The issue

Diaspora communities can be a powerful force for the development of their countries of origin, spurring economic diversification and job creation in key sectors of the economy. They directly contribute not only through remittances and investments, but also by transferring knowledge, technologies and skills and facilitating trade of local goods between countries of origin and destination. However, the contribution of diaspora to agribusiness and to sustainable agriculture are less well known, and their potential remains untapped.

Diaspora engagement in agriculture is limited by a number of barriers such as the remoteness of rural areas, poor infrastructure, limited information about investment opportunities in agribusiness, lack of trust in government institutions, and scarce interactions between diaspora associations and rural stakeholders in countries of origin.

In 2022, international remittances to developing countries reached USD 647 billion

About 50% of international remittances are sent to rural areas

The African Union recognizes diaspora as its Sixth Region given its contribution to African development

India (18 million), Mexico (11 million) and the Russian Federation (11 million) have the world’s largest diaspora
It is crucial to invest in the design and implementation of mechanisms that facilitate the transfer of financial and non-financial resources from diaspora into agribusiness. It is also important to involve diaspora organizations in decision-making processes so that the needs of the diaspora are taken into consideration and their contribution to agrifood system transformation and climate action is maximized.

The action

FAO works to create the conditions for diaspora to contribute financial and non-financial resources to agribusiness, while empowering diaspora agripreneurs and networks. In particular, FAO:

- **Enhances diaspora’s access to information** on opportunities to invest in agribusiness and climate change adaptation;
- **Facilitates diaspora-youth matching programmes** to promote diaspora investment in youth-led agribusinesses;
- **Fosters diaspora skill transfer**, through in-person or online mentorship and coaching programmes, to support the creation of decent jobs in agrifood systems and the adoption of climate adaptive practices;
- **Promotes the organization of diaspora in agribusiness awards** to create visible role models;
- **Brings the voice of the diaspora** into agrifood policy consultations and decision-making processes, through the organization of dedicated summits and by setting up diaspora in agribusiness networks, in order to enhance participation and strengthen partnerships;
- **Strengthens governments’ capacities** to formulate and implement policies and programmes that create the conditions for diaspora to contribute to agribusiness.
Why with FAO?

FAO has a comparative advantage in creating the conditions for migrants and diaspora to fully contribute to rural development and climate change adaptation. This is thanks to its unique technical expertise on agrifood systems and climate change adaptation, as well as its strong presence at country level and in rural areas. Furthermore, FAO is a neutral broker able to engage agriculture line ministries in the discussion with government departments responsible for diaspora matters and mobilize the participation of diaspora organizations, agripreneurs and rural communities. Thanks to its expertise, the Organization naturally combines policy assistance, inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue and technical support to develop a sustainable agribusiness sector and support green investments in key agrifood value chains.

Results achieved

In Uganda, FAO worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, as well as with global and national diaspora organizations, to boost the contribution of diaspora to agribusiness.

First, FAO worked to ensure inclusive policymaking processes. This was done by facilitating the set-up of a Multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group that enhanced the coordination among government ministries, agribusiness incubators, youth organizations and diaspora agripreneurs. The members of the working group received tailored training on how to build effective mechanisms for diaspora engagement in agribusiness. FAO also supported systematic exchanges and consultations between diaspora agripreneurs and policy makers. As a result of these efforts, agribusiness is considered a key sector for investment in the new Uganda Diaspora Policy, currently under development.

Second, in 2021 and 2022, FAO launched the first Ugandan Diaspora Agribusiness Conferences and Investor Award to facilitate investment opportunities in the agrifood sector. The conferences provided the occasion to discuss challenges and opportunities for diaspora to invest in agribusiness, while also celebrating and awarding successful Ugandan agripreneurs who contributed to generating youth employment opportunities in agribusiness. Thanks to the visibility of the award, diaspora winners formalized new collaborations and partnerships to expand their businesses.
Finally, FAO supported the setup of the **Uganda Diaspora Agribusiness Network**, which encompasses over 90 diaspora agripreneurs from around the world. The network has contributed to sharing information on agribusiness opportunities available in Uganda with diaspora communities abroad as well as facilitated diaspora investments into Ugandan youth-led agribusinesses through the design and roll out of a dedicated agribusiness matching programme.

In partnership with

FAO collaborates with **UN organizations**, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), as well as **international diaspora organizations** such as the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) and the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD). At country level, FAO collaborates with ministries responsible for agriculture and migration, agri-food value chain actors, agribusiness incubators, financial institutions, national diaspora in agribusiness networks, and youth associations.

**Tools**

**Stocktaking:** Initiatives to engage diaspora in agribusiness

**Toolkit:** Integrating migration into rural development interventions

---

*I'd like to thank FAO for availing the opportunity to me and us, the people from the diaspora, to be able to talk to people out there, who want to know how to contribute to Uganda. We still have a chance to operate in Uganda and to invest in Uganda and to work with Ugandans, to break certain cycles like poverty.*

Loi Angela Kitamirike, Ugandan diaspora agripreneur

---

Some rights reserved. This work is available under a **CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence**