



# The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Growing Africa's Agriculture

## BACKGROUND

Established in 2006, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is an African-led and Africa-based institution that puts smallholder farmers at the center of the continent's growing economy by transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle to survive into farming as a business that thrives.

Working in collaboration with our partners—including African governments, researchers, development partners, the private sector and civil society— AGRA's work primarily focuses on smallholder farmers – men and women who typically cultivate staple crops on two hectares or less.

Through our new 5-year strategy for 2017-2021, we aim to catalyze and sustain an inclusive agricultural transformation through integrated, country-based investment plans in 11 countries with high potential for success. This transformation will be achieved through innovation-driven and sustainable productivity increases and access to innovative finance and markets to achieve agriculture's

potential as the reliable path to the continent's prosperity and the best option for youth employment creation.

## OUR GOAL

To increase the incomes and improve food security for 30 million farming households in 11 countries by 2021.

## OUR VISION

To catalyze and sustain inclusive agriculture transformation in Africa by increasing incomes and improving food security for 30 million smallholder households in Africa and to support countries on a pathway to attain and sustain an agriculture transformation.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is in response to a call from former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said the time had come for African farmers to achieve a "uniquely African Green Revolution."

## OUR HISTORY

In our first decade, we worked with governments and partners in 18 countries to help build the systems

and tools needed to advance an inclusive agricultural transformation.

The system includes a significant asset base of technologies, unique technical capabilities, knowledge and lessons learned, and local partnerships that we will leverage in our new 5-year strategy for 2017-2021, to catalyze and sustain inclusive agricultural transformation through integrated, country-based investment plans in 11 countries with high potential for success.

## OUR APPROACH

### *Farmer-Centered*

AGRA invests in our continent's family farmers—millions of hardworking men and women typically farming staple crops on less than a hectare of land. They are the heart of African agriculture, our economies and our future.

These farmers face many challenges which, when addressed at once, they quickly cross a threshold. Production improves and, with a dependable place to profit from their surplus, their hard-earned progress is sustained without outside help.

### African-Led

AGRA is an alliance led by Africans with roots in farming communities across the continent. We understand that African farmers need uniquely African solutions designed to meet their specific environmental and agricultural needs so they can sustainably boost production and gain access to rapidly growing agriculture markets.

With experts across the entire agricultural value chain, 90% of whom are Africans - sons and daughters of farmers - representing about 32 different nationalities, AGRA believes in the ability of the continent's human resource to drive the agricultural transformation.

### Partnership-Driven

All of AGRA's work is conducted through partnerships—with farmers, farmer organizations, community leaders, agricultural researchers, national and local governments, businesses, civil society groups, philanthropies, international organizations and donor countries.

Most of our interventions and projects are implemented through local grantees and partners with presence in the target communities and with potential for delivery. Since inception, AGRA has awarded over 789 grants.

### Aligned to Country Priorities

As agricultural development is significantly influenced by national policies, investments and institutions, our work is guided by and aligned with government's priorities for the agriculture sector and their overall vision for the agricultural transformation.

This body of work recognizes the centrality of government in driving transformation and will aim at strengthening country planning, coordination and implementation while supporting development of an effective private sector enabling and regulatory environment.

### Integrated Delivery

Achieving an inclusive agricultural transformation requires an integrated delivery approach and through an ecosystem of partnerships and the coordination of investments including public-private resources.

Recognizing that no single solution will be a sufficient driver of lasting change, we bring a full complement of tools to trigger the transformation. They include grant making, specialized technical assistance, knowledge management, brokering and facilitating government and partner/private sector relations, communications, convening ability, and— perhaps most importantly—strong partnerships to drive

a transformation agenda in all its focus countries.

**Note:** We pay close attention to four cross-cutting themes of resilience, women empowerment, youth empowerment and capacity development

### PRIORITY COUNTRIES

AGRA has prioritized 11 countries for its new strategy located mainly in three high-potential, under-exploited agro-ecologies - the Guinea Savannah Zone (Ghana, Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso), the East African Highlands (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania), and the Miombo Woodland (Malawi and Mozambique).

