



Food Security and Agriculture

Secure Food for a Growing World and end Hunger

Poverty and hunger are closely linked. It is estimated that more than 690 million people still suffer from hunger in the world, a number that continues to increase¹. Of those, an estimated 155 million people suffer from acute hunger (crisis or worse).² Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 of Agenda 2030 contain the objectives to eradicate hunger and poverty. This is also a priority for Swedish development cooperation. The total disbursement to Food Security and Agriculture was just below SEK 1.3 billion in 2020. Many aspects of Agriculture and Food Security are supported under other areas, thus the sector is significantly larger in real terms and engagement.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sida's disbursements in the field of Agriculture and Food Security are divided into OECD DAC defined subsectors.

The four main areas are:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fishery
- Rural development

Disbursements to the three sectors of agriculture, forestry and fishery were in 2020 just below SEK 1.3 billion, which was about 5 percent of Sida's total disbursements (around 80 percent, 20 percent and less than 1 percent, respectively). This has been at a stable level for the last few years. If rural development is added (approximately SEK 350 million in 2020), the sector reached over 6 percent of Sida's total disbursements. Agriculture, food security and forestry appear also in many other areas of Sida support, thus classified under other sectors, such as private sector cooperation, market development, employment, economic growth, support via civil society and multisector/rural development. Moreover, improved food security is a key component of humanitarian aid. The total support to the thematic area is thereby significantly larger in real terms and engagement, than what the thematic statistical data show.

The Sida portfolio of agriculture demonstrates a diverse picture. It has over the years included support to technological development and agricultural extension services as well as agricultural policy, administration and research. The thematic area also covers land policy reforms and land administration, processing and commercialisation of agricultural products (value chains), training as well as efforts for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, with links to resilience in agricultural systems and environmental issues. During the last five years, there has been a trend towards more support for agricultural development, research and policy, whereas agricultural extension has disappeared. Other sub-sectors, including those of forestry and fishing, remain relatively constant. Attention towards land issues and rights continue, as many of the human rights defenders killed during the last few years were farmers or their representatives.

For several years, Sida has given particular attention to gender and the role of women in agriculture. The agricultural sector is underperforming in many developing countries, often because women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities needed to increase agricultural production. Involving and targeting women not only improve production but also give secondary results such as children's education, better food nutrition and general family health.

¹ FAO, WFP, IFAD, WHO, UNICEF (2020), State of food security and nutrition in the world 2020.

² Food Security Information Network, FSIN (2021), Global report on food crises 2021.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone – and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.



Results

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD

The agricultural sector has, since the late 1980's received less political interest and attention globally, including among aid agencies. With the global food crisis in 2008–2009 and the consequences of sharply increased world market prices, the issue of food production climbed to top priority for many low- and middle-income countries. Today, transforming global food systems, production and its sustainable intensification, is at the top of Agenda 2030 Goals. The food produced by small scale farmers (family farming), remains important as they produce up to 80 percent of the food consumed in the world³.

The UN estimates that agricultural production will have to increase by 50 percent by 2050 to satisfy the expected global demands for food (SDG2, target 2.3). Some of the world's highest rates of population growth are predicted to occur in areas that are highly dependent on the agricultural sector and have high rates of food insecurity. There is at present sufficient capacity in the world to produce enough food to feed everyone adequately; nevertheless, despite progress made over the last two decades, more than 690 million people still suffer from chronic hunger. This number is increasing for the fifth consecutive year, while the number of people suffering from acute hunger (crises or worse) has risen to an alarming rate of 155 million, caused primarily by conflict, climate change and economic shocks and further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The global community now have fears of famines in 2021⁴, while the agenda of the planned UN Food System Summit in September 2021 advances the fundamental transformation of food systems and reversals of these trends.

SIDA'S SUPPORT

Disbursements for Food Security and Agriculture reached nearly SEK 1.3 billion in 2020 (Figure 1). Geographically, the largest part of the funds went to the African continent (50 percent), followed by global disbursement (41 percent), Asia (7 percent), followed by Europe, Oceania and Latin America (less than 2 percent in total) (Figure 2). The CGIAR (a global agricultural research group) received the major part of the global funding. Nearly half of the funds were channelled through multilateral organisations (44 percent), whereas NGOs and civil society received about 35 percent. Around 20 percent of the funds were handled by public and private sector institutions or research and teaching institutions. Around 90 percent of the projects and programmes funded had gender as principal or significant objective.

³ FAO and IFAD (2019), Global Action Plan for Family Farming 2019–2028.
⁴ Food Security Information Network, FSIN (2021), Global report on food crises 2021.

PROJECTS AND SUPPORT

Sida's portfolio of Food Security and Agriculture covers many sub-areas, with projects such as the Sida International Training Programme (ITP) "Healthy Livestock – Safe Food", a multi-agency collaboration that builds capacity around the value-chains to prevent zoonoses and anti-microbial resistance (AMR) in East Africa.

Another example is the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) that addresses both acute food crisis and adaptation measures. In Latin America, Africa and Asia, Oxfam provides support to small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples which has given 150 000 households improved food security and nutrition. Action Against Hunger (ACF) has supported 32 communities and around 350 000 people in Mali with better farming techniques and business skills. Many programmes of food security and agriculture, for instance those implemented by FAO, IFAD, Oxfam and Right and Resources Initiative, have adapted their work to COVID-19.

In Thailand, Sida supports an informal group of tree growers, practicing agroforestry, under the EU Flegt Facility. The trees are an additional income source that provides for savings and access to finance. The long-term goal is to increase the forest area in Thailand from 32 percent to 40 percent.

At the end of 2020, Sida was allocated an additional SEK 50 million towards food security, which provided funding to the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility at IFAD, the Food System Secretariat in Kenya and the Committee for Food Security (CFS) for their work on Voluntary Guidelines for Gender Equality and Food Security.

FIGURE 1: DISBURSEMENT BY SUB-SECTOR WITHIN FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE 2016-2020 (MILLION SEK)

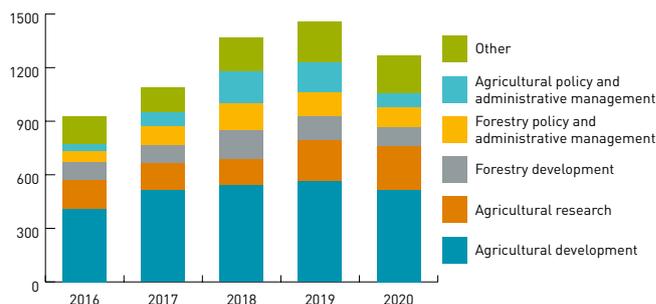


FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DISBURSEMENT IN 2020 (%)

