



**CABI**  
in review

24



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 Links to open access materials

Cover image: © CABI.

# 23.2m

farmers reached through the CABI-led  
PlantwisePlus programme in 2024

# 190

staff publications  
published in 2024

# Over 16m

records published on  
CABI Digital Library (cumulative)

© iStockphoto.



# Foreword from the Chair

As we look back on 2024, I am proud to share CABI's accomplishments and progress. The past year has been one of growth, innovation and partnership, reinforcing our commitment to improving people's lives worldwide.

During 2024, geopolitical tensions grew, and resources were diverted away from development assistance. These trends have escalated dramatically in the early months of 2025. Against this backdrop, CABI continued to collaborate with its Member Countries to apply science and evidence to the major global challenges addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have remained strongly focused on facilitating technical co-operation and knowledge exchange between Member Countries. Over the past year, we advanced the implementation of our Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2023-2025. Working in partnership, we made good progress, meeting most of the 2024 targets and seeing significant increases in impact on many individual indicators compared with 2023.

We were delighted to receive an application to join CABI from the Central African Republic, which was approved by a membership vote at the end of 2024. An in-country approval process will now lead to formal accession. Dialogue continues with other potential new members, underscoring the continuing attraction of CABI membership.

CABI's work attracted global attention, with over 1,300 items of online and broadcast media coverage in 2024 and an estimated reach of over 142 million. *SciDev.Net* content was seen or heard 385 million times, with 160 million views of our podcast episodes. *SciDev.Net* also delivered science communication training to 1,445 registrants from 78 countries, including 35 CABI Member Countries.

Turning to operational matters, we finalized an agreement with Imperial College to move our UK Centre to their Silwood Park campus in 2025. This move will give us newly renovated infrastructure embedded within one of the world's top universities and facilitate wider contacts between Imperial College and CABI, to the benefit of Member Countries.

It is always rewarding to witness recognition of our staff for outstanding efforts. In 2024, we were delighted to see CABI scientist Dora Shimbwambwa featured in Bill Gates' Heroes in the Field, which honours individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to international development.

We achieved another year of strong results in our annual staff survey, with an engagement score of 81%. We also made substantial progress in system and infrastructure upgrades. We continued to meet our obligations to our legacy UK pension scheme, submitting an updated recovery plan to the UK pension regulator.

Our Board has continued to evolve with the addition of Leonard Kimutai, appointed as CFO, and Gary Ernest who joins as a Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. In 2025, CABI's Executive Council elected Her Excellency Dr Fatou Bensouda as the Executive Council Chair. She joins the CABI Board as an ex officio member, succeeding His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, whom we thank for his contribution to CABI's governance.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to delivering impact and value for our stakeholders. We extend our sincere gratitude to our Member Countries, partners and staff for their dedication to our mission and success.

**Her Excellency Chileshe Kapwepwe**, Chair



# Foreword from the CEO

As we close another year, I am pleased to share the progress we have made towards our strategic goals in 2024. We have run an expanding portfolio of impact-oriented programmes and projects aligned with our MTS and Member Country needs. We have increased the scope and reach of our knowledge sharing activities. And we have procured a record £75m of further support for future work.

Our flagship global food security programme, PlantwisePlus, went from strength to strength in 2024. Last year saw the programme transition to its scale-out phase, which will operate across at least 27 countries and take the cumulative reach of the programme to around 75 million people. Major funding came from the Netherlands' Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), UK International Development, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the European Commission. Significant new support was separately received from the Netherlands' Embassy to scale PlantwisePlus in Burundi.

Pesticide risk reduction has been a long-standing focus for CABI. We conduct extensive work in this area under PlantwisePlus and other projects, incorporating action at many levels, from work with individual farmers through to national policy and regulation and international co-ordination. Building on this track record, we began work during the year to design an expanded CABI offering in pesticide risk reduction. This will be a major agenda item in our 2025 Regional Consultation meetings with Member Countries. During 2024 we also added to our broader work on Sanitary and Phytosanitary

measures and capacities, notably through the winning of a large EU-funded project in Uganda.

AI was a defining trend of 2024. CABI demonstrated the capabilities of our internally developed AI chatbot (EVA) in projects including PlantwisePlus, the Juno Evidence Alliance and the Gates Foundation-funded Generative AI for Agriculture (GAIA) initiative. These projects enabled us to refine EVA's output quality and expand its applications, resulting in a successful paid pilot engagement with the Warwick Crop Centre. We also established a comprehensive AI governance framework, encompassing a detailed AI Policy and a dedicated AI Permissions Taskforce to ensure responsible AI development and deployment at CABI.

Last year saw CABI expand its effort to provide high-quality evidence to policymakers by advancing initiatives such as the Juno Evidence Alliance and the Global Burden of Crop Loss. Both attracted support from UK International Development and the Gates Foundation. Juno published and contributed to 11 evidence syntheses, spanning subjects from sustainable agriculture to One Health.

CABI Digital Library, our platform for knowledge and information products, achieved a record-breaking 58 million page views and 20 million unique users, up 48% and 85%, respectively, over 2023. 22 million page views came from 47 CABI Member Countries. We published 78 new books, the most ever, and acquired an aquaculture book list from 5m Publishing. We launched the Aquaculture & Fisheries Collection, covering subjects from diseases and culture techniques to aquatic food security and fisheries management. 2024 also saw the launch of

our four new, commodity-specific channels on the CABI Compendium (coffee, cotton, maize and rice). We increased the number of CABI Cases products to eight and introduced seven new courses on the CABI Academy, our digital learning resource. Learners from 30 Member Countries were awarded over 3,600 certificates.

We published 86 open-access journal articles from 19 Member Countries in CABI journals. We signed a contract with the International Society for Horticultural Science to publish the European Journal of Horticultural Science. Our strong output of original research continued, with 190 publications across relevant scientific and social scientific disciplines.

Reflecting the continued expansion of CABI's international development and knowledge sharing activities, our revenues rose modestly in 2024. We made significant investments to expand our projects, services and product range, and to improve our efficiency as an organization. Nevertheless, we recorded a small surplus for the year.

Looking ahead, key priorities for 2025 are to deliver on the third-year targets for our MTS and on individual Country Action Plans. We will engage extensively with Member Countries, especially through the planned series of Regional Consultation Meetings. At these we will explore how we can work even more closely with Members, seek a mandate to refresh our MTS and extend it to 2028, and work with countries to develop concrete plans in the area of pesticide risk reduction.

**Dr Daniel Elger**, CEO



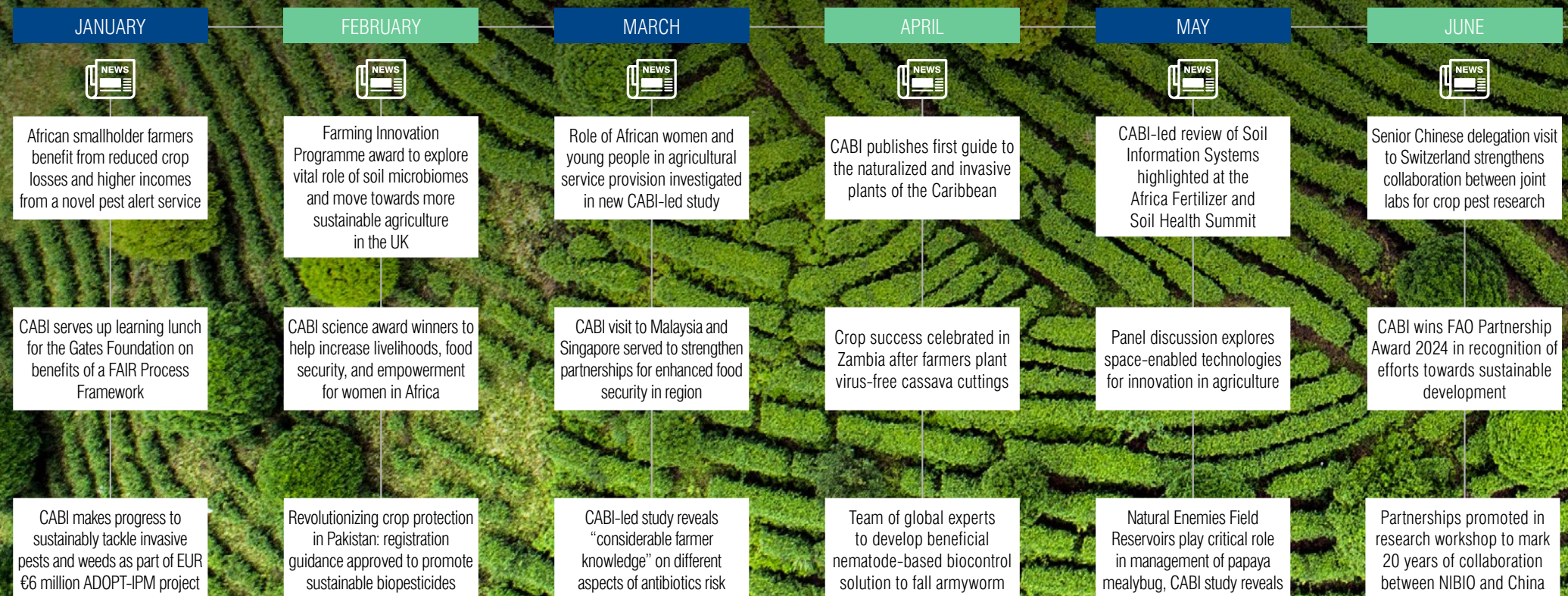


Daniel Elger. © Fergus Burnett for CABI.



