Letter from the CEO

Dear friends,

I hope this annual report finds you and your families staying healthy and well. The coming year will mark myAgro’s tenth in operation. Since 2011, we’ve weathered many crises—from droughts to coups—but we’ve never experienced a global challenge of this scale, simultaneously affecting each of our country programs in Mali, Senegal, and Tanzania, as well as our partners, donors, and board.

No life has been untouched by the pandemic, but our team at myAgro has remained steadfastly focused on ensuring food security for some of the world’s most vulnerable. I’m proud of the strength, courage, and empathy of every person at myAgro.

Navigating border closures and government restrictions, our network of nearly 2,000 village entrepreneurs and 400 in-country staff shifted to remote work, many for the first time—together, we successfully delivered seed and fertilizer to 89,000 farmers during the height of global COVID-19 lock downs in June, 2020. This was a major success, representing 44% growth over the previous year.

This report will detail our progress and impact since the beginning of myAgro’s 2020 Fiscal Year (FY20), which began in July, 2019. But I’d like to take a moment to highlight the importance of our organization’s ongoing work.

Ensuring food security is central to myAgro’s mission. In the wake of a crisis like this one, farmers can be forced to cut farm spending and dip into their seed reserves for sustenance. In previous crises I’ve seen in Kenya and Mali, this happens while food prices increase, in some cases up to three times.

myAgro farmers increase their yields and incomes by 50 to 100 percent, and this extra food can be the difference between a farmer feeding her family and going hungry. In March, I met a Senegalese farmer, Massamba Dieng, who put this point front and center while speaking about the farmers he knew who grew with myAgro over the course of FY20: “Only the farmers who worked with myAgro still have food in their storage right now.”

For us at myAgro, delivering seeds and fertilizer to 89,000 people in time for the coming rainy season is only the beginning of our work. In the following pages, you will read about the additional impact our farmers and their communities have realized after partnering with myAgro. Replicating and exceeding that impact for farmers in FY21 will continue to require hard work and solidarity from our team and supporters.

Thank You to everyone who has helped us make it this far.

In Gratitude,

Anushka Ratnayake

“I can’t believe you are able to deliver during the pandemic.”

a myAgro farmer, June 2020
myAgro’s unique mobile layaway platform enables farmers to use their mobile phones to purchase seeds and fertilizer in small increments, similar to buying prepaid mobile minutes. After eight months of paying little-by-little via mobile layaway, myAgro delivers high-quality input packages directly to farmers’ villages, right in time for planting season. myAgro provides training—now in person, on the phone, and via video and radio. Trainings include support to manage soil fertility and maximize yields and net profits, including: land selection, crop rotation, adding organic matter, and microdosing fertilizer.

Only farmers who worked with myAgro have food left in their storage right now.”

myAgro farmer, Massamba Dieng, June 2020

10 Year Progress

89,000 farmers served
60% female farmers
1,976 new jobs for rural youth
$3.2+ MM mobile layaways
> 50% increase in harvests each year
COVID-19 Update

In response to the pandemic, myAgro moved quickly to ensure our team’s health, safety, and security in order to continue to serve our smallholder communities throughout Mali, Senegal, and Tanzania. In the midst of government lockdowns in April, more than 90 percent of myAgro’s field team and staff said they understood myAgro’s priorities and work due to COVID and felt supported by myAgro, according to an internal survey.

Some of our COVID-19 policies included:

- Providing childcare stipends to women on staff.
- Providing every field team member with handwashing kits, training on handwashing/hygiene & mobilizing farmers remotely.
- Expanding healthcare and sick leave benefits to cover all 1,976 commission-based Village Entrepreneurs (VEs) and 1,314 of their family members.

In-field strategy to ensure contactless sales and delivery for as many farmers as possible. By listening to the needs of farmers and rapidly implementing solutions to meet them, our monthly sales had recovered to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the season in May. One factor was our call center increasing the number of calls that resulted in a farmer payment.

15% increased sales per farmer compared to FY19

100% increased sales per VE compared to FY19

32% call center sales conversion up from 11% in FY19

During trying times, myAgro farmers remember: We are together!
Despite COVID-19, myAgro grew from 62,000 farmers in FY19 to 89,000 farmers in FY20, a 44 percent increase. We also expanded our program area to 2,361 villages, a 54 percent increase over the previous year, and increased the average size of the packages purchased and land areas planted by farmers—from 0.25 hectares per farmer in FY19 to 0.31 hectares per farmer this year. With a focus on layaway payment mobilization, farmers were able to not only enroll in, but also finish paying for, bigger packages.

