



2025

Annual Report

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Introduction

2025 marked a year of institutional consolidation and steady operational progress for the Agricultural Innovation Mechanism for Scale (AIM for Scale). After launching in 2024 without pre-existing governance structures or an established Secretariat, in consultation with the United Arab Emirates' International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court (UAE/IAO) and the Gates Foundation, AIM for Scale focused first on building the institutional foundations required to support long-term scaling. In 2025, those foundations were formalized and began functioning as intended.

Over the course of the year, AIM for Scale established and operationalized its Advisory Panel and Technical Panels, recruited and expanded its Secretariat, and clarified governance, coordination, and partnership processes. These steps created the basic institutional architecture needed to move from concept to implementation.

At the same time, AIM for Scale increased its visibility within the agricultural development community. Through strengthened communications, growing engagement with multilateral development banks, and participation in global and country-level forums, the mechanism began to establish itself as a platform focused on coordinating evidence, technical expertise, and financing to support scale.

With this structure in place, 2025 also saw meaningful progress at the country level. AIM for Scale advanced two Innovation Packages—Weather Forecasts for Farmers and Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture—while laying groundwork for a third focused on livestock productivity. Across priority countries, engagement progressed from scoping to structured design, integration into national programs, and alignment with World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and Asian Development Bank (ADB) financing pipelines. Key accomplishments included supporting organizations working with the Government of India in delivering artificial intelligence (AI)-based weather forecasts to approximately 38 million farmers and launching a first-of-its-kind AI Weather Forecasting for Agriculture Training Program to strengthen national capacity in low- and middle-income countries.

This report reflects that progression. It first outlines the institutional and communications foundations established in 2025, before turning to detailed progress across Innovation Packages and regions. Together, these sections illustrate how AIM for Scale is translating evidence, coordination, and development finance into credible pathways to scale.

The accomplishments described in this report were made possible by catalytic funding and strategic advice from UAE/IAO and the Gates Foundation.

Operations: Building the Institutional Architecture for Scale

In 2025, AIM for Scale continued its transition from a newly launched initiative to an operational mechanism. Having been established in 2024 without pre-existing governance bodies or a standing Secretariat, early efforts focused on putting the core institutional elements in place. The design and direction of these structures were shaped with significant guidance and strategic input from UAE/IAO and the Gates Foundation, including through their commissioning of an independent report by the Breakthrough Institute (refer to Box 1). By 2025, these structures were established and began supporting ongoing program design and country engagement.

Box 1: The Breakthrough Report - Informing Institutional Sustainability

To help guide its long-term institutional development, AIM for Scale's funders, UAE/IAO and the Gates Foundation, commissioned the Breakthrough Institute to produce a [report](#) to identify the institutional and financial gaps AIM for Scale is designed to address and to inform the organization's long-term institutional model, including its governance structure, financing modalities, and organizational structure. Additional analytical products—focused on further systematizing the selection of innovation areas, legal institutionalization, and results assessment—are planned for subsequent years.

Establishing a Structured, Evidence-Based Governance Model

AIM for Scale formalized a two-tier expert governance structure designed to translate research into scalable implementation pathways.

- The **Advisory Panel**—composed of leading academics from a diverse range of global institutions—provides strategic guidance, vets innovation domains, and ensures focus on innovations that are evidence-based, cost-effective, and have credible pathways to scale. The Panel is chaired by University of Chicago Professor and 2019 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Michael Kremer. Yaw Nyarko, Professor of Economics at New York University (NYU) and NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) and Director of NYU's Africa House and the Center for Technology, Economics, and Development, serves as Vice Chair. Other members of the panel come from universities around the world.

- Dedicated **Technical Panels**—each made up of subject-matter experts, including leading academics and implementers from development organizations—are responsible for developing detailed Innovation Packages and guiding early implementation.

In 2025, three Advisory Panel meetings were convened, validating [Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture](#) as the second Innovation Package (see Box 2, below) and advancing [Livestock Productivity](#) as a third domain (refer to the “Establishment of the Livestock Productivity Technical Panel” section on page 19 for more information). These build on AIM for Scale’s first Innovation Package—launched in 2024—[Weather Forecasts for Farmers](#) (see Box 2). Across innovation areas, multiple Technical Panel meetings—virtual and in-person—ensured structured expert deliberation and refinement of implementation pathways.

