



CultivAid
Knowledge based Development



CultivAid

Knowledge based Development

CultivAid Annual Report

2024





Executive Summary.....	3
Introduction.....	4
CultivAid's Implementation Model - The Agricultural Helix	6
CultivAid's Executive Team	7
Israel, Headquarters	7
Ethiopia.....	8
Tanzania.....	12
Kenya.....	16
Zambia.....	18
Uganda	18
Agricultural Diplomacy.....	17



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024 has been a transformative year for CultivAid, marked by reflection, innovation, and a renewed focus on scaling impact across East Africa and beyond. Despite the challenges posed by the events of October 7th, which tested our resilience both personally and professionally, we have remained steadfast in our mission to empower Agricultural Sectors through technology transfer, capacity building, and sustainable partnerships.

This year, CultivAid undertook an organizational restructuring, streamlining our strategy to focus on large-scale, impactful programs. Anchored in the Agricultural Helix Framework, our efforts target three core areas: research and development, value chains, and farmer production. This systems-based approach has driven the success of flagship programs like the grape value chain initiative in Tanzania, the Agri Cluster Program in Ethiopia, and the establishment of AITeC farms in Kenya and Tanzania. Additionally, we initiated expansion into new regions and sectors, including a spice and horticulture-focused Agricultural Helix program in Tanga, Tanzania and a new AITEC farm in Zambia set to be established in 2025.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Internship and attachment Training Program: Over 100 young professionals participated in the Internship or attachment Training Program, gaining hands-on experience in modern agricultural practices, including pressurized irrigation, vegetable cultivation, and crop-specific agronomy. These young professionals are now better equipped to contribute to the agricultural workforce, driving local development and innovation.

Grape Value Chain Development: Engaged over 500 farmers and stakeholders, collaborating with wineries in Dodoma to improve production quality and market access. Expansion plans include new demonstration sites and training initiatives to reach all grape growers in the region.

Agri cluster program: Provided subsidized seedlings and inputs to over 800 farmers in Tigray. Established four demonstration sites, trained hundreds of experts, and reached thousands of farmers despite post-conflict challenges.

Zambia, AITEC Institute: This year we conducted several visits to Zambia with the aim of establishing the AITEC institute, which will seek to open new programming in Zambia and support the development of the entire agricultural sector.

Morocco Agricultural Diplomacy: CultivAid is connecting Israeli and Moroccan researchers, students and businesses, focusing on technology transfer and capacity building to address climate-related challenges in agriculture. This year we had 3 interns from Morocco join us in Tanzania and are in the process of establishing an extension program in Agadir in partnership with the Agadir Horticulture Complex.

AITEC Embu, Kenya: AITeC Embu in Kenya has engaged with over 300 local farmers, focusing on improving crop productivity through smart irrigation systems, pest management, and access to seedlings. By partnering with local institutions, AITeC Embu is set to become a hub for agricultural innovation, supporting knowledge transfer and sustainable practices in the region.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we continue to grow, CultivAid remains committed to fostering resilient agricultural ecosystems that address food security, climate change, and economic development. By leveraging the **Agricultural Helix Framework**, we aim to expand partnerships, deepen our impact, and inspire innovation across the regions we serve.

INTRODUCTION

Operating since 2014, CultivAid is a non-profit organization headquartered in Israel, with a primary focus on East Africa and expanding its reach to the Middle East and North Africa. Operating as a technical entity, CultivAid leverages Israeli agricultural techniques and technologies to enhance crop yields, increase farmer incomes, promote economic development, foster diplomatic relationships, and address climate change challenges.

CultivAid currently operates in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Morocco and has programs under development in Zambia and Uganda. CultivAid's – Agricultural Development Programs seeks to develop a strong agricultural system based on the foundation of Israel's agricultural success. The program seeks to create a model where agriculture has a strong connection and collaboration between research and development (R&D), farmer training and extension, and value chains. We term this interconnected relationship as the Agricultural Helix, a framework that defines agriculture as a dynamic system of innovation, collaboration, and sustainable development, integrating research, capacity building, technology adaptation in a market-driven system that seeks to enhance productivity, quality and resilience.

Our Vision: CultivAid seeks to strengthen the agricultural ecosystems in developing countries, enabling them to address challenges related to food security, climate change, poverty, and agricultural-led economic growth. Our work draws from the Israeli experience, focusing on research and development (R&D), extension services, market development, and the crucial interconnections between these elements.

