

Sahel Capital Secures \$10M Investment from Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund to Scale Agri-SMEs and Create Jobs

The Social Enterprise Fund for Agriculture in Africa (SEFAA), managed by Sahel Capital, has secured a **\$10 million investment from the Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund. The Fund is managed by MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates, Mauritius).**

This investment marks a major milestone in SEFAA's mission to finance social enterprises that drive meaningful change for smallholder farmers across sub-Saharan Africa. By strengthening agricultural ecosystems and expanding income-generating opportunities, SEFAA aims to create over 10,000 jobs for women and youths across 13 countries.

The partnership with MEDA Mauritius and the Fund reflects a shared commitment to unlocking economic growth and creating meaningful employment across the continent. This capital injection will allow SEFAA to expand its reach by supporting more agri-SMEs that are financially viable but often excluded from traditional financing. By bridging this funding gap, SEFAA will deepen its impact on smallholder farmers and contribute to long-term poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Since the inception of the Fund in 2021, we have processed 33 facilities to 18 companies in 7 countries in SSA", said Mezu Nwuneli, Managing Partner of Sahel Capital. "This \$10 million commitment from the Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund, through MEDA Mauritius, is a testament to our team's hard work and the impactful work we are doing. It will be instrumental in accelerating our efforts to improve the income opportunity for SHFs by enabling the agri-SMEs that engages with them, further strengthening our position as a leading fund in the food and agriculture sector in Africa".

Dorothy Nyambi, President and CEO of MEDA, said:

"We are proud to partner with SEFAA and Sahel Capital, whose strategic vision aligns with MEDA's commitment to advancing economic opportunity through inclusive finance. With the support of the Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund, this collaboration strengthens our shared mission to catalyse job creation for women and youth by financing SMEs and MSMEs, while also helping to build the enabling ecosystems they need to thrive sustainably."

The Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund is focused on unlocking capital for African SMEs, enabling them to scale and create dignified, fulfilling employment opportunities. Its investment into SEFAA, channelled through MEDA Mauritius, represents a strategic effort to direct catalytic capital toward high-potential enterprises that drive inclusive growth. The success and expansion of SEFAA has also been made possible through the pioneering support of KfW Development Bank, whose early investment was instrumental in establishing the Fund and advancing its mission.

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About Sahel Capital

Sahel Capital is leading private investment firm focused exclusively on the sub-Saharan agribusiness sector. We adopt an integrated approach to deliver tailored capital solutions that meet the unique needs of companies and our investment partners. Sahel Capital currently manages two funds: FAFIN, which has investments in SME agribusinesses in Nigeria, and SEFAA, which provides primarily structured debt to agribusiness SMEs across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

About SEFAA

The Social Enterprise Fund for Agriculture in Africa (SEFAA) is an impact-first investment fund managed by Sahel Capital and anchored by KfW Development Bank. Launched in 2021 with an initial capital of \$24 million, SEFAA provides flexible financing – primarily debt, with the option for equity and quasi-equity – to early-stage and growth-oriented agribusinesses operating across Sub-Saharan Africa. The fund targets enterprises that improve the productivity, market access, and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, with a strong emphasis on social impact and gender inclusion.

SEFAA invests between \$300,000 and \$2.4 million and is invests in 13 countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and Côte d'Ivoire. Alongside capital, the fund offers a robust Technical Assistance Facility to strengthen operational capacity and ensure long-term sustainability.

About MEDA

MEDA is an international economic development organization that creates business solutions to poverty. MEDA provides business development services, access to finance, and market linkages to entrepreneurs and small businesses around the world.

About the Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund

The Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund is a bold and catalytic \$200 million fund-of-funds initiative designed to unlock capital for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Africa. By investing in gender-diverse African fund managers and providing tailored capacity-building support, the Fund is driving inclusive economic growth, creating dignified jobs, and advancing gender equity.

Aligned with the Mastercard Foundation's *Young Africa Works* strategy, the Fund focuses on empowering women and youth entrepreneurs in seven priority countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda. In addition to financial support, the Fund equips investees with resources in Gender, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (GDEI), as well as Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, strengthening local investment ecosystems and amplifying long-term impact.

Through close collaboration with fund managers, civil society organisations, and ecosystem partners, the Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund is building a future where African entrepreneurs can thrive, contributing to a more resilient and inclusive economy.

For more information, visit africagrowthfund.org and follow us on social media at @AfricaGrowthFund.

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