Leaders in the Field

A Case for Investing in Inclusive, Resilient Food Systems

Food Security Policy Group Synthesis Report

June 2020

1. INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH CONTEXT

Rural people, agriculture and food systems

Most people in rural areas of developing countries derive their livelihood from the agriculture and food system. They earn a living at every point along the value chain: growing crops and caring for livestock on their own small farms, working as farm labourers, selling farm inputs, processing and transporting food for sale, and selling food in the marketplace.

Yet food insecurity is prevalent in developing countries, and food producers are over-represented among those who lack sufficient nutritious food for at least part of each year. In many countries, food system actors find themselves in competition with imported food, produced and processed cheaply in more industrialized countries. In many countries, small-scale farmers are the first to be hit by the harsh realities of climate change.

Women play an integral role in food systems everywhere. In the least developed countries, 79% of women depend on farming for their livelihoods.[1] Yet in all regions of the world, women experience greater food insecurity than men.[2] They consistently have less access than men to land, livestock, inputs, equipment, training, services, financing, information and markets. The time women can devote to farming is limited, as most also do unpaid work at home (childcare, cooking, fetching water) or other income-earning work outside the home. Women have less autonomy and decision-making power and less mobility than men, and many risk gender-based violence.[3,4] Improving the effectiveness and resilience of food systems has the potential to improve the lives and livelihoods of vast numbers of rural people, and in particular rural women.

A NOTE ABOUT COVID-19

The two research initiatives described in this report were conducted pre-COVID-19. This summary, with recommendations derived from the research findings, was near completion when the pandemic took the world by storm. Since then, COVID-19 has caused all national governments and all the world's multilateral institutions that deal with food and agriculture (particularly the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the World Food Programme) to consider the pandemic's short-term and possible longer term impacts on food security, agriculture and food systems worldwide.

This research set out to look at trends in Global Affairs Canada (GAC) funding to agriculture at the macro-level, and to examine specific small-scale initiatives that have succeeded in improving food security and food systems at the community level. We believe its findings are especially relevant, as emergency and longer-term food and agriculture initiatives are rolled out worldwide, in response to COVID-19. We believe this research provides a small window onto the ways that Global Affairs Canada might help "build back better" with respect to food security, resilient and inclusive agriculture and food systems, while addressing both climate change and the food needs of the most vulnerable people on earth, especially women.

[1] FAO (2006) http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0493e/a0493e03.htm
[2] FAO (2018) The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018.
[3] FAO (2011) The Vital role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development. http://www.fao.org/3/mb054e/mb054e.pdf
[4] CFGB (2016) Equal Harvests: How investing in agricultural development can empower women. https://foodgrainsbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Womens-paper-April-2016.pdf

Agricultural development and the SDGs

Agricultural development has already enabled much progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, and has the potential to contribute much more. It contributes most directly to SDG #1 (No Poverty) and SDG#2 (Zero Hunger). GDP growth derived from agriculture is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as GDP growth in other sectors.[5] Agricultural development also contributes to SDG #5 (Gender Equality), SDG #8 (Economic Growth) and SDG #13 (Climate Action), among others. Good management of agricultural land can conserve soil and water and build resilience to climate change.[6] Farming can contribute both dietary diversity and income to buy food, putting poor farm families on the pathway to better nutrition and health.[7] Agriculture and food systems create jobs along the value chain in rural areas, providing opportunities for the burgeoning generation of young people in developing countries. Carefully targeted support to agriculture can effectively address many of the SDGs, in an integrated way, while enabling people to stay in rural areas.

Agriculture, food systems and gender transformation

Strengthening women's participation in food production and food systems is a key pathway for women's empowerment. In this sector, where women are widely represented, consistently under-valued and hampered by deep-rooted social and cultural impediments, there is significant scope not only to improve livelihoods and increase agency for women, but also to enable transformative changes in gender equality. Using its Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index[8], the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has documented how integrating gender into agricultural programming can lead to substantive changes for women in the areas of decision-making power, control of income, leadership in the community and how they spend their time.

Previous work by Canada's Food Security Policy Group (FSPG)[9] has outlined four key principles of a feminist approach to agriculture and food systems: [10]

- Recognizing and challenging unequal relationships of power;
- Enabling agency so that all people, and especially women and girls, can take decisions and actions that determine their own future;
- Understanding intersectionality - recognizing that multiple aspects of identity, such as class, socio-economic status, race, ethnic group and sexual orientation, compound vulnerability;
- Paying attention to process. A feminist approach concerns itself not just with the end result, but with thoughtful inclusive processes.

The case studies described below offer concrete examples of targeted agricultural interventions that have transformed gender relations, in permanent ways.

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[5] World Bank (2008) World Development Report; Agriculture for Development
[6] IFAD & UNEP (2013) Smallholders, Food Security and the Environment. International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Environment Programme
[7] Herforth, A. & Harris, J. (2014) Understanding and Applying Primary Pathways and Principles. Brief #1. Improving Nutrition through Agriculture Technical Brief Series. Arlington, VA: USAID/Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) Project
[8] https://www.ifpri.org/project/weai
[9] The Food Security Policy Group is a coalition of Canadian international development and civil society organizations seeking to promote policies and actions that protect and enhance food security in developing countries, based on decades of working in these sectors with partners in developing countries. Their names appear at the end of this document. See https://ccic.ca/what-we-do/canadian-food-security-policy-group/
[10] FSPG (2018). Uprooting Inequality, Nurturing Rights. https://ccic.ca/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2018/06/Uprooting-Inequality-Brief-EN.pdf

Agriculture and Climate change

The changes in climate that have already happened, and those expected in the coming decades, bring increasing risks for all farmers, and especially women. More erratic rainfall, stronger storms, frequent droughts and the movement of agricultural pests and diseases into new areas will make it harder to meet the food security needs of all. Like other regions, West Africa (the focus of the case studies reported below) is increasingly exploring climate-resilient agriculture, seeking to increase productivity while adapting to new climate realities and minimizing production of greenhouse gases. While countries in all regions of the world have highlighted the importance of agriculture in their national plans for climate adaptation, the emphasis is most pronounced in sub-Saharan Africa, where 100% of countries have done so.[11] To meet this challenge of climate-sensitive agriculture, it will be critical to "scale up, scale out, and scale deep"[12] the approaches that successfully build climate resilience into local and regional agriculture and food systems.

