

2025 Annual Report

EAST-WEST SEED FOUNDATION

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER





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Our Vision

Sustainable production of vegetables has become an attractive business opportunity for smallholder farmers in less developed areas of Africa and Asia.

Our Mission

To improve the production and business skills of smallholder farmers, with the aim of enhancing their livelihoods and increasing the supply of safe-to-eat vegetables, while simultaneously catalyzing the development of innovative agricultural input markets.



EWS-KT is recognized by the Netherlands government as a public benefit organization (ANBI). By improving the productivity and market connectivity of smallholder farmers, our work creates an enabling environment where both farmers and private companies are better able to grow their businesses.

For more on our ANBI status, visit **https://www.ews-kt.com/anbi**



01.

Message from Executive Director & Board Chair

With the continued support of East-West Seed and a dedicated network of partners, we directly reached nearly 188,000 smallholder farmers in 2025—37,000 more than the year before. This reflects both the effectiveness of our approach and the growing demand for practical, field-based knowledge that supports farmers in improving their livelihoods.

Over the past years, we have built a strong model for impact. Farmers are adopting improved practices, increasing yields, and growing their incomes at scale. Going forward, vegetable production will remain the core of our approach. At the same time, our experience has reinforced an important insight: robust connections to markets that value consistent quality and supply can accelerate adoption of improved agricultural practices and help sustain these gains over time.

This insight is shaping the next phase of EWS-KT.

In 2025, we began strengthening the links between farmers and markets—through closer engagement with traders, farmer clustering, and early steps toward skills-based certification. At the same time, we deepened our focus on soil health and more responsible farming practices, reducing farmers' misuse of agrochemicals while advancing nature-based solutions.

Our work continues to be enabled by East-West Seed's long-term core funding, which allows us to maintain a permanent presence in all countries where we operate. Beyond funding, East-West Seed plays a pioneering role in enabling last-mile access to improved seed varieties in underserved areas—catalyzing a more dynamic agro-input market that stocks the products that trained farmers need to improve productivity and compete more effectively in their local markets.

With this key support, EWS-KT operates as an independent, nonprofit organization focused on delivering lasting results for farmers, while contributing to the development of open and inclusive markets. As we continue to scale our outreach and impact, we are deeply grateful for our invaluable partners—foundations, governments, NGOs, and research institutions—that drive our work forward through funding and collaboration.

Looking ahead, our direction is clear: to reach more farmers while deepening the quality and sustainability of our impact. We will continue to nurture market linkages and support the production of higher-quality vegetables—helping to build more trusted and reliable local markets over time. This direction will be further articulated in our new strategy for 2026–2030, which we look forward to launching in the coming months.



Looking ahead, our direction is clear: to reach more farmers while deepening the quality and sustainability of our impact.

Finally, we are excited to expand our work to Senegal in the near future, marking our entry into francophone Africa. With vegetable production partly dominated by larger, export-oriented farms, our focus will be on strengthening smallholder supply to local markets. We are currently seeking partners to support this expansion.

We are grateful for the trust and collaboration of our partners, and we look forward to building on this progress together.

Stuart Morris
Executive Director

Rutger Groot
Board Chair

Contact us for more information

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Who We Are

We provide market-driven agricultural extension services to smallholder farmers, ensuring that they gain the skills and confidence to transform vegetable farming into a profitable and sustainable business.

East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer Foundation (EWS-KT) was an integral part of the vision of World Food Prize winner and East-West Seed founder Simon N. Groot, who passed away in 2025 at the age of 90.

Simon believed deeply in the power of good seed to change the lives of farmers—and he also recognized that quality seed must be matched by better farming knowledge. At EWS-KT, empowering smallholder farmers through practical, hands-on agricultural training is at the core of our work.

Just as Simon saw that seeds must be paired with knowledge, we realize that for farmers to truly thrive, they need to operate within a robust agricultural ecosystem and understand the market for their produce.

Our farmer-centered approach therefore goes beyond field demonstrations and peer-led learning in vegetable production to strengthening farmers' business skills, forging connections to markets, building a lasting network of local expertise, and contributing to the development of the entire vegetable value chain. In this way, we foster sustainable economic growth—for farmers, markets, and communities.

By building the skills and knowledge of smallholder vegetable farmers in Africa and Asia—and strengthening the agricultural context around them—EWS-KT carries on Simon Groot's legacy as a true friend to farmers.



Technical Partner

Wageningen University & Research

Our longtime collaboration with Wageningen University & Research (WUR) encompasses joint capacity building, development of extension materials, and implementation of action research. WUR's technical expertise informs our protocols, training programs, and advice to farmers.



Our tailored activities improve farmer livelihoods and climate resilience, advance vegetable availability and economic stability, and accelerate market connectivity and development.

Climate-Resilient Vegetable Production

- Improved agricultural practices that are climate-smart and sustainable *(see p. 14)*
- Farmer-managed demonstration fields
- Practical, field-based training
- Focus on high-quality, safe-to-eat vegetables for local markets

Business Mindset

- Business skills training
- Understanding market requirements
- Certification of farmers achieving a verified level of knowledge

Market Integration

- Aligning crops to market needs
- Tracking market prices for crop selection and timing
- Connecting farmers, buyers, and markets
- Forming farmer clusters to attract larger buyers

Community Expertise

- Action research to test and adapt innovations to local contexts
- Training of trainers to build local capacity
- Strengthening agro-input retailers' advisory role and service quality
- Training and certification of community-based farmer trainers

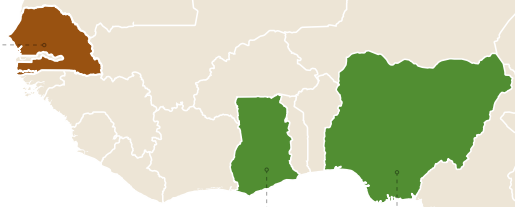
Vegetable Value Chain

- Increasing vegetable quality, volume, and consistency of supply for local, national, and regional markets
- Catalyzing the development of knowledge-based and competitive agro-input markets
- Expanding agriculture-related entrepreneurial enterprises

Where We Work

1,136,321

Farmers trained since inception





Planned Expansion

Senegal

Ghana



Nigeria



South Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

We currently operate in 10 countries across Africa and Asia. Our activities in South Sudan are managed by our Uganda team, and knowledge transfer in Indonesia is led by independent organization Yayasan Bina Tani Sejahtera.

In each country, we focus on underserved areas where farmers struggle with poor yields and low incomes.


India


Bangladesh


Indonesia


Cambodia


Philippines


Myanmar

02.

Building for Growth

Five years ago, we embarked on an ambitious strategic plan centered around reaching more farmers, greater participation by women and youth, and measurable increases to farmers' income and vegetable availability.

Our accomplishments during this phase delivered scale and credibility, positioning us for expansive growth over the next 5 years.

2021–2025 Accomplishments

977K farmers

Strategic goal: *Reaching more farmers*

Over the last 5 years, we directly trained **761,000** farmers and indirectly reached at least **216,000** through agro-input dealers, government extension officers, and other advisors trained by our team. Beyond field-based training, our digital media channels bring sustainable vegetable production knowledge to **1.7 million** followers and group members each year, extending our reach.

44% women
53% youth

Strategic goal: *Empowering women and youth*

Deeper understanding of women's and young people's challenges and goals led to vegetable production trainings tailored to local circumstances and aspirations. In 2025, **44%** of the farmers we trained were women, up from **34%** in 2021. We also made steady progress on engaging youth in vegetable production, with young people (ages 18–34) accounting for **53%** of the farmers we trained in 2025, well above the **34%** we achieved in 2021.





At least **US$260** additional net income per farmer per year

Strategic goal: *Increasing farmers' income*

Our training raises farmers' productivity and income, positioning vegetable farming as a sustainable career choice. Based on recent surveys in multiple countries, trends indicate that farmers who adopt improved techniques meet or exceed our strategic plan target of an additional US$260 in annual net income per farmer.

