LACOMP

Livelihoods & Agrifood Core Market Partnerships

Strategic Plan 2026-2030

Transforming Food Systems, Sustaining Livelihoods

We connect. We Empower. We Transform

Strengthening Food Systems Empowering Communities	Evidence Partnerships Impact Scale	A sustainable future for people and the Planet

Transforming Food Systems, Sustaining Livelihoods

The global food system is under unprecedented pressure. Food insecurity, climate change, environmental degradation, rapid population growth, economic inequality, weak market systems, and limited access to finance continue to undermine agricultural productivity, nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience particularly across Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Addressing these interconnected challenges requires institutions capable of generating evidence, building strategic partnerships, mobilizing resources, and delivering practical, market-driven solutions that create sustainable impact.

LACOMP, a pool of multidisciplinary experts, operates at the intersection of evidence-based research, strategic partnerships, and practical market solutions. Working alongside development partners, governments, producer organizations, cooperatives, Agri-SMEs, research institutions, and the private sector, we strengthen agricultural value chains, expand market access, improve food and nutrition security, and build resilient, inclusive, and climate-smart food systems that enhance livelihoods and drive sustainable economic growth across LMICs within East Africa.

LACOMP Strategic Plan 2026–2030, is a roadmap that defines our collective ambition to transform food systems, strengthen market systems, and improve livelihoods through strategic partnerships, innovation, and evidence-driven solutions in East Africa and Africa at large.

At LACOMP, we believe that resilient food systems are built through collaboration. Since our establishment, we have worked alongside governments, development partners, research institutions, financial organizations, producer organizations, cooperatives, Agri-enterprises, and farming communities to strengthen agricultural value chains, improve market access, and create inclusive opportunities for sustainable development.

This Strategic Plan outlines our vision for the next five years as we continue to expand our role as a trusted implementing partner, strategic consultancy, knowledge institution, and catalyst for transformative change across Africa and beyond. It reflects our commitment to professional excellence, innovation, integrity, and inclusive partnerships while reinforcing our contribution toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Livelihoods & Agri-food Core Market Partnerships (LACOMP) is a registered Business development organization headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, incorporated as **LACOMP Company Limited** under the Companies Act 2015 on **29 March 2018**. LACOMP provides strategic advisory, research, program partner support, and market systems solutions to the Agri-food sector, producer organizations, cooperatives, governments, development partners, private sector institutions, financial organizations, and smallholder farming communities.

We collaborate with global development partners across the food and agriculture sector, providing professional expertise, strategic partnerships, and access to resources that empower communities, strengthen institutions, improve livelihoods, and drive sustainable growth in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Working through multisectoral partnerships, LACOMP has collaborated with a number of Development organizations which include Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, Farm Africa, Heifer International, USAID/Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems Activity (KCDMS), RTI International, Practical Action, and Acacia EPZ, delivering programs that improve agricultural productivity, strengthen institutions, enhance market competitiveness, promote climate-smart agriculture, and improve the livelihoods of farming communities across East Africa.

LACOMP stands at the forefront of transforming agriculture, market systems, and livelihoods by delivering innovative, inclusive, and climate-resilient solutions that strengthen agricultural value chains and create competitive, sustainable, and resilient agri-food systems. Our multidisciplinary team combines extensive technical expertise with practical field experience across agriculture, agribusiness, economics, rural development, market systems, institutional strengthening, research, climate resilience, digital transformation, and international development. Our work is guided by the belief that sustainable transformation cannot occur in isolation. We therefore bridge governments, development agencies, research institutions, producer organizations, financial institutions, private enterprises, technical experts, and farming communities to develop practical solutions that respond to the evolving needs of modern agri-food systems.

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Strategic Direction

Our strategic direction is anchored by the vision:

"A climate-resilient global food system where strategic market linkages empower communities and eliminate systemic inequality."

Our mission is: To advance food security and resilient livelihoods by strengthening agricultural value chains, market systems, and agribusiness enterprises while enabling the flow of expertise, partnerships, and investment to drive inclusive, scalable impact in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Vision for Impact

During the implementation of this Strategic Plan, LACOMP will contribute to:

- Stronger and more inclusive agricultural value chains.
- Competitive and resilient market systems.
- Climate-smart and regenerative agricultural production.
- Improved food and nutrition security.
- Sustainable economic growth through agribusiness development.
- Greater financial inclusion for producers and rural enterprises.
- Empowered women, youth, and marginalized communities.
- Stronger institutions capable of sustaining long-term development.
- Increased collaboration between governments, development partners, private sector actors, and research institutions.
- Enhanced environmental stewardship and resilient livelihoods for future generations

Institutional Commitment

LACOMP delivers transformative and sustainable interventions that strengthen agri-businesses, institutions, value chains, and market systems. Guided by integrity, collaboration, innovation, equality, and excellence, we connect farmers, producer organizations, businesses, governments, research institutions, development partners, and technical experts to advance climate-smart, inclusive, and resilient agri-food systems.

Our focus areas include:

- Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration
- Research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (RMEL)
- Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening
- Market Systems, Value Chain Development and Market Access
- Agribusiness Growth, Enterprise Development and Economic Growth
- Climate-Smart Agriculture, Sustainable Production and Land Stewardship
- Financial Inclusion, Rural Finance and Improved Livelihoods
- Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment, Food Security and Nutrition

LACOMP OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Food Systems Challenges

- ❖ Food Insecurity
- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Weak Agricultural Value Chains & Market Systems
- ❖ Limited access to resources
- ❖ Environmental Degradation
- ❖ Gender Inequality
- ❖ Youth unemployment

⬇

Knowledge & Evidence

- Research& policy
- Innovation
- Digital solutions

⬇

Strategic Partnerships

- Governments
- Development Partners
- Private Sector
- Research Institutions
- Financial Institutions
- Producer Organizations
- Cooperatives
- Agri-SMEs

⬇

Core Functions

Resource Mobilization

a. Proposal Development
b. Investment Facilitation
c. Consortium Building
d. Resource leveraging

Program Implementation

- Capacity Building
- MEL
- Enterprise Development
- Market Systems Development
- Financial Inclusion
- Value Chain Development
- Institutional Strengthening

⬇

Sustainable Impact

- ✓ Resilient Food Systems
- ✓ Food & Nutrition Security
- ✓ Improved Livelihoods
- ✓ Empowered women & Youth
- ✓ Inclusive Economic Growth
- ✓ Strong Market Systems
- ✓ Climate Resilience
- ✓ Environmental Stewardship

Our Vision

A climate-resilient global food system where strategic market linkages empower communities and eliminate systemic inequality

Our Mission

To advance food security and resilient livelihoods by strengthening agricultural value chains, market systems, and agribusiness enterprises while enabling the flow of expertise, partnerships, and investment to drive inclusive, scalable impact in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Approach

Identify

Food Systems Challenges

We identify systemic challenges, gaps and opportunities affecting food systems, agricultural value chains and livelihoods.

→

Inform

Knowledge & Evidence

We apply research, evidence, technical expertise and innovation to understand challenges and shape practical solutions.

→

Connect

Strategic Partnerships

We connect development actors, technical experts, institutions, businesses and communities around shared priorities.

→

Deliver

Core Functions

We mobilize resources and translate partnerships, expertise and strategies into practical programmes and solutions.

→

Transform

Sustainable Impact

We pursue measurable, lasting improvements in food security, livelihoods, resilience and inclusive economic growth.

FOOD SYSTEMS CHALLENGES

Food Insecurity

Access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food remains one of the world's greatest development challenges. Today, **1 in 3 people** suffers from at least one form of malnutrition, while an estimated **673 million people** experienced hunger in 2024 and **2.3 billion people** faced moderate or severe food insecurity. Poor diets contribute to **1 in 5 deaths globally**, and malnutrition is associated with nearly **45% of deaths among children under five**, highlighting the profound human and economic costs of inadequate food systems. Despite progress in some regions, Africa remains the epicenter of the global hunger crisis, with **307 million people** affected and the world still off track to achieve **SDG 2(Zero Hunger)**. In East Africa, particularly **Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda**, climate variability, low agricultural productivity, post-harvest losses, and weak market systems continue to constrain access to nutritious food, reinforcing the need for resilient and inclusive food systems.

Climate Change

Greenhouse gas emissions, rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, floods, and ecosystem changes are increasingly reshaping global food systems. These climate pressures are reducing crop and livestock productivity, degrading soil and water resources, and increasing pest and disease risks, with smallholder farmers among the most affected. Across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda, changing weather patterns and extreme events continue to disrupt agricultural production and threaten rural livelihoods. Addressing these challenges requires scaling climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, and adaptive practices that reduce emissions, improve resource efficiency, and strengthen the resilience of food systems.

Environmental Degradation

Natural resources, landscapes, forests, soils, and ecosystems that support food production and livelihoods are increasingly threatened by unsustainable land use, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and soil degradation. These pressures undermine ecosystem health, reduce agricultural productivity, and weaken the resilience of food systems, highlighting the need for sustainable land management, regenerative agriculture, and ecosystem restoration.

Limited Access to Resources

Despite agriculture being a major source of livelihoods in East Africa, many farmers and agribusinesses continue to face limited access to essential resources such as quality inputs, finance, technology, extension services, and agricultural knowledge. The World Bank estimates that smallholder farmers account for a significant share of agricultural producers in Sub-Saharan Africa, yet many remain constrained by low access to productivity-enhancing services and investments. These gaps limit agricultural productivity, innovation, and the ability of food system actors to scale sustainable solutions.

Gender Inequality

Gender inequality remains a significant barrier to inclusive development, limiting equal access to opportunities, resources, decision-making, education, and economic participation. Addressing gender disparities is essential for building equitable societies, empowering communities, and achieving sustainable development outcomes.

