

Harnessing the potential of agriculture for people and nature: the role of UK aid

Policy Brief

Executive Summary

This briefing is based on an analysis commissioned by RSPB and CAFOD of UK aid spend on agriculture, assessing the contribution that agricultural spend is currently making towards sustainable development.¹

This analysis focused on UK ODA reported against Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) codes in 2019. Programmes reported under other relevant codes (including Environmental policy and management, Bio-diversity and Rural development) were not included within the scope of the research, but will also be critical in meeting the sustainable development goals for people, climate and nature.²

The analysis of UK agricultural spend finds that the current low priority given to agriculture and land use within UK aid doesn't reflect its importance in promoting poverty alleviation, protecting and restoring nature and tackling climate change. In 2019, official reported UK ODA to agriculture was just £642.2m (4.2% of total ODA), of which £362m (56%) was bilateral aid.

This low level of funding, as well as the lack of a clear and consistent strategy, and a failure to design and manage coherent sector programming for targeted social and environmental outcomes, has limited its potential to support livelihoods and tackle the global crises of nature loss and climate change. Our analysis identified all UK bilateral aid programmes reporting over £2 million of spend on agriculture in 2019. We assessed programme objectives and indicators of these programmes against our propositional framework of six social and six environmental criteria (see figures 1 and 2).

Of the 25 programmes assessed (see figures 6, 7 and 9), only eight had any nature and climate indicators, while 17 programmes had no relevant indicators. With the exception of one programme³, no AFF programme assessed more than two environmental indicators. *Restoration of landscapes* and *sustainability of inputs* were only assessed by one programme, and *protection of species* was not addressed by any programme at all.

While social indicators were more routinely considered (all but two of the 25 programmes assessed at least 1 criterion), the focus was on *income, decent jobs and poverty reduction* (76%), *leave no one behind* (64%) and *food security, health and nutrition* (52%). *Strengthening local food systems and local market access* (28%), *access and land tenure rights* (20%) and *voice, agency and accountability* (16%) scored much lower.

This policy brief argues that the UK government should seize the opportunity presented in 2021, both at home and internationally, to harness the potential of agriculture for

people and nature by prioritising action in four key areas:

Recommendations

1. Create a new strategic vision for agriculture and land use at the heart of UK aid to harness its potential for tackling climate change, protecting and restoring nature and supporting livelihoods and rights.
2. Develop a new approach to agriculture and land use with clear assessment criteria on poverty, nature and climate change (see figure 1 below), and apply this to all relevant ODA expenditure, ICF Finance.
3. Transform the current portfolio of agriculture and land use aid programmes to reflect this new strategic vision, and stop funding harmful practices.
4. Spearhead global reform of public support for agriculture.

Social



FOOD SECURITY,
HEALTH
AND NUTRITION



INCOME, DECENT
JOBS AND
POVERTY
REDUCTION



ACCESS AND
LAND-TENURE
RIGHTS



LOCAL FOOD
SYSTEMS AND
LOCAL MARKET
ACCESS



LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND



VOICE,
AGENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY

Environmental



CLIMATE
MITIGATION



CLIMATE
ADAPTATION



ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
OF INPUTS



RESTORATION
OF LANDSCAPES



PROTECTION
OF ECOSYSTEMS



PROTECTION
OF SPECIES

Figure 1: Summary proposed assessment criteria for agriculture and land use programmes

The challenge - feeding the world while protecting nature

Up to 1 billion people face hunger⁴ - an increase of around 30% since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. This global challenge needs to be addressed with urgency, alongside the necessity to limit global warming and end species decline and environmental destruction as outlined in the UK Government's recently published Integrated Review.⁵

There is a scientific consensus that current approaches to food production and land use are a key contributor to biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions.

“Food production is the most significant driver of terrestrial biodiversity loss. As the global population grows, the enormous problem of producing sufficient food in a sustainable manner will only intensify.”

(The Economics of Biodiversity; The Dasgupta Review, 2021)

According to recent estimates, around one-third of greenhouse gas emissions are associated with land use, most of which is caused by land use change, the conversion of natural systems for agricultural purposes.^{6,7} It is also the largest driver of biodiversity loss⁸ causing, for example, up to 80% of forest loss.⁹ Government policies have often contributed to the decline in nature by paying people more to exploit it than protect it, to the sum of an estimated \$4-6 trillion per year.¹⁰

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that there are critical interdependencies between people and the planet. Some of the root causes of zoonotic diseases, such

as habitat destruction and degradation, are common to many drivers of the climate change and biodiversity crises, such as the conversion of natural ecosystems for agricultural purposes¹¹.