At least **50%** increase in yield

Strategic goal: *Raising yields & vegetable availability*

More productive vegetable fields simultaneously improve farmers' livelihoods and increase the supply of vegetables in the market. Based on recent surveys in multiple countries, trends indicate that farmers who adopt improved techniques meet or exceed our strategic plan target of a **50%** increase in annual vegetable yield per farmer.





Measuring Lasting Impact

In 2025, we further strengthened our monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) capacity to better assess our work with smallholder farmers. We are beginning to measure longer-term impact globally, surveying farmers after working in an area for 4 to 5 years. Our intent is to ensure that our interventions are effective and sustainable, and to learn from and address any gaps we identify.

This year, we launched these longer-term studies in South Asia, starting with Bangladesh *(see p. 15)*.

Five Indicators of Change

To measure our impact across the agriculture sector, we track changes to farmer practices and livelihoods, market access and vegetable availability, and availability of agricultural inputs.

- Adoption of **improved agricultural practices**
- Increase in **yield** from vegetable production
- Increase in **income** from vegetable production
- Increase in vegetable availability in **markets**
- Increase in access to appropriate **agro-inputs**

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Climate-Smart and Sustainable Techniques

- Farm business planning and record keeping
- Improved land preparation
- Use of improved vegetable varieties
- Protected seedling production
- Effective nutrient management
- Responsible and effective pest and disease management
- Harvesting and post-harvest handling
- Sustainable soil management
- Effective water management
- Crop rotation

Evaluation tools

To capture the breadth and depth of outcomes stemming from our work, we use both quantitative and qualitative tools, pairing farmer surveys with focus group discussions and interviews with key stakeholders. This ensures that the evaluation addresses not only what changed but also why and how the change occurred.

Bangladesh Impact Assessment

Farmers in the coastal areas of Bangladesh's Barisal and Chittagong divisions face increasing climate-related challenges, including soil salinity and more erratic and destructive weather patterns, such as floods and cyclones. At the same time, weak market integration makes it difficult for farmers to achieve their earning potential.

Between 2020 and 2025, we directly trained **33,557 smallholder farmers** and 5,077 home gardeners in climate-resilient, market-oriented vegetable production under the **Smart Farming, Healthy Food** initiative. Improved agricultural practices increased farmers' yields, while better knowledge of market requirements and greater market connectivity contributed to income growth.

As the availability of appropriate agricultural inputs and the quality of advice from local agro-input dealers play a key role in farmers' success, this project also focused on building the capacity of local agro-input dealers.

In mid-2025, we began to assess our longer-term impact by surveying farmers and involving farmers and other stakeholders in focus group discussions. The highlights of our impact analysis are presented on the following page.



Bangladesh indicators of change



97%

Adoption of Improved Agricultural Practices: 97% of the 33,557 participating farmers adopted at least three climate-smart technologies. The most commonly implemented techniques were:

- ↗ Crop rotation (86% adoption)
- ↗ Improved land preparation (84% adoption)
- ↗ Protected seedling production (80% adoption)
- ↗ Use of improved varieties (79% adoption)



65%

Increased Yield: Average annual yields increased by 65%, from 5.2 metric tons per farmer to 8.6 metric tons, and endline yields per hectare met or exceeded East-West Seed's benchmarks for most crops. Yield improvements reflect both the impact of climate-smart technologies and an average 54% increase in vegetable production area, from 0.26 hectares to 0.40 hectares.



75%

Income Growth: Annual net profit from vegetable production rose by 75%, from US$466 to US$816. Income growth was driven by both increased yields and improved market access. Farmers reported producing vegetables of more uniform size, better appearance, and greater market acceptance, enabling 59% of farmers to secure higher farm-gate prices than before the project.



110K metric tons

Market Contributions: Participating farmers supplied an estimated 110,670 metric tons of additional vegetables to markets in the 12 months preceding the assessment, enough to feed 2.1 million consumers at the country's current vegetable consumption rate (source: FAO). Bitter gourd, pumpkin, and bottle gourd were the top three crops grown, selected by farmers for their income potential and market demand.



98%

Input Access: We worked with 198 agro-input dealers to improve their technical knowledge and their product stewardship. This capacity push catalyzed the emergence of 60 new input retailers, thereby expanding geographic coverage, reducing information gaps, and increasing farmers' access to quality inputs.

Input availability and proximity improved, with 83% of farmers located within 5 kilometers of an agro-input dealer and 98% reporting that desired inputs were available all or most of the time. In addition, 82% of farmers reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the level of technical advice they received from agro-input dealers, who increasingly function as trusted advisors.

Smart Farming, Healthy Food was supported by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) / Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by EWS-KT in partnership with Solidaridad and the Bangladesh Department of Agricultural Extension. The full impact assessment report will be available on our website in the coming months.



Across Africa and Asia, a small investment by EWS-KT and like-minded partners—averaging **US$40** per farmer—results in significant gains...

for **farmers**

- Higher yields, crops aligned to market needs, and increased annual income
- Business expansion opportunities through better access to financing

for **market development**

- Larger and more stable supply of quality vegetables for sellers and distributors
- Higher demand for agricultural supplies sold by local retailers and entrepreneurs.

for **communities**

- Greater availability of fresh vegetables, contributing to nutrition security
- Increased employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture, from field work to production of seedlings, neem oil, and vermicompost

03.

Catalyzing Sustainable Change

At EWS-KT, we seek sustainable, long-term transformation that continues well beyond our active presence in an area. In 2025, we made significant advances in soil health, market integration, and systemic farmer-led change.

Soil Health: Cover crops

Depletion of soil nutrients is an increasing challenge for many smallholder farmers, leading to reduced crop yields and more use of costly inorganic fertilizers.

In 2025, we noted positive results from 2 years of action research on cover crops utilized as green manure in India and Uganda. This research was co-funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and conducted with technical support from Wageningen University & Research. Our teams in several other countries are also undertaking green manure trials at learning farms and with farmer partners.

Overall, incorporating leguminous cover crops into the soil as green manure enhanced soil nutrient availability and reduced farmers' reliance on full fertilizer doses, thus lowering their costs.

Results in India suggest that sunn hemp and mung bean are the most suitable green manure crops, with sunn hemp especially valuable for increasing soil organic matter, and mung bean for nitrogen enrichment. In Uganda, cowpea and sunn hemp had the best results, and sunn hemp also had a managing effect on root-knot nematodes. Other legumes, such as adzuki bean and soybean, did not show this effect and may be less suitable in nematode-infested fields.

In India, using green manure with reduced doses of inorganic fertilizer resulted in an overall higher return on investment (ROI) than soil with standard doses of inorganic fertilizer. In Uganda, green manure with reduced doses of inorganic fertilizer brought similar or higher yields compared to using solely organic manure, with higher ROI. In both countries, the higher ROI may be an incentive for farmer adoption.

While results so far are encouraging, more investigation is needed to develop strategies that reduce the need for inorganic fertilizers without compromising productivity. Looking ahead, research will focus on optimizing the timing of green manure incorporation and nutrient release to maximize benefits for farmers.

Market Integration: Enterprise development through clustering

Farmers' economic sustainability depends on market connections. Our work begins with showing farmers how to align their vegetable production to market demands. Business planning, tracking fresh vegetable prices throughout the year, and connecting farmers to traders seeking high-quality produce all play a part.

Beyond fresh markets, there are opportunities with larger, more stable buyers. However, these buyers often require a more reliable and consistent supply of vegetables than a single smallholder farmer can provide.

In 2025, our market linkages work took a stride forward with farmer clustering. As an organized



group, farmers in a marketing cluster produce larger quantities of higher-quality vegetables, driving engagement with wholesalers, aggregators, food processors, and institutional entities. Farmers decide in advance how much of their harvest to devote to the marketing contract and then develop their cluster supply plan.

- → In the **Philippines**, we helped farmers to form clusters in order to contract with hospitals, local markets, governments, and private businesses.
- → In **Cambodia**, we supported rural farmers to set up a cluster to provide a consistent supply of hot peppers to a food processor in Phnom Penh, 300 kilometers away.

