MAKING A DIFFERENCE
through grassroots action, together
Inspired by his visionary and entrepreneurial spirit, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation was created in 2013 in memory of my late husband, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, with a vision: to make a positive impact on the lives of smallholder farmers by supporting the resilience and self-sufficiency of farming communities around the world, through actions and partnerships to promote the adoption of more sustainable agricultural practices.

Message from our President

It has always struck me that smallholder farmers, who produce a large majority of global food supplies, are those who suffer most from food insecurity. According to the World Bank, there are an estimated 500 million smallholder households around the globe, amounting to upward of two billion people. Mostly small-scale farmers cultivating less than five acres of land, they comprise a significant portion of the world’s poor living on less than US$2 a day. They also produce about 35% of the world’s food, so ensuring sustainable livelihoods for this group is a priority in the collective effort to end global poverty and hunger.

For that reason, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation’s priority is to assist smallholder farmers in high poverty rural areas, where access to technical assistance, inputs and credit is limited, aiming to improve the resilience of small farms, whose work is so crucial for a sustainable agricultural system and global food security.

Over the past 10 years, our micro-farming and educational projects at grassroots level have benefitted 150,000 farmers and 600,000 people in rural communities, through more than 50 programs in 23 countries.

I strongly believe that working jointly—toward shared goals and with like-minded partners—is fundamental to success in driving long-term positive change. Going forward, as from the beginning of our journey, I therefore count on our partners to stay engaged in our important work together, so that we can look forward to celebrating more success: in making a lasting difference for thousands more farmers and their communities, and in helping to shape fair and sustainable food and agricultural systems around the world.

Margarita Louis-Dreyfus
President, Louis Dreyfus Foundation
Message from our General Manager

Over the last 10 years, the Foundation’s work around the globe has been driven by its mission to improve food security and alleviate poverty, by supporting and enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farming households who often lack access to knowledge, production resources, credit and markets. Our approach is to address these needs through initiatives that promote sustainable agriculture, develop local value chains and boost local production of healthy and nutritious food.

As our President mentioned, the Foundation’s projects and programs target smallholder farmers and rural communities that comprise a significant portion of the world’s poorest, yet also produce over a third of the world’s food.

Meeting many farming families participating in the Foundation’s projects, I have witnessed their determination to overcome great obstacles, work hard to improve their agricultural production and ensure food security for their families. And it is extremely rewarding to see their life change for the better, and witness their enthusiasm and optimism for the future.

As we enter a new activity cycle, the Foundation remains committed to its key principles and funding priorities, with the ambition to scale up our projects and make a difference for more smallholder families over the next five years.

We would not have successfully implemented our programs without the key contribution of all the Foundation’s partners, the great people at Louis Dreyfus Company who have brought their expertise, dedication and enthusiasm to our projects, and more widely, to everybody who has helped us fulfill our mission.

This incredible collaboration gives me great comfort that if we continue to work together to drive positive impacts around the globe, we will further contribute to resilience and reduced inequalities in smallholder farming communities and a more sustainable global food system.

Robert Serpollet
General Manager,
Louis Dreyfus Foundation

Our experience over the past decade shows that our projects and programs can significantly increase agricultural production and food availability at household level, empower the most vulnerable in these societies and improve farming community livelihoods.
About the Foundation

Our vision
To help fight hunger and poverty by bringing sustainable solutions to smallholder farmers.

Our mission
To improve food security through sustainable micro-farming and agricultural education.

Our key focus areas
- Micro-farming
- Agricultural education
- Communities and environment

Context
We support rural areas that are vulnerable to food insecurity and climate change, where we see significant potential to develop small-scale agricultural projects and promote vocational agricultural education.

Locations
The Foundation is mostly active across Africa, Asia and Latin America, in countries where Louis Dreyfus Company has an established presence.

Partnerships
We select our partners with great care, choosing to work alongside those who demonstrate expertise, reliability, a thorough understanding of the local environment and resources, a proven track record in managing projects related to food security, as well as strong ethics and a vision aligned with our own.

Projects
The Foundation’s projects and programs focus on promoting the social, environmental and economic welfare of smallholder farmers and their local communities.
Our impact and outreach

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation allocates resources to micro-farming, education, community empowerment and environmental preservation projects in vulnerable regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Through our two dedicated funds (the Fund for Young Entrepreneurs and the Fund for Food Emergency Aid), we also support young entrepreneurs in developing countries and assist populations affected by unforeseen humanitarian crises.

