



JULY 14, 2025

UNLOCKING ANGOLA'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL: A POLICY BRIEF ON ASFPS-EI

*A STRATEGIC CASE FOR NATIONAL ADOPTION, INVESTMENT, AND
REGIONAL LEADERSHIP*

CREATED BY

EUSL AB

Care to Change the World

Chapter 1: Strategic Alignment with National Priorities

The Angola Staple Food Programme: Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP) and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) is a flagship initiative that directly supports Angola's national development agenda. It is designed to catalyze agricultural transformation, enhance food security, and promote inclusive economic growth through a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach. The programme is strategically aligned with Angola's key policy frameworks and regional commitments, ensuring coherence, sustainability, and long-term impact.

1.1 Alignment with Angola's National Development Plan (2023–2027)

ASFPS-EI is fully integrated with the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP 2023–2027), which prioritizes:

- **Economic diversification** through increased agricultural productivity and value addition.
- **Job creation** and rural development, particularly for youth and women.
- **Food security and nutrition**, reducing dependency on food imports.
- **Climate resilience** and sustainable natural resource management.

The programme contributes to these goals by strengthening agricultural input systems (fertilizers, seeds, bioprotectants), expanding horticultural value chains, and deploying modular infrastructure (ECHO) to support rural economies.

1.2 Alignment with Angola 2050 Long-Term Development Strategy

ASFPS-EI supports the Angola 2050 vision by:

- Promoting **technological innovation** in agriculture through biotechnology, digital tools (FlexSus), and renewable energy.
- Enhancing **infrastructure and logistics** for agricultural trade and processing.
- Building **human capital** through vocational training and capacity development.
- Encouraging **public-private partnerships** to mobilize investment and scale impact.

The programme's long-term orientation ensures that Angola's agricultural sector becomes a resilient, competitive, and sustainable pillar of the national economy.

1.3 Alignment with Regional and Continental Frameworks

ASFPS-EI is designed to position Angola as a leader in regional agricultural trade and policy harmonization. It aligns with:

- **The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** by facilitating intra-African trade in staple foods, horticulture, and agricultural inputs.
- **The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union (AU)** frameworks through harmonized seed, fertilizer, and biosafety regulations.
- **COMESA's ACTESA model**, adapted to Angola's context, to promote regional integration, market access, and food systems resilience.

1.4 Contribution to Angola's Strategic Goals

ASFPS-EI directly supports Angola's overarching development goals by:

- **Transforming agriculture** into a modern, high-productivity sector.
- **Diversifying the economy** beyond oil and extractives.
- **Ensuring food sovereignty** and reducing import dependency.
- **Building climate resilience** through sustainable practices and infrastructure.

By aligning with national and regional priorities, ASFPS-EI offers a coherent, high-impact pathway for Angola to achieve inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and global competitiveness in agriculture.

Chapter 2: Unlocking Agricultural Potential

Angola possesses vast agricultural resources, including arable land, diverse agro-ecological zones, and a growing labor force. However, despite these advantages, the country remains a net importer of food, with significant gaps in productivity, input access, and market integration. The Angola Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) is designed to reverse this trend by unlocking the full potential of Angola's agricultural sector through targeted, scalable, and sustainable interventions.

2.1 Addressing Input Gaps: Fertilizers, Seeds, and Bioprotectants

One of the primary constraints to agricultural productivity in Angola is the limited availability and affordability of quality inputs. ASFPS-EI addresses this by:

- **Expanding access to fertilizers** through the Angola Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (FAUP), which includes the development of national soil fertility maps, smart subsidy frameworks, and localized fertilizer blending facilities.
- **Improving seed systems** via the Angola Seed Harmonization and Certification Programme (SHCP), which establishes a national seed certification framework, digital traceability systems, and regional trade harmonization.
- **Promoting sustainable crop protection** through the Angola Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme (BHAP), which supports the adoption of organic biopesticides and biofertilizers, reducing reliance on synthetic chemicals and enhancing environmental resilience.

