

# Innovation for Impact: FAO's Global Approach and Lessons for Safe Trade

# Innovation at FAO: Transforming Agrifood Systems

Innovation: New / improved solutions
 Creating value and impact at scale

Technologies, practices, approaches, or partnerships

Not just technological:

Also social, institutional, financial. policy and behavioral

Goal:

Resilient, inclusive, efficient and sustainable agrifood systems

Aligned with STDF's 2025–2030 Strategy



# FAO's Vision and Approach to Innovation

FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (launched in 2022)

## **Guiding principles**

People-centered, inclusive and adapted to local realities Scalable, drawing on partnerships, open knowledge and enabling environments

# Key elements

- **Guide decisions** with evidence (e.g., **ATIO**)
- Strengthen national & regional innovation ecosystems
- Invest in digital public goods & infrastructure
- Promote grassroots innovations & behavioral insights



Proven, **scalable innovations** for policy makers, donors, and project teams with **evidence-based solutions** across food safety, plant health, and more.

FAO's **strategy paper** on Scaling innovations at SIF2025.

Scaling coalition: FAO, CGIAR, GIZ & World Bank.

A go-to tool for sourcing innovations aligned with Codex, IPPC, WOAH, and WTO SPS objectives.

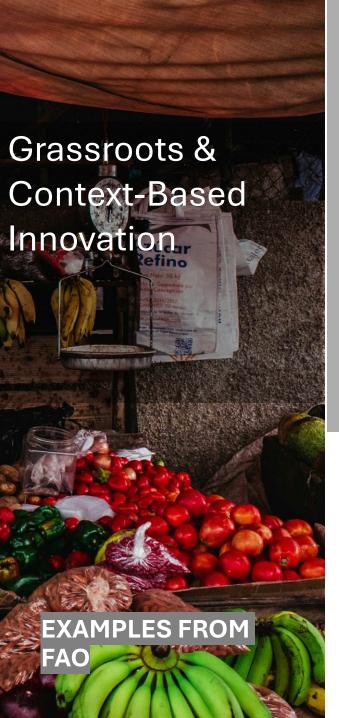


Kenya, Senegal, Zimbabwe
FAO supports multi-stakeholder innovation hubs
=> identify, adapt & scale agroecological
innovations

Connecting researchers, farmers, SMEs, governments, and youth—creating local ownership and resilience.

A model for scaling context-relevant, cross-sectoral SPS solutions

especially where national systems need institutional anchoring.

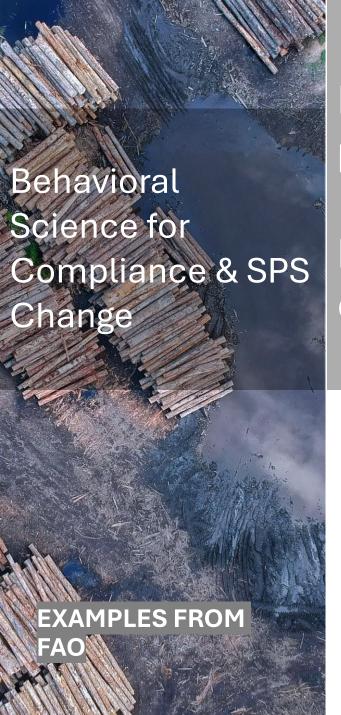


# FAO supports farmer- and community-led innovations through FFS 2.0

Peer-learning, highly impactful

Examples: indigenous pest control practices, informal market food safety solutions, low-cost hygiene technologies.

Reaching informal actors and MSMEs is essential for inclusive trade. These innovations show what works on the ground.



FAO applies **behavioral insights** to promote **safer practices** 

Improve **food safety, biosecurity, pesticide use** in contexts with limited formal enforcement.

Addresses the human factors in SPS compliance.

This is a critical but often missing link in capacity development.



FAO is building open-source digital tools—like eLocust3, digital advisory apps, and geospatial platforms.

Reducing entry barriers

Empowering innovation at scale

FAO Roadmap for Digital Ag and AI (April 2025)

Supports interoperability and cost-effective digitalization.

This is vital to initiatives like **eCert** and trade facilitation.

# How does it fit STDF Vision?

# **STDF's New Strategy is Ambitious**

Scaling Innovation, Promoting Digitalization & Fostering Inclusive Systems for Safe Trade.

### Linkages with FAO's innovation work:

- Strengthening ecosystems
- Promoting open, affordable digital tools
- 。 Recognizing informal actors, women, and youth
- Using data and behavioral insights

# A Shared Agenda for Innovation in Safe Trade

- 1. Broaden the definition beyond technological innovations
- 2. Invest in systems transformation and scaling
- 3. Champion inclusion and openness

"Innovation is not a buzzword—it's a mindset. And it's one we can shape together through shared knowledge and commitment."