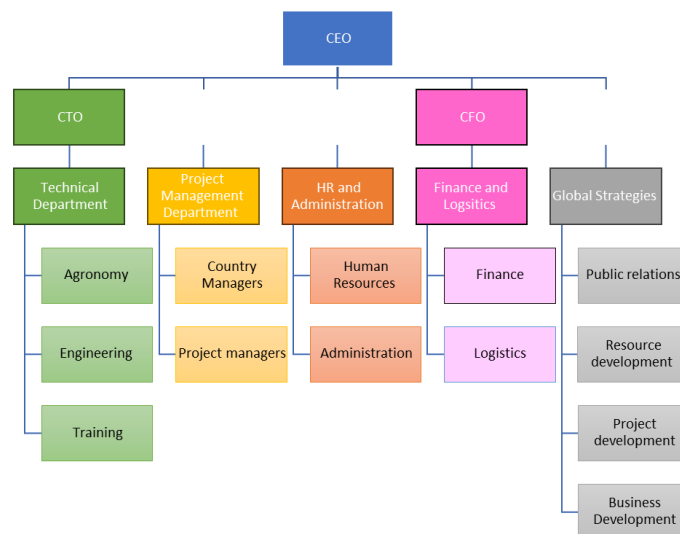
Our Mission: CultivAid aims to catalyze the agricultural revolution in developing nations across Africa and the Middle East by providing technical expertise in agricultural and water projects. Our mission is to strengthen small and medium-scale farmers' agricultural production and improve agricultural value chains, positively impacting millions of lives through improved income and nutrition.

CultivAid underscores the importance of building a knowledge-based infrastructure where technology is complemented by professional growth. To ensure the effective transfer of technology, collaboration among government agencies, local NGOs, the private sector, and various stakeholders is essential. Our approach prioritizes hands-on experience and capacity-building programs designed to empower local experts, farmers, agronomists, students, and researchers.

Central to this approach is the **Agricultural Innovation and Technology Center (AITEC)**, which fosters the integration of agricultural research, technological advancement, and practical demonstrations. AITEC serves as a knowledge hub and a catalyst for technology transfer, supply chain development, and market growth. Drawing from Israel's extensive agricultural expertise, AITEC promotes advanced practices and high standards into local agricultural ecosystems, facilitating their adaptation and expansion.

CultivAid takes a systems approach to agricultural development, supporting the private sector and value chains to create an enabling environment for all farmers. By promoting a cluster-based model, we encourage the aggregation of small-scale farmers and the strengthening of farmer organizations. This, in turn, enhances collaboration and market access. We also actively engage with government ministries in planning and execution, offering insights gained from over a decade of operations in Africa and Israel's agricultural experience.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



CultivAid's operations are structured around two core pillars and three supporting departments, ensuring efficient project execution, technical excellence, and strategic growth.

CORE PILLARS

1. Project Management
 - This pillar oversees the planning and implementation of workplans, ensuring tasks, timelines, resources, and partnerships are effectively coordinated.
 - Responsibilities include managing project workflows, maintaining adherence to deadlines, and facilitating seamless communication across the organization.
 - The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages this department, ensuring organizational alignment and operational efficiency.
2. Technical Department
 - Composed of agronomists, engineers, and technical experts, this pillar focuses on site establishment, installation, training, product development, and innovation.
 - It ensures technical excellence across all programs and projects, driving impactful and sustainable outcomes.
 - The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) leads this department, spearheading innovation and technical capacity building.

SUPPORTING DEPARTMENTS

These departments play a vital role in sustaining the core pillars by providing operational, financial, and strategic support:

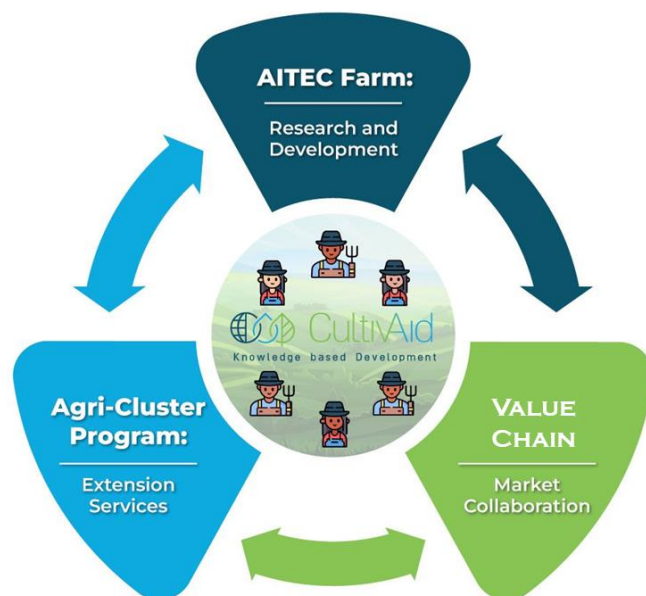
3. Human Resources (HR) and Administration
 - Responsible for internal operations, this department ensures organizational coordination by managing HR functions and administrative processes.
 - Replicated in each country of operation, it guarantees consistency and alignment with organizational goals.
 - The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages this department
4. Finance and Logistics
 - This department provides financial oversight, logistical support, and resource management to ensure financial sustainability and operational efficiency.
 - Functions include financial planning, process implementation, inventory management, and fostering employee understanding of financial protocols.

