

CABI Strategy – Annual Indicator Report

2025 progress

CABI's Strategy portfolio demonstrated significant achievements in 2025, with 29 active projects reporting numbers, up from 23 projects in 2024. Of the 25 targets, 19 were successfully met or exceeded, three reached over 80% attainment, and three were missed. The three unmet targets resulted primarily from gaps between initial ambition and available resources or misalignment between project-level and Strategy targets, which will be addressed in future through enhanced staff briefings on Strategy targets and definitions.

The overall performance is particularly noteworthy given that for many indicators the 2025 results showed major increases against 2024 results as well as exceeding the realistic targets set for the year based on expectations from project teams. This signals both a generally improved alignment of project work with Strategy indicators and operational effectiveness.

Progress against the Strategy Goals has been exceptional. **Goal 3 (Rural Women & Youth Opportunity)** demonstrated the most pronounced gains: 2.8 million women and youth now have increased access to agricultural inputs—a 75% increase from 1.6 million in 2024. **Goal 1 (Improved Food Security and Livelihoods)** also advanced, with the number of smallholder farmers reporting higher income increasing to 2.1 million, an 83% increase from 1.2 million in 2024. This signifies that CABI's agricultural interventions, policies, and market linkages are effectively enhancing economic stability, productivity, and livelihoods across farming communities. These achievements were substantially enabled by the **flagship PlantwisePlus programme**, which supported 16 of the 25 strategy indicators, demonstrating the strategic value of consolidated, large-scale initiatives in delivering Strategy outcomes.

2026 Targets

Twenty projects have set targets that contribute to Strategy indicator targets for 2026 (up from 19 in 2025). Project targets for various indicators have been increased ambitiously, particularly for PlantwisePlus, reflecting demonstrated delivery capacity and programme reach from 2025 achievements. In addition, there are nine active projects continuing into 2026, and six further newly secured projects, that have identified Strategy indicators through their project initiation documents. However, targets are yet to be set for these projects. Therefore, we anticipate that at least 35 projects should report against the Strategy targets at the end of 2026.

Abbreviations used in the report

BCI Better Cotton Initiative
PW+ PlantwisePlus
SPS Sanitary and Phytosanitary

Key to the report

Red – not achieved
Yellow – near to achieved (>80% of target)
Green – achieved or exceeded

