



## ANALYSIS

# Market size and market opportunity for agricultural value-added-services (Agri VAS)

February 2015

# Agenda

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## Context

Growth of Agri VAS

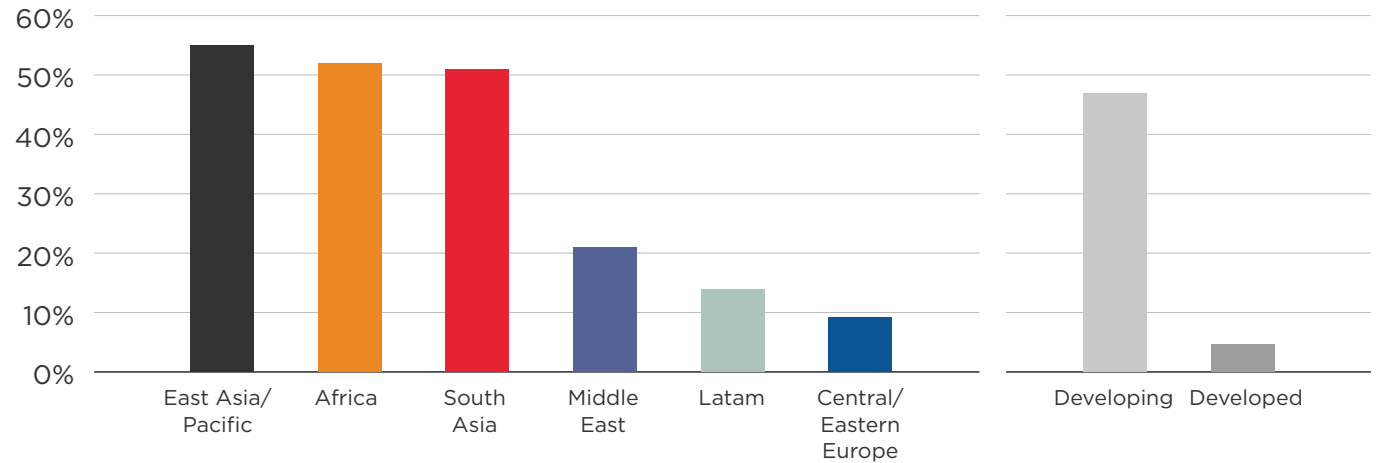
Model assumptions and methodology

Model outputs

Value proposition

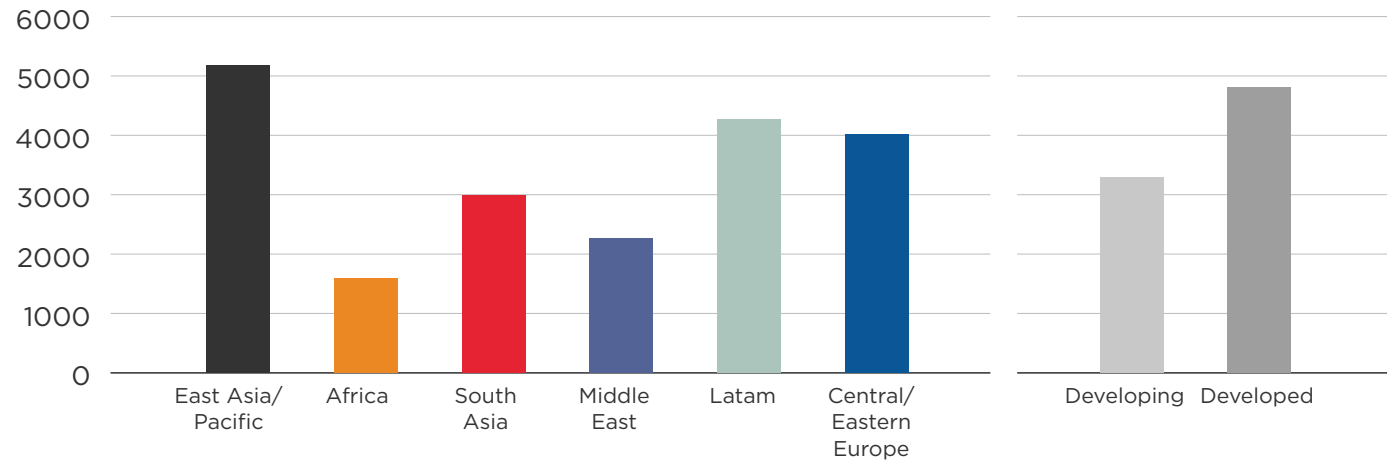
# Agriculture workforce and productivity

- 98% of the total labour force in agriculture lives in developing countries, however cereal yield in developing countries is 70% of the yield in developed countries
- In emerging markets, on average 47% of the labour force works in agriculture, some 1.8 billion people compared to 5% in developed countries (31 million people)
- On average, in developing countries the cereal yield is 3,300 kg/hectare compared to 4,805 kg/hectare in developed countries



**Figure 1:** Proportion of Labour force in agriculture, developing economies only, 2013

Source: FAO

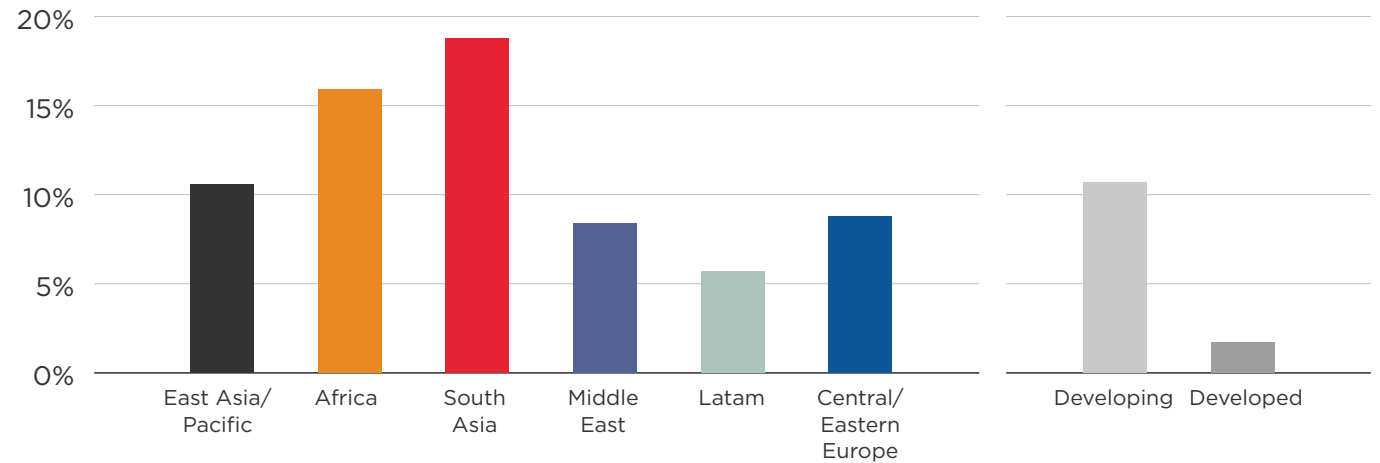


**Figure 2:** Agriculture productivity (kg/hectare), developing economies only, 2013

Source: World Bank

# Agriculture economic contribution

- Agriculture is one of the main drivers of the economy in developing countries, contributing 11% of GDP
- Agriculture contribution to GDP is only 2% in developed countries
- In developed countries agriculture was worth \$515 billion in 2013, compared to \$2,428 billion in developing countries