- The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) leads this department, ensuring proper financial management across the organization.
5. Global Strategies
- Focused on external relations, this department manages resource development, project development, and public relations.
 - Its primary objective is organizational growth, long-term sustainability, and cultivating strategic partnerships.
 - The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages this department, ensuring organizational growth and project development.

CULTIVAID'S IMPLEMENTATION MODEL - THE AGRICULTURAL HELIX

The agricultural helix is a conceptual framework that describes the dynamic relationship between agricultural research and development, agricultural extension and production, and Market development. This concept suggests that agricultural development is not linear but rather cyclical, influenced by various factors including technology, environmental factors, economic factors, and social dynamics.

The framework establishes 3 major components: The Agricultural Innovation and Technology Center, Farmer Cluster programs and Value Chain coordination. All three components are positioned around farmers whereas key performance indicators are measured by the farmers' ability to increase yields, profits, living standards and social conditions. The program seeks to impact the entire ecosystem looking at small and medium farmers as targets of the agricultural development.



Israel's agriculture sector has a reputation for its innovative use of technology. The strong connection between research, extension, and market has been instrumental in fostering technological innovation and localized solutions. The Helix model is what makes Israel's system successful. Research at the AITEC farm seeks to demonstrate, validate and adapt technologies and agronomical methods to the local context, which are then disseminated to farmers through the Agri-Cluster program / extension and training services. Value Chain Development plays a crucial role in securing stable markets for farmers and creating a demand driven production system. [The Agricultural Helix](#).

Agricultural Innovation and Technology centers (AITEC farms) - Research and Development (R&D):

A robust agricultural research infrastructure binds together academic institutions, research centers, NGOs, private sector and government agencies. The agricultural R&D needs to be able to research, experiment, and innovate with the objective of validating existing technologies, generating new technologies, developing local knowledge and expertise. CultivAid's program is rooted in the establishment of a central farm, the AITEC, that conducts agricultural research, introduces technology and demonstrates, conducts ongoing expert development which includes an internship program for recent university graduates and practical trainings for extension workers and experts.

CultivAid's Agri Cluster Program - Extension Services:

A well-developed agricultural extension system needs to act as a bridge between the research findings and the practical implementation of agricultural techniques on farms. Extension needs to combine both capacity building and market forces

in order to support the transformation of farmers to modern agriculture. CultivAid's extension program is based on two major functions, the establishment of geographic farmer clusters enabling economies of scale, promoting market forces, specialization of labor and more efficient production method and technologies. The second, establishment of satellite demonstration and training sites of the AITEC farm and the use of developed local experts to facilitate agricultural knowledge, technology and practices to farmers.

Value Chain Development - Market Stability:

This involves the creation, expansion, and functioning of markets for agricultural products. It includes activities related to marketing, distribution, trade, and consumption of agricultural goods. Market development influences agricultural production by providing incentives and knowledge to farmers, affecting their production decisions, crop choices, and investment strategies. Programs promote market stability by enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness, and inclusivity of the entire value chain from production to consumption. Demand driven market establishes direct linkages with input suppliers, buyers, processors, and exporters. CultivAid stresses the establishment of partnerships, contracts, and leveraging market information and networks to ensure market connectivity for farmers.

CULTIVAID'S EXECUTIVE TEAM

Dr. Tomer Malchi, Chief Executive Officer, Tomer holds a B.Sc., in Industrial and Labor relations from Cornell University and a B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. from the faculty of Agriculture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Tomer has extensive experience in national and international development work in the field of agriculture and water.

Ben Cohen, Chief Technical officer, Ben holds a B.Sc. in Soil and water science from the faculty of Agriculture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a M.Sc., in Desalination and Irrigation from the University of Ben Gurion in the Negev and is currently completing his PH.D. Ben has wide-ranging practical experience in agriculture and water management, working and managing agricultural projects for the past 10 years.

