

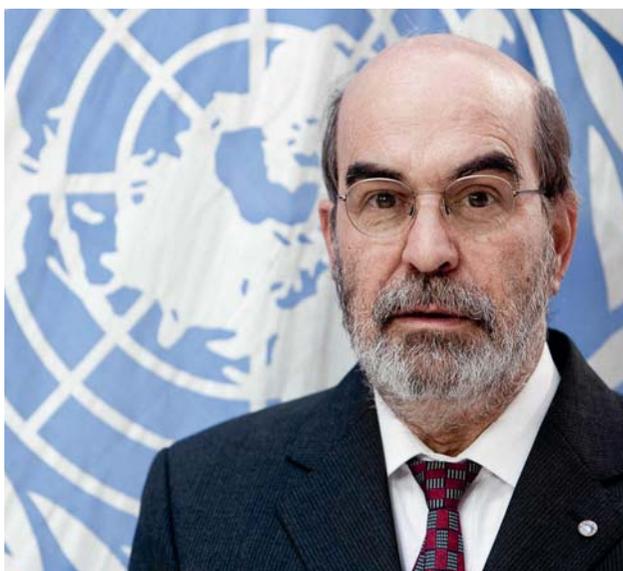


Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Subregional Office for the Caribbean

FAO IN THE CARIBBEAN

2012/2013





Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva - Director General of FAO

A refocused FAO

New emphasis on the global hunger fight

When the current Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva, took office in January 2012, he deepened and accelerated a process of reform.

FAO is now distinguishing itself by deploying more resources in the field, decentralizing its decision-making to ensure greater responsiveness and proximity to its member countries; and collaborating more effectively across its global, regional and national networks.

One of the most profound shifts has been in the Organization's articulation of its hunger goal. No longer satisfied with reducing hunger, FAO has set its sights on nothing less than the total eradication of hunger. All of the Organization's work will focus on the achievement of its five new Strategic Objectives:

- 1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**
- 2. Increase and improve the provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner**
- 3. Reduce rural poverty**
- 4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels**

5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

In addition, two cross-cutting themes have been integrated into all of FAO's work – **the integration of gender issues and good governance.**

Committed to the Caribbean

In the Caribbean, Dr. J.R. Deep Ford fully assumed the position of Subregional Coordinator in April 2013 and with the backing of FAO's new Director General, Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva, has set about implementing an ambitious programme of work to assist the region in delivering on its food and agriculture potential.

Dr. Ford and the staff, both at the Subregional Office in Barbados, as well as the Country Representations throughout the region, are committed to finding solutions to the region's food related issues through a more holistic, transparent and fully engaged approach. FAO is placing its vast global knowledge network at the disposal of the region in support of these efforts and encourages the region to seize the opportunity to bring about lasting change.

"We have a glorious opportunity to address the challenges in the region that we've been speaking about for many years - the food import bill, revitalizing old and establishing new export product industries, ensuring resilience against climate change and other potential shocks - challenges on which we have yet to make sufficient progress."

FAO's work in the Caribbean region is linked closely to addressing the Jagdeo Initiative agriculture sector constraints and achieving the goals of the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy.



DR. J.R. Deep Ford - FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Caribbean

Food Security

Planning for a secure food future



The Caribbean region is increasingly affected by rapidly shifting political, social, economic, financial and environmental/climatic trends, many of which have a negative impact on food and nutrition security issues.

Support to the CARICOM Region has been extended through a Regional Technical Cooperation Project contributing to the development of a Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan. At the national level, Food and Nutrition Security Policies and Plans are currently being developed for nine Member States of the CARICOM Region - Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Grenada and Barbados through a separate Technical Cooperation Project Facility (TCPF). This work has already been completed in Guyana and Belize.

The project is enhancing the capacities of these countries to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1 – the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger - by addressing the root causes of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Activities are well underway, with most countries having already prepared a draft of their national policies and action plans especially focussed on production, distribution and nutrition issues. Expected outputs are:

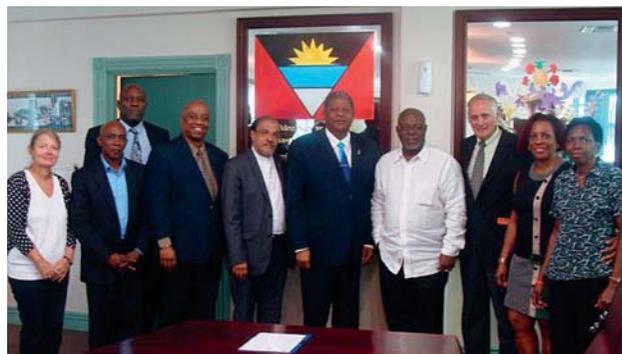
- ▶ *preparation of National Food and Nutrition Security policies and action plans;*
- ▶ *comprehensive gender-sensitive assessment of all policies and programmes related to the primary agricultural and food value chains;*

- ▶ *development of improved Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation Policies and Strategies;*
- ▶ *improved institutional mechanisms to enhance the coordination and management of the food and nutrition security agenda;*
- ▶ *improved design and targeting of social protection programmes and safety nets for poor and vulnerable households.*

Zero Hunger Challenge

Antigua and Barbuda pilot leading the way

The Latin America and Caribbean region continues to make significant strides on the road to ending hunger. The region is one of the few in the world where hunger is clearly on a downward trend. In the Caribbean, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Cuba and Guyana have been honoured by FAO for already meeting international hunger eradication targets set for 2015 to halve the percentage of hungry people in their nations.



Antigua and Barbuda, in pursuit of its own ambitious hunger eradication goals, has taken up the Zero Hunger Challenge which was launched in June 2012 at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development by the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon. The UN challenge consists of five goals:

- 1. 100% access to adequate food all year round.**
- 2. Zero stunted children under 2 years, no more malnutrition in pregnancy and early childhood.**
- 3. All food systems are sustainable.**
- 4. 100% growth in smallholder productivity and income, particularly for women.**
- 5. Zero loss or waste of food, including responsible consumption.**

Pockets of undernutrition, both stunting and wasting, have been reported in the child population in Antigua and Barbuda. With the current economic downturn, concerns have been raised about possible increases in undernutrition, especially in vulnerable communities.

There is also the challenge of rising levels of obesity. This is largely associated with poor food choices, increased consumption of processed foods, fast food and fried foods, resulting from a general lack of nutrition education.

During Caribbean Week of Agriculture in October 2012, representatives of FAO and IICA signed a Letter of Intention agreeing to cooperate with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to jointly design and implement a set of coordinated, coherent and effective actions to achieve zero hunger in two years. In November 2012, an Inter-Agency Mission led by FAO and comprised of representatives from IICA, WFP, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), visited the country to assess the situation related to hunger and poverty, identify critical problems, and propose priority areas for intervention. This mission produced a Plan of Action for the elimination of hunger and poverty. The plan consists of five broad elements:

- 1. economic expansion and diversification of the agricultural sector with appropriate links to the Food and Nutrition Security Policy;**
- 2. improvements in the nutrition and health status of the population;**
- 3. expansion in the social protection system and improvements in the management and efficiency of its operations;**
- 4. expansion of pro-poor employment and income generating opportunities;**
- 5. good governance and management of hunger and poverty programmes;**

Antigua and Barbuda is the first step of what is intended to be a great push forward for the region in its commitment to feeding its people. Lessons learned there are informing ongoing and future work in other countries of the region which are working toward the goal of zero hunger.

