Takin' the Lead in Agribusiness

AECF AECF Impact

US$187 million total donor commitments

US$370 million investee funds matching

Disbursement

More than 40 value chains across 24 countries in East, West and Southern Africa

Over 9 million rural poor have benefited from investment in agribusiness

6,600 direct jobs

US$261M total development impact

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The AECF

Countries
Africa is the world's second largest continent, home to 1.2 billion people, most of whom live in rural areas.

The majority of this rural population - an estimated 218 million people - live in extreme poverty and over 600 million people lack access to electricity. Driven by our mission of enhancing a prosperous and enterprising rural Africa, AECF invests in Agribusinesses and Renewable Energy & Climate Technologies that have the potential to disrupt markets, and spur industrialization.

AECF works where others will not; investing in emerging, post-conflict and transitioning states to create new markets and funding businesses to scale their operations for underserved and hard to reach populations. However, this cannot be achieved alone. AECF forges strategic partnerships with investees and key stakeholders to leverage knowledge and resources to create jobs and improve lives in rural Africa.

What support does AECF provide?

AECF provides between US$ 100,000 and US$ 1.5 million in funding to businesses allocated through competitions in priority sectors in Africa. The support provided is in form of:

Grants:
Businesses are provided with non-repayable investments in staged payments against contractually agreed targets and matching funds.

Concessional loans:
Businesses are provided with interest-free loans against agreed targets and matching funds with an obligation of repayment.

Technical Assistance:
Technical and Business advisory support services for all investees.

Linkages to follow-on investors:
AECF Connect provides financial advisory and match-making for follow-on financing and facilitate connections with potential investors.
Agriculture accounts for 32% of GDP in sub-Saharan Africa, employs 65% of the workforce and offers the most direct route out of poverty for most rural people. With an estimated 60% of the world’s unused arable land and the youngest demographic in the world, Africa is well positioned to drive its own prosperity.

Small and growing businesses have a critical role in creating jobs and accelerating growth across Africa. They generate around 80% of the region’s employment, establishing a new middle class and fuelling demand for goods and services.

AECF believes that the private sector offers huge potential for economic growth, employment and income generation that directly impact on the rural poor. Businesses in this space often fall outside the risk appetite of institutional and impact investors yet are too large for traditional start-up programmes. AECF targets this ‘missing middle’ by providing blended development capital solutions of grants and interest free debt which leverage matching funds from other sources to maximise investment.

Interventions in market systems targeting nutrition, access to improved inputs for smallholders and the reduction in post-harvest losses, coupled with technology, information and strategic partnerships along value chains are key for a prosperous and enterprising rural Africa.
What areas does AECF support?

**Accessible Innovations for Smallholders:**
AECF invests in businesses that have the potential to reach smallholder farmers to improve agricultural productivity, increase household income and food security.

**Scaling Up Innovative Businesses:**
AECF acts as the missing link between agricultural research and smallholder farmers by financing the commercialization of new technologies where others will not.

**Post Conflict and Fragile States:**
AECF provides critical funding which has been a key driver in the re-establishment of agricultural value chains in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Sudan, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Open data and media to increase productivity:**
AECF supports low cost communication technologies and business models for information and data sharing that can reach a large audience and provide information to smallholder farmers enabling them to improve agricultural productivity and incomes.

**Promoting Financial Inclusion and Mobile Money:**
AECF supports projects that use mobile money systems, create local financing mechanisms, introduce weather based insurance and establish credit systems.

**Nutrition:**
AECF adopts a nutrition lens to the existing portfolio and future investments.
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Agribusiness Countries

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