**Figure 3:** Agriculture, value added (% of GDP), developing economies only, 2013  
 Source: World Bank

## Developing countries

High labour force in agriculture

Low productivity

High contribution to GDP

## Developed countries

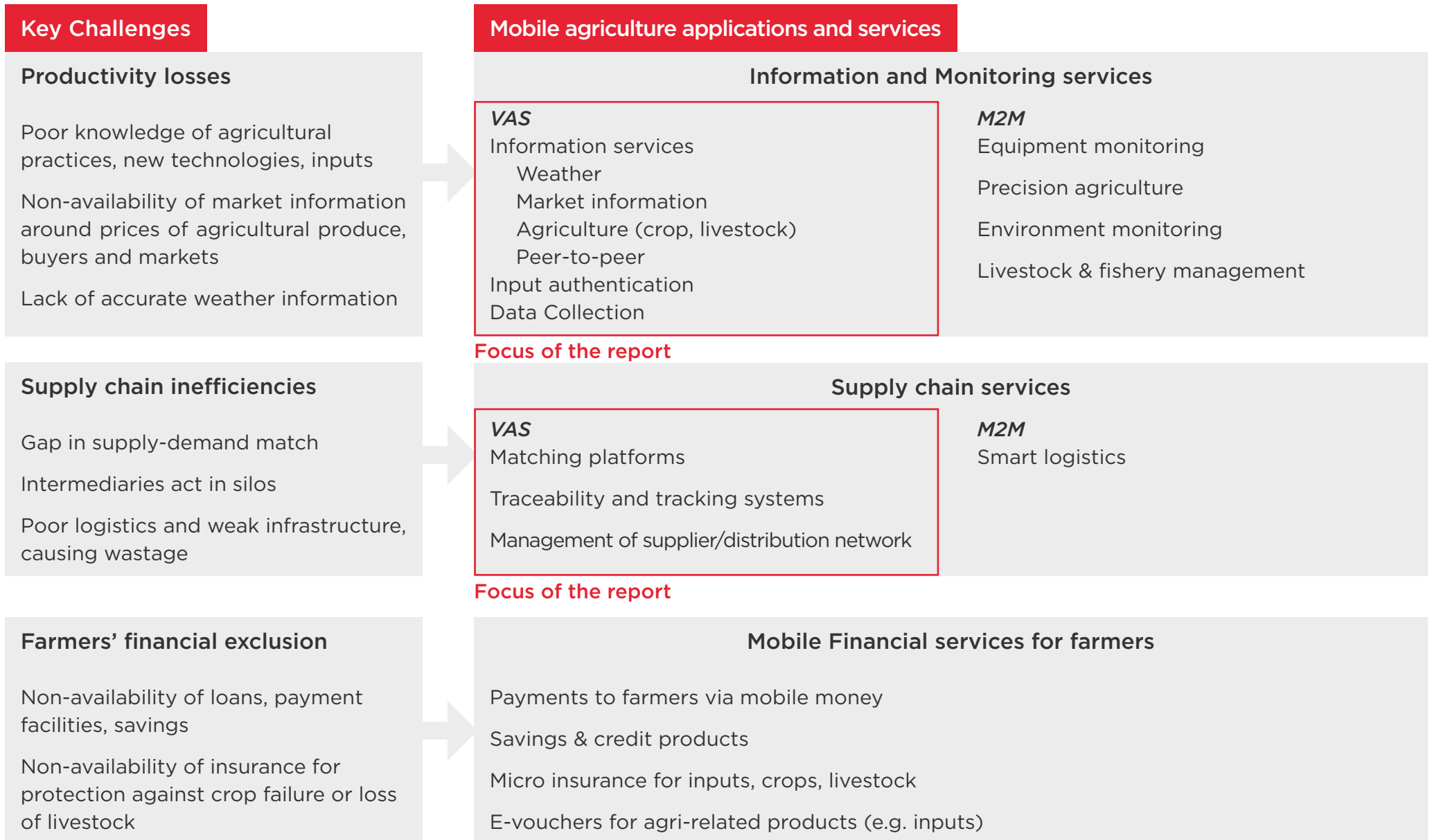
Low labour force in agriculture

High productivity

Low contribution to GDP

One of the main reasons for the low productivity in developing countries is the lack of access to information such as weather forecasts and tips on disease prevention

# Use case and benefits – the opportunity for mobile



# Agenda

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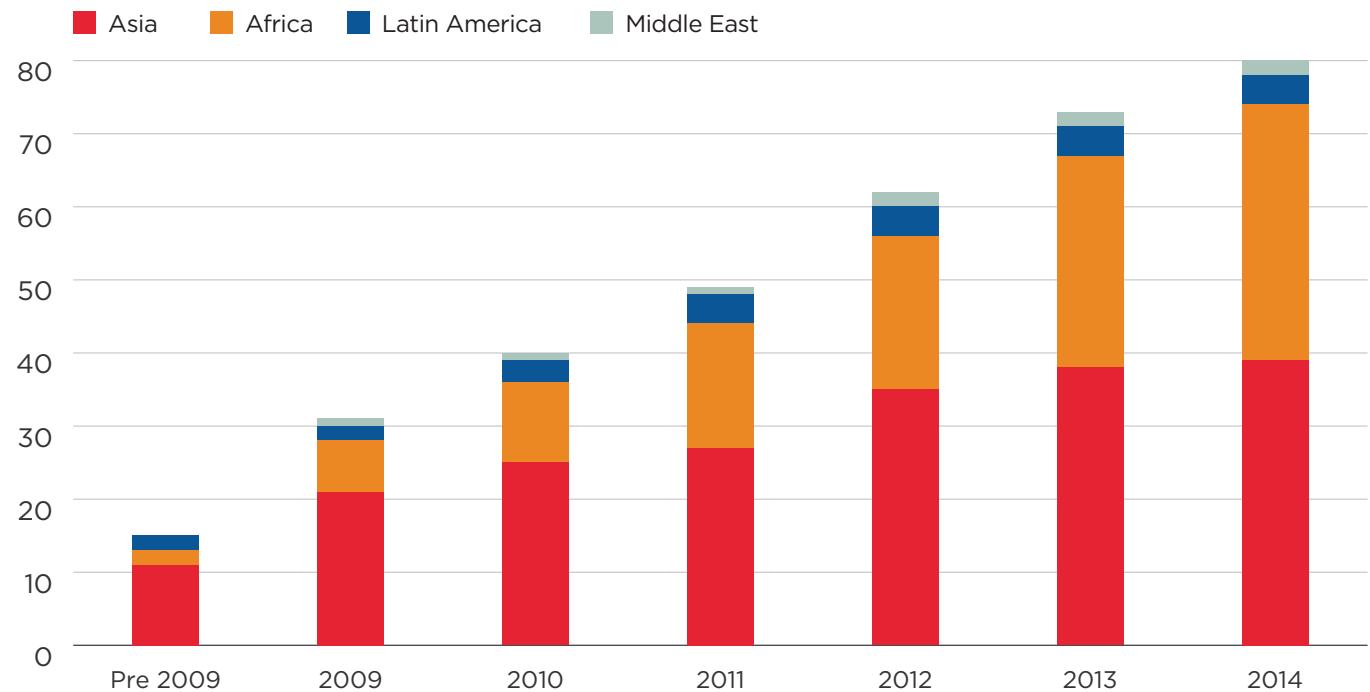
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# Agri VAS market growth

