We Help Farmers and Small Businesses Grow.
Strengthening Agricultural Systems

Poverty in the world remains pervasive and inequalities continue to increase. A persistent expression of it is malnutrition. According to the FAO an estimated 842 million people worldwide experienced hunger in 2019. In addition, two billion people suffer from “hidden hunger”, due to nutrient deficiencies. Among them are many smallholders farmers, of which 75% is estimated to be living in poverty.

To secure their livelihoods ICCO improves agricultural systems to ensure decent jobs, living wages and food and nutrition security for all. improves to mitigate carbon emissions and adapt food production to the negative consequences of climate change.

Markets play an important role, but they need to be inclusive, accessible for smallholders farmers as well as environmentally and financially sustainable. ICCO makes efforts to trigger positive changes in the market system.

Focus on Women, Youth and SMEs
We have chosen to focus on women, youth and SMEs. Here’s why:

Women make up 43% of the overall agricultural workforce, and in many societies they have the primary responsibility for production, processing and food preparation. However, they have less access to productive resources and markets than men.

Across many developing countries, the majority of youth are unemployed, or do not earn a living wage. ICCO empowers young people to succeed in running their own businesses and therefore contribute to positive change.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) account for 70% of the workforce in emerging economies. Many have low productivity and limited value creation. ICCO supports SMEs with skills trainings, access to technology, finance products and markets.

Combining Development Roles
ICCO is experienced in combining various roles. We are a(n):
- Developer of programs, business cases and partnerships
- Co-Implementer and manager of donor-funded PPPs
- Investor in sustainable business models and
- Advocate of (business and) human rights and political space.
Our Goals

Our strategy to strengthen sustainable agricultural systems contributes to three goals:
1. Food and nutrition security of farmers.
2. Economic empowerment of farmers and SMEs.
3. Resilient and disaster-prepared communities.

These goals are interlinked. We also address the cross-cutting principles ‘business and human rights in value chains’ and ‘inclusive development’.

To address the linkages across our goals, we also take into account SDGs 10, 12 and 17.

Priority Topics

To achieve our goals we embrace to 4 pressing topics.

1. INCLUSIVE FINANCE
   ICCO links smallholder farmers to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs, such as microfinance, loans and guarantees.

2. CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS
   Our food and nutrition programs build food systems that tackle the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. NEW TECHNOLOGIES
   We advance the productivity and climate-resilience of farmers and agribusinesses through digital new technologies.

4. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
   ICCO connects youth to agribusiness with training on technical, life and entrepreneurial skills, social participation and market orientation.
Basics Facts
ICCO is a development organization, with both NGO and business features.

- Established in 1964
- Annual turnover of approx. € 40 million
- 86 projects in 2018
- 0.5 million people reached
- A global office in the Netherlands
- 25 regional and country offices
- 400 staff

How We Stand Out
ICCO is not one of many. The following are some of our unique selling points that make us stand out:

- **Focus on Women, Youth and SMEs**
  Our interventions are based on a problem analysis, and an assessment of the opportunities.

- **Data-Informed Organization**
  We generate high quality evidence on the ground to underpin implementation and impact. We adopt digital technologies.

- **Specialized in Inclusive Finance**
  We provide a mix of financial instruments, and also help communities to generate credits based on carbon.

- **Experienced in Public-Private Partnerships**
  We work with the private sector, civil partners and donor organizations, in PPPs; embedded in local communities.

- **Understanding Religion**
  Our roots helps us to understand the connection between religion and development in today’s world.

ICCO Companies
1. **Fair & Sustainable Consulting B.V.** (fairandsustainable.nl)
   International consultancy company that supports, strengthens and creates economic opportunities for people in (agricultural) value chains.

2. **FairClimateFund B.V.** (fairclimatefund.nl)
   The company finances and implements cleaner cooking and reforestation projects that reduce CO₂ emissions, deforestation and poverty.