Mongolia and FAO
Achievements and success stories
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Introduction

Mongolia became a member of FAO in 1974, and was accredited through the FAOR office in China. However, since 2000, a full FAO Liaison has been established in Ulaanbaatar, also accredited to the FAO Representative in China. The FAO Liaison Office in Mongolia was opened on 1 July 2009. The Liaison Office facilitates projects implementation according to FAO rules and regulations. Prior to the opening of the office, distance, communication and language obstacles often hindered timely delivery of project inputs and results.

Agriculture plays an important role in Mongolia’s economy, contributing 21.7 percent to GDP, accounting for 14 percent of export earnings and employing 40 percent of the labour force. FAO has been playing an important role in introducing technical know how and assisting the government in rebuilding sectors such as livestock breeding, dairy and forestry that collapsed during the jarring transformation from a centrally planned, socialist economy to a market-oriented and democratic system.
1. Main achievements

FAO has been providing technical support and implementing projects in areas such as food security and safety, agricultural statistics, water management and irrigation, actions against soaring food prices, regional control of transboundary animal diseases, livestock products processing, and forestry. Since Mongolia joined FAO in 1974, it has received assistance to the tune of $3.7 million under the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), and roughly $3.4 million under four Trust Fund projects for a total of US$7.167 million. During the last five years, FAO programmes and projects have been dramatically increased, mainly focusing on the livestock sector with active collaboration of government counterparts.

1.1 Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS)

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in Mongolia initially consisted of two parts: (i) small-scale irrigation rehabilitation and horticulture demonstration, and (ii) cereal sub-sector demonstrations. The first part became operational in November 1997, with support from TCP ($382,000) for the water control component, and from UNDP for peri-urban vegetable production. Horticultural activities were promoted on four sites in the North-Central region. Meanwhile, the Improved cereal production technology project, with a budget of $352,000, was approved with the objectives (i) to train farmers in multiplying quality seed on the basis of farmer saved seed; (ii) demonstrate improved fallow technologies and other conservation farming practices; (iii) train farm managers and farmers in using conservation farming practices to improve cereal production. The project ended in May 2005 having made significant in-roads in promoting reduced tillage systems, although it has been affected by adverse climatic conditions (harsh winters of 2000 in 2001, and a dry summer in 2000).

In 2004, the SPFS began focussing on increasing the supply of dairy foods by reducing post-harvest losses and restocking. The programme received $1.96 million from Japan for a three year period. Funded by the Governments of Mongolia and Japan, and executed by FAO, the project Increasing the supply of dairy products to urban centres in Mongolia by reducing post-harvest losses and restocking (hereafter called the Dairy project) implemented during 2005-2007, helped rebuild the dairy sector by introducing an innovative, complete cow-to-consumer dairy food-chain system, which gets milk safely and affordably from rural areas to urban centres.

Within two years, the project was able to reverse the downward trend of fresh milk production and reduce the huge government expenditure on imported milk and dairy products. The project’s impact was to convince the government to invest in developing a sustainable dairy sector by showing, that milk can be produced, collected, processed and marketed to replace imported milk powder to the benefit of thousands of herders and milk producers. A new National Dairy Programme was approved by the government in 2006. The three main project intervention areas of: (i) milk production enhancement, (ii) milk marketing enhancement and (iii) dairy training/capacity building are now mainstreamed in the new National Dairy Programme.

1.2 National Programme for Food Security (NPFS)

Following successful implementation of the SPFS, the government requested FAO assistance in formulating a National Programme for Food Security (NPFS). The NPFS gained approval from the government in 2009, and will be implemented in two phases over eight years with a budget of US$1.29 billion. Forty-three percent will be met from central and local government resources, 45 percent from the private sector and the remaining 12 percent from donor resources. After launching the NPFS, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry developed an Action Plan on Implementation of NPFS for 2009-2015 that covers four priority areas and 13 strategic objectives that are also subdivided into major actions. The MoFALI conducts monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the NPFS on a semi-annual and annual basis.
Since the programme was launched, the government has taken number of activities and initiatives, outlined in the Action Plan of the NPFS. In 2010, 4.3 percent of the total government budget was designated for the MoFALI. Government spending on the agriculture and food sector has markedly increased more than ten-fold between 2005 and 2009.

According to the MoFALI, about $130 million was allocated to the food and agriculture sector during 2009-2010 for supporting activities under the action plan. The government has already committed 28 percent of the forecasted budget, or $466 million, according to the NPFS.