# 2024 NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

addressing global challenges





JULY



CABI awarded £1.25 million capital grant from the Wolfson Foundation towards relocation of its UK research facilities

Most climate-vulnerable countries with highest hunger rates significantly under-represented in agrifood research

CABI and partners step up fight against devastating papaya mealybug on more farms in Kenya

AUGUST



CABI-led research recommends public-private partnership approach to open access to high-quality niche markets

CABI supports the Plant Health Strategy and the Implementation Plan for Africa 2022-2036

CABI and IICA sign formal agreement to collaborate more on sustainable agricultural development

SEPTEMBER



Pesticide residue concerns highlighted by fruit and vegetable consumers in five countries, new study reveals

CABI launches framework for sustainable national soil information systems at Africa Food Systems Forum

CABI's expertise in sustainable pest management highlighted at 9th International Agriculture Congress

OCTOBER



CABI acquires aquaculture books list from 5m Books

Inaugural Africa Plant Health Systems Forum highlights strength of partnerships for sustainable food security

Biological control generates 'desirable outcomes' within all One Health dimensions, new CABI-led research reveals

NOVEMBER



CABI highlights support for just and inclusive transition to sustainable food systems at COP29

Biodiversity event celebrates 75 years of partnership between CABI and Canada for biological control research

Meet CABI's fall armyworm researcher Dora Shimbwambwa, one of Bill Gates's 'Heroes in the Field'

DECEMBER



CABI attends presidential round table to highlight help for Burundi's smallholder farmers to increase food security

Sustainable land management practice successfully 'uproots' invasive *Prosopis juliflora* in East Africa

Scientists 'turn up the heat' on understanding coffee wilt disease which threatens our favourite daily brew



# Working in partnership to solve problems worldwide

Answers are found when individuals and organizations, countries and regions, work together to solve problems and build sustainable solutions. We are dedicated to collaborating in the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Engagement with our Member Countries took many forms last year, from bilateral interactions and leadership visits to participation in global events. Throughout the year, CABI joined key international and regional meetings relevant to our mission. Notably, these included the climate and biodiversity COP meetings, the World One Health Congress and the Africa Food Systems Forum. Together with the International Organisation for Biological Control, the

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and national partners, we also organized the third International Congress of Biological Control in Costa Rica. In addition, CABI convened the first Africa Plant Health Systems Forum featuring attendance from key partners.

Multi-level, multi-stakeholder approaches are critical to our mission. In 2024, our collaboration with partners in the UK-CGIAR Centre continued to form an important part of our work. We worked with global, national and local partners to further the development of our Landscapes Initiative, which applies the highly participatory approach of integrated landscape management (ILM).

A highlight of the year, we were delighted to be recognized with the FAO Partnership Award for effective collaborations that contribute to sustainable development around the world. We were also excited to win a Silver Data and Marketing Association Award in the sustainability category for our Ukulima True campaign in Kenya promoting pesticide risk reduction.

Towards the end of 2024, we started to prepare for the three Regional Consultation Meetings of Member Countries taking place in 2025. We thank Member Countries for their continuing partnership and financial support. We will continue to forge new relations and strengthen existing collaborations with organizations working on aligned goals.



Benoit Gnonlonfin, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), Global Program Lead, CABI, speaking at the Africa Food System Forum in Rwanda in September 2024. © AFSF.









OUR STORIES



# PlantwisePlus – delivering smart solutions for sustainable farming

In 2024, PlantwisePlus made strides to strengthen plant health systems in 27 countries. The programme directly reached 4.3 million smallholder farmers with plant health advice, increasing yields for 1.3 million and incomes for 1.1 million. With over 870 new plant doctors trained in 11 countries, and the PlantwisePlus Knowledge Bank attracting a record 1.8 million visits, the programme delivered impact at scale. Over 1,100 agri-service providers also received training in business and technical skills. Most were under 35 years old and 445 were women.

The programme developed pest response plans for six countries, incorporating climate and gender-responsive approaches. Pest risk assessments were broadened, with pest risk registers established in five countries. Horizon scanning and pest risk analysis in PlantwisePlus countries have resulted in actionable national plans. Pest Risk Information Service (PRISE) alerts, reaching over 900,000 farmers in Kenya alone, led to decreased pesticide use and increased yields and incomes. Moreover, PlantwisePlus addressed gender disparities in pest management, reaching thousands of women farmers.

Noteworthy biocontrol successes included management of papaya mealybug in Kenya and Uganda, significantly reducing pesticide use. Biocontrol mass-rearing facilities in Pakistan are

also now transitioning from external to local support, embedding sustainability in national systems.

In Uganda, over 600 agro-input dealers were trained in pesticide risk reduction, with surveys showing evidence of behavioural change. The award-winning Ukulima True campaign in Kenya was scaled, encouraging sustainable pest management. Both countries established youth and women-led agri-businesses. Pakistan endorsed gender-sensitive advisory approaches, empowering local communities. The programme also played a key role in supporting the development of Kenya's National Pesticide Residue Monitoring Programme, focusing on export value chains.

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Global

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European Commission Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA)

UK International Development from the UK government  
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We gratefully acknowledge the support of our national and international partners who make the global implementation of PlantwisePlus possible

With over 870 new plant doctors trained in 11 countries, and the PlantwisePlus Knowledge Bank attracting a record 1.8 million visits, PlantwisePlus is delivering impact at scale. © CABI.







# Reducing pesticide risks: Advancing safer and sustainable farming practices

Agriculture forms the backbone of many national economies, supporting the livelihoods of millions. However, global challenges, including climate change, are accelerating the spread of crop pests and diseases. Increasingly, they drive smallholder farmers to rely on pesticides.

Smallholder farmers use pesticides to avoid severe pest damage, which can lead to devastating crop losses, sometimes wiping out entire livelihoods. In their effort to manage these risks, misuse of pesticides can occur. This endangers consumers, the environment, and even the users themselves. Sustainable and nature-based solutions can offer a safer path forward.

## Reducing the risks posed by pesticides

Across Africa and Asia, CABI is working with partners to reduce pesticide risks and support the introduction of lower-risk plant protection products such as biopesticides.

The CABI-led PlantwisePlus programme is committed to this goal. In **Uganda**, the programme is working closely with government authorities, taking innovative steps to leverage the power of thousands of agro-dealers. These input specialists are well-positioned to share plant protection advice with smallholders. Through certification and training, CABI is enhancing the skills of the country's agro-dealers. Once trained in sustainable approaches, they share their knowledge with smallholders, boosting safer pesticide handling, protection and storage, and use of pesticide alternatives.

In **Kenya**, the award-winning PlantwisePlus campaign, **Ukulima True**, has reduced pesticide risk. The campaign is influencing smallholder farmers' behaviour around pesticide use, fostering safer practices. With the farmer at the centre, the campaign's social and behaviour-change strategy focuses on five interconnected groups. It has developed different communication strategies for each group. It then shares knowledge about lower-risk practices and products with each one and incentivizes them to change.

In **Pakistan**, CABI has been working with the government to introduce biopesticide registration guidance. The country's regulations have previously focused on registering chemical pesticides. However, the aim is to integrate more sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches into pest management, which includes biopesticides. The government held consultations with a broad range of stakeholders. It then approved biopesticide registration guidance developed by CABI and its partners in January 2024. The guidance will help revolutionize crop protection in Pakistan.

## Delivering impact on pesticide risk reduction

Agro-dealer training has reaped rewards in **Uganda**. By August 2024, 623 agro-dealers had received training. Moreover, a total of 487 had earned certificates to operate as agro-dealers. Through knowledge sharing, these input experts are now improving farmer safety. Agro-dealers have reported how farmers have stopped eating while spraying and no longer transport pesticides with

food. Some agro-dealers no longer sell the most hazardous products and have started to promote lower-risk alternatives. They have also reported how farmers have increased their use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The Ukulima True campaign in **Kenya** has been a great success. Its early stages saw a 26% rise in farmers engaging in risk reduction behaviours such as pest monitoring, PPE use and sprayer calibration. In 2024, the campaign collaborated with local partners, scaling up across parts of Nakuru, Nyandarua and Trans Nzoia counties, amplifying the campaign's reach. Young people were trained as spray service providers, reducing pesticide risks and boosting agri-entrepreneurship and incomes in their communities. The campaign recently won a silver DMA award in sustainability.

**Pakistan's** newly approved biopesticide registration guidance is set to be a game-changer. Its adoption legislates into action a sustainable approach to managing crop pests and diseases. Over time, it will grow and strengthen the country's biopesticide market.