In the right situations, farmer clusters can spur impressive growth for farmers and markets. Where appropriate, we plan to promote this option as we continue to foster market integration.



Farmer-Led Change: Spurring continued growth

Returning to visit farmers who learned from us years ago is an inspiring experience. Rather than remain at the same skill level, they continue to advance, carrying other farmers and vegetable sector stakeholders with them. This leads to sustainable, systemic development for farming communities.

In 2025, we explored some strategic ways to accelerate this farmer-led transformation:

- → In **Bangladesh**, pre-season community meetings enabled us to learn about farmers' specific problems, leading to targeted trainings tailored to local needs.
- → In **Nigeria**, we returned to former project locations with refresher trainings—delivered through mobile audiovisual presentations—that reinforced key practices for over 10,700 farmers.
- → In **India**, previously trained farmers' thriving fields are serving as de facto peer learning sites, independent of EWS-KT. Last year, we elevated these model farms by holding select training and outreach events at 159 sites, attracting more farmers.

Our digital media platforms—along with locally based Certified Farmer Trainers and agro-input dealers trained by our team—can also play a supporting role in this evolution, serving as knowledgeable vegetable production resources.

04.

Global Impact 2025

Field-Based Training

In 2025, we directly trained **187,827** farmers at vegetable demonstration plots, learning farms, and Field Day events. An additional **32,726** farmers received training or guidance from government extension workers, agro-input dealers, NGO staff, and others trained by our technical teams. These newly knowledgeable external trainers not only extend our reach but can provide durable, locally based support for smallholder farmers into the future.

This year, **44%** of the farmers we trained were women, on par with last year, and **53%** were youth (ages 18–34), up from 49% last year. As the average age of farmers continues to rise, we strategically engage young people, complementing our field-based training with digital outreach and demonstrating the profit potential in vegetable farming.



Online Learning & Media Outreach

Our vibrant social media channels and radio programs reinforce and expand the knowledge of farmers who have participated in field-based training, as well as reaching farmers well beyond the areas in which we work. In total, our technical teams in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda recorded **67** radio shows in 2025, and our digital extension teams posted 11,245 messages to our social media channels.

Graduates of our online Vegetable Production Beginner, Agrobusiness, and Crop Advisor Training certification programs totaled **1,684** in 2025. In addition, 7,231 people installed the VeggieTap mobile app, which offers vegetable production certification courses in 12 languages.

While digital resources continue to gain ground, printed guides remain invaluable for many farmers, especially those with limited digital access. We published three new technical guides in 2025, on composting, farm waste management, and organic mulch. In all, **386,249** crop-specific guides and technical guides were distributed to farmers this year, nearly double what we shared in 2024. All guides are also available on our GrowHow website, which now has materials available in 32 languages.



Utilizing multiple avenues to promote improved vegetable production techniques enables us to reach more farmers each year and offers a more inclusive learning experience.

2025 Field Training



187,827
Newly trained farmers

56% Men

44% Women



53% Age <35

47% 35+

7,361
Demo plots

19,996
Training events

2021–2025

761,056 Farmers trained

Contact us for more information

ews.kt@eastwestseed.com

2025 Media Outreach



28.9M
Facebook reach

1.7M
Social media followers

414K
YouTube views



9K
Messaging platform members

386K
Printed guides distributed

1.8M
Estimated radio listeners

Scan the code to access our channels

Bangladesh

Climate variability, soil degradation, and market risks continue to pose challenges for farmers. In 2025, we emphasized climate-resilient farming techniques and strengthened value chain linkages by connecting farmers with technical services, input suppliers, and vegetable buyers.



Continuous Learning

To address knowledge gaps, emerging pests and diseases, and climate-related production risks, we held refresher trainings for farmers and community facilitators in 2025. These sessions shifted the focus from short-term capacity building to continuous learning and adaptive management.

Trainings concentrated on crop planning and sowing windows amid climate change; soil health restoration and organic matter enhancement; integrated pest management; and responsible pesticide use, including pre-harvest interval awareness.

Linking Entrepreneurship & Access to Inputs

To expand access to quality inputs while simultaneously creating local income opportunities, we supported farmers to start entrepreneurial ventures like seedling enterprises and vermicompost production. Vermicompost (worm manure) increases soil organic matter, improves soil health, and reduces dependence on inorganic inputs.

Recognizing that most farmers rely on local agro-input shops for advice, we also provided training for input retailers to improve their technical capacity and advisory services. This intervention—coupled with increased demand for quality inputs from newly knowledgeable farmers—contributed to the emergence of new input retailers, who are now providing last-mile services and improved inputs to local farmers.

Next-Level Support

In 2025, we expanded our scope to offer targeted guidance to farmers who were beginning to implement the new techniques they had learned—thereby accelerating the adoption of improved practices.

To facilitate coordination across the value chain, we also held pre-season meetings that brought together farmers and buyers, enabling farmers to align their crop planning to market demand.

In addition to holding refresher trainings (see sidebar), we organized cross-learning visits that enabled farmers from different locations to observe effective techniques in action and engage in practical discussions with peers who had successfully adopted new practices.

2025 RESULTS

11,209
Newly trained farmers

55% Men

45% Women

48% Age <35

52% 35+

191
Demo plots

1,170
Training events

$390
BDT 46,851
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$474 Average revenue
BDT 57,051

$85 Average cost
BDT 10,199

2021–2025
45,848 Farmers trained



"Learning these techniques changed my life. I no longer fear the seasons; I work with them."

During the monsoon season of 2024, Monira Begum lost her entire bottle gourd crop. Flat planting beds led to waterlogging, unmulched rows contributed to soil erosion and degradation, and her fragile trellises could not withstand heavy rains.

Worried about future losses, Monira was eager to try new farming methods. In 2025, she started a 250-square-meter pumpkin demonstration plot with EWS-KT, learning climate-smart techniques such as raised beds, mulching, seedling production with vermicompost, and sturdy trellises.

Following her successful pumpkin demo—which earned a net profit of 18,000 taka (US$147) from an investment of 5,800 taka (US$47)—Monira expanded her vegetable production to 2,000 square meters.

Impressed by her plants' vigorous growth in vermicompost-enriched soil, she also began to produce vermicompost—a possible future income stream—and to raise awareness among neighboring farmers about vermicompost's benefits and the important role that organic matter plays in soil fertility. Even as she educates, she continues to learn, participating in farmer exchange visits and peer learning sessions.

Cambodia

In the face of climate change challenges and capacity gaps, we focused on promoting agroecological practices, engaging farmers through a blended learning approach, and strengthening local expertise and locally tested nature-based solutions.



Expanding to New Provinces

In 2025, we launched phase 2 of the Nurture Veg project, with support from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, HEKS/EPER, and Caritas Switzerland.

Phase 1 brought agroecological techniques such as organic fertilization, drip irrigation, biopesticides, cover crops, and crop diversification to nearly 3,900 farmers in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

Phase 2 will reach an additional 4,500 farmers over 18 months, expanding to Oddar Meanchey and Preah Vihear provinces.

Climate-Resilient, Cost-Effective Techniques

To boost farmers' adaptability in the face of climate change, we promoted agroecological practices that were practical, affordable, and tailored to local farming conditions. Through demonstration plots and hands-on field learning, farmers could see the real benefits of techniques like natural pest management, cover crops, and drip irrigation with fertigation.

Market-Oriented Production

Through exchange visits to supermarkets and food processors in Phnom Penh, and by engaging with local buyers on market requirements, farmers learned about buyer expectations for quality, food safety, and consistent supply. In response, they began planning their crops according to market needs, choosing suitable varieties, improving production schedules, and adopting safe-to-eat practices to protect consumer health.

Scalable Learning Through Blended Outreach

Integrating field-based training with learning through Facebook and Messenger groups significantly expanded farmer access to timely and relevant information. This blended outreach approach enabled real-time technical support, rapid knowledge sharing, and community-led problem solving—resulting in extensive farmer engagement, particularly among women and youth.