The government has been promoting public awareness of the National Food Security Programme. Within this context, in 2010 the MoFALI organized a media campaign on food safety using major television channels and daily newspapers.

In support of this NPFS, the European Union has approved a three-year, $1.2 million FAO-proposed project on food security that will support vegetable growers and focus on small-scale crop production methods in order to find innovative solutions to food insecurity and malnutrition problems. The Government of P.R. China is providing technical assistance within the South-South Cooperation (SSC) framework to support the implementation of the NPFS. The latest grant of $12.5 million from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Fund to Mongolia’s technical proposal was the result of the government’s commitment to the National Programme for Food Security.

1.3 Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme

A Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) was proposed as a multilateral mechanism to assist in the implementation of pledges made at L’Aquila in July 2009. The GAFSP complements ongoing efforts through other mechanisms to scale up support to agriculture and food security.

Upon the government’s request, FAO assisted to re-formulate Mongolia’s technical proposal on its Integrated livestock based livelihoods support programme within the framework of the NPFS. The GAFSP Steering Committee approved a grant of $12.5 million. The programme objective is to reduce rural poverty and household food insecurity on a sustainable basis in livestock-based farming systems, the main traditional economic activity in the country. Strategic importance is given to the reform of that sector, as well as to the improvement of animal breeding, and the increase of productivity and quality of livestock products for improving competitiveness.

1.4 FAO Emergency Rehabilitation Programme

FAO established an Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU) in Mongolia following the winter snowstorm “Dzud” disaster of 2009-2010 that caused a loss of 9.2 million livestock, or about 25 percent of total livestock. FAO’s emergency programme in Mongolia has been focused on providing immediate

It was difficult for heavy uploaded trucks to go through roads, covered by deep snow
assistance to Dzud-affected herders by protecting surviving livestock. Priority assistance was given to the seven most-affected provinces through the supply of critical livestock inputs. Efforts are also being made to enhance the capacity of target beneficiary households in disaster preparedness and risk reduction for future storms and disasters through input support on fodder production and transfer of technical know-how.

The UN Resident Coordinator’s Office strengthened the inter-sectoral approach during the Dzud emergency. Four sectors, with their lead agencies indicated, that were integral to the response were: 1. Survival, WASH, Health and Nutrition (UNICEF); 2. Education (UNICEF); 3. Agriculture (FAO); 4. Early Recovery (UNDP).

1.5 Livestock breeding sector

The TCP Modernizing and upgrading the national animal breeding programme, implemented in Mongolia during 2007-2010, introduced a Genetic Improvement Programme at national level. Major political steps have been taken for the continuation of the programme. Achievements and impacts include: National animal breeding strategy updated and implementation commenced; performance recording scheme modernized and expanded at the National Livestock Gene Bank; creation of the Central Data Base where the genetic evaluation scheme updated, expanded and streamlined with the inclusion of beef herds; the Animal Insemination Centre was equipped to process and store semen, while public and private breed specialists and technicians trained in support of the breed improvement programme.

The programme has played an important role in developing and understanding major principles of science-based sound breeding. Activities and actions introduced through the programme are being implemented at larger, national scale through the recently approved Mongolian Livestock Programme, of which one objective is to improve livestock breeding.

1.6 Forestry sector

Since 2007, FAO has been assisting the government in forestry through implementation of a Netherlands-funded project Capacity building and institutional development for participatory natural resources management and conservation in forest areas of Mongolia. Mongolia is going through a transformative process of democratization, decentralization and devolution. The forest administration has been decimated since the mid-1990s, and forest management is largely ineffective, with the result that illegal logging is rampant and forest destruction is widespread. In spite of these problems, there are still extensive areas of high quality forest. This situation has led to an acknowledgement that, in appropriate circumstances, one option to bring forests under effective management is for the government to develop partnerships with local forest user groups to ensure that the forests are managed sustainably and that communities can improve their livelihoods by utilizing forest products.

The project has systematically identified, and is working to put in place the key building blocks needed to conceptualize and operationalize participatory forest management (PFM) in Mongolia’s unique context. These building blocks include:

- The key changes needed to create a fully enabling regulatory framework for PFM;
- Field modalities to develop fully functioning forest user groups (FUGs);
- Institutional and organizational arrangements for the Forestry Agency to manage a national PFM programme;
- Capacity building needs for all stakeholders to plan for and implement a national PFM programme;
- A monitoring and evaluation system for PFM nationwide.

