

LWR & AGRICULTURE



BACKGROUND: A HUNGRY WORLD

One in eight people in the world, more than 840 million people go hungry every day.¹ By 2050, the world will need to increase its food production by as much as 50 percent to feed 9 billion people.² To do this, the international community must devote attention and resources to agricultural development and research, including a global push to close the gender gap.³ While increasing production, the world must also protect and sustain natural resources, taking specific measures to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

LWR'S APPROACH: RURAL SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE

LWR believes productive, resilient and stable agricultural bases are a vital foundation for poverty reduction. As such, LWR aims to improve the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers and their families across Africa, Asia and Latin America through **sustainable agriculture** efforts

that focus on building **food security** and increasing rural incomes through **agriculture value chains**. LWR employs six core program approaches in its agriculture work, to design and implement integrated programs that meet the needs of target communities and local contexts.

CORE PROGRAM AREA: AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAINS

LWR works directly with smallholder farmers, farmer associations and cooperatives to optimize their role in agriculture value chains (AVC) to increase incomes. Smallholder farmers and producers can and should effectively **benefit from multiple parts of AVCs** including procurement of inputs and services, production, post-harvest processing, manufacturing, access to markets, sales and distribution. Through a broad menu of services, including **training and assistance** to help farmers raise yields to produce a marketable surplus, diversify food and income sources, **compete for higher returns**, identify and **access diverse markets** and promote savings and investments for future food and income security, LWR focuses on closing the gap between the participation of and benefits for men and women producers in agriculture value chains.



¹ "The State of Food Insecurity in the World: The dimensions of food security." June 2014. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3434e/i3434e.pdf>

² Wise, Timothy. "Can We Feed the World in 2050? A Scoping Paper to Assess the Evidence". Medford, MA, Tufts University. June 2014.

³ "Women in agriculture: closing the gender gap for development." June 2014. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>.



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PROGRAMS

AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN

FOOD SECURITY

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR ASSOCIATIONS AND COOPERATIVES

RURAL FINANCING

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

WATER

GOAL

Improve the livelihoods of millions of people across Africa, Asia, and Latin America through sustainable agriculture

CORE PROGRAM AREA: FOOD SECURITY

LWR's approach to ensuring that smallholder farmers and their families have consistent access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods focuses primarily on **increasing food availability and access** by increasing agricultural production and incomes. In turn, rural households have more food for their own consumption as well as purchasing power to buy food on the market. Recognizing that improved agricultural production alone is insufficient for food security, LWR endeavors to develop **nutrition-sensitive** agriculture interventions that do not negatively affect nutritional status. This approach recognizes and responds to gender roles in decision-making, food production, purchase and preparation, which affect food security. LWR also promotes health service linkages and nutrition education and behavior change interventions at a community level.

CORE PROGRAM AREA: CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR ASSOCIATIONS & COOPERATIVES

LWR supports the development and strengthening of farmers' organizations and networks to provide sustainable and equitable services to farmers. Collective work lowers input costs, increases access to vital services, improves economies of scale and helps build economically healthy and resilient communities. Organized farmers are also better positioned to claim their rights to land and tenure, food security and government entitlements. **Capacity development** is woven into the entirety of LWR's work. LWR takes a systems approach to engage the full range of stakeholders in design and implementation of programs, and strengthen civil society so that farmers' organizations have external and internal credibility and legitimacy to make a sustainable difference for their members.

CORE PROGRAM AREA: FINANCING FOR RURAL PRODUCERS

LWR promotes smallholder farmer **access to financial services** and credit for agricultural investments and to better access markets. We use context-specific approaches to bridge financing gaps, including providing grants for cooperatives to give loans to their members for tools and inputs that are needed; working to build local savings systems for farmers; providing the necessary financial and governance level training to manage credit funds; and/or facilitating contacts with financial credit providers to access loans. LWR's **Tripartite Rural Financing Model** in

Africa creates three-way partnerships among LWR, producer associations and financial institutions that were previously beyond producers' reach.

CORE PROGRAM AREA: CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

LWR's **Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)** approach focuses on protecting smallholder farmer agricultural assets in the face of changing climates and environmental degradation, through climate change adaptation and mitigation actions- focused on **conservation agriculture** and **sustainable land management approaches**. CSA addresses various components of a sustainable production system, including environmentally friendly cropping practices (such as agro-forestry models, crop diversification), access to improved inputs (drought-tolerant seed varieties), soil conservation and nutrient management, and sustainable water access and use, to foster resilient ecosystems and resources.⁴

CORE PROGRAM AREA: WATER

Agriculture is highly water dependent, and often very water-intensive. As such, LWR's water programming improves smallholder farmers' **access to and efficient use of water for agricultural purposes** and **human consumption**, and **protects water resources for future generations**. Water capture and retention, formation of water and irrigation committees, and related activities increase producer access and support improved water management at the community level. Behavior change, sanitation and hygiene and storage interventions improve water for human consumption, which is an important prerequisite to Food Security. Programs also focus on effective watershed management and water resource protection.

Within the framework of these six core program areas, LWR's approach is aimed at three interrelated targets: 1) Increasing production, incomes and food security 2) Preserving and improving natural resources, and 3) Developing the capacity of smallholder farmers and their organizations for active engagement with value chains that produce sustainable and just outcomes. While LWR believes these approaches are the cornerstones to the future of a sustainable global food system, we collaborate with other agricultural stakeholders who may follow other methods, recognizing that many different techniques will be needed to produce more food at affordable prices, ensure livelihoods for smallholder farmers and reduce the environmental costs of agriculture.⁵

⁴ Climate Smart Agriculture, as defined by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, is: "agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes greenhouse gases (GHGs), and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals". FAO, June 2014.

⁵ "Comparing the yields of organic and conventional agriculture." June 2014. doi: 10.1038/nature11069.