



Global Agriculture Finance Conference 2025 Press Release

Opportunity International and Financial Partners Host 2025 Global Agriculture Finance Conference as Combined Efforts Surpass \$500 Million Invested in Smallholder Farmers

Kampala, Uganda – August 11, 2025 – Global NGO Opportunity International proudly launched their 2025 Global Agriculture Finance Conference, a three-day convening of financial institutions, social impact investors, bilateral donors, practitioners, and researchers.

The conference brings together 26 leading financial institutions and key stakeholders from Sub-Saharan Africa that are investing in smallholder farming families in low- and middle-income countries, including:

- Bank of Uganda Governor Dr. Michael Atingi-Ego
- Opportunity International CEO Atul Tandon
- Oikocredit Global Head of Agriculture Investments Anshul Jindal
- Agricultural Business Initiative Finance Ltd. CEO Mona Muguma Ssebuliba

The event is the official kickoff for Opportunity's Agriculture Finance Community of Practice, which will serve as a space for the continent-wide network of financial service providers to learn from each other, access insights and resources on relevant topics, and explore innovative solutions to shared challenges.

Collectively, attending organizations have lent over \$500 million USD in agricultural loans, demonstrating a strong commitment to driving sustainable growth in the sector.

"If you want to go far, go together. Over the years, we've built a continent-wide network of financial partners that unlocks local capital, delivers local solutions, and enables millions to build sustainable livelihoods on their own terms," said Atul Tandon, CEO of Opportunity International. "Together, we have released over a million loans to smallholder families – creating a lasting framework at the intersection of finance and impact that is rooted in dignity and committed to a rising Africa."

Through a partner-rich strategy, Opportunity International's Agriculture Finance program has equipped local financial institutions with training, support, and resources to better design regionally tailored solutions that strengthen support for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. **Together, this network of partners has reached more than 1.4 million households across 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

Smallholder farmers, typically operating farms of five acres or less, are crucial to global food security, producing up to [80% of the food supply in low- and middle-income nations](#), and approximately [30% of the entire world's food supply](#).

Yet, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, smallholder farmers are the most likely population on earth to be experiencing extreme poverty and hunger. With a global funding gap for small-scale farming [exceeding \\$170 billion annually](#)—\$26 billion of which is for African smallholder farmers—expanding financial inclusion is essential to the fight against both poverty and hunger.

“When farmers thrive, communities thrive – and ending extreme poverty will not be possible without solutions that equip and empower farmers,” said Opportunity International Head of Agriculture Finance Tim Strong. “I continue to be inspired by the strength that we see amongst the farmers and agribusinesses we support, and I’m confident in the collective impact of the leaders joining us at our summit.”

With three days of intensive discussion, learning, and collaboration, the event will explore the most pressing issues facing smallholder farmers, agricultural small- and medium-sized enterprises, and the financial institutions that serve them. Key topics include:

- Regenerative agriculture
- Adaptation and resilience financing for a changing environment
- Microinsurance solutions for smallholder farmers
- Blended capital and other innovative finance solutions for the last mile

During interactive breakout sessions, participants will collaborate in open forums with peers and share best practices, generating innovative solutions that could exponentially expand the impact of agricultural financing for the farmers who need it most.

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ABOUT OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL

Opportunity International is a global nonprofit that has been equipping people to build sustainable livelihoods and educate their children for 54 years. Opportunity provides 21 million families with innovative financial resources, training, and support to grow their small businesses and send their children to school. In 2024, Opportunity International and its partners helped fund more than 19,000 schools that reached 3.4 million children. Discover more at opportunity.org or join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).