

Alliances for Action

Working in partnerships to establish sustainable food production systems

Smallholder farmers and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are the foundation of sustainable global, regional, and local food production systems. The prosperity of rural communities and the natural environment depend on the ability of farmers and SMEs to earn living incomes.



Yet, these key producers of agricultural and food value are often the most vulnerable actors in the global food system. Instead of thriving and being recognized for the value they create, they are trapped in poverty. Already compromised by barriers to finance and lack of supportive public policies, their situation is now exacerbated by the adverse effects of climate change. These threats to healthy food systems threaten, in turn, to disrupt local economies and environments, human health and education, as well as human rights, security, and peace.

Putting the VALUE back in value chains

Alliances for Action (A4A) is an ITC initiative that aims to transform these agricultural value chains and promote sustainable food production by honoring the value that smallholder farmers and SMEs contribute to agri-food value chains. A4A aims not only to improve stakeholders' financial well-being, but also to promote equity, sustainability, and inclusion throughout these food systems.

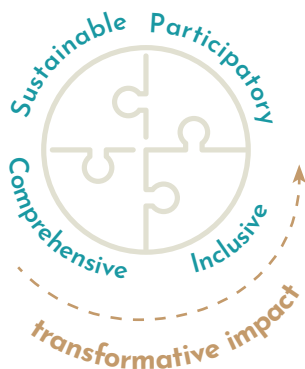
An A4A development project typically begins by working with farmers, processors, and distributors from across a value chain to identify gaps in the healthy functioning of a food system. Then, working cooperatively, value chain stakeholders share market information, create opportunities to increase expertise, and cultivate mutually beneficial commercial relationships. Stakeholder groups and institutions from across a value chain are included in the consultation, implementation, and governance phases of every development project.



Partnerships as a catalyzer for collective action

A4A does not work alone to achieve these outcomes. In seven projects for value chain development, A4A engages hundreds of stakeholders across 35 countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Together with our partners, we seek to build more sustainable and competitive conditions at every step across agricultural value chains.

A4A's team of specialists represents 35 nationalities with a diversity of backgrounds and expertise. This professional capacity enables A4A to maintain a strong presence in the field, with a focus on project implementation.



Through our unique, participatory approach, A4A cultivates the conditions for stakeholder partnerships to emerge, which collectively lead to ongoing, scalable improvement in the health of agricultural value chains, the sustainability of food systems, and thereby in the well-being of smallholder farmers and SMEs. In this way, A4A works beyond the scope of individual projects by facilitating ongoing learning and collaborative action among value chain actors to advance the achievement of more equitable global agri-value chains.

A4A creates a shared understanding of sustainability systems, issues, and opportunities by:

- Facilitating trust between value chain actors
- Aggregating and sharing data
- Clarifying shared purpose and principles
- Establishing communication infrastructures and norms

A4A establishes public-private alliances from producer to consumer by:

- Ensuring technical support
- Managing knowledge across projects and circulating information allowing fact-based decision making
- Adopting inclusive, collaborative decision-making
- Developing a purpose-driven roadmap with common priorities

A4A builds competitiveness and leverages investment to transform value chains by:

- Providing context framing, relationship development, and project support
- Collecting and sharing success stories
- Brokering relationships that stimulate investment and capacity building to facilitate system-wide value creation

Guided by our Principles of Transformative Impact

Participatory, Inclusive, Comprehensive, Sustainable

Alliances for Action advances efforts to develop global agricultural value chains that equitably distribute benefits to all stakeholders.

Write to us at alliances@intracen.org. |  <https://www.instagram.com/alliances4action/>

Together, we can transform food systems and create lasting, meaningful impact.