## CABI CENTRES

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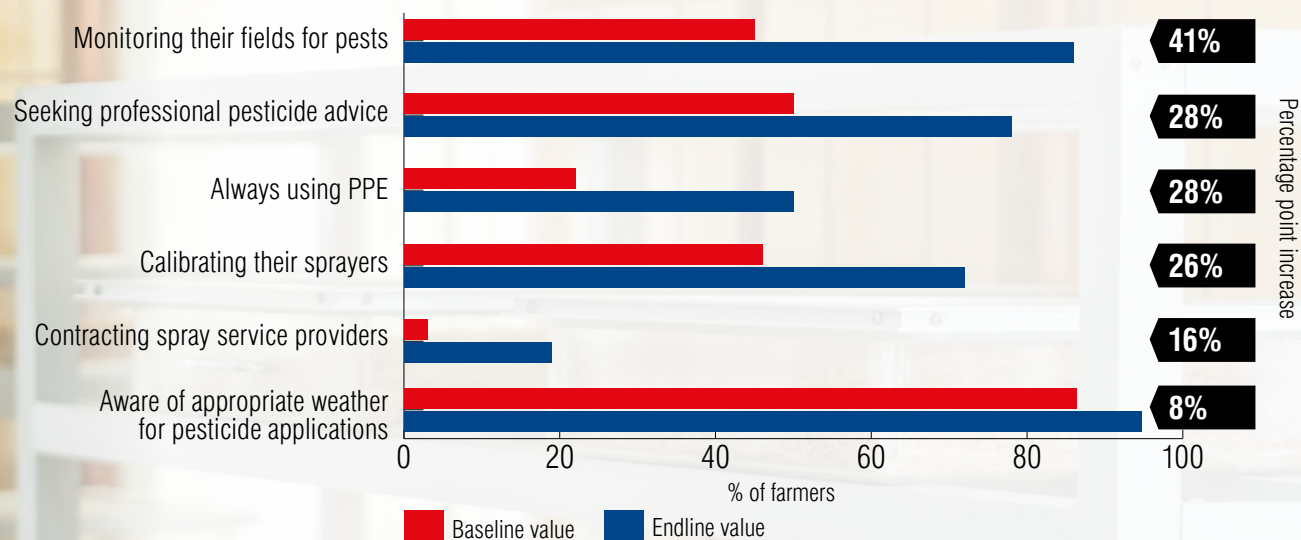
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

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## Changes in farmer knowledge and behaviour following the Ukulima True campaign



In Pakistan, international biocontrol manufacturers are being encouraged to register their biopesticides to help tackle the pests and diseases affecting the country's major crops. © CABI.





# Biocontrol around the world: Using natural solutions to control crop pests

Across the globe, from Africa to Asia and the Americas, invasive crop pests threaten food security and smallholder livelihoods.

In Kenya, for example, papaya mealybug causes yield losses of 53–100%. In some instances, it forces farmers to abandon papaya, or pawpaw, farming altogether. Papaya mealybug can be found in many parts of the world, impacting farmers across tropical and subtropical regions.

In the Philippines, fall armyworm attacks rice, destroying up to 100% of crops and threatening the food security of millions of farming households. This devastating pest has spread across many regions globally. First discovered in Africa in 2016, it now endangers maize production in nearly every country on the continent with losses that cost the economy billions.

In Jamaica, St Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda, sweet potato weevil can cause yield losses of up to 80%. It is the most destructive sweet potato pest in the region and can be found across South America as well as parts of Asia.

Around the world, farmers rely on pesticides to control invasive species. However, chemical pest control can be harmful to the environment and human health. Sustainable management approaches like biological control (biocontrol) are beneficial. Biocontrol is the use of beneficial or natural enemies to reduce the density of pest species below an economic threshold.

## Controlling fall armyworm with sustainable IPM in the Philippines

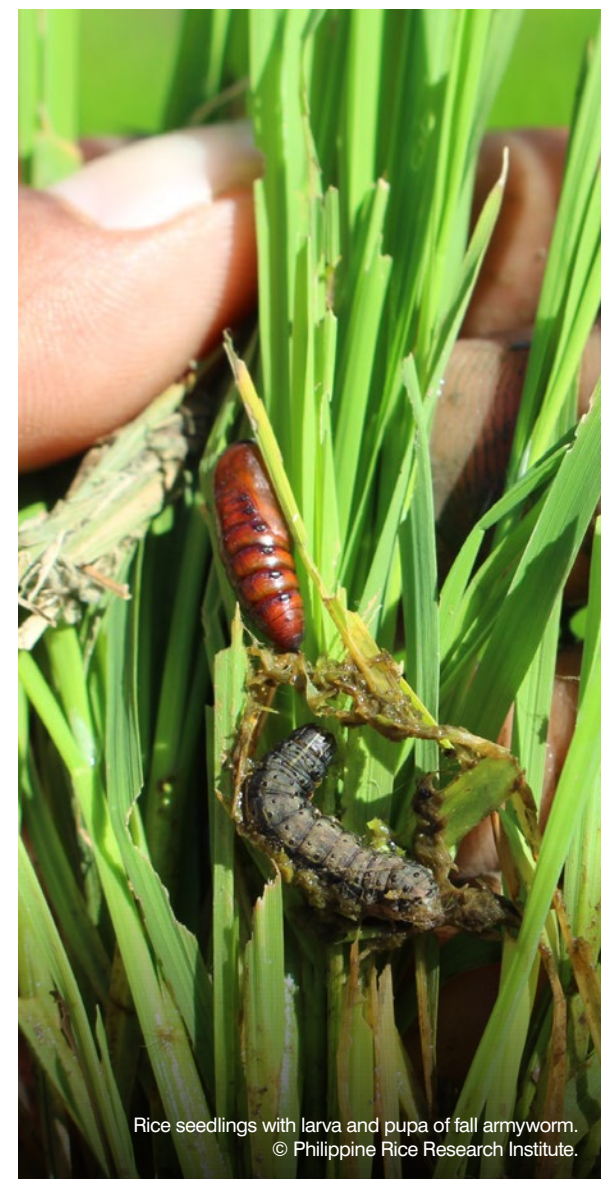
In the Philippines, CABI is leading an integrated pest management (IPM) project to sustainably manage fall armyworm. This initiative builds on extensive fall armyworm research conducted on maize in Africa. Scientists are now helping the Philippine authorities to develop preparedness strategies and limit the impact of fall armyworm on rice production. CABI has also identified natural enemies that can be used against the pest, including the parasitic wasp *Eiphosoma laphygmae*.

## Boosting sweet potato production with biocontrol in the Caribbean

In the Caribbean, CABI is supporting a project to control sweet potato weevil in Jamaica, St Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda. The work will use environmentally friendly biocontrol as part of an IPM strategy. Scientists are currently searching for isolates of native fungi in the Caribbean that can control the weevil and be developed into a natural pesticide (a biopesticide).


## Tackling papaya mealybug with beneficial wasps in Kenya

In Kenya, together with local partners, the CABI-led PlantwisePlus programme is tackling papaya mealybug using a natural enemy – a parasitic wasp called *Acerophagus papayae*. The wasps are mass-reared in a local facility and then released on selected farms. Smallholder farmers are then supplied wasp eggs at no cost, which are distributed around farms. To give the wasps the best



Rice seedlings with larva and pupa of fall armyworm.  
© Philippine Rice Research Institute.



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing glasses and a blue lab coat, is working in a greenhouse. She is holding a small black pot of soil in her left hand and a larger black pot in her right hand. She is looking down at the plants. In the background, there are many green plants in black pots on a table. A white door and a fan are visible in the background.

chance of survival as they establish and spread to neighbouring farms, smallholders are encouraged to stop using chemical pesticides as these inputs kill the wasps and other important natural enemies. This environmentally friendly biocontrol agent is now helping to reduce papaya mealybug numbers and boost papaya yields. Farmers who once abandoned papaya are growing it again thanks to biocontrol.

### The impact of biocontrol

Biocontrol is an effective and environmentally friendly way of controlling pests. Within two years of its first release in Kenya, for example, the parasitic wasp caused up to 75% mortality of the papaya mealybug. In the farms in which wasps were released, average papaya harvests almost doubled. As a result of higher papaya yields, the average income of smallholders working on these farms increased by around 20%. The wasps have also quickly spread and have been discovered over 150 km away from their release point. They now benefit farms around the wider area.

The tiny wasp is bringing hope and resilience to farmers in Kenya. Alfred Bolo says, "Insect wasps are my army in the fight to protect my pawpaw." Omar Mwandaro sees a brighter future: "I believe that my children's education will be guaranteed, and my life will be transformed compared to how I previously lived."

### PLANTWISEPLUS IN KENYA

#### CABI CENTRES

CABI in Kenya

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### PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

#### CABI CENTRE

CABI in Malaysia

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Department of Agriculture, Philippines  
Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines

#### PARTNER

Philippine Rice Research Institute

### PROJECT IN THE CARIBBEAN

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#### PARTNER

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)





# Empowering women farmers to address climate change

Climate change poses significant threats to the food security and livelihoods of women farmers. There are an estimated 215 million women smallholders globally who produce nearly one-third of the world's food. However, women face greater climate risks than men: 80% of climate-displaced people are women and girls, and many are from rural communities. Limited access to resources, education and assets worsens inequality. Prioritizing women in development efforts is crucial for climate resilience.

## Overcoming gender norms in the agricultural sector

Social norms limit women's access to agricultural knowledge. In Pakistan, PlantwisePlus has created women-only plant clinics. Led by female plant doctors, the clinics enable women to access vital plant health advice and learn skills for climate-smart farming approaches, helping them to build resilience.

