

## Germany - BMZ

### *Priorities and approaches*

Germany has a strong interest in Agricultural Research for Development (ARD). ARD policies and investments are in line with international declarations and commitments as there are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030, etc. ARD is supported by several Ministries - each of them based on own sector strategies.

The most important tasks of German [Development Policy](#) include the global realisation of human rights, the fight against hunger and poverty, the protection of the climate and biodiversity, health and education, gender equality, fair supply chains, the use of digitalisation and technology transfer, and the strengthening of private investment to promote sustainable development worldwide.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine had dramatically worsened the situation in global agricultural markets, which had already been very difficult as a result of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, under its G7 Presidency in 2022, Germany had a special responsibility to develop globally coordinated solutions for food security. That is why German Development Minister Svenja Schulze, together with World Bank President David Malpass, launched a [Global Alliance for Food Security \(GAFS\)](#) in May 2022 as a way of equipping the world to face the impending famine. GAFS is a joint, coordinated and global platform of solidarity as a shared response to the multi-dimensional crisis, built around three focus areas. Advice, Action, Advance. Data, analysis and up-to-date information drive evidence-based crisis response and inform swift political, financial and technical actions. ARD is a key building block to support GAFS's Advice and Advance focus areas.

### *Organisation of ARD*

There are several Ministries in Germany providing financial and technical support to ARD, through different implementation bodies, which are directly connected to the respective Ministry, as well as through research institutions, non-government organisations (NGOs) and foundations.

The German [Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#) is a prime actor for the funding and coordination of international ARD in Germany. The BMZ is funding ARD mainly through its implementing organisations, the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\)](#) GmbH and the [KfW Development Bank](#).

### *BMZ's instruments and programs*

Germany has significantly increased its development cooperation efforts relating to food security in recent years. It is making massive efforts to help its partner countries improve and [ensure food security for their people](#). Germany's development cooperation activities in this sector are also helping to develop rural areas and protect natural resources.

The long-term aim of the [\*BMZ Core Area Strategy: Sustainable Agri-Food Systems\*](#) is the equitable transformation of agricultural and food systems worldwide across all the dimensions of sustainability: social, economic and environmental. In this framework, the BMZ promotes climate resilience and climate change mitigation in the context of food security, rural development and agriculture.

With its focus on [\*Transformation of agricultural and food systems- for fair incomes, healthy nutrition, and an intact environment\*](#) Germany is putting food security at the centre of international cooperation and ARD. The aim is to give people the chance to realise their right to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. To that end, food systems need to become more effective and efficient. Sustainable agriculture must also help to ensure a balanced diet and income for small farming families and support them in adapting to the consequences of climate change. That is why an important area of work for German development cooperation is to promote more sustainable agriculture and food systems that involve both producers and consumers. This needs to happen in a way that is economically and socially sustainable so as to create prosperity and new jobs for young people and, in particular, for women. Acting in this spirit, the BMZ is pursuing a [\*Feminist Development Policy\*](#) for sustainable development.

### *1. Special Initiative Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems*

The BMZ invests some €2 billion each year in global food security and rural development. In 22 of the BMZ's partner countries, these issues are priority areas of bilateral cooperation. About one third of that funding is channelled through the [\*Special Initiative Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems\*](#), which the BMZ launched in 2023, adapted from the previous *Special Initiative One World No Hunger*. It targets partner countries that are particularly strongly affected by hunger and malnutrition. The initiative comprises about 300 projects and focuses on fostering smallholder farming in Africa. The initiative is an important instrument for achieving quick and effective impact and realising the right of all people to nutritious food, while creating the right pathways for a long-term transformation towards sustainable agriculture and food systems. The special initiative helps strengthen rural development, which is also the basis of food security. Developing and piloting innovative approaches and promoting applied research are key elements.

Various key initiatives and programmes fall under these current and former special initiatives including:

- As part of its former *Special Initiative One World No Hunger*, the BMZ has established [\*green innovation centres for the agriculture and food sector\*](#) in 16 partner countries of German development cooperation between 2014 and 2026. The aim of the centres is to improve regional food supply, increase the income of smallholder farms and create jobs through innovations in the agricultural and food sector. The green innovation centres in many cases commission international agricultural research centres to provide applied ARD.
- Another funding concept is the promotion of sustainable innovations in the agri-food sector under the [\*Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture\*](#) (i4Ag, 2020-2028). International ARD organisations are eligible partners in innovation partnerships. Furthermore, i4Ag

administers funds for the involvement of PhD and MSc scholars from German and international universities in CGIAR research projects and in this way strengthens the links between German and international development-oriented ARD.