- Mobile agriculture value added services (VAS) have been developed to overcome the information gap faced by farmers in developing countries
- Currently the GSMA Mobile for development tracker tracks 98 live Agri VAS deployments among other mobile agriculture services throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America
- 6 of these Agri VAS offer also mobile financial services to farmers
- Africa has the largest number of live Agri VAS (52), followed by Asia (37), Latin America (6) and the Middle East (3)



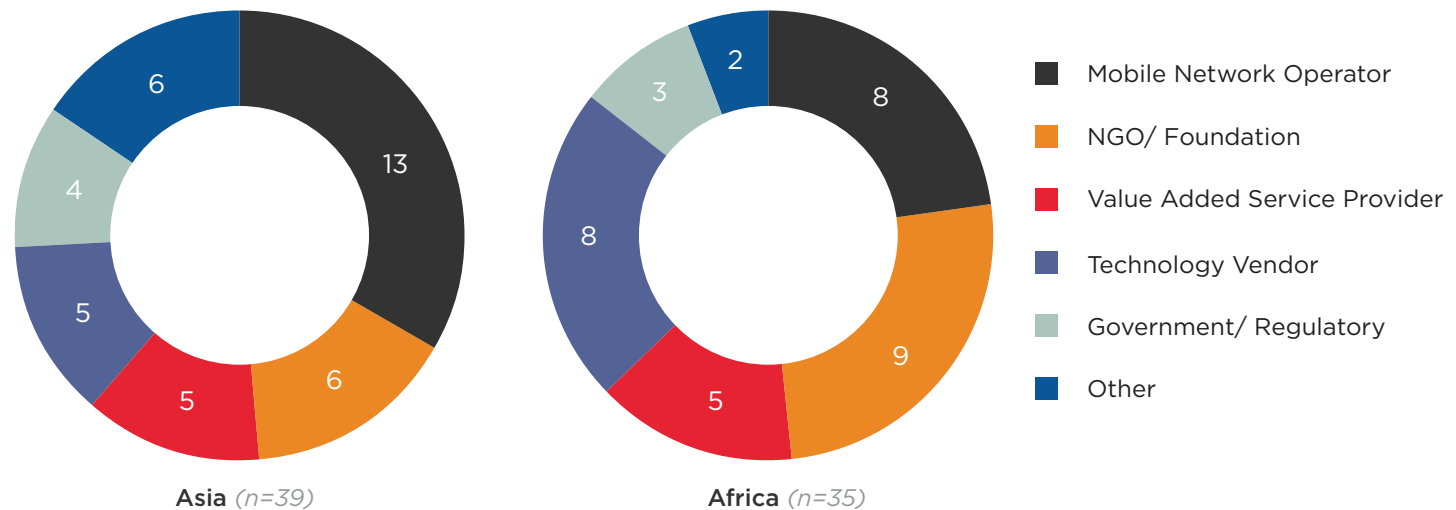
**Figure 4:** Agri VAS evolution

Source: GSMA Product and Service tracker

Note: The analysis focuses only on Agri VAS for which all the data is available

# Agri VAS provider landscape

- Globally, operators lead more Agri VAS than NGOs (22 versus 16)
- In Asia, operators are dominant in the space by leading 33% of total services, followed by NGOs and foundations with 15% of Agri VAS
- In Africa, NGOs and foundations are dominant in the space by leading 26% of total services, followed by mobile operators and technology vendors with 23% of Agri VAS



**Figure 5:** Lead organisation involvement in Agri VAS

Note: Other includes academia, agri suppliers, consultants, associations, agri financial services providers

Source: GSMA Product and Service tracker



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# Countries included in the model

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The regions of focus for the report are Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia

Countries have been selected if the agricultural value add (% of GDP) in 2013 was greater than 10%

*Source: World Bank*

## South Asia (7 countries)

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
India  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Sri Lanka

## Africa (30 countries)

Angola  
Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Ethiopia  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Kenya  
Liberia  
Madagascar

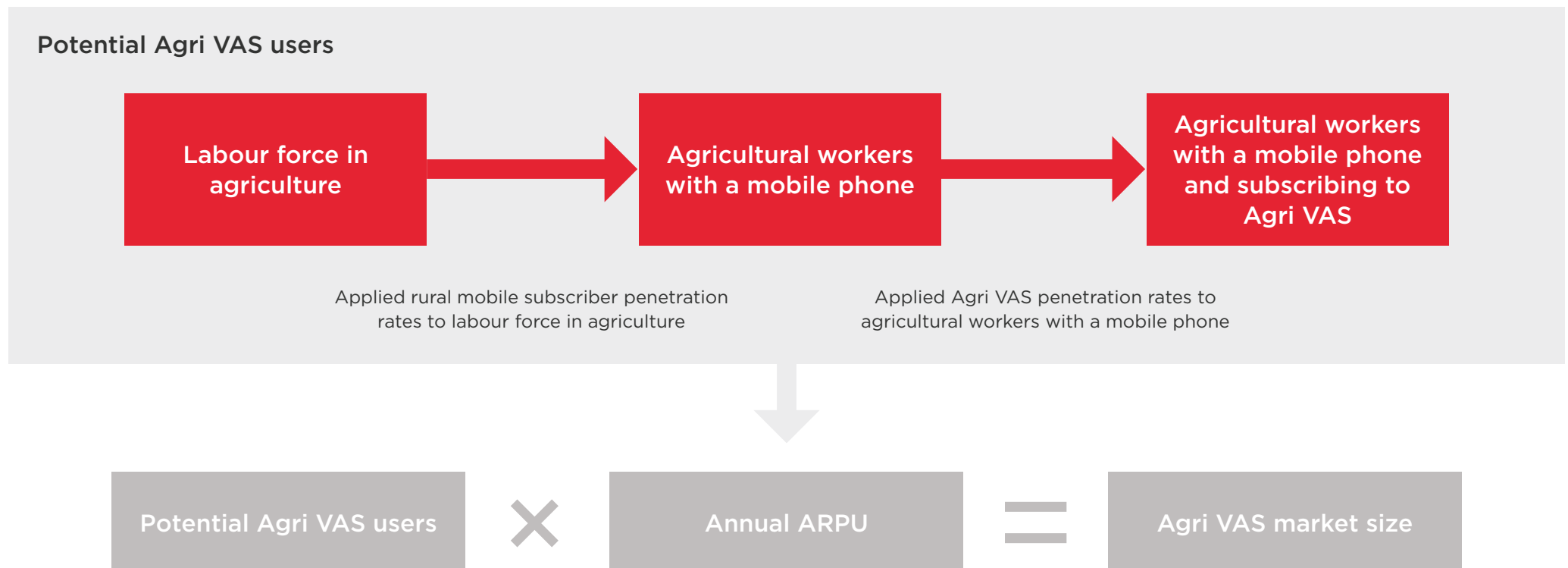
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mozambique  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

