

Improving Food Security in Africa (2010)

South-South Knowledge Exchange Impact Story



From Retail to Wholesale: Scaling-up knowledge sharing for improving small-holder farmers' livelihoods

THE CHALLENGE:

Growth originating from agriculture has been two to four times more effective at reducing poverty than growth originating from other sectors. To reduce poverty and enhance food security in

Africa, it is critical to strengthen African agriculture; but increasing productivity is challenging as the spread of agricultural innovations has been limited. Brazilian farmers, on the other hand, have widely adopted new food production technologies since the late seventies.



AT-A-GLANCE

CHALLENGE

Many African small-holder farmers lag in adopting agricultural innovations, thus limiting food production, livelihoods, and Africa's agricultural productivity.

KNOWLEDGE RECIPIENT

Africa

KNOWLEDGE PROVIDER

Latin America

SDGS SUPPORTED



IMPACT

The Agricultural Innovation MKTPlace benefits smallholder producers by enabling innovation through collaborative agricultural partnerships between Africa and Latin America. The MKTPlace has funded 82 innovative agricultural projects, trained 4700 experts, and resulted in 1100 germplasm samples being exchanged and 170 new products developed to improve food security and livelihoods in Africa and Latin America.

THE EXCHANGE:

To scale up use of innovative and climate-smart agriculture practices in Africa, in 2010 the World Bank providing funding to establish the Africa-Brazil Agricultural Innovation Marketplace (MKTPlace) for small-holder farmers. Ever since, the online MKTplace has brought scientists, farmers, policymakers, and financiers from Africa and Brazil together to identify solutions to agricultural problems and fund promising projects. This wholesale model facilitates widespread agricultural knowledge sharing at scale rather than focusing on a single knowledge exchange.

THE IMPACT EIGHT YEARS AFTER:

The Africa-Brazil Agricultural Innovation MKTPlace has grown significantly since inception and a similar initiative targeting Latin American and Caribbean countries was launched in 2013. The MKTPlace brokered 82 innovative agriculture projects in Togo, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Brazil, Bolivia, and many other countries. Projects range in scale and scope, including a project to enhance small-holder cowpea production, another to train families in organic native potato production, and others that teach strategies for honey bee diversity and pest-resilient rice growing. Development institutions such as the United Nation's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation increased funding for the MKTPlace. So far 4700 experts have received training, over 1100 germplasm samples have been exchanged, while more than 170 products, services, and technologies have been developed. EMBRAPA and FARA, respectively the Brazilian and African lead organizations, launched a follow-up initiative named "Building on the Successes of the MKTPlace (M-BoSs)" to replicate and scale-up the most successful projects. This wholesale model for South-South collaboration will thus continue to benefit small-holder farmers' livelihoods and food production in Africa and beyond.