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Addressing deforestation and rural livelihoods in the Kinshasa Supply Basin

The CFC is proud to serve as the implementing organization for the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), supporting an innovative approach to combat deforestation and promote sustainable land use in the Kinshasa supply basin under the Kinshasa Supply Basin Payments for Environmental Services Program (PROBAK).

Rural communities in this region rely heavily on wood energy and slash-and-burn agriculture, while urban populations rely on charcoal and the agricultural production. These practices are accelerating the degradation of savannahs and forests and are further intensified by Kinshasa’s rapid population growth and rising demand for charcoal and food. In response, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), together with CAFI, has positioned payments for environmental services (PES) as a central pillar of its REDD+ strategy creating a results-based mechanism that rewards farmers for protecting forests while strengthening rural livelihoods. Through PROBAK, the aim

is to shift agricultural and energy production toward deforestation-free growing systems, reducing reliance on the clearing of natural forests while improving rural incomes and resilience.

Project objectives: transforming landscapes in Kwango and Mai-Ndombe

Through its USD 15 million Kwango-Nioki project, the CFC will support the establishment of 8,000 hectares of agroforestry plantations, primarily using acacia and cassava, across two strategic areas. Close to Nioki in the Mai-Ndombe province, the project builds on existing initiatives, such as those led by PIREDD Mai-Ndombe, to expand agroforestry into unsupported regions. Meanwhile, the Kwango province, a historically under-supported area, benefits from its proximity to Kinshasa, a major logistics route, and the presence of an operators experienced in the setup of acacia plantations. By focusing on these areas, the project aims to streamline efforts, reduce costs, and maximize collaboration with local partners and NGOs.

Leveraging a widely practiced agroforestry system

The project focuses on the PES eligible activity of acacia–cassava agroforestry. This model was chosen for its proven success since the 1980s, widespread local acceptance, and multiple benefits. Cassava provides food security and market opportunities in Kinshasa, while acacia supports charcoal production, a commodity in high urban demand, with potential for industrial expansion. For farmers, the system offers immediate food production and long-term income from wood energy, bee-keeping, and other crops. Environmentally, it restores soil, fixes nitrogen, sequesters carbon, provides water management services, and protects against erosion. This low-risk, high-reward approach delivers tangible benefits for both communities and forests.

Empowering environmental service providers

Environmental service providers (ESPs) are individual farmers who adopt acacia–cassava agroforestry on their land. PES payments are ▶

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- ▶ made through a combination of cash and in-kind contributions directly to each farmer, ensuring accountability and transparency. A portion of these payments supports Local Development Committees (CLDs) in governance, monitoring, and complaint resolution.

Measurable impacts for people and planet

The project's 8,000 hectares are expected to yield significant environmental and socioeconomic benefits. Over seven years, it will sequester 1.7 million tons of CO₂, produce 93,257 tons of wood annually (converting to 18,651 tons of charcoal), and generate 56,000 tons of cassava, enough to feed 400,000 people yearly. Farmers will diversify their income through cassava sales, charcoal production, and supplementary activities like bee-keeping, enhancing both food security and economic stability.

Collaboration and strategic alignment

The project is implemented by the CFC (as CAFI's accredited lead) and FRMi (as lead implementing partner, with over 20 years of experience in the DRC). Local partners, including AMAR, NVD, and GTDR, provide land-use planning, community support, and technical training. Communities receive results-based payments, agricultural inputs, and capacity-building support.

The initiative aligns with the DRC-CAFI 2021–2031 Letter of Intent, the National REDD+ Strategy, and global commitments like the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

By combining a proven agroforestry model, market-driven demand, and transparent PES mechanisms, PROBAK offers a scalable solution to the Kinshasa supply basin's challenges. The programme represents an important example of how international partnerships can translate climate commitments into practical solutions that support both forest conservation and rural livelihoods. With a USD 15 million budget, the project will deliver measurable benefits for communities, food security, sustainable energy, and climate action, while supporting the DRC's national and international commitments. ■

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West End Farms: a story of resilience and value chain transformation

When West End Farms first approached the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) in 2018, the vision was ambitious but clear: to transform a growing piggery operation in Cameroon into a modern agricultural enterprise capable of supplying high-quality pork while strengthening the country's livestock value chain.

