FAO INVESTMENT CENTRE
2021 AT A GLANCE

FAO aims to provide sustainable agrifood investment and finance solutions to member countries and investors including international and national financial Institutions. The ultimate goal is to help countries achieve their sustainable development goals and the promise of the four betters – better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

For almost 60 years, the FAO Investment Centre has helped countries make more and better investments in food and agriculture to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition, improve rural livelihoods and protect the environment.

The needs of the people and countries that FAO serves come first. Working in almost 130 countries, the Centre provides a full suite of investment support. It acts as a bridge between member countries and financing partners to scale up investment for greater impact, support better enabling conditions for policy and investment and integrate FAO’s vast technical knowledge and expertise into national investment planning.

In 2021, despite ongoing COVID-19 constraints, the Centre helped design 42 public investment projects in 37 countries approved by financing partners for around USD 7.2 billion – up from the previous year’s USD 6.6 billion. The Centre continued to provide implementation support to 245 ongoing public investment projects in 91 countries. It also contributed to 20 agricultural strategies, 26 policy studies, 24 sector studies and 21 policy dialogues and events. Since launching its Knowledge for Investment (K4I) programme in 2020, the Centre has published 35 knowledge products on topics ranging from climate-sensitive agriculture investment to agriculture human capital investment, among many others.
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES
The emerging food, energy and financial crisis, compounded by the war in Ukraine, supply chain disruptions and climate change, is pushing more people into poverty and hunger. There is an urgent need to transform the world’s agrifood systems.

Stronger country focus
In the coming years, the Centre will intensify its country focus and outreach, strengthen, expand and diversify its partnerships and engage in more strategic collaboration across FAO to scale up agrifood investment. The goal is to better serve the critical needs of countries, working through financing partners and with member countries directly.

FAO’s Hand-in-Hand initiative and the analysis from the large-scale food systems assessments and national dialogues provide good policy and investment entry points for transforming agrifood systems. The Centre will continue to help countries advance the transformation agenda for real change.

More resilient and greener agrifood systems
The Centre will continue to evolve as it seeks to increase public and private agrifood investment and build more resilient and greener agrifood systems. That means expanding its work in areas like agrifood logistics and food distribution, climate, green and blue finance, impact investing, dedicated de-risking and blended financing instruments, and financial technologies (fintechs). Public development banks, with their development mandate and ability to finance public and private sectors, can boost agrifood financing and build bridges between stakeholders. As the Centre works to create the conditions for more diversified financial ecosystems, it will place greater emphasis on working with national development banks and national financing institutions.

Behind every good investment is good knowledge
The Centre brings the latest knowledge, thinking and innovations from FAO and beyond for better agrifood investment. It partners with international and national financing institutions, technical experts, research centres, academia and public and private sector innovators to address critical knowledge gaps in investment and finance, provide high-quality analysis and use new tools. It will continue to grow its body of K4I products. And it will help member countries and investors develop their capacity to manage investments in agrifood systems transformation.