Plant health

Banana industry battles Black Sigatoka

Black Sigatoka Disease (BSD) has been a growing threat to the banana and plantain industries in the Caribbean for several years. An outbreak of BSD brings with it serious economic, social and environmental impacts, causing yield



losses of 30-50%. Fruit from affected plants ripens prematurely and is characterized by a creamy pulp, severely reducing suitability for export. Protection costs also rise significantly to as much as up to 25% of total production costs.

Since the fungus produces large amounts of spores easily spread by wind, unprotected and untreated fields and backyards are dangerous sources of disease to neighbouring commercial banana and plantain fields. The disease also thrives in the high humidity of the region and has a great capacity to adapt to external environmental pressures, including fungicide applications.

Five affected countries - Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - requested technical assistance from FAO to develop strategies to tackle the disease. FAO has financed a Regional Technical Cooperation Project aimed at supplementing management efforts already in progress. An experienced Expert Consultant from Cuba was contracted and spent a week in each of the five countries for assessment and treatment training.

Project outputs

- ▶ *detailed manuals which field and laboratory technicians are utilizing to more effectively support national BSD management programmes*
- ▶ *current baseline on BSD, together with National Integrated Management Programmes and Action Plans (based on national assessments and developed participatively), submitted to the five countries in October 2012;*
- ▶ *regional Management Programme and Action Plan developed in collaboration with the five countries and regional partners (CARDI, IICA, CARICOM and OECS Secretariats, CIRAD, Banana*

Board (Jamaica), Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN), Ministry of Agriculture - Trinidad and Tobago) and submitted to the countries and the regional partners in December 2012;

- ▶ *the Regional Proposal was also shared with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in anticipation of the countries and regional partners seeking additional funding for ongoing and future BSD management activities;*
- ▶ *to support mobilization of funds, six Draft Proposals – five national, one regional – were developed and shared with the countries in December 2012;*
- ▶ *a six-day training workshop (for two participants from each country), carried out in June 2013, is helping countries in appropriate selection and application of fungicides in order to prevent the development of resistant fungus populations and to prolong the effective life of the pesticides currently in use.*

Managing Citrus Greening

The citrus industry is a major earner in several of the countries of the region but since October 2009 it has been under threat of devastation from Citrus Huanglongbing (HLB) or Greening Disease. A bacterial disease spread by psyllids, Huanglongbing is currently considered the most destructive disease of citrus at the global level. Its high socio-economic impact is linked with the fact that all commercial citrus species are susceptible. Economic losses occur due to loss of leaves, deformation of fruits, loss of commercial value, early fruit-drop, and finally the death of the tree.



In a project spanning Central America and the Caribbean, FAO is providing technical support to Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti,

Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Its aim is to arm country and subregional plant health organizations with fundamental technical tools and trained human resources to implement efficient and coordinated regional measures to deal with HLB.

Project outputs

- ▶ *a dynamic regional information and risk communication system for early alert, vigilance and diagnosis;*
- ▶ *Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) protocols regarding risk, vigilance, diagnosis and management of HLB;*
- ▶ *training in regional HLB management, diagnosis and biological control;*
- ▶ *coordination and operating mechanisms among Sub-regional Plant Health Organizations with regard to HLB and the establishment of a permanent HLB advisory committee.*

Ridding the region of dangerous pesticides

Fourteen CARICOM countries and several other territories form the Coordinating Group for Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC). Over the past five years FAO has been providing support for the participation of its members as well as Cuba and the Dominican Republic in the CGPC meetings, during which FAO workshops are also conducted.

At these workshops, organized with financial support from the European Union (EU), FAO has been helping Caribbean countries to address priorities in pest and pesticide management including - the safe disposal of obsolete pesticide stocks that have lingered in the region for up to 30 years; finding the safest methods for controlling pests in agriculture and homes; reducing risks from pesticides to the environment and the health of both local populations and tourists; and communicating with farmers, politicians and the general public about pesticide dangers and the positive actions that can be taken

Project outputs

- ▶ *location of nearly 300 tonnes of obsolete pesticides and dangerous chemicals, many of which have been banned internationally;*
- ▶ *progress on a plan to safely dispose of all existing obsolete pesticides;*
- ▶ *planned resource mobilization to finance this work over the course of the programme until 2017.*

Animal health

Staying vigilant against Swine Flu



In April 2009, a strain of the H1N1 virus first emerged in Mexico causing international alarm due to its rapid spread to many countries and high mortality rates in humans. From June to August of that year the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the level of influenza alert to pandemic level. Even after declaring the end of the pandemic phase, WHO stressed the unpredictability of pandemics and the need for continued vigilance to keep the region swine flu free.

In 2010, CARICOM sought the assistance of FAO on behalf of its member countries to implement surveillance of the H1N1/2009 virus and other influenza viruses in the swine populations in the region, where pork production is an important source of quality protein. The project came to a successful end in December 2012.

Project outputs

- ▶ *training of 6 specialist laboratory technicians from across the region in diagnosis of influenza viruses according to WHO recommended protocols;*
- ▶ *training of 15 animal health assistants in field surveillance techniques for respiratory diseases of swine;*
- ▶ *provision of laboratory and field equipment and supplies;*
- ▶ *technical assistance for countries to collect samples in the field from the national swine population to be submitted to a regional reference laboratory for analysis;*
- ▶ *distribution of protocols and strategies for improving on-farm biosecurity;*

- ▶ *training in risk communication and public awareness techniques to prevent market shocks, reduce negative impact on the pork industry and ensure consumer confidence.*

Forestry

Partnering to improve participation

Forest management requires the participation of many stakeholders, balancing the consolidated needs of various people with what the forest can sustainably produce. Experience shows however that forest authorities may not always act in the interests of the forests and its primary stakeholders. Furthermore, not all stakeholders have the same opportunities to participate or have the capacity to effectively contribute to the management of the forest around their communities.

FAO and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) have collaborated on a publication - Participating in managing forest: A guide to community forestry in the Caribbean Islands - aimed at improving governance and influencing policy for community forestry and sustainable forest-based livelihoods.

These guidelines have been written to help community groups successfully communicate their needs and articulate their ideas on how the forest they depend on should be managed. The publication is a product of a long-standing partnership between CANARI and FAO, sponsored through a multi-donor trust fund - the National Forest Programme Facility (between 2006 and 2012) and the ACP-Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Support Programme, funded by the EU between 2010 and 2012.



The support is geared towards strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations as well as forest authorities to facilitate a process of broader stakeholder consultation and decision-making. The presented guidelines are a stepping stone in the process of supporting participatory forest management and community forestry.

Fisheries

A key partner in regional fisheries



FAO continues to play an active role in the fisheries sector in the region.

The Organization delivered an awareness-raising workshop for fisherfolk in 12 countries on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in close collaboration with the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) and fisherfolk were also involved in an assessment of shark resources in Antigua and Barbuda.

FAO held a workshop on the formulation of a Strategy and Action Plan on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM Region for over ninety stakeholders. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) co-organized the workshop in collaboration with the Government of Jamaica, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), West Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) and Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) with the support from the Government of Sweden and the Government of Japan.