These interventions ensure that smallholder farmers have access to high-quality, climate-adaptive inputs that are essential for increasing yields and improving food security.

2.2 Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture

ASFPS-EI integrates climate-smart agricultural practices across all programme components. Through the deployment of the ECHO modular infrastructure platform, the programme introduces:

- **Solar-powered irrigation systems** to reduce dependence on erratic rainfall.
- **Water purification and recycling technologies** to enhance water-use efficiency.
- **Digital tools (FlexSus)** for real-time monitoring of soil health, crop performance, and climate risks.



These innovations enable farmers to adapt to climate variability, reduce environmental degradation, and build long-term resilience in agricultural production systems.

2.3 Enhancing Horticulture and Staple Crop Productivity

The Angola Horticulture Accelerator (HA) and the broader ASFPS-EI framework target both staple and high-value crops to maximize productivity and market competitiveness. Key interventions include:

- **Post-harvest infrastructure development**, such as cold storage, packaging, and processing facilities.
- **Value chain coordination platforms** to link producers with buyers, exporters, and service providers.
- **Research and innovation hubs** to support the development of high-yielding, pest-resistant, and climate-resilient crop varieties.

By strengthening both upstream and downstream segments of the value chain, ASFPS-EI ensures that productivity gains translate into higher incomes and improved food availability.

2.4 Supporting Livestock and Aquaculture Development

ASFPS-EI also recognizes the importance of diversifying agricultural production beyond crops. The programme supports:

- **Livestock development**, including feed systems, veterinary services, and breeding programs.
- **Sustainable aquaculture**, with investments in hatcheries, water management, and market access for fish products.

These efforts contribute to dietary diversity, rural employment, and economic resilience, particularly in regions where crop production is limited by environmental conditions.

Chapter 3: Economic Empowerment and Job Creation

The Angola Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) is not only a vehicle for agricultural transformation but also a powerful engine for inclusive economic growth. By targeting systemic barriers to productivity, market access, and infrastructure, the programme is designed to generate widespread employment, raise rural incomes, and foster a more equitable and resilient economy.

3.1 Job Creation Across the Agricultural Value Chain

ASFPS-EI is projected to create over **30,000 new jobs** across Angola's agricultural value chains by 2035. These jobs will span multiple sectors and skill levels, including:

- **Primary production**: employment in farming, aquaculture, and livestock rearing.
- **Agro-processing and logistics**: roles in packaging, storage, transportation, and value addition.
- **Infrastructure and technology**: installation and maintenance of ECHO modular systems, renewable energy, and irrigation networks.
- **Extension services and training**: positions for agronomists, trainers, and rural advisors.

The programme emphasizes youth and gender inclusion, ensuring that women and young people are prioritized in vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and employment opportunities.



3.2 Increasing Smallholder Incomes

Smallholder farmers are the backbone of Angola's agricultural economy, yet they face persistent challenges in accessing inputs, markets, and finance. ASFPS-EI addresses these barriers through:

- **Smart subsidies and input access:** enabling farmers to use high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and bioprotectants.
- **Market integration:** linking producers to structured markets, commodity exchanges, and regional buyers.
- **Capacity building:** equipping farmers with knowledge in climate-smart practices, financial literacy, and business development.

These interventions are expected to increase smallholder incomes by at least 25%, contributing to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods in rural communities.

3.3 Reducing Post-Harvest Losses

Post-harvest losses in Angola's agricultural sector are estimated to reach up to 40–50%, particularly in horticulture. ASFPS-EI tackles this issue through:

- **Investment in cold storage, packaging, and processing facilities.**
- **Training in post-harvest handling and quality control.**
- **Digital traceability systems** to ensure compliance with food safety and export standards.

By reducing post-harvest losses by **50%**, the programme will significantly improve food availability, reduce waste, and enhance profitability for producers and traders.

3.4 Expanding Market Access

ASFPS-EI is designed to integrate Angola more deeply into regional and global agricultural markets. Key strategies include:

- **Policy harmonization** with SADC and AfCFTA trade frameworks.
- **Development of trade corridors and logistics hubs.**
- **Support for export-oriented value chains**, particularly in high-value crops and processed goods.

These efforts will enable Angolan agricultural products to reach new markets, attract investment, and increase foreign exchange earnings.

Chapter 4: Infrastructure and Technology Investment

Modernizing Angola's agricultural sector requires more than policy reform and input access—it demands a robust foundation of infrastructure and technology. The Angola Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) addresses this need through the deployment of the ECHO modular platform, a transformative infrastructure system designed to empower rural communities with essential services, digital tools, and climate-resilient technologies.

4.1 The ECHO Modular Platform: A Scalable Infrastructure Solution

ECHO (Environmental, Circular, Holistic, Optimized) is a modular, scalable infrastructure system developed to overcome the logistical and technological barriers that hinder rural agricultural development. It integrates:

- **Renewable energy systems** (solar generation and storage)
- **Water purification and irrigation infrastructure**
- **Waste recycling and circular economy solutions**
- **Digital connectivity and broadband access**

These modules are designed to be rapidly deployed, easily maintained, and adapted to local conditions, ensuring that even remote farming communities can benefit from modern infrastructure.

4.2 Renewable Energy for Agricultural Productivity

Access to reliable energy is a critical enabler of agricultural transformation. ASFPS-EI introduces:

- **Solar-powered irrigation systems** to support year-round crop production.
- **Energy for cold storage and processing units**, reducing post-harvest losses.
- **Power for digital tools and training centers**, enhancing rural education and extension services.

By reducing dependence on fossil fuels and grid infrastructure, ECHO promotes a low-carbon, energy-resilient agricultural economy.

4.3 Water Management and Irrigation Infrastructure

Water scarcity and inefficient irrigation are major constraints in Angola's agriculture. ASFPS-EI addresses this through:

- **Water purification systems** to ensure clean water for irrigation and community use.
- **Smart irrigation technologies**, including drip and precision systems, to optimize water use.
- **Water storage and recycling units** to enhance resilience during dry seasons.

These systems are essential for expanding irrigated land from the current 5–9% to over 30% by 2035, a key target of the programme.

4.4 Digital Connectivity and Real-Time Monitoring

ASFPS-EI integrates **FlexSus**, a data-driven decision-support platform that enables:

- **Real-time monitoring** of soil health, crop performance, and climate conditions.
- **Early warning systems** for pests, droughts, and market disruptions.
- **Digital advisory services** for farmers, including market prices, weather forecasts, and agronomic tips.

Through community broadband initiatives, rural farmers will gain access to digital tools that enhance productivity, reduce risk, and connect them to national and regional markets.

4.5 Reducing Aid Dependency Through Self-Sustaining Systems

By investing in modular, community-owned infrastructure, ASFPS-EI reduces long-term reliance on donor support. The programme promotes:

- **Public-private partnerships (PPPs)** for infrastructure financing and maintenance.
- **Local capacity building** for system operation and governance.
- **Circular economy models**, including waste-to-energy and composting systems.

These investments create self-sustaining rural economies that are resilient, productive, and environmentally responsible.

Chapter 5: Public-Private Partnerships and Sustainable Financing

The Angola Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) is designed to be financially sustainable, investment-friendly, and scalable. Recognizing the limitations of public funding and the need for long-term economic viability, the programme leverages a blended financing model that combines public resources, donor support, and private sector investment. This approach ensures that Angola's agricultural transformation is not only impactful but also fiscally responsible.

5.1 Strategic Institutional Backing

ASFPS-EI is supported by a coalition of international and regional development partners, including:

- **The European Social Label (EUSL)** – serving as the programme's technical and strategic lead, with a focus on social equity, sustainability, and innovation.
- **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** – providing technical guidance on agricultural policy, food systems, and climate-smart practices.
- **The African Development Bank (AfDB)** – a key financial partner supporting infrastructure, value chain development, and access to finance.
- **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** – contributing to capacity building, governance, and inclusive development frameworks.
- **The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)** – supporting innovation in biotechnology, seed systems, and digital agriculture.

