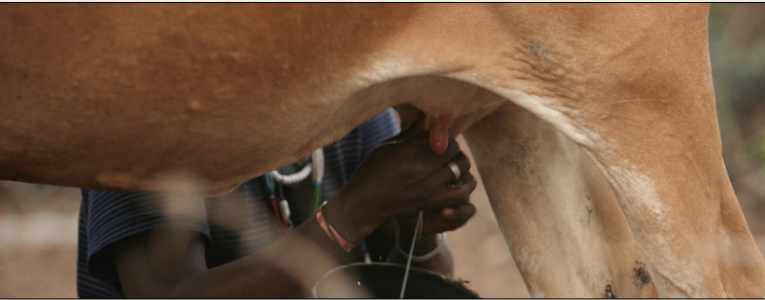




©FAO/AU/Yohannes Zirotti



©FAO/Luis Tato

This newsletter provides information on the FAO project “AgrInvest - Enabling inclusive and efficient private sector investment in agri-food systems” (AgrInvest-FS). The newsletter is a core tool for sharing knowledge among members of the project.

GCP/GLO/002/ITA

## WELCOME

Happy 2021 and welcome to the second issue of AgrInvest-FS Flash News, a quarterly newsletter to keep you updated on the project. AgrInvest-FS aims to attract private investments into agri-food systems aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by leveraging public funds.

This newsletter will share information and knowledge about the project, through several different features, such as: weekly results and achievements; alerts for new publications; success stories; messages from the team; upcoming events; links to project videos and photos; links to online discussions; and much more.

In this issue you will find:

1. An article on our latest workshop in Burkina Faso;
2. Insights from the newly released publication on food systems in Kenya;
3. An article about agricultural finance training for financial institutions in Burkina Faso and Niger;
4. Takeaways from the workshop “Grow agribusiness”.

Enjoy your reading!  
The AgrInvest-FS Team

## 1. Workshop in Ouagadougou “Enabling inclusive and efficient private sector investments in the Burkina Faso agri-food systems”

On 4 November 2020, as part of the AgrInvest-FS project, FAO organized the workshop “Enabling inclusive and efficient private sector investments in the Burkina Faso agri-food systems” in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The objectives of the event were to present the project to key stakeholders from the private and the public sectors, and to collaboratively identify two agri-food value chains to be prioritized with the support of AgrInvest-FS.

In order to comply with the safety measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of participants was restricted to 27 attendees.

The event also served to present and validate the first study developed under the project for Burkina Faso, the “Political economy analysis of the Burkina Faso food systems” carried out in partnership with The European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM).



©FAO/Margherita Bavagnoli

Figure 1 Ms. Huguette Bama, Director-General of the Investment Agency of Burkina Faso (Agence Burkina Faso des Investissements) being interviewed on national television after the workshop.



This analysis proposes rice and aquaculture as the key value chains to be prioritized, given their potential to improve socio-economic outcomes and the sustainability of the country's food systems, as well as their complementarity at the territorial level, particularly in the western regions of Burkina Faso. As result of a series of round-table discussions and group work identifying constraints and opportunities in the selected value chains, the participants validated the study and confirmed their interest in prioritizing aquaculture and rice.

"Fish farming is a sector with strong economic and social potential in Burkina Faso. The Government has showed its interest in the sector by formulating a national development strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for 2025", pointed out Ms. Huguette Bama, Director-General of the Investment Agency of Burkina Faso (Agence Burkinabè des Investissements) and moderator of the event, during the discussions.

The results of this workshop will serve as a basis for a technical study, analysing the two value chains in greater detail.

## 2. AgrInvest-FS launches its "Political economy analysis of the Kenyan food systems"

As result of a partnership with ECDPM, the project has just released its first food systems assessment for Kenya taking a political economy approach. This study maps Kenya's food systems, outlining in broad terms its social, environmental, and economic outcomes, as well as its key actors, political economy features and sustainability challenges and opportunities.

The analysis also provides information to guide the interventions under the AgrInvest-FS project. The analysis led to the identification of two promising value chains for SDG-aligned investments, namely **indigenous vegetables** and **aquaculture**, and of the bottlenecks that currently impede more investments in Kenya. According to the study, in the country, not only has undernourishment been rising for several years, but overweight, and unhealthy diets are increasing, coupled with signs of unsustainable natural resource depletion. The study suggests that investments and

policies should be reoriented to support nutrition-sensitive value chains such as **indigenous vegetables** and **aquaculture**, for more sustainable production and diversification.

