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. Smallholder farmers in developing countries struggle daily with declining farmland, soil infertility, water scarcity and biodiversity loss - factors that are further exacerbated by climate change. In addition, much food is lost in the fields or post-harvest due to pests and diseases, or it does not meet consumer demand.

Through innovative technologies, improved crop varieties and climate-smart farming practices, the Global Research Partnership for a Food Secure Future (CGIAR) and other research centers (CGIAR++) are helping to meet these challenges. In this way, international agricultural research promotes sustainable production, increases the income of smallholder farmers, and helps to meet the growing demand for healthy food.

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 by smallholder farmers.

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.

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

⇒ 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. Supporting these projects, we ensure scientific quality, development orientation, gender equality and the potential for large-scale usability.

- From the end of 2021, we will support the implementation of One CGIAR research initiatives through pooled funding. Here, FIA is participating in relevant advisory councils. The initiatives fall under the three action areas of Systems Transformation, Resilient Agro-Food Systems, and Genetic Innovation.

⇒ Capacity Building
Through the Taskforce on Scaling, FIA is currently supporting the deployment of nine European professionals (integrated experts) in different research centers to develop and implement scaling strategies. FIA thereby strengthens the capacity of international research teams within the CGIAR++ in attaining broad impact.

⇒ Political Agenda Setting
FIA supports the BMZ in communicating 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. The new wheat variety 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 and trained 16,000 coffee farmers in climate-smart coffee cultivation. 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.