



The JAPAN–IFAD partnership

Together, IFAD, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Japanese companies are investing in building a more resilient coffee value chain in Tanzania.

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Japan is a global leader in advancing the principle of **human security**, championing a development approach that enables all people to live with dignity, opportunity and freedom from fear and deprivation. This vision closely aligns with IFAD's mandate to transform rural economies and strengthen the resilience of small-scale producers in the Global South.

In November 2021, IFAD – in partnership with the Government of Japan and the City of Yokohama – established the **Japan Liaison Office (JLO)** in Yokohama, its first in Asia. The IFAD JLO has engaged with many partners, including ministries, the host city, universities, research institutes, private companies, foundations and youth groups.

IFAD has been an active and long-standing partner of the **Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)**, hosted by the Government of Japan. At the most recent conference, TICAD9, held in August 2025, IFAD organized several events addressing food security challenges and showcasing innovative solutions in Africa, in collaboration with partners from Japanese and African governments, the private sector and youth organizations. In addition, two newly signed partnership agreements with Japanese corporations were presented at the TICAD9 signing ceremony, which was attended by the then prime minister, His Excellency Shigeru Ishiba.

Thanks to support from Japan, together with IFAD Member States and other partners, in the last three years IFAD has enabled **49 million** people to increase their incomes, **39 million** people to improve their market access and **40 million** people to increase their production.

IFAD is prepared to partner more closely with stakeholders to catalyse investment in small-scale producers and drive lasting improvements in global food security that create mutual benefits for Japan and the international community.

IFAD AT A GLANCE

IFAD is an international financial institution and one of the largest global financiers of agriculture and rural development. Investment in agriculture is a crucial driver of economic growth and up to three times more effective at reducing poverty and food insecurity than investment in other sectors. IFAD's inclusive funding model draws contributions from an average of 98 countries, including many borrowing countries, with IFAD core funding and its AA+ credit rating then leveraged to attract national and international cofinancing, as well as additional capital.

In 2024:



Over **92 million people** reached



19.5 million people accessing financial services



US\$3.4 billion in total loans and grants



Programme of work of **US\$12 billion**



190 projects in 92 countries

JAPAN AND IFAD

US\$662 million in total core contributions

US\$42.7 million in core contributions to IFAD13

US\$140 million in total cofinancing from Japan

3.82% of total votes on IFAD's Governing Council

Towards sustainable food systems with Japanese public and private partners

The **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** has been a strategic partner of IFAD for over a decade. Building on the original Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2010 and renewed in 2024, the partnership has focused on initiatives such as the **Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP)** approach, an innovative agricultural extension approach that contributes to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Over **77,000** farmers supported by IFAD-financed projects have received training.

In addition, cofinancing totalling over **US\$72 million from JICA** has been implemented in Lesotho and Tanzania. Based on the Memorandum of Cooperation renewed in 2024, the partnership is expected to further expand in areas such as agricultural research, policy dialogue, innovative finance, market linkages and value chain development.

IFAD has also expanded collaboration with Japanese private partners, including a new agreement with **NEC Corporation**, a major global digital technology company, to pilot its innovative digital agricultural platform that supports African small-scale producers' agricultural practices within IFAD-financed projects.

Since June 2022, IFAD has issued four bonds for **Japanese investors** totalling approximately **US\$183 million**. One of these bonds was the first and so far the only thematic bond IFAD has issued under its Sustainable Development Finance Framework, to highlight the importance of nutrition for millions of rural people in developing countries. All investments support vulnerable rural communities amid rising food, energy and fertilizer prices, and climate shocks, while advancing IFAD's efforts to mobilize innovative financing for sustainable rural development.



Investing in rural people

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In Tanzania, a staff member from ELPS partner UCC Japan explains how to make organic compost and assess the fermentation process.

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Enhanced Linkages between the Private Sector and Small-scale Producers

Japan and IFAD are committed to enhancing the sustainability of agricultural value chains and contributing to global food security. In April 2023, during Japan's G7 Presidency, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries launched the **Enhanced Linkages between the Private Sector and Small-scale Producers (ELPS)** initiative, implemented by IFAD, to connect corporations in the Global North and small-scale producers in the Global South through joint public-private investment. As of January 2026, three ELPS pilot interventions are under way across the coffee, sesame and macadamia nut value chains in Asia and Africa, engaging four private-sector companies. By leveraging the extensive network that IFAD has built over the years to connect smallholder farmers with private companies, this initiative enables smallholders to improve their productivity and income, while private companies gain more stable sourcing – a truly win-win approach.

Youth engagement and talent initiatives

Japanese young people have been actively driving global development efforts and contributing to IFAD's mission. In February 2024, the **IFAD Youth Club Japan (IYCJ)** was established to spotlight pressing global challenges such as hunger and poverty, which are being exacerbated by the accelerating climate crisis. At Expo 2025 in Osaka, IYCJ played a pivotal role by organizing the event **Youth Driving Change: Rethinking Food Loss on a Global Scale** in cooperation with IFAD. The session shed light on the struggles of small-scale producers in Africa and Asia, introduced IFAD's initiatives and showcased innovative youth-led ideas to combat global food loss.

IFAD and Japan have also been strengthening their partnership through talent and career development initiatives, including the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) and Senior Professional Officer (SPO) programmes, and joint career seminars.