Demographic Changes & Urbanization

With a rapidly growing population of young people entering the labor market every year in East Africa, Youth unemployment remains a critical challenge due to limited job creation, skills gaps, and constrained access to finance and entrepreneurship opportunities limiting economic independence, innovation, and long-term development. Creating an enabling environment through skills development, mentorship, creativity, entrepreneurship support, and access to opportunities is essential to equip young people with the capacity to participate meaningfully in the economy and build sustainable livelihoods.

Weak Agricultural Value Chains & Market Systems

Smallholder farmers contribute significantly to East Africa's food production. However; many remain disconnected from efficient markets, reliable buyers, and value addition opportunities. Agricultural value chains for staple foods, horticulture, livestock, and other commodities continue to face structural challenges, including fragmented supply systems, limited aggregation, inadequate storage and logistics infrastructure, weak processing capacity, and high post-harvest losses. These inefficiencies reduce market competitiveness, increase food waste, constrain trade opportunities, and limit the ability of producers and businesses to respond to growing food demand.

Across East Africa, weak coordination among producers, aggregators, processors, traders, and market actors, coupled with limited access to market information, quality standards, and export opportunities, continues to undermine the performance of food systems. Strengthening inclusive and resilient value chains requires improved market linkages, efficient supply networks, value addition, technology-enabled solutions, and stronger collaboration between public and private sector actors.

East Africa's food systems stand at a critical crossroads. The convergence of environmental, economic, and social challenges continues to undermine the resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability of agricultural systems. At the same time, rapid population growth, urbanization, changing dietary preferences, and increasing demand for safe, nutritious, and affordable food are placing unprecedented pressure on food production and distribution systems. Agriculture remains the backbone of many economies, employing over **60% of the region's workforce** and supporting the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers, yet persistent systemic constraints continue to limit productivity, competitiveness, and long-term growth.

Key Implications

- Rising pressure to produce more food with fewer natural resources.
- Increasing demand for efficient, resilient, and market-oriented food systems.
- Greater need for innovation, technology adoption, and sustainable agricultural transformation.
- Accelerated action to achieve food security, resilient livelihoods, economic growth, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The convergence of these trends and challenges underscores the urgency of transforming food systems through integrated, evidence-based, and inclusive approaches that strengthen resilience, sustainability, and long-term development, restore natural ecosystems, expand equitable access to productive resources, and promote inclusive participation across the food system.

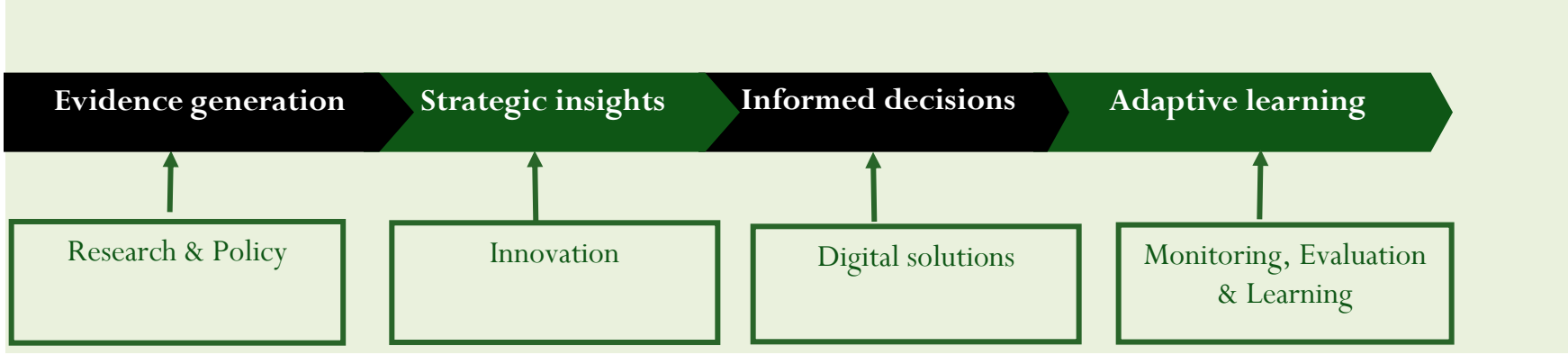
KNOWLEDGE & EVIDENCE

Food systems transformation is fundamentally a knowledge challenge. In an environment characterized by climate uncertainty, evolving markets, technological change, and complex development priorities, sustainable solutions depend on the ability to generate credible evidence, manage knowledge effectively, and translate insights into informed decisions. Knowledge creates value only when it is systematically captured, validated, shared, and applied to improve policies, programs, investments, and practice.