The authors point out that the trajectory of Kenya's food systems could also be improved to benefit simultaneously human health, the environment, and the economy, by rebalancing national and international support for the food economy to better serve national and local markets, proposing a territorial approach (focusing on the area from the national capital to Lake Victoria) and not only global value chains.

Download the full study here:

<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb2259en>

## 3. Improving the capacity of the financial institutions of Burkina Faso and Niger in relation to agricultural and rural finance

On 4 December 2020 the 4-week online training course "Agricultural and rural finance" (FAR) came to end. It was organized by the Appui au développement autonome (ADA) and FAO, and supported by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, through the Improving Capacity Building in Rural Finance (CABFIN) initiative which aims to improve capacity building in rural finance.

The programme targeted the managers of financial institutions – including microfinance institutions – and



**Figure 2** Adama Ouattara, Portfolio Manager, BAOBAB Burkina Faso (Burkinabè des Investissements) being interviewed on national television after the workshop.





programme officers in public-sector agencies working on financial products designed for agriculture.

The AgrInvest-FS project enabled 14 representatives of financial institutions from Burkina Faso and Niger to be among the 64 participants of the FAR. “Our microfinance institution, BAOBAB Burkina, does not yet serve agricultural clients, but the issue of developing agricultural products has been under discussion for the past three years. However, the lack of internal capacity to assess the profitability of this market segment and develop targeted products, has prevented us from entering the sector.

This training programme has provided me with the tools to mainstream agriculture into our operations, supporting BAOBAB Burkina to develop financial products for agriculture”, said Mr. Adama Ouattara, Portfolio Manager at BAOBAB Microfinance, Burkina Faso, at the end of the training programme (Figure 2).

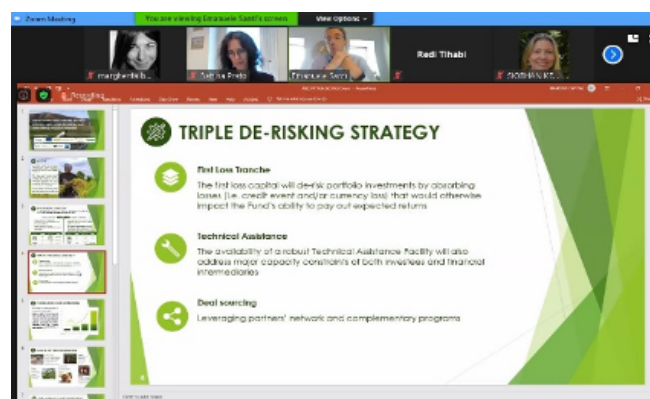
#### 4. The Agrinvest-FS project at the FAO - UNIDO “GROW AGRIBUSINESS AFRICA” workshop

“How can we grow African agribusinesses? How do FAO and UNIDO assist governments to attract sustainable and responsible investments in agriculture? How can we de-risk agricultural investments in the region?”

These are some of the key questions that over 130 participants from 35 African FAO and UNIDO country teams - together with Government representatives and local partner counterparts - grappled with at the “Grow Agribusiness Africa” online workshop organized from 8 to 10 December 2020 by the two organizations. FAO and UNIDO experts shared the Accelerator

for Agriculture and Agroindustry Development and Innovation (3ADI+) and AgrInvest approaches, across a wide range of countries with multiple stakeholders and sustainable value chain techniques. Examples were shared from all over Africa, working on value chains ranging from the poultry and dairy sectors to palm oil which highlighted the key ingredients for success while managing trade-offs for a viable food systems approach.

Speakers from Convergence, the Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN), Aceli Africa, and Bamboo Capital added their voices from an agri-investment group perspective (Figure 3), challenging FAO and UNIDO to work more closely with investors, especially in research and development or enterprise-support interventions to improve agricultural financing systems for African small and medium-sized enterprises.



**Figure 3** Emanuele Santi, Fund Manager (Bamboo Capital) and Bettina Prato, Senior Coordinator (SAFIN) discussing potential strategies for de-risking agribusinesses in Africa.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation

This document was produced with assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FAO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the Italian Government.

For more information visit:

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/agrinvest-food-systems/en/>

Kindly send any contributions or requests at:

[Agriinvest-Food-Systems@fao.org](mailto:Agriinvest-Food-Systems@fao.org)



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) licence