The Strategy and Action Plan was approved by CRFM and is being implemented regionally by CARICOM member countries. In support of the implementation FAO has developed a project on Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector and funding is being sought for the initiative, which will benefit Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

CRFM and WECAFC teamed up to organize a regional consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) which brought together more than sixty experts from governments, regional organizations, civil society and academia. Attendees discussed the structure, overall considerations and thematic

coverage of the future SSF Guidelines and consolidated ideas put forward in other regional and national consultations. A draft has been presented to the FAO Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for SSF in Rome which are expected to be adopted at the 31st session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries in July 2014. The SSF Guidelines will empower the sector to create greater awareness of the potential of small-scale fisheries and build political will at all levels.

FAO led the technical work on shrimp and groundfish and was a key partner in case studies for the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). FAO has been assigned an important role in the regional fisheries governance framework within the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2012/13, prepared by the CLME. The SAP is a negotiated document agreeing on the way forward for marine and fisheries resources in the Wider Caribbean Region.



Through its regional fisheries body, the West Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), FAO participated in the first meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch held in October 2012 in Panama. Participants reviewed and endorsed the report and recommendations of the meeting of Queen Conch experts held in Miami in May 2012. They also reviewed the present state of Queen Conch management in the region and discussed the issuing of a declaration on Queen Conch to guide the way forward.

FAO also carried out a Performance Review of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and technically assisted in the strategic planning process for 2013-2021 for the Mechanism.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SO1. *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

A draft food and nutrition security policy has been developed by involving all relevant stakeholders and was endorsed and approved by Cabinet at the end of 2012. The policy document is complete and an action plan is being developed. Elements of the Action Plan will be incorporated into the Zero Hunger Challenge work plan, is scheduled for completion by the end of July.

Zero Hunger Challenge

Since the end of the initial assessment period in November 2012, two programmes were identified for priority action. The first is a home-based garden initiative. Thus far:



- ▶ *six individuals have been trained as facilitators for the Backyard and Home Gardening Project;*
- ▶ *extension officers and householders were also trained. They will operate Training Demonstration Centres where on-going instruction will take place for home gardeners in targeted communities;*
- ▶ *trainees received an FAO manual 'A Garden for All' and technical fact-sheets related to sustainable crop production techniques.*

The facilitators are working in identified vulnerable communities to assist householders in setting up backyard gardens. The Backyard Gardening Project is supplying seedlings, fertilizers and other inputs to participants.

The second initiative is a School Feeding programme. Significant progress has also been made on this front including:

- ▶ *an assessment of the operations of the National School Meals Programme (NSMP), students' menu preferences and inspection of the environments in which they are served. Students' height and weight were also recorded;*
- ▶ *similar data collected at schools which are not currently participating in the school meal programme for comparison and planning purposes;*
- ▶ *parents, teachers and other stakeholders will also be given the opportunity to contribute their insights and suggestions.*
- ▶ *a nutritionist hired to advise and support the NSMP.*

The findings will inform implementation and improvement plans for strengthening the feeding programme.

Development of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines

FAO is assisting in the development of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines, a simple, easy to understand source of advice for preventing common diet-related, health and nutrition problems, using language and symbols that the average person can understand.

Three workshops have so far introduced the process to a wide cross section of stakeholders and received their input on priority health problems, potential responses and symbols that might be used to present the guidelines. Data collectors have been trained to conduct focus groups with the public, present findings from field work; contribute to the process of designing the guidelines; prepare for household trials and develop educational material.

SO2. *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*

National Training Workshop on Water Management Strategies for Climate Smart Agriculture



Antigua and Barbuda is one of the driest countries in the region where freshwater is a scarce resource and droughts as long as five years have occurred. Irrigation is a must for successful cultivation of crops. As a result agriculture utilizes as much as 21% of municipal water supplies.

FAO has trained 65 farmers and backyard gardeners in rainwater harvesting, water reuse and recycling and climate smart agriculture, including crop water use efficiency and irrigation scheduling.

Armed with these new techniques, these farmers can contribute to the country's increased food security and more sustainable use of scarce water resources.

SO5. *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*

Citrus Greening

Antigua and Barbuda has requested assistance under a Regional Technical Cooperation Project to carry out an assessment and provide guidance on the management of Citrus Greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) if present.



BAHAMAS

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

FAO's assistance to the Government of The Bahamas is aimed at revising, updating and adjusting their existing 2008 nutrition plans and policies, which focused primarily on the promotion of appropriate diets and healthy lifestyles.

A concept note has been drafted and a food and nutrition security policy and plan of action is to be completed in August 2013.

SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Forest Management Pilot and Training in Abaco

The natural pine forests of The Bahamas are an untapped and important natural resource. Though currently unmanaged and left to natural succession, these forests can provide additional income opportunities.

The construction activities associated with tourism, Bahamas largest industry,

require large amounts of building material. Currently almost 100% of the required construction wood is being imported. Production and use of timber resources would not only make the Bahamas less dependent on imports, it would also retain financial resources in the country and create job opportunities, especially in the Family Islands where tourism income is less than in New Providence and Grand Bahama islands.

The Ministry of the Environment sees the development of the forestry sector as a priority for the country. Relevant legislation has been enacted, administrative arrangements and financial commitment put in place to implement a forest management programme.

Private investors have approached the Ministry for forest concessions. Tree cutting rights may be granted to private enterprises as long as proper forest management and sustainable use of the resources is safeguarded.

A two-year Technical Cooperation Project is currently being implemented on the island of Abaco to pilot a sustainable management programme for the approximately 180 000 hectares of natural pine forests.

Through collaboration between the Forestry Unit of the Ministry of Environment and a local environmental NGO, the Bahamas National Trust, the project is building the capacity of the trust's field staff to effectively manage and monitor forest field operations which will include sustainable logging practices.

So far:

- ▶ *stakeholders have been sensitized to the project's aims and objectives;*
- ▶ *approximately 23 persons have been trained in various areas including GIS mapping, forest management techniques and use of basic forest management equipment;*
- ▶ *experimental logging training covering tree felling techniques, winching and monitoring operations have been undertaken;*
- ▶ *a website tracking the project has also been developed at www.bahamasforestry.com*

SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Managing Citrus Greening

The Bahamas has requested assistance under a Regional Technical Cooperation Project to carry out an assessment and provide guidance on the management of Citrus Greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) if present. More than 5 000 acres of agricultural land in The Bahamas are dedicated to citrus production both for local use and export. An FAO project which assisted Jamaica and Belize in their management of the disease will inform the approach in The Bahamas.





BARBADOS

SO1. *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

A draft report of the national food security policy and plan of action has been completed and is being revised for finalization.

SO2. *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*

Fish supply chain and inspection

Barbadians consume 5 000 to 6 000 tonnes of fish annually, of which 3 000 tonnes are locally caught. Furthermore, there is an opportunity for Barbados to export nearly 500 tonnes of fish a year to the European Union but fish and fishery products preparation needs to be handled in a way that meets EU standards.

FAO assisted the country in that regard by providing a consultant who carried out an assessment of vessels, fish landing sites,

markets and processing establishments and current fish handling practices in the fish supply chain in Barbados. He reviewed legislation, institutional responsibilities and laboratory services available and he also met with and received feedback from industry stakeholders.