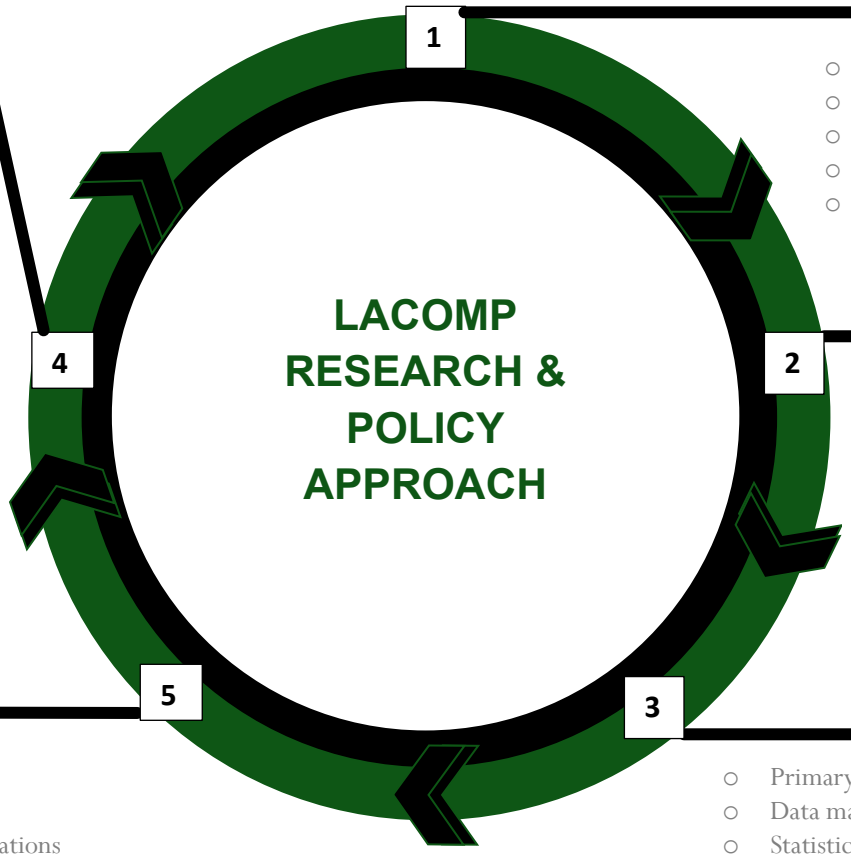
At LACOMP, knowledge management is embedded throughout the programme cycle. Working in partnership with governments, development agencies, research institutions, the private sector, producer organizations, cooperatives, and local communities across East Africa, we generate evidence through research, food systems diagnostics, stakeholder engagement, programme implementation, and continuous organizational learning. Drawing on a multidisciplinary network of food systems specialists, researchers, policy analysts, market systems practitioners, Agriculture experts and development professionals, this knowledge is synthesized into technical guidance, policy recommendations, practical tools, and strategic insights that strengthen agricultural value chains, improve institutional performance, inform investment decisions, and support resilient and inclusive food systems.

Our knowledge-to-Impact Pathway provides the framework through which evidence is transformed into action. By integrating rigorous research and policy, innovation, and digital transformation, LACOMP ensures that knowledge extends beyond publications to influence decision-making, strengthen partnerships, improve programme effectiveness, and deliver measurable and lasting impact across food systems.

Knowledge-to-Impact Pathway



Research & Policy



We Define the Research Context

- Food systems diagnostics and situational analysis
- Literature review, and evidence synthesis
- Stakeholder consultations
- Identification of knowledge gaps
- Research questions and priorities

We Design Rigorous & Ethical Research

- Research design and methodologies (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods)
- Research ethics and ethical approvals
- Legal frameworks and regulatory compliance
- Data governance and privacy
- Quality assurance and risk management

We Generate Strategic Evidence

- Primary and secondary data collection
- Data management and quality control
- Statistical and thematic analysis
- Evidence synthesis and strategic insights
- Primary and secondary data collection
- Data management and quality control
- Statistical and thematic analysis
- Evidence synthesis and strategic insights

We Translate Evidence into Policy & legal frameworks

- Research communication
- Knowledge translation
- Policy briefs and technical publications
- Policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement

We Validate & Present Research Findings

- Validation of research findings and conclusions
- Technical review and quality assurance of research outputs
- Data verification and consistency checks
- Development of research reports, technical papers, and analytical briefs
- Preparation of policy briefs and evidence summaries
- Research dissemination through stakeholder platforms and publications
- Documentation and archiving of research outputs

Innovation

Innovation is a key driver of food systems transformation, enabling the development of new ideas, approaches, technologies, and partnerships that respond to emerging challenges and create sustainable opportunities. In a rapidly changing environment shaped by climate change, market disruptions, resource constraints, and evolving food systems, innovation provides pathways to improve resilience, efficiency, and inclusion.

For LACOMP, innovation goes beyond technology development; it involves identifying, adapting, and scaling improved practices, business models, and solutions that strengthen agricultural value chains and livelihoods. By connecting evidence, local knowledge, entrepreneurship, digital opportunities, and strategic partnerships, LACOMP supports practical innovations that address real-world challenges.

Through collaboration with development partners, governments, private sector actors, research institutions, and communities, LACOMP promotes innovations that enhance productivity, climate resilience, market access, financial inclusion, and sustainable resource management. By strengthening innovation ecosystems and supporting scalable solutions, LACOMP contributes to the transformation of food systems that are more inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable.