Agriculture, food systems and Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy

The principal goal of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP, 2017), is to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It outlines several pathways to achieve this goal, including *growth that works for everyone* and *environment and climate action*. The Food Security Policy Group has consistently argued that support to agriculture is a particularly effective way to achieve these goals, including gender transformation. FSPG's 2018 brief, *Uprooting Inequality, Nurturing Rights,*[13] is based on the long-term experience of FSPG members working in agricultural development. It illustrates how agricultural development projects have achieved gender, environmental and economic goals, while also contributing to the FIAP's goals of inclusive governance and human dignity.[14] The two pieces of research outlined below provide further evidence of this.

2. RESEARCH PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2019 and 2020 the Food Security Policy Group conducted two research initiatives, the first to analyse trends in GAC funding for agricultural development and food security (the macro-research), and the second to document how Canada's investment in specific, GAC-supported agricultural projects achieved outcomes in the areas of gender equality, environmental sustainability and climate resilience, improved livelihoods and enhanced food security. The aim of the research was to gather data-based evidence for an informed policy dialogue with the government of Canada, and to engage with the Canadian public on the benefits of agricultural development. The research will now be used to support a case for Canada to increase investments in agricultural development.

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[11] FAO (2016). The Agriculture Sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5666e.pdf

[12] "Scaling up" impacts laws and policy, and changes institutions at the level of policy, rules and laws. "Scaling out" impacts greater numbers, and facilitates replication and dissemination to an increased number of people or communities. "Scaling deep" impacts cultural roots, and changes relationships, cultural values and beliefs, "hearts and minds" McConnell Foundation https://mcconnellfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ScalingOut_Nov27A_AV_BrandedBleed.pdf , pp 3

[13] https://ccic.ca/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2018/06/Uprooting-Inequality-Brief-EN.pdf

[14] FSPG (2018). Uprooting Inequality, Nurturing Rights. This brief includes case studies from India, Bolivia, Kenya and Afghanistan. It also quantifies returns from agricultural projects in terms of improved rural livelihoods, women empowered to claim their rights, farmers more resilient to climate-related hazards, agricultural innovation, ecosystem protection, better nourished children, stronger rural organizations and economic opportunities for young people. FSPG's brief shows how working in agriculture and food systems is an effective way to make progress on at least 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals: 1- no poverty; 2-end hunger; 3-good health; 4-education; 5-gender equality; 8-economic growth; 9-innovation; 10-reduced inequality; 12-responsible consumption and production; 13-climate action; 15-life on land; 16-peace, justice and institutions; 17-partnerships

This research had two main components:

- A statistical analysis of Canada's spending and commitments on agriculture and food security, conducted by AidWatch Canada.
- Six case studies of agricultural projects in West Africa[15], undertaken by local research teams in the respective countries. The featured projects were implemented by Canadian civil society organizations and local partners, and funded by Global Affairs Canada.

A summary of these two streams of research, and their findings are presented below. To read the full reports, visit https://ccic.ca/leaders-in-the-field.

3. THE MACRO RESEARCH – A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN GAC FUNDING TO AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

3.1 The Study

In 2019 the Food Security Policy Group commissioned independent statistical research on trends in Canada's official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture and food security (which includes food emergencies and nutrition) over a ten-year period. This report focuses largely on the data for agriculture, but includes comparative data for other "food security" sectors, where relevant.

The study's findings were first released as a stand-alone document in 2018. This was updated with new data in July 2019 under the title *Investing in Agriculture and Food Security, Trends in Global Affairs Canada's Commitments and Disbursements, 2007/08 to 2018/19*. It was updated again in May 2020. Charts and analysis in this document include the most recent available data from 2018/19[16].

The study analyses Government of Canada data supplemented with information from the OECD DAC[17] and other sources for international comparisons. It breaks down funding by relevant OECD purpose codes for basic nutrition, emergency food aid, development food aid and agriculture, and by all GAC funding channels. It reveals several trends that FSPG believes should be reversed, particularly in the post-COVID era.

The decade under study includes the period immediately before the global food price crisis of 2007/08, when Canada joined with other G8 countries in the L'Aquila food security initiative. It also includes the years in which the FIAP was developed and rolled out.