FAO has provided a report to the country with a detailed set of recommendations based on FAO's Codex Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery products. The recommendations cover:

- ▶ *policy and regulations regarding fish inspection and quality assurance;*
- ▶ *fish inspection systems to meet international requirements;*
- ▶ *government analytical services that perform analyses required by fish inspection services; and*
- ▶ *capacity of the fish supply chain actors to implement Good Hygiene Practice (GHP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and traceability.*

Development of Manuals for Quarantine Inspection

For the first time in its history Barbados has its very own national Plant Quarantine Manual and Standard Operation Procedure. The manual was developed in conjunction with the training of 24 personnel from the

Ministry of Agriculture over the course of three workshops.

A sensitization seminar was held for a wide range of stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Customs and Excise, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, National Conservation Commission and the private sector. As a result the Barbados Plant Quarantine Unit is better placed to:

- ▶ *protect its plant resources;*
- ▶ *defend the country from the increasing threat of quarantine pests arriving from its neighbours and even farther afield;*
- ▶ *fulfil its commitments under the World Trade Organization/Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO/SPS) agreements;*
- ▶ *operate in a consistent manner in all aspects of the delivery of its services, including inspection and surveillance.*

SO5. *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*

Swine flu surveillance

Pork and pork products are increasingly popular commodities in Barbados. Barbadians consume over 5 million kilograms of the meat of which 50% is locally produced. The industry employs over 300 people, rearing 20 000 breeding animals.

FAO's regional Swine Flu surveillance project provided invaluable support to the island's animal health services, including:

- ▶ *provision of equipment and supplies to the local laboratory to increase surveillance and testing capacity;*
- ▶ *training of laboratory staff in diagnostic techniques and epidemiology.*





BELIZE

SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Guardians of the forest

The Chiquibul Forest of Belize is comprised of three protected areas, which together cover 7.7% of the country's land mass. It is part of a tri-national bioregion known as the Maya Forest and forms an important block of contiguous forest known as the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains Key Biodiversity Area. This is Belize's most prized forest due to its size and rich reservoir of natural and cultural resources. However the area is under threat primarily due to illegal logging, particularly at the hands of Guatemalan nationals who easily cross the country's border, where there are no Belizean communities. Illegal gold panning has also been observed.



Since August 2012, FAO has been supporting a local NGO, Friends for Conservation and Development, through the FAO/FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) Programme. The assistance has entailed:

- ▶ *an assessment of the illegal logging situation, including both an economic and ecological valuation, which has been distributed to several institutions and agencies;*
- ▶ *development of a database*
- ▶ *deployment of five rangers and a park manager specifically to address the illegal logging activity across the Chiquibul Forest;*
- ▶ *purchase of equipment;*
- ▶ *training on Forest Law Application and Enforcement for the Belize Defence Force (BDF) and Police personnel;*
- ▶ *a second conservation post and joint forces unit constructed and operated. Together with the existing northern conservation, enforcement personnel were able to have a higher presence throughout the wider Chiquibul;*
- ▶ *public awareness activities including site visits with local community leaders, key leaders from Guatemala and high level delegates;*
- ▶ *rallying support with Guatemalan conservation organizations and building allies for long-term cooperation.*

Thanks to the programme, data collected has been increased, allowing for a more accurate account of the scale of the problem, and enforcement interventions have reduced illegal logging activities.

SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Citrus Greening

The citrus industry is very important to the economy of Belize in terms of employment, livelihood of rural communities, exports and local production. It is estimated that the total value of the industry to the Belize economy is approximately US\$50 million. Employment at the industry level (including on-farm operations, processing, packaging plant, wholesale and retail trades) is estimated at 10 000 persons. As a result, Citrus Greening



Disease (Huanglongbing), first identified in 2009, has been a source of great concern to the government.

In response to a request for technical assistance, FAO is currently providing TCP support to strengthen the national response to the disease. Through the project, FAO is helping to establish an area-wide management approach in citrus-growing regions of the country for controlling the Asian Citrus Pysllid, which is responsible for spreading the disease. There have already been several positive outputs:

- ▶ *training of 10 technicians and approximately 300 growers in techniques to control and monitor the insect in citrus groves;*
- ▶ *assistance to investigate the use of biological control agents;*
- ▶ *acquisition of laboratory equipment to improve the diagnostic capabilities of the monitoring agencies;*
- ▶ *two studies have been completed, one to review the management arrangements for funding the Citrus Greening Management Programme, and another to investigate opportunities for diversification of the crop..*

To improve disease control, the project will also establish pilot screen houses and protocols for rearing natural pest enemies and train 6 technicians. Nursery protocols will also be reviewed to ensure the production of disease-free planting material.



CUBA

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

Telefood

FAO’s Telefood programme, which provides funds of up to USD\$10 000 for small-scale projects has been very successfully utilized in Cuba to stimulate food production and increase food security at the community level.

FAO has provided equipment and supplies to stimulate agriculture production, livestock and agribusiness. Funded projects have included:

- ▶ *Rehabilitation of small-scale agriculture in Cojimar*
- ▶ *Creation of a school garden to feed teens at Jose Marti Basic High School*
- ▶ *Urban Agriculture Development in Santiago and Santiago de Cuba*
- ▶ *Livestock Development in Vivero Alamar*

SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Developing farming capacity

As part of its National Strategy to intensify food production, the Government of Cuba is receiving FAO assistance with two projects.

The first project is addressing the issues of drainage and salinity. Nearly 76% of land under cultivation in Cuba suffers from poor drainage and high salt levels.

An FAO project trained 20 technicians in the most affected provinces to implement drainage projects and reclaim saline soils.

FAO is also helping to increase the skill level of people engaged in farming, with a specific focus on the production of roots, rhizomes, tubers, bananas, and papaya.

FAO has conducted a four day workshop for producers, technicians, researchers, and farm managers, to analyze and prepare a draft strategy for the care, preparation and technical monitoring, theory and practice for cultivation of these crops. Topics covered included:

- ▶ *participatory extension work and continuing education;*
- ▶ *agribusiness technologies to add value to agricultural production;*
- ▶ *economic, environmental and social impact of good agricultural practices;*
- ▶ *technology transfer of new farming systems appropriate to the local environmental context.*

Strengthening forest management

Cuban forestry is benefiting from two Global Cooperation Projects.

The first, carried out under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for ACP Countries (FLEGT-ACP), is creating an interactive web platform for the comprehensive management of forest information in Cuba. All the necessary resources for the installation and development have been acquired and are ready to be used in the delivery of training courses.

A second project supports the National Forest Programme including training in forest fire prevention, ecosystem management in protected areas, technical training for forest specialists and conservation of forest resources.

SO3. Reduce rural poverty

Preserving genetic variety

Through sharing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, family farmers are being trained in the identification and selection of varieties of corn and beans, and the use of traditional conservation methods to manage these crops.

SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Hurricane recovery

After the passage of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, several provinces in Cuba were severely affected, causing a sharp decrease in levels of food production and availability and leading to food vulnerability.

FAO assisted by providing supplies and equipment to restore food production capabilities in the livestock and fisheries sectors in the provinces of Camaguey, Holguin, Las Tunas and Pinar del Rio and tilapia production in the municipality of Isla de la Juventud. Training has also been provided and the application of new technologies is being investigated in line with the principle of “building back better”.





