

## Frequently Asked Questions

### BACKGROUND

#### Who is the audience for this database?

- This database contains concise information for policy makers, donors and practitioners as well as more detailed technical information for researchers and scientists. The database is not intended to give recommendations; rather it seeks to inform stakeholders about approaches that contribute to Sustainable Intensification in an unbiased way.

### APPROACH

#### How do you define Sustainable Intensification?

- The definition of Sustainable Intensification used for this database, is explained in the 2013 Montpellier Panel report "[Sustainable Intensification: A New Paradigm for African Agriculture](#)."
- Importantly, Sustainable Intensification is a pathway for meeting multiple objectives and overcoming many barriers to improving food and nutrition security, reducing poverty, building resilience to climate change and other risks, and enhancing the natural environment.

#### How does sustainable intensification work?

- There are two main technological approaches to Sustainable Intensification. One is the application of agricultural ecological processes (ecological intensification), the other is to utilise conventional and modern plant and livestock breeding (genetic intensification). Integral to these approaches is socio-economic intensification, which provides an enabling environment to support technology adoption and develop markets for farmers.
- The overall aim is to improve food and nutrition security, reduce poverty and raise incomes at the same time mitigating the risks involved in adopting more environmentally sustainable and productive farming practices.
- It is important to remember that this database presents a variety of approaches. The combination used will differ based on context and local conditions. Sustainable Intensification is not a one-size-fits-all approach but rather can be tailored to specific needs.



# SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION

## DATABASE

### Are all three SI pillars equally important in today's world?

- Each of the three pillars of Sustainable Intensification (agro-ecological, genetic and socio-economic) have been tested in the field and show success, but all also face many barriers to wide-scale adoption and implementation. However, ours is the first approach to combine all three aspects, giving them equal importance. We believe this new paradigm can chart the path towards food and nutrition security and poverty reduction in Africa.
- Sustainable Intensification recognises the synergies and interdependence of the 3 pillars, making every effort to seek approaches that achieve not only sustainable improvements in yields, but also benefits to nutrition, incomes, livelihoods as well as build resilience to the impacts of climate change and other risks.

### What was your methodology for compiling this database?

- This database seeks to collate information in the literature and gained from our field experience relating to the three pillars of Sustainable Intensification (ecological, genetic and socio-economic).
- The database is in no way an exhaustive list of all examples of SI nor do the case studies necessarily represent the best examples of a given intervention or technology, rather they are a starting point for building a database of examples of the many components that make up SI.

## CORRECTIONS AND FEEDBACK

### What if I think that there is an error in the database?

- If you have noted an inconsistency or factual error, please notify us by email ([info@ag4impact.org](mailto:info@ag4impact.org)).

### Can I submit content to be included in this database?

- We intend to update this resource with new information as the discussion on Sustainable Intensification develops. If you have information you would like the team to consider for inclusion in this database, please contact us via email.

### Can I use content from this database in my organisation's work?

- This database was created to give stakeholders a balanced overview of approaches towards Sustainable Intensification, and we welcome you to share the information gathered.

### If so, how do I cite it?

- If you are using this database in an official capacity, please use the following credit: *Agriculture for Impact, 2015: Sustainable Intensification Database. London, United Kingdom. Agriculture for Impact. Available online at: [www.ag4impact.org/database](http://www.ag4impact.org/database)*

# SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION

## DATABASE

Will Agriculture for Impact be holding any feedback events about the SI database? If so, can I attend? When and where?

- We do not intend to hold formal feedback sessions in the near future. However if you would like to pass on your response to this resource, please get in touch via email.