3.2 Findings and Analysis – Statistical Research

Aid to agriculture is falling

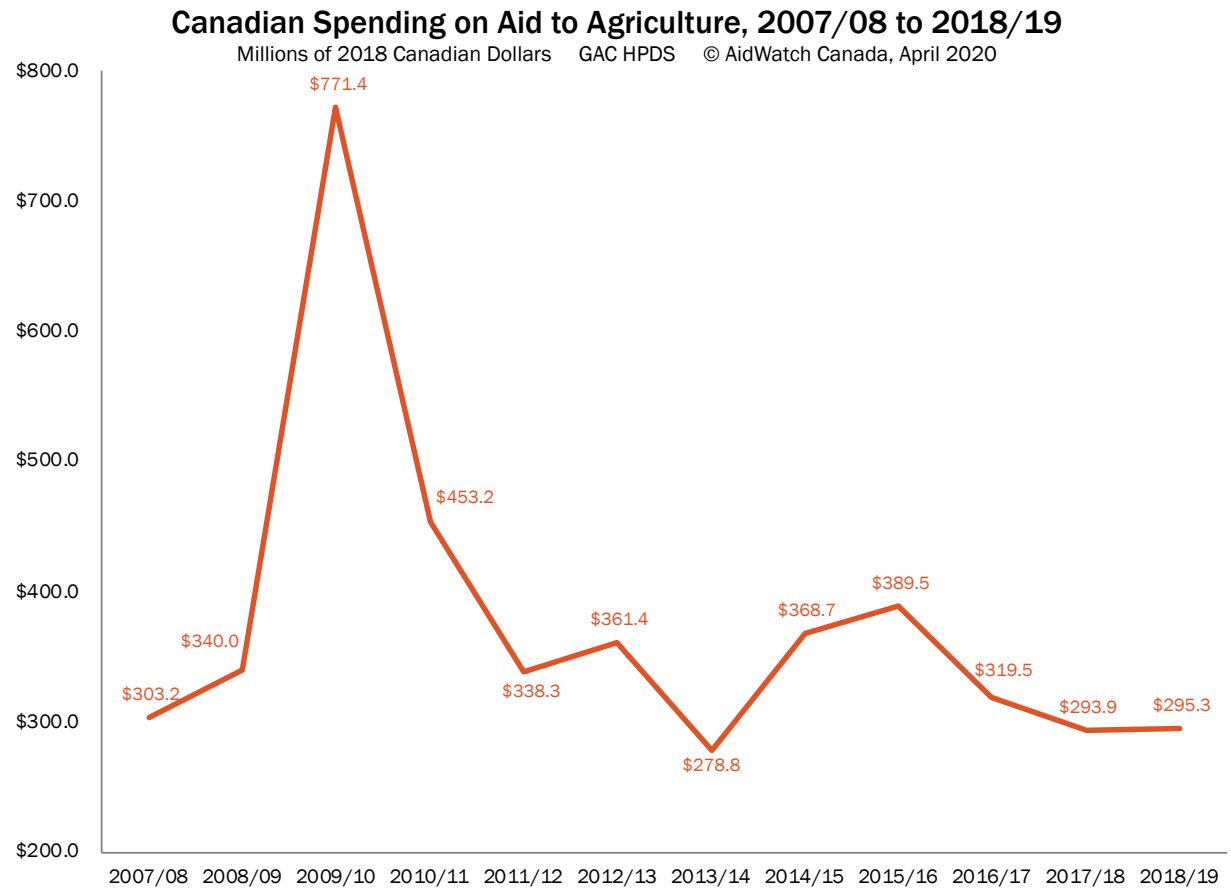
The study's highest-level finding is that there has been a steady decline in Canada's funding for agriculture post L'Aquila, despite extensive evidence (as above) that agricultural development is

[15] Two in each of Ghana and Mali, one in each of Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone
[16] All data cited here, and additional data on funding trends in aid for agriculture can be found in the detailed study http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Final-Final-September-Ag-Paper.pdf, also available at https://ccic.ca/leaders-in-the-field
[17] Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee

essential to address many of the SDGs, "leave no one behind", and achieve the goals of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Canada's spending on agricultural aid rose just after the food price crisis in 2007/08, fell a few years later and has now dropped below pre-crisis levels. In the most recent four-year period alone (2015/16 - 2018/19), when the FIAP was introduced, the value of aid for agriculture (in 2018 dollars) fell by 24%, from $390 million to $295 million (**Fig 1**). Agricultural aid as a share of total Real Canadian aid[18] also fell below pre-L'Aquila levels, from 6.4% in 2007/08, to 5.4% in 2018/19.

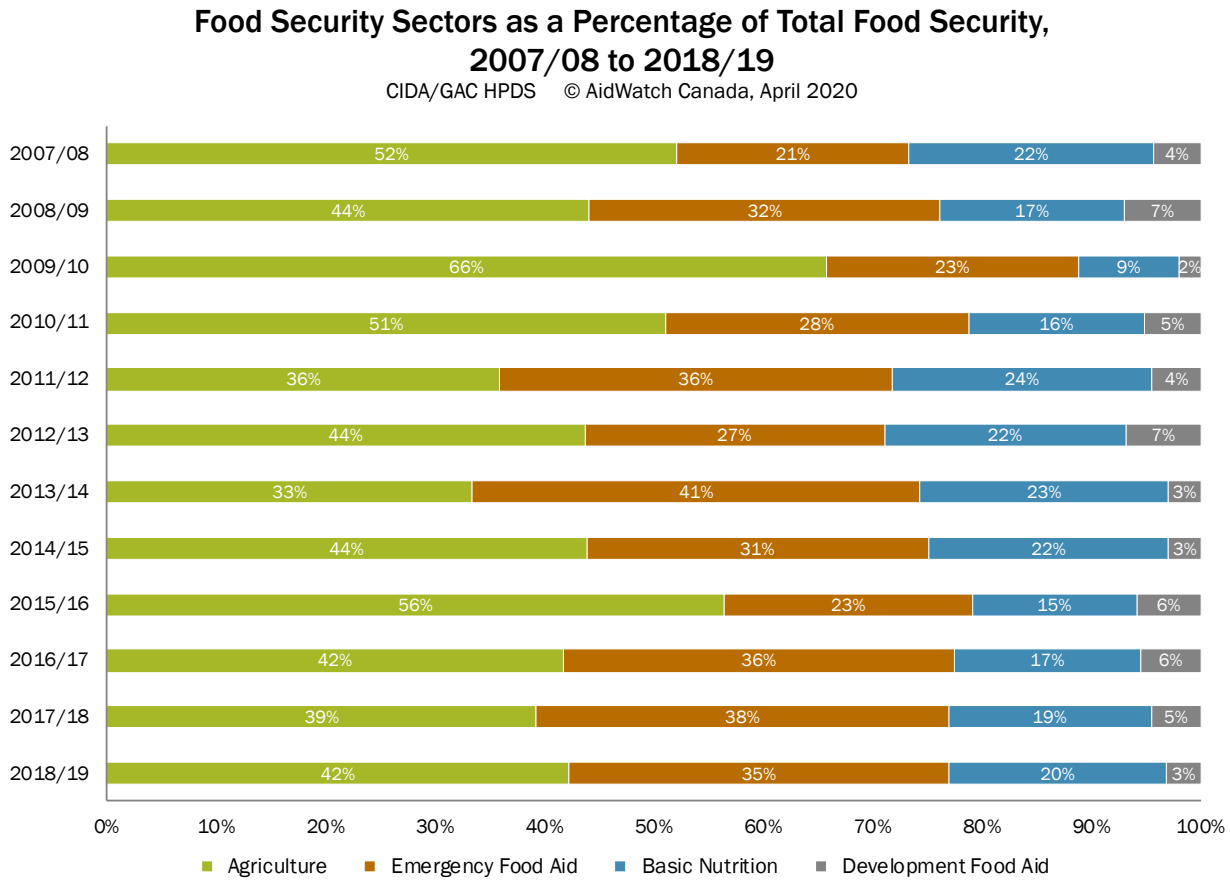
Figure 1



Aid to agriculture as a proportion of Food Security funding also fell, from a high of 66% in 2009/10, to 42% in 2018/19 (**Fig 2**). Whatever way you look at it, agriculture has fallen significantly from prominence in GAC funding, post L'Aquila, and again after the FIAP was introduced. Yet 87% of the agricultural projects that Canada did fund during the FIAP period included gender equality and women's empowerment among their intended outcomes.