We need a rethink on how to feed the world sustainably. At the heart of this should be greater investment in a restorative and regenerative approach to agriculture and land use, which brings social and economic benefits to the communities involved, protecting their rights over resources and decisions that affect their lives.

We need action to nature-proof ODA, ensuring that ODA spending does not contribute to the loss and degradation of ecosystems, or a reduction in the diversity and abundance of wildlife populations. This should be applied alongside a commitment to protect the most important places for biodiversity and to halt the loss of critical ecosystems such as forests, in line with commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Leaders Pledge for Nature.

The good news is that we don't need to start from scratch. The multiple benefits of sustainable agriculture are already well documented:¹²

“There is growing evidence that these systems keep carbon in the ground, support bio-diversity, rebuild soil fertility and sustain yields over time, providing a basis for secure farm livelihoods.”

(From Uniformity to Diversity, IPBES, 2016)

However, despite this evidence, over the past decade the potentially transformative role of agriculture has been overlooked within the UK's international development strategy. As shown in the analysis of UK spend on agriculture undertaken for this policy brief, in 2019 total reported UK ODA spend on agriculture, forestry and fisheries through all channels was £642.2m, or just 4.2% of total aid spend. This is not commensurate with agriculture's potential contribution to reducing poverty, with two thirds (65 percent) of poor working adults making a living through agriculture.¹³

The golden opportunity to harness agriculture for people and nature

Sustainable agriculture and land use need to be placed front and centre of the UK's efforts to meet its commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, and the CBD. The UK's International Development Act (IDA)¹⁴ requires all UK aid to be focused on poverty reduction, the government has committed to align all UK aid to the Paris Agreement,¹⁵ and is developing proposals to make all ODA nature positive.

2021 is the moment when this can all come together.

Domestically, a new UK international development strategy is planned, featuring climate change and biodiversity as key priority areas.¹⁶ A new ICF strategy is also under development,¹⁷ with the UK doubling its climate finance commitments over the next five years to £11.6bn between 2021/22 and 2025/26 and introducing an associated commitment to £3bn nature-related aid to *“deliver transformational change in protecting biodiversity-rich land and ocean, shifting to sustainable food production and supply, and supporting the livelihoods of the world's poorest.”*¹⁸

These new funding commitments provide the opportunity to get it right from the outset and to replace older, less integrated agriculture and land use programmes, most of which are reaching the end of their programme terms, with a more ambitious and coherent portfolio of new projects.

Sustainable agriculture and land use, with its potential for multiple wins in the areas of poverty, climate and biodiversity, needs to be front and centre in the UK's new aid and climate finance strategies.

Internationally, the UK is chairing the G7 Leaders meeting in Cornwall in June and is president of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in November. Together with the UN Food Systems Summit, and the CBD COP15 anticipated in October, there is the chance to build global support to ensure that public finance delivers for nature, people, and climate, and to mobilise finance for a transformative approach to agriculture with sustainability at the centre.

The UK government must prioritise four areas of action to spearhead this global investment in agriculture that supports people and planet.

Priority areas for action

- 1. Create a new strategic vision for agriculture and land use at the heart of UK aid to harness its potential for tackling climate change, protecting and restoring nature and supporting people's livelihoods and rights.**

There is an opportunity to make all agricultural spend nature-positive and climate-positive, whilst focusing it on directly tackling poverty and supporting people's rights and livelihoods.

Our analysis shows that UK aid programming on agriculture and land use is incoherent, with no evidence of a clear guiding vision. Approaches to agriculture and land use programme design, management, performance assessment and reporting vary widely, making it difficult to accurately assess the scale and effectiveness of UK aid to the sector.

The majority of UK spending is currently being directed into projects which show little or no consideration of their potential impacts on nature or climate, or their effect on land rights and participation in decision-making of local communities. This finding is also supported by previous research that shows a major shift away from supporting sustainable livelihood programming and smallholder farmers and towards larger-scale commercial agriculture.¹⁹

There needs to be a new strategic vision for agriculture and land use, placing it at the heart of the new international development strategy. It should be rooted in respect for the rights and participation of local producers and communities, and reflect the central role that agriculture can play in supporting livelihoods, tackling climate change, and protecting and restoring nature.

