



The CASEE partnership between Shell Foundation and the UK Government delivers access to energy for smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, by supporting scaling of agriculture-focused businesses that improve access to resources, finance, knowledge and markets.

The programme aims to **mobilise £110m** of additional investment into the agriculture ecosystem and **improve more than a million lives**.

Shell Foundation | 



Catalysing Agriculture by Scaling Energy Ecosystems (CASEE)

In 2019, Shell Foundation (SF) and the UK Government launched a £30m, seven-year partnership to **accelerate access to energy-enabled solutions for small-holder farmers and agricultural SMEs** (small and medium sized enterprises) in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The programme aims to:



STRENGTHEN agriculture and food systems, by developing and scaling 15-18 innovative businesses that boost farmers' incomes and resilience



MOBILISE £110m of additional funding into the sector



IMPROVE the lives of 1m people



GENERATE robust evidence on the role of patient grant capital and pathways to scale, to de-risk the wider sector



Key barriers:

The programme works with companies that collectively address a range of barriers facing farmers and value chain actors, to **stimulate the adoption of energy enabled assets** for productive use among low-income, rural households.

This ecosystem approach is based on **SF's experience catalysing the household energy sector**, which has demonstrated the need to directly support complementary issues facing the sector, such as consumer financing and last mile distribution.

Specifically, CASEE supports businesses that collectively address four key barriers:

- 1 ACCESS TO RESOURCES** developing new **technologies and services** focused on energy provision to use for agriculture
- 2 ACCESS TO FINANCE AND INSURANCE** supporting **intermediaries** to provide financial products such as small business loans, inputs on credit and insurance to smallholder farmers
- 3 ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE** focusing on low cost solutions to provide better market **information and training** on business and agronomy practices
- 4 ACCESS TO MARKETS** creating **value chains connecting** small hold farmers to larger supply chains increasing value to farmers



What type of business does the partnership support?

We are supporting companies that provide **direct access to energy for productive use**, for example **cold storage solutions and solar irrigation**, as well as businesses that help farmers to be more secure in thinking about the long-term, for example through the provision of **credit, insurance, or a contract** for produce, providing farmers with greater resilience and increased incomes and enabling them to move up the energy ladder.

Programme support criteria:

ECOSYSTEM PLAYERS



those working with multiple farms / farmers and addressing access to markets, finance, products and resources and/or knowledge with a direct or indirect link to increasing access to energy

COMPANY SIZE



already demonstrating viability and have started implementing or have made meaningful steps towards implementing at scale

GEOGRAPHY



core operations in India or sub-Saharan Africa

SCALING PLANS



growth potential to impact 10m customers over a 10-year timeframe

CASEE will prioritise businesses that are locally-founded and managed, include gender inclusion in their operations and/or customer base, and leverage transformational digital technology.

Why Agriculture?

Globally, an estimated *2 billion people live in smallholder households and in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.*

Smallholder farmers are at the centre of the food system and produce *up to 80%* of the food consumed. As a group, however, smallholder farmers are among some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in the world – struggling with *food security, energy availability, market access, training and climate change.*

Access to productive-use energy can enable smallholder farmers to enhance agricultural output and profitability with reduced environmental costs and increased climate change resilience.





Shell Foundation (SF) is a UK-registered charity, founded by Shell in 2000, that creates and scales business solutions to enhance access to energy and affordable transport. We exist to serve the low-income communities most affected by these issues.

We provide patient support to social enterprises and institutions capable of delivering social change at scale across Africa and Asia via disruptive technologies or business models without long-term reliance on charitable support or subsidy.

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty. We are tackling the global challenges of our time including poverty and disease, mass migration, insecurity and conflict. Our work is building a safer, healthier, more prosperous world for people in developing countries and in the UK too.