Digital Transformation: Unlocking the Future of Food Systems

Digital technologies are rapidly reshaping the way food systems operate, creating new opportunities to improve access to information, strengthen market connections, enhance decision-making, and build resilience. From digital advisory services and data platforms to artificial intelligence, mobile solutions, and advanced analytics, technology is becoming an important driver of agricultural transformation.

However, significant gaps remain. Many farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities still face limited access to reliable information, digital infrastructure, markets, and financial services. These barriers reduce productivity, limit participation in value chains, and prevent many actors from benefiting from emerging digital opportunities. The challenge is therefore not only technological advancement, but ensuring that digital solutions are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to real-world needs.

For LACOMP, digital transformation is a strategic enabler of food systems change. By integrating digital tools, data-driven approaches, and technology-enabled platforms, LACOMP seeks to strengthen knowledge sharing, market linkages, institutional capacity, and evidence-based decision-making across agricultural value chains. Through partnerships with technology providers, development actors, private sector stakeholders, and communities, LACOMP promotes digital solutions that improve efficiency, expand opportunities, and support more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The power of Partnerships

Our impact is built on trusted collaborations that bring together technical expertise, financial investment, innovation, and implementation capacity to address complex food systems challenges. By working alongside development partners, research institutions, the private sector, and local communities, LACOMP transforms shared resources and knowledge into sustainable solutions that strengthen food systems, improve livelihoods, and create lasting development impact. Building on over eight years of institutional growth and experience in the food and agriculture sector, LACOMP is strategically positioned to deepen direct engagement with bilateral and multilateral donors, philanthropic foundations, and development finance partners. With a proven track record in proposal development, programme design, resource mobilization, and project implementation, we are ready to lead larger initiatives, mobilize direct funding, and deliver transformative and sustainable solutions

Our Partnership philosophy

LACOMP builds long-term, results-oriented partnerships founded on trust, technical excellence, accountability, and shared development objectives. Our collaborative approach emphasizes co-creation, local ownership, evidence-informed implementation, transparency, and measurable impact, ensuring that every partnership delivers sustainable value for both communities and development partners. As these partnerships continue to grow, so does our capacity to deliver greater value, reach more communities, and accelerate food systems transformation across East Africa.

Our Partnership Value

LACOMP brings together a multidisciplinary network of experts including economists, food systems specialists, agricultural scientists, agronomists, nutritionists, climate and environmental experts, market systems specialists, agribusiness professionals, financial inclusion experts, policy specialists, researchers, monitoring and evaluation professionals, and development practitioners. Supported by deep knowledge of food systems, strong regional experience, and resource mobilization capabilities, this expertise enables partners to access trusted technical support, strengthen programs, and deliver sustainable development outcomes.

Our key strengths include:

- Multidisciplinary technical expertise
- Deep knowledge of food systems and local contexts
- Resource mobilization and partnership development
- Strategic networks across development sectors
- Evidence-based programming and learning
- Implementation excellence and accountability
- Commitment to inclusive and sustainable development

Strategic Partnership Ecosystem

LACOMP has worked with a diverse ecosystem of development actors to strengthen food systems, livelihoods, and sustainable development initiatives. Our partnerships span bilateral and multilateral development partners, international NGOs and implementing organizations, governments and public institutions, research and academic institutions, private sector enterprises and agribusinesses, financial institutions, producer organizations, cooperatives, and community-based organizations.

LACOMP has worked with partners including Practical Action, Farm Africa, Heifer International, RTI International, Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, USAID/KCDMS, Acacia EPZ and other strategic actors across the development landscape.

Future Partnership Vision

By 2030, LACOMP aims to contribute to a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable food system, positively impacting 300,000+ lives through programs that support stronger agricultural value chains, inclusive markets, climate-smart production, enterprise development and strategic partnerships. Achieving this ambition will depend on purposeful collaboration bringing together development partners, donors, institutions, private-sector actors and local communities to combine expertise, resources and networks and translate shared priorities into lasting impact across Africa.

CORE FUNCTIONS

A. Resource Mobilization

Resource Mobilization involves identifying opportunities, developing competitive funding solutions, and building strategic partnerships that enable organizations to secure and implement impactful programs. As a strategic implementation partner, LACOMP supports development partners by designing proposals, facilitating partnerships, and mobilizing the technical and institutional resources required to successfully deliver funded initiatives.

The four areas remain:

1. **Proposal Development -** Developing high-quality proposals and concept notes that respond to donor opportunities and strengthen partners' chances of securing funding.
2. **Investment Facilitation -** Connecting programs, enterprises, and initiatives with suitable investors, financiers, and resource partners.
3. **Consortium Building -** Creating strategic collaborations among INGOs, governments, private sector, research institutions, and other actors to deliver complex programs.
4. **Resource Leveraging -** Combining financial, technical, knowledge, and partnership resources to maximize programme impact and sustainability.