53 projects in 23 countries

Investments by continent

Investments by project type

Beneficiaries by gender

150,000 farmers supported
660,000 project beneficiaries
2,700 students supported
1.3m+ trees planted

66% MICRO-FARMING, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT
29% EDUCATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
5% EMERGENCY SUPPORT

70% MALE
30% FEMALE

AT LEAST

150,000
660,000
2,700
1.3m+

62% AFRICA
12% ASIA
17% EUROPE
9% LATIN AMERICA
2013-2023
A decade of making a difference through grassroots action

2013
Creation of Louis Dreyfus Foundation (LDF)
The first 13 initiatives are chosen
Eight programs start to be rolled out

2014
We create an Emergency Fund for Food Aid to ensure a basic level of subsistence to populations affected by disasters and humanitarian crises

2015
We support a World Food Programme-led post-harvest loss program in Uganda, Mali and South Sudan, benefitting over 15,000 farmers and helping to reduce post-harvest losses to less than 15% of total production

2016
In Bolivia, a boarding house is inaugurated to host students attending an agricultural vocational school

2017
Foundation Board meets local communities participating in its projects in India

2018
We embark on a second five-year cycle of activities, aligned more closely with Louis Dreyfus Company’s geographical footprint

2019
In Côte d’Ivoire, the agricultural vocational training center is inaugurated and the agricultural contest ‘Transform’ supporting small food processing businesses is launched

2020
In China, the Future Change-Maker project receives three sustainability awards (in the Best Sustainable Development, Ecological Environment, and Youth Impact categories)
In Indonesia, we support a group of smallholder palm oil producers to become the world’s first-ever cooperative to receive RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard certification

2021
In India, our project to improve the agricultural production of women smallholder farmers receives the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Outstanding Sustainable Farmer Income Enhancement award

2022
We launch the Rural Business Incubator in Côte d’Ivoire, to support palm oil farmers through adoption of sustainable practices and production diversification

2023
We celebrate our 10-year anniversary event with more than 90 representatives from partner organizations worldwide, and start a new five-year cycle of activities

2023-2023
A decade of making a difference through grassroots action
Interview with our President, Margarita Louis-Dreyfus

How would you describe the last 10 years? What has the Foundation achieved?

In recent years, a large proportion of populations living in developing countries have been hit by poverty, hunger and food insecurity, driving young people to reject work in agriculture and leaving families unable to sustain themselves. This is exacerbated by the geopolitical, sanitary and climate challenges facing the world, which are hitting the Global South particularly hard. In this context, it is vital that rural populations – and especially women – gain better access to food through sustainable agriculture practices.

Over a decade, we have worked in the field, in collaboration with Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) and many other like-minded partners, to train farmers in micro-farming and sustainable agriculture best practices to increase yields, diversify production and increase revenues, and ultimately create conditions for better livelihoods. Overall, we have implemented 53 projects across 23 countries that benefitted (directly or indirectly) 150,000 farmers and 660,000 people in farming communities.

What would you say were the main challenges over, and key takeaways from, this 10-year period?

One of the main challenges is the dramatic effect of climate change on the populations we are trying to help. Although this was already an issue 10 years ago, it is clear that the impact of global warming is unfortunately accelerating and must be tackled urgently.

Our historical focus on micro-farming and education cannot be separated from the fight against climate change, as environmental protection and the general welfare of local communities depend on the ability of rural populations to become self-sufficient and improve their livelihoods through sustainable practices.

As for takeaways, from an operational standpoint, the last 10 years have shown that the best way for us to maximize our impact is by focusing on geographies in which LDC has a presence, where we can leverage existing insight, expertise and networks through joint efforts.

Jumping on what you just mentioned: What is the rationale behind the close partnership with LDC?

Building on our shared conviction that empowering farming communities to embrace more sustainable agriculture is key to secure resilient food and agricultural systems, over the last few years the Foundation has increasingly worked hand in hand with local LDC teams, and I am very grateful that we have been able to rely on their strong motivation to volunteer their contributions, bringing tremendous value to the Foundation’s initiatives.

Today, LDC’s employees are actively involved in 17 ongoing projects across three continents. Their in-depth knowledge of local contexts and markets, their established networks, and of course their strong desire to make a difference, make their involvement extremely valuable to ensure our actions create lasting positive change and benefits for local populations, by creating the conditions for more sustainable agriculture.

The Foundation puts a special focus on promoting gender equality. Why is this so important?

We are convinced – and experience has confirmed – that gender equality and female empowerment are key to building a sustainable agricultural model and better livelihoods in rural areas of the Global South. Women are often the backbone of rural economies and primary caregivers to families and communities, so empowering them not only benefits them as smallholder farmers but also generates positive effects for the wider community, driving food security and reducing poverty.

Yet, with often limited or no access to financing, education or training, and typically saddled with domestic activities, women are particularly vulnerable and subject to lower production yields and incomes.

Our actions to promote gender equality are manifold: the creation of female self-help groups, micro-credit, financial literacy, agricultural and sustainability training, support for diversification of income sources, and provision of cooking stoves to save time on wood collection and free up time for revenue-generating activities, to name a few.

Education for farmers and talented youth is central to Foundation activities. How will you take this forward?

Education is a must if we want to create the conditions for self-reliance among farmers and train future leaders from the Global South. In our new activity cycle, we will therefore continue to support projects that offer quality vocational education to the youth of rural areas, thus helping to create the conditions for the next generation of farmers to provide for their communities through more sustainable agricultural practices.

Likewise, through scholarships and access to quality education, we will continue to support promising young people from developing countries to become future leaders and champions for sustainable agriculture.

What will the Foundation’s priorities be for the next activity cycle?

Many countries unfortunately continue to be severely hit by food insecurity and precarious living conditions, exacerbated by climate change and geopolitical instability. In this context, it is vital that we pursue the Foundation’s mission with the support and expertise of LDC and our many long-time partners.