89,000 farmers served

$110 increase in farmer incomes

75% more food grown vs. control

$9.2 MM net profit

150,000 children dewormed

“myAgro trainings are so important and help us improve our farming”
a myAgro farmer, Q3 2020
Country Snapshot: Senegal

myAgro Coverage: 949 villages

An exciting new aspect of myAgro's Senegal program is an ongoing mobile money integration into our operations. Spurred by the demands of the pandemic, myAgro extended a limited, direct payment pilot from two field sites in Senegal to all our farmers in the country.

In FY20, 16% of all layaway payments were made with mobile money in an average month. Interestingly, it's in one of our most remote and poorest regions, Tambacounda, where the largest portion (22%) of mobile money payments were generated. This is consistent with an earlier household study conducted in Eastern Senegal, where Tambacounda is located, that showed up to 30% of a household's income comes through mobile money transfers from family remittances. In other words, mobile money usage is widespread in this region.

34,592 farmers served

$4 MM increase in net incomes

10,250 metric tons of food grown

50-100% increased yields

One of the most important tools for a myAgro farmer: her cellphone.
Country Snapshot: Mali

**myAgro Coverage:** 951 villages

One aspect of myAgro's Mali program that makes it so special is an ongoing partnership with the country's Ministry of Agriculture (Direction Nationale D'Agriculture, DNA).

After signing an MoU with myAgro in 2019 at the request of the Director of the DNA, myAgro worked with government agricultural extension agents in FY20 to provide training to farmers and boost enrollment. This year was the first of a pilot between DNA and myAgro—with a potential of reaching 1 million farmers together.

53,301 farmers served

$5.2 MM increase in net incomes

14,024 metric tons of food grown

50-100% increased yields

40,680 of whom were women

$97 impact per farmer

28% more per hectare

including climate smart crops like sorghum

“myAgro’s work is in perfect alignment with the Mali Strategic Plan for Agriculture.”

—Director Tamboura, Direction National D'Agriculture.
Country Snapshot:

Mali

myAgro Coverage: 951 villages

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Country Snapshot: Tanzania

myAgro Coverage: 113 villages

During FY20, our team worked to successfully establish myAgro operations in Tanzania’s southern region of Mtwara, providing service to 1,023 farmers. Reaching the 1,000-farmer mark is a major accomplishment, as our teams in Senegal and Mali can attest, and is the inflection point at which growth rates usually increase. Our team in Tanzania is cautiously optimistic given the pandemic, but the program’s impact over the past year indicated a strong result for farmers.

1,023 farmers served

190% increased maize yields

1,368 metric tons of food grown

100% increased sunflower yields

New country, new crops.
myAgro has always leveraged technology to serve smallholder farmers in innovative ways. New in FY20 is myAgro Connect, a mobile-based dashboard that enables VEs and their supervisors—Sales Leaders and Field Coordinators—to track enrollment and payment progress against goals in real-time using their smartphones.

Helping VEs maximize their usage of Connect was a major component of training in FY20. Now, every tool VEs need to collect, manage, and track farmer information is fully digital. The result is that VEs use up-to-date data to drive their individual decision making, enabling them to target goals and measure their success.

The Connect user interface was designed with inspiration from one of myAgro’s top performing VEs. Our product team based the final dashboard on a highly organized paper notebook, which a VE in Senegal had used to efficiently manage his workload.

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Leveraging New Technologies

Smartphones make it easy to mobilize, train, and support farmers in the field.

40% increased sales for VEs who log in to Connect frequently vs VEs who don’t
Program Focus: Field Team

myAgro values diversity and inclusion, and our staff and leadership reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. Our staffing strategy extends to the myAgro field team. By hiring Village Entrepreneurs (VEs) with a focus on entrepreneurship, we’ve created a strong pathway to employment for women and young people in our rural program areas.

We approach training our field team the same way we create programs for farmers—with user-centered design. During orientation, we ask VEs to write their motivations for working with myAgro, and what they dream of for themselves and their families with the added income earned during a successful season.

In FY20, VEs wrote that they “dream of purchasing a motorcycle” and “of investing in more animals to start a livestock business.”

1,976 Village Entrepreneurs
500+ agricultural interns
60 seasonal agricultural trainers

rural youth earning $60 per month on average
rural youth hired in the villages where we work
90% full-time employment rate within 3 months of finishing work with myAgro
Program Focus: Staff and Leadership

In FY20, myAgro refined our organization’s management structure by empowering executive, leadership, and regional teams to administer our programming globally. We invested in leaders across our country programs, adding capacity at every level to develop strength organization-wide. By focusing our efforts on leadership and improving hiring, transparency, and team decision making, the overall stability and quality of our team increased.

Among the senior Leaders welcomed in FY20:

- Kervin Bwemelo, Country Director, Tanzania
- Max Fossouo, Vice President, Sales
- Assana Alio, Country Director, Senegal

459 new staff hires in FY20

98% of our team is African

79% of staff were born in the countries and regions myAgro serves.

50% of directors are black

57% of managers are black

50% of managers and directors are women
MyAgro is co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW.