

Global: Incentivizing innovation in Agriculture, Health, and Nutrition

In 2012, nearly 870 million people worldwide suffered from chronic undernourishment. While cereal yields in developed countries average 5.1 tons per hectare, average yields in Africa are only 1.2 tons per hectare. To keep pace with the growing agricultural needs of developed and developing countries, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, launched AgResults, a \$122 million multilateral initiative incentivizing and rewarding high-impact agricultural innovations.

AgResults incentivizes private sector investment and innovation in the field of smallholder agriculture through prizes that promote the uptake of new technologies. These prizes are awarded to the private sector based on the achievement of pre-defined results and are intended to overcome existing failures that impede the development of sustainable commercial markets for such technologies. By rewarding the private sector to drive the uptake of beneficial technologies at scale, significant development outcomes are now being achieved in improved food security, increased smallholder incomes, and enhanced human and animal health and nutrition. In addition to uncovering solutions to bolster food security, the initiative is testing the effectiveness and efficiency of pull financing in the promotion and adoption of innovative agricultural technologies.

AgResults' portfolio of challenge projects represents a diverse mix of agriculture and food security issues, focusing on either the adoption of existing technologies or the development and adaptation of new research and technologies. Current challenge projects focus on the development of novel vaccines addressing major livestock diseases, Aflatoxin reduction, improved on-farm storage, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from rice cultivation.

In Kenya, AgResults has created a strong market for affordable on-farm storage devices, with over 1.2 million already sold to smallholder farmers. In Nigeria, the adoption of Aflasafe™ maize production is expanding, with the technology being adopted by over 25,000 smallholder farmers. In Vietnam, AgResults has developed a system for measuring GHG emissions from rice cultivation both directly and indirectly (using satellite data) at scales enabling individual farmers to compete for a share in prize pay-outs.

AgResults is a significant tangible outcome of the work of the G20 Development Working Group, tackling tough development challenges in some of the world's poorest nations and contributing directly to achieving seven SDGs. Because AgResults motivates businesses to invest in a range of target markets and achieve development outcomes before significant donor funds are spent, the initiative is providing valuable lessons on the potential for efficiently catalysing large-scale private-sector driven development impacts.

Source:

- AgResults (2018)