# Introduction to the market sizing model

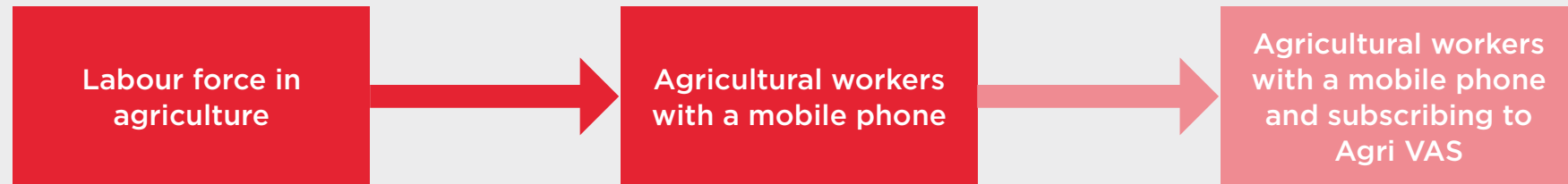
Across the 37 countries chosen, the Agri VAS market size was derived from two main factors:

- 1 An estimate of the number of agricultural workers with a mobile phone, and, among those, the ones subscribing to Agri VAS. This will result in the number of potential Agri VAS users
- 2 An estimate of farmers' expenditure on Agri VAS

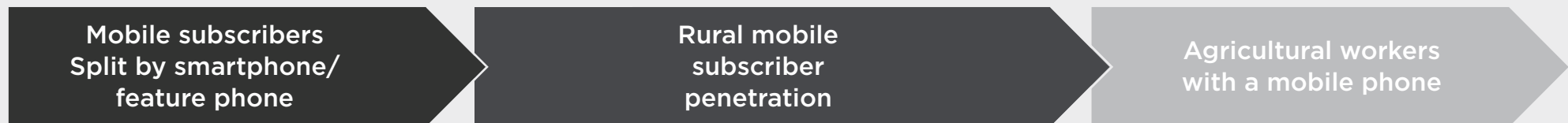
The model has been sense checked with operators in the industry



# Potential Agri VAS users – agricultural workers with a mobile phone



The following steps have been applied to each of the 37 selected countries



The subscriber split by smartphone/feature phone was estimated by applying the share of smartphones/feature phones as a percentage of total connections to total subscribers

The rural mobile subscriber penetration rate was estimated by:

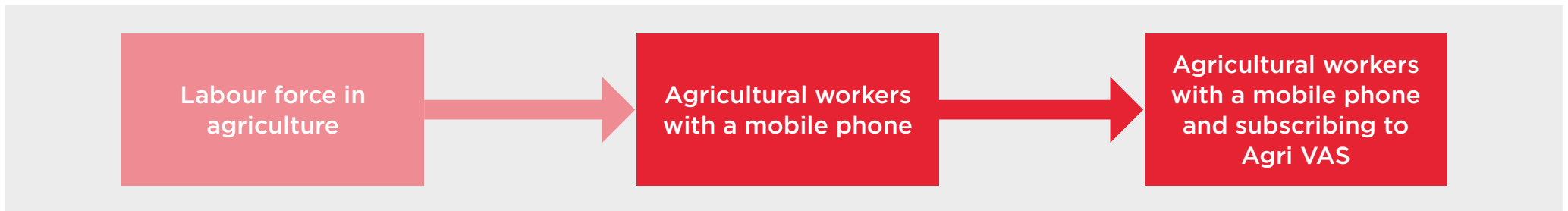
- 1 Taking the urban and rural population split according to the World Bank
- 2 Calculating the total mobile subscriber penetration split by smartphone/feature phone
- 3 Taking “Penetration Urban” =  $1.3 \times$  “Penetration Rural”  
(over time this factor will reduce as urban and rural get closer to parity)

The number of agricultural workers with a mobile phone split by smartphones and feature phones was estimated by applying the rural mobile subscriber penetration rates to the labour force in agriculture

# Potential Agri VAS users – agricultural workers with a mobile phone and subscribing to Agri VAS

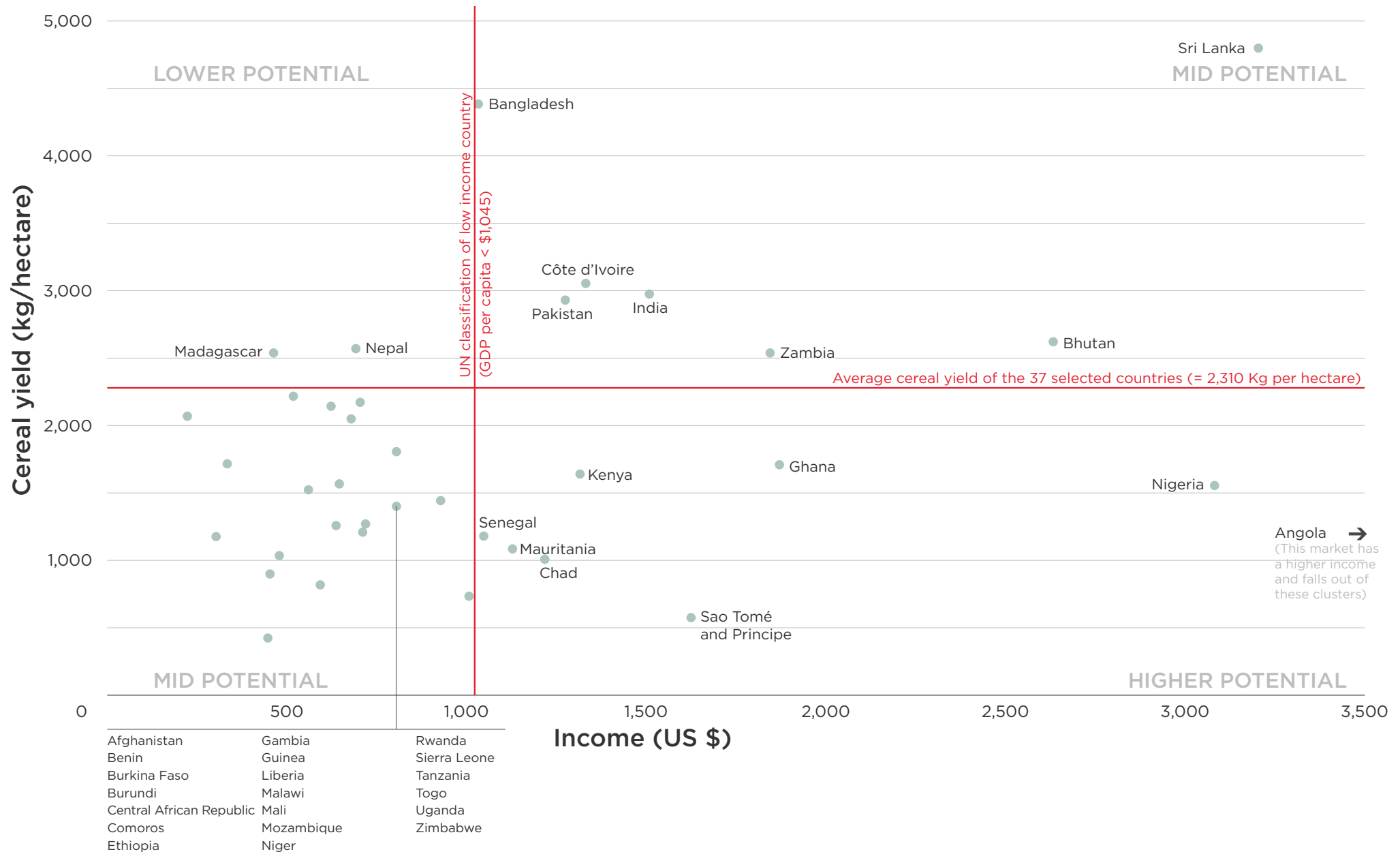
Countries have been classified according to two metrics, income and productivity, to establish the potential uptake of Agri VAS.

