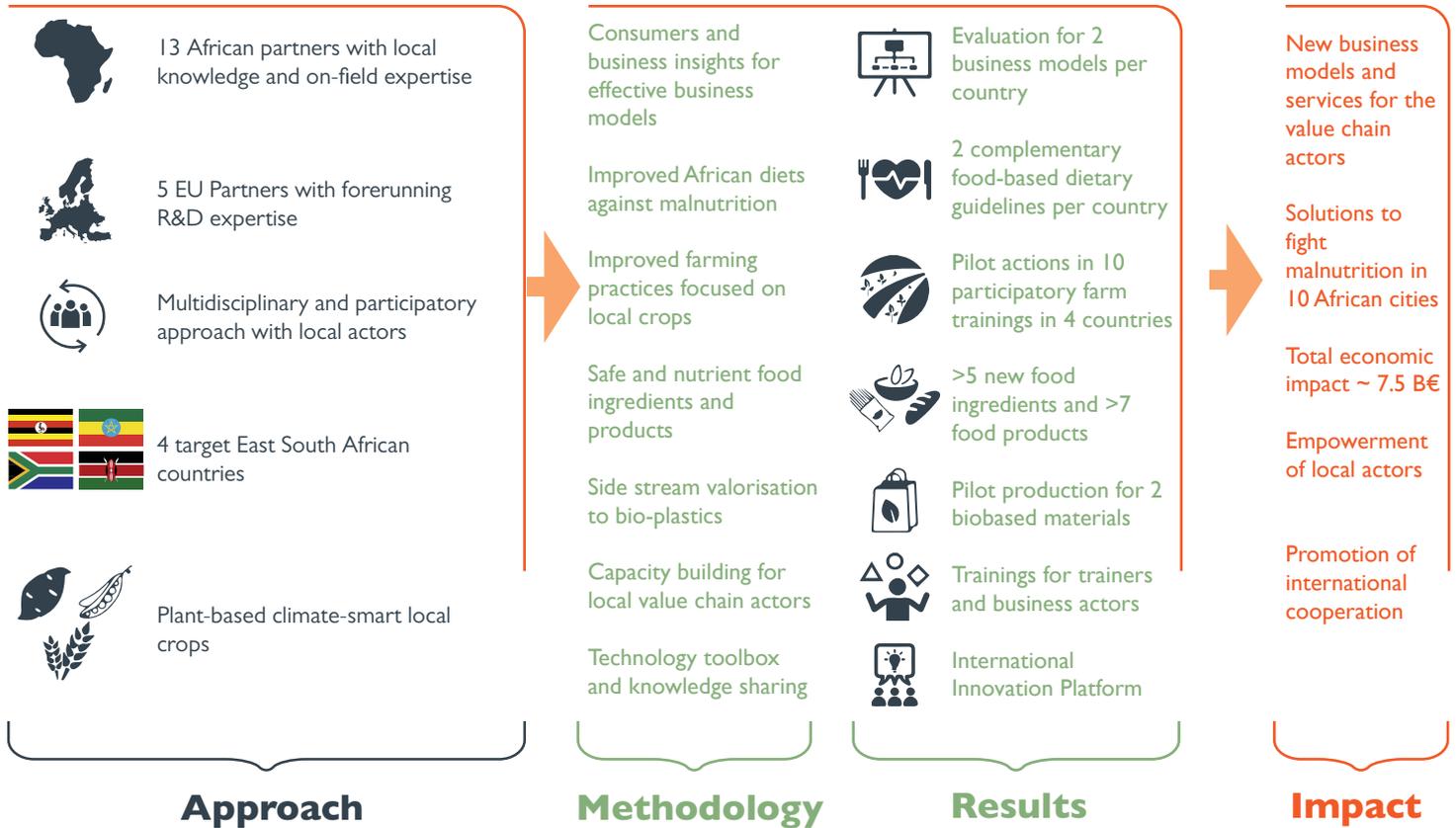


Locally-driven Co-development of Plant-based Value Chains Towards a More Sustainable African Food System With Healthier Diets and Export Potential



The Challenge

Nutritional imbalances and obesity in both Europe and Africa are increasing and are characterized by growing diet-related, non-communicable diseases and persistent under-nutrition.

According to the UN (<https://population.un.org/wpp/>) the global population will increase from 7 billion to more than 9 billion by 2050, of which the majority (1.1 billion) is expected to occur in Africa. To anticipate population growth and challenges associated with climate-change, agricultural systems need to be more resilient and linked to nutrition performance, strengthening the agrobiodiversity of cropping systems, and increasing the range of food products for balanced, healthy diet.

Furthermore, resource-efficient, resilient food value chains need to be developed to deliver sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food to local consumers and for high value global markets.