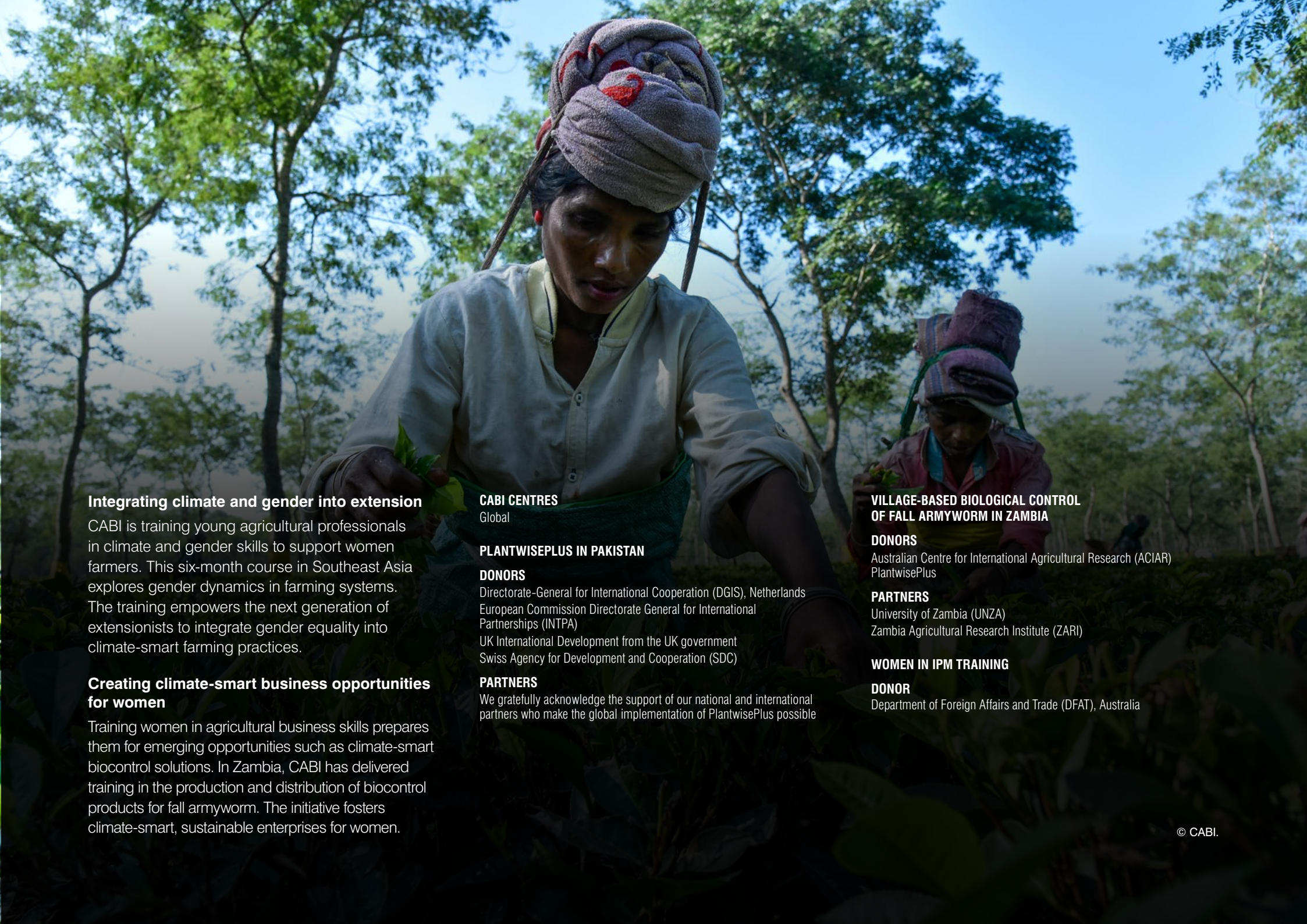
## Boosting women's access to nature-based pest control

Women often rely on low-cost, time-consuming pest control methods. As the climate warms, and pests spread, they will need more effective pest management approaches. In Zambia, CABI is trialling pest solutions that foster more efficient early-season applications, minimizing the need for pest management later in the season, helping women to save time.



An estimated 215 million women smallholders globally produce nearly one-third of the world's food. © Thomas Cristofolletti for CABI.





### **Integrating climate and gender into extension**

CABI is training young agricultural professionals in climate and gender skills to support women farmers. This six-month course in Southeast Asia explores gender dynamics in farming systems. The training empowers the next generation of extensionists to integrate gender equality into climate-smart farming practices.

### **Creating climate-smart business opportunities for women**

Training women in agricultural business skills prepares them for emerging opportunities such as climate-smart biocontrol solutions. In Zambia, CABI has delivered training in the production and distribution of biocontrol products for fall armyworm. The initiative fosters climate-smart, sustainable enterprises for women.

#### **CABI CENTRES**

Global

#### **PLANTWISEPLUS IN PAKISTAN**

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#### **VILLAGE-BASED BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF FALL ARMYWORM IN ZAMBIA**

##### **DONORS**

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)  
PlantwisePlus

##### **PARTNERS**

University of Zambia (UNZA)  
Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)

#### **WOMEN IN IPM TRAINING**

##### **DONOR**

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia





# Zambian smallholders 'root out' cassava brown streak disease

Cassava is a critical crop for Zambia. As a valuable food source, it feeds 30% of the population. It even once featured on the nation's five Kwacha note, symbolizing its economic importance. However, this staple crop is under threat. Since 2018, cassava brown streak disease (CBSD) has caused severe yield losses. It is threatening smallholder livelihoods and food security across the country. It also disrupts diverse industries that rely on cassava starch such as biofuels, brewing, confectionery and mining.

In 2022, CABI, in partnership with Zambia's Ministry of Agriculture, launched a campaign to combat CBSD. Through PlantwisePlus, the work focused on raising awareness about the disease, culminating in the provision of disease-free cassava cuttings to smallholders. The initiative shared knowledge about the prevention and identification of CBSD using regular scouting. It also brought attention to the critical role that gender inclusivity and sustainability play in cassava seed systems. Since women often work in the fields, empowering them with disease identification and management skills accelerates disease detection.

By 2023, 516 smallholders had received clean cassava cuttings. Moreover, Zambia's national seed controller had appointed over a dozen 'lead farmers' as certified cutting growers. By 2024, 70% of the smallholders reported strong crop performance. Moreover, seed certification of 14 growers boosted the supply of virus-free cuttings. The clean cassava fields expanded. In addition, the campaign fostered new business ventures for women and young people.

Companies like Itabwa Investments now plan to engage another 2,000 farmers to sustain the supply of clean cuttings. The work has also helped to reduce instances of other viruses such as cassava mosaic disease. Above all, the campaign slowed the spread of CBSD. Not only has it reduced cassava losses. It has also safeguarded smallholder incomes and livelihoods.

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CABI in Africa

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Farmer tending her healthy cassava plants. © istockphoto.



# Empowering decisions with **data-driven insights**

Climate emergencies. Food shortages. Malnutrition. The world's most pressing challenges demand urgent action. Yet despite this, governments are not systematically using evidence to shape the kind of effective decision- and policymaking that can address these global problems.

Evidence-based decision-making is critical. Scientifically informed strategies can guide efforts to improve lives worldwide, from smallholders' incomes to rural women's empowerment. With robust data, we can improve decisions that govern everything from crop protection to pandemic preparedness. We need a collaborative, science-driven approach.

As the Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges highlights, "Decision-makers too often rely on inefficient (and sometimes harmful) informal feedback systems." This leads to "poor decisions" that can harm citizens and waste resources. Solutions must be grounded in sound science to create lasting, sustainable impact.

In collaboration with partners, CABI's programmes and projects are helping to turn this vision into a reality.

The **Juno Evidence Alliance** is a global platform that uses artificial intelligence and rigorous research methods to synthesize knowledge, creating unbiased evidence and improving decision-making.

The CABI-led **Global Burden of Crop Loss** programme provides an evidence-based picture of how, where and why crop losses occur. The data will equip decision-makers with the insights they need to take data-driven action to prevent crop loss.

The **One Health Hub** identifies gaps in One Health knowledge, synthesizes evidence, and facilitates dialogue about the evidence and the implications for cross-sectoral action, to help decision-makers address global human, animal, plant and ecosystem health.

## **CABI CENTRES**

CABI in Kenya, India, Malaysia, Switzerland and the UK

## **DONORS**

UK International Development from the UK government  
Gates Foundation

Science-driven decisions improve lives – from crop protection to women's empowerment. © Binh Dnag for CABI.







# Harnessing soil data for smarter agriculture in Africa

Soil data is a valuable resource for developing evidence-based agricultural policies that ultimately support farmers. When shared across government departments, soil data can support a wide range of decisions. However, a lack of formal data-sharing can hinder effective collaboration. National Soil Information Systems (SISs) fundamentally address this challenge, enabling more coordinated and impactful action.

SISs enable decision-makers to gain a comprehensive understanding of soil conditions. From fertilizer use and soil erosion to watershed management, they help them to better address critical agricultural issues. SISs support wider landscape-level and policy-level decision-making. In 2024, CABI developed a framework to help nations build more effective SISs. Created by CABI and ISRIC World Soil Information, the **framework** is a central part of the Soil Information Systems Review, a project funded by the Gates Foundation.

CABI has conducted SIS workshops in Ghana, Kenya and Zambia, leading to the development of national roadmaps for SISs, and Ghana has recently committed to building a national SIS based on CABI's approach. Beyond individual nations, CABI is driving the development of SISs across Africa. We are partnered with FARA, ISRIC and the FAO, and together, have formed a new international coalition. This partnership will support the African Union with SISs at both national and continental levels.

Our goal is to drive collaboration and data-driven decisions. In 2024, we supported the Gates Foundation with the development of the **FAIR Process Framework** to make data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable across their investments. This has helped to improve efficiency and return on investment across large projects. Invited by the government of Ethiopia, we also supported their approach to data governance, helping to develop the landmark digital agriculture roadmap, guiding the country's future digital strategy and policy for soil, agronomy and agriculture more widely.

## **CABI CENTRES**

CABI in Africa and the UK

## **DONOR**

Gates Foundation

## **PARTNER**

ISRIC

National Soil Information Systems (SIS) enable more coordinated and impactful soil data sharing. © Treyz Kapture for CABI.