DOMINICA

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

A final draft food and nutrition security policy has been developed through a process of national consultation and two write-shops involving the technical officers from the Ministry of Health, Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. It has been validated and should soon be endorsed by Cabinet. A food and nutrition security plan of action is currently being developed.



SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Growing organic farming

Dominica is currently known as the Nature Isle, but has made it a stated intention to also lay claim to the title, the Organic Island. FAO is helping the country to move closer to that goal by assisting the Dominica Organic Agricultural Movement (DOAM), an NGO formed by a cross section of farmers and traders in the organic food production industry.

DOAM coordinates programs and activities for the development of the local organic industry and assists various organic oriented organizations related to the sustainable development of the industry in Dominica.

The body also ensures that foods grown under certifiable organic conditions are marketed effectively and efficiently locally, regionally and internationally. FAO assistance will help to create:

- ▶ *A Plan of Action to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for DOAM, taking into account the local environment and the relevant experiences and best practices of other organic movements in the Caribbean and beyond*
- ▶ *Five bankable projects identified as priority by the DOAM*

SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Disaster Risk Management

FAO is helping to enhance the resilience of Dominica's agriculture sector (including fisheries and forestry) to natural disasters, thus contributing to the promotion of sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. Phase 1 has already been completed with several successful outcomes:

- ▶ *a draft Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plan for the agriculture sectors has been formulated;*
- ▶ *extension staff and field technicians received training on DRM in the agriculture sector;*
- ▶ *island-wide demonstrations and distribution of biodegradable escape panels in fish pots;*
- ▶ *a situation assessment has been conducted in the two pilot communities, identifying and mapping main hazards and vulnerabilities;*
- ▶ *a communication strategy has been drafted aimed at supporting DRM field activities.*

In Phase 2, training with livestock farmers has provided assistance in the design of hurricane resilient animal housing. Management plans have also been developed for the storage and supply of feed and water to increase the farmers' ability to resume operations as soon as possible after a crisis.

Upcoming activities include the development of a cross-sectoral action plan to include agriculture, forestry and fisheries; training in drainage and water management and soil conservation techniques; good DRM practices for banana and non-banana crops at select demonstration sites; and needs-based identification and demonstrations of additional Good Practices for integrated DRM coordination and planning at village level.

Black Sigatoka

First detected in Dominica in 2012, the spread of Black Sigatoka disease is presenting serious challenges to the banana industry on the island. Already reeling from the passage of Hurricane Tomas in 2010, which destroyed 50% of its banana plants, Dominica is taking an urgent approach to its response to Black Sigatoka.



The country has benefited from FAO's Regional Technical Cooperation Project which provided an Expert Consultant from Cuba to conduct an assessment of the disease management strategy. As a result of this intervention:

- ▶ *a draft proposal for resource mobilization was developed;*
- ▶ *two technicians were trained in the selection and effective use of fungicides.*



GRENADA

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

A concept note has been endorsed by Cabinet. A draft report of the national food security policy and plan of action has been completed and is being revised for finalization. A draft Food and Nutrition Security Bill is being developed.

Value Chain, Trade and Marketing, as well as a Social Protection components have also been conducted.

SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Land degradation assessment

Land degradation has been increasing the tri-island state of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique but the extent and severity was unknown. With limited available land resources, vulnerability to natural hazards, and heavy dependence on land for socio-economic growth, any loss of the productive capacity of land could have serious consequences for the well-being of Grenadians.



Agriculture accounts for approximately 57% of the land use in Grenada. Unsustainable land management threatens to reduce the productivity of arable lands. This would have long term negative implications for food security and sustained livelihoods.

FAO's project has helped Grenada to produce land use maps and reports. Additionally, a methodology for Land Degradation Assessment has been adopted and through training of staff within the Ministry of Agriculture, capacity to continue this assessment on an ongoing basis has been enhanced.

With these tools, the government is in a better position to identify vulnerable areas and set priorities for sustainable land management projects and programs in the country, improving the livelihoods and food security of persons living on degraded lands.

SO3. Reduce rural poverty

Game tradition

Following the massive destruction of forest and wildlife habitats during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 the hunting of game species was banned in Grenada. However, hunting of edible game species is a small but significant contribution to rural livelihoods in Grenada and Carriacou so in 2008, in view of soaring food prices, the Forestry Department lifted the hunting ban with a significantly shortened hunting season.

While game meat is important for the local diet in rural Grenada there is a considerable knowledge gap about population sizes of game species as well as sustainable harvest rates for the four major games species - Manicou, Tattou, Iguana and Monkey.

FAO provided a Wildlife Consultant who

- ▶ *helped to develop practical assessment tools to quantify the population of Manicou;*
- ▶ *trained staff of the Grenada Forest Department and interested stakeholders in these survey techniques to develop a sustainable game wildlife programme on the island;*

- ▶ *produced a wildlife survey handbook to enable stakeholders to continue to build capacity to conduct surveys well into the future.*

SO4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels

Equipping the abattoir

The Government of Grenada, with funding from the Caribbean Development Bank, is building an abattoir as part of a redevelopment programme for the town of Grenville. The abattoir has been built on the grounds of the School for Agriculture and is expected have the capacity to slaughter up to 55 small and large ruminants each day.



It was designed according to FAO Guidelines for the construction of small abattoirs. FAO has also provided a consultant to advise on equipment needs and assist with the tendering process. That equipment has already been purchased and installed. In the coming months abattoir workers and other stakeholders along the value chain will be trained in proper handling and food safety procedures.

FAO's assistance will contribute to the sustainable production of meat which meets the highest international standards and can be utilized both in the domestic market for consumption by locals and tourists alike. With the development of this market, more producers will be encouraged to intensify their livestock operations, contributing to an eventual reduction in imported meat and meat products.



GUYANA

SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Improving forest governance

Guyana continues to receive support to improve forest governance and build capacity within the forestry sub-sector through the African Caribbean and Pacific-Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (ACP-FLEGT) Support Programme. Four Letters of Agreement were signed between FAO and the Guyana Forestry Commission over the last two years for a number of initiatives. Some of the achievements thus far include:

- ▶ *increased awareness of EU FLEGT initiative, FLEGT issues and the National Log Export Policy within the forest sector;*
- ▶ *development of a Legality Checklist;*
- ▶ *strengthened capacity of stakeholders to conduct third party audits;*
- ▶ *drafting of a Roadmap for Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the Government and the private sector to ensure timber products leaving the country are of legal origin;*
- ▶ *a communication strategy to disseminate information on the VPA process;*
- ▶ *an assessment report on scoping of expected impacts resulting from the implementation of the VPA.*

SO3. Reduce rural poverty

Developing inland fisheries and aquaculture

Inland fisheries is important for rural food security, income generation and general

livelihood support of the local population, especially Amerindian communities. Sustainable management of resources is therefore critical given the potential for over exploitation as well as habitat degradation.