[18] Real Canadian Aid is Actual Canadian Aid less in-donor country refugee and student costs counted as aid and debt cancellation in the year that it was cancelled. Real aid is a true measure of aid that is available for developing countries.

Figure 2

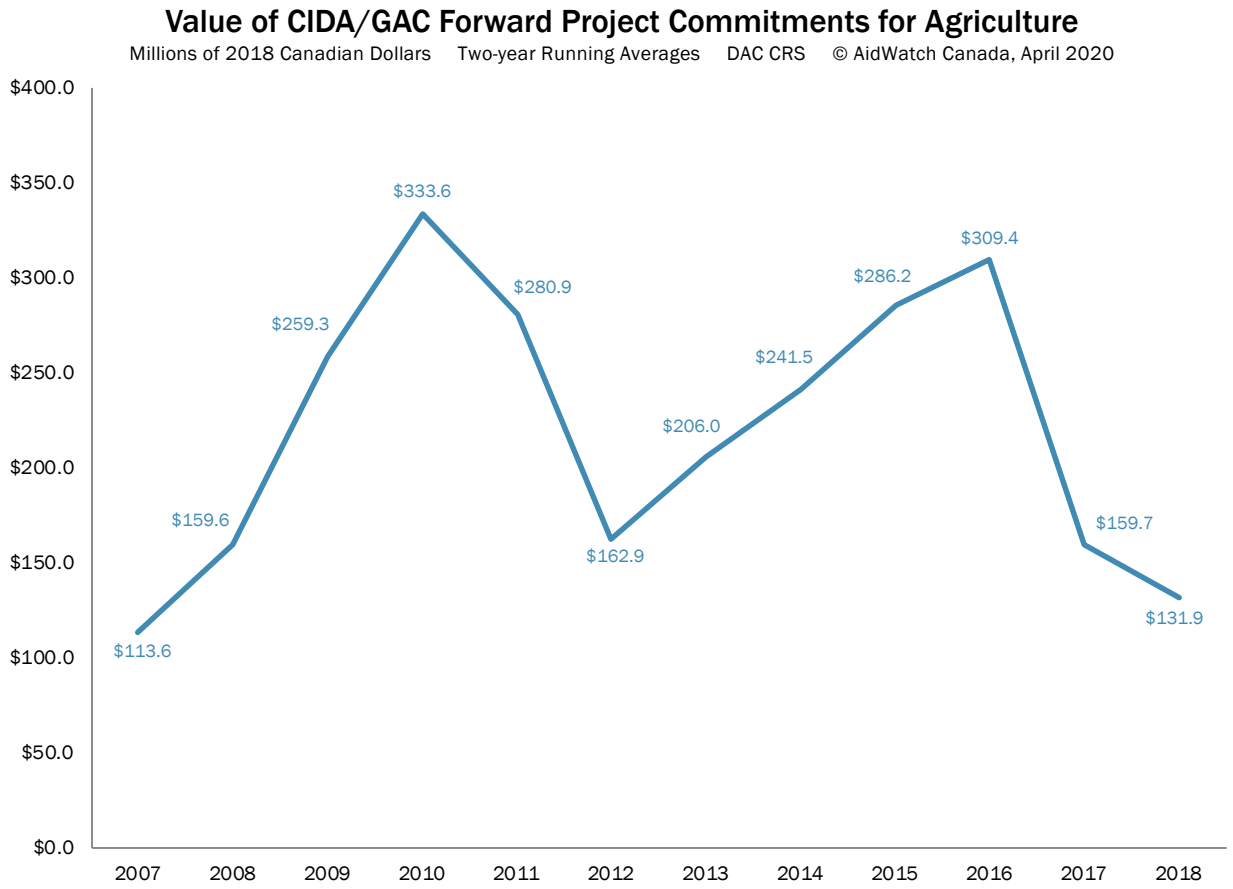


Future commitments are set to continue the pattern of decline

Not only did agricultural spending fall in the first years of the FIAP, it seems destined to keep falling. There has been a precipitous drop in money committed for future agricultural projects, from a high of $333 million in 2010, to $241 million in 2014/15, to $131 million in 2018/19 (**Fig 3**).

There may be some cause for optimism, given a single year increase in new agricultural commitments in 2018. This is obscured in Fig 3, because of the "two-year averaging" method used to calculate future commitments in this chart. When averaged over two years, the trend is still downward, so it is too early to know if the 2018 uptick signals a reversal of the decline. A significant portion of it appears related to mandated obligations to multilateral organizations. This downward trend in future commitments to agriculture is worrying, but it is not too late to reverse it.

Figure 3



An integrated approach to increasing gender equality is needed

The decline in agricultural spending contrasts with a steady increase in spending on health and reproductive rights. Project commitments in these vital areas grew from 103 projects in 2015 to 267 in 2017, when agricultural commitments were in decline. Women's health is fundamentally important to achieve FIAP objectives. But investment in strong agriculture and food systems is also foundational for good health and nutrition, especially for women. In rural areas, gender transformation will be achieved only if access to health services, particularly for poor and marginalized women, is accompanied by a comprehensive, gender-transformative approach that includes woman's economic empowerment, to which agriculture is central. An integrated approach would ensure that critical funding for health and nutrition does not jeopardize funding for agriculture and livelihoods. All are important and will require increased funding for ODA overall.