Our work will continue to focus on three fundamental pillars: promoting sustainable micro-farming, supporting agricultural education, and acting in favor of communities and the environment, with a focus on countries where LDC is active or which face humanitarian crises requiring urgent action.

All our projects will aim to contribute to improved food security and livelihoods, with a significant focus on education, female empowerment and climate action.
Working with Louis Dreyfus Company

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation’s projects capitalize on the country, market and technical expertise of volunteer LDC employees, whose skills are a great added asset to our shared work. In their role as project sponsors, LDC employees refer projects that can be implemented in their geography or operational scope, act as key points of contact between the Foundation and local organizations and operational partners, and also support with project management and coordination.

I joined LDC’s commercial coffee team in 2018 as a trainee after graduating in environmental engineering. Since then, I have learned a lot about coffee production and commercialization, constantly interacting with coffee farmers supported by LDC and the Foundation, and trying to share the knowledge I gained at college and during my internships. I previously volunteered for several social projects supporting local communities, and I thought helping the Foundation was an amazing opportunity to continue to do so, as a volunteer in agricultural projects working alongside coffee farmers, learning from each other and developing coffee production methods that are most efficient for farmers.

This project ended in December 2022 and, while we faced several challenges (including COVID), I am really proud that we have achieved great results!

Fernanda has volunteered with the Foundation for the last five years, ever since we became active in Brazil. She is involved in a project promoting vocational education in relation to coffee agriculture.

How do local communities benefit from the projects run by the Foundation?
One of the main benefits is the opportunity for them to learn how to generate better production yields and implement sustainable practices. This allows the community as a whole to benefit from a better quality of life in the long term.
How does your background and current function contribute to the Foundation’s work?
AD: Through our roles within LDC, we have built strong networks and connections. Leveraging those is often key to a project’s success. We are happy to have the Foundation’s projects benefit from our networks and we can also rely on LDC teams in the field to help us drive projects forward by sharing their experience, skills and expertise.

Can you describe how you support the projects? What are your responsibilities?
JB: We offer support by proposing projects, then meeting and following up with the project participants on the ground.
AD: One of my main responsibilities is to act as project coordinator and the interface between the Foundation and the team at Inter Aide, the implementing partner for two Foundation projects in Ethiopia.

Olivier Hamy
Chief Operating Officer for Carbon Solutions, Switzerland

How does your background and current function contribute to the Foundation’s work?
The projects that LDC is implementing with the Foundation have similar goals to those LDC is starting to implement as part of our regenerative agriculture pilots, aiming to make farmers more resilient to climate change by helping them protect and enrich their soil. Similarly, the agricultural practices we help farmers to adopt through the Foundation’s actions allow for greater water retention and carbon sequestration in the soil. So I have very concrete opportunities to leverage my work and expertise, gained at LDC, for the benefit of the Foundation’s work.

How do local communities benefit from the projects run by the Foundation?
AD: Local communities benefit in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) the introduction of new farming processes through trainings that generate increased production and yields. The projects also help farmers to move away from subsistence farming by diversifying their production and gaining more exposure to commercial markets. All this represents new income opportunities for farmers. The Foundation’s programs also help farmers become more resilient to climate change and adopt agricultural techniques that better protect the environment which is key to helping farmers attain sustainable livelihoods.

JB: In Kenya smallholder farmers experience climate change and lack of resources. The Foundation’s projects aim to fill this gap by developing an ecosystem where farmers can increase their yields and profitability sustainably.

Can you describe how you support the projects? What are your responsibilities?
One of my main responsibilities is to act as project coordinator and the interface between the Foundation and the team at Inter Aide, the implementing partner for two Foundation projects in Ethiopia.

Olivier coordinates agricultural resilience and water access projects in Southern Ethiopia and has been working with the Foundation for seven years.

Alexander Dietz
Head of East Africa
Jacqueline Boitt
Marketer, Kenya

Alexander and Jacqueline have worked alongside the Foundation for three years, coordinating three projects in Kenya.
Today, LDC’s employees are actively involved in 17 ongoing projects across three continents. Their in-depth knowledge of local contexts and markets, their established networks, and of course their strong desire to make a difference, make their involvement extremely valuable to ensure our actions create lasting positive change and benefits for local populations, by creating the conditions for more sustainable agriculture.

Margarita Louis-Dreyfus  
President, Louis Dreyfus Foundation

How does your background and current function contribute to the Foundation’s work?
Being from a farming family and with a postgraduate degree in agriculture, I always wanted to work within the farming community and joined LDC’s Research team in India as an agronomist in 2008, working on various crops and interacting with farmers across the country. In 2014, I got an opportunity to work with the Foundation, initially training smallholder farmers in Karnataka, India, in sustainable agricultural practices for corn production, and later helping to support and educate cotton farmers in Maharashtra on sustainable practices.

My time working with LDC and the Foundation has allowed me to learn a lot about the difficulties and needs of smallholder farmers, including the need to master new technologies they are unfamiliar with, and has made me want to help improve farming community livelihoods.

Can you describe how you support the projects? What are your responsibilities?
LDC’s India Research team is composed of agriculture professionals who intervene across the country supported by regional teams. I’m responsible for research in cotton and grains for India and Pakistan. I also manage two projects for the Foundation, as well as another project for LDC, focused on regenerative agriculture for cotton production.

