



COOPERATION >



Realizing impact through partnerships

In the world we envision, there is no poverty, exclusion and injustice do not exist. We believe we can achieve this vision by helping people worldwide to reach their full potential, so they can contribute to the development and prosperity of their communities. This in turn can be accomplished by connecting two core principles: securing sustainable livelihoods, and justice and dignity for all. These principles are interlinked, because a livelihood without rights is not sustainable and because human dignity only comes with a livelihood in which rights are respected.

We help the poor develop the skills, knowledge and voice needed to gain fair and sustainable access to and control over natural resources and economic opportunities.

Partnerships

We are convinced that public-private partnerships create significant opportunities to address both local and global problems. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an important framework for jointly addressing poverty and injustice. Our focus is on smallholder farmers and producers, women and youth, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives and marginalized groups.



Entrepreneurial organization

We believe that long-term successes can be achieved through programs and investments carried out by enterprising people and organizations. ICCO Cooperation is that entrepreneurial organization. We have put our non-profit and commercial entities under one umbrella and shared purpose. Both act as agents for social change, breaking the “mythical fixed pie”. With its for-profit and non-profit entities ICCO offers a new model that uses the market system to yield positive social change and environmental outcomes.

Our themes

Within three themes we build on our existing track record and innovate so we can empower as many people as possible.



Food Security and Sustainable Consumption

Malnutrition reduces the potential for socio-economic development. It is widespread among 500 million smallholder producers in the world, who still feed the majority of the population in Asia and Africa. We make food systems work so smallholders have access to productive resources and services, improve their production, generate a farm income and improve their consumption practices.

Latin America: Jobs and nutritious food

Manq'a is a young social enterprise that opens markets for poor farmers, creates job opportunities for young cooks and makes healthy food accessible to urban dwellers. Started in 2013, the enterprise now includes 12 Manq'a cooking schools in Bolivia and 3 in Colombia; and another 21 will be introduced in other countries in Latin America, benefitting 17,000 teens and young adults.



Photo: Luis Fernandez

PARTNERS: Melting Pot Bolivia, National Postcode Lottery, RVO and many allies.



Economic Empowerment

We empower small producers in the agri-business sector by connecting them to viable and sustainable value chains and actors. Equality throughout these value chains is the key to success. We therefore recognize the important role of larger farmers and local entrepreneurs as drivers of economic activities. We collaborate with larger private companies, rural advisory service providers, and financial institutions, in order to improve their service delivery to our target groups.

Africa: Better financial products for smallholder farmers

The Strengthening African Rural Smallholders (STARS) project (2016-2020) aims to break the cycle of poverty and food insecurity among 210,000 farmers, 50% of whom are women, in rural Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Senegal. The STARS project develops financial products for agriculture with microfinance institutions and links smallholder farmers into value chains and financial services.



Photo: Raymond Rutting

PARTNERS: MasterCard Foundation and ICCO Terrafina Microfinance.



Responsible Business

The private sector contributes to the realization of sustainable development for poor and marginalized people. But that does not happen automatically. We raise awareness among private sector actors of good business practices that are in alignment with the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGP) on Business and Human Rights. We urge governments to enforce human rights laws and to create a level playing field for companies. We build the capacity of civil society organizations so that the voices of the people are heard by companies and governments.

Indonesia: Peaceful arbitration in communal territories

In Riau Province, land was re-allocated for economic maximization against the will of communities. ICCO initiated a partnership (2015-2018) that empowers indigenous communities (55,329 people) to protect their communal and cultural rights through peaceful dialogues and negotiations with public authorities and the private sector. At the same time the program encourages business practices in accordance with the UNGP on Business and Human Rights.



Photo: Ismami Eszdan

PARTNERS: European Union, HuMa, ScaleUp, JMGR and IBCSD

Cross-Cutting Topics

A number of issues cut across our three thematic areas. From a topical angle these are: women and youth, marginalized people and climate change mitigation. And from a methodological angle: stimulating innovation, knowledge sharing and learning, and capacity building of local actors. We also provide emergency assistance in disasters, devoting particular attention to disaster preparedness and economic rehabilitation.



Engineering change

We have more than 50 years of experience in development cooperation. But past results are no guarantee for the future. We are a learning and innovative organization.

We strive to support people and businesses to become (financially) self-reliant. To do this we base our interventions on a problem analysis, a theory of change and an assessment of the needs and possibilities of the target group or company. All our interventions include a responsible exit strategy.

ICCO builds partnerships and business cases in which we can take on different roles: co-implementer, co-entrepreneur, co-financer, investor and lobbyist. Our global network includes a wide range of private companies, civil society organizations, NGOs, government and knowledge institutions.

One of our unique propositions is our proven experience of applying diverse funding instruments. We address multifaceted development challenges, in collaboration with our partners.

Our services

As of 2016 we have developed a portfolio of services that contributes to achieving our mission and the SDGs. ICCO Cooperation offers:

1 Business Disaster Management

We work with entrepreneurs in order to make their companies more resilient against disasters and to prepare them to become first providers of aid in case of a disaster.

2 Project design and management

We have a track record of administration and management of funds. We organize calls for proposals. ICCO also provides trainings, technical assistance, management and monitoring skills.

3 Public-private partnerships (PPP)

We build partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations, governmental and financial institutions. In a PPP program we make use of a range of funding instruments.

4 Microcredit

ICCO Terrafina Microfinance boosts agriculture through microfinance. This involves professionalizing rural microfinance institutions, introducing or improving loans and warehouse receipt lending, and linking microfinance with value chains.

5 Co-entrepreneurship

ICCO's Agribusiness Booster is an innovative company for working with pre-growth SMEs in emerging markets. Through a tailor-made set of investments and business development services, companies are grown to business maturity with social impact. The booster participates in 25 investee companies with an invested capital of € 2 million.

