

# The OACPS Research and Innovation Programme: Advancing the R&I landscape in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)

The **OACPS R&I Programme** works in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries through the **ACP Innovation Fund (IF)** - for R&I capacity building, research uptake and policy advocacy, and the **Policy Support Facility (PSF)** - to enhance R&I policies and ecosystems



# Achievements – December 2024

## In Eastern and Southern Africa, IF finances three Projects:

Strengthening agricultural knowledge and the innovation ecosystem for inclusive rural transformation and livelihoods ([AIRTEA](#)),  
 Strengthening R&I in Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Waste Management (WM) in Southern Africa Region ([RINaWa](#)),  
 Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa ([COHESA](#)).

# AIRTEA

Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Ecosystem  
 for Inclusive Rural Transformation & Livelihoods in Eastern Africa



## AIRTEA

2021 - 2025

► **Implemented by:** Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa ([FARA](#)), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa ([ASARECA](#)), Eastern Africa Farmers Federation ([EAFF](#)).

► **Objective:** Sustainable agrarian livelihood and rural transformation in East Africa applying inclusive R&I. It enhances technology adoption, profitability and employment in agricultural value chains by strengthening youth and women's capacity in multi-stakeholder Innovation Platforms and Agricultural Business Learning Alliances (ABLAs).

### ► Selection of Outputs:

- Training document on [Gender mainstreaming for inclusive multi-stakeholder processes](#)
- [ABLA Toolkit](#) for business development in agriculture research for development
- Case study report for assessing the status of innovation platforms in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda

## ► AIRTEA-financed projects

Country	Projects	Achievements
Kenya	<a href="#">Inclusive dairy systems</a>	4 dairy value chain innovation <b>platforms</b> established, <b>1,100 farmers</b> from <b>5 dairy cooperatives</b> trained in improved dairy farming
	<a href="#">Silver cyprinid</a>	1 solar fish-drying and cooling <b>system</b> installed, <b>120 fisher folks</b> trained in group dynamics, post-harvest handling, processing, value-addition and marketing of silver cyprinid fish
	<a href="#">Digital/Green technologies</a>	1 <b>mobile</b> crop health assessment <b>app</b> developed ( <a href="#">Crop-dig</a> ), <b>520 youth farmers</b> trained in pest and disease management
Rwanda	<a href="#">Potato production</a>	<b>10</b> potato innovation <b>platforms</b> established / strengthened, <b>10</b> high-yielding <b>potato varieties</b> promoted
	<a href="#">Potato seeds</a>	<b>600+</b> seed and ware potato <b>producers</b> trained in technology improvement and management <b>practices</b> , <b>8</b> county government <b>officers</b> engaged in potato value chain support
	<a href="#">Youth Leading Changes</a>	2 agribusiness incubation <b>service centres</b> established, <b>560 farmers</b> trained in using e-extension services, <b>2 agro-inputs</b> supply points set up and managed by <b>7 youth</b> , <b>US\$ 3 million</b> raised to promote youth extension activities
Uganda	<a href="#">Aquaculture value chain</a>	<b>9</b> aquaculture innovation <b>platforms</b> established, <b>34 youth farmers</b> trained in good aquaculture practices, <b>5% cost reduction</b> of fish feed through the production of alternative feed source
	<a href="#">Dairy innovation centres</a>	2 drought-resistant dairy <b>innovation centres</b> established, <b>1</b> digital training <b>platform</b> for dairy value chain actors developed, <b>213 farmers</b> trained in good dairy farming practices
	<a href="#">Indigenous vegetables</a>	Quality of pumpkin seeds improved, <b>15</b> vegetable production <b>units</b> linked to markets
Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda	<a href="#">Cassava innovation system</a>	<b>68</b> on-farm cassava demonstration <b>sites</b> established, <b>600+ farmers</b> trained in rapid seed multiplication technologies
Kenya, Uganda	<a href="#">Digital connectors</a>	<b>12 youth</b> acting as Digital Connectors trained in entrepreneurship, <b>6</b> county government <b>officers</b> engaged in promoting digital services



**RINaWa**  
2022 - 2025

► **Implemented by:** The Southern African Development Community Secretariat ([SADC](#)), College of African Wildlife Management Area ([CAWM](#)) and World Wide Fund for Nature ([WWF](#)), partnering with universities and research centres acting as local multipliers from Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia.

► **Objectives:** Improved sustainable waste and natural resources management in targeted countries of Southern Africa. The project engages research and tertiary education institutes, government entities, value chains (VC) and local actors in evidence-based training, policy development and management actions in Waste Management (WM) and Community-based Natural Resource Management (CB-NRM), enhancing local skills and developing information exchange mechanisms.