Today, that vision has reached an important milestone. After several years of partnership with CFC, West End Farms has successfully repaid its loan in full, marking a significant achievement for both the enterprise and the partnership.

Building a modern agricultural enterprise

Located in Ndokoa, about 70 kilometres north of Yaoundé in Cameroon's Centre Region, West End Farms has grown into one of the country's leading commercial pig farming operations. Alongside pig production, the farm cultivates maize, cassava and soya – crops that form the backbone of its livestock feed system.

This integrated approach has been central to the company's strategy. Feed accounts for the largest share of production costs in pig farming and producing key feed ingredients internally allows the farm to better manage both quality and costs.

According to CEO Julius Manjoh, when the company first approached CFC for financing, its ambition was to scale up operations significantly, with a goal of expanding to a 1,200-sow unit within five years. The financing provided by CFC helped meet a critical need: working capital that could support expansion investments while ensuring stable day-to-day operations.

Beyond financing, the partnership also encouraged improvements in operational capacity. Staff training became a major focus, strengthening technical skills across the farm and improving productivity and management practices.

Overcoming unexpected challenges

Like many agricultural enterprises, West End Farms has faced significant challenges along the way. The most severe occurred in 2023, when an outbreak of swine fever wiped out the farm's entire stock – approximately 8,500 animals.

For most businesses, such a loss could have been devastating. Yet West End Farms demonstrated remarkable resilience. Management quickly mobilised staff around a recovery plan, and employees themselves played a crucial role in rebuilding operations.

"The commitment of our team was extraordinary," Manjoh recalls. "Many employees agreed to temporarily save part of their salaries to help finance the recovery. Out of more than 200 staff members, only one left after the disaster."



Support from CFC during this difficult period also proved vital. The Fund demonstrated flexibility and understanding by allowing a payment delay and providing an interest holiday. According to Manjoh, this support reinforced the partnership at a critical moment.

"When you meet such serious misfortune and your partner says, 'we trust you and believe you can recover and pay your debt,' it gives you the confidence to move forward," he said.

Strengthening the value chain

Over the course of the partnership, West End Farms has evolved from a production-focused farm into a more vertically integrated agribusiness.

In 2022, the company established a modern abattoir on the farm, enabling it to process meat directly rather than relying solely on live animal sales. The facility operates six days per week and supplies pork and pork sausages to a network of 15 butcher shops across Yaoundé.

This retail network now absorbs around 65 percent of the farm's production, with the remainder sold live to other dealers. By expanding further along the value chain, the company has improved profit margins, strengthened brand recognition and reduced its dependence on middlemen.

The retail model also addresses a broader issue in Cameroon's meat sector, where much of the country's meat is still sold in open markets under poor hygienic conditions. West End Farms' butcher shops provide a simple but improved alternative, offering properly stored meat in clean environments while maintaining competitive prices.

Transforming a community

The story of West End Farms is not only about business growth – it is also about the transformation of a community.

When the company first arrived in Ndokoa around the year 2000, the area was little more than a small hamlet with fewer than 20 residents, most of whom relied on fishing and hunting for their livelihoods.

Today, Ndokoa has grown into a vibrant community of more than 1,500 inhabitants. The local economy has expanded around agricultural activity, generating approximately USD 1 million annually from maize and other farm products. New homes, businesses and social activity have emerged, earning the village the nickname "Dubai City" among locals – a reflection of the rapid economic transformation driven by agricultural activity.

West End Farms attributes much of this transformation to employment opportunities created by the farm and to the reliable market it provides for local maize producers.

Looking ahead

With the CFC loan now fully repaid, West End Farms is entering a new phase of growth.

