

Good things grow faster with trust

iCRA is a Netherlands based foundation operating in the majority world. In 2023, iCRA implemented 29 ongoing projects in 21 countries and conducted 8 blended courses. iCRA has a core team of 15 staff members and close collaboration with 10 in-country iCRA partners in Africa. iCRA has a vital, global community of (over 12,000) alumni and project partners, many of them trained in facilitation and collaboration.

To contribute to SDG 2, Zero Hunger, iCRA equips agribusiness and agri-education professionals with the skills they need to build trust and sustainable partnerships. We believe collaboration makes food systems more efficient, innovative and resilient.

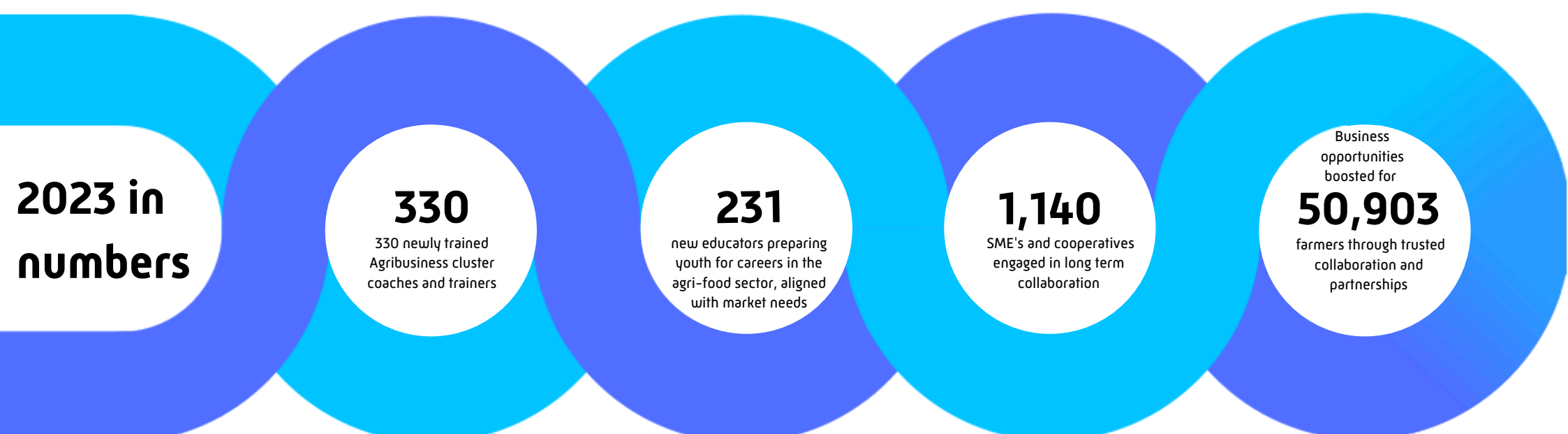


Mariette Gross: reflecting on 2023

An inspiring year! 2023 was marked by our 40th anniversary and celebrated with the "Trust in Action" conference. We continued building trust and strengthening facilitation skills in and by projects, contributing to our mission: Build resilient, innovative, thriving agribusinesses that provide attractive career opportunities for young people.

In this impact overview we present our main achievements in 2023, projects we are proud of, and the new horizons we are navigating in 2024! [Our financial report](#) can be found on our website separately.

Warm regards, Mariette Gross, Executive Director



2023: Celebrating 40 years of building trust!



Trust in Action

In October 2023 we celebrated iCRA 40th anniversary with our global community. We gathered in a full-day, bilingual conference, packed with discussions, workshops and even music. All around the theme 'Trust in Action'. We also launched our anniversary memory book, with 40 beautiful memories from iCRA community members.

