

The Millennium Villages Scaling-Up Strategy

Millennium Promise, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and the UN Millennium Project lead the Millennium Village effort. It aims to:

- provide rigorous proof of concept for integrated, community-based, low-cost interventions to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and end extreme poverty in rural Africa
- identify mechanisms for national-level scaling up of these community-led initiatives within MDG-based national development strategies, and
- engage governments and donors in the practical first steps of a 10-year scaling-up effort across rural Africa.

The Millennium Villages approach differs from integrated rural development programs of the 1970s and 1980s or traditional “model villages” in several ways. First, it focuses on participatory community decision-making, combining the best of science with local knowledge. Second, the Millennium Village effort is explicitly linked to achieving the MDGs and addresses an *integrated* and *scaled-up* set of interventions covering food production and processing, nutrition, education, health services, roads, energy, communications, water, sanitation, enterprise diversification and environmental management. Third, it combines participatory processes with adequate levels of financing over a long enough period to ensure sustainability. Fourth, the initiative uses improved science-based technologies and techniques that have more recently become available, such as agroforestry, insecticide-treated malaria bed nets, antiretroviral drugs, the internet, remote sensing, and geographic information systems.

The UN Millennium Project is actively engaging national governments in monitoring and learning from the experiences of the villages. To ensure that the Millennium Villages are part of national discussion and policy formulation for scaling up community-based approaches, new villages will only be initiated in countries where national leadership supports and engages in the process and is committed to investing additional government resources in the villages.

Only the Millennium Research Villages described below are implemented as part of the UN Millennium Project. All other Millennium Villages will be financed and supported by Millennium Promise and other partner organizations.

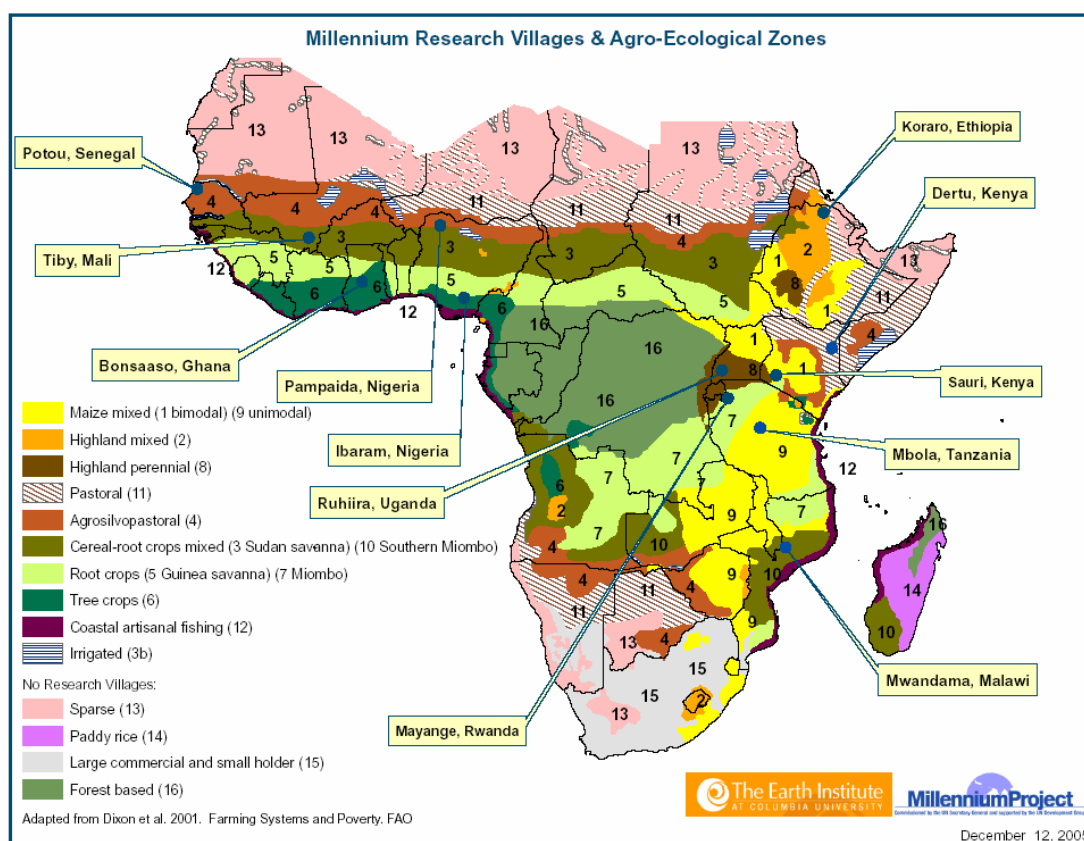
Millennium Research Villages establishing a proof of concept

The Millennium Research Villages aim to create and demonstrate a model for achieving the MDGs that can go to scale in all senses: concept, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Each Millennium Research Village, with a population of about 5000 people, has three main objectives:

1. **Proof of concept:** to show and validate scientifically that existing community-based, low-cost, and integrated interventions can enable impoverished rural areas to achieve all the MDGs. To this end, scientists will work with communities to document the effects of integrated village-level strategies through rigorous baseline assessments and monitoring of specific MDG-related indicators. The Millennium Research Villages will demonstrate the efficacy of known interventions and their impact on rural livelihoods, assess

synergies resulting from integrated approaches, and show their affordability and benefit-cost ratio.