All agriculture funding should build coherence with climate change resilience

This study could include only a superficial review of climate change objectives in agricultural aid initiatives. It is not possible to determine from available data whether climate change objectives identified in agricultural projects are seriously addressed. It is a positive sign that more that 50% of agricultural projects in the 2015/16 - 2018/19 period included a "climate adaptation/mitigation"

objective, compared with 23% in the previous three-year period[19]. But only eleven agricultural projects (11%) of the 104 examined in the same period included climate adaptation/mitigation as their exclusive objective. Half were implemented by CSOs and the other half by climate specialized multilateral organizations. This limited attention to climate change in agricultural projects underscores the need to build climate resilience into all future agricultural development programming. Building resilient and inclusive agriculture into climate change initiatives, regardless of funding channel, is equally important. Both would contribute to a more sustainable and ecologically viable future for rural populations.

Need for longer-term development funding following crises

The sharp drop in agricultural funding post L'Aquila illustrates a recurring weakness that FSPG and others have observed in the past and is documented in this study. The funding trend in the decade studied raises a caution about GAC's possible food security responses to COVID-19. Following a food security crisis like the one of 2007/08, a substantial, immediate, emergency response is mobilized and receives attention for a short while (i.e. the G8 and L'Aquila). Following the crisis, momentum dissipates and donor support drops off. If a post-COVID emergency food and agriculture response is mounted, the opportunity to build more sustainable and resilient rural economies and food security for the most vulnerable would be lost, if emergency funding were not followed by longer-term support for agricultural development in affected countries. In the post-COVID era, GAC should strive to achieve a smooth transition from emergency responses and immediate support for food security to robust long-term investment in resilient and inclusive agricultural development, to ensure the sustainability of food systems.

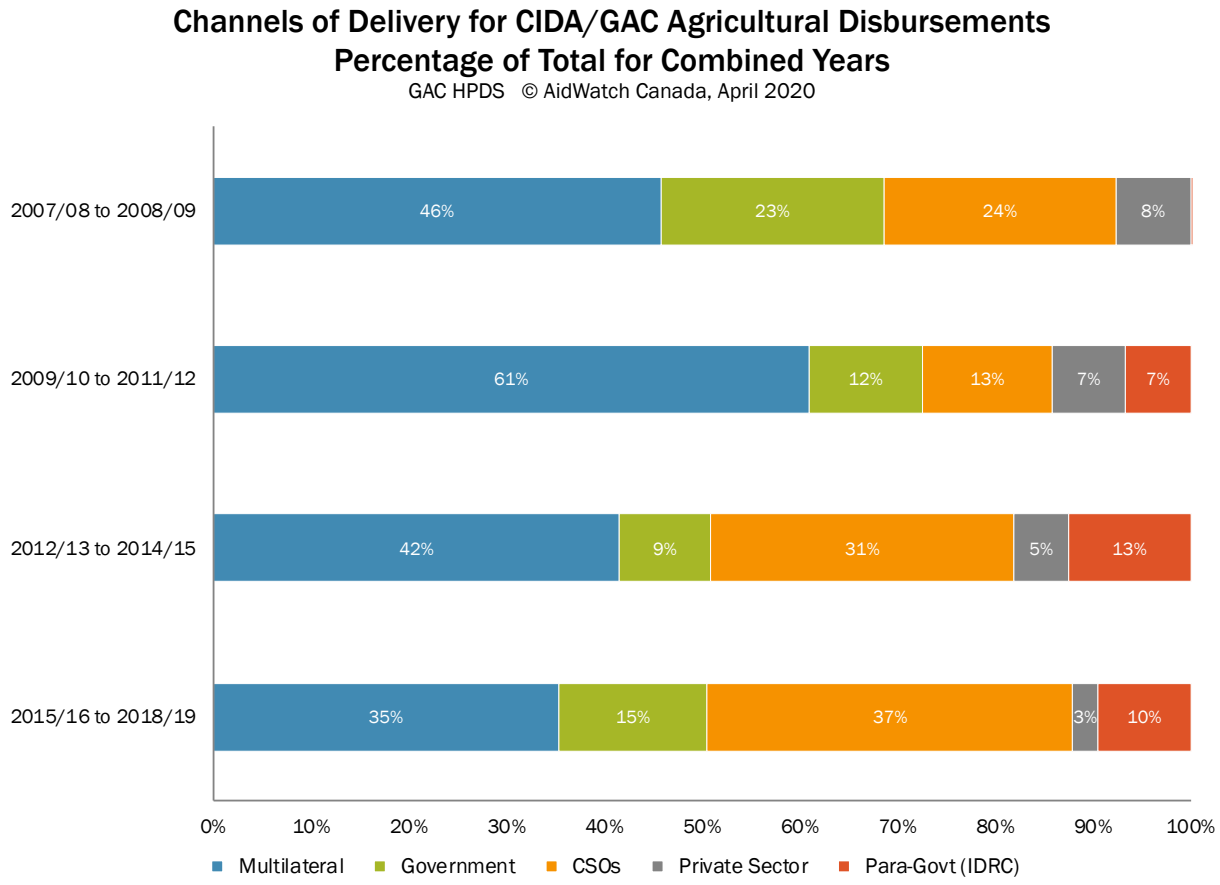
Funding channels for agricultural aid must be diverse and mutually-reinforcing

During the ten years under study, only Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have seen a significant increase in their share of GAC funding for agriculture, at the expense of other channels. (**Fig 4**)

While the funding increase for CSOs is welcome news, and perhaps a recognition of the location-specific results that only CSOs can achieve, it is also a concern. CSO funding alone is insufficient for systemic change. CSOs may (and often do!) advocate for enabling public policy, but they do not drive it. If lasting impacts of the kind achieved in the case studies are to be achieved at scale, work will be required to influence the priorities and policies of multilateral institutions and national governments, including support for government programs, which was a priority for Canada in Africa in the past. Without this integration of approaches, scaling up, scaling out and scaling deep are not likely to be achieved. This has implications for the priorities and funding practices of bilateral and multilateral funding channels.