This vision should guide all current and future ODA spend on agriculture and land use, promoting what is already working and supporting the development of new and innovative approaches to agriculture and land use that deliver for people and nature.

- 2. Develop a new approach to agriculture with clear criteria on poverty, nature and climate change and apply it to all UK ODA, including ICF**

To operationalise the vision, there needs to be a coherent set of social, environmental and climate change criteria that will be used in the design and assessment of all UK aid projects and programmes on agriculture and land use.

This report offers a propositional set of criteria that could be used or adapted for designing and assessing agricultural projects (see figure 2, below). These criteria have been drawn from existing international commitments under the SDGs, the CBD and the Paris Agreement, and align with the UN Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

This new approach should be implemented across all relevant departments disbursing UK aid. This illustrative sustainability criteria could be used as a framework for assessing all ODA spend associated with agriculture and land use to ensure it is climate- and nature-positive while maintaining the focus on poverty alleviation and supporting the rights of local farmers and communities.

- 3. Transform the current portfolio of agriculture and land use aid programmes to reflect this new strategic vision, and stop funding harmful practices**

Given that many existing programmes have not been designed to prioritise sustainable agriculture and maximise its potential contribution to nature, climate and poverty,













CRITERIA	DEFINITION
 Food security, health and nutrition	Contribution to food security, nutrition of smallholder food producers and promotion of healthy agriculture and food systems.
 Income, decent jobs and poverty reduction	Support for decent income, decent jobs, workers' rights, sustainable livelihoods and equitable development opportunities for smallholder farmers.
 Access and land-tenure rights	Support for smallholder food producers, indigenous people and local communities to access, use and have secure control over land, water and other natural resources for food production.
 Local food systems and local market access	Enhancing fairness, transparency, efficiency, and functioning of local market and securing interest of smallholder farmers, improved related infrastructure and increasing resilience of local food systems.
 Leave no one behind	Foster gender equality and women's empowerment and engage local communities, especially rural youth, and indigenous peoples.
 Voice, agency and accountability	Incorporate inclusive and transparent governance structures, processes, and grievance mechanisms, engaging primarily smallholder farmers and those directly affected by the project and taking into account existing power imbalances.
 Climate mitigation	Alignment with Paris Agreement over the medium and long-term.
 Climate adaptation	Support for an agricultural regime that enhances nature and contributes to climate solutions, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of the system.
 Environmental sustainability of inputs	Impact of agricultural inputs to deliver agricultural outcomes e.g. fertilizers, pesticides on people and environment. Responsible use of water and other natural resources.
 Restoration of landscapes	Restoration of natural/semi-natural ecosystems with a focus on improving quality, extent and connectivity, and recognising the opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
 Protection of ecosystems	Maintenance and/or improvement of natural/semi-natural habitat (e.g. forests, grasslands, peatlands, coastal wetlands) retaining quality (intactness), extent, and connectivity for biodiversity, and consider impact on protected and important areas for biodiversity.
 Protection of species	Impacts on (and/or benefits to) species abundance/populations and threatened species.

Figure 2: Proposed assessment criteria for supporting sustainable agriculture for poverty alleviation, nature restoration and tackling climate change.

there should be a review of current and planned UK aid spend on agriculture and land use based on the criteria outlined above. This will include learning from what has and hasn't worked well.²⁰

Based on a full assessment of existing programmes, the government should:

- **Stop** programmes that show any harmful impacts to people, the environment or climate and repurpose this public investment towards more sustainable approaches to agriculture
- **Pause** any further funding to projects, programmes or institutions that are unable to show positive impacts across the range of sustainability criteria outlined in this report, and adapt and redesign them
- **Prioritise** the restoration of landscapes that have been damaged due to harmful agricultural and land-use practices²¹
- **Scale up** successful approaches to nature and climate positive agriculture and land use.

4. Spearhead global reform of public investment in agriculture

There are many global political moments during 2021, such as the G7 and the G20, the UN Food Systems Summit, CBD COP15 and the COP 26 Climate Summit, where the UK can send a strong signal of support for inclusive nature- and climate-positive ODA and the reform of public support for agriculture, and engage with other countries and institutions on the delivery of these ambitions.

