RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS: WHY IT MATTERS

The eradication of hunger and poverty is one of the most pressing challenges of our times, as recognized by the first two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a majority of the world’s poor and food insecure live in rural areas of developing countries, agriculture and rural development are key for the achievement of both goals.

Unfortunately, the agricultural sector suffers from serious underinvestment with additional investments of USD 265 billion per year needed to achieve the first two SDGs. However, not all kinds of investments contribute to these goals and some may even be counterproductive. Some investments are associated with significant risks for all actors involved. Hence, in order to generate sustainable benefits for all, it is important to ensure not only more but better investments. It is crucial to enhance and promote investments that are responsible, for instance investments that create decent work, build infrastructure and contribute to healthy soils.
WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (CFS-RAI)?

The CFS-RAI are ten principles endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2014. Their aim is to promote more and better investments in agriculture and food systems, including investments in fisheries, forests and livestock, from production to consumption by providing guidance to all stakeholders, such as governments, private enterprises, farmer’s organizations and others.

HOW IS FAO SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE APPLICATION OF THE CFS-RAI?

Through FAO’s Umbrella Programme “Supporting Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems”, FAO is providing support to responsible investments and the application of the CFS-RAI by engaging relevant actors including small-scale producers and their organizations, policy makers, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector. FAO is raising awareness about the CFS-RAI principles among various stakeholders and is strengthening capacities to apply the principles.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS?

You can support responsible investment in agriculture and food systems by raising awareness and applying the CFS-RAI. Applying the CFS-RAI will not only generate sustainable benefits for you but will also benefit other actors and the community.

CONTACT

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