

*The WFP Innovation Accelerator is generously supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Bavarian State Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry.*



Bavarian State Ministry  
of Food, Agriculture and Forestry



## Assets from Space

Exhibition on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board

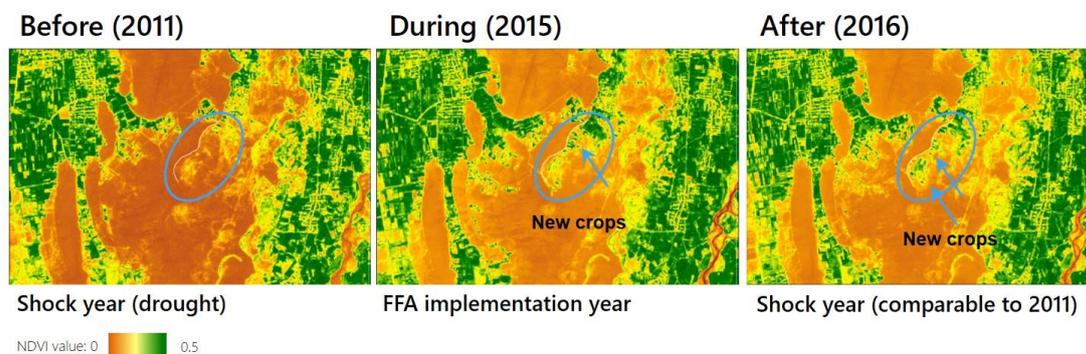
13–16 November 2017 (all day)

Red Tower exhibition area

### Context

The Assets from Space exhibition will feature the Asset Impact Monitoring System (AIMS) pilot project, which uses satellite imagery to monitor the assets and surrounding landscapes of WFP's food assistance for assets (FFA) activities and feeder roads programmes in the field. Led by WFP's Asset Creation and Livelihoods Unit (OSZPR) and Vulnerability Analysis Unit (VAM), with support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator, the pilot phase of AIMS shows how satellite imagery can be a cost-effective way of monitoring the long-term positive changes to watersheds induced by FFA natural resource management activities, complementing WFP's existing monitoring tools.

Using both satellite Earth observation technology and very high resolution imagery, AIMS looked at six distinct types of FFA activities – soil and water conservation, water catchments, irrigation canals, forestry, gully control and engineering feeder roads – in Afghanistan, Niger, Sudan, South Sudan and Tajikistan. Results demonstrate the value of analysing satellite images to monitor FFA assets and their local impact as a cost-effective and highly reproducible method of monitoring that complements existing tools. Satellite imagery acquired before and after FFA interventions demonstrates how degraded landscapes have turned into highly vegetated areas and how new settlements have developed alongside feeder roads. With these results from the pilot phase, OSZPR and VAM look forward to expanding AIMS into other FFA countries.



**This figure shows how crops were more resilient in 2016 during a drought year than they were during similar conditions in 2011 as a result of an FFA intervention in 2015.**

## **Objectives**

The exhibition will:

- raise awareness about the AIMS project and the key results from the pilot phase;
- help to educate WFP staff and Executive Board members on food assistance for assets; and
- show how available satellite technology is a cost-effective option to complement existing monitoring tools for FFA programmes.

Raising awareness about the project at this time is especially crucial, as the Innovation Accelerator provided funding for the six-month pilot phase, but additional funding is now needed to scale up the project and reach anticipated goals in 2018. A concept note is now being developed for this next phase.

## **Agenda**

The exhibition will run daily in the Red Tower exhibition area. Representatives from OSZPR and VAM will be available to engage visitors, guide them through the exhibition and answer questions.