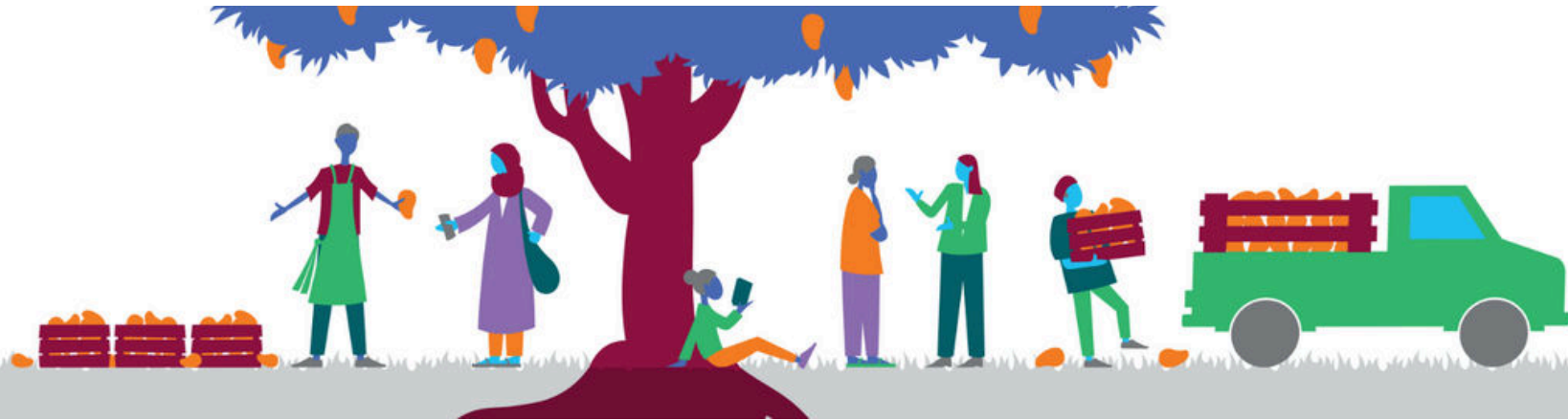
[Have you seen our 40th anniversary book yet?](#)



Strategic direction: Growing together

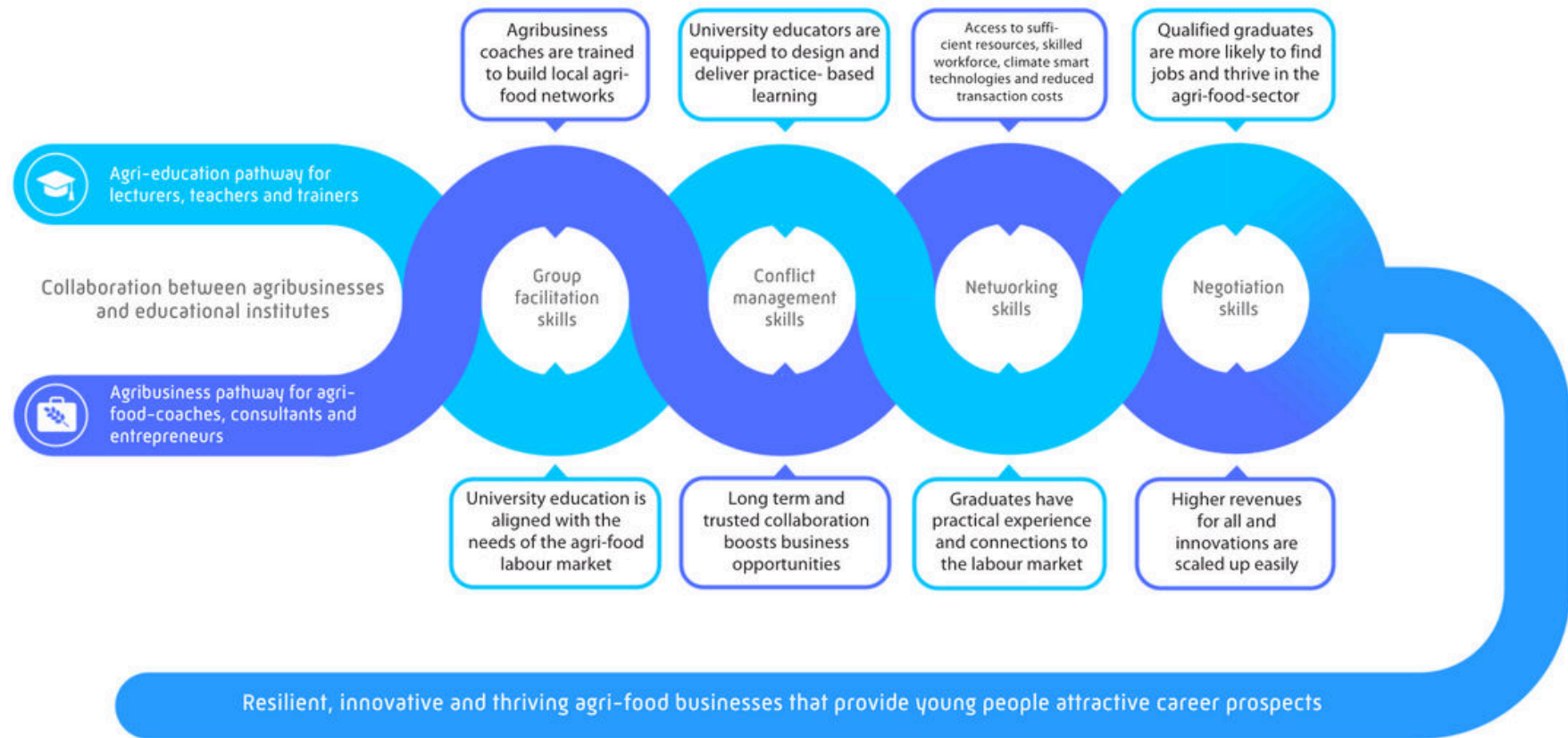
We observe that food and agricultural production are affected by an increasing unpredictability. Climate change, regional instability and urbanisation challenge food security. Young people see few attractive opportunities in the agricultural sector. At the same time, we observe that smallholders and entrepreneurs are leading the way towards a more productive, commercialised sector. By strengthening relationships in agri-food ecosystems, iCRA wants to support this momentum. That is why in our Growing Together strategy 2023-2027, we focus fully on fostering trust-based partnerships helping agri-food SME's and producers to organize last-mile service delivery, to share risks and benefits as they adopt new innovations, to lower transaction costs and increase business volumes. We boost close ties between the private sector and agri-education institutes. This provides young people the opportunity to learn practical skills and experience that a thriving and innovative agri-food sector can be an attractive career option.