How do local communities benefit from the projects run by the Foundation?
Thanks to these projects, most of them focused on sustainable agricultural practices, smallholder farmers receive training in soil health, improvement of irrigation structures and water quality, to name a few. They are also trained to implement farming practices that allow them to minimize costs and maximize yields, and ultimately increase profits.

We would also like to thank other LDC employees who have supported the Foundation’s work, including: Anne Adhiambo Hyimo, Jenny Angel, Samuel Banyenzaki, Karim Barsoum, Marielle Chen, Mario Cordoba, Vitor Correa, Pauline Delorme, Mina Djordjic, Edmond Dutausiet, Marie Eyboulet, Marcela Gamboa, Charlotte Guibaud Navaud, Thais Guin Catanzaro, Julie Hibon, Chantal Ja, Oleksandra Karpenko, Beyene Kerse, Rubens Marques, Michelle McElderry, Sumeet Mittal, Dian Muller, Judith Odipo, Murilo Parada, Damien Roy, Vivek Saraswat, Fernanda Saturni, Pamela Semmens, Desmond Simarmata, Ella Sun, Muhammad Taufiqurahman, Linzi Vorster and Luis Zubizarreta.
A decade of work, flagship initiatives and dedicated funds

Micro-farming
Enhancing food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers

Education
Providing access to education to talented youth

Our funds
Providing funds for unforeseen humanitarian crises and support for young entrepreneurs
Enhancing food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers

Micro-farming

Micro-farming projects run by the Foundation aim to generate a combination of socioeconomic and environmental benefits. They cover a wide variety of topics and activities, including sustainable farm management, agroecology and regenerative agriculture, post-harvest loss reduction and irrigation, and facilitate access to equipment, quality inputs and markets.

6 flagship initiatives

- Increasing farmers’ resilience through soil and water conservation in Southern Ethiopia
- Enhancing food security of women smallholder farmers in India
- Improving rice sector performance in Côte d’Ivoire
- Building sustainable livelihoods for coffee farmers in Indonesia, Ethiopia and Uganda
- Supporting smallholder palm oil producers in Indonesia
- Helping rural communities achieve self-sufficiency in Côte d’Ivoire

150,000 farmers supported
660,000 project beneficiaries
1.3m+ trees planted
22,800 farmers involved
124,000+ indirect beneficiaries
20% average income increase
557 km of anti-erosive structures constructed

2016-2023
Increasing farmers’ resilience through soil and water conservation

Ethiopia
Hadiya, Kembata Tembaro and Wolayita zones

Our actions
Working in partnership with a French organisation, Inter Aide, our action was three-fold. Anti-erosive structures planted with improved fodder grasses prevented soils from further eroding, which contributed to moisture and fertility conservation and provided animals with additional feed. The implementation of agroforestry allowed for diet improvement and income diversification. Lastly, the project focused on community management and collaboration with local authorities to ensure local community empowerment.

Results and impact
Our activities enhanced resilience of farming families through increased agricultural production and, as a result, improved food security and livelihoods.

Thanks to the involvement of local communities, the project reached more farmer beneficiaries, building their capacity to protect land and diversifying their agricultural production.

What’s next?
This project is currently being handed over to the local farming communities and Ethiopian authorities, who will continue to roll out these activities in new regions across Southern Ethiopia. This was achieved thanks to the progressive involvement of traditional community organizations ‘iddirs’ and volunteer lead farmers, who supported local management of this project and aided the knowledge transfer, in line with our ultimate goal of self-reliance.

Partnership with Inter Aide

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Partnership with Inter Aide
2020-2025
Enhancing food security of women smallholder farmers

India
Rajasthan

Our actions
In partnership with a local NGO, Centre for micro-Finance, our project provides training on crop production and livestock management, aiming to increase incomes and diversify diets through improved rainfed crop, vegetable and livestock production. It also provides smallholder women farmers with water harvesting and drip irrigation tools. Lastly, the project focuses on the creation of self-help groups to facilitate credit access and improve financial literacy for group members.

Results and impact
Two years after the project started, participating women registered an increase in crop production while consistently generating additional income (of approximately EUR 314 on average over 2020-2021) for their families.

What’s next?
The project will continue to support women smallholder farmers, aiming to aid 6,000 women in the transition to more sustainable and commercially viable agricultural and livestock production.

2018-2026
Improving rice sector performance

Côte d’Ivoire
Boundiali and Korhogo

Our actions
In partnership with a Dutch NGO, FairMatch Support, we focus on increasing the production capacity of rice cooperatives and farmers, as well as improving food security for women farmers, thanks to better farm management and the provision of agricultural equipment. The project also supports the National School Canteen Program by supplying rice and other crops produced on communal fields to local schools.

Results and impact
Participating smallholder rice producers registered improvements in rice productivity and quality. Cooperative leaders who underwent training were in turn able to provide technical support to other farmers, helping them to increase their production while securing additional income.

