



# Expert Talks: Promoting the scaling of good practices through South-South Cooperation

## ABF – Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains

### General context and approach

The Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF) is a project of the German Development Cooperation launched in 2020 and designed as a pan-African knowledge and advisory hub. ABF is implementing the Joint Action “Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains” which is a combined effort of the EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), the Organization of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the German Government through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Under this Joint Action, ABF aims to contribute to economic and climate change resilience of the cocoa, maize and livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) value chains and to food security, increased income, and employment in the 79 OACPS Member States under Samoa Agreement.



<b>Topics covered in 2024 and 2025</b>	<p>Cocoa: Traceability in agricultural value chains, EUDR compliance, EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD),</p> <p>Livestock: Climate action and carbon credits in the livestock value chain</p> <p>Maize: Voluntary carbon markets and standards</p> <p>Overarching: Voluntary carbon markets and standards, Agribusiness policy, Import Promotion Desk; Access to finance, GlobalGAP – B2B certification of agriculture, Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Inclusive climate action in the ABF covered value chains</p>
<b>Strategic Partners</b>	African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
<b>Documentation</b>	<p>Website: <a href="#">Agri-Business Facility for Africa</a></p> <p>YouTube recordings: <a href="#">Expert Talk Series</a></p>

The Expert Talks help foster the knowledge and skills of rural micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and unfold their potential as suppliers, investors, and employers in climate resilient maize, cocoa, cattle, goat, and sheep value chains. **Expert Talks are tools for demand-driven knowledge sharing.** They pave the way for South-South collaboration and broad- and up-scaling of tried-and-tested approaches.

## Why Expert Talks on Agribusiness in OACPS Member States?

Investment towards the scaling of successful agribusiness approaches is urgently needed to promote value chain resilience and to serve lucrative markets. Re-inventing the wheel is not an option as tried-and-tested approaches are already out there. Through the Expert Talks private sector actors all along the maize, cocoa, cattle, goat, and sheep value chains are supported to develop agribusiness skills and make informed investment decisions.

Expertise and evidence-based good practices across the entire value chain from micro- meso- to macro-level are shared for further uptake by MSMEs and the public sector. Additionally, showcasing of experiences and successes from private-sector implementation and complementary research also inform effective policy advisory and design, thereby bringing solutions to an even larger scale.

## Common Themes in Expert Talks

Topics of the Expert Talks cover value chain specific and innovative topics such as business and production practices, market access, access to finance sector regulation and effective policies.

**Exploring Effective Approaches:** The Expert Talks explore what approaches have worked and where additional support or leverage is needed to bring solutions to scale, thereby promoting growth and employment to levels that foster the next generations of young agribusiness professionals.

**Scaling and Investment for Growth and Employment:** The Expert Talks focus on private sector-led interventions that support agribusiness growth and employment in climate resilient cocoa, maize, cattle, sheep, and goat value chains.

## Who are Our Expert Talks for?

Expert Talks focus on experiences of private sector actors that invest in and work towards resilience of the maize, cocoa, cattle, goat, and sheep value chains. The sessions are open to a broader community of professionals in the agribusiness sector. Each group benefits in unique ways:

At the micro level:

**Producers & Value-Chain Operators:** Farmers, traders, processors and exporters seeking practical insights to improve productivity, meet market standards, discover market and finance opportunities and stay competitive.

**Service & Input Providers:** Suppliers, technicians, and agri-tech innovators looking to understand producers' needs and deliver effective, tailored solutions.

**Interested & Emerging Agripreneurs:** Individuals entering or exploring the sector who need accessible knowledge and exposure to current trends and opportunities.

At the meso level:

**Knowledge & Advisory Professionals:** Extension agents, researchers and trainers who require updated, actionable information to support farmers and enterprises.

At the macro level:

**Policy & Regulatory Stakeholders:** Government agencies and policy makers seeking evidence-based insights to guide policy development and sector regulation.

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