



Business Scout Fund Project

Digital Transformation in Agriculture

CHALLENGE AND IDEA

The application of digital technologies and the extensive use of digital data has important impacts on agriculture, environmental conditions, and socio-economic systems worldwide. Due to the digital transformation, the participation of private and public companies as well as of other stakeholders along the value chain is fundamentally changing. Sustainable actions and programs are required to secure benefits for societies and the environment and simultaneously to minimize risks. Stakeholders' competencies in applying digital technologies at all stages of the value chain are an essential prerequisite, and they need to be supplied with sustainable and feasible plans for implementation.

Against this background, the project, led by OAV – German Asia-Pacific Business Association in cooperation with Steinbeis Research gGmbH and financed by the Business Scouts for Development programme (<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/93161.htm>) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), addresses **stakeholders from universities, research institutes and the business community** in agriculture from the **Asian partner countries India and Indonesia** and the African partner countries Morocco, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon.

The project is organizing expert seminars on digital key technologies and develops and supports the implementation of innovation projects. A virtual discussion platform organizes the continuous exchange between seminar participants and develops a permanent network on agricultural digital technologies in the partner countries.

OBJECTIVES

The project is facilitating know-how transfer and discussions on feasible applications of digital technologies in agriculture (i.e., interpretation of satellite images, drones for farmland evaluation, smart fertilizing and pesticide application, digital tools in water management, reduction of post-harvest losses, etc.). It focuses therefore on:

- Informing on digital technologies in the agricultural and food sector (theoretical basics and practical application)
- Creating a network between stakeholders and interest groups between Asia, Africa and Germany
- Training of basic and advanced skills required for application of digital technologies
- Discussion of opportunities and risks of digital transformation
- Development of business plans related to digital technologies

ACTIVITIES

At present the following activities are planned:

- Exchange of knowledge and experience between stakeholders of academia, the agricultural sector and the food industry in the partner countries and Germany.
- Qualification measures for professors, graduates and students from agricultural universities in the partner countries (e.g., training on artificial intelligence applied in agriculture).
- Developing a sustainable knowledge and discussion network, parallel to seminars with specific topics



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

The project regarding the African continent started in 12/2021 and was extended in summer 2022 to the Asian continent. The strategic approach of the project between **Germany, Africa, and Asia (India and Indonesia)** is divided into four modules, as follows:

Module 1: Expert seminars on the application of digital technologies in the agricultural sector.

- Basic knowledge: Teaching the fundamentals of key technologies
- Application examples: Practical examples from partner countries
- Online training: Presentation of digital learning opportunities
- Discussion: Exchange on business models and
- definition of concrete innovation objectives

Module 2: Dialogue events on exemplary business models concerning aspects of digitalization in the agricultural sector and subsidy/investment opportunities (e.g., green funding). During events, participants present their business plans and innovation projects (developed in Module 3).

Module 3: Activities to qualify multipliers from universities on the development and application of methods in the context of digital transformation in agriculture and food industry.

- Train the trainer: Professors from the partner countries are trained in the development and application of methods in the context of digital transformation using AI
- Project transfer: Graduates and students are supported to develop concrete project proposals (from project ideas to business plans) and TT Food will support submission to funding organizations

Module 4: Development and implementation of an online knowledge and discussion platform.

- Networking and discussion of digital topics, experiences and adaptations
- Initiate a community of practice

INVOLVED COMPANIES

In lead of the project for Asia is OAV – German Asia-Pacific Business Association and for Africa Steinbeis Research g GmbH.

The design and implementation are actively supported by

- ZVEI e.V., Central Association of Germany's Electro and Digital Industry
- Business Scouts for Development programme, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of BMZ

CONTACT

Information on the project and seminars: Please click [here](#).

Virtual platform:
<https://digital.thinktank-food.com>

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