CONTEXT

The South and Southeast Asia region has seen remarkable economic growth in the past two decades, leading to a projected decrease of 13 million und nourished people between 2015 and 2024. However, this progress is not uniformly spread over the region; as of 2015, around 60 million people remained malnourished and poverty rates in several countries exceeded 40 percent. Meanwhile, food production often involves traditional or intensive energy and water uses that exacerbate climate change, depletion of natural resources and biodiversity loss. In order to address these issues, private enterprises have already developed a bevy of approaches and technologies for climate-friendly, water- and energy-efficient agricultural processes. These innovators, however, often have insufficient entrepreneurial capacities to successfully and sustainably scale up developed prototypes, access catalytic investment, integrate gender into their operations, or engage with policy and regulation environments.

ABOUT US

The South and Southeast Asia Regional Innovation Hub (S/SEA RIH) supports the scaling up of climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable, energy and/or water-efficient innovations in the water-energy-food (WE4F) nexus across the region, with a focus on women and the poor. Innovations include technologies, business and finance models and new modes of cooperation. Based in Bangkok, Thailand, the RIH supports innovators in 15 countries.

By 2024, we aim to:

- Identify and fund at least 40 total WE4F innovators across the region;
- Support innovators in reaching a minimum of 1 million smallholder farmers and other end users, including 250,000 women;
- Help farmers increase food production while increasing water and energy efficiencies;
- Increase investment to innovators by at least $20 million; and
- Enhance the enabling environment for WE4F innovations through advocacy and capacity building activities.