Yair Keinan, Chief Financial Officer. Yair holds a BSc. in biotechnology with a specialization in agriculture from Tel Hai College, and a M.Sc. in business administration. Yair has broad and hands on expertise in vegetable production and crop management and has worked in various agricultural projects throughout Israel and Africa.

ISRAEL, HEADQUARTERS

OVERVIEW

The Israel office functions as the central headquarters for all of CultivAid's activities. Alongside organizational management, it oversees operations related to administration, public relations, finance, resource development, and technical support. Beyond these core responsibilities, several key projects are also centered in Israel.

Our main activities within the country include organizing educational tours and hosting government and private sector delegations. These visits are designed to showcase the Israeli experience in agriculture, offering insights that can be adapted to their local contexts. Additionally, we serve as a pivotal connection point, promoting access to Israeli knowledge and technology through our extensive networks.

This year, the conflict in Israel and the events following October 7th led to a decline in tours and visits. Despite these challenges, we remained committed to our mission, finding alternative ways to engage with our international partners and share valuable expertise.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our headquarters team. **Zoe Reichman** has joined us as the Operational and Human Resources Administrator, and **Liran Tziberman** is our new Head Agronomist, supporting projects across all our countries of operation. We hired a new Country Director to oversee operations in Ethiopia and Kenya, **Mulokan Semo** and by January first will have a new project manager to lead the agricultural diplomacy program. In 2024, we relocated our offices from Rehovot to Tel Aviv, positioning us closer to key partners and resources.

ETHIOPIA

OVERVIEW

CultivAid initiated its operations in Ethiopia in 2014 and has since established a strong presence within the country. The organization expanded its projects across various regions, strategically focusing on Tigray, Amhara, and the Sidama regions. By the end of 2024, many of these projects reached maturation or were concluded, and in 2025, CultivAid will maintain active operations only in Tigray. The ongoing conflicts and instability in Ethiopia, along with the depreciation of the Birr, have resulted in a growing number of challenges and difficulties.

Despite these challenges, our focus on Tigray following the conflict has led to the establishment of a vigorous program, the Agri Cluster Program. This initiative provides farmers with subsidized seedlings and promotes the use of irrigation to enhance agricultural productivity. Within the program, four demonstration sites have been established in central and southern Tigray in collaboration with various partners, including the Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, Raya University, Mekelle University, a women's cooperative, and the El Shadai Children's Village. Additionally, demonstration sites are being set up directly with farmers, enabling training to be conducted at the grassroots level.

In the Amhara region, our programs included government initiatives such as the Sekota Declaration, which led to the establishment of water treatment systems and a training and demonstration site at Gondar University. As part of this declaration, a larger research farm was developed and established in Amhara. CultivAid also forged partnerships with the Amhara Agricultural Research Institute, Bahir Dar University, Debre Brehan University, and several regional organizations.

However, the conflict in Amhara has significantly impacted these initiatives, leading to disruptions and challenges in continuing our programs in the region. The instability has hindered our ability to operate effectively and has necessitated a strategic withdrawal from active projects in different parts of Amhara.

In Addis Ababa, our collaboration with Selam Children's Village has concluded as we seek to refocus our work on better-funded, more impactful initiatives. This decision allows us to allocate resources more efficiently and concentrate on programs that align closely with our strategic objectives and have the potential for greater impact.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In Ethiopia, CultivAid has maintained a well-established team. The staff includes an Israel-based Country Director, a local Country Coordinator, a Bookkeeper, and 11 Agronomists and Irrigation Engineers. This dedicated team has been instrumental in implementing our programs and ensuring their success on the ground.

PARTNERSHIPS

CultivAid works with multiple partners throughout Ethiopia, including universities, private sector entities, government agencies, and international donors. Our aim is to become integrated into the agricultural ecosystem and develop multiple projects with numerous stakeholders. These partnerships are crucial for fostering sustainable development and leveraging local expertise.

In Tigray, our partnerships include the Bureau of Agriculture, the Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, Mekelle University, Raya University, El Shadai Children's Village, the Agricultural Transformation Institute, the Tigray Investors Association, and more. These collaborations have been instrumental in effectively implementing our programs and reaching a wider community of beneficiaries.

FUTURE OUTLOOK:

While Ethiopia is positioned to become a leading economy in Africa in the next 20 years, the past few years have been turbulent due to both economic challenges and ongoing conflicts. Rather than working throughout the entire country, CultivAid has contracted its focus to the Tigray region, which is considered relatively stable.

