

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

AGRIBUSINESS AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT



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AGRIBUSINESS Transformational Change

With the world population expected to reach almost 10 billion in 2050, bold actions would be required to achieve higher productivity and social, economic and environmental sustainable growth in the agriculture and agro-industrial sector. The latter represents a key component of the economy of many developed and emerging countries and an opportunity for achieving livelihood, job creation and shared prosperity responding to the 2030 Development Agenda and SDG1, SDG2 and SDG9. "The development of agriculture-based industry is a first step towards the structural transformation of developing countries economies". The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) helps developing countries to add value to their agricultural produce that will in turn increase employment and income and lead to a higher level of prosperity. UNIDO programme on agribusiness development covers food and food systems, leather and leather products, textile and garments, wood and woodworking, agriculture mechanization and inputs supply and creative industries, as well as human capital development with focus on rural populations.

"Over 800 million people suffer from hunger, of these, 70 per cent live in rural areas of developing countries."

The current global food system is characterized by inequality and polarization in revenue distribution and bargaining power, entailing additional economic, social and environmental costs.

"It is imperative to develop food industries that do not represent a threat to biodiversity, environment and consumer health."

Inclusive and Sustainable industrialization (ISID) promoted by UNIDO focuses on upgrading and greening value chains to enable food systems to deliver safe food, better nutrition and fair income without jeopardizing economic, social and environmental resources.

"Agribusiness development must also target waste reduction and losses as well as recycling through technology improvements and process optimization along value chains together with the utilization of by-products."

Post-harvest losses, that could reach 40% of agricultural produce in the developing world, and lack of basic processing and logistics system result in high levels of waste and losses in many developing countries. UNIDO facilitates the transfer and adoption of appropriate and green agro-processing and postharvest technologies and practices as well as waste minimization. 76 PER CENT OF THE POOR IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD LIVE IN RURAL AREAS AND RELY ON AGRICULTURE FOR THEIR SURVIVAL

80 PER CENT OF EMPLOYMENT LIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

85 PER CENT OF THE EXPORTS ARE LINKED TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL To achieve inclusiveness

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make up more than 90% and more than 50% of employment worldwide, and there are some 500 million smallholder farms worldwide with more than 2 billion people that depend on them for their livelihoods. These small farms produce about 80% of the food consumed in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, fostering enterprise creation and nurturing SMEs in developing countries and linking agriculture and processing capacity is crucial for job creation and enhanced prosperity. Special attention, should also be placed on empowering disadvantaged groups facilitating access to capital (human, knowledge, social and financial) to become active economic actors. In this context, UNIDO focuses on strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem by supporting start-ups and upgrading existing SMEs in agribusiness sector and integrating agriculture and agro-industry pursuing circular economy objectives.

UNIDO's approach focuses on capacity building through provision of vocational and managerial skills training matching the demand in the job market; and fostering the creation of new and socially responsible enterprises. Moreover, as the absence of business development and support services can be a stumbling block for new entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, UNIDO also helps ensuring that public and private institutions in developing countries, and those in transition, are equipped to provide critical business development services and support to their clients, including information on networks, markets and investment opportunities.

Entrepreneurship in value chains play a crucial role in enhancing a country's economic competitiveness and ability to participate effectively in global trade. The selection of best practices introduced throughout rural entrepreneurship (i.e. "agropreneurs"), job creation and human security projects address human and social capital development. The participation of smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs and local providers of goods and services ensures greater inclusiveness. For instance, UNIDO creates sustainable and simple marketing networks of micro producers and small business owners by developing and implementing value chain strategies supporting the strengthening of existing networks, consortia or clusters. The Organization focuses as well on building the capacity of the different actors to operate in the value chain and adjust to new technological, business and market challenges, adding value to their production.

FOOD SYSTEM

& NUTRITION

Provides technical assistance and advise in the leather, textiles, and wood and nonwood forest products sectors and helps to upgrade farming and agro-industrial processes.

> RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP JOB CREATION & HUMAN SECURITY

AGRO-INDUSTRIES

TECHNOLOGY

Enhances the establishment of small-scale businesses in rural areas and helps to create

employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for vulnerable population groups such as women, youth and the victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters as well those affected by migration flows.

THE DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

Promotes investment in Agribusiness and value chain development and carries out interventions in support of efforts to ensure food security in mostly crisis-affected rural areas. Food systems cover processing, logistics, packaging, quality and safety infrastructure, as well as legal and institutional systems.