As partnership building is at the heart of iCRA, we also aim to further expand our implementing network of local partner in the countries we work.



How we contribute to change

In 2023 we elaborated our **Theory of Change** for Agribusiness and Agri-education



[Read more about the iCRA Community!](#)

We don't do this alone!

iCRA has a global network of alumni, project partners and facilitators. These connections are strong and they cross continents. Together we learn, celebrate and find opportunities to get better at what we all love to do; build stronger food systems.

Five new iCRA partners on board!

In 2023 we signed partnership agreements with:

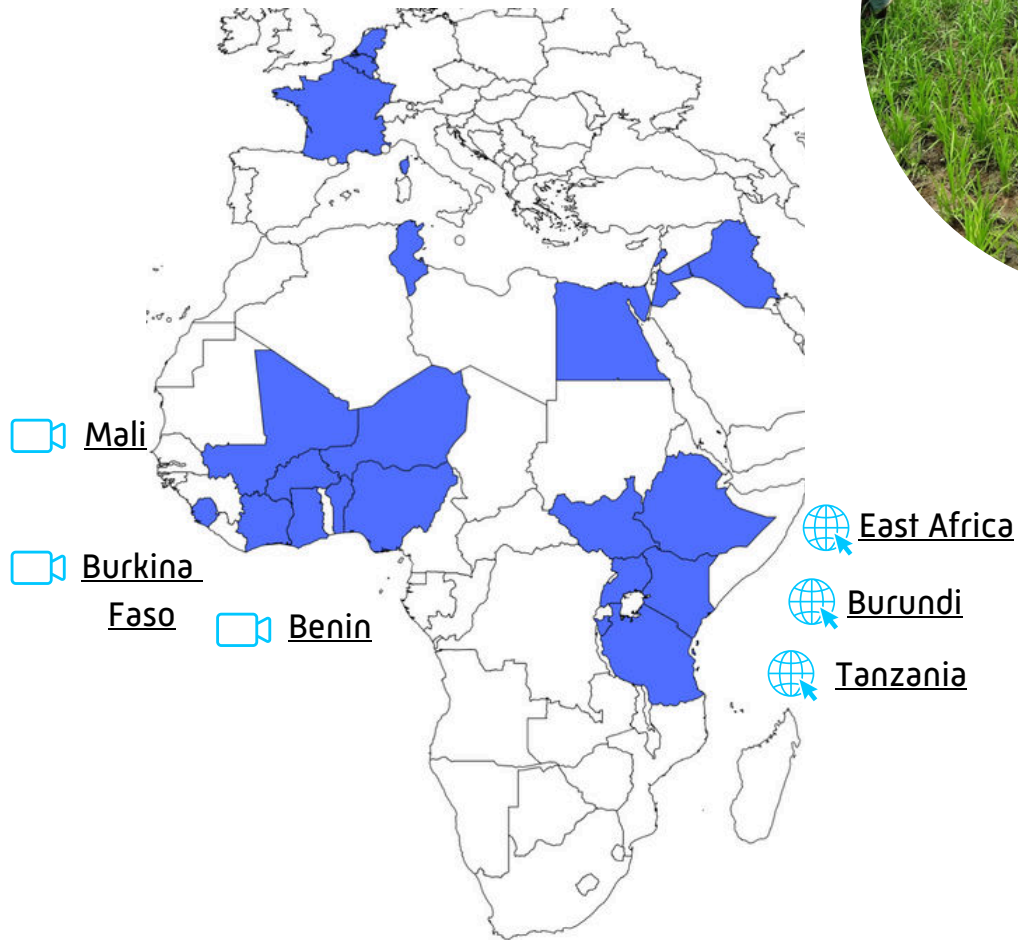
- Agri-wise Africa in KENYA
- 360 Connect in TANZANIA
- CERRCO-BI in BURUNDI
- AGRI'IN in BURKINA FASO
- Rikolto in EAST AFRICA