# Restoring resilient landscapes: Combating prosopis for people and wildlife

*Prosopis juliflora* is one of the world's most threatening non-native tree species. It was introduced to Eastern Africa in the 1970s. Its rapid spread has degraded ecosystems. In Tanzania's Lake Natron Basin, the prosopis invasion has forced pastoralists from grazing land, threatening their food security and livelihoods. In Kenya's Lake Bogoria National Reserve, prosopis has also overrun vital flamingo habitats, leading to the death of numerous birds. The lake hosts three million birds, including the largest lesser flamingo population in the world.

CABI has taken action with partners to manage the spread of prosopis. The work builds on the Woody Weeds projects and the Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approach, the core of the new CABI Landscapes Initiative. The aim is to combat prosopis and other invasive species through collaborative action.

## Safeguarding pastoralist livelihoods

In Tanzania, awareness-raising initiatives and training have helped pastoralists impacted by prosopis. The project has provided community members with knowledge and skills on herbicide use and tools to remove prosopis trees.

Members of two communities around Lake Natron have successfully managed the spread of prosopis. Together, they have removed trees on more than 20 hectares of communal land. The work is a classic example of ILM in action. The project has both increased access to land and restored essential grazing pastures.

## Protecting wildlife habitats

In several counties in Kenya, CABI has brought together diverse stakeholders – from land users to policy-makers. Across sectors, they have united in groups, leading to the successful management of prosopis.

Throughout Lake Bogoria National Reserve, prosopis trees have been removed from the protected area. The groups have partnered with local communities. Together, they have burnt or manually cleared prosopis rootstocks. By focusing on the lake's shoreline, this carefully coordinated effort is protecting lesser flamingo habitats and re-opening wildlife corridors invaded by prosopis. This protects local biodiversity from the negative impacts of invasive species.

## CABI CENTRES

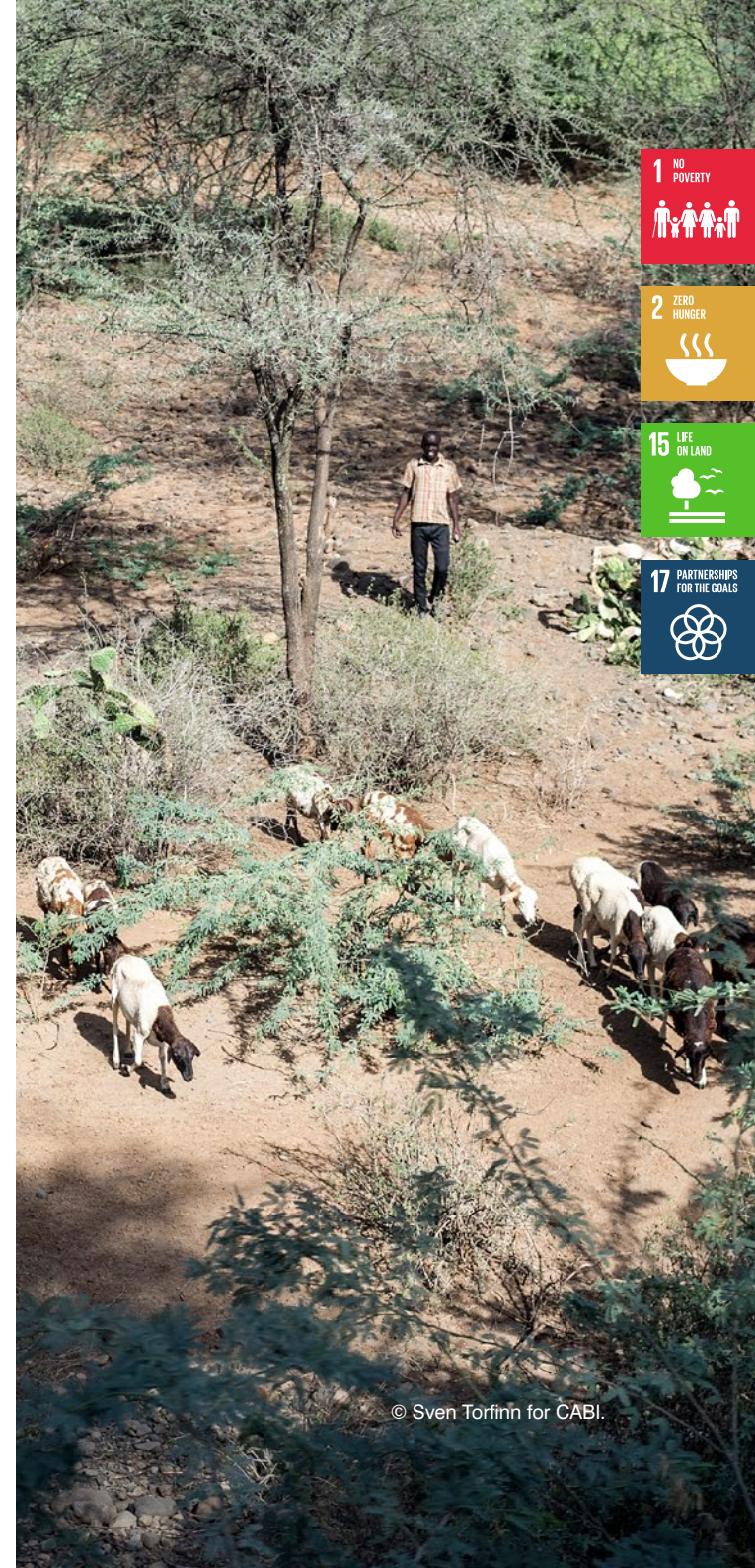
CABI in Africa and Switzerland

## DONORS

Darwin Initiative  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

## PARTNERS

Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern (CDE)  
Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development (CETRAD)  
Community Research and Development Services (CORDS)  
Farmbetter  
Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)  
Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI)  
Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF)  
Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA)  
University of Nairobi

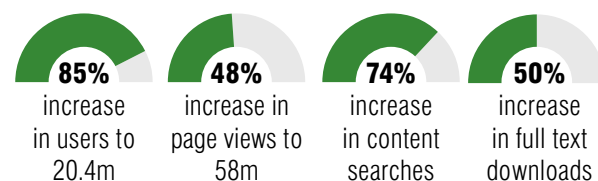




# CABI Digital Library: Record-breaking growth after full migration

Last year saw record-breaking user growth as we completed the full migration of our flagship databases, CAB Abstracts and Global Health, to CABI Digital Library. The final steps took place in January 2024, adding over 15m records to complete the transfer of our databases, Subject Collections and database subsets. This integration enables customers to access all subscribed and open content seamlessly on one centralized platform.

We are delighted with the outcome. CABI Digital Library usage increased exponentially throughout 2024, well beyond our initial targets for the year.



(All increases are based on 2023 figures)

## Expanding knowledge: CABI's new resources and innovations in 2024

New knowledge resources launched in 2024 continued to grow our offering to researchers, students and professionals.

Last year, we launched four new commodity channels on CABI Compendium: cotton, maize, rice and coffee. The channels provide in-depth scientific data and research on pests and diseases affecting these valuable commodity crops.

We also launched two new CABI Cases: Global Health and Soil Science. This growing collection of educational, practical case studies supports study, research and practice. The additions boost our offering in two critical areas: human health and soil science.

New to our resources is protocolRxiv. This open access repository is a fully searchable database for protocols of systematic reviews and other types of evidence synthesis. It covers the applied life sciences, including agriculture, climate adaptation, public health and more.

We also published the fifth edition of the flagship textbook *Introduction to Animal and Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology*. This bestselling title continues to provide students with a comprehensive description of veterinary anatomy and physiology, this time with augmented reality animations and an online 'test-yourself' CABI Academy course.

## First society journal partnership: International Society for Horticultural Science

In 2024, CABI and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) announced a publishing partnership. ISHS is the world's leading independent organization of horticulturists.

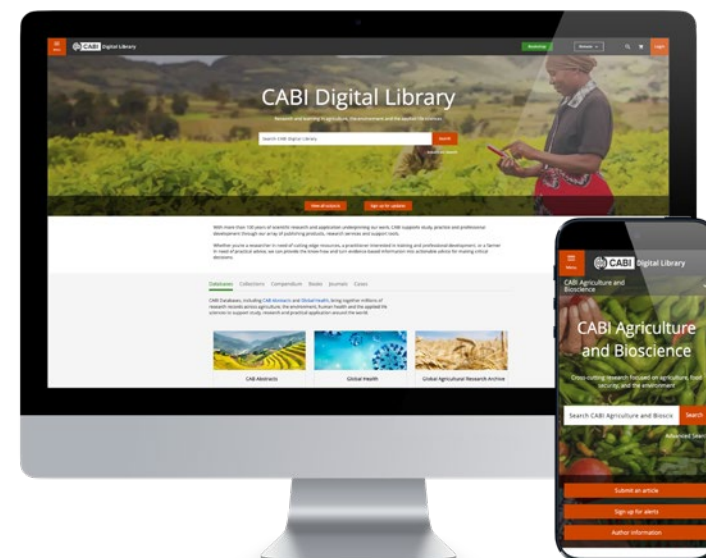
From 1 January 2025, the *European Journal of Horticultural Science* (eJHS) is published by CABI on behalf of the ISHS. eJHS is an international, open access journal, publishing cross-disciplinary research in global horticulture. It is the official journal of the ISHS and available on the CABI Digital Library.

## CABI Agriculture and Bioscience moves to CABI Digital Library

Last year, we successfully transferred *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience* to CABI Digital Library. The journal was previously published by BioMed Central (BMC) on behalf of CABI.

## CABI acquires aquaculture books list from 5m Books

In 2024, CABI acquired an 18-title aquaculture booklist from publisher 5m Books covering everything from fish farming practices to sea life pathology. Another 14 titles are in the pipeline. Aquaculture is one of the fastest-growing food sectors. Now available on CABI Digital Library, these high-quality books will complement CABI's mission of improving food security.