Taken together, this governance model provided a forum for expert input and decision-making, helping to clarify priorities and support more coordinated design processes.

Box 2: Our First Two Innovation Packages



Weather Forecasts for Farmers:

Launched in 2024, AIM for Scale’s first Innovation Package focuses on generating and disseminating forecasts to help millions of farmers make informed decisions, leading to higher incomes, reduced losses, and stronger livelihoods. It addresses upstream components by leveraging AI to improve forecast accuracy and downstream components by ensuring timely and actionable delivery to farmers.

The Weather Forecasts for Farmers Technical Panel is chaired by University of Chicago Professor Amir Jina.



Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture: Launched in 2025, AIM for Scale’s second Innovation Package focuses on improving and expanding digital extension systems, ensuring millions of farmers receive timely, tailored, and actionable advice—from forecasts and pest alerts to input recommendations. It also emphasizes service quality and effectiveness, proposing behavioral tools to strengthen farmer comprehension.

The Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture Technical Panel is chaired by University of Texas at Austin Professor Raissa Fabregas.

Strengthening Secretariat Capacity

Alongside governance development, AIM for Scale built and expanded its Secretariat to support a growing portfolio of work. The Secretariat is hosted at NYUAD, which serves as the mechanism's primary institutional home—reflecting AIM for Scale's global ambition, interdisciplinary orientation, and commitment to evidence-based impact. The University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs also supports the Secretariat by anchoring its U.S.-based operations and contributing to its academic and policy linkages. Additionally, AIM for Scale Secretariat Executive Director Paul Winters is the Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Sustainable Development in the Keough School.

Key senior appointments to the Secretariat included:

- **Executive Director**, providing overall leadership across technical quality, portfolio operations, and institutional development.
- **Secretariat Director**, managing Secretariat operations and strengthening project design and coordination.
- **Scientific Director**, ensuring technical rigor and scientific integrity across Innovation Packages, guiding evidence synthesis and benchmarking, and strengthening linkages with leading academic and research institutions.
- **Program Director**, leading engagement with MDBs and supporting country-level integration of Innovation Packages.
- **Communications Director**, responsible for brand development, strategic positioning, media engagement, and alignment of communications with partnership development and resource mobilization goals.

Box 3: Meet the AIM for Scale Secretariat



Paul Winters
Executive
Director,
Secretariat



Imara Salas
Director,
Secretariat



**Mohammad
Farrae**
Scientific
Director



**Tobias
Baedeker**
Program
Director



**Adrienne
Uselman**
Communications
Director

The individuals appointed for these positions are listed in Box 3 (above). Their full bios can be accessed on the [AIM for Scale website](#).

Together, these roles significantly enhanced AIM for Scale’s ability to manage Innovation Package design, coordinate implementation partnerships, and build institutional credibility.

With this expanded capacity in place, 2025 marked a clear shift from conceptual development to active coordination and country engagement. For the Weather Forecasts for Farmers Innovation Package alone, the Secretariat supported more than 150 coordination meetings, six country missions, high-level convenings, and a week-long AI Weather Forecasting Training Program—demonstrating the scale and intensity of engagement required to translate evidence into implementation.



Members of the Secretariat meet in person at the Advisory Panel Strategic Convening in January of 2026 at NYUAD.

Communications: Building Visibility, Credibility, and Strategic Influence

Throughout 2025, communications activities were aligned with the organization’s expanding operational footprint. The emphasis was on clearly communicating AIM for Scale’s model, innovation areas, and country-level progress to core stakeholders.

In July 2025, AIM for Scale finalized its communications strategy, defining three core objectives:

- Build awareness of AIM for Scale’s distinctive model.
- Position AIM for Scale as a leading actor focused on scale, cost-effectiveness, technical rigor, and coordination.
- Promote funding and reach for Innovation Packages.

Primary audiences include governments in low- and middle-income countries, MDBs, donors, implementers, and the broader development ecosystem.