2. **Lessons for community-based implementation:** to learn how best to facilitate the empowerment of rural African communities to lead, implement, and monitor science-based interventions for achieving the MDGs.
3. **Lessons for host-country scale up:** to inform the design of MDG-based national development strategies and to support countries in organizing the delivery of social services, basic infrastructure, and extension services to effectively support community-based development efforts at national scale. To this end, the UN Millennium Project will make available lessons from the Millennium Villages to national governments and UN Country Teams.



The Millennium Research Villages initiative is a joint activity of the UN Millennium Project, UNDP, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and UNICEF that will be implemented by the communities themselves with support from the UN Millennium Project, its regional MDG Centers in Nairobi and Bamako, and scientists from Columbia University's Earth Institute. The Millennium Village teams will work closely with national and local host governments, UN Country Teams, the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) and other CGIAR centers, other international and national research institutions, civil society, the private sector and universities. The 12 Millennium Research Villages listed in the appendix are located in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda and cover the twelve major agroecological zones of Sub-Saharan Africa. Together they represent the farming systems used by 90% of the agricultural population and 93% of the agricultural land area in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Scaling up Millennium Villages to the district level

Building on successful Millennium Research Villages, Millennium Villages can be scaled up to reach clusters of approximately 55,000 people.

The district-level scaling up of Millennium Villages will have the following objectives:

1. **Scaling-up:** to provide integrated village-level interventions across an entire district, or substantial parts thereof, applying the lessons learnt from Millennium Research Villages.
2. **Lessons for district-wide and national scaling up:** to understand and demonstrate how community-based interventions for achieving the MDGs can be coordinated, implemented, and financed at the district scale and which national mechanisms are needed to support district-level activities.
3. **Lessons for district-level interventions:** to understand interventions that need to be provided at a district level (e.g. referral hospitals, transport infrastructure, electricity generation and distribution) and thus benefit from economies of scale
4. **Donor mobilization:** to engage public and private donors in practical, results-based, monitored and measured interventions at the village and district level.

These Millennium Villages are financed and supported by Millennium Promise, a non-profit organization founded by Professor Jeffrey Sachs and Ray Chambers to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. They will be implemented by local authorities and communities with close support provided by partners including the Nairobi and Bamako MDG Centers, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) and other CGIAR centers, local and international NGO's, private sector companies, universities, and UN Country Teams. The UN Millennium Project will work to ensure that the insights gained from the scaling up of Millennium Villages are disseminated to inform national MDG-based development strategies across the developing world.

Replication of Millennium Village in other countries or regions

In addition, Millennium Villages can be financed and implemented by national or district governments, UN agencies, philanthropists, universities, non-governmental organizations, or private sector companies to achieve the MDGs in hunger hotspots beyond the immediate vicinity of the Millennium Research Villages.

These Millennium Villages have the following objectives:

1. **Scaling up:** to provide integrated village-level interventions in hunger hotspots not covered by the Millennium Research Villages.
2. **Donor mobilization:** to engage public and private donors in practical, results-based, monitored and measured interventions.

Millennium Promise will coordinate the scaling up of Millennium Villages across Africa, and beyond.

Millennium Village Sites and Key Characteristics (as of December 2005)

Village	Country (Sub-national unit)	Additional Millennium Villages in vicinity	Main Rainy Season Planting	Hunger Hotspot (HTF ¹)		Agroecological zone/ Farming system (Dixon ²)		
				UW (%)	Pop. (M)	Name (Dixon farming system #)	Agr. Pop. (M)	Land area (M has.)
Bonsaaso	Ghana (Western region)	10	June	26	1.9	Forest margins, slash and burn (3), tree-crops (2)	36	336
Dertu	Kenya (Northeastern, Garissa District)	0	June	30	5.1	Pastoral (12), no crops (with potential for small scale irrigation)	27	346
Mwandama	Malawi (South)	10	October	25	5.1	Cereal/root crops based (8)	59	313
Tiby	Mali (Segou Region)	10	June	37	1.6	Rice-irrigated (1)	7	31
						Sudan savanna (8)	59	313
Pampaida	Nigeria (Northwest, Kaduna State)	0	June	45	18.1	Agrosilvopastoral Sahel (11)	33	198
Ikaram	Nigeria (South-west, Ondo State)	10	June	25	28.5	Root crop-based; Guinea savanna (7)	25	73
Potou	Senegal (Louga)	10	June	22	0.8	Coastal, tree crops, artisanal fishing (14)	13	38
Mbola	Tanzania (Tabora)	10	October	28	2.7	Maize-mixed; unimodal (Miombo) (9)	60	246
Ruhira	Uganda (Western)	10	February	24	5.8	Highland perennial (5)		
Koraro	Ethiopia (Tigray)	10	July	48	3.7	Cool highlands (5)	28	44
Sauri	Kenya (Nyanza)	10	February	20	5.3	Maize-mixed; bimodal (9)	60	246
Mayange	Rwanda (Kigali rural)	10	February	25	1.0	Root crop cassava based (7)	44	282
Total							332	2266
% of Sub-Saharan Africa							90	93

¹ UN Millennium Project. 2005. *Halving hunger: It can be done*. UN Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger. Earthscan, London 245p. Hotspot numbers refer to province or region.

% UW= underweight children under 5 years of age

² Dixon, J., A. Gulliver and D. Gibbon. 2001. *Farming systems and poverty*. FAO, Rome