



AGRA

Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems

Improving the
productivity of
major crops in
breadbasket areas in
Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso Strategic Plan:
2023 – 2027

Burkina Faso



The growth rate for yields of the main staple crops has been fluctuating from 1.68% (2016) to 12.61% (2018) and 1.39% (2019) against a target of 34%.



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Burkina Faso is home to 21 million people with agriculture being a major economic sector contributing 18% to GDP (WDI, 2019) and employing 63% of the active population (INSD, 2022). The performance of the agricultural sector over the past five years (2015–2020) shows an increase in national agro-sylvo-pastoral, fish and wildlife production (except that of milk) by ~17% between 2015 to 2020 from 6M to 7MT.

The Sahel region is experiencing detrimental effects of climate change, evident in the increased frequency and intensity of droughts, desertification and unpredictable rainfall patterns which have negatively impacted productivity. As a result, there has been an overall stagnation of crop productivity despite the increase in total production. The growth rate for yields of the main staple crops has been fluctuating from 1.68% (2016) to 12.61% (2018) and 1.39% (2019) against a target of 34%.

AGRA has been working in Burkina Faso since 2006 and will continue to operate within the framework of the Second National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDESII). This framework aims to accelerate the transformation of Burkina Faso's economy for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, capable of creating more decent jobs for young people and women. As a result, the expected economic growth rate by 2025 is 7.1% on average. In the last strategy phase, AGRA had some major achievements and learnings which include: reaching 0.9 million smallholder farmers (SHFs); producing 20,794 metric tonnes seed of different crops which was sold to farmers for USD 37 million; linking 618 agro-dealers to input and output market; leveraged USD 504 million of new public and private sector investments in the agriculture sector.



Despite a relative increase, current production levels cannot adequately address food insecurity crisis in the country. A July 2020 evaluation by the Food Situation Forecast Committee (CPSA), showed that around 3 million people, which is 15% of the total population, were food insecure and in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. As such, there is a persistent need to significantly improve yields in the "breadbasket" areas. This will underpin AGRA's strategic approach in Burkina Faso for the next five years.

Building on the successes and learnings from the previous strategy, AGRA's 2023–2027 strategy will build on models, successes and impact developed over the past decade to continue improving the productivity of major crops in breadbasket areas with the aim of transforming Burkina Faso's food systems to drive food and nutrition security.



18%

GDP Contributor

The main strategic objectives are:



Increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers.



Increasing the capacity of agricultural systems to respond to shocks and stresses.

