



A WHITE PAPER BY THE GLOBAL DONOR PLATFORM  
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

# Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity

Towards a new pact for mobilizing capital,  
reforming systems, and driving  
transformation at scale

**Transforming agrifood systems is one of the smartest investments the world can make**—for prosperity, security, sustainability, and resilience. This White Paper outlines a bold yet practical agenda to unlock the capital, partnerships, and innovation needed to drive change at scale.

At the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, investors and policymakers face critical decisions about how to prioritize funding in the years ahead. A key issue will be ensuring that financing for agrifood systems is placed at the forefront of the global agenda.

## THE OPPORTUNITY IS IMMENSE

Investing in better-functioning agrifood systems is not only a moral imperative; it is a strategic investment in entire economies. Agrifood systems go far beyond agriculture—they intersect with health, climate, energy, education, employment and trade. The returns are broad-based, delivering economic and social benefits for governments, businesses and communities, and offering integrated solutions to critical global challenges.

No other sector provides such high levels of cross-cutting returns or drives progress toward the SDGs and future prosperity as effectively as agrifood systems.

**Agrifood systems are the foundation for stability and peace, as well as for inclusive economies, equitable employment and global competitiveness.**

Employing over one in three workers globally, particularly women and youth, they are the backbone of local economies and rural livelihoods.

As hunger and food insecurity drive conflict and fragility, transforming agrifood systems is core to national and global security, especially in conflict-affected areas.

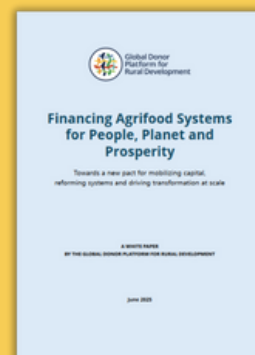
## THE BUSINESS CASE

Transforming agrifood systems is economically sound. The cost of transformation is estimated at US\$1.2 - US\$1.4 trillion annually, only a fraction of the current system's hidden costs, which amount to approximately US\$12 trillion per year due to poor health, environmental damage and poverty.

Transforming agrifood systems could deliver at least a tenfold economic, social and environmental return. Responsible private investment in agrifood systems could unlock as much as US\$4.5 trillion annually in new business opportunities. It is one of the smartest investments that can be made to ensure future prosperity, security, sustainability and resilience.

**Read the full White Paper and advocate, invest and act.**

<https://www.donorplatform.org/digital/agrifood-finance-white-paper-2025/>



1

**Ensure** the global multilateral system remains the bedrock of a response capability for catalysing action on global public goods

4

**Harness** the power of innovations and new technologies through targeted solutions

**Accelerate** foundational reforms and policy shifts to unlock public and private investment in agrifood systems

2

**Measure what matters,** generating data and evidence to guide investment in agrifood systems transformation

5

3

**Expand and coordinate** innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize and de-risk private capital for agrifood transformation

6

**Broker** collaborative agrifood financing agreements to align actors and scale investment

## NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS.

**The risks of not investing are unacceptable.** Without transformation, the world risks losing the capability to reliably meet food demands locally and globally, while facing accelerating climate change, biodiversity loss and escalating health costs from poor diets.

The global community needs a new financing model that aligns public and private capital, leverages innovation and positions agrifood systems at the centre of sustainable development.

**The narrative must change:** Investing in the agrifood sector is not just about coping with crises or responding to food insecurity. **It is a driver of opportunity, growth and long-term value.**



SCAN TO READ MORE

### Collaborative Agrifood Financing Agreements would:

**1. Build a shared understanding:** Clearly identify and communicate the innovations and actions needed to scale up agrifood financing.

**2. Enable complementary contributions:** Show how different stakeholders can work together, leveraging their unique strengths to reinforce one another.

**3. Establish frameworks for national agreements:** Identify country-specific frameworks for how different actors can contribute to accelerate financing.

**4. Promote voluntary commitments:** Encourage stakeholders to pledge actionable steps to enhance food systems financing.

**5. Facilitate networking and peer learning:** Serve as a global hub for sharing experiences and lessons from different actors and financing models.

**6. Build a knowledge base:** Collate, synthesise and share insights and lessons on innovative and financing initiatives to accelerate uptake and impact.