Action Research

In 2025, action research became a cornerstone of our approach in Cambodia, focused on co-creating solutions directly in farmers' fields rather than in isolated labs. A primary innovation optimized green manuring techniques, testing specific cover crops to naturally restore soil nitrogen and organic matter and enable farmers to reduce inorganic fertilizer use.

2025 RESULTS

6,857
Newly trained farmers

32% Men
68% Women

19% Age <35
81% 35+

408
Demo plots

464
Training events

$302
KHR 1,199,307
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$402 Average revenue
KHR 1,596,471

$100 Average cost
KHR 397,164

2021–2025
42,619 Farmers trained



"Vegetable farming gives me daily income."

For years, 38-year-old Sot Koem Lang cultivated corn and rice to help support her family. Seeking a way to earn income year-round, she began to participate in EWS-KT's vegetable production training under the Nurture Veg project. There, she learned agroecological techniques for preparing the land and soil, producing seedlings, optimizing water use and plant nutrition, and managing pests and diseases.

She initially struggled with some of the practices, like raised beds and plant spacing, but with EWS-KT's support, she persevered.

At harvest time, vegetable collectors were eager to purchase her produce. In all, she earned a net profit of 930,300 riels (US$232) on her 300-square-meter cucumber demonstration plot—a 345% return on investment.

Encouraged by strong market demand and good profits, she expanded her vegetable production to 4,000 square meters and added new crops. In addition to providing a more regular income stream, vegetables have diversified her livelihood, reducing risk and improving resilience.

ews-kt.com/location/ghana

Ghana

After 2 years of field work in Ghana, we are seeing marked changes in farmers' livelihoods and practices, particularly in areas like seedling production and water management. Farmers are also benefiting from agriculture-related digital resources and communication technologies.



4-Year Expansion

Building on our strong initial performance, we embarked on phase 2 of our work with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 2025.

This 4-year initiative is supporting expansion to the Ashanti and Upper East regions of the country, along with strengthening and deepening our training on sustainable agricultural practices for farmers in the Ahafo, Bono, and Bono East regions.

During this phase, we will also work with cocoa farmers to improve their livelihoods through diversification into vegetable production.

Water Management

Drought and water scarcity—intensified by climate change—were major constraints for farmers in 2025.

As part of our comprehensive training in sustainable vegetable production, we promoted water management practices such as organic mulching, using locally available materials like rice straw and corn husks to conserve moisture. Sessions on choosing a vegetable variety emphasized not only market requirements but characteristics like drought tolerance.

We also demonstrated water-efficient drip irrigation systems at our learning farms and introduced a simple and affordable drip irrigation method that uses plastic bottles to slowly release water to plants, with minimal water wastage.

Pairing Training with Technology

In addition to providing farmers with in-person training and guidance, we connect them with complementary resources and learning platforms.

Through a partnership with the nonprofit Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO), trained farmers can opt to receive daily, location-specific weather updates. These automated phone calls support informed day-to-day farming decisions, influencing the timing of key activities like planting, pest management, and harvesting.

To reinforce on-field training and reach farmers beyond our active areas, our farmer-focused Facebook group and VeggieTap for Africa app offer always-available vegetable cultivation guidelines and advice for every stage of the crop season.

2025 RESULTS

10,948
Newly trained farmers

56% Men

44% Women

41% Age <35

59% 35+

207
Demo plots

1,258
Training events

$425
GHS 5,088
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$502 Average revenue
GHS 6,008

$77 Average cost
GHS 920

2021–2025
18,416 Farmers trained



"I'm super excited about the outcome I achieved."

Like many smallholder farmers, 32-year-old Bernice Ampomah faced uncertain yields and limited income. Erratic rainfall reduced her pepper output, and falling prices at harvest led to marginal profits.

Then a series of trainings by EWS-KT at a neighbor's onion demonstration plot illuminated a new path forward. Guided by a clear business plan and evidence-based practices, Bernice transformed her modest 250-square-meter farm into a profitable onion enterprise.

Sufficient spacing led to uniform bulb development; appropriately timed fertilizers supported vigorous growth; and organic mulch conserved soil moisture and suppressed weeds.

At harvest, the results spoke for themselves. Bernice sold her onions for 1,600 cedis (US$145), earning more than triple the 380 cedis (US$34) she had invested.

Her success boosted her confidence in improved farming methods and strengthened her belief that with the right knowledge, planning, and commitment, even a small plot of land can yield big results.

India

We initiated two projects in 2025 with new funding partners, reaching farmers in northeastern Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. We also introduced more inclusive knowledge transfer, developing visually rich learning aids.



Partnership with Epsilon Foundation

In 2025, we launched a new project with Epsilon Foundation, the CSR arm of Epsilon Carbon Private Limited.

This joint initiative in Jharsuguda district, Odisha, focused on enhancing smallholder farmers' resilience, incomes, and livelihoods through vegetable production.

The project combined hands-on field training with digital empowerment. Through this complementary approach, farmers gained both strong practical skills and access to the latest agricultural knowledge through our social media channels and digital learning platforms like GrowHow.

Expanding with DEG Impulse

At the end of 2025, we marked a strategic expansion to northeastern Assam and Chhattisgarh—underserved areas where farmers have less access to technical vegetable farming support. This new project is co-funded by DEG Impulse from public funds of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Focused on capacity building, this project aims to operationalize climate-smart vegetable production through farmer-led demonstration plots. Over the 3-year project period, we will engage more than 45,000 smallholder farmers in improved vegetable production practices, while strengthening last-mile extension services and lowering the risks associated with market entry.

This integrated approach is expected to catalyze productivity gains, enhance farmer incomes, and create a scalable pathway for inclusive agricultural growth.

Accessible Learning Materials

In 2025, we developed supplementary extension materials in the form of flashcards and teaching/learning materials (TLMs) to strengthen farmer training.

Our large flashcards help farmers identify insect pests and diseases by featuring photographs of symptoms or damage on one side and presenting the causes and simple prevention and management measures on the other side.

The TLMs, which pair easy-to-understand key messages with attractive visuals, support more effective learning by sparking participants' curiosity and holding their attention during training sessions. Our Technical Field Advisors also use TLMs during interactive activities in the field to help assess farmers' understanding of specific topics.

2025 RESULTS



23,325
Newly trained farmers

63% Men

37% Women



41% Age <35

59% 35+



347
Demo plots

2,149
Training events

$479 INR 41,301
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$581 INR 50,082
Average revenue

$102 INR 8,781
Average cost

2021–2025

106,994 Farmers trained



"These new techniques are not difficult—they are smart and cost-effective. Once you try them, you will never go back."

For years, 43-year-old Khanindra Das cultivated rice and seasonal vegetables like ridge gourd on his farm in Assam, using traditional practices. As costs rose and more frequent rain led to increased virus pressure on his crops, he felt a growing frustration.

Hearing that EWS-KT shared simple, science-based methods to improve productivity, Khanindra offered to set up a ridge gourd demonstration plot on his land to try out the new techniques. Practices like nursery management, raised beds, plant spacing, mulching, trellising, and integrated pest management transformed his farming.

Seedling mortality dropped sharply, plants grew more uniformly, and irrigation was more efficient on the raised beds. The mulch not only suppressed weeds but also reduced the need for frequent watering—saving time and money.

Encouraged by his results, Khanindra kept expanding. Currently, he is cultivating nine different vegetables on 1 acre of land, embracing crop diversification and utilizing crop rotation and disease-resistant varieties to further counter seasonal pests and diseases.

Indonesia

Knowledge transfer activities in Indonesia are conducted by longtime partner Yayasan Bina Tani Sejahtera (YBTS), an independently funded and governed foundation.



EWS-KT Supports YBTS Initiative in Papua

2025 marked the first full year of YBTS's project to enhance the income and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Papua through profitable vegetable production practices.

This project is supported by De Eik Foundation and EWS-KT and uses a differentiated approach to reach both transmigrant farmers, who moved to Papua from other parts of Indonesia, and Indigenous farmers native to the area.

www.binatani.or.id

Tailored Training Approaches

As the two target groups for the Papua vegetable farming initiative have different cultural contexts, literacy levels, and prior exposure to agricultural training, YBTS has embraced differentiated training methods. Indigenous farmers gain familiarity with new techniques through extensive hands-on experience, while a hybrid approach for reaching transmigrant farmers incorporates both printed guides and on-field training sessions.