What’s next?
At maturity, the project will support 10,000 farmers and involve 30 rice cooperatives, focusing on helping them build capacity and gain market access.
2014-2024
Building sustainable livelihoods for coffee farmers

Indonesia
Lampung and Medan regions

Ethiopia
Sidamo region

Uganda
Rwenzori region

Our actions
With the help of social business enterprise PUR and LDC, we focused on integrating timber and fruit trees among coffee trees in coffee plantations, and training farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to help them restore coffee ecosystems and improve coffee yields. The agroforestry solutions provided also aimed to diversify farmers’ income, thus building greater resilience.

Results and impact
Agroforestry has allowed improved control of soil erosion, increased coffee pollination and improved coffee quality. GAPs training helped beneficiaries to secure their work environment and improve their environmental sustainability.

What’s next?
The project will focus on implementing long-term activities that can sustain the livelihood benefits gained from past efforts. In 2023-24, project activities will include tree replanting, refresher trainings, additional gender training for community members, support to women-led businesses, and construction of additional demonstration plots and clean cooking stoves.

2019-2022
Helping rural communities achieve self-sufficiency through empowerment of women smallholder farmers

Côte d’Ivoire
Northern area

Our actions
In partnership with the implementing partner, World Food Programme, the project trained women smallholder farmers on Good Agricultural Practices and provided them with agricultural inputs, as well as post-harvest and food processing equipment. It also aimed to drive economic empowerment by facilitating market access, price negotiations, contracting and group or joint selling of crops, and establishing Village Savings and Loan Associations to facilitate access to savings and credit. Lastly, the project focused on promoting and facilitating the adoption of good nutritional and hygiene practices.

Results and impact
The project has enabled women farmers to increase their production of diversified and nutritious foods, master post-harvest operations, access more stable markets and supply school canteens with agricultural production in their villages.
2,030 farmers benefitted from technical assistance.

3 cooperatives (of 300 farmers overall) received training and gained the RSPO sustainable palm certification.

71% of participating smallholders implemented best practices in their fields.

2,700 students supported.

2018-2022 Supporting smallholder palm oil producers

Indonesia
Lampung and South Sumatra provinces

Our actions
In collaboration with our development partner, SNV, we provided training on best management practices and cooperative development to three cooperatives representing over 300 farmers, set up an internal control system and organized Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification for these three farmer groups. The Foundation also implemented deforestation monitoring and a fire alerts system, with a total of 3,239 hectares being monitored.

Additional training on horticulture production was provided as part of the project, supporting the diversification of farmers’ income sources.

Results and impact
The project provided over 2,000 farmers with technical assistance that supported improved yields. Cooperative members continue to benefit financially from being able to trade as RSPO certified, and adherence to RSPO standards helps ensure the environmental sustainability of palm oil farming in the area.

Results and impact
8,250 indirect beneficiaries
12% yield increase on average

27
10 YEARS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Education
Through education, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation aims to train the next generation of farmers and young talents with the potential to change the future of their countries. Educational programs sponsored by the Foundation are designed in accordance with specific local needs, covering vocational education, theoretical and technical training, and aim to promote entrepreneurship among local rural communities as a path to empowerment and financial autonomy.

Partnership with
Smart Development Works (SNV)

Supporting the agricultural vocational school ‘Sayarinapaj Technological Institute’ in Bolivia

Engaging a new generation of coffee growers in Brazil and Colombia

Supporting future leaders from the Global South

Supporting the agricultural vocational school ‘Sayarinapaj Technological Institute’ in Bolivia

Providing access to education to talented youth

Education

10 YEARS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
2016-2022
Supporting the agricultural vocational school ‘Sayarinapaj Technological Institute’
Bolivia
Cochabamba

Our actions
Working with a local NGO, Fundación Cristo Vive, we financially supported the agricultural vocational school in strengthening its theoretical and practical curriculum. The Foundation also financed the construction of a boarding house to accommodate students from impoverished backgrounds, and provided mentoring and extra welfare support to students. Lastly, a revolving fund was set up to help students and graduates finance their business projects through lines of credit.

Results and Impact
Improving the school curriculum and providing a boarding house to accommodate underprivileged students enabled more students to attend the school and complete their studies. The school was recognized by the Ministry of Education in Bolivia, who have started to cover part of its running costs.

What’s next?
In 2023-2025, the Foundation will continue to support 10 students through a scholarship program.

2018-2027
Agricultural vocational education
Côte d’Ivoire
Savanes

Our actions
Through the creation of a vocational agri-school in partnership with the French agri-agency Fert, the Foundation is implementing a two-year educational program combining a general and agricultural curriculum. We also provide technical assistance to help school graduates set up their farms. Lastly, through the active involvement of local communities, and thanks to school places earmarked for female students, the Foundation aims to help local farmers become self-reliant and contribute to female empowerment.

Results and Impact
66 students are currently studying at the school, and 53 have already graduated. 32 farms have been set up by school graduates.

What’s next?
We will continue to support the school in the next cycle of activities (2023-27), progressively handing over school management to local communities.
2013-2022
Supporting future leaders from the Global South

United Kingdom
Oxford University

Our actions
In partnership with an educational charity organization, Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust (WHT), we offered scholars from the Global South fully funded scholarships to study at Oxford University, one of the world’s best ranked universities, and access to a WHT Leadership Program. This initiative allowed scholars to gain skills and build knowledge and networks, supporting them to become the next generation’s leaders in sustainable development.

