

Transforming African Value Chains

Achievements of Value Chain
Transformation



Value Chain Transformation

How we work

We have a vision of food value chains that are economically viable, inclusive, and resilient, contributing to improved food and nutrition security; creating local economic value and supporting increased regional trade in Africa.

We bring public and private partners with shared ambitions to make commodity production and trade more sustainable and more inclusive. With their combined interests, strengths and knowledge, and their key roles in international and domestic commodity markets, we design and carry out and co-invest in generating public good for a more sustainable and more inclusive food system.

Our Value Chain Transformation team operates in Africa and follows a business-led approach to improve incomes and working conditions, support gender equity and make business more environmentally friendly.



Our impact



Sector Governance

Value Chain transformation convenes with partners from private sector, civil society, governments, and stakeholders at national, regional, and continental levels to align commitments and transform value chains.



Improve Business Practices

We conduct value chain analyses and implement business analytics for companies, SMEs, and sector platforms. Our efforts focus on optimising the extension models of private and public players to enhance the capacity of food producers towards climate-resilient production, improving businesses' management and technical capacity for investment readiness and innovation for SMEs, and strengthening sourcing relationships between SMEs and off-takers.



Promote Field Level Innovations

Our field-level projects focus on sustainable sourcing and service delivery to SHFs, sharing best practices and introducing innovations to increase productivity in business models and improve the livelihoods of SHFs.

Main goals of VCT



Market led

We are increasing the certainty and impact of value chain investments.



Premium markets

Partner with off-takers (retail, FMCGs, traders), SMEs, financial institutions, and formalise markets.



Increase investment

Millions of SME SHFs in Africa can take advantage of this opportunity.

Food Systems Transformation in Action

Innovations in Agri SMEs

- Block Farms
- Commission based agent networks in Uganda
- Farmer Organisation Segmentation - based on our work in Rwanda
- Farm Management Information Systems
- Service Coalition
- The service hubs in Uganda
- Tripartite Financing Agreements

Partners

- Africa Improved Foods (AIF) **Rwanda**
- Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) **Ethiopia**
- Flour Milling Association of Nigeria (FMAN) **Nigeria**
- Guinness **Ghana, Nigeria**
- Industrial Cassava Stakeholders Association of Nigeria (ICSAN) **Nigeria**
- National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) **Rwanda**
- Nestlé **Ghana, Nigeria**
- Rujo Agritrade **Ghana**
- Tamanaa Company Ltd **Ghana**
- The U Can Grow **South Africa**





Sector governance

The Southern African Food Systems Transformation Alliance, a collaboration led by businesses, aims to encourage investment from food companies in smallholder farmers (SHFs), small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and African food processing companies. By 2033, the alliance is targeting 80% of total viable sourcing to come from within the SADC region.

In Nigeria, the Food Systems Transformation Alliance brought together supply chain actors to discuss food production and value additions. Additionally, with support from IDH, the Industrial Cassava Stakeholders Association of Nigeria implemented a strategic report that positioned the organization as the leading advocacy group for the cassava sector.

In Ghana, IDH organized the National Rice Fair, engaging key stakeholders in discussions about the challenges and opportunities within the rice value chain. This initiative raised awareness among policymakers about the industry's potential and highlighted the need for policies that support growth in the sector. Furthermore, IDH joined the Horticulture Business Platform, strengthening its involvement in the industry.

In Rwanda, the Horticulture and Grains program successfully brought together 44 value chain actors, including SMEs and service providers, to establish a funding agreement, reflecting the sector's strong willingness to collaborate.





Improved Business Practices

We conducted value chain analyses and implemented business analytics for companies, SMEs, and sector platforms. Our efforts were focused on optimising the extension models of private and public players to enhance the capacity of food producers towards climate-resilient production, improving businesses' management and technical capacity for investment readiness and innovation for SMEs, and strengthening sourcing relationships between SMEs and off-takers.

In 2023, the Grains for Growth (G4G) program in Ghana provided quality standard training and trade missions to off-taker processing facilities for SMEs to build capacity and ensure the provision of quality grains to meet local premium market specifications. The program also supported SME out-grower farmers with tarpaulins and equipment for post-harvest handling.

103 SMEs participated in these sessions. Also, Tamanaa (SME) trained 1,500 women on briquette production and marketing as an environmentally friendly source of energy used for parboiling rice.

The capacity-building programs worked with 31,592 farmers across 71 value chain actors in Rwanda. The training opportunities focused on cooperative governance, financial literacy, and good agricultural practices. IDH recruited two service providers to train the farmers to ensure ongoing support. A novel framework was also designed to categorise cooperatives based on maturity levels. The graduation model proved to be effective. Seven out of 21 cooperatives reached the mature stage, showcasing a remarkable leap in their operational efficiency and resilience.

In Kenya, the farmers have registered a fish cooperative, this common platform provides value addition opportunities.





Generating proven field-level innovations

Our field-level projects were focused on sustainable sourcing and service delivery to SHFs, sharing best practices and introducing innovations to increase productivity in business models and improve the livelihoods of SHFs.

In 2023, a block farming model was implemented for selected sorghum farmers of U3 Agrinet under our Grains for Growth program in Ghana. This model has proven to be highly efficient, particularly when lands are scattered, and fertile lands are scarce and expensive to develop.

Moreover, the G4G program, through 12 SMEs participating in the program, supported the creation of 122,958 seasonal jobs and producing more than 57,074 metric tons of crops.

In Nigeria, IDH supported a total of four SMEs in becoming commercially viable. The program focused on capacity building of 22,115 SHFs on agronomic practices and post-harvest handling. Additionally, the SHFs were provided with access to an improved market, while a total of 15,605 smallholder farmers were reached with input pre-financing. A total of 133,602 MT of sustainable grains was produced by the SHFs. In 2023, a total of 67 permanent and 102,080 seasonal jobs were created by the SMEs.

In Rwanda, the adoption rate of the cob model for maize was a significant achievement. This approach reduced post-harvest losses and improved quality: the rejection decreased to less than 5%. The project has risen productivity in bean and bird eye chilli production, with optimum yields observed at 9MT and 16.5MT per year. With regards to maize, the national average yield for supported cooperatives has jumped from 1.6 MT to an inspiring 3.5 MT. Over 33,083 farmers received access to input and technology in 2023 and the project empowered 14 farmer cooperatives to become registered maize Agro dealers.

In Kenya, the application of good aquaculture practices enabled the achievement of 1.5 and 2 production cycles per year for pond and cage farmers, respectively. Further, the stocking density increased by 67% for pond farmers and 30% for cage farmers, while the fingerlings survival rate has also increased by 85%.



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