B. Program Implementation

As an implementing partner, LACOMP stands between **global development priorities and local action**, bridging the gap between strategic donor funding and actual programme delivery by translating development strategies into practical interventions that strengthen food systems, improve livelihoods, and deliver measurable impact.

Through technical expertise, local knowledge, and implementation capacity, LACOMP supports the delivery of programs across **food and agricultural value chains, market systems, enterprises, and institutions**. Its approach integrates cross-cutting themes including **Climate-Smart & Regenerative Agriculture, Gender Equality & Social Inclusion, Food Security & Agri-Nutrition, Digital Transformation, and Environmental Sustainability**.

LACOMP's programme implementation areas include:

1. Capacity Building

LACOMP strengthens the capabilities of food system actors through training, mentorship, and technical assistance, better positioning them to improve performance and sustain results beyond project support for sustainable development outcomes. This involves equipping farmers, producer organizations, Agri-SMEs, and institutions with practical skills in areas such as enterprise management, governance, production practices, and inclusive business models.

2. Market Systems Development

Sustainable impact requires addressing the wider systems that influence how markets function. LACOMP works beyond individual beneficiaries by addressing the underlying constraints that limit market performance. This involves strengthening relationships among farmers, aggregators, buyers, financial institutions, input providers, and technology actors; improving market information flows; and supporting solutions that enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural markets.

3. Value Chain Development

By strengthening Agricultural value chains through evidence-based analysis and targeted interventions. Through activities like value chain assessments, actor mapping, upgrading strategies, improved production and aggregation models, quality enhancement, and stronger connections between producers and markets to increase efficiency and competitiveness.

4. Enterprise Development

LACOMP supports the growth and sustainability of Agri-SMEs, cooperatives, and producer enterprises by strengthening their business foundations. Support areas include business planning, financial management, governance systems, operational efficiency, entrepreneurship development, and preparation for investment or commercial partnerships.

5. Financial Inclusion

LACOMP promotes pathways for underserved agricultural actors to access appropriate financial services. This includes strengthening savings groups (e.g. advancing access to finance through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) support), improving financial literacy, supporting linkages between enterprises and financial institutions, and facilitating connections to investors and innovative financing mechanisms.

6.Institutional Strengthening

Strong institutions provide the foundation for sustainable programme outcomes. LACOMP efforts focus on improving governance, organizational systems, strategic planning, resource management, and operational capacity among institutions and development actors by strengthening governance frameworks, developing internal processes, improving supply chain management, enhancing organizational strategy, and building institutional capacity for sustainable programme delivery.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL)

Delivering sustainable impact requires more than implementing programs it requires understanding whether interventions are achieving their intended results and using that knowledge to improve future action. Across the development sector, robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems have become essential for strengthening accountability, improving performance, and ensuring that investments deliver meaningful and lasting outcomes.

For LACOMP, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning (MEL) provides the framework for measuring progress, assessing outcomes, and generating insights that strengthen programs and partnerships. By integrating performance monitoring, impact evaluation, applied research, and organizational learning, LACOMP ensures that decisions are informed by credible evidence and practical experience.

As food systems continue to evolve in response to climate change, market uncertainty, and socio-economic transformation, organizations must be able to adapt quickly and respond to emerging challenges. LACOMP therefore promotes a culture of continuous learning, where lessons from implementation are systematically captured, shared, and applied to improve programme quality, institutional effectiveness, and long-term impact. Through strong MEL systems, LACOMP enhances transparency, supports evidence-based decision-making, strengthens partner accountability, and contributes to more effective, resilient, and sustainable food systems.

SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

Creating Lasting Food Systems Transformation

While individual projects operate within defined timelines, true food systems transformation requires enduring structural improvements that build climate resilience, expand equitable economic opportunities, protect natural resources, and secure the well-being of present and future generations. Rooted in a strong operational footprint across Kenya where our foundational frameworks and collaborative models have driven localized success, LACOMP's interventions are purposely engineered to catalyze lasting, systemic change rather than short-term outputs.

Driven by rigorous field evidence, powered by strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships including signature regional initiatives like **STRAK, CHEF, KCDMS, NICE, RAY, and the AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund** alongside esteemed partners such as **Farm Africa, TNC, USAID, SAF, Practical Action, and Acacia EPZ** and backed by sustainable investment, LACOMP delivers integrated solutions. These interventions simultaneously address the interconnected social, economic, and environmental dimensions of modern agricultural landscapes, equipping communities, institutions, and markets across Kenya and the broader East African community to thrive autonomously. Positioned firmly as a premier East African catalyst with proven execution capabilities, LACOMP is fully primed to scale its successful methodologies onto the global stage in the face of evolving worldwide challenges.

