OUR WORK IN
AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD SECURITY
Chemonics has provided integrated solutions that promote agricultural development and food security since 1975. We partner with farmers, local governments, associations, and the private sector to reduce risk, improve agricultural production, and facilitate trade.

We know that food security impacts lives in many different ways, so our services span the agriculture, economic growth, and health sectors. Our efforts focus not only on tools and technologies, but also on the enabling environments needed to test and scale these solutions. Our projects address food insecurity in vulnerable populations, ensure improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers, and provide stable access to nutritious food. As a result, the individuals, households, and communities we work with are more resilient.

**OUR SERVICES**

We rely on a combination of interventions, which include crop-specific production and processing assistance, association development and strengthening, small and medium-sized enterprise development, policy expertise, and participatory nutrition-focused methodologies. We work along the entire value chain and draw from innovative technical approaches to strengthen partnerships.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION.** We use a variety of strategies to address food availability, access, utilization, and stability. We conduct in-depth monitoring of livelihoods and nutrition for early warning, and provide mechanisms for smallholder farmers to improve productivity. We strengthen the capacity of farmer associations to access and produce for high-value markets, and we improve nutritional status in households by promoting behavior change.
RESILIENCE. To ensure that income and food production remain steady even as the climate changes, we train farmers on adaptive practices such as soil conservation, erosion prevention, irrigation, greenhouse production, and the use of drought-tolerant seed varieties. We also strengthen government capacity in climate modeling, and promote its role in informing climate-sensitive policy.

VALUE CHAIN UPGRADING. From market system analysis — including value chains and their broader context — to market linkage development, we facilitate access to markets and ensure that production is demand-driven and market-oriented. We work with both agribusiness and service providers to deliver essential inputs, structure agriculture-specific financing, and improve quality control.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT. We collaborate with agriculture stakeholders and policymakers to understand and dismantle systemic enabling-environment constraints. Through strategic partnerships with the public and private sector, we work to improve the enabling environment around a variety of issues such as customs, input supply, land tenure, natural resource management, trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.

LAND AND RESOURCE RIGHTS. We enhance agricultural productivity, reduce conflict and food insecurity, and promote sustainable natural resource management through our crosscutting work in land tenure security and land and resource rights. Whether by strengthening local institutional capacity to advance equitable land and resource laws or partnering with civil society to defend the rights of vulnerable groups, we help create the preconditions for inclusive land governance, conservation, and agricultural investment.

ACCESS TO FINANCE. We tackle barriers to agricultural and rural financial services by unlocking the financing required for value chain actors to make investments in productivity, post-harvest systems, and mechanization. On the demand side, we work to improve farmers’ financial literacy and strengthen the technical and business skills of producer organizations. On the supply side, we support the design, deployment, and scale of financial products and motivate financial institutions to engage in agriculture through linkages to risk mitigation tools.
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY. We help farmers gain access to information that guides them to make sound financial and farm management decisions. In addition to connecting farmers to digital financial services, we establish platforms that allow rural farmers to receive real-time weather alerts and pricing information on their mobile devices.

GENDER. Our gender-sensitive interventions are designed with the understanding that women and men may experience development issues differently. Our tailored approaches spur behavior change at the household level by emphasizing economically productive solutions rooted in social and cultural realities. To promote women’s empowerment and inclusion, we examine their roles and decision-making power in agricultural and agribusiness activities at the community and household level, seek opportunities to strengthen their food and financial security, and provide vocational training interventions.

YOUTH. With youth in the lead, we are working to identify and drive forward sustainable, inclusive, and cost-effective approaches in which youth — especially young women — can serve as leaders, farmers, entrepreneurs, and employees in the agriculture sector. Chemonics is increasing economic opportunities for youth by working on both the supply and demand side of agriculture to ensure young people have the necessary entrepreneurship, leadership, and workforce readiness skills to capitalize on opportunities and build relationships with institutions and value chain actors.

LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING. Chemonics uses a variety of contextually appropriate capacity building tools to identify strengths and reduce weaknesses in an organization’s strategic, technical, and operational dimensions. In the agriculture sector, we work with producers, processors, and trade associations to build their capacity to increase productivity and access competitive markets. Emphasizing management and innovative business development strategies helps build sustainable agricultural systems through which communities can access resources and finance.

COLLABORATING, LEARNING, AND ADAPTING. Chemonics’ adaptive management approach ensures our projects are oriented toward collaborating, learning, and adapting. Our projects rigorously collect data to swiftly adapt to the changing needs of local contexts. Our adaptive management ensures our projects are flexible, continuously learn, and can make mid-course adjustments when necessary. We focus on learning from evaluations, performance monitoring data, and other key information sources.