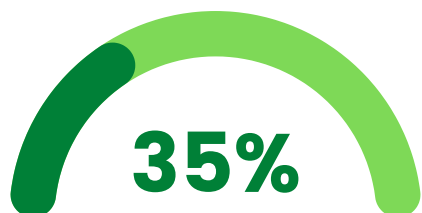
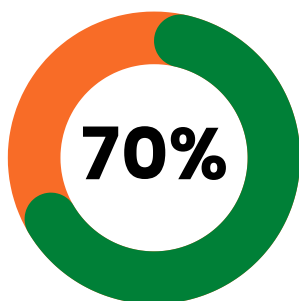


# Partnerships and Policies for Improved Market Access in Southern Africa

reducing poverty amongst women and the youth



Agriculture contributes 35% of the GDP of the SADC region

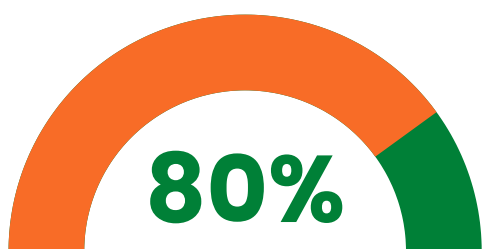


70% of the SADC population depend on agriculture



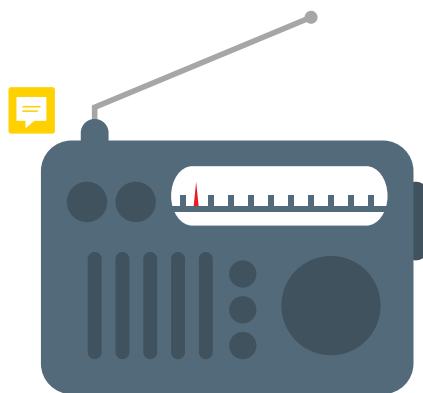
At least half the agricultural labor force is women

## ICT for Markets



80% of women smallholder farmers sell their produce at their local markets only, without access to larger markets.

Smallholder farmers have great potential of accessing knowledge and information on markets, finance, and credit through the rapidly growing ICT sector



## Policies for Markets

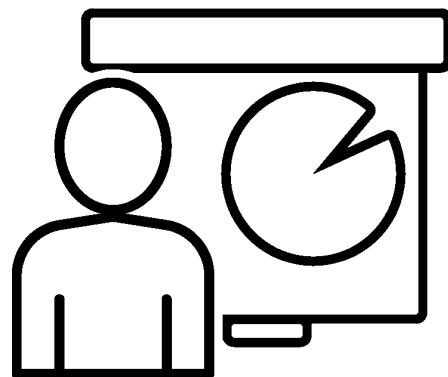
National and regional governments must collaborate with non-state actors to develop and implement policies that promote cross border trade for smallholder farmers



## Capacity for Markets

Female farmers only received 5% of all agricultural extensions in 2018 across the 4 countries.

High levels of illiteracy, patriarchal systems and lack of proper organisation hinder smallholder farmers from accessing training and extension services, especially women and youth



## Urgent Need



- Regional Economic Communities (AU, SADC, COMESA) to advance policies that support smallholder farmers, especially women and youth.
- Policies and programmes that prioritize economically active group of women and youth (25 -54 years).
- Build the capacity of smallholder farmers, including women and youth to enable them to engage and influence the business environment.