Government partners have acknowledged the value and achievements of the projects through their direct support for improving the regulatory framework and programmes in the Forestry sector. They have introduced pilot approaches at the grassroots level through establishment of Forest User Groups, which have shown initial positive results in forest management.
2. Selected successful programmes

2.1 Increasing the supply of dairy products to urban centres in Mongolia by reducing post-harvest losses and restocking (GCSP/MON/001/JPN, $1.96 million)

The GCSP/MON/001/JPN project Increasing the supply of dairy products to urban centres in Mongolia by reducing post-harvest losses and restocking with total fund of US$1.96 million was funded by the governments of Mongolia and Japan, under the Kennedy Round facility, and executed by FAO under its global Special Programme for Food Security and implemented during 2005-2007 to rebuild the dairy industry in Mongolia.

The dairy industry, like other food industries, virtually collapsed during the abrupt change from a state-run to a market-oriented economy during the 1990s. In the short time since it was mobilized, the project started to have a beneficial impact on reviving the dairy industry in central areas, the current focus of interventions. Six commercial dairy models covering each link in the cow-to-consumer dairy food chain were demonstrated with private and public sector partners. The six models comprised:

1. Milk Producers’ Organization (MPO)
2. Dairy Service Centre (DSC)
3. Milk Collection Package (MCP)
4. Milk Cooling Centre (MCC)
5. Milk Processing Unit (MPU)
6. Milk Sales Centre (MSC)

The units have demonstrated that quality milk can be produced and collected from remote countryside areas and processed and transported safely and affordably for consumption in urban centres.

By the end of 2006, milk was already being collected from 1,500 herding and farming households that were benefiting from the enhanced nutrition, regular incomes and rural jobs that milk provides as nature’s most complete food. Quantities produced and collected have increased five-fold to a total of twelve million litres compared to 2003, the base year. More than 40,000 school children have obtained fresh milk from distribution schemes established by the project. Twenty new dairy products were produced, tested and launched in urban markets; and 800 dairy cows were involved in a genetic improvement (re-stocking) scheme.

The long-term impact of the project showed government and other stakeholders that milk can be produced, collected, processed and marketed to replace imported milk powder to the benefit of thousands of herders and milk producers. It has convinced government to invest...
heavily in sustainable development of the dairy sector. During the project lifetime, a new National Dairy Programme has been approved by the government. The three main project intervention areas of: (i) milk production enhancement, (ii) milk marketing enhancement and (iii) dairy training/capacity building were mainstreamed into the new National Dairy Programme that was approved in October 2006.

2.2 Strengthening Early Warning for Transboundary Animal Disease Diagnosis (TCP/MON/3101, $387 444)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Light Industries (MAFLI) was designated as the national counterpart organization for this TCP project Strengthening Early Warning for Transboundary Animal Disease Diagnosis with total fund of $387 444 that was implemented from November 2006 through October 2009. Immediate counterparts were the Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID), the School of Veterinary Science and Biotechnology (SVSB), and the Mongolian State University of Agriculture (MSUA). The objectives of the project related to managing the risk of serious epidemics of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) to livestock production and overcoming the constraints these diseases impose on trade in livestock and their products. The following main results were achieved during implementation of the project:

- In regard to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), the project has established epidemiological evidence that Mongolia appears to be free from these diseases.
- National early warning preparedness plans were documented: contingency plan documentation was started under with the primary targets as FMD and sheep/goat pox.
- Improved technical and management capacity of staff in epidemiology, and initial subregional-level discussions on TAD control were established between Chinese, Mongolian and Russian authorities.


The TCP project Modernizing and upgrading the National Animal Breeding Programme with total fund of $339 710 was implemented from February 2008 through July 2010 to establish a cattle improvement scheme that should lead to increased production and productivity, and contribute to increased food security and income for farmers and herders. The following outputs were achieved:

Output 1: National animal breeding strategy updated and implementation commenced
Output 2: Strengthening of the gene bank and provision of equipment
Output 3: Two pilot Aimag (province) breeding centres established
Output 4: Sixty public and private breed specialists and technicians trained to meet key requirements to support the breed improvement programme.

The project implementation was successful and highly appreciated and acknowledged by the government and national technical partners. It played an important role in developing and understanding major principles of Modernizing and Upgrading the National Animal Breeding Programme project: Awarding the Best Cattle title.
a scientific-based sound breeding programme in the country. Activities and actions that were introduced through the project are being implemented at national scale through the recently approved Mongolian Livestock Programme, which has five major objectives, one of which is improving livestock breeding.

