- To identify best fit value chain development strategies and market information delivery systems, and examine their influence on the success of value chain innovation platforms in enhancing rural enterprise development.
- To develop and evaluate scalable approaches for promoting value chain innovation platforms among smallholders and other stakeholders in ways that generate inclusive and sustainable economic benefits.
- To engage with and strengthen the capacity of key stakeholder groups to both enhance the research process and promote the widespread scaling up of approaches generated by the project.
- To systematically monitor and review project implementation and evaluate its outcomes and impacts.

## Expected Deliverables

- Evidence and guidelines that will assist government agencies, international donors and NGOs to invest in scaling up value chain innovation platforms.
- Guidelines identifying best fit strategies for developing value chain IPs, including insights on the role that market information delivery systems play in promoting more effective, value chain IPs.
- Recommendations on options for enhanced policy instruments, regulations and investment incentives to support retail linkages with smallholders, especially women and the younger generation of farmers.
- Communication and outreach programs to enhance coordination and policy engagement with value chain IPs.
- Enhanced capacity of partners in developing institutional arrangements, market access and development of effective value chain IPs.

## Project Partners

### Core Project Team

1. World Agroforestry Centre
2. University of Adelaide
3. African Landcare Network & Landcare International

### National Partners

1. National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI), Uganda
2. Makerere University, Uganda
3. Kapchorwa District Landcare Chapter (KADLACC), Uganda
4. Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)
5. Copperbelt University, Zambia

Australian Government
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Australian International Food Security Research Centre

World Agroforestry Centre

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

LANDCARE INTERNATIONAL

NARO

ZARI
Researching Soils, Crops and Water in Zambia

## Contact Person

For further information please contact:
Dr. Evelyne Kiptot
Project Manager
World Agroforestry Centre
Email: e.kiptot@cgiar.org

www.worldagroforestry.org

# Developing value chain innovation platforms to improve food security in East and Southern Africa



Farmers sharing ideas on how to market their products. ©ICRAF/Clinton Muller

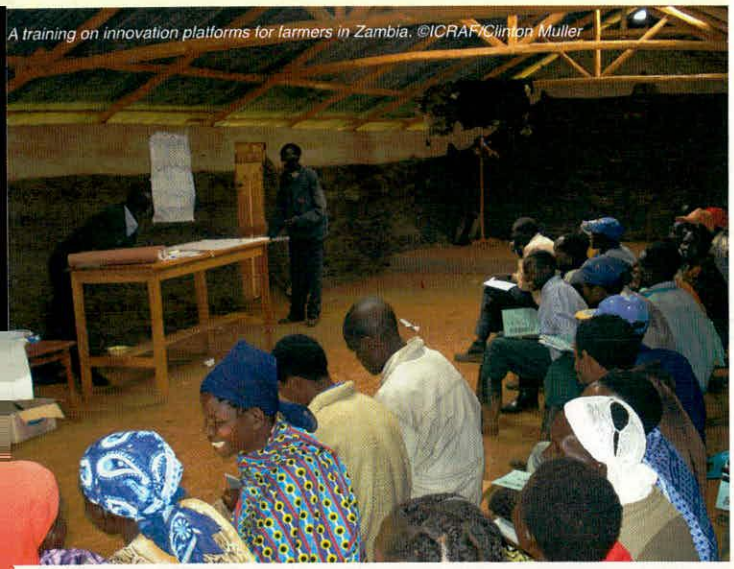
## The Project

Developing value chain innovation platforms to improve food security in East and Southern Africa (VIP4FS) is a four-year (2015-2019) research project that focuses on identifying factors that influence and support scalable establishment of effective and equitable innovation platforms that boost food security through better engagement of smallholder farmers with markets.

The project goal is to explore how the establishment of value chain innovation platforms (IPs) – through involvement of the horizontal and vertical integration of livelihoods and ecosystem perspectives to enable a wider participation at landscape level – can be widely adopted to various contexts and applications, including enabling public-private partnerships to create avenues for application of various technology, tools and knowledge streams.

The initiative is funded by the Australian Government through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and coordinated by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in partnership with the governments of Uganda and Zambia. It will be implemented through a multi-disciplinary partnership of international and national institutions.

Innovation platforms have been identified as avenues to convene different stakeholders to identify solutions to common problems or to achieve common goals. These IPs consist of a network of organizations, enterprises and individuals that focuses on bringing new products, new processes and new forms of organization into economic use, together with the institutions and policies that affect their behavior and performance.



*A training on innovation platforms for farmers in Zambia. ©ICRAF/Clinton Muller*



*Communal work towards a common goal. Farmers working together. ©ICRAF/Clinton Muller*

## Background

A decade of economic growth throughout the East and Southern Africa region is reshaping food value chains as income, urbanization and demographics influence agricultural markets. However, the opportunities for smallholder farmers, especially women, to benefit from these value chains remain elusive.

The failure of traditional approaches to innovation in agriculture, especially the top down, linear design of extension systems has led to increased creation of innovation platforms (IPs) to identify and address local agricultural development challenges. Evaluations throughout Africa suggest that IPs that engage local producer knowledge in a collaborative framework with value chain partners are more successful than traditional research and extension systems. Past experience from Africa show that IPs that employ local producer knowledge in a collaborative framework with value chain partners are more successful than traditional research and extension systems.



*"Sipi Coffee", one of the value added products produced by Landcare Groups in Kapchorwa, Uganda. ©ICRAF/Clinton Muller*

## Implementation Approach

The VIP4FS project uses three contrasting initial scenarios to address critical questions about how farmers can better link to markets through value chain IPs, and capture more value for what they produce while managing natural resources sustainably. The first scenario is where there is effective rural institutional grassroots support but opportunities for market access and increased income are insufficient. The second scenario has great potential for public private partnerships and market access through the demand from the mining industry for agricultural products but farmer networking necessary to provide economies of scale and the institutional support for rural enterprise development are lacking. The third scenario is where development of farmer networks are in a nascent stage with no clear evidence of active public private partnerships. These scenarios are represented by Kapchorwa (Uganda) Solwezi (Zambia) and Manafwa (Uganda) respectively, as shown in Figure 1.

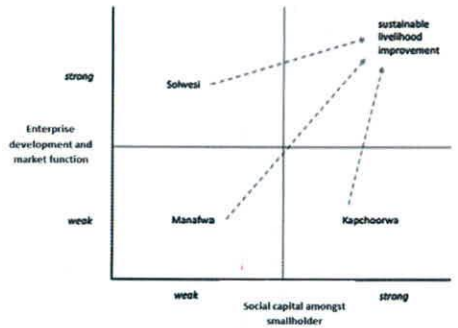



*Figure 1. Initial conditions and improvement pathways in case study contexts*

## Objectives

The project's overall objective is to identify principles and drivers that can support innovation platforms to improve food security by connecting more smallholder farmers with markets. It will focus more on enabling youth and women improve their livelihoods. The other objectives include:

- To assess smallholder livelihoods, institutional arrangements across scales, and identify drivers that enable value chain IP development for sustainable agriculture commercialisation.