

Norway

Priorities and approaches

Norway's foreign and development policy advocates for economic development, improved human rights and good governance with the ultimate goal of reducing the number of people living in poverty while protecting planetary boundaries. Norway regards the 2030 Agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the framework that underpins its approach to development cooperation.

One of the overall objectives of Norway's foreign and development policy is to fight hunger and increase global food security. To further support this objective, the government released its new strategy for food security [*Combining Forces against Hunger – a policy to improve Food Self-Sufficiency*](#) in late 2022. The strategy comprises four main focus areas: i) ensure that small-scale food producers become more robust considering the many challenges as a result of climate change; ii) further reinforce the participation by these small-scale food producers as well as small- and medium-sized enterprises in the food value chain; iii) lessen malnutrition and undernutrition through improved access to healthy, diverse and safe food – including aquatic food; and iv) ensure swift preventive actions and more coherent efforts to support local food production and reduce the scale of future of hunger crises.

Norway will contribute to improved food security through targeted efforts drawing on Norwegian expertise in various fields. The strategy provides the framework for the country's deepened efforts to transform food systems in developing countries through the United Nations, development banks, global funds and bilateral cooperation. The government is also consolidating its efforts and investments by focusing on five priority countries in Africa, which are facing serious food security challenges: Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

Norway has a long history of supporting capacity development for higher education and research in low- and middle-income countries. Agricultural research for development (ARD) support – including a strong emphasis on fisheries and aquaculture – follows a highly integrated approach that places agricultural research and capacity development as a central component in broader development programs, recognising the important role of research in the interactions between development, poverty reduction and environmental conservation. Through ARD, Norway aims to contribute to various SDGs focusing on reducing poverty and hunger (1 and 2), combating climate change (13), and protecting life on land (15).

Organisation of ARD

Various Norwegian ministries and other governmental entities support bilateral and multilateral ARD, often as part of broader multi-donor development efforts. The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) – through its directorate the [Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation \(Norad\)](#) and various embassies – is the main actor in ARD support.

In addition to Norad, two other government entities play an important role in managing various funding schemes. The [Research Council of Norway \(Norsk\)](#) under the Ministry of Education and Research manages funds from various Norwegian ministries, including the portfolio for global development and international relations (see below). Norsk promotes basic and applied research and innovation through different grant application arrangements and funding schemes. The [Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills](#), also under the Ministry of Education and Research, is accountable for the Norwegian skills policy and, among other, manages the Norwegian Partnership Programme for academic collaboration (NORPART, see below).

Instruments and examples of ARD funding

1. Direct support to research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa

Norad is providing direct support to [six research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa](#) and to 16 African research councils through the multi-funder [Science Granting Councils Initiative \(SCCI\)](#). Four of the Norad-supported research institutions fall within the agricultural sector:

- *International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)*: Interdisciplinary research on insects and arthropods through a One-Health approach in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya. This involves research on pests, biological and biorational control, pollination and insects for feed, fertilizers and food (NOK 34,6m/2018-2023).
- *World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)*: Research on agro-ecological methods to manage the pest Fall Army Worm on maize in Zambia and Malawi (NOK 21,6m/2018-2023).
- *African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)*: Research and communication of research findings to relevant actors to ensure their uptake in policy and praxis. AERC aims to enhance private sector engagement in policy-oriented research that is relevant for business development and job creation (NOK 34,6m/2018-2023).
- *Tropenbos International Ghana (TBG)*: Research on the context, drivers and impacts of small-scale mining on agriculture, forestry and food security in Ghana. The main aim is to improve food security and ecosystem services in the country (NOK 16,2m/2018-2022).

2. NORHED II

The Norwegian Program for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development -phase 2 ([NORHED II](#)) is funded and administered by Norad. The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions in developing countries to produce higher quality education and research, as well as contribute to more inclusion. The program consists of six thematic sub-programmes, one of which is climate and natural resource management with three focus areas related to ARD issues: (i) climate adaptation and emission reduction; (ii) management of natural resources; and (iii) food security, development and management of sustainable food systems. NORHED II's project portfolio includes eight projects; each contributing in different ways to strengthening higher education and research within the topics of climate-smart agriculture, food security, nutrition and aquaculture. The total budget for the period 2021-2026 for these projects is NOK 150 million (of a total amount of NOK 1,1 billion for the whole call).

3. NORPART

The Norwegian Partnership Programme for academic collaboration ([NORPART](#)) is funded by Norad and administered by the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills. The NORPART programme (2017-2026) supports long-term academic cooperation and mutual exchange between higher education institutions in Norway and selected partner countries. The program has no thematic priorities. Of the total projects funded in the three calls for proposals since 2016, 15 cover topics related to climate-smart agriculture, food security, nutrition and aquaculture. The total budget for these 15 projects combined is NOK 83 million covering the period 2017-2026.¹

4. Global development and international relations

The portfolio for global development and international relations is mainly funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and administered by Norsk. Approximately two projects related to agriculture are funded each year (about NOK 15m total). This support goes to Norwegian researchers who compete for funds. Research often involves collaboration with research institutions in the Global South. Examples of ARD projects that have been recently funded and are currently being implemented are:

- *Climate Smart Innovations in Agriculture in Uganda: Improved Food Security, Livelihoods and Soil Carbon* led by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NOK 12m/2020-2025).
- *Food for Security: Evidence from Cauca, Colombia* led by Oslo Metropolitan University (NOK 9m/2020-2023).
- *Pathways to Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods through the Implementation of Farmers' Rights to Crop Genetic Diversity* led by Fridtjof Nansen Institute (NOK 6m/2020-2023).
- *Perennial Grassland Mixtures: A Novel Approach to Forage and Food Production, Land Restoration and Climate Resilience in Ethiopia* led by the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NOK 12m/2021-2024).