2.4 Improved Meat Hygiene and Commercial Meat Processing (TCP/MON/3105 and II phase TCP/MON/3206, $322 805)

The TCP project Improved meat hygiene and commercial meat processing with total fund of $322 805 was implemented under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry at the Food Technology College in Ulaanbaatar from May 2005 through September 2010. The objective was to make meat available as an affordable food item in the diets of the Mongolian people and improve the commercialization of processed meat products for domestic consumption and export.

The project had nine outputs and achievements, including:

- meat training and service centre established for supporting the safe slaughter, processing and distribution of meat and meat products;
- tailored, vocational training modules developed, tested and introduced for transferring improved meat technologies and control systems to the commercial meat sector with 70 meat operators and inspectors trained;
- mobile outreach demonstration and service unit established for field training, and eight demonstration workshops in the four selected Aimags for approx. 240 meat operators (30 participants per one day workshop, of which at least half will be women);
- improved small-scale meat processing and packaging equipment fabricated locally and field tested;
- Four Soum-level enterprises established for small-scale animal slaughter and meat processing.
2.5 Input Supply to Vulnerable Populations under the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) – TCP/MON/3202, $500 000

The TCP project Input Supply to Vulnerable Populations under the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices with total fund of $500 000 was implemented from July 2008 through December 2009 with an overall goal to contribute to the efforts of the donor community and of the government in their support to the poorest rural families affected by the global food crisis and soaring food prices and to boost agricultural production in smallholders farming systems. The specific objective was to support the worst affected marginal producers through the supply of agricultural inputs for the coming planting season, such as seeds and fertilizer. The beneficiaries were 8 000 families from vulnerable groups, most affected by high food prices. They included small farmers and women headed poor and vulnerable households.

The following interventions were taken:

- increase the availability and use of improved seed for basic grains and vegetables, and creation of job opportunities;
- increase food production and availability at farm level, providing support to affected smallholders in the implementation of the next agricultural season in the affected regions. Food self-sufficiency, arising from this assistance, should enable the beneficiary families to produce a quantity of grain and vegetables to help cover the food needs of the family members over a period of six to nine months, thus limiting future dependence on food aid;
- the project will also contribute to the creation of strategic seed reserves at the farm and community level;
- in general, this project will contribute to the development of technical and management capacity at the rural level, and to the stabilization of the rural population.

The project achieved its overall goal to help farmers faced with high production costs and to maintain their production in 2009, by providing the 9 094 beneficiaries (as opposed to the initially proposed 8 000) in the 11 project aimags and nine Ulaanbaatar districts, with certified high-quality improved potato and vegetable seeds, namely: 600 tonnes of potato seeds, 500 kg of carrot seeds, 400 kg of yellow beet seeds, 150 kg of deep red beet seeds, and 260 kg seeds of cucumber.

The satisfaction level of the beneficiaries with potato seed was relatively high in relation to amounts, timeliness, appropriateness, and quality, while their satisfaction level with vegetable seeds was also high enough in terms of amounts, appropriateness and quality.

2.6 Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) – Animal health component

This project relates to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)/H5N1, which was first reported in 2005, and with the last outbreak (affecting wild birds) reported in 2006. No human cases have been reported to date. Since February 2004 FAO has implemented country specific, regional trust funds and Technical Cooperation Programme projects to help curb the outbreaks of HPAI in parts of Asia and continues to play a leading role in the international prevention and fight against outbreaks of Al. Mongolia currently has been benefiting from five projects such as strengthening early warning for transboundary animal disease diagnosis; Al response programme in countries affected by the outbreak; assistance for the control and prevention of Al; Al activities in Asia, Middle East and North Africa, regional coordination of Al control and prevention in Asia, immediate technical assistance to strengthen emergency preparedness for HPAI in Mongolia.
2.7 OSRO/MON/001/AUS Emergency assistance to support the livestock-based livelihood system of the most vulnerable Dzud-affected herder families in Mongolia ($231 760 – 1 March 2010 – 31 August 2010)
OSRO/MON/002/CHA Emergency livestock input support to Dzud-affected herders in protection of their food security and livelihoods ($551 913 – March 2010 – June 2010)
TCP/MON/3301 Emergency assistance to support the livestock-based livelihood system of the most vulnerable Dzud-affected herder families in Mongolia ($477 000 – March 2010 – November 2011)

The FAO implemented three emergency projects OSRO/MON/001/AUS, OSRO/MON/002/CHA and TCP/MON/3301 combining the funds for a total funding of $1 375 200 for the humanitarian response and emergency assistance to support the livestock-based livelihood systems of the most vulnerable Dzud-affected herder families in Mongolia in 2010.

