

# TRELLIS

## Our Work in Gender



Azahar Coffee, Colombia

## Investing with a gender lens in climate resilience for smallholder farmers.

Trellis is Acumen's \$30 million philanthropic-backed investment initiative building on two decades of experience investing in agriculture. Trellis invests in innovative entrepreneurs building economic and climate resilience for smallholder farmers. Investing with a gender lens in agriculture is a crucial part of creating a more robust and resilient sector.



## The Challenge

- In most countries, male farmers achieve 20-30% higher yields on average than their female counterparts, largely due to disparities in access to resources and information.
- Women are often unpaid or poorly paid for their work in agriculture. It is also dominated by time- and labor-intensive activities.
- Women don't have equal access to agriculture schemes and initiatives due to a host of barriers from social and cultural norms to gender stereotypes about their abilities.
- Women disproportionately bear the impacts of climate change.

## The Opportunity

- Agriculture is the most important source of employment for women in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Women are directly responsible for food production and security – 60-80% of the world's food is produced by women.
- If women had the same access as men to land and other resources, farm yields would increase up to 30% and reduce hunger by up to 17%.
- Due to their position as the backbone of the agriculture sector in emerging markets, agri-enterprises can drive gender inclusion across the entire value chain, from consumers to producers.

## The Approach

- Trellis aims to impact at least 30% of women customers and smallholder farmers through its investments in agri-enterprises.
- Acumen is committed to building 2X compliance into all of its investments, a leading benchmark for gender-lens investing. Currently, 70% of our agriculture portfolio is 2X compliant.
- Moreover, women-led businesses and entrepreneurs are supported through accelerators, investment-readiness support, and gender-inclusion grants. With the support of the Government of Canada, eight Acumen agribusinesses have incorporated gender lens throughout their work.

## WARC

Acumen Investee, 2019

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WARC is an aggregator and agricultural services company in West Africa. Over the past year, WARC focused on hiring more women into key roles to reach more women smallholder farmers. This effort has led to 79% of their trading Hubs being managed by women, which in turn increased the number of women smallholder farmers visiting the Hubs, the number of transactions, and the median sale price.



## An Invitation

Trellis will incorporate a gender lens throughout the investment cycle and portfolio, considering women's participation in agriculture as smallholder farmers, entrepreneurs, leaders, employees, and customers.

This work requires an ecosystem of support from funders, implementation partners, and peers dedicated to gender equity.

Learn more:

[thework.acumen.org/trellis](http://thework.acumen.org/trellis)



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