The challenges in Ethiopia are multifaceted, encompassing both economic and political dimensions. Economically, the country is undergoing significant reforms, marking a significant departure from a historically restrictive economic model toward a more open, market-oriented one. While these reforms have the potential to stimulate growth, Ethiopia's fragile political landscape, ongoing regional tensions, and high inflation rate create a volatile environment where economic changes could be misinterpreted or rejected by the public. For example, the Ethiopian currency, the birr went from public trading from 56 birr / dollar to 115 birr per dollar since the end of July and in the black market exchange rates increased from 110 birr/dollar to over 130 birr/dollar.

Furthermore, over the past few years, Ethiopia has been progressively reducing subsidies and has proposed increases in public utility fees. These measures are likely to raise the cost of essential goods, directly affecting the poorest segments of the population. This could potentially spark social unrest similar to that seen in neighboring countries like Kenya and Sudan. The fragile political landscape further heightens these risks, as regional tensions and political fragmentation could exacerbate public resistance to externally imposed reforms.

Additionally, we observe that while the costs of goods are increasing, there is no corresponding increase in the price paid to farmers for their produce. This disparity places a significant strain on the agricultural community, undermining their livelihoods and the overall goal of achieving food security.

Given these complexities, CultivAid has decided to close operations in Ethiopia for the time being. This decision allows us to prioritize safety and stability before re-engaging in agricultural development efforts. While we remain committed to supporting Ethiopian farmers and communities, we recognize that sustainable impact requires a stable economic and political environment. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and, when conditions improve, assess how best to re-establish our efforts in a way that ensures meaningful and lasting development.

MAJOR PROJECTS

- 1. Tigray Agri cluster program,** Established in 2023, CultivAid has created a market supply of vegetable seedlings and other agricultural inputs to farmers. Since the launch of the program, CultivAid has been able to provide subsidized seedlings to over 1000 farmers with vegetable seedlings through our nursery. The program also includes the operation of 4 demonstration sites and 2 farmer sites that serve as training plots for farmers and experts.

Highlights:

- In 2024, over 2.5 million seedlings produced, reaching over 800 farmers
- In the first half of 2024, two sites were established and operated
- In the second half 2 additional sites we developed and currently all 4 are in production.
- Over 35 trainings conducted to farmers and experts.





2. **UNIDO**, since 2021 CultivAid has established 4 fruit tree seedling nurseries in the Sidama Region of Ethiopia and was scheduled to establish 2 more in Amhara. Due to the conflict in Amhara, the nurseries that were under establishment were lost. In 2024 CultivAid conducted building capacity of SMEs to operate nurseries who are selling the seedlings produced. **The project has been successfully completed and closed in 2024.**





3. **Selam** Children's village is a village and farm located in the Northeast area of Addis. CultivAid had previously established a pressurized irrigation system at the farm, aiming to scale up the site to demonstrate how to achieve yields ten times the local average. This initiative was designed to showcase innovative agricultural practices and provide a model for increasing productivity in the region. However, due to a lack of funding, **CultivAid decided to close the program at Selam Children's Village.**



TANZANIA

OVERVIEW

CultivAid's operations in Tanzania have witnessed significant growth and expansion since the establishment of the Agricultural Innovation and Technology Center (AITEC) in Dodoma in 2020. The AITEC farm serves as a center for local research and development and has significantly expanded our technical training programs. These programs now include initiatives for youth, a local internship program, The AITEC attachment program, farmer training sessions, and the establishment of eight demonstration sites in rural villages, in collaboration with Water4Mercy and Innovation Africa.

This past year, we launched a groundbreaking initiative around grape production, strengthening the concept of the Agricultural Helix. The grape value chain program aims to increase the productivity and quality of grape growers in Dodoma by introducing improved growing methods, new varieties and connecting growers with wineries. This program is now extending into additional rural areas, encompassing more extensive production systems and offering farmers new economic opportunities.

Our operations have also expanded beyond Dodoma into new regions. In Southern Tanzania, specifically the Mbeya region, we have formed a partnership with the University of Maryland, Hebrew University, and Mbeya University for the FEWture Program. initiative aims to scale technology-driven solutions, foster community-centric capacity building, and provide experiential education, focusing on the food-energy-water-climate-health nexus. The program is designed to address interconnected challenges and promote sustainable development through integrated approaches. We have established a new agricultural site that will hopefully be the precursor of an AITEC Mbeya.

Additionally, in the Tanga region, we are working with the city and TangaYetu to expand our activities to the north. This collaboration aims to replicate successful models from Dodoma and adapt them to the unique needs of the Tanga region, further broadening our impact in Tanzania. Our program will be establishing a new AITEC farm in 2025 and promote the Agricultural Helix around fruits, vegetables, and spices.