As a consequence of unusually severe climatic conditions during the end of 2009 and the spring of 2010, Mongolia suffered the “Dzud” disaster – a phenomenon that combines a summer drought and a severe winter that hardens snow and ice into an impenetrable layer making it impossible for livestock to feed and causing high mortality. The 2009-2010 Dzud was considered to be as severe as the previous one of 2001, impacting the livelihoods of the herder population with a significant numbers of livestock losses. The number of animals killed by the Dzud disaster increased rapidly from 1.7 million in February 2010 to a total of 9.7 million (over 22.1 percent of Mongolia’s total livestock population) within a few months. The livestock lost was valued at $340.7 million.

Upon request of the Government of Mongolia, FAO carried out a rapid needs assessment in January 2010, and a more detailed technical needs assessment in February – March 2010. Based on findings of the rapid needs assessment and technical missions, FAO was able to mobilize funds from its own TCP facilities ($477 000), from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund ($600 000) and the Government of Austria ($198 200) for a total of $1.375 million for the implementation of the above three emergency projects.

The three projects were implemented in close synergy under the technical guidance of FAO, which was assigned as Agriculture Cluster lead agency by the UN community. The activities of the projects were:

- Distribution of time-critical livestock inputs such as 2 300 MT of concentrate animal feed pellets, 13 MT of milk powder for newborn animals and veterinary drugs to 2 614 most vulnerable Dzud-affected herder families;
detailed needs assessment for the livestock sector and analysis of the recovery requirements to support the preparation of a medium-term rehabilitation programme for livestock-based livelihoods of the Dzud-affected herder families with elements of disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

Implementation of the three projects achieved the objectives and met the government request. Local authorities expressed their appreciation and gratitude in the form of appreciation letters and certificates that the FAO-led projects reached the most vulnerable herder households and delivered desperately needed high quality livestock inputs. The aid was sufficient for feeding weak adult animals and suckling newborns, and also gave people a strong psychological boost and a belief in the future.

The project’s effectiveness was high as a result of cooperation with local governments. Working groups were established with the involvement of local civil organizations on the selection of project beneficiaries under external monitors and using the primary lists of beneficiaries discussed at the Soum Households Livelihood Support Council and approved by the relevant soum governors. The impact assessment of FAO emergency programmes in Mongolia, conducted in May-June, showed that the herding families in the seven provinces had a survival rate of nearly 90 percent among remaining adult animals by May 2010.

The project TCP/MON/3301 was approved with no-cost extension in November 2010 up to 31 December 2011 to continue support to the Government of Mongolia towards a medium-term rehabilitation programme of livestock-based livelihoods of the Dzud-affected herder families, including elements of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, as originally planned in the project document. An important component of this programme is on winter preparedness through the establishment of herder community based fodder reserves.

2.8 Technical Assistance Under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the People’s Republic of China in Support of the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) in Mongolia (GCP/MON/004/CPR)

The Tripartite Agreement for the implementation of the South-South Cooperation in support of the NPFS of Mongolia was signed between the governments of PR. China and Mongolia, and the FAO on 11 January 2010. The Project Agreement was signed between the Government of Mongolia and the FAO in March 2010 for supplying assistance for the execution of GCP/MON/004/CPR project Technical Assistance Under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Initiative with the People’s Republic of China in Support of the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) in Mongolia with total fund of $1 379 872.

Opening Ceremony of the Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the People’s Republic of China in support of the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) in Mongolia

Technical assistance under the South-South Cooperation programme is intended to support the implementation of the NPFS and is aimed at enhancing agricultural production in support of national and household food security in the country. Expertise from China will be fielded from May 2010 to May 2012. The main beneficiaries of the South-South Cooperation programme are small farmers and consumers. Farmers will be able to
intensify production, produce off-season and ensure a more regular year-round supply to the market.

The fielding of seven experts and 15 technicians is expected to result in enhanced capacity of national planners, research staff, agricultural officers and farmers to contribute to increased agricultural production and food security in the country, through specific farm-level activities in line with the agricultural priority areas of Mongolia as outlined in the NPFS.

2.9 Capacity building and institutional development for participatory natural resources management and conservation in forest areas of Mongolia (GCP/MON/002/NET)

The participatory forest management (PFM) project Capacity building and institutional development for participatory natural resources management and conservation in forest areas of Mongolia with a total fund of $4.68 million, a bilateral project between the Netherlands and Mongolian Governments, is being implemented by FAO over a five year period, from February 2007 to January 2012. It follows on from a previous FAO project, Support to the development of participatory forest management that laid the groundwork for the present project by elaborating a concept for the implementation of participatory forestry in the country.