At its request, FAO assisted the Government of Guyana with

- ▶ *formulating the National Policy on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture and a Five year Strategic Plan for Inland Fisheries Development;*
- ▶ *developing materials summarizing the main elements for stakeholders;*
- ▶ *completing a baseline study report on inland fisheries;*
- ▶ *strengthening institutional capacity at the Fisheries Division and the University of Guyana in fish biology for fish stock assessment and management, as well as Aquaculture Risk Analysis and Management.*

SO4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels

National Agriculture Market Information System

In an effort to enhance the capacity of the country to collect, manage and access agricultural market data and information, FAO has been providing technical assistance to develop a comprehensive Agriculture Market Information System. This system is aimed at improving domestic and regional trade in agricultural commodities and enhancing the lives of rural populations.

Achievements thus far include

- ▶ *a website showcasing the work and services provided by Guyana Marketing Corporation;*
- ▶ *enhanced capacity of staff of the Ministry of Agriculture to implement a crop production data collection system to allow better crop forecasting and production planning.*

SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Managing risks from disaster

FAO provided technical assistance to develop a Disaster Risk Management Plan for the Agricultural Sector. The plan, which was completed and endorsed by the government, will be incorporated into the National Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan which is currently being finalized with the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank. In addition, over 20 Extension Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders were trained in livelihoods assessment using the FAO Livelihood Assessment Toolkit.

Among other things, the Plan will provide the means by which the sector can not only shorten its recovery response period, but also manage disaster risk reduction and mitigation efforts.





HAITI

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

Food security

There are currently several projects aimed at improving the food security outlook in Haiti.



One such recently concluded project has become a benchmark for participatory and integrated rural development and watershed management.

Funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and the Government of Haiti, the project aimed to better living conditions and household food security for the people of Marigot. This was achieved by improving their nutritional status and health by increasing and diversifying production and income streams while strengthening the capacity of local governance and local management. The specific achievements were:

- ▶ *functioning facilitation, partnership and management, led by local actors;*
- ▶ *peasant families have been able to intensify, diversify and promote sustainable production;*
- ▶ *sustainable natural resource management is being applied at all levels;*

- ▶ *livelihoods and food security have been improved and the most vulnerable groups were involved and supported.*

The success of one of the project's outcomes was put to the ultimate test in November 2012. One component was the implementation of several micro-drainage reclamation projects.

After the passage of Hurricane Sandy, Marigot did not suffer the usual devastating flash floods which would normally have followed in the wake of such a storm. This result was widely attributed to the project.

Two more EU funded projects are focused on the North East and Artibonite Departments of Haiti. These new projects are significant in that they represent the transfer from emergency operations to a focus on structural improvement including:

- ▶ *strengthening farmers organizations;*
- ▶ *the systematic use of farmer field school approach;*
- ▶ *emphasis on value chain approach and marketing;*
- ▶ *inclusion of sustainable land management and agricultural practices.*

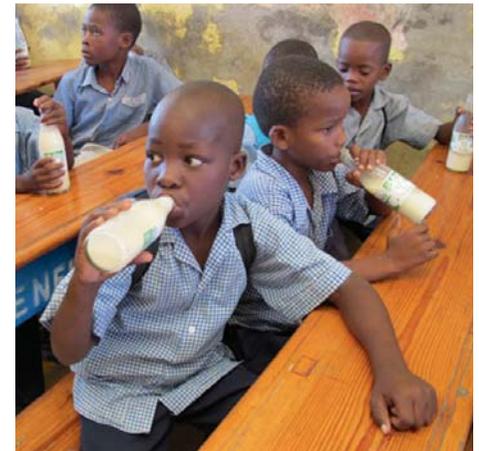
SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Developing the dairy industry

Two complementary projects are seeking to improve the living conditions of smallholder milk producers while respecting the environment and increasing the supply of locally produced milk.

The Milk Production and Transformation Project focuses on improving the business model of local dairies through diversification, better market orientation and general managerial improvement, as demonstrated in three newly constructed, small scale local dairies.

The second project focuses on the smallholder milk production side, including improved animal husbandry practices



and outreach to areas already serviced by existing dairies. Both projects include significant training and capacity building of local technicians.

These projects will jointly have an impact on some 15 small scale dairies, 50 technicians and over 1 000 smallholder farmers.

This increased production should satisfy the nutritional demands of approximately 3 000 children over the next three years.

SO4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels

An evaluation of potential reforms in Haiti's agricultural import tariff policy was finalized in June 2013 and has generated high-level interest.

The objective was to assist the government in the assessment of the potential implications of several options for tariff reform in relation to food security, agricultural production and tariff revenue objectives. It was jointly undertaken with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance.

A simulation model is now operational which can be used as a tool to undertake an analysis of new tariff change scenarios with additional commodities.

SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Road to recovery

Post earthquake (2010) and post Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy (2012), emergency operations continue to have a significant impact on local livelihoods and food security in the 5 southern departments of the Haiti (West, South-West, South, Nippes and Grande Anse Department).



Activities included:

- ▶ *urban forestry;*
- ▶ *distribution of seeds, planting material, livestock and agricultural tools;*
- ▶ *tree planting and erosion control in watersheds;*
- ▶ *rehabilitation of small irrigation schemes;*
- ▶ *training on nutrition and value addition.*

These activities were financed through a multitude of donors and implemented with a several partners including CBOs, NGOs, and sister UN Agencies - World Food Programme in particular. The joint response to the earthquake resulted in a marked improvement in food security over 2010 and 2011.

However, 2012 saw a serious set-back in the wake of a drought followed by storms and floods. A survey is currently being undertaken by the government, assisted

by FAO and other partners (including WFP), to be followed by an analysis of the current food security situation and outlook.

Sowing seeds for the future

In October 2012, Haiti's main seed project came to an end. It provided quality seeds to areas affected by the January 2012 earthquake.

That project has been succeeded by a new Brazil-funded project which will assist farmers associations to multiply quality seeds. The seeds will then be marketed to the most vulnerable family farmers, mainly through subsidized seed supply programmes using voucher systems, supported by donors and the government.

Closely linked to this is a project to strengthen climate resilience and reduce disaster risks in agriculture. The project, which has just come on stream, will provide climate resilient seed and planting material varieties. It will also seek to promote disaster risk management and the use of farmer field school methods at community level risk management and the use of farmer field school methods at community level.





JAMAICA

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

A draft food and nutrition security policy was developed and validated by all relevant stakeholders in September 2012. Contributions from that validation process, as well as an FAO review were incorporated into the final document. Cabinet has approved the policy and the plan of action will be completed in August 2013.

SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Preparing vulnerable communities to rebound from natural disaster

Five vulnerable rural communities participated in a pilot project to strengthen capacity at the community level to plan for and manage natural disasters. Building partnerships with local NGOs and government agencies already present in these communities, the project was able to:



- ▶ establish Local Agriculture (or fisheries) Disaster Risk Management Plans in each community based on livelihood assessment and participatory methodologies;
- ▶ establish community-specific resources to assist in post-disaster recovery such as a solar-powered, internet-equipped resource centre in an isolated, hilly, rural area prone to landslides; and prepositioned mesh and net for early recovery in two fishing communities.

Controlling Citrus Greening



Since October 2009, Jamaica's citrus industry has been negatively affected by Citrus Greening Disease (Huanglongbing) which impacts the approximately 19 500 persons employed by that industry. In response to the Government of Jamaica's request for assistance to bolster their management efforts, FAO conducted a TCP project during the period November 2011 to May 2013. The project has addressed the management of the disease through:

- ▶ improved diagnosis and detection capacity. Eight technicians were trained in disease diagnosis and the national laboratory facilities were upgraded with necessary equipment and structural renovation;
- ▶ management and vector control among farmers. 97 farmers were

trained in assessment of disease management options and selection of appropriate responses as well as Training of Trainers in HLB management and record keeping;

- ▶ improved nursery production capacity to provide disease-free planting material to the industry, via a greenhouse, an insect-proof model nursery and training for 20 nursery operators in new nursery management protocols; 11 technicians and officers were trained in new shoot-tip/micro-grafting techniques;

- ▶ public awareness campaign, through the production and distribution of training videos, materials, and information pamphlets and posters on symptoms and management.

Beating back Beet Armyworm

FAO provided technical support to assist the Government to respond to repeated outbreaks of the Beet Armyworm which threatens to destroy the livelihood of small vegetable farmers in the southern part of the country, as well as erase productive gains in the cultivation of onions.

The project, which began in December 2012, is ongoing and will help to establish a comprehensive monitoring and forecasting programme using GIS technology.

Additionally, to support a Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to on-farm crop and pest management, 20 Extension Officers and 10 farmers are currently receiving intensive training in FFS methodologies and crop management techniques. The trained Extension Officers and farmers will then train approximately 150 other farmers.





SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

After a preliminary assessment mission in March 2013, a roadmap has been defined for the development of a food and nutrition security policy and plan of action.

The project is in the process of recruiting a National Consultant to oversee the completion of the draft policy document.

School gardens

Under its Telefood Programme, FAO is assisting in the establishment of gardens at three primary schools on the island - Bronte Welsh Primary, Tyrell Williams Primary and Sandy Point Primary. Some 221 students, ages 10-11 years old will be benefiting from the project. Teachers and parents will also be actively involved.

Cultivation is well underway and the gardens will be used to teach several subjects and will supply fresh vegetables and fruit for children and teachers. The surplus will be a source of income for the respective schools. It is expected that at least 221 students will be exposed annually to basic agriculture and Good Agriculture Practices (GAP). It is anticipated that they will utilize this training to establish home gardens leading to improved food security in vulnerable households.

SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Promoting fishing cooperatives

Though most fisheries in Saint Kitts and Nevis is artisanal, fisheries makes an important contribution to food security in



the country. Around 460 small-scale fishing vessels make up the fishing industry. 2 000 fisherfolk represent 14% of those employed on the islands. Local catches contribute 500 tonnes of fish for local consumption. The Government is aiming to transform the industry through improved technology to increase fisheries production.

Fisherfolk will have to be organized if they are to be equal partners of the Ministry, play their role in co-management of the sector and in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international obligations. Strong fisherfolk organizations could also take a leading role in the efforts to reduce praedial larceny of fish and fisheries gear and equipment.

FAO is helping to strengthen fisherfolk organizations on the islands. An initial workshop has been conducted to sensitize the 22 participating fisherfolk, as well as staff from the Ministry of Agriculture. Issues discussed included benefits of cooperatives, leadership, governance of cooperatives, business planning, activities and services of cooperatives, membership issues, simple economics, and credit and investment issues.

Further activities will include training of at least 90 fisherfolk and 2 Department of Marine Resources staff in basic good fish quality/hygiene and safety practices.

SO3. Reduce rural poverty

Bearing fruit

FAO has previously supported the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis in promoting breadfruit and breadnut development on the island. Having recognized the potential of these commodities to contribute to food security, the Government is seeking further assistance to develop a full TCP project to introduce commercial production.

One component of the project includes a study on breadfruit germplasm diversity and capacity building in improved tree and orchard management, and includes the production of a manual. The project, which is just in its initial stages, will lead to rural employment opportunities and provide affordable domestic food. Family run farms, processors and vendors are all expected to benefit from the development of this new industry.



SAINT LUCIA

SO1. *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

National and international consultants have been contracted to prepare the food and nutrition security policy and plan of action. The draft Policy is expected to be finalized by August 2013.

SO2. *Increase and improve the provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*

Modernizing meat production

The Government of Saint Lucia is constructing a modern slaughterhouse/meat processing facility. It will enhance food safety, build consumer confidence in meat and meat products, stimulate livestock production and allow locally produced meats to access high-end market segments, including the lucrative tourist industry, which currently imports all its meats and meat products.

FAO is assisting the country through the development of general operating and management plans for the operation of the slaughter house/meat processing facility. Two consultations were held in June 2012.

- ▶ *the first reviewed legislation, food safety inspection systems and made appropriate recommendations;*
- ▶ *the second consultation developed a draft plan and trained stakeholders in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) for the new abattoir; an operational manual for the daily management and functioning of the new facility including institutional framework and management structure as well as human resource needs,*

training and skill sets required for the efficient management and operation of the abattoir over the long term;

- ▶ *butchers and meat shops will receive meat hygiene training in the next phase.*

SO5. *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*

On the lookout for swine flu

Like its regional counterparts, Saint Lucia has benefited from a regional project to build surveillance capacity for the H1N1 virus in its pig population.

The project, which was created in response to the swine flu pandemic declared during the summer of 2009, provided

- ▶ *training and equipment to conduct field surveillance;*
- ▶ *workshops on biosecurity on farms;*
- ▶ *training in risk communications to reduce market shocks.*

Battling banana disease

Bananas are of vital importance to the Saint Lucian national economy. In 2012, the country produced 14 984 tonnes of bananas and earned US\$28.2 million in export earnings representing a 40% increase over the previous year. The spread of Black Sigatoka Disease through the island has threatened to not only erase possible gains, but to devastate the industry as a whole.

Saint Lucia received assistance from FAO as part of the regional Black Sigatoka Disease management project. As a result of this intervention:

- ▶ *a draft proposal for resource mobilization was developed;*
- ▶ *two technicians were trained in the selection and effective use of fungicides.*

Recovering from disaster

The agricultural sector on the island has been impacted by five tropical storms in the last decade leading to damaging

high wind gusts and floods. The country is also frequently exposed to so-called “neglected” or small-scale disasters including strong winds, localized floods, drought spells and landslides. Many of the impacts of these events can be avoided or minimized with proper on farm mitigation measures.



FAO responded with a disaster risk management project which has:

- ▶ *improved capacities of the Forestry, Fisheries and Agriculture Department staff to review/update and implement national risk mitigation policies and provide technical assistance to community level stakeholders;*
- ▶ *identified, tested and promoted community-level risk mitigation approaches involving farmers and fishers;*
- ▶ *improved capacities for vulnerability mapping and damage assessment;*
- ▶ *developed a communication public awareness programme targeted to farmers and civil society, making use of the local dialect and local media.*



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

SO1. *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

After a preliminary assessment mission in April 2013, a roadmap has been defined for the development of a food and nutrition security policy and plan of action. A draft policy is expected to be finalized by August.

SO2. *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in sustainable manner*

Livestock Farmer Field School

According to Ministry of Agriculture data, in 2011 St Vincent and the Grenadines imported 8.6 million kilograms of meat and meat products valued at approximately US\$47.6 million. These imports accounted for over 90% of total meat consumption. The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction of this over-reliance on imported meats by helping sheep and goat farmers in the country, most of whom run small family farms, to scale up production, productivity and efficiency.



