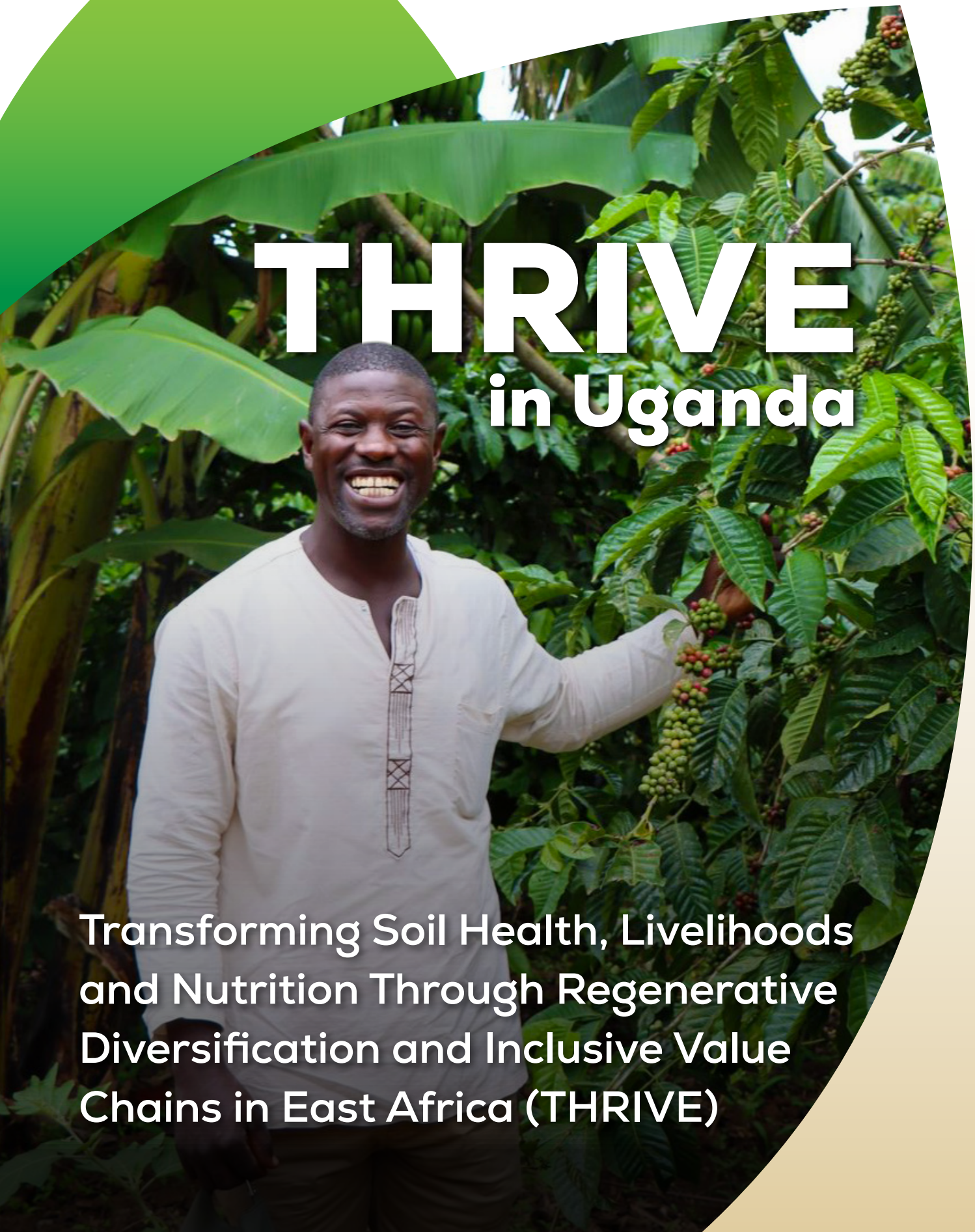
THRIVE
EAST AFRICA



THRIVE in Uganda

Transforming Soil Health, Livelihoods and Nutrition Through Regenerative Diversification and Inclusive Value Chains in East Africa (THRIVE)

At a Glance

The initiative supports East Africa's food security, farm resilience, and economic growth by strengthening sustainable, inclusive value chains for opportunity crops, African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs) and coffee through diversified regenerative production with Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) and enhanced market systems.

The initiative builds upon two interconnected principles: production system diversification and inclusive market systems, using a Public-Private Partnership and living-labs model to co-create context-specific, evidence-based solutions jointly with governments, research institutions, and private sector actors.

It is implemented by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, in partnership with CIHEAM Bari, ECDPM, and UNIDO, and funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

THE CHALLENGE

East Africa's food systems face multiple challenges, including climate change, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and malnutrition, compounded by over-reliance on a few staple crops, which lead to low dietary diversity and food insecurity. Coffee systems drive deforestation and declining productivity, while NUS remain marginalized by limited research, underdeveloped markets, and low consumer awareness. Fragmented, informal value chains cause high food loss and inequalities.