Results and Impact
Louis Dreyfus-Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarship graduates are making significant differences in their regions and countries of origin, thanks to their involvement in a wide variety of projects in the fields of business and law, education and social matters, health and the environment.

2019-2022
Engaging a new generation of coffee growers

Colombia
Huila
Brazil
Minas Gerais

Our actions
Through this project, we aimed to provide vocational coffee farming training in secondary schools, combining theoretical sessions with practical training on coffee farms and visits to coffee warehouses, mills and nurseries. We also offered technical assistance to farmers, comprising technical advice and soil, water and leaf analyses.

Results and Impact
Students attended a three-year vocational coffee farming program and acquired knowledge of coffee production and farm management, with many of them expressing interest in becoming coffee farmers in the future. Farmers demonstrated strong support throughout the program, encouraging their children to participate.

Partnership with WHT
Coocafé, Brazil
Asprotimana, Colombia
Providing funds for unforeseen humanitarian crises and support for young entrepreneurs

Our funds

The Foundation’s Funds for Food Emergency Aid and Young Entrepreneurs respectively assist populations affected by unforeseen humanitarian crises and support young entrepreneurs in developing countries.

10 YEARS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Fund for Young Entrepreneurs

This Foundation fund supports entrepreneurship in the agri-food industry and provides young entrepreneurs with seed money, skills and knowledge to successfully run their businesses. By doing so, it benefits small agricultural and food enterprises that aim to generate positive impact along the agri-food value chain.

2016-17
The fund at work in India
Harvest Wild helps rural women organize into soapnut producer groups. Soapnut trees are widespread throughout most of India and can generate additional income for local communities, especially women, amid growing demands for natural products (including soapnut fruit-based products) in developing countries. The project had 241 beneficiaries, who harvested almost 14,000 kg of soapnut fruits over 2016 and 2017, generating an additional income of EUR 62 per person in 2017.

2018
The fund at work in Senegal
Sen Women Up develops processing activities to support female entrepreneurship in the production and fair trade of fonio, a traditional and healthy cereal, while encouraging local consumption of fonio to address malnutrition and food insecurity. The project resulted in the creation of one company (representing one full-time job and 10 seasonal jobs, with all women receiving social insurance), the sale of 3000 kg of own-branded fonio in 2018, and the construction of a modern factory. Two scholarships were granted to encourage daughters of beneficiaries to pursue their studies.

2019-2022
The fund at work in Côte d’Ivoire
In partnership with French organization Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD), the fund supported an agri-food entrepreneurship program in Côte d’Ivoire and initiated a related contest that recognizes the most promising projects of young agri-food entrepreneurs. 41 entrepreneurs enrolled in the two-month business incubation program and benefitted from a business assessment and improvement action plan. 11 winning entrepreneurs were awarded funding and offered personal coaching to support them in the launch, development and scale-up of their projects. Their enterprises are developing local food production, including honey, cassava flower, chocolate, and snacks from local fruits, nuts and spices.

2 dedicated funds

Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
Emergency Fund for Food Aid

The Foundation firmly believes that in addition to running long-term projects advancing food security in rural communities, it must also provide humanitarian assistance to populations affected by adverse and unforeseen climatic conditions or health crises. Using this fund, the Foundation intervenes primarily in countries where LDC has an active presence, but also others when the situation requires, in the context of humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters, conflicts or other crises affecting food availability or access to food. The fund aims to ensure a basic level of subsistence in terms of food and water for affected populations.

Our Emergency Fund for Food Aid at work during 2014-2022

2014

Ebola virus outbreak in Mali and Sierra Leone: 400,000 meals provided to patients and quarantined people

2016

Drought in Ethiopia: 8,000 children treated with therapeutic food

2017

Humanitarian crisis in South Sudan: food distributed to 64,600 people

2018

Famine in Yemen: 13,000 people supported with essential food supplies

2019

Cyclone Idai in Mozambique: 28,625 people supported with essential food supplies

2020

8,000 school children supported in Burkina Faso

• Desert locust upsurge in Ethiopia: 900 households supported with agricultural inputs
• Families displaced in Burkina Faso due to internal conflict: 8,000 school children supported
• COVID-19 support:
  – Emergency support to 2,262 farmers in Cambodia, with food packages and protective kits
  – Existing grant conversion to direct support to buy sanitation kits for farmers and their families in Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia and Indonesia

2021

1,000 smallholder farming families supported in Ukraine

• Conflict in Ukraine: 1,000 Ukrainian smallholder farming families affected by the Russia-Ukraine crisis supported with agricultural and livestock production
• Flood in Pakistan: 600 smallholder farmers assisted with agricultural inputs

2022

• Financial and economic crisis in Lebanon: 300 families assisted with agricultural inputs and technical support
• Conflict in Ethiopia: Support to the six vet clinics in Tigray, providing vaccinations for animals

1,000 people supported through six vet clinics in Ethiopia
Celebrating 10 years!