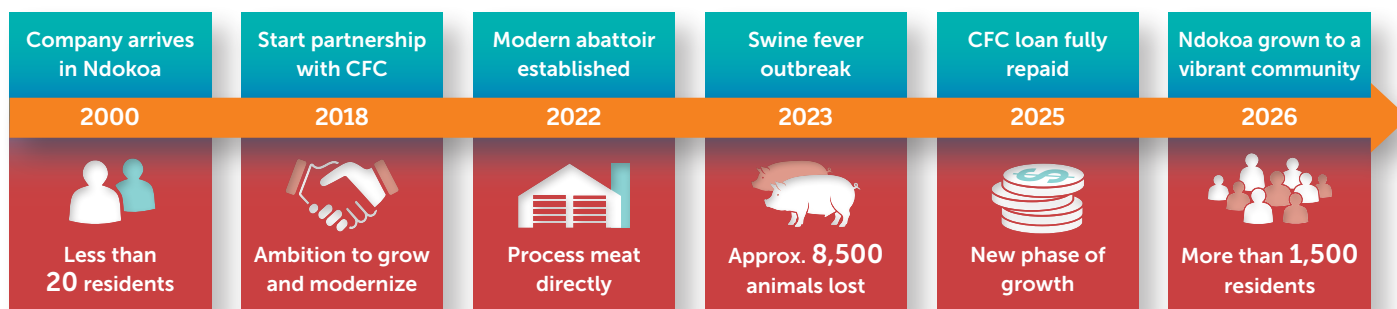
The company's priorities over the next two years include improving productivity within its existing infrastructure, strengthening cost control across operations, and expanding marketing efforts to grow its customer base. Improvements in piglet production are also expected to increase output, potentially creating opportunities to expand grower capacity and raise sales volumes.

For the Common Fund for Commodities, the West End Farms journey demonstrates how targeted financing can help agricultural businesses overcome risks while strengthening rural economies.

"West End Farms is a strong example of what patient capital and committed entrepreneurship can achieve," said Ernesto Daza Lacouture, Investment Manager at the CFC. "Despite significant setbacks, the company demonstrated resilience, responsible financial management, and a clear vision for strengthening Cameroon's pork value chain. We are proud to have supported a business that not only repaid its loan but also generated meaningful economic opportunities for its community."

For West End Farms, the successful repayment of the loan marks not the end of a project, but the beginning of a new chapter – one that continues to build on resilience, innovation and long-term growth. ■

Key milestones West End Farms



Monitoring agroforestry impact from space: how satellite data supports CFC Investments

Enimiro, a Ugandan agri-SME sourcing organic vanilla from more than 1,100 smallholder farmers, has built a vertically integrated supply chain supported by digital traceability and monitoring systems. This system provides visibility from farm to export markets, allowing the company to track sourcing practices, certification requirements, and social responsibility standards across its supplier network.

For the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), which supports Enimiro as an investor, such traceability is more than a supply chain tool, it also creates an opportunity to monitor environmental outcomes linked to the investment. By combining field-level supplier data with geospatial technologies and satellite imagery, the CFC is able to better understand how sustainable farming practices influence the surrounding landscape.

One of the tools increasingly used by the CFC is satellite-based remote sensing, which allows environmental changes on the Earth's surface to be observed from space. Using geospatial platforms such as Google Earth Engine (GEE) and Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS), the CFC can analyse vegetation trends, land use patterns, and environmental indicators across large geographic areas.

In the case of Enimiro's vanilla supply chain, CFC analysts used aboveground biomass, a commonly used indicator of vegetation density and tree growth, to assess changes in vegetation cover over time. By combining global biomass datasets with the georeferenced locations of Enimiro's supplier farms, the team

conducted a comparative analysis between supplier plots and surrounding areas. The results provide early but encouraging insights.

The biomass change map visualises how vegetation levels have evolved since Enimiro began expanding its supply network in 2019. Areas marked in green indicate increasing vegetation cover, while red areas represent a decline.