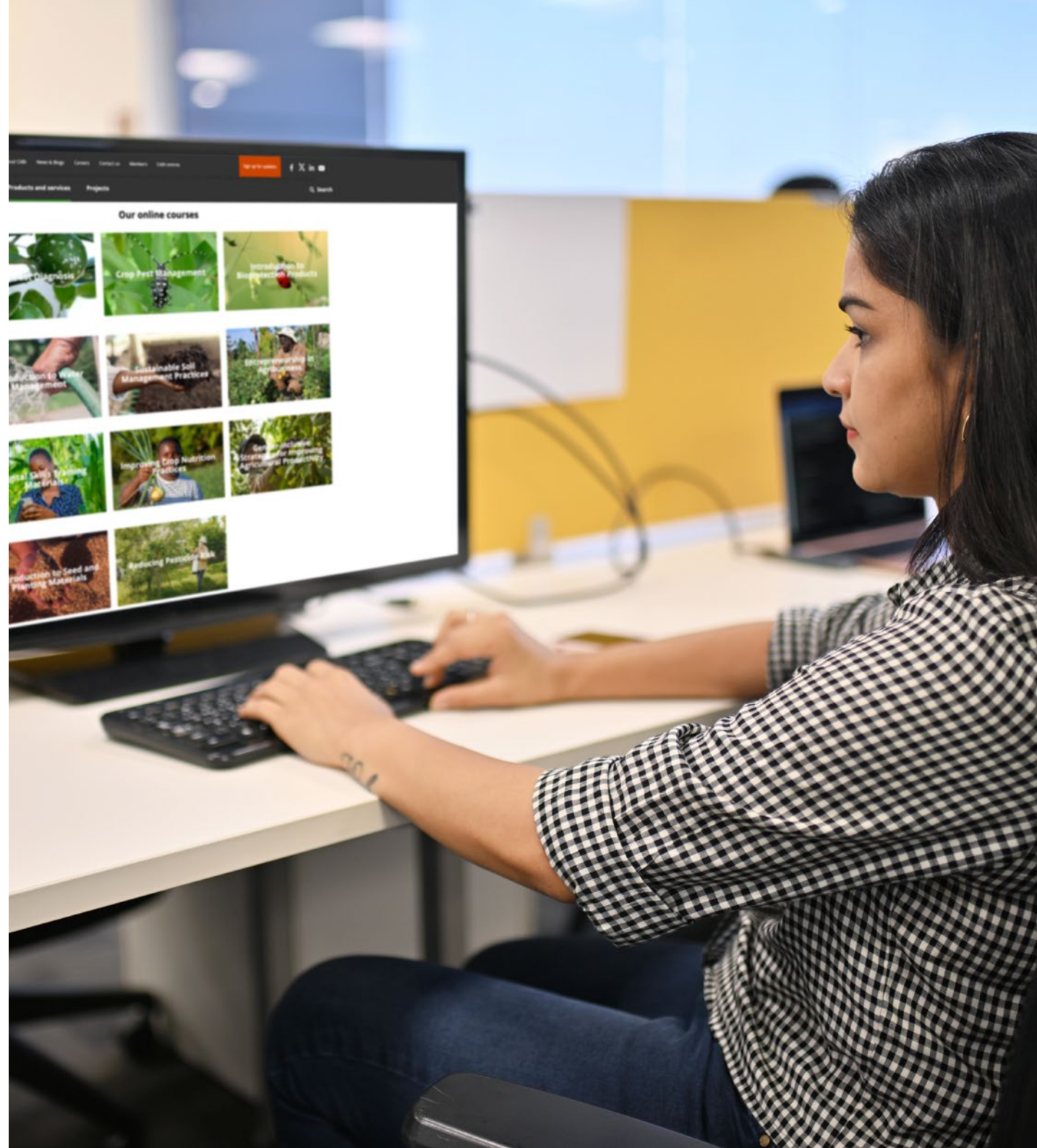
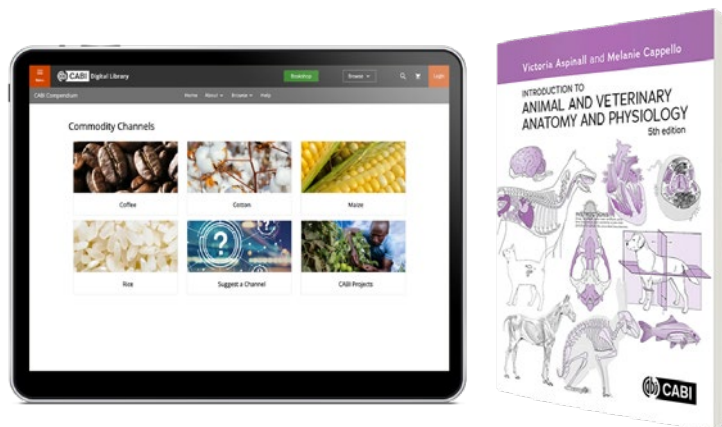




## CABI Academy launches 7 new online courses

Expanding on our range of online training materials, we launched seven new courses on CABI Academy in 2024. This open access resource brings together CABI's expertise in crop health, agricultural advisory services and digital development to create a range of courses and certifications that build capacity and strengthen the advice available to farmers.

1. Introduction to Water Management
2. Sustainable Soil Management Practices
3. Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness
4. Digital Skills Training Materials
5. Improving Crop Nutrition Practices
6. Gender-Inclusive Strategies for Improving Agricultural Productivity
7. Introduction to Seed and Planting Materials





# Amplifying African research through strategic science communication

Through its independent news platform, *SciDev.Net*, CABI places science at the forefront of global development, delivering reliable and authoritative news, views and analysis to professionals, policymakers, researchers and the media.

In 2024, *SciDev.Net* launched its Spark podcast, exploring the role of science in conflict zones through powerful storytelling and expert perspectives. Each episode highlights practical solutions and sparks hope amidst adversity, revealing how innovation and local knowledge intersect with real-world crises. Featuring voices from individuals, innovators and scientists across the Middle East and North Africa, the podcast has tackled themes such as rebuilding education in war-torn zones, securing food and water in blockaded

areas and addressing the mental health toll of conflict. In every story, science emerges as a vital tool for resilience, recovery and change.

As a key initiative last year, *SciDev.Net*'s partnership with the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) made bold strides, advancing research, innovation and science communication across 17 African countries. This multi-faceted support programme significantly enhanced the visibility and impact of council-funded research across the continent. With an estimated reach of 10 million listeners, a total of 18 science podcasts communicated scientific knowledge to policymakers and the public alike.

The SGCI Footprints newsletter also spotlighted key breakthroughs in African science – from renewable

energy solutions to desert locust control – through compelling 'stories of change'. A strong focus on capacity building led to a science communication training series, empowering over 100 researchers and council staff from 22 countries to communicate their findings effectively. Strategic branding initiatives further helped to position SGCI as a prominent leader in Africa's research landscape with targeted campaigns engaging over 93,000 communicators, policymakers and researchers.

## DONORS

EurekAlert (AAAS)

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)



Placing science at the forefront of global development. © istockphoto.





# A year of scientific discovery

As a science-driven organization, we bring together research, publishing, independent journalism and digital innovation to share evidence-based agricultural solutions with farmers and those who support them around the world. Our aim is to increase the reach, application and impact of science in agriculture and the environment.

In 2024, CABI produced 190 publications, 137 of which were published in peer-reviewed journals and 98 of which were published in journals with an impact factor greater than two. Of the 137 publications, 122 were open access.

Here are highlights from our 2024 studies.

Last year, a CABI study explored business models for engaging women and youth in agricultural services. It found that while no model is a 'fix-all', some approaches can boost incomes and skills. The most effective models are typically local, market-driven and focus on creating value.



A review of the CABI-led Pest Risk Information Service (PRISE) highlighted the project's significant impact. It showed how smallholders in four African countries successfully reduced crop losses and increased their incomes by acting on mobile pest alerts generated through PRISE's satellite data.



A 2024 CABI study found that sustainable land management (SLM) practices have helped farmers in East Africa effectively control invasive *Prosopis juliflora*. Despite the high upfront costs of uprooting the plant, the results illustrated that SLM delivers clear long-term benefits.



CABI scientists found that pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables are the most commonly cited food safety concern among consumers. This 2024 five-country study underscored the urgent need to manage pesticide risks that undermine consumer demand for nutritious foods.



Climate change-induced invasive crop pests remain a major bottleneck to agricultural productivity and food security in South Sudan, according to CABI-led research published last year. Strengthening the country's plant health systems is vital for climate-resilient agriculture.







# THANK YOU

CABI's ability to improve lives worldwide is made possible by the generous contributions of the many Member Countries, donors and partners we work with. For this, we want to say a big thank you.

**Your ongoing support has enabled us to help...**





Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



...their family



...her farm



...her yield



...his food security



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



...his plant health



...his business

Gates Foundation

The Wolfson\*  
Foundation



...her market garden



USAID  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



...his career



...his livestock



...their education



Australian Government

Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research



...their training



...their knowledge

CRODA  
Foundation

Ministry of Agriculture and  
Rural Affairs (MARA)  
People's Republic of China



...their village

LEVERHULME  
TRUST



...his soil health



...their future



# Governance

## CABI Board

The Governing Board oversees CABI's programmes and guides management on operational and strategic issues.

## EMT

CABI's Executive Management Team (EMT) is responsible for managing the organization's core business operations.

