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Global food systems, local impact: the role of agribusiness and development partnerships in advancing African agriculture

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PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS: UPSCALING AGRIBUSINESS SUCCESSES IN AFRICA

Karl Schebesta, Chief, UNIDO Agri-business Development Unit

Executive Summary

At UNIDO we aim at working with and enabling the businesses of tomorrow, today.

There is a growing awareness among business leaders of the necessity to break with old practices and set foot on a new path of more sustainable and more socially inclusive business. We witness a strong commitment to action and a willingness to make the necessary adjustments even in the face of economic hurdles. UNIDO stands ready as a partner to accompany businesses on this new path towards healthier societies, flourishing markets and sound economic progress for the future well-being of the generations to come. (DG LI)

We understand that business is an instrumental partner to achieving global development goals. In recent years we have stepped up our dialogue and collaboration with the private sector, financial institutions and civil society in order to multiply the impact of our technical assistance by combining our efforts, know-how, and resources. We are building a strong alliance with all relevant actors to reach the critical mass for transformative change. At this critical juncture we want to deepen our partnership linkages with strategic actors from multilateral agencies, finance institutions and the private sector.

In large parts of the developing world the potential of agro enterprises remains unexploited. Smallholder farms remain trapped in a cycle of subsistence for two main reasons. Firstly, their yields are too low to generate marketable surpluses due to a lack of access to modern technology, information and production factors. Secondly, they cannot get their produce to markets because of weak infrastructure and missing linkages between farm-level production and down-stream activities such as processing and marketing. However, the agriculture sector remains the backbone of economic activity, employment and livelihoods in developing countries. Strengthening the sector and adding value to agricultural commodities are instrumental in enhancing food security, stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty in a sustainable manner.

By involving various actors and linking their unique resources, UNIDO can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of its activities, promoting the expansion of local and international value chains to the benefit of small producers and entrepreneurs.

As a consequence, additional income for producers as well as new jobs is created. The integration of smallholder farmers into commercially viable business linkages also allows UNIDO to expand the social inclusiveness of agribusiness value chains.

Overall the whole economy of target countries benefits from the higher proportion of consumer price that can be retained within its borders. Partnering with the private sector helps ensure that UNIDO interventions in the industrial development effort remain relevant to the needs of industry. Private partners also facilitate the knowledge and technology transfer required for the empowerment of SMEs and the industrialization of least developed countries.

The Response