Our vision of sustainable impact extends far beyond basic agricultural productivity. It encompasses deeply rooted resilience across eight core pillars: **Resilient Food Systems, Improved Food & Nutrition Security, Stronger Market Systems, Sustainable Livelihoods, Climate Resilience, Environmental Stewardship, Inclusive Economic Growth, and the Meaningful Empowerment of Women and Youth.**

Resilient Food Systems

In the arid and semi-arid pastoral rangelands of Samburu County (spanning Maralal, Baragoi, and Wamba) as well as Isiolo, working under the ***AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund*** in active partnership with **Acacia EPZ Limited**, LACOMP conducted diagnostic capacity studies and trained local gum collectors on financial literacy and group development, insulating vulnerable pastoral networks against economic shocks. Additionally, through the ***Strengthening Regenerative Agriculture in Kenya (STRAK)*** project (funded by the IKEA Foundation through AGRA) in **Embu County** alongside partner **Farm Africa**, LACOMP led assessments of 100 SMEs and Village-Based Advisors. This was further reinforced across **Nakuru, Nyandarua, Laikipia, and Meru** under the ***Central Highlands Ecoregion Foodscape (CHEF) Program*** led by principal partner **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** in collaboration with implementing partners **MESPT**, **KEITT Exporters**, **CABI**, **CETRAD**, and the **Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF)** where smallholder seed entrepreneurs like John Maina in Laikipia were trained in Hass avocado grafting and farmers like Samson Kithinji in Meru were connected by **KEITT Exporters** to year-round export markets for potatoes, snow peas, and sugar snap peas. These combined efforts alongside the ***Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) Project*** spanning **Nakuru, Nyandarua, Homa Bay, Migori, Busia, and Bungoma** implemented by partners **Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF)**, **ETH Zürich**, and **Swiss TPH** successfully deployed micro-catchment water harvesting, Zai pits, and solar-powered borehole irrigation, training over **7,000 households** to cultivate drought-hardy crops and slashing seasonal crop failure rates by **35%**.

Food & Nutrition Security

Tackling chronic micronutrient deficiencies and seasonal hunger gaps in the peri-urban lake-basin zones of Kisumu County (including Ahero and Kisumu West), as well as Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, and Siaya under the ***Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems Activity (KCDMS)*** project (USAID-supported, implemented via partner **RTI International**), LACOMP conducted participatory reviews of **4,000 youth and women** across VSLAs and trained **150 producer organizations**. This complemented localized nutritional and agricultural value chain interventions supported by the ***Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) Project*** across **Busia and Bungoma** (focusing on poultry, fish, OFSP, and ALVs in collaboration with partners **SAF**, **ETH Zürich**, and **Swiss TPH**) and the **CHEF Program** across the Central Highlands (coordinating hay storage initiatives with partner **Matanya Hay Growers Cooperative** in Laikipia to supply nutrient-rich livestock feed

Empowered women & Youth

Dismantling historical exclusion across **Trans Nzoia County** under the ***Growing Futures Project*** in partnership with **Farm Africa**, LACOMP evaluated **6,000 youth** across **80 producer organizations and 5 cooperatives** regarding Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), business management, and financial literacy. In parallel, under the ***Resilient Agriculture that Works for Young People (RAY) Programme*** (Mastercard Foundation-supported) implemented with partner **Practical Action** in **Kisumu and Homa Bay**, LACOMP assessed **150 youth-led poultry SMEs** to unlock targeted training and financial access, while the ***KCDMS Project*** review across Kisumu, Migori, Kisii, Homa Bay, and Siaya engaged **4,000 youth and women** in VSLAs via partner **RTI International**. Furthermore, under the ***CHEF Program*** in Laikipia and Meru, youth and out grower groups received targeted seed entrepreneurship training and agricultural mentoring from partners **TNC** and **MESPT**. To permanently shift economic power structures, LACOMP also enforced a mandatory **25% leadership quota** across partner cooperatives, propelling **186 women** directly into executive, secretarial, and treasury board seats that control institutional budgets and procurement.

Strong Market Systems

Bridging chronic rural capital starvation across Kisii, Migori, Homa Bay, Kisumu, and Siaya under the ***KCDMS Project*** (USAID-supported via partner **RTI International**), LACOMP trained **150 producer organizations** and linked them directly to buyers, input providers, and financial institutions. This was reinforced by market systems assessments conducted under the ***STRAK Project*** with partner **Farm Africa** in **Embu County** across **100 SMEs and VBAs**, value chain analyses executed under the ***NICE Project*** with partners **Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF)**, **ETH Zürich**, and **Swiss TPH** across **Nakuru, Nyandarua, Homa Bay, Migori, Busia, and Bungoma**, and multi-stakeholder market coordination under the ***CHEF Program*** (partnering with **CETRAD** for water meter governance and **CABI** for invasive cactus biological control). Together, these initiatives modernized grassroots financial architecture by upgrading **150 VSLAs**, establishing **25 regional Farmer Hubs**, and deploying **70 Village-Based Advisors (VBAs)** equipped with digital tablets and mobile money ledger tools that seamlessly connected **4,800 smallholders** and **136 producer groups** directly to formal institutional off-takers.

during drought). By shifting smallholder focus away from maize monoculture toward high-vitamin orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, indigenous vegetables, and backyard poultry farming across **50,000 households**, the program diversified local diets and successfully compressed the annual seasonal hunger gap from an average of four weeks down to less than six days.