Progress by end of 2010: The project has systematically identified and is working to put in place the key building blocks needed to conceptualise and operationalize PFM in Mongolia’s unique context. These building blocks include:

- the key changes needed to create a fully enabling regulatory framework for PFM;
- field modalities to develop fully functioning FUGs;
- institutional and organizational arrangements for the Forestry Agency to manage a national PFM programme;
- capacity-building needs for all stakeholders to plan for and implement a national PFM programme;
- a monitoring and evaluation system for PFM nationwide.

Overall, these are substantial achievements, although it should be noted that they must be considered fragile and totally dependent on the presence of the project to maintain focus and momentum. It should also be remembered that there is still a long way to go. The 12 pilot FUGs have just moved into the foundation phase, when there will be an opportunity to begin harvesting limited forest products (NTFPs, dead wood and thinning). If this goes well, then long-term use rights can be

The first group of 14 Chinese experts and technicians, fielded since May 2010, have done remarkable work of introducing the technologies of producing corn for animal feed, construction of winter greenhouses, artificial insemination and technical assistance on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system. The activities of individual experts or technicians are viewed as micro-projects with specific outcomes and outputs expected at the participating units – companies and organizations of the host government. The SSC Chinese team have developed the work, procurement and training plans of the micro-projects in full consultation with the host government, and they are working towards successful implementation of the South-South Cooperation in Mongolia.
granted. However, the foundation phase, which lasts three years, will not be completed during the life of the project.

In spite of the encouraging progress, there are still some constraints to fulfilling the potential of PFM to achieve sustainable forest management and contribute to livelihood improvement. There is some internal resistance to allowing FUGs to harvest commercial timber. Until FUGs are able to harvest and sell valuable forest products, particularly commercial timber, they will not be able to derive substantial benefits from their forest management. If this fails to materialize, it is likely that FUG members will lose interest in PFM with the very real danger that uncontrolled forest harvesting could again occur.

It is fair to say that overall progress has been very good, in fact much better than expected in such a short period of time. This good progress can be attributed to several factors:

- the project is addressing a real need in Mongolia.
- there is good support at all levels in government and among the targeted rural populations.
- the project design has been appropriate to the political, economic and social situation in the country.
- the implementation has been efficient and effective.

2.10 Sustainable irrigation management project (TCP/MON/3203)

The TCP project Sustainable irrigation management with total fund of $482,000 is being implemented by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry from February 2010 through December 2011 with purpose to provide technical assistance to the government to address some major constraints identified in the Irrigation Rehabilitation and Establishment Programme 2007-2016, and to provide capacity building for key stakeholders in the sector. The expected outcomes from the two components are: (i) Government applies a sound and transparent process for the selection of irrigation schemes to be rehabilitated and newly established under the government’s Irrigation Rehabilitation and Establishment Programme; and (ii) water users and farmers in the project schemes implement participatory irrigation management and improved agricultural practices that increase water use efficiency and productivity of irrigated agriculture on a sustainable basis.

The outcome (immediate objective) of the project is improved sector capacity on sustainable irrigation management.

Output 1: MoFALI’s capacity on irrigation development planning improved through the introduction and adoption of a sound and transparent project identification and prioritization process for the Government Irrigation Rehabilitation and Establishment Programme.

Output 2: Advanced technologies and practices on irrigation management and irrigated agriculture introduced and piloted.

Output 3: Water User Associations (WUAs) established and empowered.

In the first year of implementation, series of trainings on irrigated agriculture and participatory irrigation management are being conducted at different levels including farmers, water users associations members, managers and government staff involved in water irrigation sector policy. Four Water Users Associations were established among farmers, that is the first pilot approach in Mongolia, as in the past, there was very limited water use in farming and a limited number of farmers involved in vegetable farming compared to herding. Trainings are focused on enhancing productivity of irrigated agriculture in the project schemes by building capacity of farmers in improved agricultural practices including training in improved cropping practices, conservation agriculture, crop rotation, diversification, farm planning, marketing and processing of produce. Demonstration plots are used to introduce best agronomic and irrigation/drainage practices to farmers. A participatory and practical approach was introduced in the form of Farmer Field Schools, which were established around the demonstration plots.
2.11 Technical assistance to collect basic agricultural statistics through the population census (TCP/MON/3204)

The TCP project Technical assistance to collect basic agricultural statistics through the population census with total fund of $183,000 project is assisting the Government in taking the first steps towards the implementation the 2011 Mongolia Census of Agriculture (2011 MCA). Running from November 2009 through July 2011, it has strongly coordinated activities with the 2010 Population and Housing Census of Mongolia and was based at the National Statistics Office. The immediate beneficiaries of the project are the National Statistical Office and the Statistical Bureaus in the aimags (provinces), giving them a paramount tool to plan and develop the 2011 MCA. Their statistical personnel will enhance their professional skills through on-the-job training.