In Uganda, climate change, environmental degradation, and declining farm resilience challenge regenerative agroforestry production. Coffee is highly sensitive to temperature increases, irregular rainfall, and extreme weather events. Soil erosion and nutrient depletion further constrain productivity. Scaling diversification with shade trees, cover crops, mulching, and NUS species can restore soil health, improve climate resilience, and boost incomes for smallholder coffee farmers.

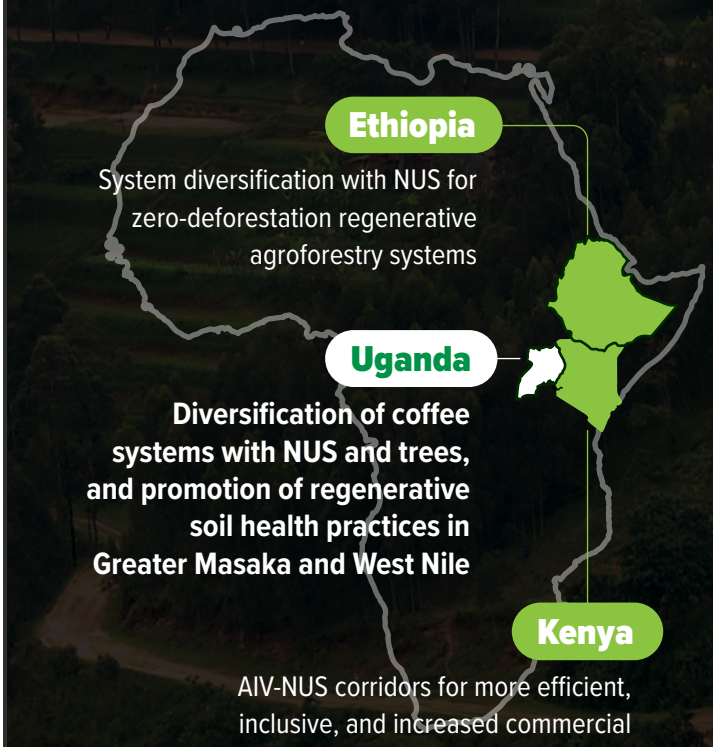
Project Objectives

THRIVE aims to enhance livelihoods of small-scale farmers through market inclusion and regenerative agricultural and agroforestry practices based on diversification with NUS and boosting soil health in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

At the regional level, the project leverages the African Seed and Biotechnology Platform (ASBP) working group on opportunity crops, supports regional and national stakeholders in identifying context-appropriate regenerative agricultural practices, guides policy formulation, and promotes linkages with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It partners with CIHEAM Bari's training hub for capacity building in NUS value chains and policy alignment.

Project Locations

THRIVE focuses on three target countries, each with a unique outcome.



Project Activities In Uganda

Stakeholders & Knowledge Mapping

Connect With Multi-Stakeholders Platforms

Establish effective connections with existing multistakeholder platforms to engage a comprehensive range of relevant actors, expose them to the innovative practices promoted by the project, and create opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Characterize Production Systems for Tailored Interventions

Review the typology of coffee farms, through a rapid assessment of current management practices and documentation of promising cases of improved management. This will allow to identify entry points for the proposed interventions, which require adaptation to a range of contexts.

Co-Design Resilient Farming Systems & Innovative Business Models

Optimize Diverse Agroforestry Systems Design

This activity focuses on a participatory selection and promotion of priority trees, cover crops, NUS/AIVs for effective diversification of coffee agroforestry systems, addressing management aspects and optimizing spatial design using the DiversityforAgroforestry* tool, and assessing seed system preparedness.

** https://diversityforagroforestry.org*

Incubate Nature-Based Enterprises & Support Capacity Building

A rapid market systems diagnostic will be conducted for selected tree crops and NUS/AIV linked to coffee corridors. In parallel, cooperatives' capacities in operational, strategic, and financial planning will be strengthened, while agri-tech innovations targeting women and youth will be identified and supported through the Accelerate for Impact Platform.

Scale Awareness & Capacity

Carry out Technical Training

The role of Coffee Training Centre in Kampala will be leveraged for capacity building on regenerative agricultural practices and crop diversification using a Train-the-Trainer approach, field demonstrations, awareness campaigns, and digital tools.

Share Best Practices

Evidence on emerging innovations will be packaged into investment-ready notes; documentation of learning cases/success cases and other communication materials will be widely shared across the network of stakeholders engaged in the project.

Project Outcomes in Uganda

7,000 smallholder coffee households and extension agents benefit from demo farms, ToT capacity building, and agri-tech innovations;

100,000 farmers reached indirectly by cooperatives and buyers through awareness campaigns (field visits, radio, videos, factsheets, ICE materials);

500 farmers participate in co-design activities with cooperative leaders, private sector players, extension agents and women groups, engaged by companies;

160 actors participate in the Multistakeholder Platform;

100 stakeholders take part in validation activities;

20 promising agri-tech start-ups participate in one matchmaking events.

Farmers' adoption of regenerative agroforestry practices, NUS, combined with entrepreneurship training and business development support to cooperatives, will improve smallholder productivity, produce quality, dietary diversity, and market access, ultimately enhancing livelihoods and stimulating inclusive economic growth in Uganda's coffee sector.

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Find more about THRIVE here:

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40 years ecdpm

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