FAO is implementing a Farmer Field School in the country, the first of its kind for livestock in the Caribbean.

- ▶ *An inception workshop was held where participants helped to develop the curriculum which will cover modules pertaining to nutrition, health/husbandry management, reproduction and breeding and farm management;*
- ▶ *Phase 1 has begun and 25 persons including extension officers, veterinarians and animal health assistants from the Ministry of Agriculture as well as volunteer farmers are receiving training as facilitators;*
- ▶ *80 farmers will shortly commence their training.*

SO3. *Reduce rural poverty*

Reviving traditional bamboo craft

Georgetown, on the Northeast coast of St. Vincent has lost its traditional sources of income following the closure of the local sugar factory and the decline of banana production.

Decades ago the people of Georgetown were well known for their skills in using bamboo to build baskets and other household items. With the increased use



of plastic the tradition of bamboo weaving was almost lost.

The Georgetown Craft Makers Association decided to try to revive traditional bamboo craft to generate income opportunities for local youth. With the assistance of FAO

the community group registered as a non-profit organisation and employed two local trainers. One of them was over 80 years old and known to be one of the last and best artisans in bamboo weaving.

A facilitator was also brought on board to organize the selection of trainees as well as the training sessions at a community centre. The venue was provided free of charge by a local church. The staff of the Forestry Department assisted in allocating the bamboo resources and supported the transport of the cut bamboo.

- ▶ *Over a period of 15 weeks, 15 persons, mainly young women, were trained in harvesting and processing bamboo and weaving of different types of bamboo baskets and items.*
- ▶ *The Facilitator prepared a small practical study analysing time and production costs for specific items and estimating a selling price.*
- ▶ *Trainees were instructed in how to market their products.*

SO5. *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*

Battling Black Sigatoka

Saint Vincent and the Grenadine's banana industry, once a major foreign exchange earner, has been virtually wiped out by Black Sigatoka Disease. First identified in the country in 2009, data shows that BSD has caused the export market to contract by an alarming 95%.

FAO's assistance through its regional project has helped Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in its fight back against the disease's devastating effects.

- ▶ *a national development plan has been developed along with a draft proposal for resource mobilization;*
- ▶ *two technicians were trained in the selection and effective use of fungicides.*



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

SO1. *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*

National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action

FAO undertook an assessment in April 2013 and developed a roadmap for the process. The draft national food and nutrition security policy document should be finalized by the end of August.

SO2. *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*

Agriculture Sector Policy

FAO is assisting the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the formulation of an Agriculture Sector Policy for 2012-2015. This policy will be used to plan for investment in the sector over the coming years and is expected to be completed by September 2013. Outputs thus far include:

- ▶ *training of 10 agricultural planners on various tools to be used in the policy development process;*
- ▶ *training of these policy officers as well as 25 officers from the technical divisions of the Ministry of Food Production in Results Based Management.*

Roots and tubers

The Ministry of Food Production requested FAO assistance in the form of presentations to the farming and agribusiness community on farmer field trials which have demonstrated increased cassava productivity. Training was provided for 25 extension officers in the new technology and they are currently establishing demonstration units in their respective districts.

A concept note was prepared on Good Agricultural Practices for the Board of the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Company and FAO is seeking resources for implementation.

SO3. *Reduce rural poverty*

Cocoa farmers' sweet success

Through its Telefood Programme, FAO has been assisting the Tobago Cocoa Farmers Association, 24 farmers operating mainly in the Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve.



The farmers faced challenges in the drying of their harvested cocoa leading to a risk of the cocoa being acidic with an underdeveloped flavour and developing mould during storage and shipping.

Thanks to FAO's project, the association was able to procure materials to expand their small drying facility. They also received guidance on design and operations from the Cocoa Research Unit at the University of the West Indies. A further 120 people, mostly families who purchase fruit, spice, aromatic and seasoning herbs exclusively from the farmers, will benefit indirectly from these improvements to the industry.

SO4. *Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels*

Strengthening Agricultural Data and Information

An important aspect of agriculture sector development and food security is the ability to collect and review information and to use the data to make plans. The current national agricultural information system in Trinidad and Tobago has a number of weaknesses that ultimately

limit its usefulness. FAO is assisting the Government by helping to develop

- ▶ *a one-year plan to establish a National Agricultural Data and Information Division;*
- ▶ *operational guidelines for the division's systems, processes, programme planning and protocols;*
- ▶ *a Strategic Plan and Work Programme for 2012-2014 for the division.*

SO5. *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*

Diagnosing disease in Columbian Cedar

Since 2009, the Forestry Department of Trinidad and Tobago has received increasing reports of dying Columbian Cedar trees, a fast-growing tree which private forest plantations have been encouraged to cultivate.



An FAO project was created to assist the Forestry Department in getting to the bottom of the disease mystery.

- ▶ *The University of the West Indies was tasked with identifying the root cause of the pathogens responsible for the die-back;*
- ▶ *Diagnostic protocols and a management control strategy to arrest tree decline were developed.*



SURINAME

SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

Planning for the future

FAO assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in formulating seven Agriculture Subsector White Papers on rice, bananas, horticulture (vegetable, fruit, root crops), livestock, fisheries, interior development and agribusiness to support Government in achieving food security targets.

A National Stakeholder Consultative Exercise has been completed and the Ministry is utilizing the subsector documents in various national planning exercises.

SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner



Aquatic and marine health

Suriname's fisheries sector contributes between US\$40-50 million annually in foreign exchange and provides employment for 5 000 persons. The country's long-term development objective is to support a competitive and ecologically sustainable fisheries sector, including freshwater fishery and aquaculture.

FAO is assisting the country with the development of a national aquaculture and aquatic animal health management strategy that meets international standards on aquatic animal health.

The 18-month project is strengthening the competence of national authorities in Suriname to implement effective aquatic animal health protection systems. This will reduce the risks of aquatic animal diseases affecting aquaculture production. Thus far it has produced:

- ✦ *an updated Aquaculture Development Strategy and Action Plan;*
- ✦ *a National Strategy for Aquatic Animal Health Management;*
- ✦ *four workshops in aquaculture strategy development and aquatic animal health including training in aquatic surveillance for animal pathogens;*

- ✦ *design of a surveillance system for aquatic pathogens/diseases*

Additionally, there is an FAO international project which supports activities in five countries on the Guianas shelf - Brazil, Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana and Trinidad and Tobago. Through this project, a Case Study on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) for the Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries in Suriname has been completed.

SO4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels

Strengthening livestock law

The Livestock Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of Suriname has been mandated to develop programmes geared to increase animal production, mitigate the risks of entry of transboundary animal diseases and create an updated legal framework.

FAO assistance is providing the necessary international background and briefs for drafting national legislation in line with the legal system and to facilitate country targets for competitiveness in livestock products, both regionally and internationally. The current outputs of the project include:

- ✦ *providing an FAO legal expert from Rome;*
- ✦ *setting up working groups with the support of national and international legal and technical experts;*
- ✦ *enhancing local capacity to draft legislation which has resulted in two bills - Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection Bill and Animal Production and Health Bill. A Feeds Bill is to be completed;*
- ✦ *organizing a National Consultation to ensure due consideration of all key stakeholders.*
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