As an outcome, the project will prepare the ground for a scientific planning of the agricultural census and surveys, and create the capacity to undertake, collect and process agricultural data in a methodologically sound fashion. The project will establish a unique identification of all households in the country for purposes of the census of population and the census of agriculture and surveys. The project has the following outputs:

Output 1. A reliable database on agricultural holdings, comprising demographic and structural agricultural data, that will serve as basis for planning of further agricultural censuses and surveys.

Output 2. A publication on key information on the structure of agriculture in the country, analyzed by gender, before the census of agriculture by crossing variables from the population census and the agricultural-related data.

Output 3. Build capacity of staff of NSO and aimag level statistical office through on-the-job training for collecting and processing agricultural data in a methodologically sound manner. Organize a course on Sampling Theory and techniques to follow the project.

2.12 Enhancing food and nutrition security for vulnerable segments of the population of Mongolia through capacity building in small-scale vegetable production (GCP/MON/006/EC)

The EC funded GCP project started from October 2010 and to continue till July 2013 with a total fund of $1,225,805 is designed to enhance food and nutrition security for the poorest and the most vulnerable sections of Mongolian farmers through assisting government’s initiatives in building institutional and technical capacity of these farmers to grow and increase production. It also aims to increase productivity for a range of vegetable crops by using improved technologies that allow sustainable utilization of natural resources in a participatory manner with social management. The expected results are:

- Enhanced knowledge of 8,000 vegetable growers (2,000 direct beneficiaries plus 6,000 indirect beneficiaries) to introduce and adopt environmentally sustainable technologies for increasing the production of vegetables based on good agricultural and safe food practices using a participatory approach and concepts of social management.

- Aggregate production and consumption of vegetables will be increased by involving 1.3 percent of the farmers of the country introducing climate-resilient and safe farming practices, such as crop diversification, new production systems, increased water-use efficiency, improved greenhouse structures, introducing inter-cropping, and integrated farming systems, combined with nutrition education activities.

- Increased community awareness of the use of innovative and safe technologies in increasing the production and productivity of vegetable crops.

- Enhanced local and national government linkages and ownership of project outcomes, including lessons learnt on processes and interventions that have improved food security and nutrition at community, local and national levels, documented
and disseminated and fed into the government policy framework.

The inception workshop of the project was conducted in mid-October in collaboration with the Technical Officers from HQ and RAP. Over the last three months, extensive field surveys have been conducted by the national CTA with national consultants to identify project work plan and baseline surveys in major technical areas.
Success stories

1. Increasing the supply of dairy products to urban centres in Mongolia by reducing post-harvest losses and restocking (GCSP/MON/001/JPN)

The GCSP/MON/001/JPN project Increasing the supply of dairy products to urban centres in Mongolia by reducing post-harvest losses and restocking with total fund of $1.96 million was funded by the Governments of Mongolia and Japan, under the Kennedy Round facility, and executed by the FAO under its global Special Programme for Food Security and implemented during 2005-2007 to rebuild the dairy industry in Mongolia.

By the end of the two-year project in 2006, milk was being collected from 1 500 herding and farming households that are benefiting from the enhanced nutrition, regular incomes and rural jobs that milk provides as nature’s most complete food. Quantities produced and collected had increased five-fold to a total of 12 million litres over the 2003 base year. More than 40 000 school children received fresh milk from distribution schemes established by the project. The number of dairy industry partners was expected to increase to 200 000 in 2007; twenty new dairy products were produced, tested and launched in urban markets, and 800 dairy cows were involved in a genetic improvement (re-stocking) scheme. Mongolia is on its way to self-sufficiency and food security in milk and dairy products. In 2003, the country was importing nearly all of its processed milk at a huge cost. Now, a great part of consumer needs can be met in coming years through domestic production. The volumes collected by milk processors were set to increase five-fold in 2006 compared to 2003, to about 15 million litres.