In March 2023, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation celebrated its 10-year anniversary with an event that was an opportunity to bring together our Board members, partners, agents and project managers to reflect on our fruitful, decade-long collaboration to make a difference through grassroots action together, with a presentation that showcased some of the Foundation’s flagship projects.
To fulfill our mission to alleviate food insecurity and create the conditions for sustainable agricultural development in the Global South, we believe it is crucial to constantly learn from our experience, seeking ways to adapt and improve our strategy and operations. Careful selection of partners, project design that systematically takes into consideration local conditions and maximizes benefits for local populations, strict project monitoring and evaluation, continual focus on the sustainability of our projects, and an undeterred commitment to gender equality, are fundamental to our actions.

1. Partner selection
2. Project design
3. Monitoring and evaluation
4. Sustainability
5. Gender and community

We select partners with solid experience in the field of the project envisaged, strong relationships with local communities and a thorough knowledge of local institutions and the natural environment, all vital elements to the success of our projects.

The challenge
Set up an agricultural school in an area with no existing professional agricultural education to rely on.

What we did
We approached Fert, a French agri-agency with experience in building and managing agricultural schools in Madagascar, to replicate their model in Côte d’Ivoire while developing a curriculum that takes into account the specific needs of local communities. A management committee composed of local farmers and representatives of professional farmer organizations was created to help manage the training center and progressively take over its coordination.
Learning 2
Project design

Pillar 1
We focus on creating the right conditions for successful project incubation and effective implementation, before scaling up interventions.

The challenge
Scale up a project to maximize benefits and reach more beneficiaries.

What we did
In Southern Ethiopia, Inter Aide’s aim was to build natural anti-erosive structures and create the right conditions for fodder production. The Foundation’s financial contribution helped to fund and test the innovative solutions developed on site. The progressive involvement of traditional community organization leaders – the ‘iddirs’ – and volunteer lead farmers allows for the transfer of knowledge, which has ensured that the project was managed locally so that local farming communities and Ethiopian authorities could rapidly take ownership of the project. As a result, the project has been extended to more farming communities and villages, and is attracting funds from new donors, such as Agence Française de Développement.

Pillar 2
We develop a clear Theory of Change to improve the design of project activities, and, as the project matures, the theory is revised to incorporate lessons learned from our experiences.

The challenge
Maximize the project’s impact and benefits for local communities.

What we have done
In a rice enhancement project in Côte d’Ivoire, led by FairMatch Support, the intervention model was adapted to different farmer categories (subsistence farmers, emerging producers and agri-preneurs) by offering an assistance program tailored to the specific needs of each group. As a result, all farmers were able to significantly develop their production and farm management capabilities, and ultimately improve food security and market access.

Learning 3
Monitoring and evaluation

Since the creation of the Foundation, we have enhanced monitoring and data collection to identify and implement corrective actions at the earliest opportunity, if required, or envisage a project’s suspension when mitigating action is not possible. This is consistent with our aim to maximize our positive impact.

The challenge
Ensure good survival rates for agroforestry species to maximize benefits for local communities.

What we did
In Indonesia, a project run with PUR and Louis Dreyfus Company, focused on sustainable coffee management and agroforestry, developed a monitoring and evaluation framework measuring tree survival rates and analyzing root causes of tree mortality. Thanks to this analysis, the project introduced measures to control mortality rates, such as improved logistics and reduced transportation time, selection of tree species adapted to farmers’ needs and preferences, improved seedling quality and enhanced training on tree maintenance.
Learning 4
Sustainability

Ensuring the sustainable implementation of projects has been central to the Foundation’s mission since its inception. Accordingly, we aim to maximize local communities’ integration, participation and project ownership, and focus on capacity building when involving local partners in our projects.

The challenge
Ensure project self-sustainability and a successful handover to a local community.

What we did
In Ethiopia, our implementing partner Inter Aide works closely with local communities to empower them to manage and maintain water points in good operating conditions, and take decisions about water points themselves. To achieve this, each user pays a water usage fee, which is used to fund spare parts and maintenance work. Ultimately, water federations and associations will manage and maintain water points autonomously.

Learning 5
Gender and community

Strategies to improve gender equity are included in all project designs. Gender assessments are carried out at the beginning of each project to create the conditions for female empowerment.

The challenge
Maximize project benefits for female smallholder farmers.

What we did
In Côte d’Ivoire, our project identified clear strategies on how to benefit female cooperatives and established a roadmap to incorporate more women into the governing bodies of cooperatives. In parallel, the project focused on ensuring food security for these women’s families through additional rice production on communal plots, provision of small agricultural equipment, and training to enhance compost production and management skills.
Partnerships

