



Greening Food Value Chains in Burkina Faso, Malawi and Tanzania



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This regional initiative set out to develop tools and capacities of partners in the integration of Greening and Sustainability principles in agriculture and food value chains across the Integrated Approaches Pilot Programme countries. Leading this initiative were UNDP and AGRA that provided their long standing expertise and experience in building multi-stakeholder platforms and consortia that bring private sector and related partners together to build sustainability into development initiatives.

The project developed a **Value Chain Greening Manual** that outlines steps in building sustainability into food value chains. To substantiate and build proof points of the steps and principles outlined in the manual, the project developed **three (3) catalytic grants/projects** from which case studies and a learning toolkit will be developed and shared with partners and experts in the field.

The three catalytic grants are as follows:

- 1. Building Sustainability and Resilience in the Maize Value Chain in Burkina Faso.** The project focuses on two key entry points for integrating sustainability principles on the maize value chain - building a responsive and resilient seed system and private sector integration in the value chain;
- 2. Promotion of the Groundnut Value Chain in Malawi's farming systems** for soil health, nutrition and income for women farmers. The project focuses on building the capacities of women and value chain players in developing an Aflatoxin free groundnut value chain; and
- 3. Building the Sorghum Value Chain in the Lake Zone region of Tanzania.** Building this value chain brings back farm level diversity for soil health, food security and incomes of farmers in the region who have continuously been affected by reduced rains as a result of climate change. The project is anchored on an Off-taker, grain processor (Musoma Foods). The project is promoting the use of forward contracts as form of forward financing of sorghum.

A key process that emerged in all three initiatives is in building Multi-Stakeholder platforms that form a an important entry point for technical assistance, in greening processes, inclusive finance products as well as mobilisation of partners to ensure the sustainability of the value chains.



Enhancing resilience of smallholder farmers through the groundnut value chain

Malawi used to be one of the major groundnuts producing countries in the world with annual exports of over 50,000 tons until the late 1980s. The export market of the groundnut value chain collapsed due to, among other things, the high levels of aflatoxin contamination, but also due to market liberalization policies that rendered the value chain uncompetitive because of in-built inefficiencies.

For example, the **groundnut seed systems were unable respond to the changing market needs** due to limited investments in variety development and marketing, as a result farmers relied on recycling of their grain as seeds which compromised quality and yields negatively. Currently, farmers are producing at less than 50% of the potential yield for all the groundnut varieties. Climate change, soil and land degradation have had a negative impact on agriculture and food security as a whole due to low yields of crops. Farmers, particularly smallholder producers, depend on rain-fed agriculture, this exposes them to the risks that result from a changing climate.

In **building the resilience of farmers and food systems, the groundnut crop has many benefits**, from increasing incomes to improving nutrition, the groundnut improves soil fertility. The crop is further resilient to the negative impacts of climate change.

Limited availability and access to extension services, quality seed; the low uptake of improved technologies, high levels of aflatoxin contamination and limited of access to markets are some of the key constraints in the groundnut value chain.

AGRA in partnership with AFAP, with technical and financial support from UNDP are implementing the Sustainable Agriculture Production and Marketing for Rural Transformation (SAPMaRT) project that is working with 20,000 farmers in promoting the groundnut. The project works with partners to strengthen access to extension services and through this Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs). Other interventions include supporting access to quality and resilient groundnuts seed, inoculants, Aflasafe, double row planting coupled with access to structured markets and access to finance.

The SAPMaRT is a 2 year programme funded by Global Environmental Facility through UNDP and AGRA. The project is being implemented by a consortium of four organisations namely African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) responsible for farmer mobilisation and capacity building of community extension agents; Agro-Input Suppliers Limited (AISL) responsible for providing inputs and also buys groundnut, Milele and Fortune Gardens who provide extension services and also buy groundnuts as Off-takers.



What approach did the team take to achieve the impact?

The project followed a consortia approach, this was following a multi-stakeholder and value chain mapping exercise on the ground value chain from input to output markets. This process allowed for the identification of key partners and entry points for the integration of sustainability principles. Another substantive approach was the innovation of community based extension agents who are self financing. The extension agents allowed for strengthening of last mile delivery.

To maximise on impacts, the **project used a combined approach of technical assistance and capacity building** using the training manual and the use of evidence garnered from the catalytic grants.

A **private sector led approach** in strengthening value chains is an areas that needs further investments to ensure scale and sustainability.