STRENGTHENING THE AGRICULTURAL HELIX CONCEPT

Our efforts in Tanzania have reinforced the concept of the Agricultural Helix, which emphasizes the synergy between R&D, farmers and market to drive innovation and development in the agricultural sector. By integrating research institutions, private sector partners, government agencies, and farmer communities, we are fostering an ecosystem that supports sustainable agricultural practices and economic growth.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In Tanzania there is a international staff that includes an Israeli country manager, an Israeli agronomist and an Israeli operations administrator. We had 4 Israeli interns and 3 Moroccan interns as part of the team in 2024. The local team consists of a local country coordinator, a bookkeeper, a local staff of 20 agronomists and plot coordinators as well as 12 local interns.



PARTNERSHIPS

Our activities in Tanzania are built upon strong partnerships:

- **Dodoma:** We have a robust partnership with the **Don Bosco Technical Institute** in Dodoma. Together, we operate the AITEC farm and implement various training programs.
- **Mbeya:** In the Mbeya region, our collaboration with **Mbeya University**, along with the **University of Maryland, the Arava Institute and Hebrew University**, is central to the FEWture Program. This partnership enables us to integrate academic expertise with practical applications in agriculture.
- **Tanga:** In the Tanga region, we are partnering with the city government and several local NGOs, including **TangaYetu**, to expand our activities and establish a new AITEC farm.

In the **Viticulture value chain**, we have developed partnerships with the private sector to promote improved quality of grapes for higher-quality wine production. Wineries in Dodoma are incentivizing farmers to sign contracts to supply grapes, while CultivAid provides these farmers with training and monitoring. Higher-quality grapes receive a payment premium, creating a win-win relationship that establishes market stability and supports both farmers and wineries in improving the wine industry in Dodoma.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, CultivAid is committed to expanding our impact across additional regions in Tanzania. To achieve this, we recognize the need to raise additional funds and forge new partnerships that align with our mission. Strengthening our communication at the national level is crucial, and we aim to integrate our work more closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Tanzanian Agricultural and Horticulture Association and the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute. By collaborating more effectively with these key institutions, we can ensure our programs are well-aligned with national priorities and benefit from local expertise. An integral part of our future plans is the expansion and enhancement of the grape value chain program which we see as a flagship program that models the agricultural helix.

We also intend to promote investment in the value chains where we are actively working, such as grapes, fruits, vegetables, and spices. By attracting investment and support in these areas, we can enhance the productivity and profitability of farmers, contributing to economic growth and food security.

Our future plans include:

- **Expanding to New Regions:** Establishing additional AITEC centers in regions like Mbeya and Tanga to serve as hubs for innovation, training, and community development.
- **Raising Funds and Building Partnerships:** Actively seeking new funding opportunities and partnerships with both local and international organizations to support and scale our programs.
- **Enhancing National Collaboration:** Improving our communications and collaborations with national institutions to integrate our work within the national agricultural system and work more closely with the national framework.
- **Promoting Value Chain Investment:** Encouraging investment in key agricultural value chains by demonstrating the potential for increased productivity and profitability through improved practices and technologies.
- **Community Engagement and Capacity Building:** Continuing to involve local stakeholders in program design and implementation, ensuring initiatives meet community needs and foster sustainable development.

By focusing on these strategic areas, CultivAid aims to deepen our impact, support Tanzania's agricultural sector, and contribute to the country's sustainable development goals. We believe that through collaborative efforts and strategic investments, we can promote sustainable agriculture, improve livelihoods, and drive economic growth in Tanzania.

PROJECTS

1. **AITEC Dodoma**, <https://aitecfarm.com/aitec-dodoma/>, was established in 2020 at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Dodoma, Tanzania. The program was established through collaboration with Water4Mercy, a USA based non-profit organization that supports water and agricultural development in Tanzania and the Don Bosco Technical Institute of Dodoma. The 6-acre (~2.5 hectare) site functions as the base for the school's practical training program, demonstrating Israeli technology and conducting research. **Some Highlights :**
 - In 2024 the AITEC had 3 rounds of local Interns that included 6 students from Mbeya university as part of the UMD based Global FEWture alliance. The focus of the farm in 2024 was to create a most sustainable and profit oriented farm based on a skilled local team of agronomists.
 - As part of our Agricultural Diplomacy program, we had 3 Moroccan interns join us in Dodoma as part of their masters program.
 - The Avocado Orchard, the first of its kind in the Dodoma region started provided fruit and showing that Avocado could be grown in the region.
 - The initial phase of establishing a grape vine nursery at the AITEC and yields at the farm show that farmers could reach 10X the current yields
 - Record breaking yields: Tomato- 110 ton/ha; Onion 58 ton/ha