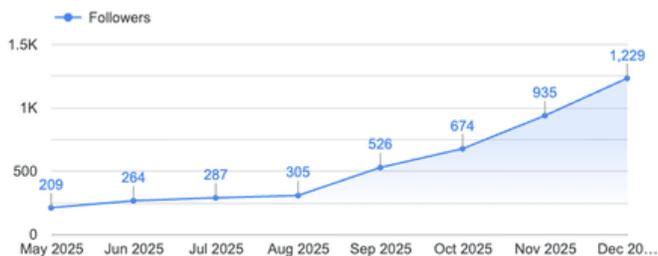
Brand Consolidation and Digital Growth

In 2025, AIM for Scale made significant strides in consolidating and clarifying its brand identity as a technically rigorous, evidence-driven platform focused on scale—and as a coordination body uniquely positioned to align researchers, governments, implementers, and MDBs around shared pathways to impact. Building on its communications strategy, the organization developed a cohesive suite of branded assets—including a redesigned website and The Scaling Brief newsletter—to ensure consistency across external engagements.

Beginning in May 2025, when systematic collection of digital metrics commenced, communications performance demonstrated strong upward momentum across platforms. LinkedIn followers grew five-fold between May and December 2025, increasing from 209 to 1,229. As highlighted in the graphs below, engagement rates consistently outperformed the nonprofit industry benchmark of three percent ([Hootsuite 2025](#)), exceeding the average by at least four percentage points.

Website traffic also accelerated following the November relaunch, with monthly page views nearly tripling—from 972 in October to 2,727 in December. In parallel, search visibility strengthened significantly: referring domains increased from 54 in May to 177 in December, while domain trust scores rose from 4 to 18 over the same period, signaling growing media recognition and improved search authority.

LinkedIn Followers Over Time, May - December 2025

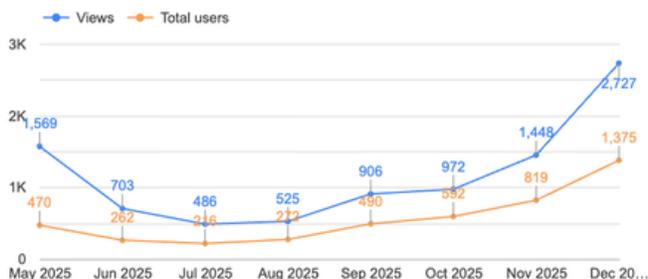


LinkedIn Engagement Rate and Impressions Over Time, May - December 2025



Definitions: Impressions refer to the number of times your content is displayed on users' feeds, regardless of whether it was clicked or not. Engagement Rate is the percentage of people who interacted with your content (likes, comments, shares, clicks) out of the total impressions. These tend to have an inverse relationship.

Website Traffic Over Time, May - December 2025



Definitions: Total users represents the number of unique individuals who visited your site or app during a specified time period. Each user is counted once, regardless of how many times they visit. Views is the total number of times a page on your site was loaded or reloaded. This includes multiple views by the same user. **Note 1:** website traffic data was not collected for several crucial days during COP in November when the new website was launched. **Note 2:** Event information for the Nairobi convening were hosted on aimforscale.org, resulting in significant traffic in May from Kenya.

Domain Trust Score Over Time, May - December 2025



Definition: Domain trust shows how likely a domain is to rank in search results. To calculate it, Semrush considers the number and the quality of a website's referring domains and backlink profile. Domain Trust ranges from 1 to 100, where the higher score indicates the better chances of ranking in search results. For comparison: Gavi's trust score in December was 41 while the Gates Foundation's was 49. This represents a good proxy for volume of media coverage.

Media Coverage and Thought Leadership

Throughout 2025, AIM for Scale took a proactive approach to securing press coverage in support of its communications objective of increasing brand awareness. The organization issued or contributed to the development of five press releases over the course of the year. These efforts resulted in the publication of 14 high-impact news stories across outlets in North America and Europe, the Middle East, and Nigeria that referenced either AIM for Scale or its projects (see table below). In addition to expanding visibility, this coverage has contributed to a growing number of external websites linking to aimforscale.org, supporting increased traffic to the website.

