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ADVALUE

2024–2026 FACTS & FIGURES

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS

through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education

Facts and Figures Information Brochure
A comprehensive overview of key achievements, doctoral modules, stakeholder engagements, GEID commitments, and project impacts.

2026

Nürtingen Geislingen University
DITSL where science meets people
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
CZU Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
Pwani UNIVERSITY
SLU
UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa
RUFORUM Capacity Building in Agriculture
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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ADVALUE

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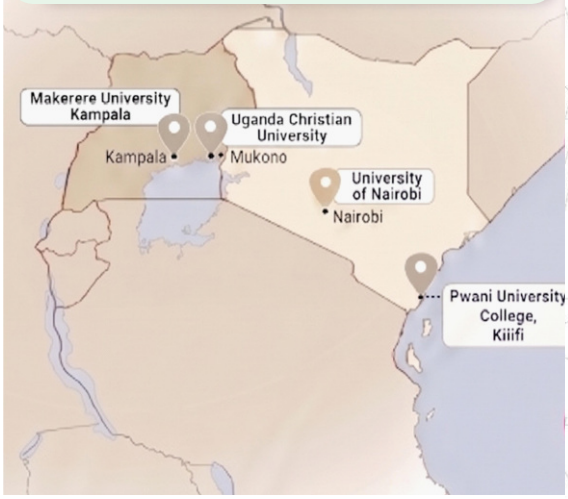
Picture by Angelika Thomas

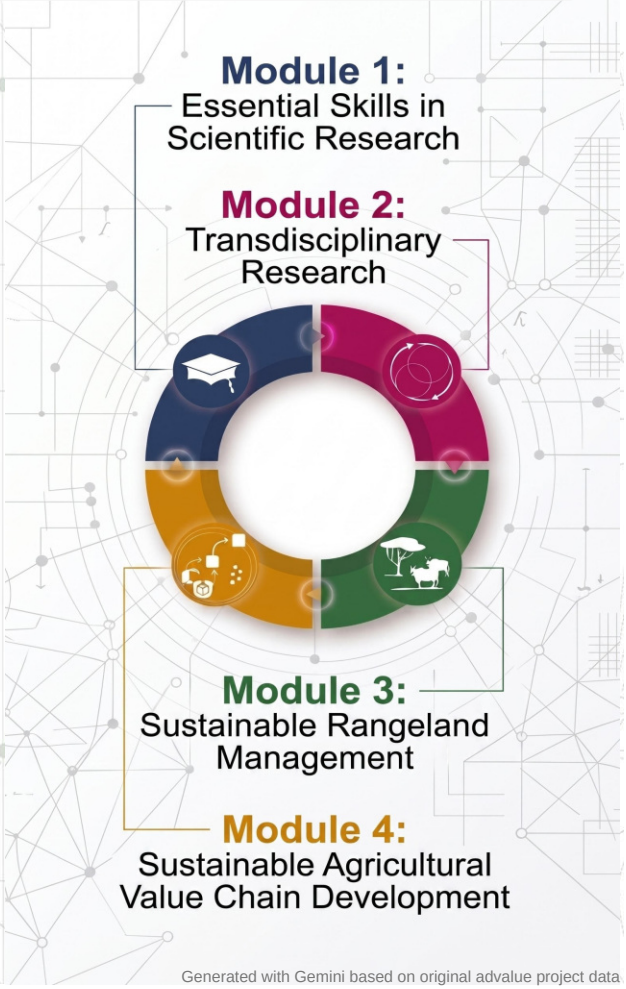
1. Four Advanced PhD Modules

>100

DOCTORAL STUDENTS ENROLLED



ADVALUE has developed four innovative, high-impact PhD modules designed to elevate doctoral education standards in East Africa.



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Offered by 4 Partner East African Universities

Uganda:

- Makerere University Kampala (MAK)
- Uganda Christian University (UCU)

Kenya:

- University of Nairobi (UoN)
- Pwani University Kilifi (PU)

4

PHD MODULES

21

SUB-TOPICS

240h

DEVELOPED TEACHING

Supported by Further Consortium Partners

- Nürtingen-Geislingen University (HfWU), Germany
- German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL), Germany
- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU), Czechia
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden
- Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, Uganda
- European Alliance in Agricultural Knowledge for Development, Belgium, Czechia
- National Agricultural Research Organization, Uganda
- National Council of Higher Education Uganda
- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation
- Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Kenya

2. International Pilot Phase

The international pilot phase tested and refined the four advanced PhD modules, delivering hybrid learning experiences to staff and doctoral candidates across borders.