In addition, a biomass time-series analysis compares average vegetation levels within Enimiro supplier plots with those in nearby non-supplier areas from the year 2007 to 2022. While biomass levels have generally increased across the region, the data suggests that vegetation cover has grown slightly faster among farms participating in Enimiro's supply chain.

Over time, this has created a gradually widening gap in vegetation density between supplier farms and surrounding areas. Although the difference remains modest, the pattern may indicate that farmers engaged in Enimiro's programme are adopting agroforestry practices that help maintain or improve tree cover.

Importantly, even during periods where overall biomass declined in the region, Enimiro supplier plots showed smaller fluctuations, suggesting a potential increase in environmental resilience among participating farms.

While further monitoring will be needed to confirm long-term trends, these early findings highlight the potential environmental benefits of integrating agroforestry practices into vanilla production systems.

More broadly, the analysis demonstrates how digital traceability combined with satellite monitoring can help development finance institutions better understand the real-world environmental impact of their investments. By linking farm-level participation with landscape-level environmental data, the CFC is strengthening its ability to monitor sustainability outcomes across commodity value chains.

As the CFC continues to expand its investments in climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable commodity production, geospatial tools such as remote sensing will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that development finance translates into measurable environmental and social benefits.

The analysis summarised in the illustration used aboveground biomass as a proxy for vegetation cover which is a crucial ecological variable in climate modelling (WMO, 2024). By combining aboveground biomass map (Santoro & Cartus, 2025) with the georeferenced plots of Enimiro's smallholder suppliers, CFC was able to conduct a comparative analysis of vegetation cover in and around the supplier areas. Using the information, we estimate the environmental effect of becoming a smallholder supplier of Enimiro, data that would provide immense business insights. ■

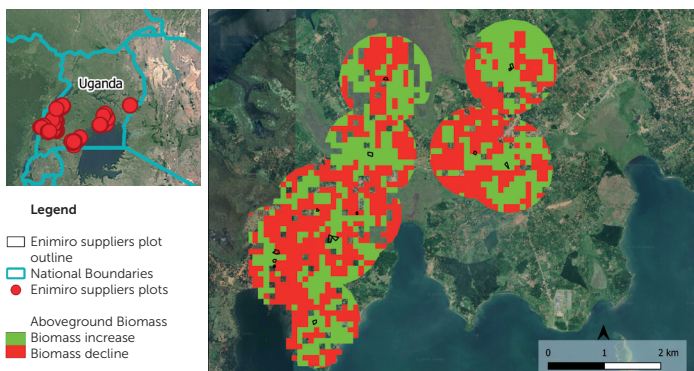
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Vegetation Growth Around Enimiro Vanilla Supplier Farms

Satellite-based analysis of aboveground biomass, 2019-2022



References: Santoro, M.; Cartus, O. (2025). ESA Biomass Climate Change Initiative (Biomass_cci): Global datasets of forest above-ground biomass. <https://dx.doi.org/10.5285/95913ffb6467447ca72c4e9d8cf30501>

Average Aboveground Biomass, 2007-2022 (Mg/ha)





Photo: Adobe stock

Launch of the CFC Graduation Fund: catalysing investment in resilient local food systems

The launch of the CFC Graduation Fund marks a new approach to supporting agri-SMEs at the heart of local food systems in sub-Saharan Africa. Developed through a partnership between the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the Fund addresses a persistent challenge: although small and growing agribusinesses play a vital role in food security and rural livelihoods, many remain underserved by traditional sources of finance – particularly in climate-vulnerable contexts.

By combining investment capital with targeted technical assistance, the Graduation Fund seeks to unlock the growth potential of these enterprises while strengthening resilience across the smallholder-centred value chains on which farmers and rural communities depend.

Bridging the missing middle in agri-finance

Across sub-Saharan Africa, agri-SMEs form the backbone of domestic food systems and play a critical role in food and nutrition security. They aggregate crops from smallholder farmers, provide inputs and services, process food for local markets, and create rural employment. Yet many operate in challenging environments marked by climate volatility, weak infrastructure, and limited access to finance. As a result, promising enterprises often fall into the 'missing middle' – too large for microfinance but not yet ready for commercial investment.

