

Digital Innovations for Zero Hunger – Joining forces to transform food production in African countries

The Seeding the Future Foundation, Welthungerhilfe and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development have partnered to make their fight for ZeroHunger digital. Agricultural Extension Apps and the AgriShare App launched by Welthungerhilfe empower smallholder farmers in Africa to increase food production by providing access to information on farming practices and to agricultural machinery. With the multi-year grant by the Seeding the Future Foundation, these digital solutions have already reached 250,000 smallholder farmers in Malawi, Uganda, and Zimbabwe and have the potential to sustainably transform food systems globally.

Digital innovations provide strong opportunities for creating social impact and for paving the way to sustainable food systems. However, a huge digital divide in the Global South exacerbates existing inequalities. Disadvantaged groups, such as smallholder farmers and refugees, are excluded from making use of digital technologies and from realizing the full agricultural potential of the Global South. To bridge this digital divide, the **Seeding the Future Foundation, Welthungerhilfe and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** have joined forces to develop digital solutions – Agricultural Extension Apps and the AgriShare App – to strengthen food security and to fight for ZeroHunger in African countries and beyond.

Agricultural Extension Apps

Lack of access to information on agricultural practices, markets and shareholders is a major constraint for many smallholder farmers in African countries. To fill this gap, Welthungerhilfe developed Agricultural Extension Apps to make agricultural knowledge accessible to smallholder farmers. Starting with KurimaMari App in Zimbabwe, Agricultural Extension Apps have grown over the years with Zaulimi App in Malawi and iKnowFarm App in Uganda. 168,000 smallholder farmers in these countries have already used the apps to improve their farming and post-harvest storage practices.

AgriShare

Many smallholder farmers in African countries lack the financial means to acquire agricultural machinery like tractors and irrigation systems. On the other hand, larger African farmers often do not use their machinery to their full capacity. Here is where the AgriShare App comes into play. AgriShare links farmers to agricultural machinery and allows them to get access to equipment that they could not afford financially. 82,000 farmers have already registered or rented agricultural machinery using the AgriShare App to enhance their food production. To accelerate its social impact, AgriShare Uganda Limited was founded as first digital spin-off from Welthungerhilfe in 2022.

With the multi-year grant by the Seeding the Future Foundation, the Agricultural Extension Apps and the AgriShare App have empowered a total of 250,000 smallholder farmers in Malawi, Uganda, and Zimbabwe so far to substantially increase food production and to enhance food security in local communities. The high scalability of Welthungerhilfe's agricultural apps demonstrates their potential to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and to sustainably transform global food systems.

The Agricultural Extension Apps and the AgriShare App belong to a diversified innovation portfolio of digital solutions that are continuously designed, tested, and improved by Welthungerhilfe with a user-centric approach. To achieve ZeroHunger, Welthungerhilfe has also launched the Child Growth Monitor (CGM), which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to turn mobile phones into child measuring devices to diagnose under- and malnutrition efficiently, and Digital Literacy Clinics, which strengthen digital capacities of disadvantaged groups in the Global South.