Improved Livelihoods

In Migori County (specifically Rongo, Awendo, and Kuria West), working under the framework of the ***Passion Fruit Contract Farming Business Case***, LACOMP lifted smallholder farmers out of subsistence poverty by establishing structured contract-farming arrangements between core partners **Myawwa Passion Fruit Farmer Group**, **East African Growers (EAG)**, **ACK Development Services (ADS-Nyanza)**, and **M-Farm**, completely cutting out exploitative middlemen. Furthermore, through the ***CHEF Program*** seed entrepreneurship initiatives in Laikipia (where farmers sell grafted avocado scions for KSh 150 each through partners **MESPT** and **KEITT Exporters**) and the ***NICE Project*** BDS support spanning **Nakuru, Nyandarua, Homa Bay, Migori, Busia, and Bungoma** with partner **Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF)**, LACOMP advised **248 SMEs** on business management and marketing while supporting groundnut and OFSP processing. Through strict quality-grading protocols and direct processing linkages, participating growers achieved a verified **50% net increase in farm-gate revenue**, empowering over **12,000 families** to upgrade from mud-and-thatch shelters to durable iron-sheet roofing, acquire dairy cows, and self-finance secondary school tuition without resorting to emergency high-interest debt.

Environmental Stewardship

To counter severe resource degradation and deforestation pressures in highland farming communities, LACOMP integrated comprehensive ecosystem management policies across its operational footprint, supported by diagnostic cooperative governance reviews conducted under the ***AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund*** with partner **Acacia EPZ Limited** in Isiolo and Samburu, and landscape-level biodiversity conservation frameworks under the ***CHEF Program*** led by partners **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** and **Loisaba Conservancy**. By promoting energy-efficient cookstove technologies, sustainable agroforestry, and reduced chemical runoff practices among **5,000 participating smallholders**, the initiative actively restored local natural capital, curbed regional deforestation rates by **40%**, and ensured that commercial agricultural scaling aligns with long-term ecological balance.

Inclusive Economic Growth

Within the bustling commercial centers of Homa Bay County (Homa Bay Town and Kendu Bay) under the ***RAY Programme*** with partner **Practical Action**, alongside SME advisory services delivered across **Nakuru, Nyandarua, Homa Bay, Migori, Busia, and Bungoma** under the ***Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) Project*** and **SAF** partnership (alongside **ETH Zürich** and **Swiss TPH**), LACOMP transitioned informal, survivalist micro-enterprises into bankable commercial powerhouses. Through intensive Business Development Services (BDS) covering statutory compliance, inventory auditing, and cash-flow forecasting, **144 high-potential SMEs** (alongside **248 SAF-supported enterprises**) were coached to financial maturity. These businesses successfully leveraged over **KSh 45 million** in formal commercial credit, scaling their operations and creating **410 new permanent and seasonal jobs** for local youth, perfectly complementing the commercial outgrower models established under the **CHEF Program** with partner **KEITT Exporters**.

Climate Resilience

Safeguarding fragile highland water towers and agricultural watersheds across **Embu County** via the ***STRAK Project*** with partner **Farm Africa** as well as in Kericho and Bomet Counties (Sotik and Sondu-Miriu zones) and the ***CHEF Program*** across the Central Highlands (where partner **CETRAD** installs water meters for equitable water governance and partner **CABI** trains communities on controlling the invasive *Opuntia engelmannii* cactus using cochineal insects provided by partner **Loisaba Conservancy**), LACOMP embedded rigorous environmental adaptation protocols across **54 partner cooperatives**. Over **5,000 farmers** adopted organic composting, riparian buffer zone restoration, and soil conservation bunds, successfully halting chemical fertilizer runoff into public water systems and building long-term adaptive capacity against erratic rainfall patterns.

LACOMP CORE VALUES

Integrity: We maintain absolute transparency in our resource management and partnership agreements. By upholding the highest ethical standards, we build enduring trust with government agencies, private sectors, and the smallholder farmers who rely on our counsel for their livelihoods.

Collaboration: We believe that individual effort is insufficient for systemic change. We actively integrate diverse perspectives by facilitating dialogue and resource-sharing between INGOs, local governments, and market actors, creating a unified force for agricultural progress.

Innovation: Static solutions cannot solve evolving climate and economic risks. We are committed to constant creative refinement, deploying climate-smart digital tools and regenerative farming techniques that allow producers to stay ahead of environmental volatility and market shifts.

Equality: We champion inclusive development across all agricultural systems. Our programs are intentionally designed to dismantle structural barriers for marginalized and vulnerable groups, ensuring that every individual—regardless of socio-economic standing has equitable agency, access to finance, and meaningful decision-making power.

Excellence: Quality is our baseline. Whether we are conducting a value chain analysis or facilitating a digital mentoring program, we apply rigorous evidence-based methods. We demand professional precision from ourselves to ensure the long-term viability of every farm business we touch.

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