► **Selection of Outputs:**

- 1 Baseline survey report on WM and CB-NRM
- 110 staff from research and tertiary institutes trained on WM and CB-NRM
- 9 long course curriculum programmes developed on WM and CB-NRM
- 75 training modules in WM and 41 in CB-NRM developed
- 13 short term courses in WM and CB-NRM developed
- 82 staff from research and tertiary institutes trained on identifying capacity needs in the design, implementation and monitoring of WM and CB-NRM projects

► **RINaWa-supported multiplier partners**

Country	Projects	Achievements
Tanzania	<a href="#">Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium</a>	<b>36 representatives</b> (Research and tertiary institutes, Value Chain actors) trained on the role of local knowledge in WM and CB-NRM, <b>30</b> priority areas in WM and CB-NRM identified; <b>286 representatives</b> promoting the adoption or adaptation of existing innovations in WM and CB-NRM
Mozambique	<a href="#">REPENSAR</a>	<b>510 representatives</b> (Government authorities, Value Chain and local actors) made aware of CB-NRM, <b>2</b> training <b>manuals</b> for environmental educators on WM
Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique	<a href="#">Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC)</a>	<b>20 representatives</b> from research and tertiary institutes (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) identified gaps and potential solutions within educational institutions in relation to R&I in CB-NRM and WM
Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique	<a href="#">Skyberry Botswana (PTY) LTD</a>	<b>98 value chain actors</b> from Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique trained in action research methodologies



**COHESA**  
2021 - 2025

► **Implemented by:** International Livestock Research Institute ([ILRI](#)), International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications ([ISAAA](#)) [AfriCenter](#), The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development ([CIRAD](#)), partnering with universities acting as local multipliers from 12 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA).

► **Objectives:** Inclusive R&I ecosystem, facilitating rapid uptake, adaption and adoption of solutions to One Health (OH) issues, with the OH concept embedded across society in ESA countries. The project builds OH capacity of government and non-governmental stakeholders (educational and research institutes, service providers - professional and grassroots organisations), assess the region's OH status quo, share information, promote national and regional OH governance and collaboration, prepare the **future OH workforce** and deliver **solutions for national OH priorities**.



► **Selection of Outputs:**

- 12 national OH [Baseline survey reports](#) (10 published)
- 10 national OH Netmapping reports ([Botswana](#) - [Ethiopia](#) - [Kenya](#) - [Mozambique](#) - [Namibia](#) - [Rwanda](#) - [Somalia](#) - [Uganda](#) - [Tanzania](#) - [Zimbabwe](#))
- 3 national OH strategies developed / updated ([Namibia](#), [Zambia](#), Mozambique - *awaiting ratification*)
- 1 [virtual OH observatory](#) sharing OH information across 12 ESA countries
- 1 survey of OH in [Higher Education in Eastern and Southern Africa](#) (*in press*)
- [One Health MSc](#) and [Food Safety BSc](#) curriculum benchmarks developed for the East African Community
- 775 persons from Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Environment from 21 ESA countries trained on OH issues
- 100+ journalists trained on writing about OH issues (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda)
- 4 OH stakeholder conferences ([OH education](#) - [Environment in OH governance](#) - [Governance, education and research](#) - [Science Communication and Leadership](#))
- 120 [open-access](#) publications