These institutions bring not only funding but also global expertise, policy influence, and implementation capacity.

5.2 Structured Financing and Matching Grants

ASFPS-EI employs a structured financing model that includes:

- **Matching grant mechanisms** to incentivize private sector investment in infrastructure, processing, and input supply chains.
- **Credit guarantee schemes** to de-risk lending to agro-dealers and smallholder-focused agribusinesses.
- **Public-private co-financing arrangements** for modular infrastructure (ECHO), vocational training, and technology deployment.

This model reduces the fiscal burden on the Angolan government while ensuring that investments are aligned with national priorities and deliver measurable impact.

5.3 Mobilizing Private Sector Participation

The programme actively engages the private sector through:

- **Public-private partnerships (PPPs)** in fertilizer blending, seed production, cold storage, and logistics.
- **Investment forums and B2B platforms** to connect local entrepreneurs with regional and international investors.
- **Technical assistance and business development services** to strengthen the capacity of SMEs and cooperatives to access finance and scale operations.

By creating a predictable, transparent, and investment-friendly environment, ASFPS-EI aims to crowd in private capital and foster a thriving agri-business ecosystem.

5.4 Long-Term Financial Sustainability

ASFPS-EI is designed to transition from donor-supported implementation to self-sustaining operations through:

- **Revenue-generating infrastructure** (e.g., solar-powered irrigation, processing units).
- **Cost-sharing models** with farmer organizations and cooperatives.
- **Institutional capacity building** to ensure effective financial management and governance.

This ensures that the programme's benefits endure beyond the initial funding cycle, contributing to Angola's long-term economic resilience and independence.

Chapter 6: Policy Reform and Regional Leadership

The Angola Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) is not only a national development initiative—it is a strategic platform for Angola to assert leadership in regional agricultural governance. By harmonizing policies, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and aligning with continental trade protocols, ASFPS-EI positions Angola as a proactive contributor to Africa's agricultural transformation.

6.1 Harmonizing Agricultural Policies with Regional and Continental Standards

ASFPS-EI supports Angola in aligning its agricultural policies with key regional and continental frameworks, including:

- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** standards for seed certification, fertilizer regulation, and biosafety.
- **African Union (AU)** guidelines under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Agenda 2063.
- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)** protocols and quality control measures to facilitate cross-border trade.

This harmonization ensures that Angola's agricultural products meet international standards, enabling smoother trade flows and increased competitiveness in regional markets.



6.2 Establishing Angola as a Regional Leader in Agricultural Innovation

Through ASFPS-EI, Angola is poised to become a reference point for agricultural innovation and governance in Southern Africa. The programme promotes:

- **Biotechnology and biosafety leadership** through the Angola Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (BBIP), which institutionalizes risk assessment mechanisms and public awareness strategies.
- **Seed system modernization** via the Angola Seed Harmonization and Certification Programme (SHCP), which introduces digital traceability, regional variety registration, and certification protocols.
- **Sustainable agriculture practices**, including the adoption of bioprotectants, climate-smart technologies, and circular economy models.

These initiatives position Angola as a source of technical expertise, policy innovation, and best practices for neighboring countries.

6.3 Influencing Regional Trade Policy and AfCFTA Integration

ASFPS-EI enables Angola to play a more active role in shaping regional trade policy by:

- **Participating in AfCFTA agricultural trade frameworks**, particularly in staple foods, horticulture, and inputs.
- **Contributing to mutual recognition agreements (MRAs)** for agricultural products, facilitating cross-border movement and reducing non-tariff barriers.
- **Hosting regional forums and technical committees**, where Angola can advocate for harmonized standards and inclusive trade policies.

