Fund International Agricultural Research (FIA)

International Agricultural Research

International agricultural research contributes to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, promotes sustainable production and helps to meet the growing demand for healthy food.

To achieve this, the Global Research Partnership for a Food Secure Future (CGIAR) and other research centers (CGIAR ++), deliver science and innovation that advance the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. To do so, they are developing innovative technologies, improved crop varieties, environmentally friendly farming practices and promote animal health.

Overcoming global challenges

More than 820 million people worldwide suffer from hunger and nearly two billion people are malnourished. To feed the world's growing population, agricultural production must increase by 50 percent by 2050. International agricultural research is helping smallholder farmers in developing countries to address the decline of agricultural land, improve soil fertility, and conserve biodiversity. In addition, improved practices reduce food losses in the fields or after harvest due to pests or diseases with improved cultivation and storage practices. The requirements of food production and consumers are taken into account.

What we do

The Fund for International Agricultural Research (FIA) project supports international agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for crops, aquaculture and livestock and to bring them into widespread use in order to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers worldwide. FIA achieves this by funding projects, setting policy priorities, and supporting capacity building and infrastructure.

Our Goal

Smallholder farmers benefit from the CGIAR++ centers' innovations focused on environmental, economic and social sustainability. These innovations provide them with a better income and a healthy diet, while at the same time conserving natural resources.

FIA at a glance

Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation

Cooperations

Global research partnership for a food-secure future (CGIAR), World Vegetable Center, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) Budget & Duration 2019 - 2025 Up to 110.490.000€

Sustainable Development

The projects we support contribute to achieving the following sustainable development goals:



Focus of our work

\Rightarrow Promoting excellent Research

FIA finances and advises projects of the international agricultural research centers:

- 59 bilateral projects were commissioned in total by FIA between 2016 and 2020. These will continue until completion in 2025. In doing so, we ensure scientific quality, development orientation, gender equality and the potential for large-scale usability.
- From the end of 2021, we support the implementation of major *One CGLAR* research initiatives through multilateral funding. Here, FIA is participating in relevant councils. The initiatives work in the three areas of Systems Transformation, Resilient Agro-Food Systems, and Genetic Innovation.

\Rightarrow Capacity Building

We are strengthening the capacity of international research teams on the subject of broad impact (scaling). Through the *Taskforce on Scaling*, FIA is currently supporting the employment of eight European professionals in different research centers to develop and implement scaling strategies.

\Rightarrow Political Agenda Setting

FIA supports the BMZ in framing German contributions to international agricultural research and in positioning itself in current developments. FIA is also a member of the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD).

Currently, the CGIAR centers are being consolidated to make agricultural research more efficient and effective. This "One CGIAR" process is supported by Germany with advice from FIA.

Impacts

Bilateral projects completed in 2020 achieved the following impacts:

CIMMYT developed a new heat-resistant wheat variety that allows earlier sowing -in October instead of November. The use of the new wheat variety resulted in higher average yields (~0.8 t/ha) compared to non-heat resistant wheat and increased income by about \$200/ha. It is already grown by 300,000 farmers on about one million hectares of land in northwestern India. In cooperation with private partners, IITA has developed methods for climate-smart coffee cultivation and trained 16,000 coffee farmers. In addition, an app (Stepwise) was developed to illustrate the cultivation steps. Implementing the new methods by using the app increased coffee yields in Uganda between 53 percent for Arabica and 73 percent for Robusta varieties. It also resulted in a lower incidence of pests and diseases and a reduction of more than 20 percent in the carbon footprint per unit of production.

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