AGRIBUSINESS BOOSTER

6 Impact investments

ICCO Investments is our fund management company that has invested about € 8 million in 25 small growing businesses through the Capital 4 Development Fund. It invests between € 200,000 and € 800,000 in businesses that have a clear positive social and/or environmental impact.

7 Climate neutrality

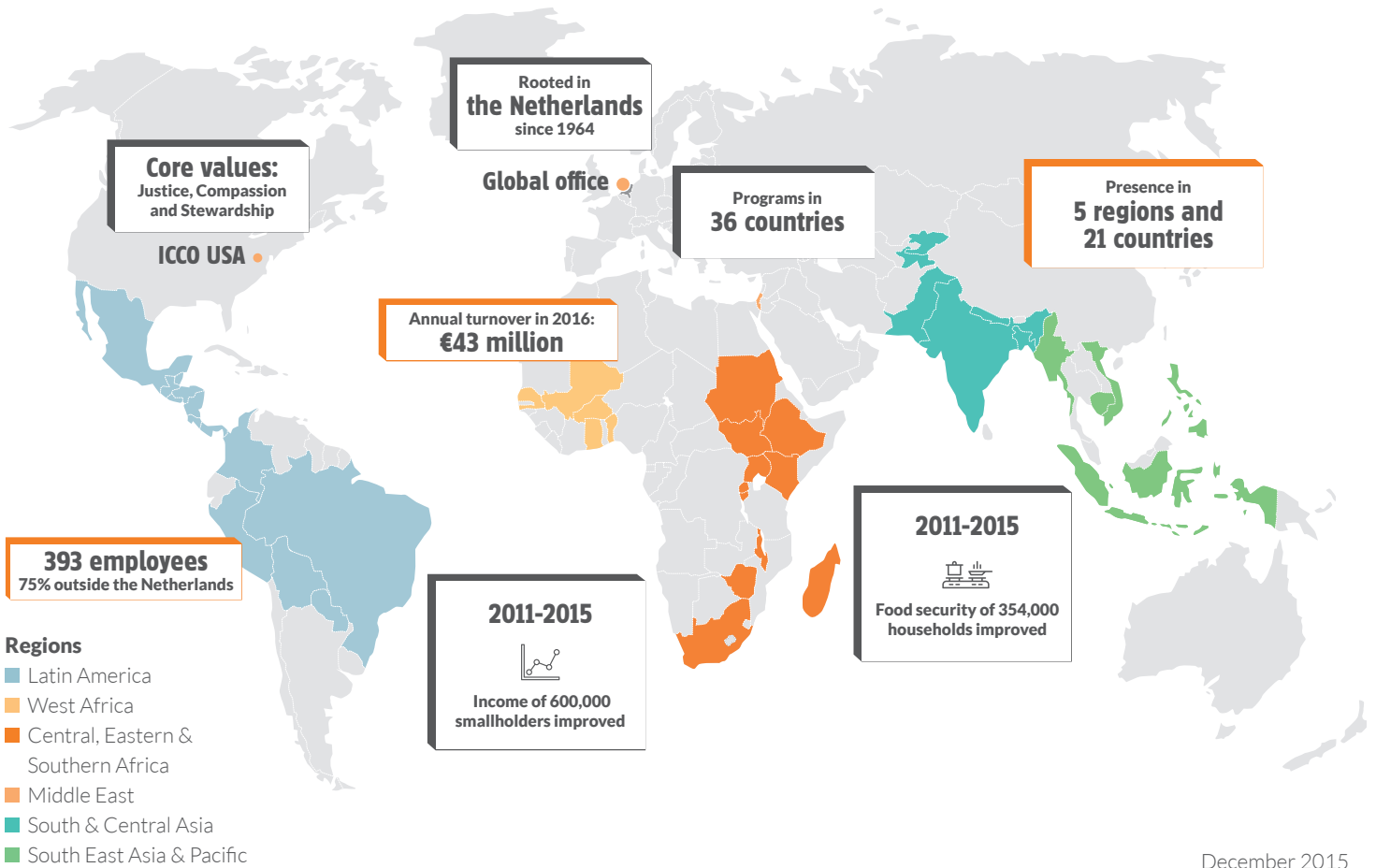
ICCO FairClimateFund provides poor households with access to clean cooking that reduces carbon emissions. Via the carbon credit markets, the company attracts funding for cooking stove and biogas activities. In 2015, 42,322 Gold Standard and CDM certified credits were sold to offset buyers.



8 Advisory services

Fair & Sustainable Advisory Services offers high-quality technical services to around 50 Dutch and international clients. The company supports, strengthens and creates economic opportunities for people in (agricultural) value chains in developing countries.





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Strategic partners

To deliver our mission, we partner with organizations who share our vision to maximize impact and social change. We build partnerships to learn together, share knowledge and develop new approaches with e.g.

AGRIPROFOCUS, AIM, ALBERT HEIJN FOUNDATION, AKVO, AMEA, BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EUCORD, EUROPEAN UNION, IDH, INTER-AMERICAN BANK, KERK IN ACTIE, MASTERCARD FOUNDATION, NATIONAL POSTCODE LOTTERY, SCOPEINSIGHT AND USAID.

Want to know more?

ICCO Cooperation

c/o Global Office
P.O. Box 8190
3503 RD UTRECHT

T +31 (0)30 6927811
E info@icco-cooperation.org
I www.icco-cooperation.org

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ICCO Cooperation has 5 regional offices and also a representative in the USA. See our website to get into contact with our local experts.



Partner to enterprising people.

Member of the
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