For both groups, farmer-managed demonstration plots have shown that even small landholdings can generate meaningful income when aligned with good practices and market demand.

Profitability Through Market Tracking

About half of all vegetables available in Papuan markets are imported, creating clear market opportunities for local farmers. However, farmers remain vulnerable to price volatility, which increases income uncertainty and production risk.

In 2025, price tracking and seasonal analysis by Market Access and Linkage Officers enabled farmers to time their planting and harvesting to take advantage of peak prices. In fact, market price updates became the most viewed content on YBTS's Facebook group, reinforcing YBTS as a trusted information source and demonstrating farmers' increasingly market-oriented mindset.

2025 RESULTS



19,601
Newly trained farmers

57% Men

43% Women



48% Age <35

52% 35+



3,382
Demo plots

3,569
Training events

$462
IDR 7,151,000
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$547 Average revenue
IDR 8,467,827

$85 Average cost
IDR 1,316,827

2021–2025

65,824 Farmers trained



"Simple changes in how I prepare the land and care for my crops have made a big difference."

For many years, West Papuan farmer Elisabet Fakdawer relied on traditional farming practices. However, pest attacks, poor soil conditions, and irregular crop management made farming an unreliable source of income.

In 2025, Elisabet participated in a project to improve farmers' livelihoods through profitable vegetable production, implemented by Yayasan Bina Tani Sejahtera with support from De Eik Foundation and EWS-KT. She gradually adopted improved cultivation practices, including proper land preparation, more accurate fertilizer application, and consistent pest management.

These improvements soon translated into tangible results. Through 15 harvest cycles, Elisabet sold 411 bundles of yard long beans, enabling her to contribute regularly to her household's income.

Encouraged by these outcomes, she now looks at the future with renewed confidence and has plans to expand her cultivation area and add new vegetables to further strengthen her livelihood.

Myanmar

Impacted by climate change and widespread instability, farmers in southeastern Myanmar are finding it increasingly difficult to earn a living, while communities lack enough nutritious food. In 2025, we emphasized inclusive and sustainable livelihoods, greater vegetable production for food security, and innovative ways to develop future trainers.



Boosting Incomes & Food Security

With support from HEKS/EPER Myanmar, we launched a new project in Kayin and Mon states to improve incomes and food security through climate-resilient vegetable production for farmers and home gardeners. Sustainable techniques include soil fertility management, water conservation, and nutrient cycling. We are also conducting training-of-trainers sessions on vegetable farming for local civil society organizations, youth, and selected farmers to expand knowledge transfer efforts in remote areas.

Women & Youth Inclusion

We focused on gender and youth inclusion in 2025 to promote equitable access to farming resources and decision-making.

We used strategic farmer selection to engage women, including those from marginalized groups, and built commitment through dynamic in-person training sessions. This year, 50% of the farmers we trained were women, and our intensive trainer certification program prepared 51 young women (81% of the program participants) to be community leaders in vegetable production.

For youth, more job opportunities abroad and a military conscription law affecting young men and women have resulted in fewer young people, especially young men, entering the agriculture sector. Despite this, over 40% of the farmers we trained in 2025 were between the ages of 18 and 34.

Creating a Trainer Pipeline

Travel restrictions and security challenges have limited our geographic reach, leading us to employ a novel training-of-trainers approach to extend vegetable cultivation knowledge to more farmers.

In 2025, we conducted several 3-month trainer certification programs for young people interested in agriculture, equipping them with the expertise to independently train farmers and home gardeners in their own communities. Programs took place at two existing study farms and one new study farm, set up this year in Paungde.

In all, 63 youth were certified as trainers, with the expectation that each would share sustainable vegetable production methods with at least 50 growers.

2025 RESULTS

7,651
Newly trained farmers

50% Men
50% Women

41% Age <35
59% 35+

482
Demo plots

248
Training events

$259
MMK 1,070,084
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$388 Average revenue
MMK 1,605,322

$129 Average cost
MMK 535,238

2021–2025
36,154 Farmers trained



In early 2025, 38-year-old trader Daw Aye Aye Myaing started on a new career path. Her friend was achieving high yields from EWS-KT's vegetable farming techniques, and Daw Aye Aye Myaing decided to follow in her footsteps.

Through EWS-KT, Daw Aye Aye Myaing learned not only how to implement each technique, but why it was beneficial. From the specific nutrients her seedlings needed to how raised planting beds encourage stronger root systems, she was exposed to science-based vegetable production practices.

At her first harvest, she was rewarded with high-quality cucumbers that brought a good price in the market. From her 400-square-meter plot, she earned a net profit of 1,662,956 kyat (US$512)—a 356% return on her investment of 467,706 kyat (US$144).

The sustainable methods she learned continue to serve her well. When heavy rain fell during the last growing season, raised beds and organic mulch helped to protect her crop from damage and waterlogging.

As climate change brings more erratic weather patterns to Myanmar, Daw Aye Aye Myaing is happy to have farming practices in place that can mitigate these effects.

Nigeria

Farmers in Nigeria continued to face high costs for farm inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides this year—highlighting the value of complementary soil nutrition solutions and pest management practices that prioritize preventive agricultural techniques.



Transforming Livelihoods

In addition to continuing the DELIVER Nigeria project—co-funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented with GAIN and Wageningen University & Research (WUR)—we launched the THRIVE project in 2025.

Our first project to encompass Sokoto state, THRIVE will enable 30,000 farmers to strengthen their business skills and produce a greater quantity and variety of safe-to-eat vegetables. It is co-funded by a private Dutch foundation and implemented in partnership with Ahmadu Bello University, Ministry of Agriculture state offices, and WUR.

Combating *Tuta absoluta*

Tuta absoluta—the tomato leafminer—continues to destroy the crops, incomes, and aspirations of smallholder farmers in Nigeria. Under the HortiNigeria program *(see p. 47)*, a farmer education campaign publicized sustainable pest management strategies that significantly reduce the presence and impact of *Tuta absoluta*.

Key techniques included pheromone traps, biopesticides like neem extract and *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and improved agricultural practices such as careful monitoring for pests and removal and destruction of infested plants and fruits.

To increase community awareness and demonstrate the impact of effective approaches, a *Tuta absoluta* competition for farmers was held in March 2025, with contestants' fields assessed on plant health, pest infestation, and other relevant criteria.

Soil Health & Conservation

Our training modules include numerous no-cost or low-cost techniques that restore and maintain soil health and fertility, supporting optimal crop growth.

Raised beds strengthen soil structure and aeration and reduce crop damage from erosion, soil compaction, and waterlogging. Mulching with organic materials like leaves, rice straw, or corn stalks also helps to prevent erosion, along with increasing soil organic matter, improving soil structure, and promoting microbial activity.

Pairing fertilizer with organic manure, including green manure, boosts nutrient cycling in the soil, reduces nutrient leaching, and avoids soil degradation from excessive fertilizer use. Similarly, responsible use of pesticides—along with biopesticides such as neem oil, garlic, ginger, and pepper—helps farmers avoid soil damage from pesticide misuse.

2025 RESULTS

43,882
Newly trained farmers

62% Men

38% Women

66% Age <35

34% 35+

1,271
Demo plots

7,720
Training events

$169
NGN 269,082
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$213 Average revenue
NGN 338,976

$44 Average cost
NGN 69,894

2021–2025
233,669 Farmers trained



"When youths embrace vegetable farming, they sow hope, innovation, and a future that feeds the nation."

Ever since 26-year-old Idris Yusuf Aliyu discovered improved vegetable production methods, he has been encouraging fellow young people to consider vegetable farming as a livelihood.

Idris cultivates tomatoes, cabbages, and sweet corn in Kaduna state, using climate-resilient techniques from EWS-KT. He learned what he knows from both field-based training and the popular Noman Lambu Facebook group, run by the EWS-KT Nigeria team.