The UK should strongly encourage countries to align their domestic public spending and regulatory frameworks related to agriculture and land use with international commitments on nature, climate and social development, including the anticipated CBD goal to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity loss by 2030 and the Paris Agreement. This should include action to 'nature-proof' ODA, ensuring that aid spending does not contribute further to the destruction or degradation of ecosystems,

or reductions in the diversity and abundance of wildlife. It should also prioritise the rights of smallholder farmers and support inclusive food systems for sustainable agricultural development.

While ODA is an important source of funding, aid spending is dwarfed by wider public support in agriculture, much of which is in the form of harmful subsidies. Globally, annual government spending on agricultural, forestry and fisheries subsidies that degrade nature is potentially up to four times higher than spending that benefits nature²². It is estimated that up to \$600bn of public investment in agriculture could be repurposed towards sustainable agricultural practices focused on environmental health, climate change mitigation and farmer livelihoods.²³ Even a relatively modest shift in these subsidies would have a major positive effect²⁴.

As part of its Presidency of COP 26 the UK Government has spearheaded the COP26 Nature Campaign²⁵, and was also a driving force in establishing the Leaders' Pledge for Nature²⁶, both of which include a commitment to repurposing harmful subsidies. As the UK encourages other governments to reform their public spending on agriculture²⁷, it must also do that through its own international public finance.

This will require not only changes to domestic policies and institutions, but also greater global cooperation, and the UK should use the various engagement opportunities through 2021 and beyond to work with others to reform harmful agricultural policies that contribute to social inequality, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

Summary findings from research

Below are some of the headline findings of the research.
The full report is available following [this link](#).

1. UK aid spend on agriculture is not commensurate with its transformational potential

In 2019, total UK ODA through all channels reported under all Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) codes was £642.2m (4.2% of total ODA), of which £549m (85%) was reported under Agriculture, £74m (11%) under Forestry and £19m (3%) under Fisheries.

£362m (56%) of this was bilateral aid (3.5% of bilateral ODA, and 2.4% of total ODA), and £281m (44%) was core multilateral ODA (5.7% of core multilateral ODA, and 1.7% of total ODA).²⁸ Despite constituting only 2.4% of total UK ODA in 2019, bilateral programmes categorised under AFF represented 16.3% (£193m) of total UK International Climate Finance (ICF),²⁹ equivalent to approximately half of all UK aid to agriculture.³⁰

In addition, although the UK's climate finance reporting does not provide information on ICF impact at a sectoral or programme level, the UK's latest climate finance results suggest that despite representing only one-sixth of UK climate finance, and a small



Figure 3: Total Spend on Agriculture (AFF) as percentage of UK aid

fraction of total UK ODA in 2019, UK aid to agriculture is potentially responsible for the majority of the estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved through the UK aid programme.³¹

2. Investments in large-scale agriculture through CDC outweigh all other bilateral aid for agriculture in many countries

UK aid policy's recent emphasis on promoting commercial agriculture and the expanded use of investment instruments over grant aid is exemplified by the activities of CDC Group, the UK's bilateral Development Finance Institution (DFI). CDC has received large amounts of ODA funding as part of a recapitalisation plan to expand its investment activities: between 2015 and 2020 CDC received a total of £3.47bn from DFID, including £1,008m in 2019 and £650m in 2020, and is currently scheduled to receive a further £646m in 2021-22.

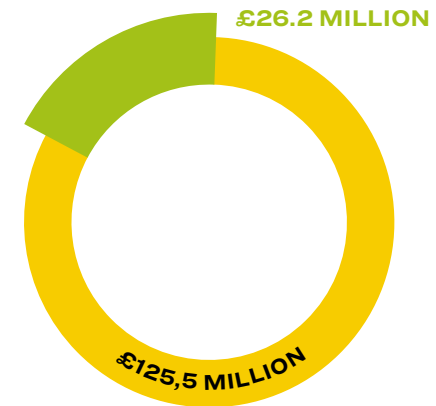
On a cash flow basis, CDC is the single largest source of UK support for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF), however these flows are not reported in the UK's official ODA statistics. In 2019 CDC's direct investment commitments and investment commitments to funds related to agriculture totalled at least £93.2m (2018: £134.2m), with additional flows through pre-existing fund investments and investments in financial intermediaries³².