## Review Conference

CABI's high-level governing body is the Review Conference of Member Countries, which reviews CABI's work programmes and determines its broad policies and strategies.

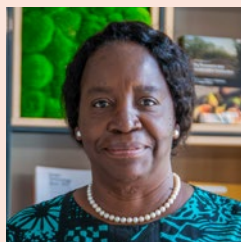
## Executive Council

Representatives from each Member Country meet to monitor CABI's affairs and implement Review Conference resolutions.

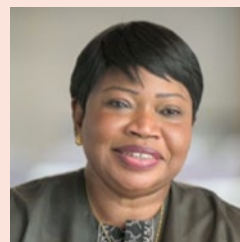
## Liaison Officers

Each Member Country has at least one Liaison Officer. Their role is to provide a crucial link between their country and CABI.

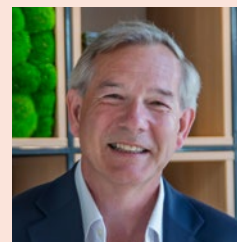
### CABI Board



**Her Excellency  
Ms Chileshe Kapwepwe,**  
Chair



**Her Excellency  
Dr Fatou Bensouda**  
(appointed Mar 2025)



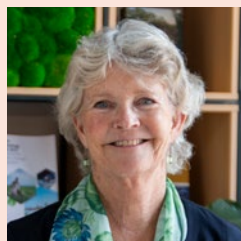
**Mr Christoph Chesher**



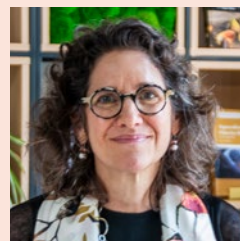
**Mr Gary Ernest**  
(appointed Jul 2024)



**Ms Simi Kamal**



**Ms Ann Tutwiler**



**Ms Marcy Vigoda**



**His Excellency  
Vishnu Dhanpaul**  
(stepped down Mar 2025)



**Mr Akhter Mateen**  
(stepped down Aug 2024)



**Mr Roger Horton**  
(Chair, stepped down Mar 2024)



**Dr Daniel Elger, CEO**



**Mr Leonard Kimutai, CFO**  
(joined May 2024)



**Ms Linda Copsey**

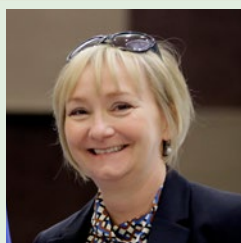


**Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann**



**Mr Neil MacIntosh**

### EMT



**Ms Carol McNamara**



**Dr Dennis Rangi**



**Dr Andy Robinson**



**Mr Rob Sloley**  
(CFO, stepped down Jun 2024)

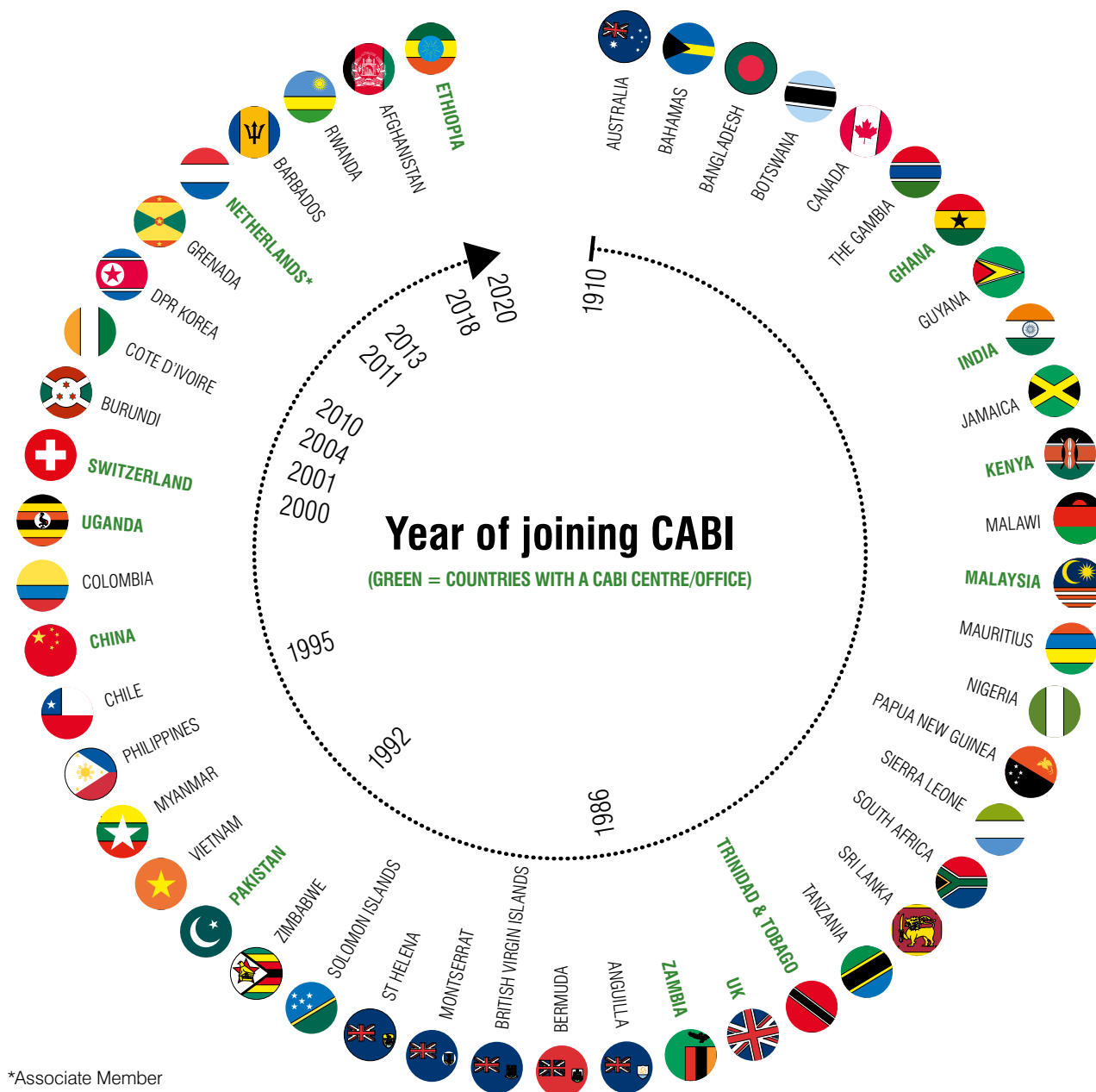


# CABI's global role

CABI is an inter-governmental, not-for-profit organization governed through a UN-registered treaty-level agreement. We work with countries that represent over half of the world's population, or over four billion people. Many of these people are smallholder farmers, and much of our work focuses on them.

Each of our **48 Member Countries** has an equal role in the organization's governance, policies and strategic direction. Our membership structure enables us to deliver products, projects and programmes that complement and strengthen the existing national capabilities of our Member Countries and beyond. This helps us to deliver on our mission to improve people's lives worldwide.

Since its beginnings as an entomological committee in 1910, our organization has grown to the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux in 1947, to CAB International in 1987, to its present structure today. The diagram shows when Members have joined throughout our long journey.



\*Associate Member



# Financials

In 2024, revenue growth of 3% resulted in a total income of £44m and maintained income above £40m for the second year in a row. This was on the back of a strong 16% growth in 2023. As a result, CABI was again able to generate a modest operating surplus, reporting a figure of £20k after significant investments in people and infrastructure. The surplus did not achieve internal budget expectations due to lower-than-expected revenue growth and was smaller than the surplus in the previous year.

The growth in CABI's income was driven principally by an increase in project implementation (around 2%), while Publishing sales remained stable. CABITAX recovery and Member Country contributions accounted for a combined 1% in growth.

Total costs increased in 2024. This was due in large part to the significant growth in project related direct costs.

In 2024, at £12.0m, the other comprehensive surplus was driven by a reduction in the net liability on the UK defined benefit pension. This reduction in the liability was driven principally by an increase in UK bond yields. This followed an increase of £3.7m in the liability in 2023.

The end of year total cash balance, at £9m, increased over the year (from £7m in 2023) boosted by £1.5m held on behalf of the UK-CGIAR Centre. Cash remained relatively healthy throughout the year.

## Statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
<b>Income</b>		
Sales and project income	39,342	38,558
Member Country contributions	2,693	2,528
CABITAX recovery	1,867	1,588
Miscellaneous income	121	116
	<b>44,023</b>	<b>42,790</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff costs	(11,684)	(10,943)
Direct project costs	(24,444)	(24,023)
Production	(3,596)	(3,235)
Facilities and maintenance	(1,716)	(1,720)
Sales and distribution	(262)	(350)
Travel	(766)	(555)
Depreciation and leasehold amortisation	(724)	(713)
Impairment loss	0	(37)
Consultants and freelancers	(507)	(573)
Restructuring costs	0	(36)
Expected credit losses from Member Country contributions	(242)	(377)
Associated company loss	0	4
Profit on foreign currency exchange	98	155
Other costs	(348)	(348)
	<b>(44,191)</b>	<b>(42,751)</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) before interest</b>	<b>(168)</b>	<b>39</b>
Interest receivable	188	268
	<b>188</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year before exceptional items</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>307</b>
<b>Other comprehensive surplus/(deficit) items that may be subsequently reclassified to operating surplus/(deficit)</b>		
Cash flow hedges	0	172
Movement between funds	0	(250)
Other (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	12,021	(3,642)
	<b>12,021</b>	<b>(3,720)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>12,041</b>	<b>(3,413)</b>



## Statement of financial position

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Land and buildings	10,125	9,740
Plant and equipment	1,575	1,397
Intangibles	1,146	603
Intangibles – goodwill	113	113
Investments accounted for using the equity method	633	635
	13,592	12,488
<b>Current assets</b>		
Inventories		
– books	316	323
– projects	2,928	2,920
Contract receivables, net of provisions:		
– sales receivables	2,043	1,692
– sums owing by project sponsors	907	448
Amounts receivable from Member Countries	113	84
Other financial assets:		
– derivative financial asset	41	41
– cash and cash equivalents	9,017	7,024
Property held for sale	4,910	5,210
Other receivables	1,109	1,382
	21,384	19,124
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>34,976</b>	<b>31,612</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		
Revaluation reserve	(3,145)	(3,145)
Cash flow hedges	(41)	(41)
Designated fund	0	(100)
Investment fund	0	(250)
Accumulated deficit	49,139	61,180
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>45,953</b>	<b>57,644</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Post-employment benefits	(65,761)	(77,782)
Lease liabilities	(11)	(29)
	(65,772)	(77,811)
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Sales income received in advance	(3,764)	(2,994)
Member contributions in advance	(514)	(683)
Sums held on behalf of project sponsors	(6,612)	(3,880)
UKCGIAR Collaboration	(1,460)	0
Trade and other payables:		
– trade payables	(1,524)	(1,628)
– other payables	(1,283)	(2,260)
Other financial liabilities:		
– derivative financial liability	0	0
	(15,157)	(11,445)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(80,929)</b>	<b>(89,256)</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>(34,976)</b>	<b>(31,612)</b>

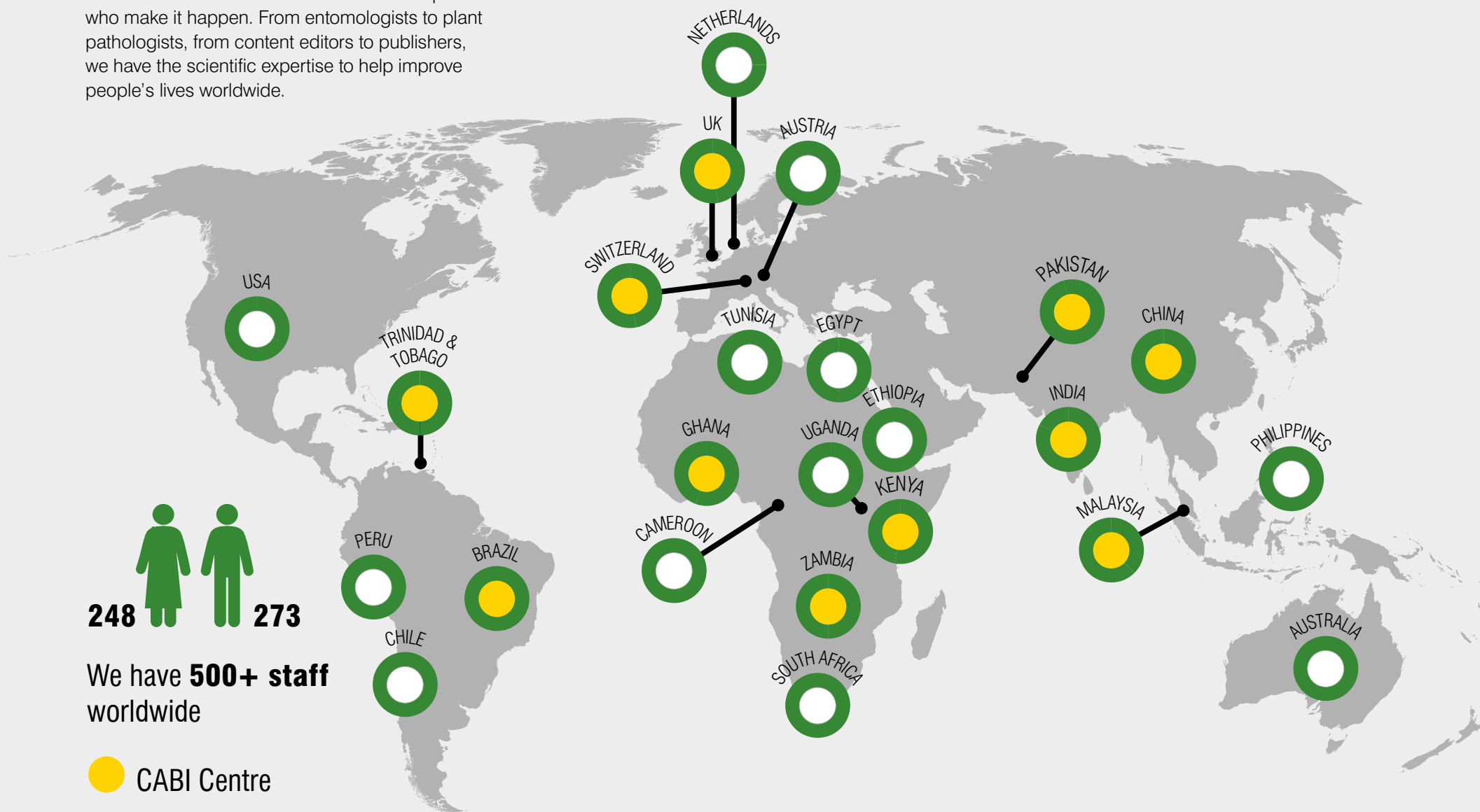


Trichogramma rearing facility in Pakistan. © CABl.




# CABI Staff

At the heart of CABI's successes are the experts who make it happen. From entomologists to plant pathologists, from content editors to publishers, we have the scientific expertise to help improve people's lives worldwide.






# Staff publications


 Available open access

**CABI authors** in bold; corresponding authors (where named) underlined.


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# Contact us

## Africa

### Ghana

CABI, CSIR Campus  
No. 6 Agostino Neto Road  
Airport Residential Area  
P. O. Box CT 8630, Cantonments  
Accra, Ghana  
**T:** +233 (0)302 797 202  
**E:** [westafrica@cabi.org](mailto:westafrica@cabi.org)

### Kenya

CABI, Canary Bird  
673 Limuru Road, Muthaiga  
PO Box 633-00621  
Nairobi, Kenya  
**T:** +254 (0)20 2271000/ 20  
**E:** [africa@cabi.org](mailto:africa@cabi.org)

### Zambia

CABI, 5834 Mwange Close  
Kalundu  
P.O. Box 37589  
Lusaka, Zambia  
**T:** +260 967 619 665  
**E:** [southernafrica@cabi.org](mailto:southernafrica@cabi.org)

## Americas

### Brazil

CABI, Avenida Universitária  
3780, Bairro Altos do Paraíso  
Botucatu-SP,  
18610-034, Brazil  
**T:** +55 (14) 3880 7670  
**E:** [y.colmenarez@cabi.org](mailto:y.colmenarez@cabi.org)

### Trinidad & Tobago

CABI, 59 Gordon Street  
Curepe, St. Augustine  
Tunapuna 331323  
Trinidad and Tobago  
**T:** +1 868 6457628  
**E:** [n.ramnanan@cabi.org](mailto:n.ramnanan@cabi.org)

### USA

CABI, 6 Liberty Square #2775  
Boston, MA 02109, USA  
**T:** +1 (617) 682 9015  
**E:** [h.jansen@cabi.org](mailto:h.jansen@cabi.org)

## Asia

### China

CABI, Beijing Representative Office  
Internal Post Box 85  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences  
12 Zhongguancun Nandajie  
Beijing 100081, China  
**T:** +86 (0)10 82105692  
**E:** [china@cabi.org](mailto:china@cabi.org)

### India

CABI, 2nd Floor, CG Block  
NASC Complex, DP Shastri Marg  
Opp. Todapur Village, PUSA  
New Delhi – 110012, India  
**T:** +91 (0)11 25841906  
**E:** [india@cabi.org](mailto:india@cabi.org)

### Malaysia

CABI, Building A19  
MARDI, 43400 Serdang  
Selangor, Malaysia  
**T:** +60 (0)3 8943 2921  
**T:** +60 (0)3 8943 3641  
**E:** [cabisea@cabi.org](mailto:cabisea@cabi.org)

### Pakistan

CABI, Opposite 1-A  
Data Gunj Baksh Road  
Satellite Town, PO Box 8  
Rawalpindi, Pakistan  
**T:** +92 51 9292062  
**T:** +92 51 8434979  
**E:** [cabi.cwa@cabi.org](mailto:cabi.cwa@cabi.org)

## Europe

### Netherlands

CABI, Landgoed Leusderend 32  
3832 RC Leusden  
The Netherlands  
**T:** +31 (0)33 4321031  
**E:** [netherlands@cabi.org](mailto:netherlands@cabi.org)

### Switzerland

CABI, Rue des Grillons 1  
CH-2800 Delémont  
Switzerland  
**T:** +41 (0)32 4214870  
**E:** [europe-CH@cabi.org](mailto:europe-CH@cabi.org)

### UK

CABI, Nosworthy Way  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire  
OX10 8DE, UK  
**T:** +44 (0)1491 832111  
**E:** [corporate@cabi.org](mailto:corporate@cabi.org)  
  
CABI, Silwood Park  
Buckhurst Road, Ascot  
Berkshire, SL5 7PY, UK  
**T:** +44 (0)1491 829080  
**E:** [cabieurope-uk@cabi.org](mailto:cabieurope-uk@cabi.org)  
**E:** [microbialservices@cabi.org](mailto:microbialservices@cabi.org)