Welcome on board!

iCRA on the map

To learn more on our projects that ended or started in 2023 check the links:



[Read more projects on our website!](#)



Agribusiness projects

In our Agribusiness field of expertise we were involved in 17 projects in 2023. One of them was ProAgri4 in Benin.

The project ProAgri 4 aims to improve livelihoods by sustainably increasing product volume and quality. Between 2020-2023 the volume of shea production increase with almost 290%. Contributing to a significant increase of income for family farms. To achieve this, iCRA trained 21 master coaches who trained, supervised and certified 146 local agribusiness coaches to guide strong and sustainable partnerships. This resulted in 73 active agribusiness clusters in soybean, rice and shea nuts.

Agri-education projects

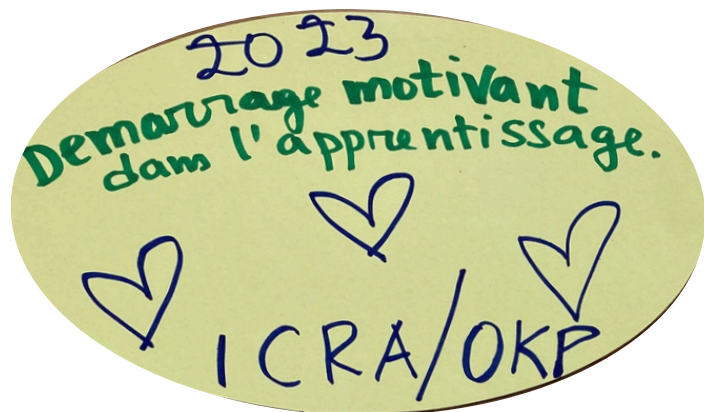
In 2023 we worked in 12 Agri-education projects. One of them was the East African Regional network of Excellence in Dairy (EARNED) in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

The project developed an online learning platform 'Dairy Delta Academy'. Twelve education institutes in both East Africa and the Netherlands now use this platform for dairy education.

To support this transition, iCRA trained teachers in specialized skills to deliver blended learning. Additionally, six regional 'Dairy Hubs' were established. These hubs consolidate partnerships between education institutions and the private sector. They also provide a platform for knowledge exchange and attract investment.



iCRA Courses in 2023



Making Research Work

This course offered me great insights on action based research, and gave me practical skills to make research and research results available to society.

Bélyse MUPFASONI - Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Burundi

Making Agribusiness Work

Before, I couldn't even believe that businesspeople who are competing on one product, could collaborate in the same area.

Epaphras Ndikumana - Social and Environmental Impact Manager at the Community Coffee Collective (CCC), affiliated with Long Miles Coffee Project, Burundi. During the Making Agribusiness Work he founded Rise&Shine Agribusiness Company (RABCO), a venture focused on sustainable agricultural solutions.



Making Education Work

This training was highly beneficial, particularly for its program content. I successfully applied the learning staircase and motivational starts in my training sessions for adults, which greatly engaged and motivated the learners. Connecting with peers across Africa and sharing experiences was invaluable, and we remain in contact to continue exchanging ideas. The visits, especially to Dassa, enriched my understanding of the course. I deeply appreciate iCRA's dedication and the unforgettable experience!

Abderrahim BEN AYED
Chief Engineer and Trainer
Agency for Agricultural Extension and Training, Tunisia