Analysis of a number of CDC Group's largest agriculture-related investments shows how aid investments in private companies, in some cases also supported by co-investments from the majority UK-funded Private Infrastructure Investment Group (PIDG), now constitute the largest source of bilateral UK aid support for agriculture in several countries.

For example, in the period 2013-2019 total reported bilateral UK aid to Nigeria for agriculture and rural development was £26.3m. In the same period, UK aid-funded

17% UK BILATERAL AID TO AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

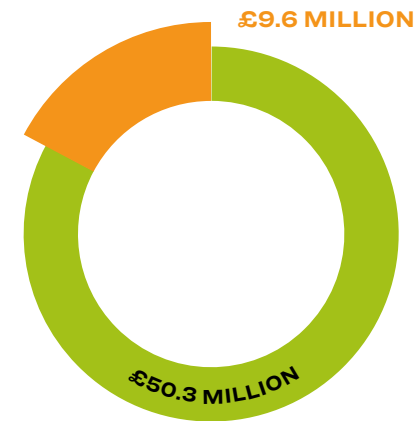
Figure 4:
UK bilateral aid to agriculture and rural development in Nigeria and investments in Indorama Fertiliser (cumulative) (2013-2019)



83% INDORAMA ELEME FERTILISER

16% UK BILATERAL AID TO AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

Figure 5:
UK bilateral aid to agriculture and rural development in Bangladesh and investments in Pran Group (2019)



84% PRAN GROUP

institutions invested at least £125.5m of UK aid in Indorama Eleme Fertiliser, a gas-based fertiliser producer. This amounts to nearly five times the total bilateral grant aid provided for agriculture and rural development (see Figure 4).

A similar pattern emerges when considering commitments to Pran Group in Bangladesh. Pran is the largest agro-processor in Bangladesh, with production facilities at 13 locations and more than 50,000 employees. In 2019 total reported bilateral UK aid to Bangladesh for agriculture and rural development was £9.6m, whereas over the same period, UK aid-funded institutions invested £23.6m of UK aid in Pran Group and provided the company with an estimated £26.7m of UK aid-backed guarantees, totalling £50.3m of support – over five times as much (see figure 5).

3. UK aid programmes for agriculture and land use consider limited social and environmental criteria

Research methodology

A total of 30 separate programmes³³ each with more than £2m of recorded Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) ODA spend in 2019 were identified, representing 86% (£310m) of total bilateral AFF expenditure.

The top 15 highest spending programmes or institutions³⁴ represented £270.3m, or 75% of total spend (see figure 6).

Of those, five (totalling £138.9m) were mainly or solely focused on commercial agriculture or forestry, largely using non-grant financial instruments, and five (totalling £85m) were research programmes (with much of the funded research being delivered by UK institutions).

Of the 30 programmes, 25 had publicly available logframes, representing 62% (£223m) of total AFF expenditure. Of the remaining five programmes, three (GCRF, BBSRC and the Newton Fund – totalling £69.9m) are research funds that do not follow the standard programmatic reporting format, and two programmes (the UK's contribution to the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund and Harvest Plus – totalling £16.8m) had no publicly available logframe.

For those 25 programmes for which logframes were available, the impact and outcome objectives and indicators for each project were recorded from the most recent version of the project logframe available and the impact and outcome indicators for each project were assessed against the assessment framework criteria.³⁵

Project scoring against assessment framework

Each funding stream was assessed against the six social and six environmental criteria in the table above, assigning a RAG rating of full (green), partial (red) or no assessment/consideration (yellow) to focus on its level of alignment and coherence in dealing with poverty, nature and climate as a whole. We then applied a weight to the criteria, where full assessment scores 2, partial 1 and no assessment 0, thus giving a maximum score of 24 for each funding stream across the 12 social and environmental criteria (see figure 7).

Our analysis shows that although some programmes that have been designed with multiple impacts across social, environmental and climate change criteria in mind, for most funds, nature or climate impacts have not systematically been taken into account when designing agricultural programmes and only limited social criteria have been considered, focused mainly on jobs and income.

