GAFSP BIFT BRIEF

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FROM LAUNCH TO IMPACT: HOW BIFT CATALYZES FINANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) is a multilateral partnership and financing platform dedicated to improving food and nutrition security in the world's poorest countries. GAFSP was launched by the G20 in the wake of the 2007–08 food price crisis. Since its inception, GAFSP has mobilized US$2.5billion in grants and concessional finance to countries, producer organizations, and agribusinesses for transformative investments across the agri-food system, reaching nearly 32 million people.

Why BIFT financing matters

For more than fifteen years, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) has provided much needed financing to smallholder farmers, producer organizations, and agribusinesses in low-income countries for inclusive support to transform food systems. The program has mobilized more than $2.5 billion in donor funds for public and private sector investments to reach more than 40 million people.

Still, smallholder farmers often struggle to access finance because private investors, particularly in low-income countries, view them as high-risk. The Business Investment Financing Track (BIFT)—a second-generation private sector financing tool from GAFSP—is designed to help fill this gap.

BIFT is a $75 million pilot designed to leverage GAFSP grants and concessional finance to secure matching funding from multilateral development banks and catalyze additional private sector financing for smallholder farmers, producer groups, agribusinesses, and start-ups.

The funding strengthens agricultural practices, infrastructure, and technologies that increase productivity, climate resilience, and economic opportunities across value chains. The overarching goal is to help build stronger, more sustainable smallholder economies.

Quick facts

Who benefits from the BIFT support?

- Smallholder farmers and producer organizations seeking inputs, such as better seeds, machinery, fertilizer, and improved market access.
- Agrifood MSMEs and startups developing innovative, scalable solutions in food production, logistics and processing.
- Financial institutions and impact investors looking to engage in high-potential undercapitalized markets.

BIFT financing in action

In 2025, GAFSP made its first allocation under the BIFT track with a $10 million tranche to support the establishment of an Agro-Inputs Risk Sharing Facility fund hosted by the African Development Bank. With an addition of $4 million in grant resources from GAFSP for technical assistance, this $14 million allocation is catalyzing up to $200 million in private-sector lending for small- and medium-sized agricultural companies in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia.

The risk-sharing facility supports more than 1.5 million smallholder farmers and 500 intermediary agro-dealers and cooperatives, allowing expanded access to certified seeds, organic fertilizers, soil enhancers, mechanization, and other inputs that help agribusinesses withstand environmental shocks such as extreme and prolonged heat and water scarcity.

In September 2026, GAFSP announced its second BIFT allocation: $6 million that unlocked a further $15 million in funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Bank of Kigali and Aceli Africa, mobilizing $21 million in support for smallholder farmers across Rwanda.

The funding will finance the Farmers' Organizations Financing Programme in Rwanda – a project targeting key national agricultural value chains including maize, rice, cassava, dairy, and horticulture. It is expected to strengthen about 215 farmers organizations, benefiting more than 35,000 smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth.

BIFT builds on proven risk-sharing facilities, such as those by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa in Nigeria and Ghana. Thanks to the global network of GAFSP development finance partners, BIFT can elevate and unlock commercial financing at scale.

This approach is aligned with and directly supports the ambitions of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the 2025 Kampala Declaration on Food Systems Transformation. Together, these frameworks set out a bold, Africa-led agenda to boost agricultural investment, improve nutrition, and build resilience to climate shocks.

BIFT is the blended finance engine that helps GAFSP deliver on the ambitious goals of AgriConnect, the World Bank Group initiative that mobilizes the private sector, donors, governments, and innovators to create jobs in agribusiness by de-risking private capital, strengthening agricultural value chains, and building more sustainable smallholder economies.

At a time when global aid budgets are shrinking, BIFT is not just timely but urgent and demonstrates how every development dollar can work harder, delivering outsized impact by unlocking private capital to build sustainable markets. BIFT is specifically structured to de-risk investments for private actors, turning public grants into catalysts for larger commercial flows. As farmers are empowered and local enterprises lead, smallholders will feed their communities, drive growth, and sustain hope for generations to come.