OVERVIEW

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Working in more than 100 countries, IFC committed a record $32.8 billion in own-account investments and mobilization from third parties to private companies and financial institutions in developing countries in fiscal year 2022 (FY22)*. IFC partners with Israeli companies interested in investing in emerging markets. As of June 2022, IFC had a long-term committed investment portfolio of over $63 million with Israeli partners spread across several sectors and regions.

IFC’s Long-Term Investment Portfolio with Israeli Sponsors

As of FY22, IFC’s long-term investment portfolio with Israeli sponsors amounted to over $63 million. Israeli private sector companies have benefited from co-investments with IFC, while making notable contributions to development.

*The World Bank Group fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following calendar year.
IFC has a longstanding relationship with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy and Industry and the Bank of Israel. In FY18-22, Israel provided cumulative funding of close to $1 million to IFC Advisory Services, supporting the medical technology and agri-innovation sectors.

Israel’s Ministry of Economy and Industry contributed close to $2 million to IFC’s TechEmerge Health Program in India, Brazil and East Africa between FY16 and FY21. TechEmerge was launched by IFC in January 2016 in Tel Aviv to connect innovative proven technology companies from around the world with corporates in emerging markets to conduct local pilot projects and build commercial partnerships. The goal of TechEmerge’s Health programs is to drive innovation to improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes in emerging markets.

IFC works closely with the Foreign Trade Administration at the Ministry of Economy & Industry in the organization of business development events. Since FY19, IFC has been collaborating with the Ministry and Start-Up Nation Central, an Israeli non-profit in the innovation space, to look into business opportunities for Israeli start-ups in emerging markets. In 2019 and 2020, IFC held awareness raising events with Start-Up Nation Central to promote the Financial Times/IFC Transformational Business Awards, a premier program awarding private sector companies that make a difference in addressing development challenges.

Examples of Successful Cooperation

Bar Magen, Nigeria
In June 2022, IFC committed a $4.5 million loan to Bar Magen, the leading animal feed premix manufacturer and feed additives distributor in Israel, to expand production of livestock feed additives in Nigeria and build the country’s first salt and mineral block licks production facility, thereby improving smallholder farmer access to these critical animal feed nutrients. IFC’s investment will help strengthen sustainable food systems in Nigeria and significantly contribute to food security and nutrition, while increasing access to quality and affordable animal feed additives for farmers, promoting market competitiveness and contributing to job creation.

Netafim, Global
In August 2021, IFC committed a $20 million long-term loan in local currency to Netafim Irrigation India to support the company’s working capital needs. Netafim, the parent company of Netafim Irrigation India, is a global leader in irrigation technology based in Israel. IFC’s investment will help the wider adoption of micro irrigation systems in India, generating better yields for local farmers and strengthening their resilience to climate shocks. In addition, it will help reduce water and fertilizer usage, contributing to more sustainable and water-efficient agriculture in the region.

In FY20, IFC committed a $69 million debt package for Netafim to support its expansion in China, Africa and Turkey. The package consists of $42 million for IFC’s own account, $13 million in B loans and $14 million from IFC’s Managed Co-Lending Portfolio Program. IFC’s investment will help expand access to drip irrigation across Africa, China and Turkey, contributing to sustainable crop production for smallholder farmers, boosting their incomes and resilience to shocks. The project is expected to benefit local markets by involving local distribution companies and creating employment.

SeeTree, Global
In November 2020, IFC committed an equity investment of $8 million as part of a $30 million series B funding round to SeeTree, an Israel-based agritech company that provides an AI-powered, end-to-end service for permanent crop growers. SeeTree’s system identifies the health and growth rates of every tree in a farmer’s grove and enables the creation of personalized cultivation plans for each tree or cluster of trees, including pest and disease tracking and assessing fruit yield, all of which allows growers to optimize their farming. The financing will allow SeeTree to scale globally, grow its R&D, and broaden its services to cover new crops. IFC’s investment could help transform agriculture by increasing productivity and potential income of farmers while reducing their environmental footprint. In addition, it is expected to increase the competitiveness of the permanent crop sector in the company’s markets of operation, which include Brazil, Argentina and South Africa, among others.