Better markets for the poor

Improved access to agricultural markets creates income-opportunities and fosters food security and resilience of smallholder farmers. The SDC addresses the way markets work for the poor through Market System Development (MSD). An independent evaluation assessed how SDC-financed MSD-projects in agriculture were implemented from 2013 to 2019.

SDC engagement

Strengths

Active
SDC took a leading role in an active community of NGO's, think tanks and other practitioners of MSD.

Long-term
SDC practice of providing support over several phases ensured that sustainable results were achieved.
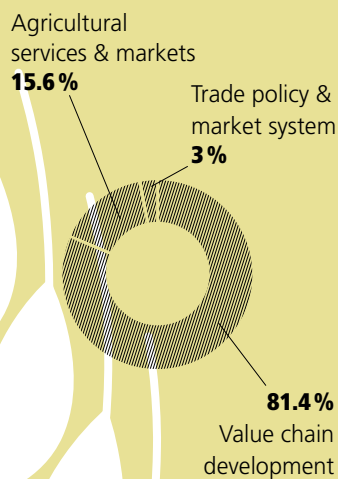
Diverse
SDC worked with a wide variety of partners from the private sector to business member organisations, research and academia, civil society and government agencies.

Evolving
MSD has become more responsive to the Sustainable Development Goals and developed greater emphasis on targeting the poor, for whom the markets do not work well.

3 sectors

MSD in agriculture consists of 3 main fields:

Agricultural services & markets
15.6 %

Trade policy & market system
3 %

81.4 %
Value chain development

4 domains

Expenditures for MSD in agriculture from 2013 to 2018 totalled at CHF 279.4m:

South Cooperation
69.5 %

East Cooperation
11.6 %

Global Cooperation
12 %

Humanitarian Aid
2.5 %

Others
4.4 %

275
projects

with major elements of MSD in agriculture the SDC funded between 2013 and 2019.

+40
countries

The SDC supports with MSD in agriculture better markets in more than 40 countries.

Recommen–dations

→ Build capacities
Build capacities among the staff of SDC's cooperation offices and project partners as well as implementing agents and national entities.

→ Improve project-design
Sharpen design and reporting of MSD-projects and link them to wider processes of transformation, such as the SDG's, to gain coherence and critical mass.

→ Clarify role
Formulate the role of MSD in Swiss Development Cooperation in the future to contribute more explicitly to private sector and market related policy and reforms.