ADAPTATION
NON-BLENDED

Project Name	**Excellence in Agronomy for Sustainable Intensification and Climate Change Adaptation**[1]
Country/Region	Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Sector	Agriculture
Project/Investment Amount	$75 million
Development Partner(s)/Stakeholders	USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Beneficiary Ministry/ Institution	Ministry of Agriculture
Investor(s) and Funders	
GUIDEBOOK TAXONOMY FINANCIAL SYSTEM ACTOR	Philanthropy and Impact Investors Bilateral, Multilateral & Development Finance Institution
Project Overall Goal	To deliver agronomic gain at scale for millions of smallholder farming households in prioritized farming systems, with emphasis on supporting women and young farmers, to demonstrate measurable impact on food and nutrition security, income, water use, soil health and climate resilience. Co-creation of agricultural solutions with farmers is integral to the Initiative through the engagement of modern tools, digital technologies, and behavioral science.
Project Outcomes	• At least 20 public and private scaling and demand partners pilot gender- and youth-responsive agronomic solutions, targeting at least 1 million farmers through extension, social and/or information technology networks, and use common monitoring, evaluation and learning approaches to report on how these solutions perform against agronomic gain key performance indicators. • At least 75% of research and scaling partners use and share common, open and FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reuseable) data, tools and analytics to support the co-creation of locally relevant agronomic solutions integrating climate-smart, inclusivity and sustainability dimensions and assessing their performance using standardized protocols. • Scientists from at least five non-CGIAR agricultural research institutes with complementary expertise in relevant research areas and at least 10 national agricultural research system partners cooperate with the Initiative to fill key knowledge gaps for delivering agronomic solutions at scale through at least 10 strategic projects. • Decisions made on key aspects of an expanding agronomy-at-scale research portfolio for the Initiative are taken collectively by CGIAR agronomists and scaling partners based on common learning.
Alignment with Country Identified Climate Strategies, NDCs, etc. (if applicable)	N/A
Contribution of the Project to the UN SDGs	SDG2: Zero hunger SDG12: Responsible Production and Consumption SDG13: Climate Action

[1] This case was provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as a contribution to the Sharm El-Sheikh Guidebook for Just Financing

Socioeconomic Impact	At least 40% of the target beneficiaries are women was used to project the number of women benefiting from adopting improved agronomic solutions. The Initiative will have a gender-responsive impact with high certainty (i.e., 50%-80% expectation of achieving these impacts by 2030), with the needs of men and women identified and differentially met. This will be achieved through the Use Case model that addresses underlying causes of gender inequalities in agronomy and combines gender transformative approaches with agronomic solutions. Improved agronomic practices promoted by the EiA Initiative are projected to benefit about 10.6 million youth by 2030. This comprises both direct beneficiaries (100,000 youth) as providers of digital services, particularly in extension and digital agronomic decision support tools, thereby creating job and income generating activities, and indirect beneficiaries (10.5 million) who are members of the households adopting improved agronomic practices. The medium certainty of achievement is due to lower certainty about whether and to what extent the youth will benefit indirectly as members of households adopting improved agronomic practices
Environmental Impact (on climate mitigation and/or adaptation)	Available evidence suggests that adoption of agronomic solutions which increase resource (nutrient, water, and/or labor) use efficiencies by at least 25% over 4.6 million ha of cropland is expected to have a substantial impact (i.e., improved soil health and fertility and enhanced ecosystem services) which will be achieved with high certainty (i.e., 50%-80% expectation of achieving these impacts by 2030). The benefits in terms of number Tg N applications were projected based on the TOC of the Initiative which aims to increase N agronomic efficiency (NAE, or kg of grain obtained per kg of N) by at least 25% while increasing yield by about 50% This is expected to provide substantial benefits (i.e., millions of tons of N under improved management, which leads to substantial reduction in environmental damage from chemical fertilizers) with high certainty (i.e., 50%-80% expectation of achieving these impacts by 2030).
Enabling Environment (Supporting Policies)	National and local governments utilize enhanced capacity (skills, systems and culture) to assess and apply research evidence and data in policy making process.
Technical Assistance (If Provided)	N/A
Financing model/approach (ex: Blended finance)	N/A
Rationale for financing model/approach	N/A
Financial instrument(s) (loans (commercial/ concessional), equity, guarantee)	Grants
Diagram of the financing structure	Not provided

Executive Summary

Combining expertise from across CGIAR research centers, private sector actors and government agriculture departments, the Initiative takes a data-based approach to offer demand-driven solutions.
This objective will be achieved through:

- Facilitating the delivery of agronomy-at-scale solutions, including development and technical/user-experience validation and the co-creation and deployment of gender- and youth-responsive solutions to smallholder farmers via scaling partners.
- Enabling the creation of value from big data and advanced analytics through the assembly and governance of data and tools; application of existing analytics and solutions for specific use cases; supply of information on climate impacts, inclusivity and sustainability of agronomic solutions; and national agricultural research system capacity strengthening.
- Driving the next generation of agronomy-at-scale innovations by addressing key knowledge gaps and facilitating innovation in agronomy research through engagement with partners.

- Nurturing internal efficiencies for an agile and demand-driven agronomy research and development community through internal organization and external partnerships for prioritization, demand mapping and foresight.

Improved agronomic practices are expected to be adopted on about 4.6 million hectares (representing 30% of EiA's target farmers) by 2030. This is estimated using adoption rates of improved agronomic practices using a logistic adoption function and multiplying the number of farmers targeted by Use Cases by the adoption rate.

Analysis

What made this project successful?	The project has only recently (September 2022) been launched.
To what extent is this model scalable?	This project focuses on improving the enabling environment for research, acting as a foundational step for other scalable initiatives to build on.
What are the necessary conditions to make it replicable in other countries/regions?	While this Initiative is global in its outlook, it will work through use cases and with stakeholders in Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These use cases will generate evidence to develop lessons of global application.
Constraints/Drawbacks of Financing Model	This is primarily a research initiative.
Lessons Learnt	N/A