5. Agricultural research support through embassies

Historically the embassies have financed agriculture universities in their support to the development of the agricultural and fisheries sectors. A number of projects are currently ongoing and for which the embassies receive technical support from Norad to manage these agreements:

- Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi (about NOK 12m/2021-2025). Embassy funds are used in [two programmes](#) in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences:²
 - *Sustainable Food System for Rural Resilience and Transformation (TRANSFORM)*, which is cofunded by Norwegian Church Aid.
 - *Sustainable Food Systems in Malawi (FoodMa)*.

¹ One of the 15 projects runs from 2017-2022, seven from 2019-2023, and seven from 2022-2026.

² In addition, two of the eight projects funded under NORHED II implemented by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences are in collaboration with LUANAR: *Experiments for Development of Climate Smart Agriculture (SMARTEX)* and *Enhanced Capacity for Aquatic Resources in East and South Africa (ECARESA)*. SMARTEX has synergy with the FoodMa program as well as *Building Capacity for Innovation and Advancement for Climate Smart Agriculture*, which is a NORPART-funded project.

- Mekelle and Hawassa Universities in Ethiopia received funding for the project *Strengthen Ethiopian Food Systems through Education, Research and Dialogue* (NOK 90m/2022-2027).

6. Agricultural research through partner cooperation

A substantial part of Norway's ARD support is through the CGIAR but Norway has also several bilateral programs with CGIAR centres and other international research institutions.

- *Core funding* to the CGIAR, which is channelled through its Trust Fund – a multi-donor and multi-year funding mechanism that was transformed into a new funding modality of pooled funding with undesignated and designated commitments as of 2022 (NOK 125m/yr).
- CIFOR's *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)* project of which Norway is one of the key funders. The project builds on close to three decades of research at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) around deforestation and forest degradation and approaches to ensure that both are halted. Benefiting countries are Brazil, DR Congo, Indonesia and Peru (NOK 52m/4 yrs).
- The *Cocoa Soils* project led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) focuses on the improvement of production and production practices in the cocoa industry of West Africa, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria. The project is implemented in collaboration with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Wageningen University and Research, Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and has private and public sector involvement (NOK 100m/2018-2022).
- IITA's *Climate Smart Agricultural Technologies (CSAT)* project focusses on introduction and scaling of climate-smart technologies in Sahelian and dry savannah regions of Mali and Niger that will improve rural livelihoods and food security (NOK 160m/2018-2024).
- IITA's *Black Soldier Fly* project's overall objective is to improve the livelihoods of smallholder chicken, fish and vegetable producers and other value-chain actors. It will also contribute to improved urban sanitation and climate change mitigation in Ghana, Mali, and Niger (NOK 85m/2021-2024).
- World Fish's *Development and Scaling of Sustainable Feeds for Resilient Aquatic Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa (FASA)* project aims to develop cost-effective and highly nutritious aquatic feeds that are based on novel ingredients, which will be tested and used by 5,000 smallholder aquatic food producers in Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia, many of which are women and youth (NOK 80m/5yrs).
- WorldFish's *Increased Sustainability in The Aquaculture Sector in Sub Saharan Africa through Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management* project aims to increase sustainability and resilience in the aquaculture sector through improved aquatic animal health management and biosecurity governance in Ghana and Kenya. The project is co-led by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NOK 27m/2020-2024).

- Global Crop Diversity Trust's (GCDT) *10-year Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development (BOLD)* project - launched in 2021 – aims to strengthen global food and nutrition security by strengthening the capacity of national genebanks in managing and using crop diversity. This will include safeguarding their participation in seed system interventions, which will enhance farmers' access to crop diversity, and thus contribute to the resilience of food systems in partner countries (NOK 540m/10yrs).
- The *Multi-Year Partnerships* of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: (FAO) focus on climate change, biodiversity and fisheries, which includes a substantial component on training and research (NOK 176m/4 yrs).
- FAO 's *Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)-Nansen* Program – initiated in 2006 and which entered a new phase that will run from 2017 to 2023 – supports fishery research institutions to provide relevant and timely scientific advice for fisheries management according to the EAF principles (NOK 848million/7yrs., incl running costs of a research vessel).
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture *Benefit Sharing Fund*'s primary beneficiaries are farmers, especially in low-and middle-income countries, who conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. A large component of the fund is research on seed varieties and seed systems executed by the CGIAR (NOK 30m/4 yrs).
- *Core support* to the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) is being considered (NOK 100m/5 yrs).

This country profile has been prepared by EIARD with contributions from staff of Norad, complemented by information collected from internal and online databases and websites. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this profile do not necessary reflect the views of the Norwegian organisations involved in ARD.