- The BMZ supports the Global Crop Diversity Trust in its endeavour to ensure the conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in perpetuity, in accordance with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

## *2. Agricultural research and innovation: Fund International Agricultural Research (FIA)*

A considerable share of the BMZ's support to ARD is provided to the Global Research Partnership for a Food Secure Future (CGIAR), the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) and the World Vegetable Center. Indirectly, national extension, innovation and research institutions benefit from this support as implementing partners.

Germany was one of the founding members of the CGIAR in 1971. For almost 30 years, GIZ's [Fund International Agricultural Research](#) (FIA, former Beratungsgruppe Entwicklungsorientierte Agrarforschung - BEAF, Advisory Service on Agricultural Research for Development) is acting on behalf of the BMZ by administering the German contributions to international ARD, providing strategic and policy advisory support to the BMZ as well as to the CGIAR.

The BMZ, as a strong supporter of the One CGIAR reform process, is taking part in several fora and committees, as well as the decision-making body (One CGIAR System Council) as a voting member. Until 2020, funding was provided via bilateral grants with individual research centres. Since the establishment of One CGIAR, BMZ supports selected Research Initiatives and an Impact Area Platform via designated pooled funding. With the One CGIAR reform nearly completed, BMZ is transitioning towards direct, pooled portfolio funding to the CGIAR. In addition, the BMZ is a major donor of the multi-donor special initiative for improvement of breeding, Crops to End Hunger (CtEH, 2018 – 2025).

Co-funding is provided for Tropentag, a yearly ARD conference organized by the German Council for Tropical and Subtropical Research (ATSAF).

## *3. Integrated Experts*

The BMZ is supporting the placement of *Integrated Experts* (former Center for International Migration - CIM), into ARD institutions, mainly CGIAR centres, *icipe* and the World Vegetable Center. The GIZ-CGIAR Task Force on Scaling is developing and implementing adapted strategies for scaling innovations, being facilitated by FIA. Other integrated experts are funded by the BMZ through the [Fund for Human Capacity Cooperation with Partners of International Agricultural Research](#) (PIAF, 2018 – 2024) which includes funding for trainings of local researchers and partners' staff in these organisations. With PIAF ending in 2024, the new [BMZ Fund for strengthening human capacities of partners in agriculture, rural development, and food security](#) (PeOPLE, 2023 – 2027) will continue the placement of integrated expert positions in CGIAR++ organisations and beyond to strengthening human capacities for the design of scaling approaches for inclusive innovations to support transformation processes to more sustainable agri-food systems.

#### 4. *Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)*

The BMZ is one of the funding partners of the [Global Landscapes Forum \(GLF\)](#), which is led by the joint Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry Center (CIFOR-ICRAF), in collaboration with its co-founders, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank and Charter Members. It is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement.

#### *Main ARD beneficiaries*

Via *FIA*, the BMZ has been supporting the CGIAR centres, *icipe* and World Vegetable Center between 2020 and 2022 with €35 million on a yearly basis, mainly via bilateral grants to individual research centres or pooled funding through the CGIAR Trust Fund, administered by the World Bank. The BMZ selected eight One CGIAR Research Initiatives and one Impact Area Platform, which were co-funded with a total of €47 million in 2022 and 2023: (Climate Resilience, Fruits and Vegetables, Livestock and Climate, Plant Health, Genebanks, Market Intelligence, Diversification in East and Southern Africa, Seed Equal, Gender Platform).

Total BMZ contribution through both the *PIAF* and *PeOPLE* funds sums up to €19 million for a period of 10 years, with PIAF's budget running between 2018 and 2024, while the PeOPLE fund runs between 2023 and 2027.

The Global Crop Diversity Trust is supported by €4 million through the project *Strategic Support to the Global Crop Diversity Trust* from 2021 to 2024. BMZ payments into the Crop Trust's endowment fund add up to nearly €60 million to date, plus an additional €50 million provided as a loan.

Other funding was/is provided via sub-contracting under the *Special Initiative Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems* and other BMZ funded projects in different budgeting levels with an average yearly amount of up to €12 million between 2019 and 2022.

*This country profile has been prepared by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)..*