

TRELLIS

Our Work in
Food Security

Kheyti, India

Smallholder farmers produce over a third of the world's food and are critical to unlocking a food secure future.

Trellis is Acumen's \$30 million philanthropic-backed investment initiative building on two decades of experience investing in agriculture. Trellis invests in innovative entrepreneurs and agribusinesses that are critical to unlocking long-term food security locally and globally, while building economic and climate resilience for smallholder farmers.



The Challenge

- 2.4 billion people globally are food insecure, meaning they cannot access sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food.
- The impacts of climate change and geopolitical shocks lead to price increases and volatility across the value chain for farmers and agriculture businesses, making it harder to access everything from inputs to markets.
- Weather-sensitive domestic food production in emerging markets results in heavy reliance on imports, with some 85 percent of food in Africa coming from outside the region.

The Opportunity

- Trellis focuses on the transition to sustainable farming practices by smallholder farmers who produce 35% of the world's food and provide livelihoods for 2.5 billion people globally.
- Investing in local agribusiness and innovative SMEs working directly with smallholder farmers ensures that upstream food production systems are sustainable, secure, and resilient.
- Trellis invests in four business models that increase yields, reduce food losses, and climate-proof production, resulting in increased domestic food supply in a changing climate.
 1. Make local and regional supply chains work better for smallholder farmers and reduce food loss and waste.
 2. Transform on-farm food production toward climate resilient agriculture.
 3. Build new, transparent markets that drive value to smallholder farmers.
 4. Provide first-time access to financing and insurance.

EthioChicken

Acumen Investee, 2014

EthioChicken is an agribusiness that sells improved breeds of highly productive and resilient chickens to smallholder farmers through a unique, scalable distribution model. Since starting in Ethiopia – where they now sell 30 million chickens annually – EthioChicken has expanded to nine countries serving 60 million smallholder farmers, increasing food security and decreasing malnutrition.



An Invitation

Through its investments in early-stage agri-entrepreneurs, Trellis provides replicable examples of business models that drive deep impact for smallholder farmers, while also growing financially viable enterprises, reducing food loss and waste, increasing food production, and growing market access.

This requires a systemic approach and cannot be done alone. Trellis is building an ecosystem of support with partners to raise capital and mobilize climate finance toward food security.

Learn more:

thework.acumen.org/trellis



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