IN RECENT YEARS, THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS HAS BROUGHT RENEWED ATTENTION TO PUBLIC POLICY TOWARDS FOOD. MANY GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING IN AFRICA, ARE ADOPTING NEW POLICIES TO CREATE STRATEGIC GRAIN RESERVES. There is little available information on these policy responses, or indeed the efficacy of these measures. What is the impact of these policy decisions on the poor, on the livelihoods of farmers, and on the market? Analysis can help identify the impacts and disseminate the policies and actions that can have the most beneficial impact on all stakeholders.

IFC has undertaken a mapping study in the Africa region with support from both the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Program (WFP) to better understand the grain value chain, with a focus on management of Strategic Grain Reserves (SGR).

The study aims to identify key issues around policy, storage, and handling of SGR. The objective is to find areas where IFC, and other development partners, can support specific countries. These areas cover policy and potential infrastructure development through public private partnerships.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The project will identify SGR policies, and assess the way the grain value chain procurement/import, transportation, handling, storage, and dispatch/export operates in the country.

The study looks at current private sector trends, and assesses the role of farmers and the extent to which they have access to markets and finance.

The project will identify priority countries that should be targeted for pilot public private partnership (PPP) projects.