2. **Unlocking the Grape Value chain** aims to modernize and improve grape production and the value chain, by strengthening agricultural productivity, building knowledge in the grape sector and by supporting the transition in the economic activity of the region from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. The projects aim to train farmers, establish demonstration sites, provide market connectivity and to improve the quality of grapes in the region. Over the next 3 years the program is targeting 2000 farmers and working to change practices to single harvest, with a focus on quality.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Demonstration Sites:** This year, the program operated 4 demonstration sites within farmer clusters and expanded to 10 sites by year-end.
- **Yield Improvements:** Results from demonstration sites were significant, with two sites achieving yields of over 15 tons per hectare compared to the baseline average of 3 tons per hectare.
- **Farmer Impact:** Training and demonstration activities have directly contributed to higher yields among participating farmers, who have doubled their yields compared to the previous year.



3. **Southern Tanzania (Mbeya Region):** We have formed a partnership with the University of Maryland (UMD), Hebrew University, Arava Institute in Israel, Kathmandu University in Nepal, Mbeya University, and CultivAid in Tanzania under the Global FEWture Alliance. This alliance seeks to alleviate food, energy, and water insecurity, protect environmental and global public health, and bolster community resilience in a changing climate. In 2024, the program established a training, demonstration, and research site at Mbeya University, operated by staff who have completed the internship program at AITEC Dodoma. CultivAid staff conducted various trainings at Mbeya, and a strong partnership has been established, commemorated with a visit by the top management of Mbeya University to UMD. The partnership in Tanzania seeks to expand regionally and promote university research and education in the food-energy-water nexus.
4. **Tanga Region,** We are working with the city government and TangaYetu to expand our activities to the north. This collaboration aims to replicate successful models from Dodoma and adapt them to the unique needs of the Tanga region, further broadening our impact in Tanzania. In 2024 we completed our first phase for establishing a Agricultural Helix program in Tanga. The initial stage included several technical visits, a desk review, a comprehensive market survey and a conceptual design. Our program will be establishing a new AITEC farm in 2025 and promote the Agricultural Helix around fruits, vegetables, and spices.
5. **Rural Development and Agri Cluster program,** Leveraging the water infrastructure established by Innovation Africa, we have set up drip-irrigated plots in a total of eight villages. These plots serve as demonstration sites where local farmers can learn about efficient irrigation methods and advanced agricultural practices. In addition, we have established a market based Agri cluster program that enables these villages to have access to hybrid seeds along with a sustainable market based extension service. In 2024 the Agri Cluster program has been able to reach an initial target of 50 farmers in 4 villages.



KENYA

OVERVIEW

In 2022, CultivAid expanded its operations to Kenya with the establishment of the Agricultural Innovation and Technology Center (AITEC) Embu at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Embu County. Located 7 kilometers south of Embu town, the administrative capital of the county, AITEC Embu serves as a hub for agricultural innovation, education, and community development.

The farm aims for self-sustainability, generating revenue to support all its activities with the goal of achieving profitability. Focused on educational, training, and extension programs, AITEC Embu is dedicated to building capacity in the region by demonstrating advanced agricultural technologies and practices. The program aims to achieve full self sustainability by 2027, which will be followed by hand over of the farm to Don Bosco.

CultivAid expanded activities to include a satellite site of AITEC Embu, outside Nairobi at the Sisters of Carmelite site and further plans to expand its activities in Kenya. In 2024 the organization applied for registration of a local branch of the organization.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Kenya team is composed of 4 local agronomists and support by an Israeli manager and agronomists from Israel's Headquarters.

PARTNERSHIPS

The activities in Kenya are based on a strong partnership with the Don Bosco Technical institute in Embu. Further collaboration has begun to be established with local universities, the regional government, private sector, farmers, and the national agricultural research institute.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

In Kenya, CultivAid is committed to expanding its presence by supporting the development of local agronomists and introducing advanced Israeli agricultural technology. This includes undertaking new programs, forming strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, and launching a new AgriCluster Program in 2025. The AgriCluster Program will focus on supporting smallholder farmers with access to quality inputs, training, and market connectivity, fostering a transition to more sustainable and profitable agricultural practices. The program is part of a 3 year grant to reach 3000 farmers in the Kenyan Highlands.

We aim to establish CultivAid as a recognized brand name in Kenya, becoming the premier agricultural training institute in the country. Through these efforts, we seek to enhance agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and contribute to Kenya's agricultural transformation.