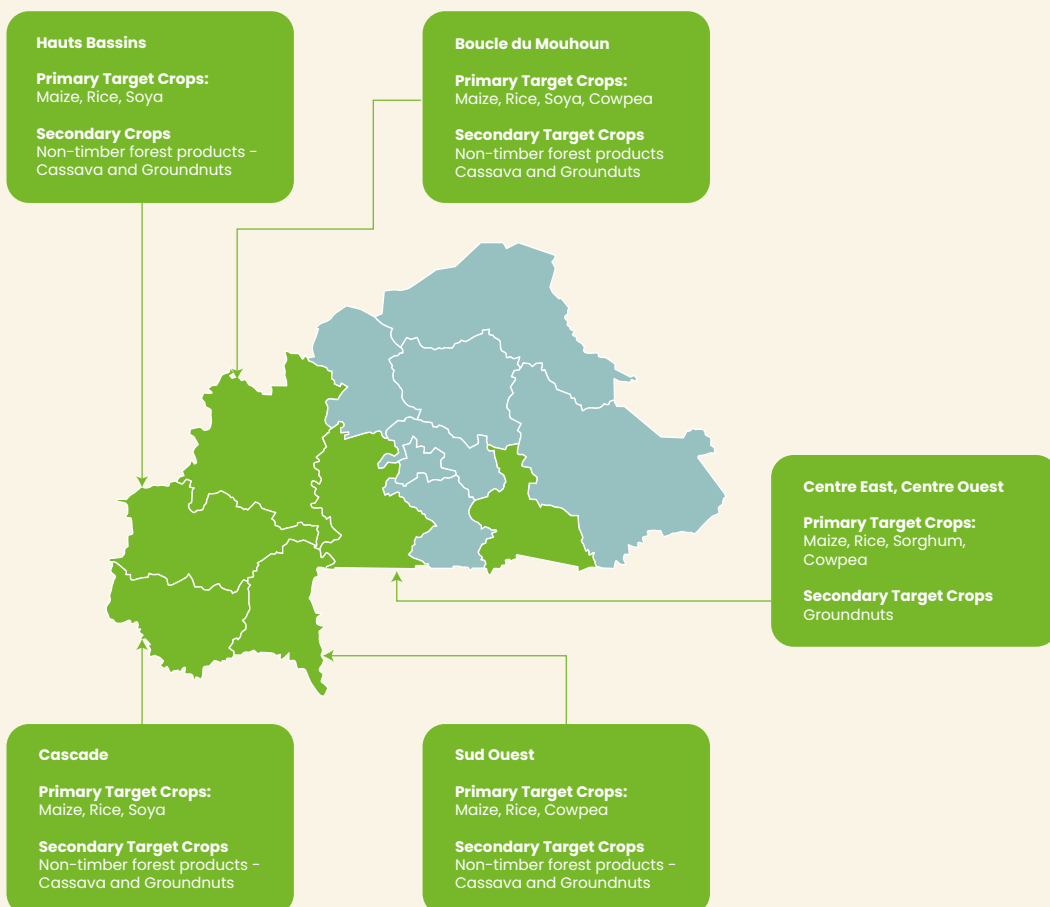


Enhancing Government leadership and delivery capabilities for food systems transformation.

Geography and crops

Nation-wide Strategic Interventions:

Policy and State Capacity Interventions: Continue supporting the rice flagship and design new flagships on the Country food system commitments





AGRA has a strong record in strengthening extension and input distribution systems to build on, while promoting sustainable farming across the continent.

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AGRA will deliver its strategy by focusing on:

Having worked in Burkina Faso over the past fifteen years, AGRA has developed a wealth of knowledge and experience in terms of suitable improved technologies, adapted to local conditions that it has analyzed and improved over the years. However, AGRA's strategic choices of delivery approaches, target crops and locations under the new strategy are all driven by its aim to improve the productivity of major crops in breadbasket areas in Burkina Faso.

We expect to meet our objectives through these business lines:



a) Inclusive Markets and Trade

Through this business line, AGRA will help build inclusive markets and trade at domestic, regional, and continental levels for aggregators, traders and processors, as well as the access to finance required to pursue these opportunities.

We aim to scale the risk-sharing input, output, and equipment financing model through partnerships with commercial banks, microfinance institutions and established credit guarantee facilities to support youth and women-owned SMEs. In addition, AGRA will support the development of flexible financial products adapted for SMEs and farmer needs to enhance access to the value chains of focus and work on grades and standards.

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b) Sustainable farming:

Under this business line, AGRA will identify, validate, and catalyze Sustainable Farming models that will enable smallholders to achieve sustained yields and profitability and adapt to climate risks.

AGRA has a strong record in strengthening extension and input distribution systems to build on, while promoting sustainable farming across the continent. Our focus is on investing in sustainable farming practices that empower farmers across Africa to achieve greater crop yields, while also combating the negative impacts of climate change.

AGRA will scale up youth-owned businesses to address manure production using mechanized crushers domestically in order to drive availability of organic fertilizer and other soil health inputs; develop model farms using innovative approaches such as solar-powered irrigation systems to generate year-round alternative revenue streams that engage youth and women in the agricultural sector and promote regenerative farming intervention with a focus on integrating tree species fixing soil conditions into farmer practices through revised/enhanced extension modules and field demonstrations etc.



c) Seed system:

AGRA's aim for this business line is to build strong, efficient, and robust seed systems that give farmers access to appropriate, affordable varieties with traits for better yields, pest and disease tolerance, as well as the trigger point to create more productive, commercial farmers able to shift to more sustainable farming practices.

Access to appropriate seed, at the right time, place and price, is critical. We are supporting government and seed companies to improve quality seeds, and developing policies that promote supply, strengthen distribution and production of certified seeds.

Key activities will aim to scale the adoption of market driven and climate-resilient varieties of maize, rice, sorghum, cowpeas and soybean. These will be achieved by investing to support seed companies develop their labelled certified seed distribution and marketing channels, support National Agricultural Institute (INERA) address early-generation seed (EGS) production capacity for soya and maize seeds and to support the completion of the seed law reforms.

