Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Conservation

As the planet’s population approaches eight billion people, a growing demand for food is expanding agriculture into forests and other natural areas with devastating effects on our environment. Climate change further exacerbates this reality. To address the related challenges, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation is working to find new ways to improve farmer livelihoods, while also conserving the natural resources upon which we all depend.

Our Approach

Small-scale farms produce most of the food consumed in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Yet it is often these smallholder farmers who have limited access to the agricultural and market resources necessary to sustainably manage their land and livelihoods. They also live in some of the world’s most food insecure communities.

Through our Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Conservation (ALC) initiative, the Packard Foundation embarks on a new chapter—one that aims to improve livelihoods for smallholder farmers while also protecting biodiversity.

For more than half a century, the Foundation has worked with partners to improve the lives of children, families, and communities while restoring and protecting our planet. Our experience with climate and land use has taught us the important role that farmers can play in protecting forests and biodiversity. Similarly, through our work in population and reproductive health, we recognize the outsized impact that investing in women can have on communities and the landscapes that surround them. Our ALC initiative builds upon what we have learned from this work.

Through grantmaking and mission investing, we are ready to make adjustments as we learn. Taking a place-based approach, we are focusing on the intersection of smallholder farming and conservation in Ethiopia, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After two years of exploration, we will consider what we’ve learned and adjust our work accordingly.
Where We Work

In 2017 and 2018, the ALC initiative is identifying new opportunities for investment in Ethiopia, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—three places where we have established networks or see unique potential for impact.

**ETHIOPIA**

In Ethiopia, female farmers play a critical role providing food and supporting families. Building on our reproductive health experience, we are exploring ways to expand sustainable agriculture, empower women, and improve outcomes for communities who depend on small-scale farming for their livelihoods.

**INDONESIA**

In Indonesia, where we are already deeply involved in climate-related land use efforts, we are testing new ways to help indigenous communities steward their lands, develop sustainable sources of food, and protect the forests that surround them. We are focused primarily on Papua and West Kalimantan, regions with vast, biodiverse forests and rapidly developing agricultural sectors.

**THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

We are new to grantmaking in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is a region with unique challenges and incredible biodiversity. Our work in the DRC prioritizes the interplay between food production and conservation as we explore partnerships with other funders to improve livelihoods for women, indigenous peoples, and youth.

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**OUR DESIRED OUTCOMES**

- **REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**
- **IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE**
- **PROTECT BIODIVERSITY**

For more information, visit packard.org.