Indeed, the weighted criteria shows that 19 (76%) of programmes scored 6 or less out of a possible 24; 5 (20%) scored between 6-12; and only one fund (the Blue Carbon Fund) scored above the median, with 16/24.

Number of funds	Weighted criteria score out of 24
19	0-6
5	7-12
1	13-18
0	19-24

Figure 6: Weighted scoring of agricultural funds against sustainability assessment criteria

Looking at the specific indicators, of the 25 programmes assessed, only eight had any nature and climate indicators. With the exception of one programme³⁶ that focusses on ecosystem restoration, no AFF programme assessed more than two environmental indicators. Those that assessed two indicators were Investments in Forests and Sustainable Land Use (IFSLU) (which only assessed one social outcome) and Rwanda Future Agriculture (World Bank) (which assessed three social outcomes). *Restoration of landscapes* and *sustainability of inputs* were only assessed by one programme, and *protection of species* was not addressed by any programme at all. While social indicators were more routinely considered (all but two of the 25 programmes assessed at least one criteria), the focus was on *income, decent jobs and poverty reduction* (76%), *leave no one behind* (64%) and *food security, health and nutrition* (52%), while strengthening *local food systems and local market access* (28%), *access and land tenure rights* (20%) and *voice, agency and accountability* (16%) scored much lower.

The Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) programme and BURMA LIFT programme assessed five out of six of the social indicators, but only two and one of the environmental indicators respectively.

Recommendations to the UK Government

1. Create a new strategic vision for agriculture and land use at the heart of UK aid to harness its potential for tackling climate change, protecting and restoring nature and supporting livelihoods and rights.
2. Develop a new approach to agriculture and land use with clear assessment criteria on poverty, nature and climate change, and apply this to all relevant ODA expenditure, including ICF.
3. Transform the current portfolio of agriculture and land use aid programmes to reflect this new strategic vision, and stop funding harmful practices.
4. Spearhead global reform of public support for agriculture.