- ACERCO (Argentina)
- African Leadership Academy
- Biogas International Ltd. (Kenya)
- Center for micro-Finance (India)
- China Education Support Project
- Comisión Nacional de Microcrédito (Argentina)
- Cooperativa Agro-Ganadera Los Arenales Limitada (Argentina)
- Cooperativa Agropecuaria y Artesanal Unión Quebrada y Valles Limitada (Argentina)
- Cooperative Coo-café (Brazil)
- Cooperative ASPROTimaná (Colombia)
- Earthworm Foundation
- Egerton University (Kenya)
- ETH Zurich Foundation
- FairMatch Support
- Farm Input Promotions Africa Limited (FIPS, Kenya)
- Fédération des Producteurs Maraîchers de la zone des Niayes (Senegal)
- Fert
- Fonds d’innovation pour le développement (FIND) du GRET
- Fundación Cristo Vive (Bolivia)
- Fundación Aquí Es (Argentina)
- Friends of Tsavo (Kenya)
- Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES)
- Harvest Wild Foundation (India)
- Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD)
- India Development Foundation
- Instituto Peabiru (Brazil)
- Inter Aide
- Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM, Brazil)
- Lima Rural Development Foundation (South Africa)
- Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC)
- Order of Malta Lebanon
- PUR
- Root Capital
- São Paulo State University (UNESP, Brazil)
- Sen Women Up (Senegal)
- Smiling Gecko (Cambodia)
- Smart Development Works (SNV)
- Solidaridad
- Springboard (Nigeria)
- Srijan (India)
- TechnoServe
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI, India)
- UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization
- University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- vBio (Brazil)
- Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust (WHT)
- World Food Programme (WFP)

2023-2028 Strategic roadmap

**MISSION**

- IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

**FOCUS AREAS**

- SUSTAINABLE MICRO-FARMING
- AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
- ACTION FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**GOALS**

- Improve household food availability and consumption of nutritious food
- Address productivity and efficiency gaps in agricultural production systems
- Improve farmers’ livelihoods to make agriculture attractive to current and future generations of farmers and reduce rural migration
- Promote rural women leadership
- Support community climate action

**STRATEGIES**

1. Reliable partnerships and rigorous project selection
2. Leveraging Louis Dreyfus Company’s expertise and resources
3. Projects recognizing countries’ agricultural policies and strategic objectives
4. Maximizing local community integration, participation and ownership
5. Project incubation and learning to be effective
6. Monitoring and evaluation embedded in project design
7. Sharing knowledge internally and externally

**CRITERIA**

- 100% projects contribute to improving food security and livelihoods
- 30% funds dedicated to agricultural education
- 100% projects supporting climate action
- 30% women beneficiaries
Governance

The Louis Dreyfus Foundation is a company foundation operating under French law, with its registered office based in Paris.

The Board

The Board takes all decisions in the interest of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation. Board members approve the endowment budget, assess programs and projects, validate the Foundation’s strategy and oversee all its efforts and activities.

Board members

- Mrs. Margarita Louis-Dreyfus
  - President, Louis Dreyfus Foundation
  - Chairperson of the Supervisory Board, Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V.
  - Non-Executive Chairperson of the Supervisory Board, Louis Dreyfus Company International Holding B.V.
- Mrs. Alfiya Askar Abulkhair
  - Founder and Chairperson, BATT Invest Company
  - Honorary member of the Board of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
- Mr. Mehdi El Glaoui
  - Supervisory Board member, Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V. and Louis Dreyfus Company International Holding B.V.
- Mrs. Franziska Hildebrand Alberti
  - Partner, P&O Personnel and Organisational Development
  - Advisor, Fundación Cristo Vive Switzerland
- Mr. Maurice Kreft
  - Executive Board member, Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V. and Louis Dreyfus Company International Holding B.V.
- Mrs. Yulia Levin
  - Supervisory Board member, Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V.
  - Former Board member, European Forest Resources Group

The Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee advises the Board on projects that the Foundation could support. Members are individuals selected for their experience and ability to take the Foundation forward.

Advisory Committee members

- Dr. Alok Adholeya
  - Entrepreneur
  - Former Senior Director, Sustainable Agriculture Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- Mr. Erik Anderson
  - Former CEO North America and former Senior Platform Head Grains & Macro, Louis Dreyfus Company
- Dr. Christopher Gibbs
  - Independent consultant in agriculture and rural development
  - Former staff member, Ford Foundation, the Aga Khan Foundation and the World Bank
- Mrs. Sarah Hobson
  - Executive Director, West Marin Fund
  - Former Head of Strategic Grantmaking and Movement Building, Global Fund for Women
- Mr. Robert Serpollet
  - General Manager, Louis Dreyfus Foundation
- Ms. Ekaterina Naymark
  - Head of Operations, Louis Dreyfus Foundation

2022 financial information

Summarized statement of income and expenditure

From 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>€</th>
<th>€</th>
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<tr>
<td>INCOMES (Legacies and gifts)</td>
<td>4,062,717</td>
<td>3,873,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants paid for projects and envelopes voted in 2022</td>
<td>796,555</td>
<td>1,159,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants to be paid for projects and envelopes voted in 2022</td>
<td>3,360,263</td>
<td>2,092,153</td>
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<td>Other costs and external expenses</td>
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<td>EXPENSES</td>
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<td>OPERATING RESULT</td>
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<td>Financial income</td>
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<td>Financial expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL RESULTS</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>2,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECURRING INCOME</td>
<td>-519,781</td>
<td>287,079</td>
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</table>
Center for micro-Finance (India)
China Education Support Project
Cooperative Coocafé (Brazil)
Earthworm Foundation
FairMatch Support
Fert
Fundación Cristo Vive (Bolivia)
Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD)
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Order of Malta Lebanon
PUR
Smart Development Works (SNV)
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UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization
Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust (WHT)
World Food Programme (WFP)