



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 820 million people still suffer from hunger in the world, a number that continues to increase. 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 SEK 1.4 billion for 2019. 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 the 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 2019 just below 1.4 billion SEK, which was about 5.3 percent of Sida's total disbursements. This has been at a stable level for the last few years. If rural development is added (appr 350 million SEK), the sector increases to nearer 7 percent of the total Sida expenditures. Agriculture, food security and forestry are also widely prominent in many other activities that Sida supports, and thus classified under other sectors. Examples of these are private sector cooperation, market development, employment, economic growth, support via civil society and multisector/rural development. Another example is humanitarian aid where a large part of the support addresses improved food security. A recent portfolio review estimated the total support to the thematic area to be significantly larger in real terms and engagement than what the specific statistical data shows.

Among the three main areas, agriculture remained the largest post with 77 percent of disbursements, while forestry received 20 percent. Fisheries support was 3 percent of disbursements.

Sida's contributions to agriculture accommodate 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, and links to resilience in agricultural systems and environmental issues. During the last five years, there has been a trend towards support for agricultural development and policy, whereas agricultural extension has decreased, with zero spending in 2019. Other sub-sectors, including those of forestry and fishing, remain relatively constant. Land rights are getting renewed attention, as many of the human rights defenders killed during the last few years were farmers or their representatives.

During 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 improves production but also gives secondary results such as children's education and food nutrition as well as better family health generally.

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 donors. 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 production and its sustainable intensification, is at the top of Agenda 2030 Goals. It is also accepted that food must be produced by small scale household farmers (family farming) as these produce up to 80 % of the food consumed in the world¹.

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 820 million people still suffer from chronic hunger. This number is increasing for the fourth consecutive year, while the number of people suffering from acute hunger continues to follow an alarming rate of 135 million, caused primarily by conflict, climate change and economic shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic is feared to exacerbate this and lead to more hunger and even starvation (WFP² and Food Security Information Network 2020).

Two broad directions appear on the horizon to help mitigate the adverse trends above, and are currently discussed by the global community (i.e. UN, including FAO, WFO, IFAD, governments and donors). These are (1) the endorsement of agro-ecology principles and innovative approaches for sustainable agricultural production; and (2) the ambition by the UN to hold a Food System Summit in late 2021.

SIDA'S SUPPORT

Disbursements for Food Security and Agriculture reached SEK 1.4 billion in 2019, of which global cooperation amounted to nearly SEK 500 million (36,3 % of total disbursements). The CGIAR (a global agricultural research partnership) received the major part of this global funding, to support their global research agenda. Geographically, the largest part of the funds went to the African continent (53%), followed by Asia (6,3%), Europe, Oceania and Latin America (4,6 % in total). Nearly half of the funds were channeled through multilateral organisations (46 %), whereas NGOs and civil society received about 30 %. Just over 20 % of the funds were handled by public and private sector institutions or research and teaching institutions.

1 Global Action Plan for Family Farming 2019–2028, FAO and IFAD, 2019.

2 <https://www.wfp.org/news/covid-19-will-double-number-people-facing-food-crises-unless-swift-action-taken>

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 collaboration between the Swedish Veterinary Institute, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the Swedish Food Agency. The programme aims to strengthen institutional capacity in East Africa through the whole value-chain ("from stable to table") in order to prevent zoonoses (virus transmissions from animals to humans) and anti-microbial resistance (AMR), by applying a multi-sectorial approach.

Another project is the collaboration with the Swedish Chemicals Agency, in partnership with FAO, regional NGOs (the Pesticide Action network Asian and Pacific and the Field Alliance) and governments in South East Asia, with the aim to reduce the use of toxic chemicals and support legal regulation of pesticides used in agriculture and industry. Over 160 000 farmers and students were given training in this area during 2019, of which 60 000 also received training in alternative farming practices.

In Zambia about 20 000 farmers received training in sustainable and resilient farming practices, such as agroforestry, whereas the Coffee and Climate Initiative trained over 8 000 farmers in Latin America and Tanzania for better resilience and adaptation to climate change. During 2019 Sida also supported for the first time a guarantee through civil society, directed towards farm cooperatives in Kenya and Tanzania.

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION PER SECTORS WITHIN FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE, MILLION SEK.

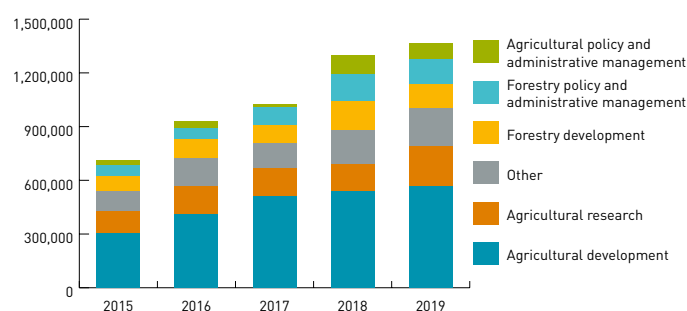


TABLE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION IN PERCENT.

