



Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF)

Joint Action with EU-INTPA: Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains

General context

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) dominate agriculture in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP countries). MSMEs therefore feed majority of the urban population and supply valuable raw materials for local and international industry. Women play a decisive role in this area, but have only limited access to land, technological inputs, information, training, or labour rights. Agriculture is also severely affected by climate change. This means it is important to adopt agricultural practices and improve climate protection and resilience.

The Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF) project is co-implementing the Joint Action “Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains” to improve rural development and agriculture. It strengthens the reach and effectiveness of both online and face-to-face agricultural training, while promoting investments in climate-resilient value chains across member states of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).



ABF team distribution

Project name	Agri-Business Facility for Africa Co-implementing the Joint Action “Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains”
Partner Countries	Africa (BMZ) All 79 OACPS member states (EU)
Volume	37,498,821 EUR (23,810,854 EUR by EU; 13,687,967 EUR by BMZ)
Duration	January 2020 to June 2027
Implementing Partners	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



The approach and activities

The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships (EU INTPA) under the Samoa Agreement with the OACPS. The project aims to improve the broad impact of private and public agricultural support measures and institutions for MSMEs which enable those responsible along agricultural value chains (VCs) to invest in climate-resilient practices and VCs. Under the co-financing, ABF focuses on the VCs maize, livestock (cattle, sheep, goat) and cocoa. All in all, ABF is implementing activities in the following three areas:

1. Skills for agribusiness

The project scales successful training approaches and instruments, especially for climate-resilient agricultural entrepreneurship. To achieve this, it is expanding the [Agribusiness e-Academy's](#) online training offer and providing advice on face-to-face training approaches. It also uses blended learning, a mixture of face-to-face and online learning formats, and has founded an association for master trainers and trainers.

2. Matching Grant Fund

As part of a competitive Matching Grant Fund (MGF), ABF promotes ideas that improve the cocoa, maize, and livestock value chains. The fund promotes excellence, ownership, and competitiveness. It also mobilises additional funds for the implementation of the multi-actor partnerships.

3. Innovation & Agribusiness Linkages through South-South Cooperation

The project supports South-South exchange and cooperation: events such as expert talks, exchange formats and conferences assist in sharing experiences and best practices. The project also promotes regional and nationwide public-private dialogue in order to overcome challenges in value chains.

Achievements

- ABF and partners have reached over 2 million smallholder farmers, supported 3,000 plus cooperatives and strengthened more than 69,000 processors – with 35%, 34% and 92% being women respectively.
- ABF's [Agribusiness e-Academy](#) has achieved significant reach since its launch in May 2022, reaching over 79,200 learners, including 28,000 women, and partnered with more than 10 academic institutions.
- Within the framework of the MGF, [65 agribusiness projects](#) across 23 countries (21 in Africa + Dom Rep + Vanuatu) have been co-financed – mobilizing approximately €8.7 million to support sustainable cocoa, maize, and livestock value chains in ACP countries.
- 15 good practices fostering the climate resilience of cocoa, maize cattle, goat, and sheep value chains have been identified.
- As part of scaling good practices, a series of Expert Talks on access to finance, carbon markets and traceability have been organised to strengthen MSMEs' knowledge and skills - unlocking their potential as suppliers, investors and employers.
- Through strategic convenings of MGF partners, over 40 B2B partnerships have been established to promote innovation and market linkages across Africa.

ABF contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication



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