Article	Outlet	Date
Comment: How empowering smallholder farmers with AI tools can bolster global food security	Reuters	1/10/2025
AI is transforming weather forecasting – and that could be a game changer for farmers around the world	The Conversation	9/3/2025
Farmers in India Are Tracking Monsoon Season With the Help of AI	Wall Street Journal	9/15/2025
MBZUAI Launches Weather Forecasting Training Programme	Urdu Point	9/22/2025
From UAE to Bangladesh: How AI weather forecasts boost farming	Gulf News	10/2/2025
From UAE to Bangladesh: AI weather forecast makes farming easy	The Business Standard	10/3/2025
NiMet Commits To Leveraging AI-Powered Weather Forecasting To Strengthen Weather, Climate Information For Farmers – DG NiMet	The Independent Nigeria	10/9/2025
AI models ace their predictions of India’s monsoon rains	The Economist	10/22/2025
AIM For Scale Mobilises Global Effort To Reach 100 Million Farmers With Digital Advisory Services By 2030	Urdu Point	11/12/2025
UAE-led weather warning project to reach 100 million farmers by 2030	The National News	11/20/2025

Article	Outlet	Date
Gates Foundation commits \$1.4b to help smallholder farmers, climate adaptation	The Guardian Nigeria	11/28/2025
Can AI drive climate adaptation for India's farmers?	Devex	12/1/2025
UAE launches new AI ecosystem for global agricultural development	Emirates News Agency	12/8/2025
UAE to use AI to support millions of farmers in climate fight	The National News	12/8/2025

Direct Engagement and Events

Direct engagement and events were core components of AIM for Scale's 2025 communications mix, given their effectiveness in reaching priority audiences, including government representatives, staff from MDBs, and other development actors. In 2025, members of the AIM for Scale Secretariat, Advisory Panel, and Technical Panels—together with close partners—represented AIM for Scale at a total of 16 high-priority events and direct engagement activities.

A key milestone was the UAE–Gates AI for Agriculture Ecosystem Launch in December 2025, where AIM for Scale formally introduced its second Innovation Package and presented to Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Chair of the UAE/IAO and Bill Gates.

Additional highlights included:

- COP30, where AIM for Scale Secretariat and Technical Panel members participated in eight events across the conference program.



AIM for Scale and partners at the UAE - Gates Foundation Partnership on Agricultural Innovation event in December 2025

- High-impact direct engagement during the Asian Development Bank Annual Meetings (Milan, May 2025) and the World Bank Annual Meetings (Washington DC, October 2025).
- A May 2025 convening in Nairobi, funded by the Gates Foundation, which brought together more than 50 representatives from governments and partner organizations to advance planning for scaling weather forecasts for farmers across Bangladesh, Chile, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria.
- The Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura's (IICA) Digital Agriculture Week in San José, Costa Rica, co-organized by the IDB. Three AIM for Scale representatives spoke at the event, including AIM for Scale's Executive Director Paul Winters and its Weather Forecasting for Farmers Technical Panel members Romina Ordoñez (IDB) and Erin Coughlan de Perez (Tufts University).
- Participation by AIM for Scale's Executive Director Paul Winters in a high-level convening hosted by the UAE/IAO at the Bellagio Center in Italy, which brought together leaders from across the food systems community to explore new financing modalities and partnership approaches for supporting CGIAR and related pathways to take agricultural innovations to scale through mechanisms such as AIM for Scale.

Participants at the Weather Partnership Convening in Nairobi in May 2025.



Innovation Packages: Progress Toward Scale

AIM for Scale’s strategy for advancing agricultural innovation is grounded in a clear model: scale at the country level, using each Innovation Package as a practical blueprint for action. The packages are not intended as conceptual frameworks alone, but as structured guides that identify the core investments required, clarify the questions to ask at the country level, and outline how evidence-backed solutions can be embedded within government systems and aligned with MDB financing.

A central priority for 2025 was to operationalize this model. This involved both advancing the technical development of the Innovation Packages and demonstrating how they can be applied in practice—working with governments, MDBs, and implementation partners to translate package components into concrete, country-level pathways for action.

In doing so, the Innovation Packages have served as practical tools for identifying country-level system-wide investment needs. For example, in the case of Weather Forecasts for Farmers, this may include investments in digital infrastructure, dissemination systems, benchmarking and validation, and institutional capacity to generate and operationalize AI-based forecasts. At the same time, the packages provide a structured framework for country diagnostics—helping partners assess institutional readiness, identify coordination gaps, and prioritize entry points for scale.

At the country level, scaling has required sustained coordination across ministries, meteorological agencies, research institutions, implementers, and financing partners. Partnerships with MDBs have been instrumental in aligning innovation priorities with existing and pipeline investments, while collaboration with governments and implementing partners has ensured relevance to national systems. Catalytic funding and intellectual support from UAE/IAO and the Gates Foundation have also played a critical role in advancing both technical development and country-level application.