2023 to 2025 Strategy Reporting

Goal	Indicator	2023 achievement	% of target met	2024 Target	2024 achievement	% of target met	2025 target	2025 achievement	% of target met	Cumulative Target (2023-2025)	Cumulative Progress (2023-2025)	2026 target	Commentary on 2025 status and target changes
Improve the food security and livelihoods of smallholder communities	Number of smallholder farmers with a decrease in food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	81,583	770%	127,000	172,199	136%	100,000	723,281	703%	237,600	977,063	275,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (700%) while the rest also outperformed their targets Target Change: Increased contribution (120%) due to revisions in PW+ target and BCI projects (Sindh and Punjab)
	Number of smallholder farmers with increase in yield per hectare	717,753	323%	503,000	1,350,488	268%	435,000	2,176,759	501%	1,160,000	4,245,000	1,000,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (500%) Target Change: Increase (150%) in contribution due to revisions in PW+ target despite reduced contribution from other projects
	Number of smallholder farmers with an increase in farming income	314,936	164%	381,000	1,177,606	309%	235,000	2,112,370	903%	808,500	3,604,912	1,100,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (1000%) Target Change: PW+ target has increased by 500% alongside increased contribution from BCI projects (Sindh and Punjab)
	Number of governments, regional or international bodies and value chain actors we assist in the development, improvement, capacity strengthening or implementation of SPS regulation, pesticide regulation, and food safety requirements						8	32	400%	8	32	20	Status: Overachievement by 400%. Target Change: Realistic target setting.
Help communities reduce and adapt to climate change impacts on crops and landscapes	Number of smallholder farmers using an increased number of climate-smart response options to adapt to climate hazards	2,790,061	22320%	1,006,000	5,272,839	524%	1,000,000	7,482,453	785%	2,018,500	15,545,353	5,100,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (>800%) Target Change: PW+ targets has increased by 500% after revision
	Number of smallholder farmers with increased adaptive capacity, by sex, age	878,929	878929%	1,336,000	3,432,690	257%	750,000	6,252,565	859%	2,086,100	10,564,184	4,600,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (>880%) Target Change: A six-fold increased in PW+ target after revision
	Number of businesses and organisations supported through technical assistance on climate change adaptation and climate smart agriculture	12	600%	160	266	166%	200	113	63%	362	391	29	Status: An over-estimation from 3 projects (88% of target value) resulted in underachievement. Target Change: A drastic reduction from other projects including BCI ones.
	Number of hectares of land where sustainable land management practices have been applied to improve climate resilience	218,289	55%	341,000	306,405	90%	330,000	343,984	104%	1,071,000	868,678	150,000	Status: Target achieved with PW+ overachievement covering shortfall from another project. Target Change: A reduction in PW+ contribution by 25% and no contribution from any other projects
	Number of land management plans developed, adopted or implemented that build climate resilience	3	43%	19	20	105%	20	21	105%	46	44	22	Status: Targets achieved by all projects. Target Change: An increase (37.5%) in contribution from BCI projects and no contribution from other projects
Reduce inequality through better opportunities for rural women and youth	Number of women and youth who are more empowered	165	330%	376,000	1,480,037	394%	75,000	1,965,521	2724%	451,050	3,445,723	1,800,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (2799%) Target Change: An increase (2300%) in PW+ target after revision
	Number of women and youth who have increased access to and control over farming inputs (land, labour, finance, advice, technologies etc.)	232,978	5824%	390,500	1,642,178	421%	315,000	2,855,726	906%	709,500	4,730,882	1,600,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (>900%) Target Change: An increase (>400%) in PW+ target after revision
	Number of women, youth and men with access to income-generating and employment opportunities in agri-businesses	2,305	85%	108,000	90,970	84%	1,000	904	91%	111,700	94,179	600	Status: Overachievement from PW+ (200%) covered the contribution from another project (50% of the target value) where the indicator was later identified as being out of project scope. Target Change: Reduction in contributing projects leading to reduced target setting despite increase in contribution from PW+ and BCI Projects (Sindh and Punjab)
	Number of women and men farmers adopting gender equitable social norms in agriculture	0	0%	107,000	90,617	85%	44,000	55,217	127%	151,050	145,834	50,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (160%) Target Change: An increase (140%) in contribution from BCI Punjab
	Number of women and youth researchers, scientists and innovators whose work is promoted through CABI platforms, including SciDev.Net	112	112%	100	100	100%	250	346	141%	450	558	200	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to SciDev.net (147%) Target Change: Reduction in SciDev target and low contribution from other projects
Safeguard biodiversity and support sustainable use of natural resources	Number of hectares of land where sustainable land management practices have been applied	794,174	19%	300,000	280,743	94%	335,000	344,408	104%	4,835,000	1,419,325	305,000	Status: Target achieved Target Change: A reduction in PW+ contribution by 25%
	Number of land management plans developed, adopted or implemented that reduce the effects of invasive species; and/or incorporate use of IPM and biological alternatives	8	80%	12	13	108%	20	31	155%	42	52	31	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (550%) Target Change: An increase (250%) in PW+ target after revision
	Number of biocontrol agent introductions shown to have an impact on their target species	26	144%	35	36	103%	37	32	86%	90	94	26	Status: Underachievement from invasives projects across CABI Target Change: A drastic reduction (44%) in contribution from Invasive projects
	Number of unique microbial strains provided from CABI's Culture Collection	45	50%	50	47	94%	50	60	120%	190	152	50	Status: Overachieved
	Number of organisms in CABI's Collection for which potential applications are identified and have been preserved	139	185%	150	336	224%	100	104	104%	325	579	50	Status: Slight overachievement Target Change: Realistic target setting.

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Increase the reach, application and impact of science in agriculture and the environment	Number of stakeholders reached through CABI publishing and knowledge products, learning resources and SciDev.Net coverage	12,273,373	106%	17,000,000	341,359,922	2008%	420,000,000	345,578,696	84%	448,616,000	699,211,991	334,000,000	Status: Underachievement from SciDev.net Target Change: Reduction in targets from SciDev.net and CABI Digital Library
	Number of institutional, local, national or international policies developed, informed and shaped by CABI research, evidence and support, or as a result of SciDev.Net coverage	27	270%	7	9	129%	13	13	100%	30	49		Status: Though 2 contributing projects contributing to 50% of the target were terminated due to USDA funding cuts, the shortfall was covered via overachievement from SciDev.net and contributions from ASCE Malaysia Target Change: Only contribution is from SciDev.net
	Number of stakeholders reached with agricultural advice through training, diverse extension and communication approaches	2,782,206	199%	1,455,000	6,763,985	465%	950,000	8,870,066	930%	3,801,500	18,416,257	6,100,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (976%) Target Change: An increase (567%) in PW+ target after revision besides increased contributions from BCI Projects (Sindh and Punjab)
	Number of smallholder farmers who adopt improved technologies and practices leading to more productive, sustainable and safer agricultural production	1,318,457	218%	1,035,000	3,431,075	332%	750,000	6,254,092	834%	2,390,000	11,003,624	4,600,000	Status: Primary attribution of overachievement due to PW+ (886%) Target Change: An increase (~550%) in PW+ target after revision
	\$ value of investments commissioned by donors under the FAIR principles.	99,033,265	707%	25,000,000	27,080,714	108%	25,000,000	5,000,000	20%	64,000,000	131,113,979	20,000,000	Status: The target was ambitiously set at \$25 million, with expectation that all/ most submissions will be secured however due to administrative changes in the US, the target could not be achieved. Target Change: This 20% reduction (5 million) reflects realistic target setting
	Number of partners, tools or services actively using insights from CABI models							3	2	67%	3	2	