

Agricultural Value Chains

The USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub: Enhancing Economic Growth and Food Security through Trade



Program Objectives:

- *Regional Markets and Market Access*
- *Standards and Quality*
- *Production Enhancement*
- *Regional Organization Strengthening*

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The Trade Hub's agricultural activities are driven by USAID's Feed the Future Strategy and focus on intra-regional trade in targeted value chains: maize, soybeans and groundnuts. Primary support is directed to the Feed the Future focal countries within the region (Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia) with special emphasis on encouraging investment and technology transfer from South African organizations in line with USAID's Strategic Partnership with South Africa. Within the regional Feed the Future strategy, the Trade Hub supports initiatives that improve trade in targeted agricultural commodities and improve food security, including:

Improved Storage and Structured Trade:

The Trade Hub is supporting the development of structured trade in commodities to facilitate cross-border trade and to better integrate farmers and producer organizations in regional markets. In addition, the Trade Hub is supporting the development and regional expansion of warehouse receipts and services such as market information. Storage infrastructure and management are also key areas of focus across our target countries.

Improved Standards and Quality:

Aflatoxin control in groundnut supply chains is a key standards and quality focus for the Trade Hub. The Hub is working with a broad range of stakeholders to develop, disseminate and commercially test integrated management practices and technology to reduce aflatoxin contamination and open lucrative markets to regional groundnut producers and processors. The Trade Hub also supports investment in accredited commercial laboratory services to improve sustainable food and feed sector growth and trade

Increased Investment and Technology Transfer:

The Trade Hub supports contract farming models and intra-regional partnerships to introduce and test improved seeds, extension and other technologies to boost small holder productivity and market integration in all target countries.

Strengthened Regional Organizations:

The Trade Hub supports the regional seed trade industry to better organize and to exploit the opportunities offered by the SADC seed regulation harmonization protocol. The Trade Hub supports improved information gathering and dissemination by regional organizations to promote more efficient, effective trade.

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