As his success in farming grew, he noticed that while many farmers in his community had adopted modern techniques, few of these farmers were close to his age.

Today, he consistently shares Noman Lambu content with his enthusiastic followers and posts about his own experiences with sustainable vegetable farming. Believing that education is about solving problems in society, he is also back in school, pursuing a bachelor's degree in plant science.

While his degree is still a few semesters away, his personal campaign to promote vegetable farming among youth is already inspiring young people to buy seeds for the next growing season.

Philippines

Combining perennial crops with short-cycle vegetable production improves farmers' cash flow, optimizes land use, and builds resilience. Our 2025 work in Zamboanga Peninsula, co-funded by the BIMP-EAGA-ROK Cooperation Fund through the Global Green Growth Institute, advanced vegetable intercropping and stronger integration through farmer clusters.

Collaborating for Market Access

It can be difficult for small-scale farmers to fulfill buyers' demands, so we worked with farmers to form producer clusters.

These groups grow crops that are directly aligned with buyers' requirements, and each member commits to producing a set quantity of vegetables for a pre-negotiated price.

This model provides farmers with assured income and opens opportunities for small farmers who by themselves would be overlooked by larger buyers.



Resilience Through Diversification

Smallholder farmers focusing on coconut, rice, and rubber faced mounting pressure from climate variability, rising production costs, and market volatility in 2025. Reliance on a single crop increasingly exposes farmers to compounded risk, with limited flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

Working in Zamboanga Peninsula, we enabled farmers to strengthen their perennial farming systems by incorporating vegetable cultivation. In addition to sustainable vegetable cultivation practices, the training emphasized timing, crop choice, and market alignment, ensuring that innovation translated into income opportunities rather than additional risk.

By the end of the year, participating farmers increasingly viewed vegetable production as viable, profitable, and worth integrating within their existing crop systems.

Systems-Level Change

Our approach in 2025 centered on strengthening farmer confidence and decision-making through exposure to a range of vegetable production methods. Simultaneously, we focused on integrating agricultural ecosystems—aligning farmers, extension workers, local governments, and markets. Together, these allow change to occur gradually, intentionally, and at scale, driven by farmer choice and supported by local institutions.

Partnership with Department of Agriculture

In 2025, we strengthened our collaboration with the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Training Institute, reinforcing shared efforts to enhance farmers' capacity through integrated, agricultural systems-based learning. This public-private partnership aims to improve farmer productivity, increase adoption of climate-smart and market-oriented practices, and facilitate farmers' integration into vegetable value chains.

2025 RESULTS

16,010
Newly trained farmers

48% Men

52% Women

34% Age <35

66% 35+

316
Demo plots

147
Training events

$272
PHP 15,782
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$359 Average revenue
PHP 20,807

$87 Average cost
PHP 5,025

2021–2025

54,953 Farmers trained



"By integrating vegetables, I gained an additional and more sustainable source of income."

Virgilio Ganub's farm reflected the rice and rubber farming systems prevalent in his town in Zamboanga Sibugay. While these crops sustained his household, they left little room for growth and offered limited protection against climate and market risks.

When EWS-KT introduced vegetable production as a market-oriented diversification option in his area, Virgilio was the first farmer to become involved.

After a successful harvest season, he expanded his vegetable area to 0.25 hectares. His vegetables generated the equivalent of US$1,510 in annual income—significantly more than rice (US$839–US$940) or rubber (US$336–US$420) on the same size land.

What followed next was farmer-led growth. Fellow rice farmers observed Virgilio's income gains and began diversifying.

Today, 32 farmers are growing vegetables in the town, and 20 of them are part of a farmer cluster, working collaboratively to deliver a larger quantity of vegetables to contracted buyers.

ews-kt.com/location/south-sudan

South Sudan

With limited staff in South Sudan, we prioritize training of trainers to promote improved practices, including nature-based solutions. We also directly increase farmers' knowledge through our two learning farms, trainings at partner locations, and a small number of farmer-managed demonstration plots.



Strengthening Local Expertise

Much of our work in South Sudan focuses on building the capacity of agriculture sector professionals, in collaboration with funding and implementing partners like AGFUND, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, and ZOA Dorcas South Sudan.

With new knowledge, these NGO-based trainers and government extension agents share sustainable vegetable production practices with smallholder farmers across multiple states.

Learning Farms

Our learning farms in South Sudan play a key role in advancing improved agricultural practices. Located at the University of Juba and at Dr. John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology, the learning farms serve as a community resource for farmers, an educational and research facility for students, and a professional development site for sector professionals.

The learning farms showcase effective and sustainable techniques for several vegetable crops and are open to the public. In 2025, we reached 1,619 people through trainings at the two learning farms, and we also welcomed high-level government officials and other visitors interested in improved vegetable production.

Nature-Based Solutions

We increasingly emphasize nature-based solutions to farmers' challenges. For instance, snails are a common problem in the Juba area, attacking young cabbage, sukuma wiki, and pumpkin plants. A cost-effective way to limit losses is through planting alternative crops, such as yam or cowpea, as perimeter distractions. The snails prefer these plants, leaving the main crops alone. Weeding, removing plant debris, and reducing the amount of mulch also help to keep snails at bay.

Planting cover crops to use as green manure is another nature-based solution that we demonstrate at the learning farms. This practice increases the availability of nutrients in the soil, enhancing soil fertility.

2025 RESULTS

3,130
Newly trained farmers

64%
Men

36%
Women

60%
Age <35

40%
35+

7
Demo plots

95
Training events

2021–2025

6,687 Farmers trained

As our training model in South Sudan includes few farmer-run demonstration plots, crop profits are not reported.



"When I saw the results, I realized that knowledge is wealth."

When a heat wave wiped out most of his vegetable crops, 35-year-old Charles Malice, a farmer and University of Juba student, was devastated. He saw his livelihood and his educational future disappearing before his eyes.

Then he noticed that a nearby tomato field was thriving despite the persistent heat. The neighboring farmer shared his heat management secrets and invited Charles to EWS-KT training sessions at his farm.

Charles quickly gained crucial knowledge on resilient farming practices—including heat management techniques like choosing drought-tolerant varieties, timely planting, and soil and water conservation methods.

Applying these techniques to new tomato and cucumber fields, he achieved high yields and regained financial stability. From his cucumber field alone, he earned the equivalent of US$740 after expenses, a 322% return on investment.

Today, Charles has expanded his production area to nearly an acre, cultivating a variety of vegetables using sustainable practices. What began as a moment of despair has given him the tools to adapt to future challenges.

Tanzania

Rural youth in Tanzania often have limited employment options. Agriculture has the potential to answer this need, and our work with young people in 2025 led to new job opportunities in the community.



Partnering with AGRA to Empower Youth

In 2025, we began a 3-year project with AGRA to promote sustainable agricultural practices, especially among young farmers.

Through training, demonstration plots, and youth job creation initiatives, this project will provide practical learning and work opportunities to 6,000 young people in southern Tanzania.

The project has also enabled us to establish a new learning site to showcase innovative and effective agricultural technologies to farmers.

Nurturing the Next Generation

At the community level, small partnerships can make a big difference. Through our collaboration with Don Bosco Youth Training Center in Iringa, we provided comprehensive training to out-of-school young people on vegetable production, irrigation, and quality inputs. With this support, 20 trainees were able to secure employment with community partners in the initiative, turning their new skills into livelihood opportunities.

Leveraging Communication Platforms

Our radio programs, with an estimated 11,200 listeners, and our Facebook group, with nearly 12,600 followers, are especially popular among young people. The technical messages on improved vegetable production technologies shared through these platforms also help to extend training to farmers who live beyond our active areas.

Promoting Last-Mile Access to Inputs

Empowering seedling production enterprises and agro-input shops as local technical hubs improved the availability and affordability of quality vegetable varieties for smallholder farmers. This approach reduced the risk of seed loss, facilitated the adoption of sustainable techniques, and enabled wider dissemination of improved vegetable production technologies, even in non-project areas.