[19] http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Final-Final-September-Ag-Paper.pdf or https://ccic.ca/leaders-in-the-field

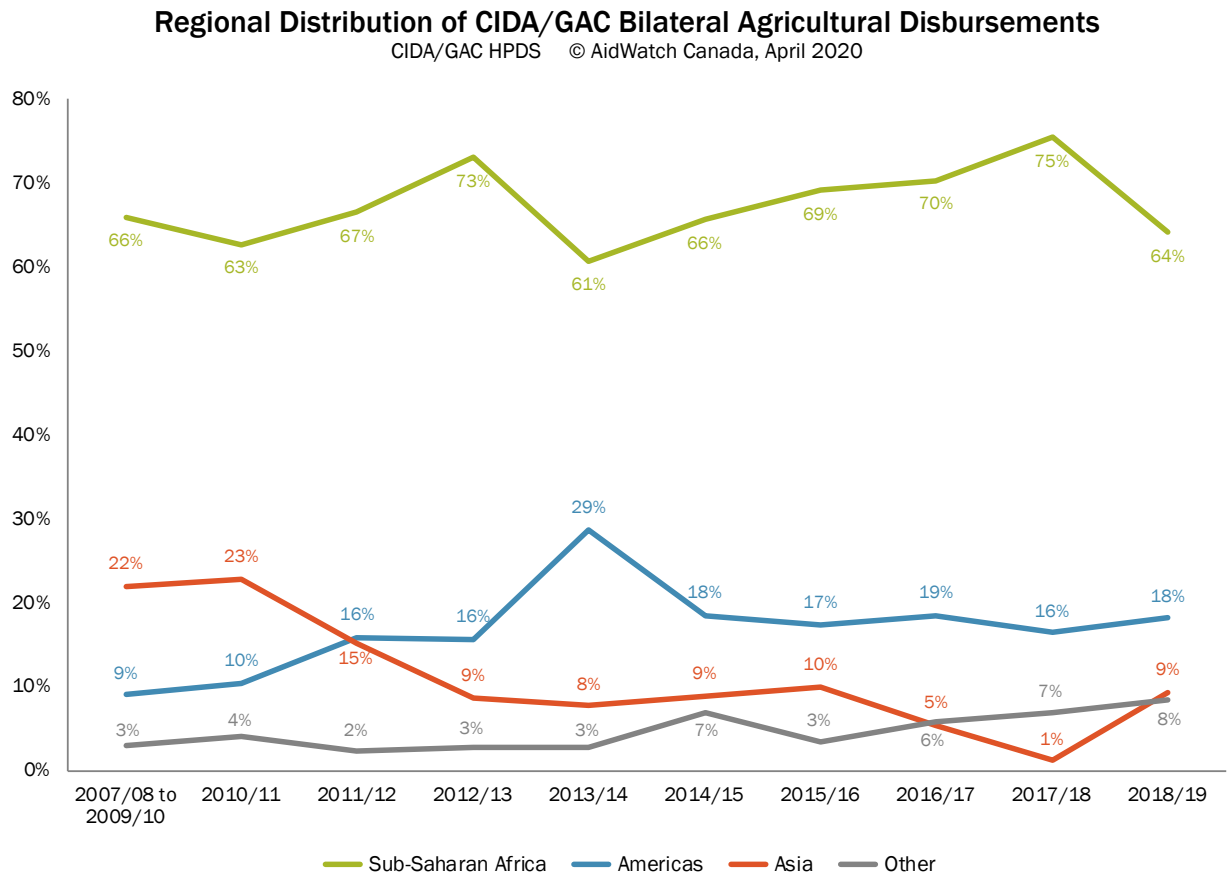
Figure 4



Geographic concentration of Canada's agricultural funding in sub-Saharan Africa

Canada's investment in agricultural development is very uneven geographically. Despite the importance of agriculture and food systems on all continents, Canada's ODA for agriculture is highly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa **(Fig 5).** In only five countries globally (Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, and Senegal) does agriculture account for more than 20% of GAC's funding to those countries. This concentration guided the selection of the case studies described below.

Figure 5



Attention to agriculture is low among all donors

Despite the decline in Canadian aid for agriculture post-L'Aquila, and its concentration in only a few countries, Canada still contributes a greater proportion of its ODA to agriculture than most donors on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. In the past decade, Canada has consistently performed above the DAC average for agriculture's share of total disbursements for all sectors, registering 9.2% for the four years to 2018 compared with 5.2% for all DAC donors. But Canada's ranking for agricultural funding within the DAC has dropped, from second in 2010, to seventh in 2018. Canadians implicitly understand the value of agriculture and food systems in Canada's own economy. Canada could establish a natural niche among donors in this area, well beyond sub-Saharan Africa. If Canada were to re-focus its ODA investments in agriculture, it could assume a leadership role among donor countries, and advance the FIAP agenda.

3.3 Summary – Statistical research

The trends revealed in this statistical analysis signal important changes that GAC could make to expand support for agriculture in its future ODA commitments, while significantly enhancing the impact of its Feminist International Assistance Policy. Such support will be essential if we are to

recover the international community's commitment to key SDGs, for eradicating poverty and hunger in the context of a long-term climate emergency.

4. THE MICRO RESEARCH – CASE STUDIES TO DOCUMENT SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING

4.1 The Study – Six West African Case Studies

The "micro" component of FSPG's study of agricultural aid examined in detail six multi-year projects funded by Global Affairs Canada, all begun pre-FIAP, but all judged by their Canadian CSO implementing partners to be highly successful - from the perspective of agricultural outcomes, but also outcomes in gender equality, environmental sustainability and climate resilience, improved rural livelihoods and enhanced food security. They were intentionally chosen to help FSPG members establish an evidence-based picture of "what works" in agricultural development that also works to achieve the objectives of FIAP (introduced several years after these projects began).

Because agriculture appears in the national development plans of all sub-Saharan African countries, and because Canada's aid to agriculture is so highly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, FSPG selected all case studies for this analysis from Africa, though equally compelling examples could be easily identified on other continents. Africa was further narrowed to West Africa, because four of the top 10 recipient countries for Canada's agricultural aid in the (2015 -2018/19) period (Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Burkina-Faso) were in West Africa.[20,21] In addition, sub-Saharan Africa has become a focus for Canadian aid overall, with the commitment under FIAP that no less than 50% of bilateral international development assistance will be directed to sub-Saharan Africa by 2021-22. Focusing on one region simplified the research process and allowed cohesion among case studies. Though all the case studies are from West Africa, the lessons learned offer relevant insights for Canada's global aid portfolio.

