

Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security

About program

Agriculture remains the backbone of livelihoods for many communities, especially in rural areas. However, challenges such as climate change, land degradation, limited access to markets, and declining soil fertility threaten food production and long term food security.

The **ACEI** aims to address these challenges by promoting environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially inclusive agricultural practices. The program empowers smallholder farmers, women, and youth to adopt sustainable farming systems that enhance productivity, improve nutrition, conserve natural resources, and strengthen community resilience against climate shocks.

We promote sustainable agricultural practices that ensure food and nutrition security, improve livelihoods, and protect the environment for current and future generations.

Goals

- To promote the adoption of climate-smart and sustainable farming practices.
- To enhance food and nutrition security at household and community levels.
- To improve soil and water conservation for long-term agricultural productivity.
- To strengthen market access, value chains, and agribusiness opportunities.
- To build the capacity of farmers, especially women and youth, in sustainable agriculture.
- To influence agricultural and environmental policies that support sustainable food systems.

Target Groups

- Smallholder farmers
- Rural women and youth
- Farmer cooperatives and associations
- Schools and community-based organizations
- Local government and agricultural institutions

Areas of Focus

1. Climate-Smart Agriculture

Here, **ACEI** focuses on building farmers' resilience to climate change while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Our Approach:

- Promoting organic and conservation agriculture.

- Introducing drought-tolerant and early-maturing crops.
- Encouraging agroforestry and mixed farming systems.
- Supporting the use of renewable energy (solar-powered irrigation).
- Training on sustainable land and water management techniques.

2. Nutrition & Food Security

To ensure every household has access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food throughout the year.

Our Approach:

- Establishing school and community gardens to improve food diversity.
- Training communities on balanced diets, food preparation, and preservation.
- Supporting local production of vegetables, fruits, and legumes to fight malnutrition.
- Promoting home-based food storage and post-harvest management.

3. Water & Soil Conservation

The ACEI aims to Maintain soil fertility and efficient water use is key to sustainable farming.

Our Approach

- Implementing rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation systems.
- Encouraging contour farming, mulching, and compost use.
- Conducting training on soil erosion control and reforestation.
- Promoting watershed management and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

4. Market Access & Value Chain Development

We focus on improving the economic viability of farming through better market linkages.

Our Approach

- Formation of farmer cooperatives and marketing groups.
- Capacity building on agribusiness and entrepreneurship.
- Promoting value addition through food processing, packaging, and branding.
- Facilitating market linkages between farmers and buyers.
- Introducing digital marketing platforms and mobile-based market information.

5. Farmer Training & Capacity Building

Building knowledge and skills is vital for sustainable farming.

Our Approach

- Establishing farmer field schools and demonstration farms.

- Conducting regular workshops on sustainable and climate-resilient farming.
- Providing training on farm management, record-keeping, and financial literacy.
- Supporting knowledge exchange visit and peer learning among farmers.

6. Women and Youth Empowerment

Recognizing the critical role of women and youth in agriculture, this component ensures inclusivity and innovation.

Our Approach

- Supporting women and youth groups in agribusiness enterprises.
- Providing training and grants for start-up agricultural ventures.
- Encouraging participation in decision-making and leadership in agriculture.
- Promoting gender equality and youth-led agricultural innovation.

7. Policy and Advocacy

Creating an enabling environment for sustainable agriculture requires strong policies and collaboration.

Our Approach

- Engaging with government and stakeholders to advocate for pro-farmer policies.
- Promoting food sovereignty and sustainable resource management policies.
- Supporting evidence-based research and policy dialogue on food systems.
- Building partnerships with NGOs, academic institutions, and private sector actors.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased adoption of sustainable and climate-smart farming practices.
- Improved food security and household nutrition levels.
- Enhanced resilience of communities to climate change impacts.
- Strengthened agricultural value chains and improved farmer income.
- Increased participation of women and youth in agricultural development.
- Supportive policies and partnerships promoting sustainable food systems.

Sustainability Plan

- Encouraging community-based organizations to take leadership roles in program activities
- Building local expertise to ensure continuity beyond project funding.
- Promoting environmentally friendly and low-cost technologies accessible to farmers.
- Creating income-generating ventures to sustain program operations.