



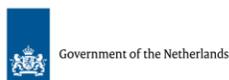
Press Release

Water and Energy for Food (WE4F) Grand Challenge partners up with AlphaMundi Foundation

September 21, 2021: The [Water and Energy for Food \(WE4F\) Grand Challenge](#) is pleased to announce a new partnership with [AlphaMundi Foundation](#) (the “Foundation”). As a joint, multi-donor initiative, WE4F aims at expanding the scale of innovations in the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus to increase the sustainability of agricultural production and food value chains as well as income opportunities in emerging markets – particularly for the poor, youth and women. Last but not least a key intervention by the initiative is improving better access to finance and climate-friendly innovative solutions for end-users such as SMEs and small-holder farmers. Within the WE4F program, the Foundation’s partnership is with the East Africa Regional Innovation Hub. The Hub is jointly co-financed by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. It focuses among others on Climate financing for East African SMEs and their innovative solutions in the WEF Nexus.

Agriculture has the potential to achieve broad-based economic transformation in Africa, especially by contributing to the development of inclusive agribusiness, increasing productivity and incomes for smallholder farmers and reducing hunger and poverty. Nevertheless, in many countries in East Africa, agriculture is at a subsistence level due to a complex web of inter-related challenges ranging from low productivity, use of outdated technologies, climate change, lack of access to finance and markets, poor infrastructure and a weak enabling environment for innovative solutions in the WEF Nexus. However, tapping into entrepreneurial energy in East Africa and supporting smart innovations can play a key role in overcoming these challenges and contributing to food security and a sustainable rural economic development.

Together with the WE4F initiative, the Foundation will provide technical support to SMEs operating in the WEF nexus in East Africa to strengthen and upscale innovations for more productive and ecologically sustainable food production. In partnership with WE4F and the AlphaMundi Group, the Foundation will work with SMEs to structure highly catalytic technical assistance (TA) and result based financing projects for sustained growth, increased impact all while overcoming barriers to future investment and scale.





“It is through partnerships, like with the AlphaMundi Foundation, that we can succeed in leveraging private investment and effectively tackle the social and environmental challenges we are facing in the food and agriculture sector.” - Lucie Pluschke, WE4F Hub Manager in East Africa, GIZ

The partnership builds on the Foundation’s success with the [Powering Agricultural Investment Alliance](#) (the “Alliance”) to catalyze private sector financing for businesses providing clean energy solutions that increase agricultural productivity and/or value in emerging markets.

GIZ, through WE4F, and AlphaMundi Foundation look forward to their partnership and to bolster sustainable innovative solutions in the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus in East Africa. By unlocking access to financing and resources critical to SME sustainability and growth, the partners ultimately aim to improve food security and enhance the incomes, livelihoods, and resilience of smallholder farmers in East Africa.

“We are thrilled to launch this new partnership with the WE4F team and build on the progress we’ve made in East Africa to date through the Powering Agriculture Investment Alliance.” – Christine Roddy, Executive Director, AlphaMundi Foundation

