

GLOBAL OPERATIONS BY REGION

US\$2,597.9 MILLION
INVESTED BY IFAD IN THE
REGION'S ONGOING PORTFOLIO

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

US\$195.6 MILLION
IN IFAD FINANCING
APPROVED IN 2022

49 ONGOING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH 20 COUNTRIES IN THE
REGION AT THE END OF 2022

4 NEW PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS APPROVED
IN 2022 IN BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, CAMBODIA
AND THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

4 NEW COUNTRY STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES
PROGRAMMES IN BANGLADESH, CAMBODIA,
INDONESIA AND PAKISTAN

35 COUNTRIES

Afghanistan 1
Bangladesh ■ 7
Bhutan ■ 1
Cambodia 3
China 4
Cook Islands
Democratic
People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
India 6
Indonesia 5
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Kiribati 1
Lao People's Democratic
Republic 1
Malaysia
Maldives 1
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated
States of)
Mongolia 1
Myanmar 2
Nauru
Nepal 3
Niue
Pakistan 5
Palau
Papua New Guinea 1
Philippines 1
Samoa 1
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka 3
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga 1
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Viet Nam 1

Numbers indicate ongoing
projects and programmes
■ Countries with ongoing
ASAP grants



HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

CAMBODIA

The Agricultural Services Programme for Innovation, Resilience and Extension (ASPIRE) in Cambodia aims to support small-scale farmers to establish profitable and resilient farm businesses. Through a combination of interventions, ASPIRE has built a farmer-centred, market-oriented training system in Cambodia that is now fully mainstreamed into national policy.

Improved infrastructure, irrigation and market access, coupled with training, enabled rural people to increase production and make their businesses more profitable.

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NEARLY 150,000 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE RESILIENT AND IMPROVED FARM BUSINESSES

THE VALUE OF HOUSEHOLD ASSETS HAS RISEN BY OVER 40 PER CENT

HOUSEHOLD NET INCOME FROM AGRICULTURE IS UP BY 18 PER CENT

OVER 88,000 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT PRACTICES

Progress towards the SDGs has slowed in this region, as the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crises related to the war in Ukraine and the escalation of climate change have exacerbated existing challenges. Recent estimates indicate that more than half of the world's undernourished people live in this region – 425 million, an increase of 84 million people since the pandemic began.

IFAD and the rural people we work with throughout the region learned a lot during the pandemic about strategies for withstanding shocks and strengthening long-term resilience. Long-term resilience must be supported by social capital, partnerships and innovation, coupled with adaptation – especially to the impacts of climate change. As a result of the multiple threats that the year brought, these areas were all central to IFAD's work in 2022.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Many countries in the Asia and the Pacific region are highly vulnerable to climate change. The intensive farming and fishing practised throughout the region tends to increase the pressure on natural resources. Consequently, there is an urgent need to shift towards climate-resilient agricultural practices for sustainable local production.

Permaculture is a sustainable and self-sufficient farming approach that mimics the diversity and resilience of natural ecosystems. Permaculture can make a big difference, especially in countries that face land degradation. For example, in Nepal, where around 10 per cent of agricultural land is severely degraded, the IFAD-supported *Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA)* project has helped small-scale farming communities apply permaculture practices. This is being achieved through practical, participatory training approaches such as farmer field schools. The results have been transformational for local farmers.



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“Without permaculture, I would be nowhere. This is my life now.”

Megnath, young farmer and participant in the Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas project

BUILDING HUMAN AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

Sustainable development can only be achieved with the contributions of rural women. Yet they face many challenges, including limited access to credit, education and health care. The aqua-based business school, set up by the IFAD-supported project Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL), teaches business practices to coastal communities, particularly women, and helps them add value to local products. Now, the members of the group make and market tasty, nutritious seaweed noodles — and business is booming.



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“Seaweed farming... has helped us put food on the table and send our children to school.”
Clarita, participant in the FishCORAL project

Rural youth in the region face a similar dilemma. Without access to resources, education or finance, they struggle to make a decent living, support their families or contribute to local economies. In China, with IFAD’s support, young people contribute to finding solutions to agricultural challenges. Through the IFAD-supported project Sustaining Poverty Reduction through Agribusiness Development in South Shaanxi, young farmers are using new ways of rearing pigs to reduce environmental impact. Others have set up a fully fledged, community-supported agriculture network to train young farmers. The network is now expanding into the rural parts of Sichuan Province, where IFAD has connected it with the young agricultural entrepreneurs it now supports.

DRIVING DIGITAL INNOVATION

Recent disruptions to trade of agrifood inputs and products, in particular as a result of conflicts and the pandemic, have underscored the need to support digital solutions. Across the region, digital innovation has created opportunities for e-commerce, agridigital financial services and climate-smart agriculture. All of these contribute to making agricultural activities more inclusive, profitable and resilient.

For example, in the province of Punjab in Pakistan, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, agricultural extension workers could not help farmers cope with the new challenges, such as finding substitutes for agricultural inputs that were no longer available. The IFAD-supported project Digital Agricultural Advisory Services for Smallholder Farmers in the Context of COVID-19 provided digital advisory services via mobile phones to more than 1.35 million small-scale farmers in Punjab, helping to boost their productivity and resilience throughout the uncertain times of the pandemic. These digital approaches are crucial to transforming the way people farm.

PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The private sector plays an important role in creating jobs and contributing to investments and innovation. In this region, private partnerships offer valuable opportunities for linking small producers to markets, technology and services. In 2022, IFAD further strengthened efforts to unlock private sector potential in the region. For example, in September 2022, IFAD and Grameen Euglena, a joint venture between Japan’s Euglena Co. Ltd and Bangladesh’s Grameen Krishi Foundation, signed a partnership agreement to support Bangladesh’s small-scale farmers to cultivate mung beans, a high-value crop that will help them increase their income and tap into international markets. Across the region, increasing engagement with private investors, in line with IFAD’s Private Sector Strategy, will be fundamental in scaling up the size and reach of our portfolio.