Countries have been classified as high potential (more likely to subscribe to Agri VAS), low potential (less likely to subscribe to Agri VAS) and mid potential



Propensity to spend		Improved cereal yield		Likelihood to subscribe to Agri VAS
<b>Income</b> (GDP per capita) Lower income ≤ \$1,045 Higher income >\$1,045	<b>+</b>	<b>Productivity</b> (Cereal yield) Lower productivity ≤ 2,310 Higher productivity >2,310	<b>=</b>	<b>Potential</b> Potential take-up of Agri VAS
Higher income	<b>+</b>	Lower productivity	<b>=</b>	Higher potential
Lower income	<b>+</b>	Higher productivity	<b>=</b>	Lower potential
Higher income	<b>+</b>	Higher productivity	<b>=</b>	Mid potential
Lower income	<b>+</b>	Lower productivity	<b>=</b>	Mid potential

# Potential Agri VAS users – country split by potential take-up of Agri VAS



# Potential Agri VAS users – Agri VAS adoption rates

The adoption rates of Agri VAS were estimated by considering adoption rates of other VAS and through discussions with VAS managers in the industry

In addition, the uptake of Agri VAS was estimated as a share of unique subscribers for the different country categorizations (high, mid and low potential)

## Potential users expressed as a share of agricultural workers with a mobile

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
High potential countries	30%	32%	33%	35%	37%	38%	40%
Mid potential countries	20%	22%	23%	25%	27%	28%	30%
Low potential countries	10%	12%	13%	15%	17%	18%	20%

## Potential users expressed as a share of total unique mobile subscribers

High potential countries	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%
Mid potential countries	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Low potential countries	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%

Table 1: Agri VAS uptake

# Potential Agri VAS users – by delivery channel

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Given the number of potential Agri VAS users, the addressable market for different delivery channels (IVR/voice, SMS and rich media) was estimated

The three delivery channels are not mutually exclusive, Agri VAS users can use more than one channel at a time

## IVR/ VOICE

The addressable market for IVR/ voice based services is the total number of agricultural workers with a mobile phone and subscribing to Agri VAS

## SMS

The addressable market for SMS based services has been estimated by using the literacy rates for each country

## RICH DATA

The addressable market for rich data services has been estimated by applying the percentage of agricultural workers subscribing to Agri VAS to agricultural workers with a smartphone



# ARPU

The ARPU of Agri VAS has been estimated by:

- 1 Analysing Agri VAS for which ARPU figures are available
- 2 Analysing the pricing structure and usage of live Agri VAS
- 3 Talking to organisations leading the implementation of Agri VAS

The output of this analysis provides a regional weighted ARPU<sup>1</sup>

## South Asia

**South Asia Agri VAS  
ARPU assumption =  
\$0.60**

Mobile ARPU, by connections= \$2.42 (2013)  
Mobile ARPU, by subscribers<sup>2</sup> = \$5.58 (2013)

Considering the pricing structure of current live services, an ARPU of \$0.60 would give, on average:

- 20 SMS or 10 minutes IVR call per month in Bangladesh
- 25 minutes IVR call per month in Pakistan

## Africa

**Africa Agri VAS  
ARPU assumption =  
\$0.25**

Mobile ARPU, by connections= \$5.64 (2013)  
Mobile ARPU, by subscribers<sup>2</sup> = \$10.12 (2013)

Considering the pricing structure of current live services, an ARPU of \$0.25 would give, on average:

- 5 SMS per month in Kenya
- 6 minutes of IVR call in Ghana

<sup>1</sup> ARPU estimates are weighted to reflect the fact that not all providers charge for the service

<sup>2</sup> Total recurring (service) revenue generated per unique subscriber per month in the period. Different from ARPU by connection, ARPU by subscriber is a measure of each unique user's spend

# Agri VAS market size

Given the number of potential Agri VAS users and the regional ARPU estimates, the Agri VAS market size was estimated

## Annual revenue

The annual addressable market for a given country is given by:

**Agricultural workers  
with a mobile phone and  
subscribing to Agri VAS**  
(end of period)



**Annual ARPU**  
(ARPU assumption X 12)



**Market size**  
(annual revenue,  
million US\$)

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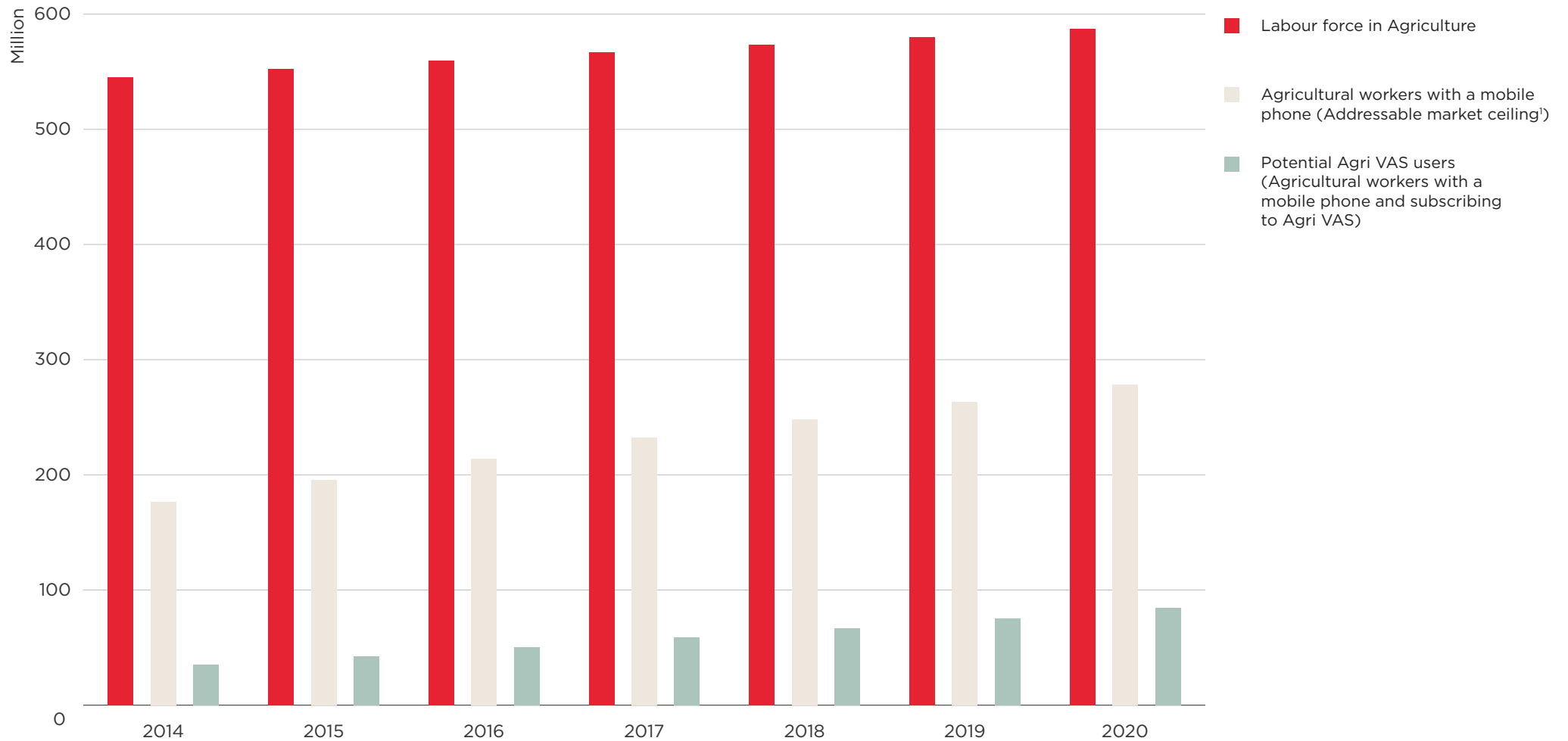
Model assumptions and methodology