Certification Opens New Pathways

We successfully launched our certification program, which enables farmers to earn formal recognition upon completing training modules and passing a knowledge test. Farmers expressed that the certification gave them a tangible way to validate their skills, access financial support such as loans, and confidently share their knowledge with fellow farmers.

2025 RESULTS

25,003
Newly trained farmers

58% Men

42% Women

64% Age <35

36% 35+

319
Demo plots

1,345
Training events

$478
TZS 1,240,256
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$648 Average revenue
TZS 1,680,174

$170 Average cost
TZS 439,918

2021–2025

76,136 Farmers trained



"I now see farming as a real business."

With limited knowledge of basics like plant nutrition and pest management, 34-year-old vegetable farmer Joel Mwaisaka often had little to show for his hard work.

Motivated to turn his farm around, he joined EWS-KT and began at the beginning—with business planning, market requirements, and record keeping. Following his new business plan, he prepared a tomato demonstration plot and planted 900 seedlings.

As the season progressed, he learned how to provide needed nutrients to his plants and gained practical experience in crop maintenance and integrated pest management methods, prioritizing preventive techniques.

His tomato plants kept growing and producing, earning him 1.4 million shillings (US$538) from a 400,000 shilling (US$154) investment.

Joel's success with the demonstration plot inspired him to expand. One year later, he grows more than 1,800 tomato plants on three separate fields, maximizing his income through staggered planting that ensures continuous harvests to meet market demand.

Uganda

As farmers' skills advance, our certification program is opening access to finance—enabling farmers to invest in their business and expand. Our work is also increasing business opportunities across the vegetable value chain, benefiting all stakeholders.



Empowering Refugee & Host Communities

With renewed support from AVSI Foundation, we expanded our work in the Kyaka II and Kyangwali refugee settlement areas in 2025, strengthening the vegetable value chain to support sustainable economic growth.

In addition to improved farming techniques, we showed farmers how to select vegetable varieties based on market suitability.

We also helped farmers to establish seedling production businesses and worked with agro-input dealers to meet growing demand for quality inputs and extension services.

Farmer Certification

Our training in farm business planning and climate-smart vegetable production techniques is designed to raise farmers' resilience and income potential. But until recently, trained farmers had no way to prove their increased capacity to gatekeepers like financial institutions. That is changing with our certification program.

Farmers seeking certification must pass a technical knowledge test and demonstrate that they are properly applying improved vegetable production practices in their fields. The resulting certification not only recognizes farmers' expertise and field implementation but offers a pathway to financial inclusion that can transform their livelihoods.

Increasing Financial Access

Limited access to capital is a major barrier for smallholder farmers, who are viewed as high risk by banks and often have little or no collateral to secure a loan. In northern Uganda, farmer certification is proving to be a crucial avenue to increase financial access.

Certified farmers are seen as more creditworthy—with positive results so far. 99% of the certified farmers we referred to our banking partner were able to secure a loan, and the loan repayment rate among these recipients was 97%. Having access to capital is enabling farmers to plant and fertilize on time, leading to higher yields, and is making it possible for them to expand their vegetable production.

2025 RESULTS

20,211
Newly trained farmers

48% Men

52% Women

65% Age <35

35% 35+

431
Demo plots

1,831
Training events

$373
UGX 1,341,737
Demo plot average net profit per crop cycle (500 sq. m.)

$456 Average revenue
UGX 1,642,758

$84 Average cost
UGX 301,022

2021–2025

73,756 Farmers trained



In Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, many farmers' challenges start early on, at the seedling stage. Limited access to quality seeds, lack of technical knowledge, and time constraints can make raising seedlings risky and frustrating.

Divine Uwera, a 25-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, saw the opportunity to address this hurdle.

With support from EWS-KT, she constructed a low-cost nursery for growing vegetable seedlings. She mixes her own soil media from local ingredients, plants the seeds in pots made from banana or mango leaves, carefully manages the seedlings' moisture and nutrient requirements, and protects the seedlings from pests and harsh weather.

Divine's enterprise quickly became a key resource for farmers in the settlement. Instead of having to invest in full seed packets, farmers can now purchase the exact number of healthy, ready-to-transplant seedlings they want.

By taking on this important role in the vegetable value chain, Divine has created a sustainable and profitable business for herself while simultaneously ensuring that farmers start their season with robust, viable plants.

05.

Partnerships

Partnerships are central to our mission, enabling us to expand our outreach and improve more smallholder farmers' livelihoods. We collaborate with governments, donors, research institutes, NGOs, and private-sector actors, including East-West Seed, to co-invest in scalable, market-based solutions. While we are aligned with East-West Seed on long-term goals, we operate as a nonprofit (ANBI) foundation with an independent, public-good mandate, contributing to inclusive and resilient food systems globally.

In 2025, we further diversified and strengthened our partnership portfolio across institutional, private-sector, and philanthropic channels. Key developments included collaboration with new partners DEG Impulse in India, AGRA in Tanzania, and a private Dutch foundation in Nigeria. We also strengthened local engagement through agreements with the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Training Institute in the Philippines and a corporate social responsibility (CSR) partnership with Epsilon Foundation in India.

Despite significant funding headwinds in the global development landscape, we remain committed to scaling sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers. We will continue to strengthen existing collaborations, while welcoming new partners—including private giving donors—who share our commitment to inclusive, resilient food systems and scalable impact. We are currently seeking additional core funding as well as co-funding for farmer-focused projects.

Financial Access

gain
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

GGGI

HEKS EPER
Bread for all.

Horti Nigeria

IFDC
Developing Agriculture from the Ground Up

ISSD Uganda

KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT

KANO STATE GOVERNMENT NIGERIA

Kingdom of the Netherlands

KIT Royal Tropical Institute

MinDA

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

NRLM
National Rural Livelihood Mission

Netherlands Enterprise Agency

SNV

Solidaridad

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

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Partner Projects in 2025

Bangladesh 2020-2025	Smart Farming, Healthy Food: Developing Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Smallholder Vegetable Production and Supply Systems in the Barisal and Chittagong Districts of Bangladesh	**Funding partner:** Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) / Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Implementing partners:** Solidaridad (lead partner); Bangladesh Department of Agricultural Extension
Cambodia 2025-2026	Nurture Veg, Phase 2—Increasing Farmers' Income Opportunities and Climate Resilience Through Agroecological Vegetable Farming Techniques Suitable for Local Agronomic and Climatic Conditions	**Funding partners:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); HEKS/EPER; Caritas Switzerland
Ghana 2025-2029	Transforming Vegetable Farming as a Business, Phase 2	**Funding partner:** Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Accra
India 2025-2028	Fostering Climate Resilience by Empowering Smallholder Farmers for Sustainable Vegetable Production	**Funding partner:** DEG Impulse, from public funds of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development **Implementing partner:** Wageningen University & Research
India 2025-2026	Enhancing Farmers' Incomes Through Promotion of Sustainable Vegetable Production Practices	**Funding partner:** Epsilon Foundation
India 2024-2027	Enhancing Smallholder Farmers' Income and Livelihoods with Profitable Vegetable Production Practices	**Funding partner:** De Eik Foundation
India 2023-2025	Improving Soil Health, Food Security, Nutrition, Incomes, and Soil Fertility in India and Uganda Through Use of Green Manures	**Funding partner:** Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality **Implementing partner:** Wageningen University & Research
India 2019-2025	Good Farming, Good Food: Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security and Transforming Smallholders' Livelihood in Madhya Pradesh, India	**Funding partner:** Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) / Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Implementing partners:** Solidaridad Netherlands (lead partner); Vippy Industries; Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission; Solidaridad Network Asia Limited; Samarth Kisan Producer Company Limited
Indonesia 2024-2027	Enhancing Smallholder Farmers' Income and Livelihoods with Profitable Vegetable Production Practices in Papua, Indonesia	**Funding partners:** De Eik Foundation; East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer Foundation
Indonesia 2024-2026	WasteX-Bina Tani Partnership: Empowering Farms with Sustainable Biochar Solutions	**Funding partner:** P4G Partnerships-WRI **Implementing partners:** WasteX; Agathis Dammara Karbon
Myanmar 2025-2028	Adapt for Climate Resilience in South-East Myanmar	**Funding partner:** This project is co-funded by a multilateral pooled fund. **Implementing partners:** HEKS/EPER Myanmar (lead partner); Agros; Borderless Link Myanmar
Myanmar 2023-2026	Fostering Resilience Through Vegetables (Foster Veg): Improving the Income and Resilience of Smallholder Farming Communities in Southern Shan State Through Skills Building and Market Development in the Vegetable Sector	**Funding partners:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); HEKS/EPER