THE AGRI-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES In line with ISID and SDG's strategic goals

POVERTY REDUCTION

Emphasis is placed on strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystem, self-employment and management capacity, which enables to develop a conducive and responsible business environment. As results, it promotes maintenance and creation of decent jobs and income opportunities for each segments of society, with strong focus on women and youth, rural populations and vulnerable groups, including refugees, so as not to leave anyone behind. By developing training methodologies and learning tools, developed through participatory processes, UNIDO is able to disseminate agribusiness best practices and develop human capital through innovative sustainable solutions in partnership with both public and private sector.

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

By including in its activities the adoption of energy efficient and cleaner production practices, policies and technologies as well as the principles of circular economy in agro-based industries, the Department promotes solutions to mitigate climate change and greening of agro-based value chains.

ADVANCING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

By focusing on agribusiness value chains, the Agri-business Development Department promotes inclusiveness and enhances competitiveness of all actors in the value chain to meet local demand and integration into regional and global supply chains. Providing support to food and nonfood agribusiness value chains projects includes transfer of technologies and practices, compliances with market requirements such as the introduction and promotion of Codex-based food safety standards and market-driven schemes as well as gualification schemes for staff.

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How UNIDO, through its Agri-business Development Department, is supporting the capacity of Members States and Stakeholders to initiate and carry out their own programmes in the field of agro-industrial development.

The Agri-business Development Department provides tailored assistance through the implementation of technical cooperation projects with a strong emphasis on building local capacity, networking and transfer of knowledge and technology, fostering

and promoting investment in infrastructure and systems to achieve sustainable and inclusive industrialization. Threat to The Department shapes appropriate industrial strategies **Biodiversity**, **Feeding 9 billion** and policies to address the inclusive and sustainable **Ecosystems &** & Sustainability agro-industry ecosystems, while ensuring that UNIDO's Distress intervention is properly calibrated to fit with the global and regional economic integration. 2 Mechanization Migration Challenge 6 3 Innovation 5 Strengthening Agribusiness **Resilience & Value Chain** Social Inclusion

THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT VALUE CHAIN The agricultural value chain: a strategic tool for achieving ISID

Among other strategic approaches (e.g. entrepreneurship; human capacity development and territorial/corridor development), the value chain is an heuristic tool that the department uses to design and implement its interventions

in line with the various activities (e.g. capacity building, technology transfer, investment, market access). The value chain is a set of business, activities, and relationships, engaged in creating a final product or services. Each actor or function in the value chain, i.e. production, processing and marketing, consumption and disposal, requires effective tools and practices involving technology transfer, product development and processes, quality assurance and standards compliance entrepreneurship implementation, development, supplier development, and skills upgrading with the aim at supporting the national actors and the activities involved, in adding value to agricultural produce and human capital resources. The comprehensive approach of UNIDO to value chain analysis enables the Organization to identify the obstacles to industrial development, providing Member States and all stakeholders with an array of



analytical tools and services for all actors in the value chain. Agribusiness value chains enable a comprehensive analysis as a rigorous working base for the deployment of specialized services targeting the weaker links of the chain, such as agricultural mechanization and inputs supply, modern processing technologies, packaging of products, promoting food and product safety in the processing and enabling regulatory environment, creating the condition to successfully implement a value chain development project with the aim at improving competitiveness and productivity and job creation.

THE DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCES **Tools and Methodologies**

ACTIVITIES	TOOLS	BENEFITS
CAPACITY BUILDING	DEVELOPING SKILLS Training on managment skills Upgrading technical skills Acquiring entrepreneurial skills	Promote resource-efficient, sustainable and inclusive agro-industries, attract socially and environmentally responsible investment in agriculture and agro- industry
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES, BIO- TECHNOLOGY & NANOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRO-INDUSTRY With environmental gains and social responsability	Facilitate the transfer and application of appropriate technologies as well as its adoption; Introduce best practices to reduce post-harvest losses and bio- risks
INVESTMENT	DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS PLANS Support the establishment of Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIPs)	Trigger investment in profitable, demand-oriented and efficient agro-industrialization and facilitate integration of agriculture producers and processors and access to services, finance and markets
ASSESSMENTS STUDIES	ADVISORY SERVICES In line with ISID, sector studies, trends analysis, impact assessments and	Enhance the competitiveness of specific value chains and related services, and capacity building support

& TECHNICAL ADVICES

DIRECT SUPPORT

analysis, impact assessments and strategies identification, advisory services, and capacity building support at the institutional and governmental

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