PROJECTS

1. **AITEC EMBU** is a 4-acre (1.6-hectare) site that functions as a practical training center, demonstrating Israeli technology and conducting research to improve agricultural practices. Equipped with drip irrigation systems, sprinklers, greenhouses, a seedling nursery, and fruit trees, the site showcases innovative methods for farmers to increase yields and income. Over the next three years, the site will conduct ongoing internships, AITEC attachment programs, farmer training sessions, and establish market linkages. From AITEC Embu, we aim to expand into the Agricultural Helix model, focusing on specific value chains that can significantly impact the lives of farmers. This expansion will involve integrating academia, industry, government, and community efforts to drive innovation and sustainable development in the agricultural sector.



2. **Sisters of Carmelite**, At the Mt. Carmel Convent site, located on the northwestern outskirts of Nairobi, CultivAid has partnered with the Sisters of Carmelite and Water 4 Mercy to upgrade and expand a 0.9-acre farm. The project focuses on establishing modern agricultural practices, including the installation of a greenhouse, open-field vegetable production, and fruit trees. This initiative aims to serve the local market by improving productivity and profitability through the introduction of advanced irrigation systems and cultivation techniques.



AGRICULTURAL DIPLOMACY

OVERVIEW

The Agricultural Diplomacy Initiative is a unique program designed to foster connections between Israel and other Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries by promoting collaboration in agriculture. The initiative's overarching goals include enhancing food security, promoting political stability, encouraging economic growth and integration, ensuring environmental sustainability, and cultivating long-lasting peaceful relationships in the region.



However, due to the events of October 7th, the program was temporarily put on hold. Despite this, a request from our partners in Morocco to restart the initiative led to the initiation of a related internship program in Tanzania.

In the final quarter of 2024, an extension program was established in Morocco, in collaboration with the Agadir Horticulture Complex. The program aims to provide extension services to an initial group of 120 farmers, focusing on improving agricultural practices and strengthening the local agricultural sector.

CultivAid is also working on the design of AITEC Morocco, an advanced agricultural farm that will serve as a center for innovation and development in the Souss Massa region. This farm will play a key role in supporting the agricultural ecosystem by providing cutting-edge technologies, training programs, and research opportunities to local farmers and agricultural professionals.

ZAMBIA

OVERVIEW

In 2024, CultivAid initiated its expansion into Zambia, building on the organization's technical visits and initial program development efforts. The program focuses on exploring opportunities for collaboration and gaining a deeper understanding of the country's agricultural landscape, with the ultimate goal of establishing the AITEC Institute in Lusaka, Zambia. This initiative aims to promote agricultural development, build local capacity, and facilitate technology transfer, modeled on successful programs in other regions.

The AITEC Institute aims to transform agriculture by fostering innovation, increasing productivity, providing hands-on education, and driving economic growth through the Agricultural Helix approach. This initiative integrates research, farm extension, and market connectivity through the Agri Cluster program and value chain development. The program is designed to build local capacity by empowering a new generation of agricultural leaders, equipping them with practical skills and expertise. The AITEC Institute will equip students, experts, and farmers with the latest technology, knowledge, and market access, creating a comprehensive support system for agricultural advancement. Through this, CultivAid seeks to establish a sustainable agricultural ecosystem in Zambia, one that will have a lasting, positive impact on both the agricultural sector and the broader economy.

Key partnerships are being established with research institutions, universities, and local stakeholders to support agricultural innovation and development. CultivAid aims to create strong connections with small and medium farmers, while fostering research and expertise development to promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Plans for establishing the AITEC farm in Zambia are progressing, with implementation expected in 2025. Over the next four years, the focus will be on fully establishing the AITEC Institute, expanding CultivAid's activities to integrate the entire Agricultural Helix, and driving impactful agricultural growth and sustainability in the region.

UGANDA

OVERVIEW

In 2024, CultivAid entered into a strategic alliance with Gigawatt Global in Uganda to collaborate on the agricultural components of the Abundance Program. This initiative utilizes the solar power field developed by Gigawatt Global to power an agricultural processing zone, addressing the market component of the Agricultural Helix model.

Currently, CultivAid is conducting a desk review and market survey to develop a comprehensive conceptual design for Uganda. This design will include the establishment of an AITEC farm, an agricluster program, and operations focused on specific value chains. The aim is to boost agricultural productivity and improve the region's economic conditions through the use of innovative technology and sustainable farming practices.

The program aims to finalize the conceptual design in early 2025, with plans to establish the AITEC farm by 2026.