especially local council officials and policymakers, are interacting.

The AgriFoSe2030 project team has, using the AgriFoSe2030's ToC approach, organised a series of successful knowledge exchange events involving local farmers, food systems stakeholders and local policymakers in West Pokot, Kenya. These meetings included a traditional food demonstration workshop from a local women's group and knowledge-sharing visits. The team was struck by how much all stakeholders took time to listen and understand the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

The resulting attitudes and responses from these knowledge exchange meetings have been very positive by all stakeholders involved. No one tried to dominate the discussions and instead they all respectfully listened to diverse perspectives with the intention to work together to achieve positive food supply outcomes for the West Pokot area. This is a positive change in attitudes from previous stakeholder meetings partly due to the ToC strategic approach, and the extra effort put in by the project team to gently inform, educate and encourage collaborative partnership and co-learning among stakeholders.

This is creating a strong foundation for positive lasting change in attitudes on the value of local traditional foods. It is also increasing the understanding regarding food security and local pastoralists' live-

lihood components and the challenges and opportunities they face. This included pastoralists themselves and an increased awareness on some of the market and quality-related barriers to the sale of their meat, leather, milk, hides and honey products, and how they might start to overcome these.

- **Agro-ecological practices for restoring parklands – co-producing science-based skills and knowledge for increased agricultural productivity, Burkina Faso**
 - » The change observed: Knowledge is being exchanged and practices are starting to change for the better.

In this AgriFoSe2030 project on agro-ecological practices in parklands in Burkina Faso a knowledge exchange meeting structure called the Innovative Platform (IP) was developed. This platform aims to create new management structures for parklands by including farmers, NGOs, traditional chiefs, local political decision-makers and extension staff from forest, agriculture and livestock ministries. Discussions about unsustainable practices, constraints and sustainable solutions for these parklands are at the core of this knowledge exchange process.

The information around the IPs and the reasons to why sustainable parkland management is important have also been broadcasted in local languages in different radio stations in Burkina Faso. The IPs have changed the way stakeholders talk to each other, providing a space where development service actors (extension officers or local policymakers) can communicate with each other about the problems they are facing and the opportunities they see for the parklands in Burkina Faso.



Innovative platforms meeting in Burkina Faso. Photo: Cyrille V. Sanou

- **Project: Agricultural biologicals: Identifying hurdles of use and by a knowledge, attitude and practice analysis of stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa**
- » The change observed: Increased understanding on the multifaceted hurdles of using agricultural biologicals.

This project aims at obtaining an enhanced understanding of the status of agricultural biologicals in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). *Agricultural biologicals* is a term used to describe beneficial crop production and protection products that derive from natural sources- plants, organic materials, microorganisms, bio-chemicals, and minerals, that is thought to lead to safer and more sustainable agricultural practices.

There is an increased use of biologicals in the developed part of the world, however, the use of biologicals in SSA is still extremely low. Therefore, the project aims to assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices to establish why there is such low biologicals use in SSA, collecting views of small-holder farmers, researchers, policymakers, regulators, and inputs suppliers. The project is creating an increased understanding and knowledge on the multifaceted hurdles of using biologicals.

The project has a distinct South-to-South cooperation, with the different countries being at different stages of development in the biologicals sector. On one extreme, there is South Africa, where the sector is somewhat developed with some supporting systems but still weak. On the other extreme is Ethiopia, where the sector is new and supporting systems are missing. Kenya stands between the two countries, where the government and other stakeholders support agricultural biologicals, but the sector is still at an infant stage.

When communicating with stakeholders, the challenges seem to differ across the countries ranging from establishment appropriate policies, and defining the rule and regulations of agricultural biologicals, to creating distribution and market development systems and increasing farmers' awareness on the potential of agricultural biologicals.

Coming year within AgriFoSe2030

The coming year, 2022, will be an exciting year with new AgriFoSe2030 projects being initiated, and substantial change and contributions realised towards SDG2 targets in all existing projects. We encourage interested readers to check out the AgriFoSe2030 website (slu.se/agrifose) for new activities.



Countries where AgriFose2030 is active with different projects 2021. Illustration: Cajsa Lithell

AgriFoSe 2030

Agriculture for
Food Security 2030

Translating Science Into Policy & Practice



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