



Fund for Human Capacity Cooperation with Partners of International Agricultural Research (PIAF)

Context

Although some progress has been made in reducing hunger and poverty at the regional level, the number of undernourished and malnourished people throughout the world is increasing. Fertile soil is being lost to erosion, urban development, and inappropriate land management practices. Biodiversity is under threat. Climate change is exacerbating many of these problems. New animal and plant diseases are spreading and extreme weather events such as drought, torrential rain and flooding are becoming increasingly frequent and unpredictable. This presents an array of new problems for the global agrifood and nutrition sector. Changes in consumer habits and the trend towards urbanisation also present challenges for sustainable food systems. International agricultural research has a key role to play in increasing harvests with sustainable practices and in producing healthy and nutritious foodstuffs and agricultural commodities that are geared to regional conditions. Improved, drought-tolerant crops, site-appropriate and climate-smart production systems and innovative agricultural technologies are typically developed at international agricultural research

centres. Such centres focus not just on increasing crop yields, but on how food systems need to change if hunger, micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition are to be successfully addressed and the agrifood sector is to offer attractive working and living conditions in rural areas. Important actors in the research sector that receive German support include the members of the global research partnership CGIAR, the World Vegetable Center and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe). Experts at these research centres, which are generally regarded as operating on a public-benefit basis, work on developing interdisciplinary, transnational solutions to global challenges in the agrifood and nutrition sector. Sharing knowledge and expertise with national educational and research partners and with the private sector and policymakers is a key task in this context.

Our objective

The project „Fund for Human Capacity Cooperation with Partners of International Agricultural Research“ (PIAF) places German and European integrated experts in development positions at international agricultural research centres. These experts work to strengthen the research centres' capacities for developing and disseminating agricultural innovations for resource-efficient agriculture, improving internal structures, optimising processes, and forging new professional partnerships.

PIAF at a glance

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Cooperation arrangements

Global research partnership for a food-secure future (CGIAR), the World Vegetable Center, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)

Budget and term

From 2018 to 2024
Total of up to EUR 10.6 million

Sustainable development

The projects we support help achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



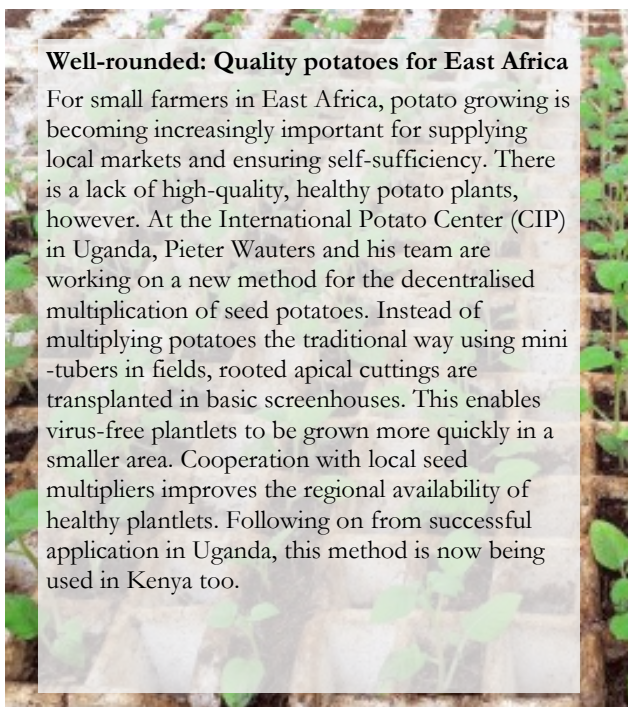
Approach

The project places appropriate German and other European experts in development positions in the 15 agricultural centres of CGIAR, the global research partnership for a food-secure future, in line with needs. It also places experts at the World Vegetable Center and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe). The research centres employ the experts in line with local terms and conditions. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH provides subsidies and social contributions to supplement the European experts' salaries. It also prepares them for their assignment and offers advice and security services in the partner country in the event of a crisis.

Both the positions and the applicants are selected in line with demand and with the partner's needs, taking into account opportunities for cooperation and networking with other projects of technical cooperation. GIZ's

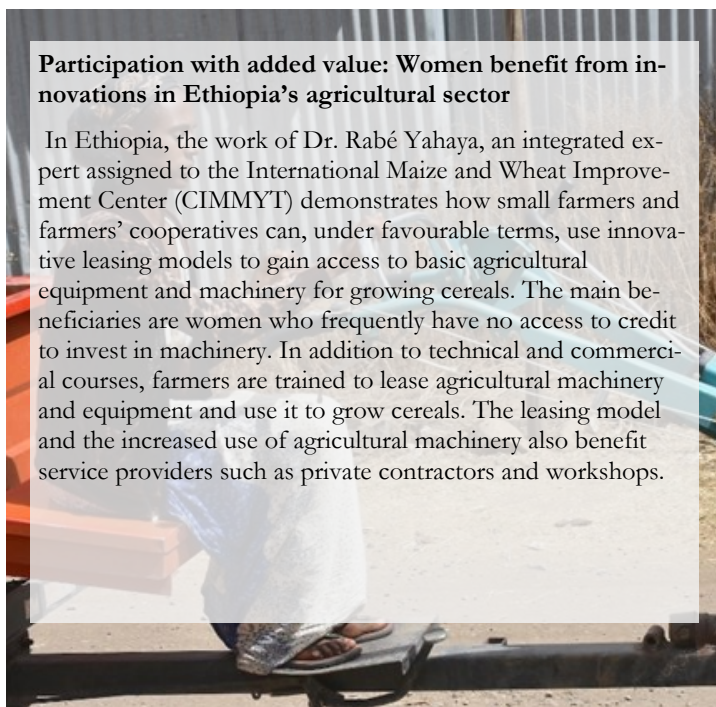
partner in Germany is the International Placement Services (ZAV), a division of the German Federal Employment Agency, which specialises in placing experts and managers in the international labour market. GIZ and ZAV jointly run the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) in Eschborn. During an assignment, GIZ documents the results of cooperation and assists in knowledge management. PIAF also provides training and other continuing education measures to support national researchers in the partner countries who work on the research projects.

Examples of our work



Well-rounded: Quality potatoes for East Africa

For small farmers in East Africa, potato growing is becoming increasingly important for supplying local markets and ensuring self-sufficiency. There is a lack of high-quality, healthy potato plants, however. At the International Potato Center (CIP) in Uganda, Pieter Wauters and his team are working on a new method for the decentralised multiplication of seed potatoes. Instead of multiplying potatoes the traditional way using mini-tubers in fields, rooted apical cuttings are transplanted in basic screenhouses. This enables virus-free plantlets to be grown more quickly in a smaller area. Cooperation with local seed multipliers improves the regional availability of healthy plantlets. Following on from successful application in Uganda, this method is now being used in Kenya too.



Participation with added value: Women benefit from innovations in Ethiopia's agricultural sector

In Ethiopia, the work of Dr. Rabé Yahaya, an integrated expert assigned to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) demonstrates how small farmers and farmers' cooperatives can, under favourable terms, use innovative leasing models to gain access to basic agricultural equipment and machinery for growing cereals. The main beneficiaries are women who frequently have no access to credit to invest in machinery. In addition to technical and commercial courses, farmers are trained to lease agricultural machinery and equipment and use it to grow cereals. The leasing model and the increased use of agricultural machinery also benefit service providers such as private contractors and workshops.

Further information is available at

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/78402.html>

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