

CASA: Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness

Context:

Agriculture is the main form of economic activity in most of Africa and South Asia and is dominated by subsistence farming. This offers little opportunity for men and women to escape from poverty or withstand shocks – less than 10% of smallholders are considered to be involved in organised, formal supply chains, with women less likely than men. By attracting more investment into agribusinesses - which trade with smallholders - and by bringing more and poorer smallholders into commercial supply chains, we can increase economic opportunities for smallholders.

Expected Outcomes and Results:

- Increase emerging commercial smallholder household incomes by over 30%, directly targeting 130,000 farmers and indirectly benefiting many more
- Increased pipeline of deals for impact investors and later stage investors such as CDC
- New jobs in agribusinesses through third party investment in SMEs
- More investment in smallholder agriculture and agribusiness by investors, governments, and donors

Key Facts:

- **Budget:** £29.9m
- **Timeline:** 6 year programme, 2017-2023
- **Partners:** Under procurement

Programme Objectives:

CASA seeks to change the way in which investors, donors and governments view and invest in agribusinesses that work with smallholder supply chains. Specifically, CASA will increase economic opportunities for smallholders by:

- Demonstrating the commercial viability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) agribusinesses with significant smallholder supply chains and attracting more investment into these businesses;
- Deepening the smallholder impact of existing investments made by development finance institutions and impact investors;
- Enabling poor smallholder farmers to engage with and trade in commercial markets;
- Researching and communicating the case for successful engagement with smallholder linked agribusiness

Programme Components:

- 1) Country level: work in Nepal, Malawi and Uganda CASA will target two value chains to support SME agribusinesses, smallholder groups and co-operatives and business groups advocating for enabling environment reform.
- 2) Global: Smallholder Development Facility will support larger agribusinesses to increase their smallholder impact and will work with investors to raise their ambition on development impact.
- 3) Learning/Communication: Research into evidence gaps on commercial agriculture, analysis of DFID's portfolio of programmes and synthesis of findings from CASA to influence actions of investors, donors and governments.