In 2025, AIM for Scale moved forward simultaneously on innovation-area development and country-level engagement—refining and applying a repeatable model for action that links evidence, institutional coordination, and development finance.

The sections that follow highlight progress across Innovation Packages and regions over the course of the year.

Weather Forecasts for Farmers and Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture

Formally launched at the end of 2024 with more than [\\$1 billion in commitments](#) from a consortium of partners—including the World Bank, IDB, and ADB—Weather Forecasts for Farmers represents the first of AIM for Scale’s Innovation Packages. The package focuses on generating and disseminating accurate, timely forecasts that enable millions of farmers in low- and middle-income countries to make informed decisions resulting in stronger livelihoods.

Both the overall package and its five core components (see Box 5, below) have progressed at varying speeds across countries, reflecting differences in country-specific needs and institutional readiness, as well as MDB project timelines.

Building on this foundation, AIM for Scale launched its second Innovation Package—Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture (detailed in Box 6, below)—in late 2025, with the objective of reaching [100 million farmers by 2030](#). This package centers on expanding access to and improving the quality of digital advisory services, ensuring that millions of farmers receive timely, tailored, and actionable information—from weather forecasts and pest alerts to input

Priority Countries For Weather & Digital Innovation Packages



Box 5: Weather Forecasts for Farmers Innovation Package Components



Observation Network

Improve accessibility and availability of meteorological and agricultural data through enhanced observation networks, innovative financing, and strategic partnerships.



Benchmarking & Validation

Enhance the transparency of forecast performance and incentivize low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) focused model innovation through a publicly-available benchmarking and validation system that accounts for local needs, building on and expanding ongoing efforts to reach global scale.



Forecast Production

Democratize the production of farmer-centered weather forecasts in LMICs by leveraging advances in AI.



Dissemination

Strengthen digital systems and co-produce and deliver advisory services, using weather information as an entry point.



Learning

Draw lessons across all five components, and evaluate the effectiveness of forecast dissemination, stakeholder training, and farmer engagement to refine future strategies.

Box 6: Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture Innovation Package Components



Systems and Channels of Farmer Reach

Align investments with foundational systems and delivery channels to reach farmers at scale—building partnerships, choosing the right communication pathways, ensuring equitable access, and safeguarding data privacy.



Digital Infrastructure, Tools, and Platforms

Strengthen the digital architecture for advisory services by investing in interoperable, scalable public infrastructure that supports automation, integration, and adaptability across contexts—ensuring robust, efficient, and reliable delivery at scale.



Content

Enhance the quality, availability, and integration of essential agricultural information and data inputs (e.g., weather, soil, pests, and prices) and strengthen the systems that translate these into validated, timely, localized, and actionable recommendations for smallholder farmers.



Behaviorally-Informed, Farmer-Centered Services

Embed learning-by-doing into delivery systems so advice is clear, trusted, and actionable—by adapting global evidence to local contexts, aligning with farmer needs, applying behavioral insights, and sustaining engagement over time.



Sustainability and Innovation

Ensure digital advisory services are sustainably grounded in institutions / systems, share evidence globally, and leverage tools like AI to deliver tailored, cost-effective solutions at scale.

recommendations and real-time market prices. By strengthening both the quality and reach of these services, farmers are better equipped to make informed decisions about when to plant, which inputs to use, and how to manage risks—supporting more resilient and productive livelihoods.

Given the complementarity of these two innovation areas, AIM for Scale has advanced them in tandem for in-country work, with the provision of weather forecasts often serving as an entry point for scaling broader digital advisory systems in partner countries. The sections that follow highlight key accomplishments across both packages in 2025.

Asia: Aligning AI-Enabled Advisory Systems with ADB Investment Pipelines

India serves as a proof of concept for AIM for Scale’s model, demonstrating how evidence-based innovation can move from pilot to wide-scale implementation through government systems. The Government of India delivered AI-based monsoon onset forecasts to approximately [38 million farmers](#) during the 2025 monsoon season, with technical support from the Human-Centered Weather Forecasts (HCWF) Initiative at the University of Chicago, the University of California at Berkeley, local researchers, and Precision Development (PxD), with catalytic funding from UAE/IAO facilitated by AIM for Scale.