**Model outputs**

Value proposition

# Market size – users (total)

The potential number of Agri VAS users for both Sub Sahrahan Africa and South Asia by 2020 has been estimated to be just over 80 million farmers

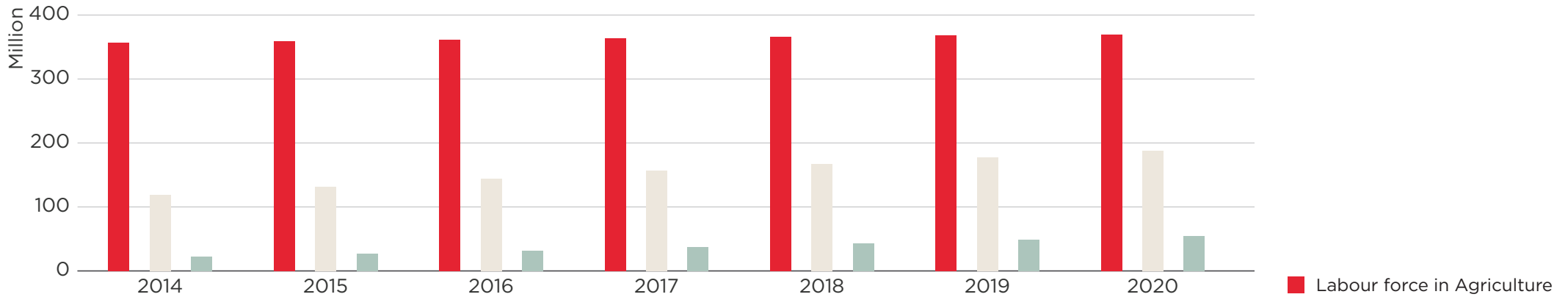


**Figure 6:** Addressable market for Agri VAS  
 Source: GSMA Intelligence, World Bank, FAO

<sup>1</sup> Agricultural workers with a mobile phone

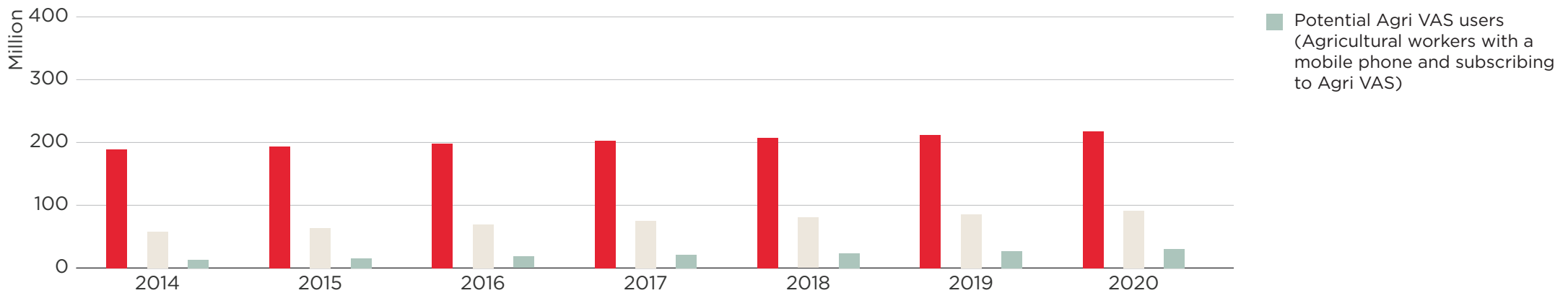
# Market size – users (by region)

**South Asia is expected to have the most number of Agri VAS users by 2020, with just over 50 million compared to Africa with 30 million**



**Figure 7: Addressable market for Agri VAS – South Asia**

Source: GSMA Intelligence, World Bank, FAO



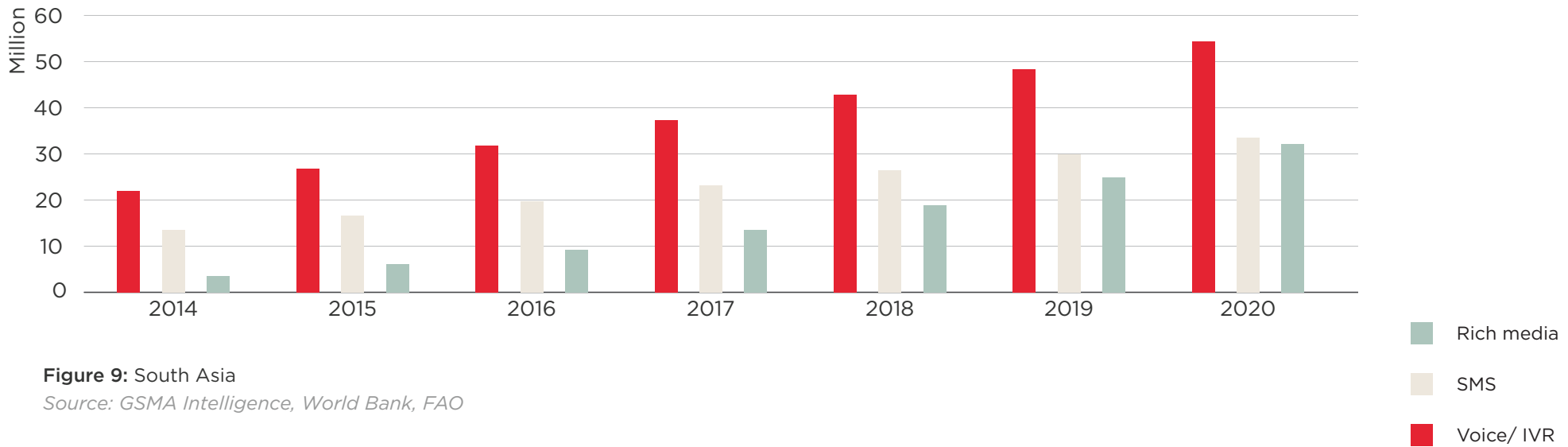
**Figure 8: Addressable market for Agri VAS – Sub-Saharan Africa**

