

Partnering for Progress: The Three Types of Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are collaborations between private-sector companies and public agencies, in which goals, investment, expertise and risks are shared in order to meet a common goal. Countless partnerships have been formed at the global, regional and national level, delivering valuable new crops such as virus-resistant papaya in the United States, herbicide-tolerant soybean in Brazil and insect-resistant brinjal in Bangladesh.

Through public-private partnerships, innovative collaborations can be created that provide farmers with the tools to look after our planet, feed a growing population, and progress rural communities.



Research Partnerships

Research partnerships combine the technology of the private sector with the local expertise of public research institutions to create food security solutions.

EXAMPLES:

AFRICA BIOFORTIFIED SORGHUM PROJECT

Developing sorghum varieties with higher levels of vitamin A, iron and zinc.

Impact: This initiative could improve the health of the 300 million Africans who rely on sorghum as a key staple.

WATER-EFFICIENT MAIZE FOR AFRICA PROJECT (WEMA)

Creating drought- and insect-resistant maize varieties for smallholder farmers.

Impact: WEMA could provide essential tools for growers to adapt to farming in a hotter, drier world.



Knowledge Sharing

Collaborations that share practical agricultural information, and best practices between the public and private sectors, can improve farming practices around the world.

EXAMPLES:

TRAINING THROUGH LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships in rural communities train farmers on responsible and effective uses of crop protection products.

Impact: Farmers are able to grow safe and bountiful harvests that help their families and improve their communities.

HARVESTPLUS CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

Over 200 scientists from the public and private sectors in every region coming together to enhance the nutrition of seven key staple crops.

Impact: Improving these crops could be critical in alleviating malnutrition in Asia and Africa.



Resource Access

Shared projects between the public and private sector can help farmers gain access to resources so they can manage product more reliably, at less cost and with greater certainty.

EXAMPLES:

FRIJOLNICA PROJECT

Private companies and local institutions team up to provide improved access to agricultural inputs for rural farmers in Nicaragua.

Impact: Farmers are able to use varieties and tools that can increase their harvests and grow their income.

SWEET POTATO ACTION FOR SECURITY AND HEALTH (SASHA) PROJECT

Connecting private sector with local institutions to improve the quality and range of sweet potato varieties to smallholder African farmers.

Impact: Could improve the lives of 10 million households in sub-Saharan Africa.

HOW DOES IP MAKE PPPs POSSIBLE?

Intellectual property (IP) is an instrument enabling formal partnerships between the public and private sector, ensuring the development of high quality products. IP further ensures that their inventions will be used appropriately, responsibly and effectively. These agreements provide them with the confidence that the knowledge and technology they are donating will tackle mutually agreed-upon goals, like improving nutrition and increasing access to innovations.

Without IP, these inventions would not be developed and the necessary new high quality crops would not be available to farmers and consumers in the developed and the developing world.