

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

30%

of the population live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood

60%

of the population have access to energy

70%

of the GDP comes from agriculture

The East African region has great potential for food production with a majority of the population living in rural areas and working in agriculture. However, small-scale farmers are often struggling with low productivity and high post-harvest losses. Moreover, food production and processing requires significant amount of energy (typically, these are conventional sources, such as diesel or firewood) and groundwater, which exacerbates the depletion of natural resources, biodiversity loss and climate change. In order to address these challenges, innovative Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are working on solutions to make the agriculture and food sector more climate-friendly, water- and energy-efficient. However, these SMEs often lack the capacities and networks to successfully and sustainably market their innovations. Lack of access to suitable finance for innovations poses another obstacle to business development as well as for uptake by small-holder farmers.

**WATER AND ENERGY FOR FOOD (WE4F):
A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT**

WE4F is a joint international initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union (EU), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Announced at World Water Week 2018 and launched at Social Capital Markets 2019 signature event in San Francisco, California, WE4F aims to:

- Increase food production along the value chain through a more sustainable and efficient usage of water and/or energy.
- Increase income for base of the pyramid women and men in both rural and urban areas.
- Sustainably scale innovators' solutions to meet the challenges in the WE4F nexus.
- Promote climate and environmental resilience and biodiversity through the sustainable, holistic management of natural resources and ecosystems.

FOCUS ACTIVITIES

We support the scaling-up of climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable, energy and/or water-efficient innovations in the water, energy and food/ agriculture sectors across the region, with a focus on women and the poor. Innovations include technologies, business and finance models and new modes of cooperation (e.g. sharing economy). Innovations may include weather forecast apps, solar cooling technologies, pay-as-you go models for solar pumping, hydroponic farming approaches, or leasing models for e-motorbikes in rural areas.

SUPPORT TO AND COLLABORATION WITH INNOVATIVE BUSINESSES

We are working closely with the private sector to unleash the potential of innovations. To do this, we have two principle ways of engaging with businesses:

- Competitive Calls for Funding, and
- Public-Private Partnerships.

ENABLE INNOVATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

Innovation ecosystems are made up of different actors, relationships and resources that all play a role in taking a great idea to transformative Impact and systemic change at scale and allow businesses to succeed. We therefore engage in a range of activities to support such ecosystems, including research partnerships, advising policy-making, financing and investor networks, collaborations with industry associations, community outreach and pilot projects, trainings and capacity development

COMMUNICATION, DIALOGUE AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

One of the main advantages of the global structure of WE4F is that lessons learned can be shared around the world, success stories can be adapted and replicated in different contexts, knowledge exchanges and study tours can easily be organised. The Hub will work closely with our partners and other WE4F Hubs to share knowledge, create global knowledge platforms and expand technical knowledge.



OBJECTIVES

- Supporting the distribution of innovations (solar technologies, apps, e-mobility, etc.)
- Strengthening entrepreneurial capacities
- Informing end users and multipliers about innovations
- Improving accessing to financing for innovators and end-users
- Improving political conditions for innovations
- Accelerating the exchange of experiences on the local, regional and global level

WHO WE WORK WITH

WE4F engages companies, non-profit organisations and other actors through advertised regional calls and other means to receive technical assistance, financial grants, investment facilitation, or policy advocacy support.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PROJECT PARTNER?

Contact we4f@giz.de to discuss partnership opportunities and how your organization can be a meaningful part of water-energy-food solutions.