



The only global multi-stakeholder network for agri-SME¹ finance

Who we are

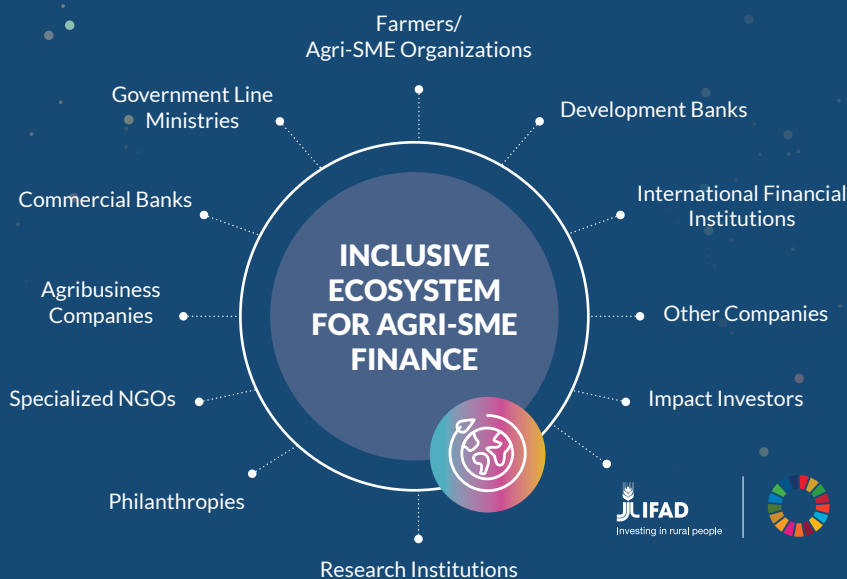
A **global community** of around 50 financial institutions, impact investors, farmers' organizations, technical assistance providers, industry platforms, donors and philanthropies, and specialized UN entities.

Our value proposition

A dynamic, collectively owned space for partners to **address strategic knowledge gaps, share learning, and identify opportunities to work together** on transformative initiatives.

Our vision

More **inclusive** and **effective financial ecosystems** that meet the needs of small and medium agri-entrepreneurs – women, men, and youth – **empowering them to grow sustainable and resilient businesses.**



Why focus on agri-SME finance

SMEs are the backbone of agri-food systems, as they:

- represent **90%** of businesses in the agri-food sector
- create **half** the sector's economic value
- handle a **large share** of food processing in different regions
- are often at the forefront of innovations in digital connectivity, nutrition, and smallholder inclusion.

Access to finance is a top challenge for agri-SMEs:

- There is a **100 billion dollar gap** in SME finance in sub-Saharan Africa alone.
- **Financial institutions and investors are held back** by risk and by poor economics.
- **Accessing finance is often more challenging for women entrepreneurs** and SMEs with innovative business models.

¹ According to the SAFIN/ISF Advisors taxonomy, agri-SMEs are profit-oriented enterprises with a capacity to service investments in the 50,000-2M dollar range.

What we do

Fragmentation and poor coordination in the financial ecosystem **are major obstacles to progress** towards closing the finance gap for agri-SMEs.

As a network, we work to counter this fragmentation, so that different actors can better **understand** each other and the needs of agri-SMEs, **focus** on the same strategic priorities, and **align** their efforts.

In our current phase (SAFIN2.0), which runs for 2021-25, we do this in **5 focus areas**.

OUR 5 FOCUS AREAS FOR SAFIN2.0



CONVENE

Bring the ecosystem together to build trust and mutual understanding



TRACK

Map out opportunities for innovative collaborations



FOCUS

Foster shared understanding of strategic issues and knowledge gaps for the future of agri-SME finance



INFLUENCE

Bring an agri-SME finance focus to country-led initiatives for private investment towards sustainable food systems



CO-CREATE

Align around effective financial solutions to emerging challenges in the sector

What we plan to achieve by 2025

Between 2021 and 2025, partners will seek to **increase the volume of agri-SME finance** they deploy or mobilize, **grow the pool of initiatives they undertake together**, and continuously **share knowledge and learning**.

We will measure our success in terms of:

- Advanced **shared understanding of strategic action areas** in agri-SME finance
- **Increased connectivity** and new relationships formed across the network
- **More collaborative projects** to bridge the agri-SME finance gap

Our achievements so far

- **Investment opportunities and financing solutions in SME-dense value chains identified** in Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Jamaica, Nigeria, Uganda, and three countries in the Sahel
- **Profile of the agenda of agri-SME finance raised** in key international policy forums
- **New learning and thought leadership developed** on blended finance for agriculture
- **Innovative partner-led investments and research** profiled for dissemination and support
- **Inclusive participation** of agri-SMEs and farmers' organizations facilitated

To learn more, write to Bettina Prato, Senior Coordinator SAFIN, b.prato@ifad.org

OUR DONORS