Source: GSMA Intelligence, World Bank, FAO

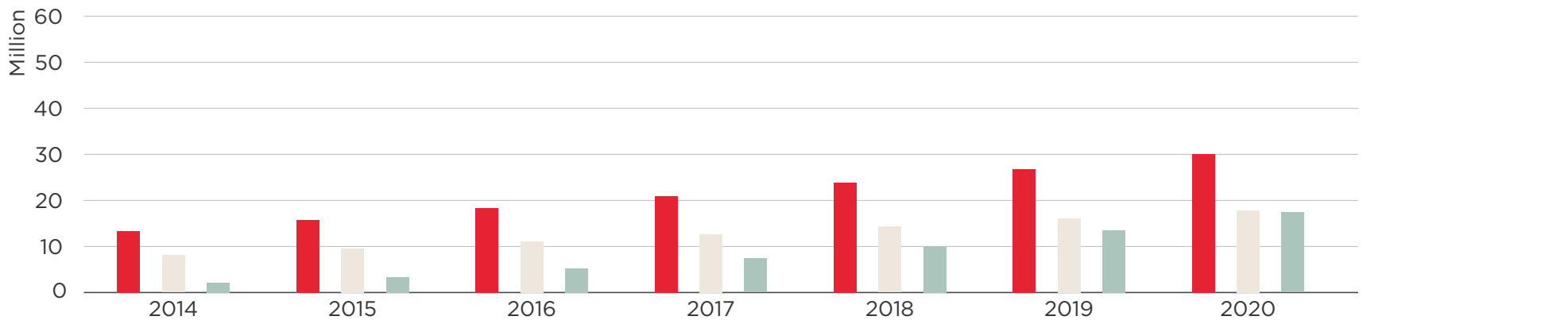
<sup>1</sup> Agricultural workers with a mobile phone

# Market size – users (by delivery channel)

The number of Agri VAS users will depend on the type of channel used to deliver the service



**Figure 9: South Asia**  
 Source: GSMA Intelligence, World Bank, FAO

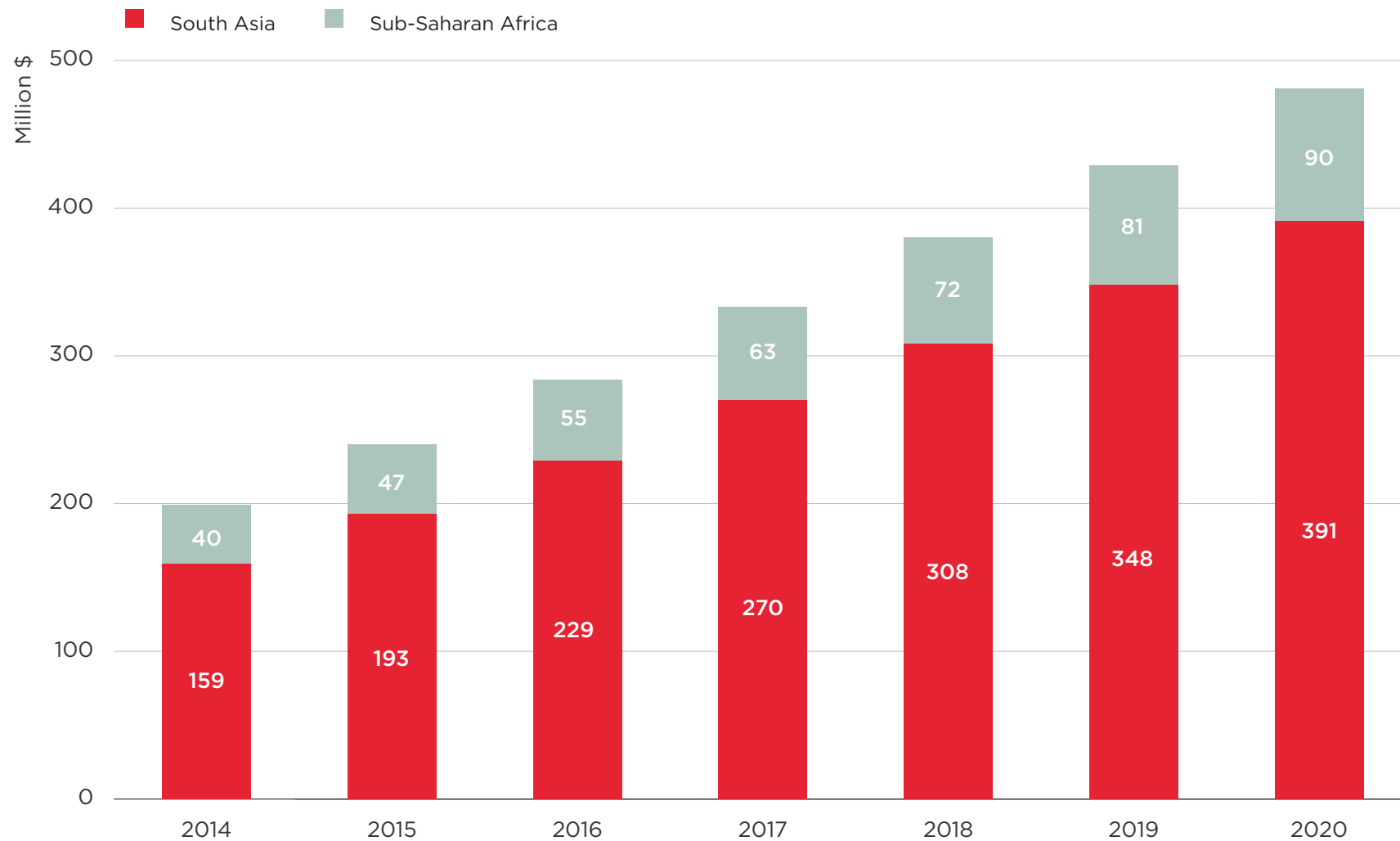


**Figure 10: Sub-Saharan Africa**  
 Source: GSMA Intelligence, World Bank, FAO

Note: The three delivery channels are not mutually exclusive, Agri VAS users can use more than one channel at a time. These are therefore greater than the number of actual humans using an Agri VAS service

# Market size – revenue

The market size for Agri VAS has been estimated to be around \$200 million in 2014, this is expected to be more than double in 2020



**Figure 11:** Agri VAS potential annual revenue  
 Source: GSMA Intelligence, World Bank, FAO

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# Business models

Agriculture VAS are mainly based on two different business models:

- 1 Direct revenue (purely ARPU dependant)
- 2 Indirect benefits (increase in loyalty/ reduction in churn/ increase market share)

Business model can vary between countries or depending on the leading organisation

## Direct revenue model - B2C

### mKisan India

- Provides advice and information on crop agronomy, animal health, weather forecasts and market prices via SMS and IVR
- Subscription package cost \$0.02 per day (purchasable in packs of 10, 20 or 30 days)

### Airtel Kilimo Kenya

- Offers agronomy, livestock, weather and market price information via USSD
- Customers are charged \$0.22 per week to access subscribed content

### Tigo Kilimo Tanzania

- Provides agronomic practices on major crops, market price information, and weather forecasts via USSD, Push SMS, IVR and helpline
- The text-based service is free to subscribers and voice channels are charged (\$0.03/access for IVR and \$0.004/second for helpline)

## Direct revenue model - B2B

### Connected Farmer Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique

- Platform that facilitates communication between agribusinesses and product suppliers
- It is focused on helping agribusinesses connect to farmers
- Agribusiness access the service over an Android smartphone app or a web portal
- Agri-businesses are charged for individual farmer use of the service on a monthly basis