Africa has a wealth of local varieties, food intelligence and healthy diets including plant based proteins, which are currently largely untapped and not reaching the market, neither in African cities nor in Europe.

Through research, development and capacity building, the InnoFoodAfrica Project which is funded by the European Union and will be implemented for 36 months from August 2020, is focusing on strategic food crops (cereals, pulses, root crops and fruit) and climate smart resilient agro-food systems. It will train and empower smallholder farmers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on farming practices, nutrition, ingredient and food solutions, bio-packaging to reduce food loss and waste, and in relevant business creation.

Objective

To develop new sustainable value chains to produce and distribute diverse and healthy foods from African farms to local and export markets.

Specific Objectives

- 1) Development of resource-efficient, safe and sustainable food production value chains by empowering smallholder farmers, processors, producers and consumers via co-creation with African and European experts.
- 2) Catalyzing new local and international business and market opportunities in the plant-based food and bio-packaging value chains by engaging actors and investigating new business models.
- 3) Diversification of plant-based agrofood systems to enable nature-benefiting farming and production of African food, which form a basis for a balanced diet.

4) Developing safe and nutrient-dense plant-based food ingredients and products which tackle malnutrition from two angles: nutrient deficiencies and obesity, taking into account both small children and adult consumer segments.

5) Increasing resource-efficiency of the African plant-based food value chains by reducing food loss and waste through improved post-harvesting and storage practices, and by creating value from side streams via bio-based packaging solutions to replace plastic.

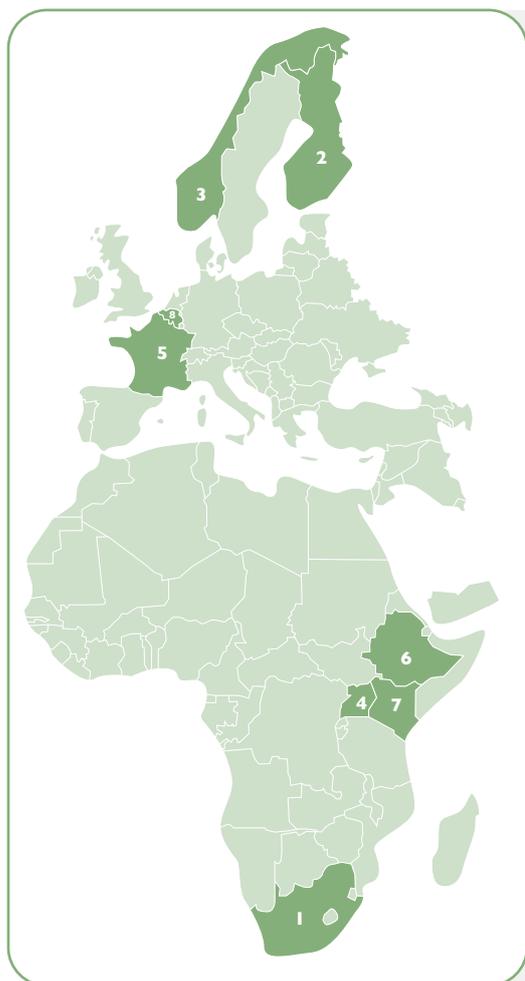
6) Establishment of a pan-African food research, development and innovation community through cooperation and creation of an open Innovation Platform and collaboration with ongoing similar projects to share innovations, maximize communication and facilitate technology transfer.

Implementing Partners

Geographical focus: Southern and Eastern African countries of South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda and European export markets.

- 13 African partners with local knowledge and on-field expertise
- 5 EU Partners with forerunning R&D expertise

CEREALS		PROTEIN CROPS-PULSES	
Sorghum	South Africa, Kenya, Uganda	Cowpea (seeds and leaves)	Kenya, South Africa
Amaranth (seeds & leaves)	Kenya	Faba bean	Ethiopia
Millet	South Africa, Uganda, Kenya	Bambara groundnut	South Africa
Teff	Ethiopia	ROOT CROPS & FRUIT	
Maize	Ethiopia, South Africa	Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato	South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya
		Banana	Uganda



1. South Africa

- University of Pretoria
- Delphius Technologies & Consultancy

2. Finland

- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd
- University of Helsinki

3. Norway

- Nofima As

4. Uganda

- Makerere University
- Uganda Manufacturers Association
- Food and Nutrition Solutions Limited
- Kulika Uganda

5. France

- Institut National d'Etudes Superieures Agronomiques de Montpellier

6. Ethiopia

- Addis Ababa University
- Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
- Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute
- Guts Agro Industry Plc

7. Kenya

- Chuka University
- University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Limited
- Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International

8. Belgium

- Puratos nv/sa

For more information visit: www.innofoodafrica.com

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