

# Value chain analysis for development - VCA4D

The goal of VCA4D, based on a standardized multidisciplinary method, is to understand and measure how agricultural value chains contribute to inclusive, sustainable growth, from the social and environmental viewpoints. This information is requested and provided to EU Delegations and national partners that use the analyses to take policy-decisions based on evidence. The project is coordinated by Agrinatura.



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**PERIOD:** From August 2016 to June 2026 (Phases I and II; phase III under discussion)

**LOCATION:** Africa (26 countries); Asia (8 countries); Latin America (5 countries)

**FUNDING:** European Commission - EU – Directorate General for International Partnerships

**Project website:** [https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d\\_en](https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/value-chain-analysis-for-development-vca4d_en)

## Background

The activities of value chains are often analysed at just one stage (agricultural production, processing or marketing) and from a monodisciplinary viewpoint (economy or environment). The method at the heart of this project proposes a holistic view of value chains in their different dimensions: functional, economic, social and environmental, and it revamps the use of quantitative information, often lacking in partner countries.

Fostering a close partnership between researchers and policymakers, it facilitates better informed decision-making.

## Description of the VCA4D approach

The project brings together multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional teams of European and national researchers in the countries of intervention to analyse value chains, at the request of the delegations of the European Union. The studies accompany their investment, policy dialogue with local partners.

The [VCA4D methodology](#) combines existing tools and those developed for the purpose of:

- economic analysis of value chains: financial indicators, calculation of added value, measurement of competitiveness, distribution of income, etc;
- environmental analysis, focusing on 'damages' on resource depletion, ecosystem quality and human health, impact on climate change and monitoring of biodiversity;
- and social analysis, which proposes a profile of the value chain based on impact and risks in the fields of working conditions, land rights and access to water, gender equality, food and nutritional security, social capital, and living conditions.

Other goals of the project include setting up an information system, providing training on the methodology, and building on lessons learned.

## Main Outcomes

- 49 studies concluded and 7 ongoing (for documents and summaries, [here](#))
- The results of these studies are often reported back through in-country stakeholders' workshops, organized at request of the EUD
- The VCA game (a serious-game) to simulate the use of VCA4D information into policy dialogue has been launched. You can play it [here](#)
- A community of practitioners have been created within Agrinatura, and capacity strengthening activities on value chain analysis are being promoted in partner countries
- The Conference "Value Chain Analysis for Development: providing evidence for better policies and operations in agricultural value chains" was organized in 2023, and provided 14 cross-cutting analyses of VCA4D studies. All documents are available, including the Conference proceedings, at safeguarded [here](#)
- An information system, gathering the main data of all studies, will be launched in early 2025

## Main implementing partners

- Main Agrinatura partners involved: Agrinatura association members, NRI, CIRAD, ISA, ICRA, SLU