A farmer in India receives an SMS with forecast information.
Photo credit: PxD

This effort focused not only on strengthening forecast accuracy through rigorous benchmarking led by HCWF, but also on ensuring that information was communicated clearly and effectively through message testing led by PxD. Monitoring surveys conducted by PxD in two states found near-universal interest in receiving future forecasts, underscoring the value farmers place on timely and actionable weather information.

In the coming year, AIM for Scale and its partners will work closely with national and state institutions to further institutionalize AI-based forecasting within public systems and expand the reach of this initiative to millions more farmers.

In Bangladesh, collaboration between ADB, UChicago, and AIM for Scale advanced a jointly-developed concept note, outlining investments to integrate AI-enabled weather forecasting and digital advisory services into national systems. While national elections temporarily slowed policy discussions, groundwork has been laid for renewed engagement focused on embedding these innovations within future ADB-supported agricultural programs.

In Lao PDR, ADB and AIM for Scale are exploring opportunities to build on the existing Lao Climate Services for Agriculture (LaCSA) platform, developed with support from FAO and ADB. LaCSA already integrates weather and agronomic information and disseminates advisories through multiple channels. Engagement is focused on enhancing the quality, operationalization, and potential expansion of these services—including opportunities to extend climate and advisory support to the livestock sector.

AIM for Scale and ADB are in the early planning stages of establishing an Innovation Facility to accelerate the scaling of evidence-backed agricultural innovations across the Asia-Pacific region, with advancement targeted for 2026. Across the region, the priority will be to move from exploratory dialogue toward concrete pipeline alignment, ensuring that AI-based weather and advisory services are embedded within government-led systems and supported by MDB financing.

Africa: Advancing Government-Led Scale Across Digital Advisory and AI-Based Weather Services

In 2025, Africa emerged as a central focus of AIM for Scale's efforts to institutionalize and scale digital advisory services and AI-based weather forecasting through government systems and World Bank-supported programs. This work has been reinforced through strategic partnerships to strengthen digital public infrastructure in collaboration with [Co-Develop](#) and to deepen regional coordination and country-level engagement through C4Impact (see Box 7, below). Across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria, AIM for Scale worked in

close partnership with national ministries, meteorological agencies, research institutions, and development partners to move from scoping and technical design toward operationalization and long-term institutionalization. Progress varied by country, reflecting differences in institutional readiness and financing pipelines. While Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria advanced structured scale-up pathways, engagement in Rwanda and Senegal remained at the scoping stage, focused on identifying entry points for future expansion.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, engagement progressed beyond scoping toward a defined implementation pathway. Following consultations with the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI), the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI), the Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research, and other partners, rainy-season onset forecasts were prioritized as an initial use case. A joint work plan with government institutions, HCWF, and PxD now covers forecast benchmarking, capacity building to operationalize AI models, message testing, and dissemination through digital channels. AIM for Scale signed agreements with ATI and EMI in early January 2026, formalizing these partnerships.

Kenya

In Kenya, a rapid assessment highlighted strong existing digital services, including the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization's Digital Climate Advisory Services (DCAS), which reaches approximately 6 million farmers via SMS. Engagement has focused on identifying opportunities to institutionalize DCAS fully within Kenyan institutions, including diversifying the source of forecasts to the Kenya Meteorological Department, automating forecast generation and dissemination, as well as exploring ways to further amplify the impact of services by implementing interactive voice response functionality—all aimed at further strengthening the government's ability to provide this critical public good.



Meeting with government officials in Ethiopia.

Nigeria

In Nigeria, AIM for Scale supported the design of a new World Bank investment project targeting digital services for farmers. Engagements with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency, and the National Space Research and Development Agency highlighted strong momentum toward a unified national farmer registry, multi-channel advisory delivery platform, AI-enabled forecasting capacity, and improvements to the provision of soil-health data. Ongoing rapid assessments and consultations are refining investment priorities to ensure coherence across registries, interoperability standards, and service delivery systems.

Box 7: AIM for Scale Partner, C4Impact

[Connect for Impact Advisory Group](#) (C4Impact) is a Rwanda-based social enterprise founded by Dr. Agnes Kalibata, former Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda and former President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. Through this partnership, C4Impact will amplify AIM for Scale's efforts to scale-up evidence-based agricultural innovations across Africa, drawing on its deep regional expertise. C4Impact has begun participating in meetings with country partners and is expanding its country-level presence to drive scaling efforts. This partnership is being supported by the UAE/IAO.

