



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Annual Review 2017

## FAO Investment Centre

With the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the international community agreed to deliver on an ambitious development agenda by 2030. Investing in food and agriculture is essential to achieving the SDGs.

**A**mbitious development agenda calls for extraordinary efforts – efforts that must be financed. Public funding through Official Development Assistance alone will never be enough. Now more than ever we need to mobilize private investment for development and explore innovative ways to make sure finances reach where they are needed most. **Partnerships**, solidarity and a willingness to come together across regions, countries and sectors are key for delivering on the 2030 Agenda.

FAO calculates that incremental resources of up to USD 265 billion a year are required to eliminate poverty and hunger by 2030.

### A unique model

Founded in 1964, FAO's Investment Centre partners with governments, international financing institutions (IFIs), national organizations, the private sector and producer organizations to provide **investment support services** to developing and transition countries in food security, nutrition, agriculture, rural development and sustainable natural resources management. It currently supports operations in about 70 countries.

The Investment Centre, the corporate focal point for partnerships with major IFIs, brings innovation, knowledge and technical and policy expertise to bear on the investment process, supporting countries in the **design, implementation and evaluation of food and agriculture investment strategies**, plans, programmes and projects.

FAO's global mandate to support investment is provided through three geographic services: **sub-Saharan Africa; Asia and the Pacific; and Europe, Central Asia, Near East, North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.**

Total amount of investment mobilized during 2017 with FAO support



Total number of policy support activities carried out in 2017



Human resources mobilized by FAO Investment Centre in 2017



Creating an **enabling environment** for investments in food and agriculture is at the heart of FAO's support to its member countries. Linking policy assistance with investment support is key for achieving impact at scale.

Number and value of investment projects financed by IFI partners, developed with substantial FAO Investment Centre support, by region (2017)



Map Source: FreeVectorMaps.com, 2014

The Investment Centre is the corporate focal point for partnerships with major IFIs to design investment projects, leverage resources and provide high-level technical support that responds to countries' needs.

often supports governments to set up consultation platforms to institutionalize such dialogue, and it provides overall policy advice. This approach helps identify policy, legislative, regulatory and fiscal barriers hindering development, as well as options for more responsible investments. The Centre's **capacity development services** are highly specialized and designed to strengthen the ability of people and institutions to make better investment decisions.

In 2017, overall the Investment Centre contributed to the design, technical assistance, supervision or evaluation of 153 projects in 68 countries. Over 800 missions and desk studies were undertaken to support member countries.

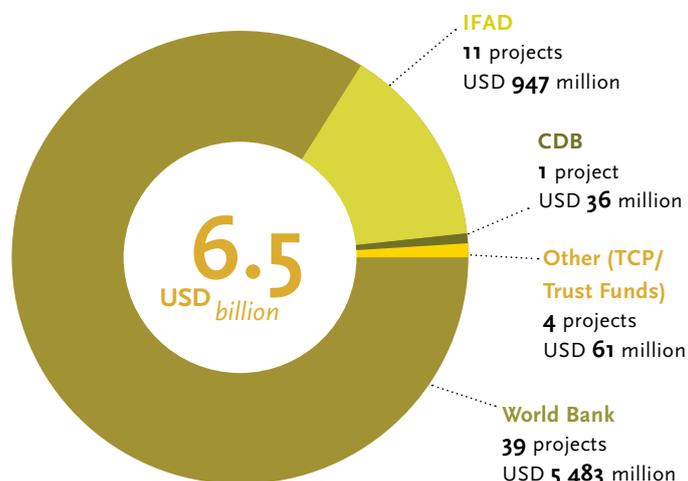
### Future Perspectives

The Investment Centre continues to adapt its skills and expertise to respond to new challenges. Future areas of interest include stronger linkages between policy and investment, and effective mechanisms to crowd-in investment from the public and private sector. FAO, particularly through the Investment Centre, is ready to bring its expertise to bear on promising opportunities in social impact investing and climate financing, and innovations in technology.

**What is clear is that if the international community is to end poverty and hunger by 2030, protect the earth's resources for generations to come and address other complex global problems, investing in innovative solutions and greater collaboration between the public and private sectors are an absolute must.**

*Mohamed Manssouri, Director, FAO Investment Centre*

Number and value of investment projects financed by IFI partners, developed with substantial FAO Investment Centre support, by financing institution (2017)



The Investment Centre helps **mobilize and coordinate investments** in food and agriculture at country level, assisting governments in developing appropriate strategies and agricultural investment plans. In doing so, it helps countries make better investment decisions and align their policies and investments across various line ministries.

It acts as a **neutral broker and facilitates dialogue** among a wide range of public and private actors, including farmers – the largest investors – banks and financing institutions. It



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