Kenya is one of Africa’s leading recipients and implementers of agricultural research for development (AgR4D). The country ranks third in sub-Saharan Africa in spending on agricultural research – after Nigeria and South Africa. Around 13% of projects carried out by Kenyan research institutes are ‘agroecological’, with a further 13% of projects focussing on the substitution of synthetic inputs.

The Money Flows report analysed 445 projects in Kenya with a cumulative budget of nearly US$ 1.2 billion. Some 196 AgR4D projects funded by national and international donors and 249 agricultural research projects of national research institutes and universities were quantitatively assessed for their contributions to a transition to sustainable food systems. What does it show? More than 70% of projects carried out by Kenyan research institutes were limited to supporting industrial agriculture and/or increasing its efficiency via targeted approaches such as improved pesticide practices, livestock vaccines or reductions in post-harvest losses.

DID YOU KNOW?

The major public agricultural health institution in Kenya is the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO). Established in 2014, it oversees 18 research institutes, bringing together research on agricultural socioeconomics, food, horticultural and industrial crops, and livestock, land and water management. On average, KALRO has just over US$130,000 in funding for each of the 179 research projects carried out by its 18 research institutes – totalling just over $23 million.