A detailed summary of the case study research and its findings are available as a companion piece to this overview.[22] Some of the highest-level findings are summarized below, with lessons that should inform Canada's future commitments to all agricultural development.

4.2 The Findings – Six West African Case Studies

It may be a cliché that women's empowerment must start where women are. It is also true. In these case studies, as is the case for 79% of women in least developed countries, women are farming: on small, often marginal plots they don't own; living in relatively poor rural families; working in rural economies where infrastructures are often weak; also responsible for childcare and household tasks.

The women involved in these six projects are involved at every step of local food systems: planning, production, processing, transport, sales. Yet women consistently play these roles with less access

[20] http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Final-Final-September-Ag-Paper.pdf
[21] The six case studies were in Burkina Faso (1), Ghana (2), Mali (2) and Sierra Leone (1).
[22] https://ccic.ca/leaders-in-the-field

than men to almost all the resources they need: good land, finances, livestock, inputs, equipment, information, markets, services, training - and the autonomy to make important decisions on their own.

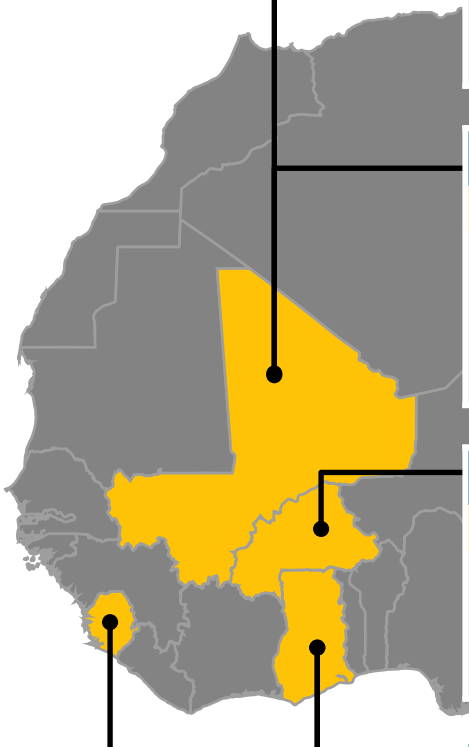
The case studies showcased in this research demonstrate that when women gain access to these things, they flourish! They turn degraded land to productive fields. They grow and earn enough to feed their families year-round. They join organized groups, start new ones, and take on leadership roles for the first time. They take charge of their lives. In the process, their families are better off. Children are healthier. Men see changes for the better, and accept that women can take on new roles. There are more jobs in rural areas. Communities are better prepared to deal with shocks. There are stronger partnerships between farmers, government and companies. Neighbouring villages start mimicking what they're seeing.

Each of the six projects studied is exemplary in its achievements, and demonstrates that with careful planning and strong partnerships, agricultural projects offer a responsive and effective framework within which to achieve greater gender equality, improve livelihoods and food security, and build climate resilience.

Agriculture holds much promise for important progress toward gender transformation. But only if it's done right. Agriculture and food systems can be a primary pathway for transforming social norms. But not every agricultural project will do that.

- These case studies illustrate the importance of good project design, based on local analysis of gender norms and climate vulnerability.
- They demonstrate that engaging men and boys is critically important for transformational gender changes.
- They underline the need for broad partnerships – with government programs and extension services, local NGOs and training institutions, research and financial institutions, and private sector entities. Building permanent relationships with other local actors will ensure that positive change is sustainable after a project ends.

Above all, these case studies illustrate the urgent need for Canada to make resilient and inclusive agriculture and food systems a more prominent pillar in the implementation of the Feminist International Assistance Policy.



MALI

Radio pour le développement des chaines de valeur agricole (RADCHA)

Canadian CSO: Farm Radio International
This project spanned four countries. The case study focused on Mali. With support from Farm Radio International, three radio stations produced and disseminated regular broadcasts to 91,000 small-scale poultry farmers (39% women) for two years, on different aspects of chicken farming: e.g. disease control, construction of chicken housing, improved marketing, and promotion of gender equality among poultry farmers. The goal was to increase production and profits.

MALI

Financement Agricole et rural au Mali (FARM)

Canadian CSOs: Développement international Desjardins and SOCODEVI
This project aims to increase the productivity and income of 18,706 smallholder farmers (58% women) in Mali through better access to financial services, coaching on farm management and environmental practices and the establishment of links with value chain actors. By engaging not only women but also men around gender equality issues, the project has contributed to changing men's behaviour towards women and the role of women in agricultural activities.

BURKINA FASO

Innovation and Mobilization Initiative for Food Security (IMSA)

Canadian CSO: Mission inclusion
This project worked with 3000 farmers (51% women) growing cowpea, sorghum, millet, onion and tomatoes in Burkina Faso. It was designed to increase productivity and to improve marketing and environmental sustainability. It strengthened value chains for both women and men and worked with producer organizations to improve governance and make them more responsive to producers' needs.

GHANA

Greater Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW)

Canadian CSO: Mennonite Economic Development Associates
This project worked with 23,368 women farmers to improve their household income and food security. It provided training in the production and marking of soybeans, and included activities to improve women's access to productive land and technology, increase yields, process soybeans into a variety of nutritious products for consumption and sale. It helped link producers to markets to sell soy and other agricultural products, and to improve financial inclusion through links to savings groups and microfinance institutions. It also introduced climate-smart agricultural techniques.

GHANA

Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation (RESULT)

Canadian CSO: Canadian Feed The Children
This project worked with 21,100 farmers (70% women) and their families to overcome food insecurity and vulnerability. It focused on poorer, female-headed households. It aimed to improve women's access to land, finance, productive resources and technology, and to strengthen women's decision-making power at home and in income-generating activities. It promoted income generating activities for rural entrepreneurs and provided training for community workers in agriculture and livestock, and for farmers in climate-smart agricultural techniques.

SIERRA LEONE

SATISFY – Systems Approach to Improve and Sustain Food Security

Canadian CSO: World Vision Canada
In Sierra Leone this project worked with 17,071 smallholder farmers (62% women), supporting them to grow crops and raise livestock using improved breeds and climate-smart technologies (e.g. System of Rice Intensification). It aimed to promote healthy foods and sustainable livelihoods for women, men and their families. It worked with staff in several government ministries to increase institutional capacity to deliver effective gender-responsive agricultural services. The project was also implemented in Ghana, Mali and Senegal.

WHAT'S WORKING IN AGRICULTURE?

Strategies That Improve Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Increase Knowledge and Skills

- Provide training, especially for women: e.g. in production, financial literacy, business management, marketing, on climate risks and adaptation, gender relations
- Use new ways to reach farmers: radio, talking books, SMS texts

Boost Farm Productivity

- Improve farming practices; integrate climate resilience
- Improve women's access to resources: e.g. land, livestock, inputs, finance
- Provide agricultural extension services
- Share work/reduce women's labour

Develop New Income Sources

- Diversify livelihoods to lessen climate risk
- Establish local enterprises: e.g. food processing, beekeeping
- Enable women's collective action: e.g. via savings groups, producer and marketing co-ops
- Leverage access to financial credit
- Promote social protection: e.g. crop insurance
- Support marketing, especially for women

Keys to Success

- Design for gender transformation and climate change resilience
- Adopt an integrated household approach to gender: involve men and boys
- Identify gender champions (men and women)
- Use peer-to-peer mobilization
- Build lasting partnerships with existing community resources

SDG Outcomes



- Higher crop yields, farm surpluses for sale
- New income sources: food processing, community-based enterprises, co-ops
- Increased family income: e.g. for food, household expenses, school fees, farm inputs
- Greater year-round food security: more diverse diets from on-farm production, greater access to purchased food
- Better health, especially for women and children: reduced childhood malnutrition
- More jobs / economic opportunities in rural areas



- Increased income for women / greater control over income
- Stronger voice for women in household and farming decisions: e.g. on family spending, farm production
- Greater autonomy for women: e.g. more freedom of movement
- Stronger role for women in community / as leaders
- More collective action by women
- Reduction in harmful gender norms / attitudes / behaviours
- Less gender-based violence



- More awareness of climate change risks, mitigation and adaptation techniques
- More sustainable / climate sensitive production
- Strengthened climate change resilience and adaptive capacity
- Less vulnerable food systems
- Innovative technologies: e.g. energy saving cooking stoves, biodigesters
- Early warning systems

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Canadian government

1. Canada should contribute its fair share to international assistance, by increasing its aid budget. This would permit increased funding for inclusive and resilient agriculture, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and other important sectors essential for the achievement of FIAP objectives.
2. Global Affairs Canada should increase funding for agriculture and food security programming and within this, integrate gender equality and climate adaptation via all funding channels. Investments in resilient and inclusive agriculture are key to transforming gender relations and increasing local resilience to climate change. Gender and climate mainstreaming should occur in multilateral and bilateral programming, as well as programming through civil society organizations.
3. Global Affairs Canada should work with the decision-making bodies of all multilateral organizations that deal with agriculture and food security, to re-orient their research, programs and funding toward building inclusive and resilient food systems. Similarly, Canada should support bilateral initiatives that enable recipient governments to do likewise, as a priority.
4. Global Affairs Canada should encourage continuity from emergency food responses to agricultural development programming, by creating funding mechanisms that facilitate this for program partners.
5. Global Affairs Canada should increase funding to Canadian Civil Society Organizations for gender-sensitive programming that builds inclusive, resilient food systems. These case studies and other work demonstrate the strengths that Canadian CSOs bring in international programming. These CSOs can also be effective in building understanding and support for Canada's aid program among Canadians.
6. Global Affairs Canada should include funds in project agreements for post-project learning, to enable implementers to capture and learn from the lessons of each project.

For program funders and implementers

7. To promote inclusive food systems, programming should include women's voices, participation, and agency at all levels of planning and implementation, and should aim for a deep understanding of social contexts, which is necessary for transformation to occur.
8. To transform social norms, change power dynamics, reduce gender inequalities, and avoid negative repercussions that put women and girls at additional risk, program design should adopt an integrated household approach, including work with men and boys. This recognizes that lasting gender transformation can only occur when all family members experience the benefits of increased gender equality.
9. To promote resilient food systems, programming should assess climate vulnerabilities and build in adaptation to future climate events. Program design should include listening to community perceptions about climate events and their impacts on different social groups, including women and resource-poor farmers.
10. Inclusive, resilient food system programming should be designed to work along the whole value chain, including access to land and other productive resources, access to finance, education

and services, production, processing and marketing. They should build lasting partnerships with relevant local actors, including governments, research institutions, the private sector and local CSOs.

11. Inclusive, resilient food system programming should, where possible, include support for organizations such as co-operatives, savings and loan groups and marketing groups, to enhance collective action.
12. In seeking to innovate, inclusive and resilient food system programs should consider novel approaches in technology, community engagement and gender programming.
13. To enhance sustainability after project implementation, inclusive and resilient food system programs should include training and capacity development, particularly for those who do not typically benefit from such opportunities. It should carefully consider the possible implications of systems change on the local environment, economy, and gender relations.

Members of Food Security Policy Group

Aga Khan Foundation Canada
Canadian Council for International Co-operation
Canadian Feed The Children
Canadian Foodgrains Bank
Canadian Lutheran World Relief
CARE Canada
Cooperative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF Canada)
Développement international Desjardins
Development and Peace - Caritas Canada
Farm Radio International
HOPE International Development Agency
Huairou Commission
Inter Pares
MEDA
Mennonite Central Committee Canada
Mission inclusion
National Farmers Union
Oxfam Canada
Oxfam Québec
Results-Resultats Canada
SeedChange/ Sème l'avenir
SOCODEVI
SUCO
United Church of Canada
UPA Développement international
Veterinarians without Borders / Vétérinaires sans Frontières
World Accord
World Vision Canada

Associate members

Alinea International
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture
International Institute for Sustainable Development/ Institut international pour le développement durable