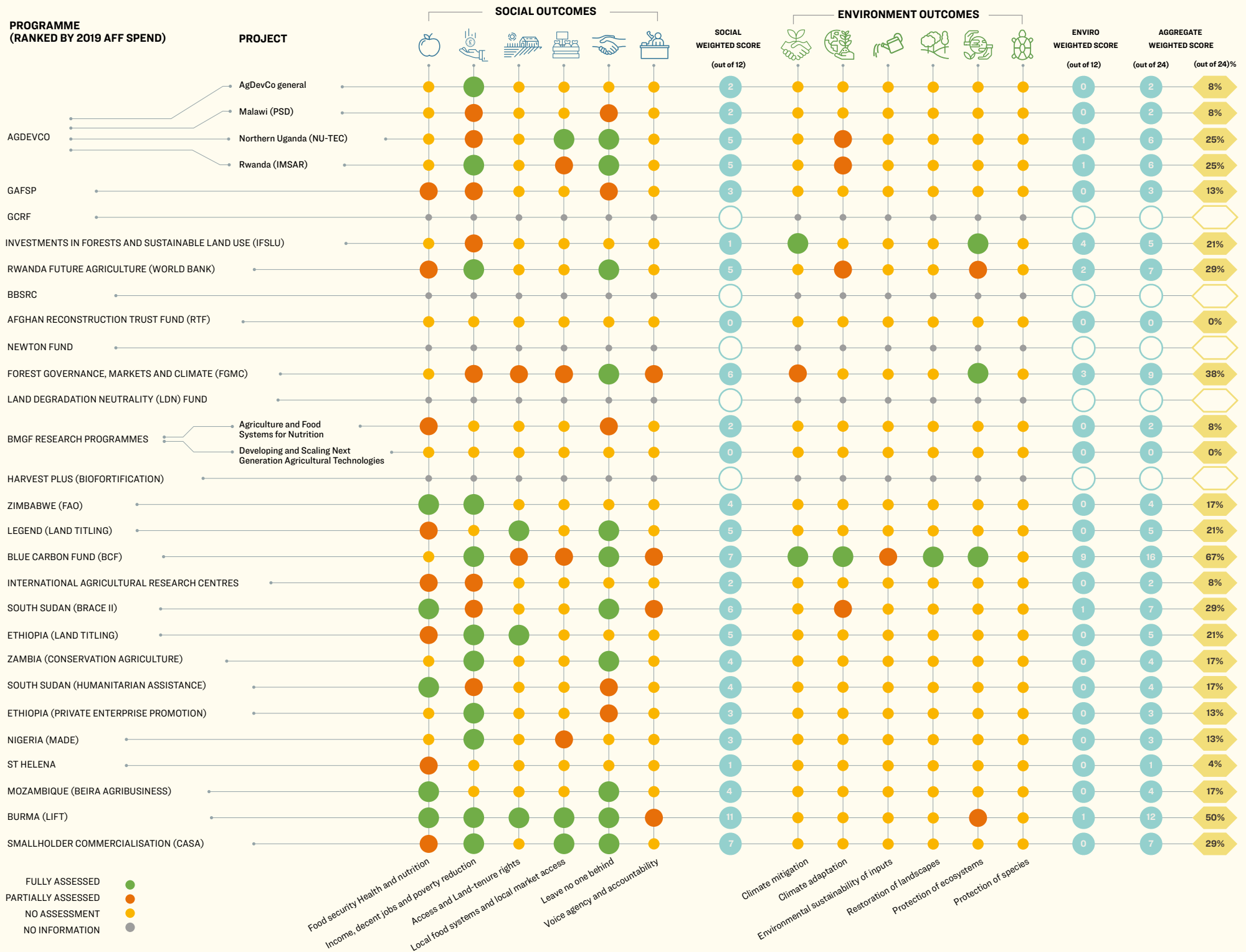


Figure 7: Scoring of each agriculture project against 12 sustainability assessment criteria

Programme	AFF spend (£m)	% of total bilateral AFF		Programme focus
AgDevCo	42.1	11.6		Commercial
Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP)	35.5	9.8		Commercial
Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)	34.5	9.5		Research
Investments in Forests and Sustainable Land Use (IFSLU)	27.4	7.6		Commercial
Rwanda Future Agriculture (World Bank)	23.8	6.6		Commercial
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)	23.4	6.5		Research
Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (RTF) (World Bank)	18.0	5.0	...	Other
Newton Fund	12.1	3.3		Research
Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC)	10.9	3.0	...	Other
Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund	10.1	2.8		Commercial
Gates Foundation research programmes	8.1	2.2		Research
Harvest Plus (biofortification)	6.8	1.9		Research
Zimbabwe (FAO)	6.6	1.8	...	Other
Land-Enhancing Governance for Economic Development (LEGEND)	6.2	1.7	...	Other
Blue Carbon Fund (BCF)	5.0	1.4	...	Other

Figure 8: Top 15 UK ODA agriculture programmes by spend, 2019













25 programmes	Assessed/partially assessed (equal weighting)		% of Programmes Assessed
SOCIAL (6 indicators)	64/150		43%
Income, decent jobs and poverty reduction	19/25		76
Leave no one behind	16/25		64
Food security, health and nutrition	13/25		54
Local food systems and local market access	7/25		28
Access and land-tenure rights	5/25		20
Voice, agency and accountability	4/25		16
ENVIRONMENTAL (6 indicators)	15/150		10%
Climate adaptation	5/25		20
Protection of ecosystems	5/25		20
Climate mitigation	3/25		12
Restoration of landscapes	1/25		4
Environmental sustainability of inputs	1/25		4
Protection of species	0/25		0

Figure 9: Number of projects analysed under each of the social and environmental criteria.