The CFC Graduation Fund is designed specifically to address this gap. It targets smaller, financially viable agri-SMEs embedded in local value chains and serving domestic and regional markets, where investment can generate strong development impact.

The Fund totals GBP 5.4 million, with GBP 3 million provided by FCDO through the CASA DevCap Grant – including GBP 2.4 million for investments and GBP 600,000 for technical assistance – alongside GBP 2.4 million contributed by CFC. Individual investments are expected to remain below USD 500,000, enabling the Fund to support a portfolio of promising agri-SMEs often overlooked by larger investment vehicles.

Climate resilience built into every investment

Climate change is already reshaping how food is produced, traded, and consumed. For smallholder farmers and the agri-SMEs that work with them, climate risks directly affect yields, quality, supply reliability, and incomes. Recognising this reality, climate resilience is embedded in the Graduation Fund's investment approach.

Each investment will be assessed for climate-related risks, with targeted measures introduced where needed. Beyond managing risk, the Fund supports businesses that strengthen adaptation across their supply chains, including those promoting sustainable practices such as crop diversification, soil health management, and agroforestry – approaches that help farmers better withstand shocks such as droughts and floods. By supporting agri-SMEs that scale these practices, the Graduation Fund positions climate resilience not as a cost, but as a driver of long-term productivity, business stability, and improved rural livelihoods.

Strengthening local food systems

A defining feature of the Graduation Fund is its focus on local and regional food systems. Rather than concentrating primarily on export-oriented cash crops, the Fund supports enterprises involved in food crop production, processing, distribution, and agri-services that supply domestic markets. This approach recognises that food security depends not only on production but also on storage, processing, logistics, market access, and knowledge systems. By supporting businesses across these segments, the Fund contributes to more efficient, productive, and resilient food systems.

The enabling role of technical assistance

A core component of the Graduation Fund is its GBP 600,000 Technical Assistance Facility (TAF), financed through the CASA DevCap Grant. The TAF helps ensure that investments deliver deeper and more sustainable impact by strengthening agri-SMEs and the smallholder-centred value chains in which they operate.

Technical assistance will be deployed flexibly both before and after investment, helping enterprises strengthen internal capacities, refine business models, and adopt practices that enhance climate resilience and long-term sustainability.

Beyond investee companies, support will also reach smallholder farmers and other value chain actors, improving access to knowledge, inputs, services, and markets while fostering more inclusive participation in local food systems.

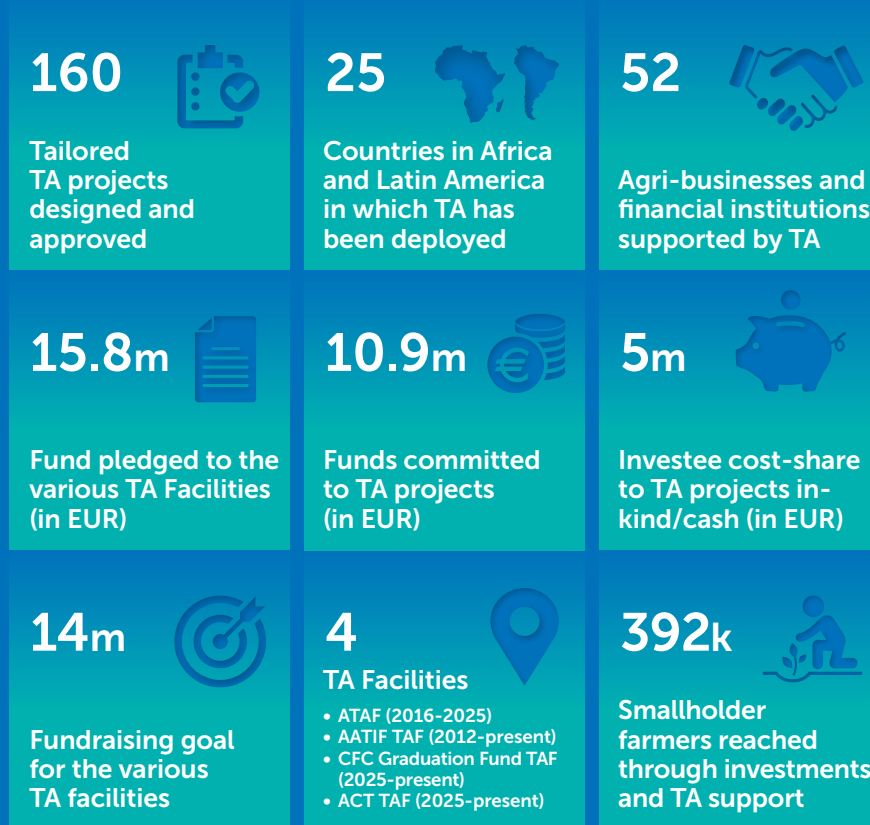
By supporting inclusive and climate-resilient business models, technical assistance helps ensure that investment capital translates into tangible improvements in productivity, incomes, and livelihoods.