## Indirect benefits model

### IKSL India

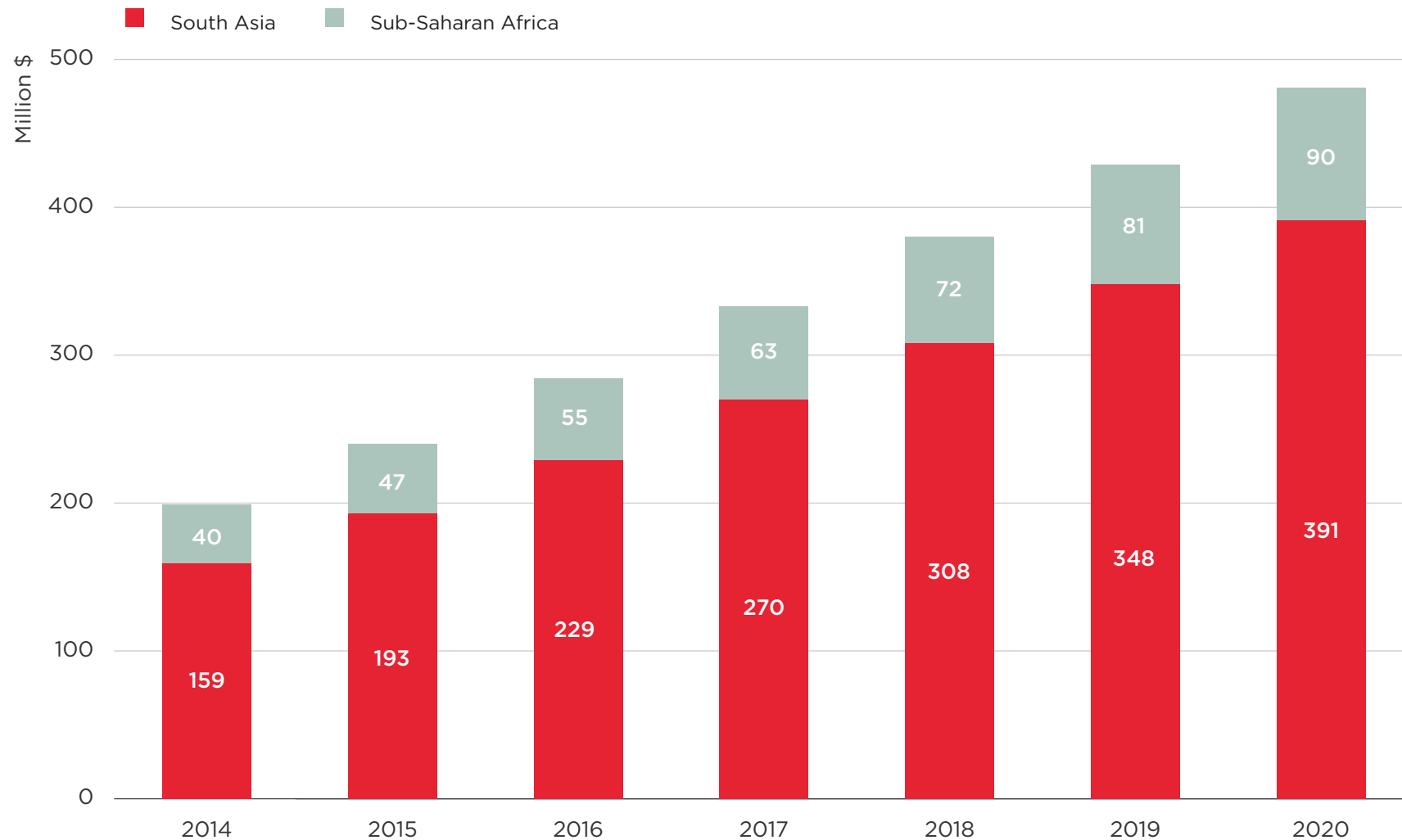
- Provide market prices, farming techniques, weather forecasts via a helpline. The service free of charge
- Revenues: increase loyalty, reduction in churn rates among IKSL users

### 3-2-1 Madagascar

- Provides on demand information via USSD, SMS and IVR
- Unlimited free SMS and USSD, 4 IVR free calls per month
- Revenues: reduction of churn, increased ARPU/SMS/ voice among 3-2-1 users

# Value proposition - direct revenues

Direct revenues are available to Agri VAS providers (which includes both operators and VAS providers)  
 The annual revenues from Agri VAS have been estimated in this report



**Figure 12:** Agri VAS potential annual revenue  
 Source: GSMA Intelligence, World Bank, FAO

# Value proposition – indirect benefits

For mobile operators, in addition to direct revenues, Agri VAS offer indirect benefits such as reduction in churn rates, increased customer loyalty, uptake of new customers and cross selling of other services

## Churn reduction

### Grameenphone Bangladesh

They will launch an Agri VAS in 2015, their projected estimate of annual churn reduction rates is 8-12% for Agri VAS customers compared to non Agri VAS customers

### Indian operator

Annual churn reduction rates of 9.6% for Agri VAS customers compared to non Agri VAS customers

## Cross-selling of other services

### Agri MFS

Existing user base of Agri VAS users provides opportunity to offer mobile financial services for agri sector the amount of outgoing SMS compared to non-3-2-1 users from July 2014-November 2014

### Other VAS

Subscribers of Agri VAS could decide to subscribe to other VAS, such as health, education, news

## New customer acquisition

By providing services which are beneficial for large parts of the population, such as agriculture information services, operators could benefit by bringing new customers on their network, especially currently unconnected rural segment

## Other

### 3-2-1 Madagascar

3-2-1 users have double the amount of outgoing SMS compared to non-3-2-1 users from July 2014-November 2014

# About the authors

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Barbara is an Analyst at GSMA Intelligence focusing on research for emerging markets. Before joining GSMA in April 2013, Barbara worked for FrontlineSMS in London and at Accenture in Italy. She holds an MSc in Development Studies from SOAS, London and an undergraduate in Mathematics from Università Statale di Milano, Italy.



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Tim is a Senior Manager at GSMA Intelligence, having joined the team in October 2012. In this capacity, Tim has responsibility for the team producing research reports and presenting externally at conferences and public speaking engagements. Prior to joining the GSMA, Tim spent 6 years in London as an analyst covering telecoms and a variety of other sectors.

# About GSMA

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## About Mobile for Development:

Serving the underserved through mobile

Mobile for Development brings together our mobile operator members, the wider mobile industry and the development community to drive commercial mobile services for underserved people in emerging markets. We identify opportunities for social, economic impact and stimulate the development of scalable, life-enhancing mobile services.



## About the GSMA mAgri programme

mAgri catalyses scalable, commercial mobile services that improve the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers and benefit the agriculture sector in emerging markets. The GSMA mAgri Programme is in a unique position to bring together mobile operators, the agricultural organisations and the development community to foster sustainable and scalable mobile services that improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

For more information, visit [gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/programmes/magri](http://gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/programmes/magri)

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GSMA Intelligence is the definitive source of mobile operator data, analysis and forecasts, delivering the most accurate and complete set of industry metrics available.

Relied on by a customer base of over 800 of the world's leading mobile operators, device vendors, equipment manufacturers and financial and consultancy firms, the data set is the most scrutinised in the industry.

With over 25 million individual data points (updated daily), the service provides coverage of the performance of all 1,400+ operators and 1,200+ MVNOs across 4,400+ networks, 65 groups and 237 countries worldwide.

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