Rwanda and Senegal

In Rwanda and Senegal, engagement remained at the scoping stage in 2025. In Rwanda, C4Impact (read more about C4Impact in Box 7) led consultations to assess how national digital advisory systems could be strengthened and how AI-based weather information might be integrated in alignment with MDB investments. In Senegal, AIM for Scale initiated introductory meetings with the ministry of agriculture and relevant national agencies to identify entry points for strengthening advisory delivery and integrating improved weather information. These early-stage engagements are intended to inform future program design and ensure alignment with government priorities and financing opportunities.

Latin America: Laying the Groundwork for Scalable Digital Advisory Systems

In Latin America, AIM for Scale focused on establishing strategic entry points for scaling digital advisory services through its partnership with the IDB. In alignment with country operations, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Peru were identified as priority countries for scaling AI-based weather forecasting and digital advisory services, with work advancing to the scoping stage in Colombia.



Secretariat and Technical Panel representatives at IICA's Digital Agriculture Week in Costa Rica

In Colombia, engagement with the IDB, government counterparts, civil society organizations, and private-sector actors has initially centered on the coffee sector, leveraging the extensive reach of the Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia (FedeCafé), which connects with more than 500,000 producers. Supported by internal IDB technical assistance funds, a landscape assessment is underway to evaluate existing digital advisory and weather forecasting systems and identify opportunities to strengthen and scale them nationally.

Looking ahead to 2026, AIM for Scale will advance engagement across all identified target countries while continuing to refine opportunities in Chile. In Colombia, a joint IDB–AIM for Scale mission planned for early 2026 will help translate scoping findings into concrete design inputs and support incorporation of digital advisory components into a new loan under preparation. In Bolivia, engagement will focus on assessing how ongoing IDB-financed irrigation and weather-related investments can serve as practical entry points for developing a national digital advisory system. In Peru, further consultations with IDB teams will clarify alignment with government priorities and define a structured pathway forward. Across the region, the objective for 2026 is to move from initial scoping toward more formalized design and pipeline alignment, ensuring that AI-based weather forecasting and digital advisory services are embedded within government-led systems and supported by MDB financing.

AI-based Weather Training for Agriculture: Building National Capacity for the Next Generation of Forecasting

In September 2025, AIM for Scale, in partnership with the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and HCWF, launched a first-of-its-kind AI Weather Forecasting for Agriculture Training Program, designed to strengthen national capacity in low- and middle-income countries. The program, funded by UAE/IAO, responds to a critical gap: while AI-based weather models are rapidly advancing, many national meteorological and hydrological services and ministries of agriculture lack the technical, computing, and institutional systems required to adopt and operationalize them.

The inaugural cohort brought together representatives from Bangladesh, Chile, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria for an intensive, hands-on training hosted in Abu Dhabi. Participants were trained to test, validate, and generate AI-powered weather forecasts tailored to agricultural decision-making.

The training convened experts from a broad set of leading institutions, including the World Meteorological Organization, Google DeepMind, Google Research, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, AfriClimate AI, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Rhiza Research, PxD, and the National Center of Meteorology of the UAE. This set of partners ensured exposure to frontier research, operational best practices, and farmer-centered dissemination approaches.

Over the coming years, additional cohorts will expand participation to a total of 30 countries, broadening access to AI-based forecasting capacity across regions.

Establishment of the Livestock Productivity Technical Panel

In 2025, AIM for Scale’s Advisory Panel validated livestock productivity as a priority innovation domain, recognizing both the strength of the evidence base and the persistent gap between proven interventions—such as improved feed, animal health, and herd management—and their adoption at scale in low- and middle-income countries. Ermias Kebreab, Associate Dean at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis and a leading expert in livestock systems, was chosen to lead the technical work on the topic as the Technical Panel Chair. Ermias brings deep scientific and policy experience to guide the development of the package.



Participants at the AI-based Weather Forecasting for Agriculture training.

Following validation of the domain, the Secretariat conducted a structured recruitment process to assemble a diverse group of researchers and implementers into the Technical Panel with expertise spanning animal nutrition, veterinary services, breeding, digital tools, and large-scale program delivery. The panel convened for its inaugural meeting in late 2025 and began developing a comprehensive Innovation Package grounded in evidence, designed for government-led systems, and aligned with MDB financing pathways. Formal launch of the package is planned for late 2026.



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