A platform for learning and demonstration

Beyond individual investments, the Graduation Fund will also generate practical lessons on financing inclusive and climate-resilient agribusinesses. Selected investments will be accompanied by impact assessments to build evidence on how targeted capital and technical assistance can work together to strengthen smallholder-linked food systems.

Together, the Graduation Fund reflects a shared ambition between CFC and FCDO: to deploy catalytic capital more effectively, support resilience where it is most needed, and demonstrate that investing in smaller agri-SMEs can deliver lasting benefits for farmers, communities, and local food systems. ■

Technical Assistance supporting over 50 agribusinesses and financial institutions across Africa and Latin America



Key figures of the TA Facilities combined managed by the CFC between 2013-2026

With over 13 years of experience managing Technical Assistance (TA) facilities for external impact investors, and drawing on the broader expertise of the CFC, our dedicated TA Facility (TAF) management team is a leading provider of TA services across diverse agricultural value chains and regions. Our multilingual TAF team partners with impact-oriented investment funds in the agricultural commodities sector to leverage the development impact and commercial sustainability of their investments.

The TAF team's combined expertise covers tropical agriculture, agroforestry, project/programme management, ESG risk, gender, climate adaptation, GIS/spatial data and impact assessment.

After successfully closing the Moringa Fund Agroforestry TA Facility (ATAF) in 2025, we currently manage three active TA Facilities:

- **Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF) TA Facility**, supporting agricultural value chains across Africa
- **CFC Graduation Fund TA Facility**, focused on inclusive smallholder growth in Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Agricultural Commodity Transformation Fund (ACT) TA Facility**, dedicated to regenerative agriculture across Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia

Technical assistance is not merely a complement to investment capital but essential to advancing the CFC's core mission of addressing commodity dependence. Financial capital alone cannot transform commodity sectors unless enterprises, producer organisations, and financial intermediaries have the technical capacity, governance systems, and sustainability practices needed to grow and compete. By combining advisory support with financing, the TA Facilities managed by the CFC help strengthen value chains, improve resilience to climate and market shocks, and enable commodity-dependent economies to move toward higher-value and more inclusive production systems. ■

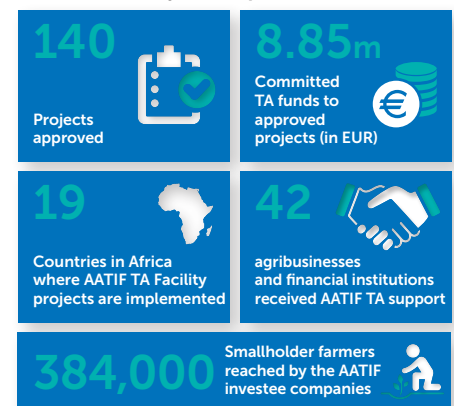
Contact us to become a funding partner!