Endnotes

- 1 For full report see <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-sustainability/supporting-analysis-harnessing-the-potential-of-agriculture-for-people-and-nature-the-role-of-uk-aid.pdf>
- 2 Activities relevant to agriculture and land use are distributed across multiple ODA reporting categories. Our research focuses on programmes coded as Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) under the Production Sectors heading.
- 3 The Blue Carbon Fund (BCF) <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-7-ICF-PO008-UKBLUECARBONFUND>
- 4 <https://gho.unocha.org/global-trends/hunger-rising-covid-19-will-make-it-worse>
- 5 Global Britain in a competitive age, The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, HMG (2021) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/969402/The_Integrated_Review_of_Security__Defence__Development_and_Foreign_Policy.pdf
- 6 https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/4.-SPM_Approved_Microsite_FINAL.pdf
- 7 Crippa, M., Solazzo, E., Guizzardi, D. et al. Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. *Nat Food* 2, 198–209 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-021-00225-9>
- 8 IPBES Global Assessment ranked “Changes in land and sea use” as the largest driver of biodiversity loss
- 9 <https://blog.globalforestwatch.org/data-and-research/agriculture-drove-recent-record-breaking-tree-cover-loss/>
- 10 The Economics of Biodiversity, The Dasgupta Review (2021)
- 11 Covid-19 Response and Recovery, Nature based solutions for people, planet and prosperity (Nov 2020) https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/4783129/NDNP/PDFs/Global%20Goal%20for%20Nature%20Covid19%20Response%20%26%20Recovery%20Joint%20Policy%20Recs_OCT23_FINAL.pdf
- 12 IPBES, From Uniformity to Diversity (2016); DFID Conceptual Framework on Agriculture (2015).
- 13 The World Bank Group (2016) “Who are the Poor in the Developing World?” <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/187011475416542282/pdf/WPS7844.pdf>
- 14 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/1/pdfs/ukpga_20020001_en.pdf
- 15 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/969402/The_Integrated_Review_of_Security__Defence__Development_and_Foreign_Policy.pdf
- 16 Although this detailed strategic framework has not yet been finalised and published, its key priority areas have already been identified: Climate change and biodiversity; Covid and global health security; Girls’ education; Science, research, technology; Open societies and conflict resolution; Humanitarian preparedness and response; Trade and economic development. <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3683/documents/38142/default/>
- 17 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-double-efforts-to-tackle-climate-change>
- 18 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-commits-3bn-uk-climate-finance-to-supporting-nature>
- 19 CAFOD et al, Making UKA ODA Fit for Purpose in a Changing World (2020) <https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/Policy-and-research/SDGs-policy-reports/UK-ODA-sustainable-development>
- 20 For example, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a multilateral fund, has indicators addressing 9 of the 12 suggested
- 21 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: see Strategic action 2 “Finance restoration on the ground” and Strategic action 3 “Set the right incentives” <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/strategy>
- 22 <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/closing-nature-funding-gap-global-biodiversity-finance/>

23 <https://just ruraltransition.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/10/Technical-Note-Public-Support-to-Ag.pdf>

24 <https://foresight.glopan.org/>

25 <https://just ruraltransition.org/cop26-nature-campaign/>

26 <https://www.leaderspledgefornature.org/>

27 <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/environmental-sustainability-and-resilience-for-a-clean-and-green-recovery>

28 The three basic categories of ODA spend are: a) bilateral aid given directly by the UK government; b) bilateral aid through multilaterals (“multi-bi” aid), which is provided to multilateral institutions for specific projects or activities); c) core multilateral aid (which is provided to multilateral institutions and not earmarked for specific projects or activities). The ODA figures used are based on supply side codes. We have not included demand side codes for food assistance and basic nutrition in the analysis

29 In 2019 UK ICF totalled £1,184m, or 7.8% of total ODA. Bilateral aid coded under agriculture, forestry and fisheries represented 19.6% of bilateral ICF, which totalled £984m.

30 The programme activity coding used in the UK’s reporting under the EU Greenhouse gas Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR) does not fully match the coding used for reporting overall UK ODA.

31 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911393/ICF-Results-Publication-2020.pdf

32 Financial services represented over 50% (£887.3m) of CDC’s total investment commitments in 2019 (£1,657.2m), of which £782.8m (47%) were commitments to financial institutions with at least some exposure to agriculture-related activities. Neither the value of individual investments through managed funds nor the identity or value of individual transactions supported through investments in financial institutions is reported.

33 AgDevCo was responsible for delivering all of one programme and part of three programmes, and the Gates Foundation delivering two. As an implementing partner for several programmes, the development consultancy Palladium was also in receipt of over£2m in aggregate across several programmes, including NU-TEC and IMSAR.

34 In the cases of AgDevCo and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

35 This does not include any assessment of input or output-level indicators, or indicators not recorded in the latest available version of the programme logframe.

36 The Blue Carbon Fund (BCF) was only assessed because of its Development Assistance Committee coding to Forestry and is not indicative of other AFF programmes – though it does exemplify how criteria could be incorporated.

It was also the only DEFRA-led fund assessed. BCF has a budget of £12.95 million over 6 years, focussed on the conservation of mangroves in Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-7-ICF-PO008-UKBLUECARBONFUND>

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