



# Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF)

## Joint Action with EU-INTPA: Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains

### General context

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) dominate agriculture in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP countries). MSMEs therefore feed majority of the urban population and supply valuable raw materials for local and international industry. Women play a decisive role in this area, but have only limited access to land, technological inputs, information, training, or labour rights. Agriculture is also severely affected by climate change. This means it is important to adopt agricultural practices and improve climate protection and resilience.

The Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF) project is co-implementing the Joint Action "Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains" to improve rural development and agriculture. It strengthens the reach and effectiveness of both online and face-to-face agricultural training, while promoting investments in climate-resilient value chains across member states of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).



ABF team distribution

<b>Project name</b>	Agri-Business Facility for Africa Co-implementing the Joint Action "Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains"
<b>Partner Countries</b>	Africa (BMZ) All 79 OACPS member states (EU)
<b>Volume</b>	37,498,821 EUR (23,810,854 EUR by EU; 13,687,967 EUR by BMZ)
<b>Duration</b>	January 2020 to June 2027
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

## The approach and activities

The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships (EU INTPA) under the Samoa Agreement with the OACPS. The project aims to improve the broad impact of private and public agricultural support measures and institutions for MSMEs which enable those responsible along agricultural value chains (VCs) to invest in climate-resilient practices and VCs. Under the co-financing, ABF focuses on the VCs maize, livestock (cattle, sheep, goat) and cocoa. All in all, ABF is implementing activities in the following three areas:

### 1. Skills for agribusiness

The project scales successful training approaches and instruments, especially for climate-resilient agricultural entrepreneurship. To achieve this, it is expanding the [Agribusiness e-Academy's](#) online training offer and providing advice on face-to-face training approaches. It also uses blended learning, a mixture of face-to-face and online learning formats, and has founded an association for master trainers and trainers.

### 2. Matching Grant Fund

As part of a competitive Matching Grant Fund (MGF), ABF promotes ideas that improve the cocoa, maize, and livestock value chains. The fund promotes excellence, ownership, and competitiveness. It also mobilises additional funds for the implementation of the multi-actor partnerships.

### 3. Public dialogue and South-South exchange

The project supports South-South exchange and cooperation: events such as expert talks, exchange formats and conferences assist in sharing experiences and best practices. The project also promotes regional and nationwide public-private dialogue in order to overcome challenges in value chains.

## Achievements

- ABF's advised partners trained more than 1.96 million smallholder farmers in Farmer Business School, more than 3,100 cooperatives in Cooperative Business School and more than 69,500 processors in Processor Business School with 35%, 34% and 92% being women respectively.
- These smallholder farmers have gained invaluable insights to navigate challenges and seize opportunities within their value chains and boost income through diversified production.
- ABF's [Agribusiness e-Academy](#) has achieved significant reach since its launch in May 2022, with over 48,000 learners enrolled in various courses and more than 11,000 certificates issued to successful learners.
- Within the framework of the MGF 42 active projects are currently running across maize, livestock, and cocoa value chains in 20 countries. These projects collectively mobilize approximately €7.1 million.
- 10 best practices on various agricultural topics have been shared and 15 dialogue events organised to foster knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement implemented.
- The foundation of the International Agribusiness Practitioners Association (IAPA) has been initiated, which aims to manage ABF's training approaches in the future and advise on their implementation and adaptation.

### ABF contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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<b>Contact</b>	Linh Feldkoetter, <a href="mailto:linh.feldkoetter@giz.de">linh.feldkoetter@giz.de</a>

<b>Design/Layout</b>	GIZ ABF – Julika Stauber
<b>Photo credits</b>	GIZ, Kwesi Asime for GIZ, Melanie Hinderer GIZ

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