Countries with TA support
 Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

ATAF (2016-2025):



AATIF TA Facility (2012-present)



CFC Graduation Fund TA Facility (2025-present)



ACT Fund TA Facility (2025-present)



ACT Fund reaches first close at USD 40 m: catalytic capital for agri-SMEs scaling inclusive regenerative agriculture



Agricultural Commodity Transformation

The Agricultural Commodity Transformation Fund C.V. (ACT Fund) has achieved its first close slightly above its USD 40 million target, marking a major milestone in its ambition to mobilize USD 75 million in catalytic capital for agri-SMEs across Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Established by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the ACT Fund is a private credit impact fund providing trade finance, working capital and long-term debt financing to SMEs operating in agricultural commodity value chains. These businesses play a pivotal role in connecting millions of smallholder farmers to markets, creating rural employment and strengthening local economies – while increasingly being called upon to deliver environmental stewardship.

Photo: Mr. Mark Paper



Mr. Mark Paper, Chair of the ACT Investment Committee

A timely and necessary intervention

For Mr. Mark Paper, Chair of the ACT Investment Committee, the Fund's launch comes at a critical juncture.

"The ACT Fund launches at a moment when agri-SMEs need capital that understands their realities," he explains. "Traditional financiers remain cautious, yet the demand for food security and resilient value chains has never been greater. ACT is positioned to provide disciplined, catalytic capital where it can drive livelihood, climate and biodiversity resilience, thereby achieving outsized impact."

Global food systems are under strain from climate volatility, biodiversity loss and market disruptions, while expectations for sustainable production continue to rise. Yet many agricultural enterprises remain underserved by mainstream finance.

Michael van den Berg, Director of the ACT Fund, emphasized on the importance of strong governance.

"We are very grateful for the guidance of four independent international experts serving on our Investment Committee," he said. "Strong governance is fundamental to ACT's success, and under Mark Paper's leadership as IC Chair, we are confident that each investment will be assessed with strategic insight and disciplined scrutiny, supporting long-term value creation."

Bridging the 'missing middle'

A central pillar of ACT's strategy is addressing the structural financing gap commonly referred to as the "missing middle."

"ACT addresses the 'missing middle' – viable agri-SMEs that are underserved by both banks and private equity," Mr. Paper notes. "These businesses need flexible, growth-oriented capital aligned to agricultural cycles. ACT is designed to bridge that structural gap."

These enterprises fall between traditional bank lending, private equity and microfinance, leaving a cohort of high-potential businesses constrained by limited access to appropriate financing.

The ACT Fund is designed to close that gap by offering tailored debt financing, typically between USD 1.5 million and 5 million. By providing trade finance, working capital and longer-term loans, ACT enables agri-SMEs to invest in processing capacity, strengthen supply chains and expand into new markets.

Catalytic capital and strategic partnerships

The first close was made possible by strong institutional backing. CFC committed USD 20 million as a first-loss investment, providing catalytic capital that de-risks additional investors. Invest International joined as a cornerstone investor with a dual-currency commitment of USD 10 million plus EUR 10 million, bringing the Fund more than halfway toward its USD 75 million target.

"The support of CFC and Invest International has made this first close possible," Michael adds. "We have a strong team and a robust pipeline to implement ACT's investment strategy." He underscored the Fund's dual objec-

tive: delivering attractive financial returns while improving livelihoods and generating measurable environmental and social impact.

ACT Fund builds on CFC's decade-long experience in direct lending and technical assistance to agricultural enterprises across Africa, Latin America and Asia, providing a strong pipeline of investment opportunities. First investments are expected by early 2026.

The ACT Fund Technical Assistance Facility launched in 2025, supported by a EUR 500k grant from the BMUKN to further advance the Fund's investment activities. In parallel, the Fund Manager is seeking to raise USD 10 million for a Technical Assistance Facility to support agri-SMEs and smallholder farmers in adopting climate-resilient and regenerative practices.

Regenerative agriculture at the core

Inclusive regenerative agriculture lies at the heart of ACT's strategy. The Fund supports approaches that increase productivity while restoring soils, biodiversity and resilience, contributing to more secure food systems and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Looking ahead, Mr. Paper emphasizes that success will be measured not only by capital deployment, but by the quality and resilience of the portfolio.