42
ONLINE EVENTS
(22 offered publicly)

3
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
Designated interactive sessions

1,561
ONLINE ATTENDANCES
Documented digital participation

68
IN-PERSON SESSIONS
Lectures & field visits combined

163
INVOLVED STAFF & STUDENTS
Direct pilot training participants

96%
OVERALL SATISFACTION
Across all pilot trainings

3. Internal & Public Events

ADVALUE organized experiential learning opportunities, study visits, and international dissemination events.

4
STUDY TRIPS

81
PARTICIPANTS

Tropentag Participation

9
PRESENTATIONS

4
CONTRIBUTIONS

Transdisciplinary Conference & Student Experience Sharing

Hosted at Pwani University, combining research dissemination with interactive student study trip experience sharing.

34
Students

8
Staff

3
External Participants

4. Stakeholder Involvement

Bridging Academia, Agricultural Market and Research Gaps

Partner universities leverage External Advisory Boards (EABs) and alumni networks to institutionalize dialogue with key employers across Uganda and Kenya, including ministries, NGOs, and UN agencies. Co-aligning doctoral training with labor market needs ensures long-term curriculum relevance and enhances PhD employability.

Key Challenge	ADVALUE Solution
Communication & Skills Gap PhDs offer strong theoretical specialization, but lack entrepreneurial skills and public communication.	**Problem-Solving Focus** Shift PhD training toward applied,entrepreneurial skills and societal relevance.
Academic-Industry Disconnect Outdated university structures prioritize academic metrics over real-world agricultural innovation.	**Flexible Topics & Agility** Allow industry-driven, flexible PhD topics grounded in socio-economic realities.
Conflicting Supervision Students get caught between theoretical university expectations and practical enterprise needs.	**Joint Supervision** Institutionalize joint academic-enterprise supervision to align expectations and mentor support.
Financial & Timeline Strains Limited funding forces students to pause studies for work,prolonging degree completion.	**Funded Placements** Provide paid enterprise internships and affiliations so students sustain momentum without financial breaks.
Lack of Practical Exposure Minimal field experience, limited access to resources, and limited stakeholder engagement.	**Institutionalized MoUs** Formalize long-term MoUs and simple agreements with External Advisory Boards for sustained collaboration.

Picture by Angelika Thomas

5. External Stakeholders Network

16
STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

22
EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED

External Stakeholders interested in high quality programmes:

UGANDA ORGANIZATIONS

- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
- Alliance Bioversity International - CIAT
- Dairy Development Authority
- Bugema University
- National Forestry Resources Research
- FAO | USAID
- University Regional Center for Crop Improvement (MaRCCI)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
- National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (SERERE)
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- National Livestock Resources Research Institute (NALIRRI)
- Kyambogo University

KENYA ORGANIZATIONS

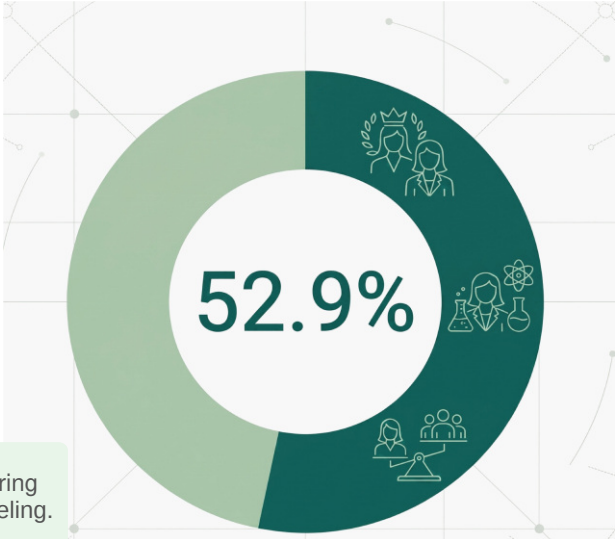
- Ministry of Education
- Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)
- National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)
- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute
- Chuka University | Egerton University
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)
- Moi University | Plant Village
- Syngenta East Africa Ltd
- Ministry of Education, State Department of Higher Education Research
- African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)
- International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- ICRISAT | COELIB | KEPHIS

6. ADVALUE Timeline of Events

Date	Event Description
March 2024	Kick-off plus 1st Steering Committee Meeting (SteCom), Nuertingen, Germany
Sep. 2024	2nd Steering Committee Meeting, online
Sep.–Oct. 2024	Staff EU visits / module 1 to SLU, Alnarp & Ultuna Sweden
Oct. 2024	Staff EU visits / module 4 to CZU, Prague, Czechia
Oct. 2024	Joint EU meeting of SLU and CZU staff visitors, Prague + hybrid
March 2025	Project midterm conference, 3rd SteCom, quality strategy workshop, Kampala, Uganda
Yearly	Local WP2 meetings in Kampala, Mukono, Nairobi, and Kilifi
Aug. 2025	Pilot online events for module 1 | Block seminar, MWG & stakeholder workshop, Kampala
Aug.–Dec. 2025	Pilot online events for module 3
Sep. 2025	Staff & Student EU visits / module 3 (Nuertingen) & module 2 (Witzenhausen)
Sep. 2025	Joint EU meeting 2 plus Tropentag, Witzenhausen & Bonn | 4th SteCom, online
Oct. 25–Feb. 26	Pilot online events for module 2
Dec. 2025	Pilot block seminar for module 2, MWG & stakeholder workshop, Kilifi, Kenya
Jan. 2026	Pilot block seminar for module 3 plus MWG meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
Feb. 2026	Pilot block seminar for module 4, MWG & stakeholder workshop, Mukono, Uganda
March–Apr. 2026	5th SteCom (online) | Pilot online events for module 4
Apr.–May 2026	Student EU visits: CZU/module 1 (Prague) & SLU / module 4 (Alnarp & Ultuna)
Sep. 2026	Project final conference, SteCom and quality strategy workshop, Nairobi, Kenya

7. Gender and Inclusion (GEID)

ADVALUE is committed to embedding Gender Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (GEID) into every stage of its project cycle management,research design, and doctoral teaching. Recognizing that agricultural value-chain transformation requires diverse perspectives, the project actively addresses structural inequalities, gender biases,and inclusion barriers within higher education across Kenya and Uganda.



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The project consortium maintains a highly balanced team and Steering Committee to ensure diverse decision-making and strong role modeling.

Picture by
Uganda Christian University

Institutional Capacity Building

Guided by an appointed Gender Officer and a cross-institutional Gender Working Group (GWG), ADVALUE provides targeted webinars and on-site training to strengthen faculty capacity in gender-responsive research and teaching methods.

Gender-Responsive PhD Curriculum

The four advanced PhD modules integrate intersectional perspectives and gender-sensitive methodologies. This prepares doctoral candidates to address the distinct needs of both women and men across agricultural value chains.

Global & Regional Alignment

The GEID framework strictly aligns with the Global Policy Framework (UN SDG 5 on Gender Equality, CEDAW), European Union principles of equity and non-discrimination, and national gender policy frameworks in Uganda and Kenya.

8. Raising Standards: Quality Framework

Evidence-Based Quality Framework for Transdisciplinary Doctoral Education

Doctoral education in East African agricultural and agro-environmental sciences faces systemic bottlenecks: low on-time completion rates (ranging from 4% to 25%), overburdened supervisors, and a heavy focus on primary production over broader value-chain dynamics.

To address these challenges, the ADVALUE project established a unified quality framework built on a comprehensive needs analysis across partner universities in Kenya and Uganda. By synthesizing insights from academic staff, PhD candidates, and external stakeholders, the project ensures that module content directly targets existing pedagogical, structural, and market gaps.

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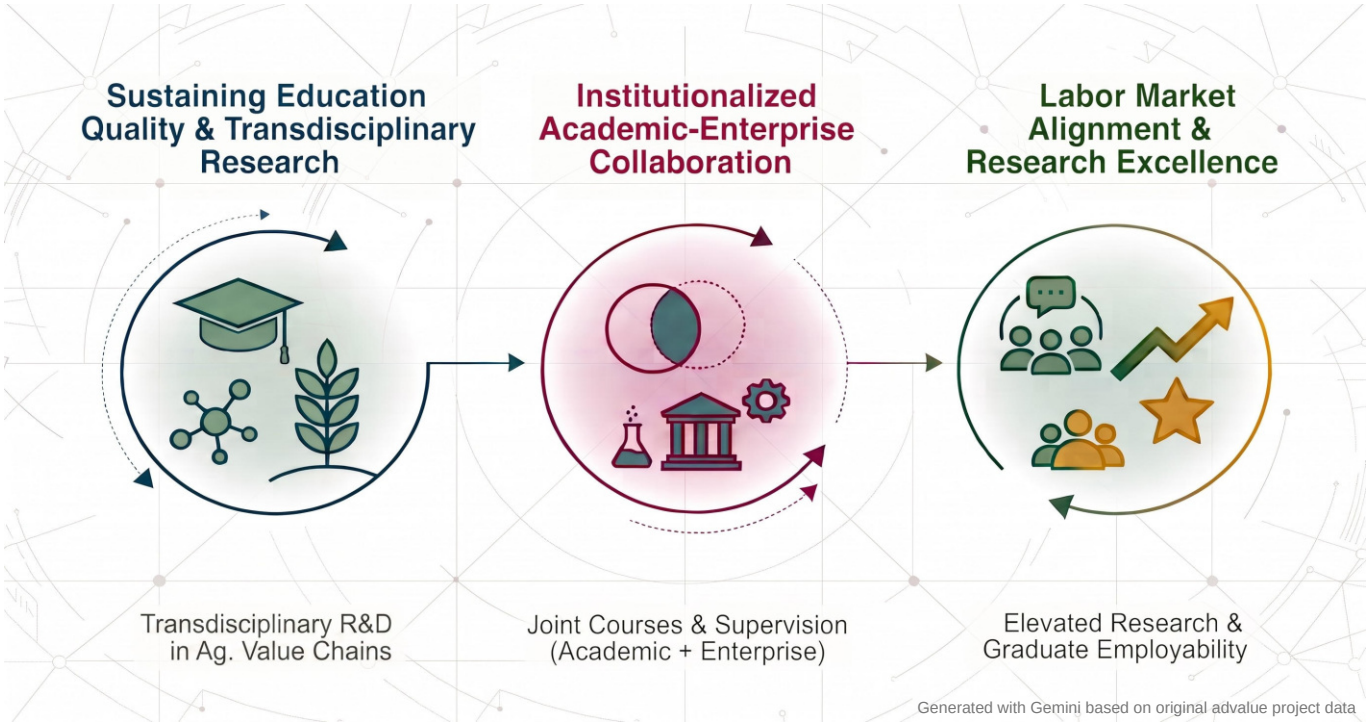
Regulatory Accreditation Compliance

Modules adhere strictly to regulatory standards set by National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) in Uganda and Commission for University Education (CUE) in Kenya:

- **Workload & Credit Structure:** Benchmarked at 60 contact hours (4 Credit Units), blending lectures, practical work, and field exposure.
- **Core Competencies:** Designed around measurable outcomes in transdisciplinary research, scientific communication, and value-chain management.
- **Stakeholder Co-Creation:** Driven by continuous feedback from External Advisory Boards and industry leaders.



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9. Impact & Outreach

ADVALUE is transforming East African doctoral education by bridging the gap between academic research and agricultural market needs across Kenya and Uganda.

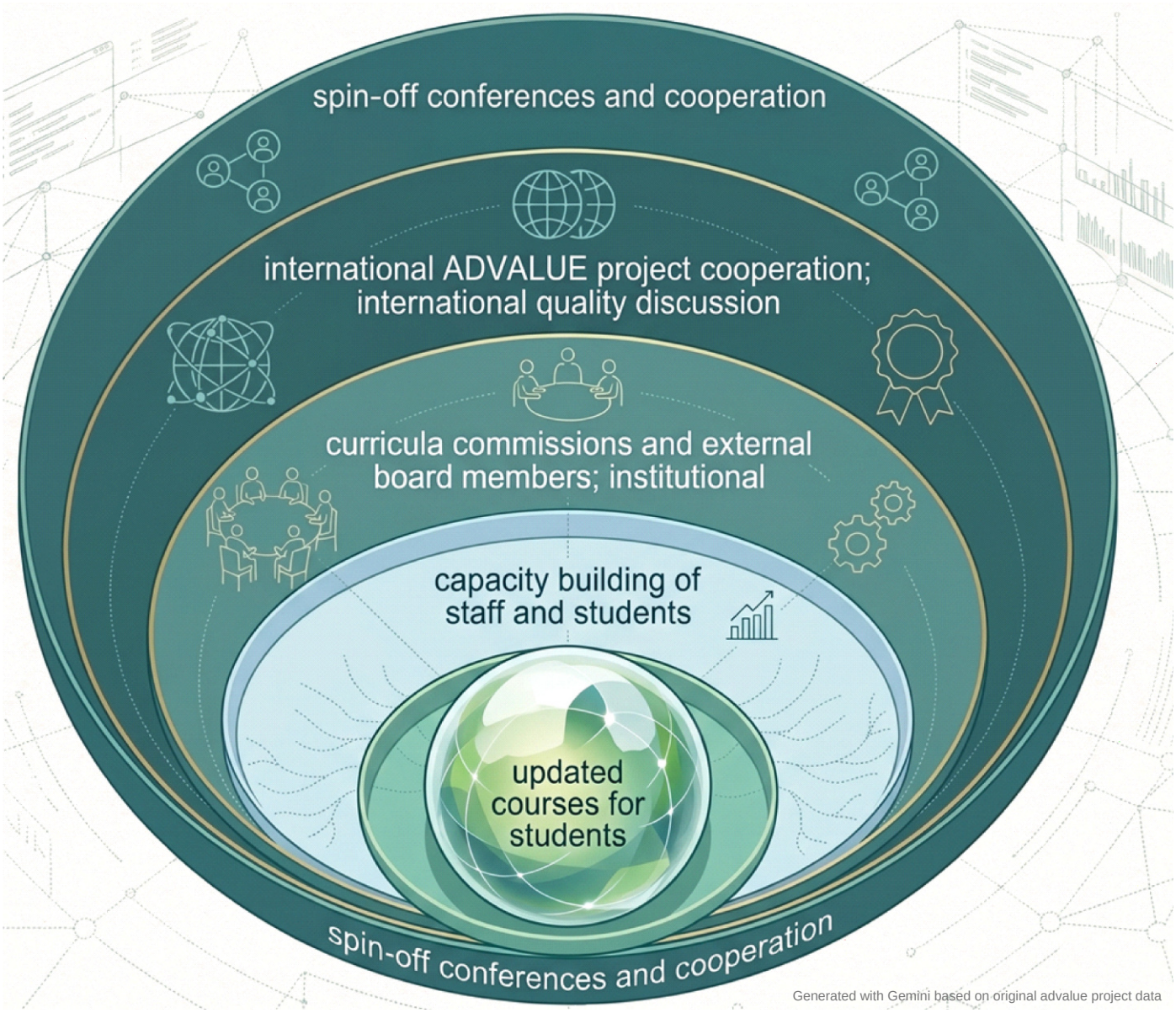
ADVALUE Modules Reach & Communication Metrics

PhD & Master Courses: Addressing a total of 20 PhD programmes

- **20 PhD Programmes:** 3 MAK, 1 UCU, 13 UoN, 3 PU
- **24 Master Courses:** 2 MAK, 5 UCU, 14 UoN, 3 PU
- **11 Short Courses:** 1 UoN, 10 PU

- **8 Newsletters**
- **51 Events**
- **760 unique website visitors**

Levels of influence



10. ADVALUE - The Making-Of

> 50
STAFF INVOLVED

7
WORK PACKAGES

11
WORKING GROUPS

Project Meetings

6
STEERING COM. MEETINGS

> 25
ONLINE JOUR FIXE MEETINGS

> 80
MODULE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

232
TRAVELS FUNDED BY PROJECT

55% FEMALE / **45%** MALE
PARTICIPATION

16,6
HIGHER TRAVEL COSTS

25
DELIVERABLE REPORTS

178
RESPONSES

18
QUESTIONNAIRES

Project Milestones Status

Milestone	Description	Status
MS1	Project guideline, working groups and contacts	Checked
MS2	International experience exchange and capacity building	Checked
MS3	Draft syllabi of 4 new modules elaborated	Checked
MS4	Pilot trainings for 4 modules successfully implemented	Checked
MS6	Quality assurance plan established and agreed	Checked
MS7	External project quality control on interim stage conducted	Checked
MS5	Revised final module descriptions	Upcoming
MS8	Final external evaluation report	Upcoming

This project "Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education" (ADVALUE) is co-funded by the European Union.

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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Eseki Valley Farm in Kaijado
Picture by Angelika Thomas