By aligning its domestic policies with regional priorities and engaging in continental platforms, Angola strengthens its voice in trade negotiations and policy development.

6.4 Building Institutional Capacity for Policy Implementation

ASFPS-EI includes targeted support for:

- **Regulatory institutions**, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, and national biosafety authorities.
- **Policy development and monitoring units**, equipped with data tools (FlexSus) and technical assistance.
- **Stakeholder engagement platforms**, ensuring that farmers, cooperatives, and private sector actors are involved in shaping and implementing reforms.

This institutional strengthening ensures that policy harmonization is not only adopted but effectively implemented and sustained.

Chapter 7: Low Risk, High Impact

The Angola Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) is designed to deliver transformative outcomes with minimal environmental and social disruption. Its structure, implementation approach, and safeguards reflect a commitment to responsible development, ensuring that the programme is both impactful and sustainable.

7.1 Environmental and Social Risk Classification

ASFPS-EI has been classified as a **low to moderate environmental and social risk** programme. This classification is based on:

- The nature of its interventions, which focus on capacity building, infrastructure modernization, and sustainable agricultural practices.
- The modular and decentralized design of the ECHO platform, which minimizes land disturbance and environmental footprint.
- The integration of climate-smart technologies and organic inputs, which reduce reliance on environmentally harmful practices.

Where physical infrastructure is involved—such as irrigation systems, storage facilities, or renewable energy installations—environmental and social screening protocols are in place to ensure compliance with national and international standards.

7.2 Robust Risk Management Framework

ASFPS-EI includes a comprehensive **risk management strategy** that is embedded throughout the programme cycle. Key elements include:

- A **project-wide risk log**, regularly updated to track potential threats and mitigation measures.
- Oversight by the **Programme Steering Committee (PSC)** and the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), which monitor risk exposure and ensure timely response.
- **Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs)** for all infrastructure-related activities, aligned with Angola's national environmental regulations and international best practices.

This framework ensures that risks are proactively identified, transparently managed, and effectively mitigated.

7.3 Building Local Capacity for Long-Term Sustainability

One of the most important safeguards built into ASFPS-EI is its emphasis on local capacity development. The programme invests in:

- **Training for government officials, regulators, and extension agents** on environmental and social safeguards.
- **Community engagement and participatory planning**, ensuring that local voices shape implementation and oversight.
- **Knowledge transfer through vocational education**, empowering farmers and agribusinesses to adopt sustainable practices and manage risks independently.

By embedding risk awareness and management skills at the local level, ASFPS-EI ensures that its benefits are not only immediate but also enduring.

7.4 A Model for Responsible Agricultural Transformation

ASFPS-EI demonstrates that large-scale agricultural transformation can be achieved without compromising environmental integrity or social cohesion. Its low-risk profile, combined with high-impact outcomes, makes it a model for:

- **Sustainable rural development**



- **Climate-resilient food systems**
- **Inclusive economic empowerment**

This balance of ambition and responsibility is central to ASFPS-EI's value proposition and a key reason for its endorsement by international development partners.

Final Message to the Ministry

The Angola Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (ASFPS-EI) is more than an agricultural initiative—it is a nation-building strategy. It represents a bold, forward-looking investment in Angola's people, economy, and future. By addressing systemic challenges in agriculture, infrastructure, and trade, ASFPS-EI lays the foundation for a resilient, inclusive, and self-sustaining national food system.

The programme will:

- **Reduce Angola's food import bill** by increasing domestic production of staple and high-value crops.
- **Empower rural communities** through job creation, skills development, and access to modern infrastructure.
- **Attract investment** by creating an enabling environment for public-private partnerships and structured financing.
- **Position Angola as a continental leader** in sustainable agriculture, biotechnology, and regional trade integration.

ASFPS-EI has already received endorsement from international development partners and financial institutions. The programme is ready. The systems are in place. The opportunity is clear.

Now, it is time for Angola to take the next step—to lead, to invest, and to own this transformation.