AGRA's focus will be based on the SeedSAT comprehensive review to help increase adoption of market-driven and climate resilient varieties of maize, rice, sorghum, cowpea and soybean and support policy reform actions for a fully private-led seed system.

N/B: SeedSAT – SeedSAT is an assessment tool that undertakes country seed systems analysis to improve and, in the process, increase the delivery and use of improved varieties of seed. The tool also adds additional expertise that helps to identify root cause of country seed problems.

SEEDSat was developed with the support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in collaboration with AGRA. The analysis is a collaboration with governments and stakeholders.



d) Policy and state capacity

Functioning governments and strong coordination are a necessary condition for agriculture transformation. This unlocks public and private investment, strategic focus, and the policy and regulatory framework needed for the sector. AGRA will work with others to build state capability and support policy reform. This is intended to increase incentives for private sector participation and investment, enhance access to finance and markets and adopting climate smart technologies and use of inputs, seeds and fertilizer.

We shall continue supporting the rice flagship while designing new flagships to drive the food systems commitments, support the operationalization of the rural investment code and establishment of a programming framework within the budget programs to improve resource allocation in order to complete the result-based budgeting reforms already initiated.



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e) Inclusion

Burkina Faso's population is young, with 65% of its citizens under the age of 25. Most young people live in rural areas and depend on the agricultural sector for their livelihood which presents a huge opportunity to create work opportunities for the country's youth. AGRA will focus on women and youth with the aim to create 142,000 meaningful and fulfilling work opportunities. We also envisage a farmer reach of 2.8 million smallholder farmers of which 40% will adopt the use of diverse and nutrient-dense or climate-smart varieties and 30% will increase their gross revenues by at least 20%.

AGRA will also ensure:

Inclusivity to enable women and youth to contribute to agriculture for their economic empowerment.

Climate change adaptation by equipping farmers and strengthening food systems to absorb and recover from shocks.

Nutrition by improving nutrition outcomes by diversifying crops and ensuring food availability.

Delivery Models



Our delivery vehicles will include a combination of investments, externally sourced technical expertise, AGRA technical and institutional expertise, AGRA's convening capacity and network to provide leadership in systems building and support to the government and private sector investment choices.



AGRA always supports national priorities, and works under the leadership of each country's leadership. As an African institution, we stress the need to work together to find and use African solutions for African challenges. Supported by our development partners, we provide a range of tools to support our partners in Burkina Faso.



These include grants, funding, technical assistance and convenings, tailored to the specific needs of the country, our partners and on-the-ground support required. Our delivery models will be customized based on the areas of investment and strengths and capabilities of our partners. In the case of Burkina Faso, we shall refine our delivery model to determine where direct implementation is necessary and where collaboration with other stakeholders in the ecosystem can be leveraged.



Inclusivity and environmental are fundamental to our approach. AGRA actively promotes inclusivity by creating opportunities for women and youth to not only participate in the agriculture sector but also derive economic benefits from it. By fostering their inclusion, we empower them to become agents of change and catalysts for sustainable development. Climate change adaptation and nutrition in the ag sector are also key considerations across all our initiatives, ensuring resilient food systems and sustainable economic empowerment



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Quotes and Testimonials



Ouattara Kalifa, a Burkinabe farmer, today owns three motorcycles and several mobile phones, items he could only dream of six years ago. His ability to purchase these prestigious items is linked to his participation in a seed rice cultivation project by the Neema Agricole Du Faso (NAFASO) a local seed company, and a key partner of AGRA

The network of NAFASO farmers, among them Kalifa, now produces more than 3,116 tons of seed rice annually from 1,371 hectares, from which the farmers make an average of USD1,800 per hectare.

"There has been a real improvement in my livelihood," Kalifa said.



"AGRA support in the last ten year has been by far more significant to the seed sector that what was received before AGRA interventions (from 1960 to 2006)" Dr. Jacob Sanou, Breeder INERA

"With the support of AGRA, the Ministry in charge of Agriculture (MAAH) now has the most elaborate program budget software most adapted to the needs of users for the programming, and soon with the development of the monitoring-evaluation module, the monitoring of all investments in the ministry's field of action will be effective."

Damien Ouattara, Former Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Capitalization, Ministry of Agriculture