

I am here on behalf of Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger. We're a team of three partners: IFPRI, Cornell University, and IISD. It is an honour to be here today, two years after we first announced the project at the CFS.

Ceres2030 is a research project designed to support the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, in particular, SDG 2. We focused on 2 questions. First: What are the most effective ways to end hunger, increase the incomes of poor farmers, and protect the climate? And second: What would it cost?

The project involved a global network of 84 researchers from 25 countries who reviewed more than a 100, 000 articles and ran hundreds of thousands of equations to answer these two questions. We were guided by a board of 20 leading food and agriculture experts, and we partnered with the scientific journal Nature.

We used artificial intelligence to scan half a million articles from the past 20 years of agricultural development literature, then worked with eight research teams to synthesise the evidence and turn them into publishable papers, and finally we integrated the findings into a sophisticated economic model to estimate costs.

We grouped the findings in three big buckets. These buckets enabled us to see our solutions as a portfolio of interventions that constantly interact and reinforce each other.

Let me help you visualize them. One, interventions on the farm to directly improve productivity and incomes. Two, investments to improve storage and services that farmers need to move food to markets. And three, the research was unanimous that if we want any of this to work, that we need to empower the excluded, by ensuring every person's right to an education, a decent livelihood, and a political voice. This is the point that I will focus on today.

We had an important wake-up call when we looked at all the findings together. No matter what intervention we chose, they were most effective for people who already had some basic access to capital. And this means capital in ALL its forms. Social capital, like networks and being members of farmers organizations; human capital, like education and vocational training; and financial capital, like access to credit and insurance. This minimum threshold matters. Only then do investments work to their full capacity.

So, what will it cost?

We found that donors need to give an extra USD 14 billion per year from now until 2030. What this means is that donors need to double their current spending on food security and nutrition. The governments of low and middle-income countries also need to make contributions. They need to provide an extra USD 19 billion per year by mobilising domestic resources.

This is a fraction of the money being spent in response to COVID-19, and the gains will be tremendous. If the governments in this room make this modest effort, it would remove almost 500 million people from the daily experience of hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale producers. Importantly, it would generate an extra USD 52 billion in private investment per year in the agriculture and food sectors.

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