"Success will mean building a portfolio of resilient agri-SMEs that deliver both financial sustainability and measurable impact," he says. "It will also mean demonstrating that strong governance and development ambition can reinforce one another."

Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director of the Common Fund for Commodities, also noted, "The ACT Fund embodies the vision of CFC 2.0 – mobilising catalytic capital to strengthen enterprises that connect smallholder farmers to markets and build more resilient value chains."

With its first close achieved and a strong pipeline in place, the ACT Fund now moves into its next phase – deploying catalytic capital to deliver tangible results. By combining disciplined credit investing, strong governance and a clear development mandate, ACT aims to demonstrate that financial performance and transformative impact can advance together. ■



77th Consultative Committee Recommends

12 high-impact investments to strengthen inclusive commodity value chains

Photo: Adobe stock

The 77th Meeting of the Consultative Committee (CC) of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) concluded with the recommendation of 12 high-impact investment proposals aimed at strengthening sustainable and inclusive commodity value chains. Pending approval by the Executive Board, these initiatives are expected to deliver significant development benefits for smallholder farmers, agri-SMEs, and rural communities across multiple regions.

Selected from 283 applications under the 27th Call for Proposals, the recommended portfolio represents approximately USD 9.7 million in CFC financing, leveraging a total project value of about USD 261 million. The investments span diverse sectors including nutritious food systems, coffee, cocoa, rice, groundnuts, shea, avocado, and agricultural finance. Together, they reflect an integrated value chain approach, covering production, aggregation, processing, and export.

Strengthening value chains

The projects focus on strengthening agricultural value chains across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, targeting commodities essential for rural livelihoods and export revenues.

Beyond production, the recommended projects place strong emphasis on strengthening both value chains and access to finance across key commodity sectors.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, expanded financing will support nutrition-focused SMEs, while in Sri Lanka, climate-smart rural MSME lending will be scaled to enhance resilience. In India, early-stage agri-food and inclusive finance enterprises will receive growth capital to accelerate innovation and market expansion.

Across digital and local food systems, working capital will enable commodity platforms and food processors in Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, and Zimbabwe to strengthen structured market access and deepen smallholder sourcing. In the coffee sector, cooperatives and women-led enterprises in Uganda and Nicaragua will benefit from targeted support to improve quality, expand export capacity, and stabilize incomes.

In Côte d'Ivoire, cocoa value chains will be strengthened through enhanced certified aggregation and cooperative pre-financing, supported by targeted technical assistance delivered by the CFC in collaboration with downstream sourcing partners. Meanwhile, climate-resilient financing in Tanzania and Kenya will improve productivity, cost efficiency, and sustainability in rice value chains.

Tree crop initiatives will further expand opportunities for smallholders, including the scaling of sustainable avocado exports in Peru and the growth of women-led shea

sourcing networks in West Africa. Together, these interventions aim to enhance income generation, promote climate resilience, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of commodity value chains across regions.

"Each investment recommended by the Consultative Committee represents an opportunity to transform commodity value chains while improving livelihoods for millions of producers," said **Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director of the CFC**. "By directing catalytic finance to innovative projects, the CFC helps ensure that smallholders can participate more fairly and profitably in global trade."

Catalyzing inclusive finance

The Committee also reviewed a growing pipeline of investment opportunities, reflecting rising demand for climate-smart agriculture, traceability, and sustainable sourcing.

In parallel, the ACT Fund reported progress following its first close at USD 40 million, including a USD 20 million commitment from Invest International, as well as a EUR 500,000 contribution from BMUKN to launch its Technical Assistance Facility.

Together, these developments reinforce the CFC's role in mobilizing catalytic capital and advancing more resilient and inclusive commodity value chains worldwide. ■

<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">12</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Projects recommended</p>	<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">9.7m</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">CFC financing (in USD)</p>	<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">261m</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Total project value (in USD)</p>
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Countries

Product sectors

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