► **COHESA-supported multiplier partners**

Country	Projects	Achievements
Botswana	<a href="#">Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources</a>	<a href="#">OH incorporated into government guidelines</a> , <b>1 governmental OH working group</b> established
Ethiopia	<a href="#">Addis Ababa University</a>	<b>2 reports</b> ( <a href="#">Harmonised OH higher education across Ethiopia</a> , <a href="#">Mainstreaming OH approaches and principles into research in Ethiopia</a> ), <b>2 research projects</b> on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
Kenya	<a href="#">University of Nairobi</a>	<b>100</b> government <b>officers</b> from <b>5 counties</b> trained on OH outbreak management, <a href="#">OH Integrated into the education system of the University of Nairobi</a> , <b>1 OH course for primary school</b> developed and implemented with <b>28 teachers</b> and around <b>11,000 students</b> trained, <b>2 research projects</b> supported on AMR
Malawi	<a href="#">Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources</a>	<b>2 symposia</b> on OH research delivered, <b>1 pilot OH afterschool mentorship programme</b> with 3 schools developed, <b>1 ToR</b> developed for an OH governmental <a href="#">Multi-Sectoral Coordination Mechanism</a> , <b>1 OH consortium</b> with <b>3 Malawian universities</b> established
Mozambique	<a href="#">Universidade Eduardo Mondlane</a>	<b>1</b> inter-ministerial OH <b>platform</b> established, <b>1 module</b> OH developed for academics in higher education, <b>2 research projects</b> supported on AMR
Namibia	<a href="#">University of Namibia</a>	<b>1</b> inter-ministerial OH <b>platform</b> established, <b>1 curriculum</b> review on OH education at secondary schools
Rwanda	<a href="#">University of Global Health Equity</a>	<b>36</b> university <b>students</b> trained on <a href="#">Infectious disease management</a> , <b>15</b> national <b>agencies</b> trained on OH advocacy, <b>1 OH Experiential Learning course</b> for <b>6 institutions</b> developed, <b>2,000+ students, teachers, healthcare providers and patients</b> made aware of AMR issues, <b>1 OH media reporting guidelines</b> developed
Somalia	<a href="#">Amoud University</a>	
Tanzania	<a href="#">Nelson Mandela Africa Institution of Science and Technology</a>	<b>1 OH conference</b> delivered, <b>1 OH Parliamentary Committee</b> established and trained on AMR and OH, <b>52</b> government <b>officers</b> from <a href="#">Tanzania and Kenya</a> trained in <a href="#">cross-border delivery of OH</a> , <b>6</b> district multi-sectoral OH <b>committees</b> set up and trained, <b>8 universities</b> expanding OH in curricula
Uganda	<a href="#">Makerere University</a>	<b>60 teachers</b> and <b>300</b> primary and secondary school <b>students</b> mentored as OH ambassadors, <b>1 OH conference</b> delivered
Zambia	<a href="#">University of Zambia</a>	<b>50</b> government <b>officers</b> trained on International Health Regulations and Performance of Veterinary Services, <b>1 guide</b> on OH (Progressive Management Pathway for AMR) co-developed, Zambia Public Health Institute supported on OH issues (AMR, food safety and anthrax), <b>US\$ 26,6m</b> mobilised for promoting OH, conservation and pandemic preparedness, <b>50</b> government <b>officers</b> trained on OH and <a href="#">zoonotic diseases</a>
Zimbabwe	<a href="#">University of Zimbabwe</a>	<b>1</b> national OH Advisory <b>Committee</b> established, <b>3</b> integrated OH rangelands management <b>projects</b> established (across Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia), <b>1 curriculum</b> review on OH education at primary and secondary schools, <b>2 research projects</b> supported on waste management

## In Eastern and Southern Africa, the [PSF](#) has delivered four services at national and multi-country level

### PSF at national level

#### [Regional Strategy on Innovation in the Informal Sector \(January 2025\)](#)

#### Outputs

Assisted the East African Science and Technology Commission ([EASTECO](#)) in developing a strategy to enhance innovation within informal industrial clusters.

**Expected:** Regional strategy to support the informal sector and foster innovative practices in key industrial clusters.

► Engaged over **50 staff** from **10 regional organisations** in consultations and workshops.

- Policy Recommendation Report (*In preparation*)

#### [National Research and Innovation Policy Development in Lesotho \(July – December 2021\)](#)

#### Outputs

Assisted the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology ([MICSTI](#)) in defining a R&I policy and recommendations for the development of a national Innovation Agency.

**Achievements:** Framework for innovation governance established.

► Engaged **15 national representatives** and **150 stakeholders**, from **20 institutions**, including government ministries, academic institutions, private sector entities.

- [Country Background Report](#)
- [Policy Recommendations Report](#)

#### [Guidelines for Technology Transfer and Innovation Hub Coordination in Kenya \(April – September 2022\)](#)

#### Outputs

Assisted the Kenya National Innovation Agency ([KeNIA](#)) in creating guidelines to improve technology transfer and the coordination of innovation hubs.

**Achievements:** Enhanced connectivity between academia, industry and innovation hubs; pilot projects initiated in 3 regions.

► **30 stakeholders** trained in technology commercialisation and **30** in innovation hub coordination; **5 institutions** supported to enhance commercialisation systems; **1 National Commercialisation Toolkit**.

- [Guidelines for strengthening commercialisation in universities and research institutes](#)
- [Guidelines for Cooperation and Management of Innovation Hubs](#)

### PSF at multi-country level

#### [Mutual Learning Exercise on National R&I Funds \(February – December 2024\)](#)

#### Outputs

[Facilitated knowledge sharing to develop or improve R&I funding mechanisms](#)

► **30 policymakers** and fund managers from Botswana, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda and Seychelles trained in establishing national funds for R&I.

Handbook on R&I Fund development (*In preparation*)

#### [Mutual Learning Exercise on R&I Policies and Strategies \(February – September 2023\)](#)

#### Outputs

[Collaborative initiative on effective R&I policy development and execution](#)

► **45 policymakers** from **15 countries**, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia, trained in R&I policies and strategies.

[OACPS Handbook on R&I Policy](#)