Nigeria 2025-2026	Training in Horticulture, Resilience, and Income for Vegetable Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (THRIVE)	**Funding partner:** This project is co-funded by a private Dutch foundation. **Implementing partners:** Wageningen University & Research; Ahmadu Bello University; Ministry of Agriculture in Kaduna, Kano, and Sokoto States
Nigeria 2024-2027	DELIVER Nigeria (DEcent LIVelihoods for small-scale producers delivered through Economic & Resilient food systems in Nigeria)	**Funding partner:** Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) / Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Implementing partners:** Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) (lead partner); Wageningen University & Research
Nigeria 2021-2025	HortiNigeria	**Funding partner:** Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands **Implementing partners:** International Fertilizer Development Center (lead partner); Wageningen University & Research; KIT Royal Tropical Institute
Philippines 2024-2026	Sustainable Intensification Through Vegetables Intercropping in Perennial Crops Farming Systems in Zamboanga Peninsula, Mindanao Island, Philippines (ZamPen SIVI)	**Funding partner:** BIMP-EAGA-ROK Cooperation Fund (BKCF), administered by Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) **Implementing partner:** Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA)
South Sudan 2025-2026	Horticulture Value Chain Capacity Building for the Community Driven Rural Development Project in South Sudan	**Funding** & **implementing partner:** SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
South Sudan 2024-2026	Accelerating Food Systems Resilience in South Sudan (AFSRiSS)	**Funding partner:** Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) / Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Implementing partners:** ZOA Dorcas South Sudan (lead partner); Wageningen University & Research; University of Juba; Integrated Seed and Sector Development Uganda
South Sudan 2024-2025	Improving Food Security and Incomes and Reducing Chronic Malnutrition in Rhino Refugee Settlement and Host Communities in West Nile, Uganda, and in South Sudan	**Funding partner:** Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND)
Tanzania 2025-2027	Promoting Sustainable Farming Practices to Accelerate Adoption of Agriculture Innovation in the Horticulture Value Chain	**Funding partner:** AGRA **Implementing partners:** Avocado Society of Tanzania (ASTA); Crop Bioscience Solutions; Farm For the Future Tanzania Ltd (FFF); Maua Mazuri
Tanzania 2024-2027	Transforming Tanzania's Vegetable Markets	**Funding partners:** USAID Feed the Future (exited Jan. 2025); currently self-funded **Implementing partner:** ACDI/VOCA (exited Jan. 2025 due to loss of international funding)
Uganda 2025-2027	Increasing Good Agricultural Practices and Access to Quality Horticultural Seeds in Kyaka II and Kyangwali Refugee Settlements and Host Communities, Phase 2	**Funding partner:** AVSI Foundation
Uganda 2024-2027	Piloting Access to Finance for Smallholder Farmers in (Northern) Uganda	**Funding partner:** Austrian Development Agency **Implementing partners:** Financial Access Consulting Services B.V. (exited Aug. 2025 due to loss of international funding); Centenary Bank
Uganda 2024-2025	Improving Food Security and Incomes and Reducing Chronic Malnutrition in Rhino Refugee Settlement and Host Communities in West Nile, Uganda, and in South Sudan	**Funding partner:** Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND)
Uganda 2023-2025	Improving Soil Health, Food Security, Nutrition, Incomes, and Soil Fertility in India and Uganda Through Use of Green Manures	**Funding partner:** Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality **Implementing partner:** Wageningen University & Research

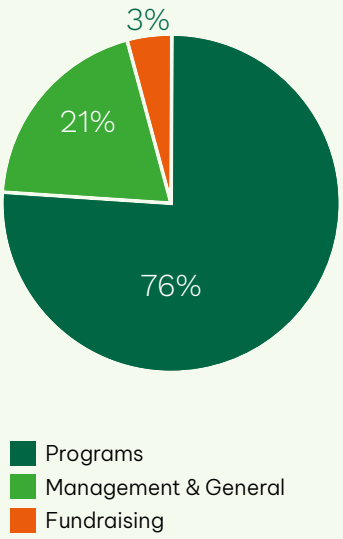
06.

Financial Statement

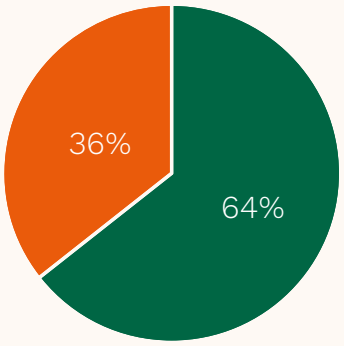
EXPENDITURES	2025 US$ x 1,000		2024 US$ x 1,000	
Programs	4,695	76%	4,447	76%
Management & General	1,296	21%	1,208	21%
Fundraising	162	3%	148	3%
TOTAL	6,153	100%	5,803	100%

EXPENDITURE FUNDING SOURCES	2025 US$ x 1,000		2024 US$ x 1,000	
East-West Seed Group	3,961	64%	3,571	62%
Other Partners	2,192	36%	2,232	38%
TOTAL	6,153	100%	5,803	100%

Expenditures



Expenditure Funding Sources




Mwongozo wa mkulima
Tango
• Maandalizi ya Shamba
• Uwekaji mbolea
• Njia jumuishi za udhibiti wa visumbufu zao/mimea

07.

Leadership

Board of Trustees



Chair
Rutger Groot
Supervisory Board Member, East-West Seed Group



Board Member
Joan Boer
Former Netherlands Ambassador to Thailand



Board Member
Joost Pekelharing
Former CEO, East-West Seed Group



Board Member
Brigit van Dijk-van de Reijt
CEO, Brabant Development Agency (BOM)



Board Advisor
Flip van Koesveld
International Project Manager, Wageningen University & Research

Global Leadership



Stuart Morris
Executive Director



Hoa Duong
Partnerships



Karina Rodrigues Brasil
Human Resources



Girlie Frando
Market Integration & Agricultural Extension



Sathiyabama Baskaran
Global Impact



Mathew Tusiime
Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning



Lysette Lacambra
Technical Farming Support



Sylvie Désilles
Sustainable Growth & Development



Femke de Jong
Program Management



Rachana Sok
Finance



Swaroop Nanu
Communications

Regional and Country Leadership



Elijah Mwashayenyi
Africa



Sathiyabama Baskaran
South Asia & India



Atikur Rahman
Bangladesh



Nonin Chho
Cambodia



Jemima Aku Djah
Ghana



Edwin S. Saragih
Indonesia (YBTS*)



Mar Lar Soe
Myanmar



Ruth Ardzard
Nigeria



Jane Cando-Llanera
Philippines



Epaphras Milambwe
Tanzania



Joshua Mwanguhya
Uganda & South Sudan

We have permanent knowledge transfer teams in 10 countries in Africa and Asia, as well as a global leadership team. At the end of 2025, our global and country-based team members totaled 236 (42% women and 58% men), and all of our country-based team members are from the country in which they work. Knowledge transfer activities in Indonesia are carried out by our partner Yayasan Bina Tani Sejahtera, which has its own staff.

* Knowledge transfer activities in Indonesia are implemented and managed by Yayasan Bina Tani Sejahtera (YBTS), an independently funded and governed foundation affiliated with East-West Seed Indonesia. EWS-KT works closely with YBTS, especially on the production of extension materials, extension methodologies, and data management. For more information, visit www.binatani.or.id.

Contact us:
ews.kt@eastwestseed.com



EAST-WEST SEED FOUNDATION

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

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