In long-term impact, the project was able to show the government and other stakeholders that milk can be produced, collected, processed and marketed to replace imported milk powder to the benefit of thousands of herders and milk producers. This has convinced Government to invest heavily in sustainably developing the dairy sector. During the project lifetime, a new National Dairy Programme was approved by the government in October 2006. The three main project intervention areas of: (i) milk production enhancement, (ii) milk marketing enhancement and (iii) dairy training/capacity building had been mainstreamed into the new National Dairy Programme. During 2008-2009, processing facilities to produce fresh pasteurized milk, yogurt and other dairy products were built in 16 rural provinces allowing milk to be collected from 700 farmers and herders in remote areas. The building and installation was carried out by national technical staff that were trained, and interventions piloted successfully through the FAO-implemented Dairy Project.

Brian Dugdill, the chief technical advisor of the project was recognized with an award from the president of the country and a letter of commendation from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for his unique contribution to development in Mongolia. He also received the B.R. Sen Award from FAO in 2007 for his outstanding contributions towards the goal of improving food security and helping countries reduce poverty.

For the first time, Mongolia’s President H.E. Ts. Elbegdorg, in his New Year 2011 speech, raised a toast with a glass of milk, declaring that milk was always sacred for Mongolians and he will be supporting the tradition of using dairy products in everyday life.
2. Improved meat hygiene and commercial meat processing (TCP/MON/3105 Phase I and TCP/MON/3206 Phase II)

In June 2008, the Government and the private sector, though the Mongolian Meat Association (MMA), requested technical assistance and limited inputs from FAO to fill the meat technology and training gaps by establishing a national Meat Training and Service Centre (MTSC) at the Food Technology College (FTC) in Ulaanbaatar. Assistance was also requested to set up the four Soum-level meat enterprises. FAO responded to the request by providing assistance under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme for $387,000. The programme was implemented in two phases (June 2008 to 30 December 2009 and January to June 2010) because of delays caused by the long and harsh winters in Mongolia.

The objective of the assistance was to make meat available as an affordable food item in the diets of the Mongolian people and improve the commercialization of processed meat products for domestic consumption and for export. The project achieved all of the planned results, including:

- Four soum-level enterprises were established for small-scale animal slaughter and meat processing, each one has created 4 full time jobs;
- Tailored, vocational training modules were developed with substantial training materials, two textbooks and ten training manuals, developed and published in Mongolian, tested and introduced for transferring improved meat technologies and control systems to the commercial meat sector and 70 meat operators and inspectors trained;
- Trainers’ training programme completed for 20 subject matter specialists and technicians, who will form the core meat training and service team;
- A final project workshop has held on 30 September 2010 to share the results of the project, including two national television programmes which promoted the success of the project. Feedback from participants highlighted that the practical capacity development activities of the project provided a high level of benefit for SME stakeholders.

In addition to the above results the project had other successes:

- Establishment of a Meat Training and Service Centre at the Food Technology College in Ulaanbaatar, renovated, equipped and made fully functional as a national vocational training facility, used by full-time college students attending general food and catering industry certificate and diploma courses;
- One of the major innovations of the project was to link up with and, using TCP resources, leverage a long term Technical Advisor from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) under the GTZ Integrated Experts Programme – A technical expert was selected by FAO/GTZ and recruited by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MoFALI) of Mongolia with a topping up from GTZ for a two year period. The expert is based at the Meat Training and Service Centre at the FTC and also at the MoFALI in Ulaanbaatar;
- In each of the four soum-level meat processing/abattoir enterprises established under the project four new full time jobs are reported as being created;
- Successful public-private partnership models have been established under the project – both for the training design and delivery and also the set up and operation of the four soum-level activities;
Meat processing equipment was designed and manufactured locally in order to enhance project sustainability;

High level of benefit for women under the capacity development activities (77%);

Based on the success of the project the Government of Italy was attracted to support a follow on initiative on “Quality meat for Consumers”, valued at US$520 000 (GCP/MON/007/ITA).

The project was coordinated by MoFALI, which appointed a senior, experienced national project coordinator. A participatory approach was adopted to ensure the widest possible involvement of the main beneficiaries and supporting agencies.

3. Mongolian milk for health and wealth

When a country makes the dramatic shift from a state-run economy to one driven by market forces, the transformation is often jarring. Jobs can disappear, populations become displaced and entire industries collapse.

During the 1990s, Mongolia underwent such a shift. Many of the changes were painful, and one industry that was nearly destroyed was the dairy industry. That spelled disaster for two reasons. First, Mongolia is a nation of herders and farmers; 42 percent of its people earn their living in this manner, and many of the country’s 2.6 million population depend upon milk and dairy production for their livelihoods. “Milk is sacred in Mongolia,” says Dendev Terbishdagva, Minister of Food and Agriculture. Second, lack of dairy products, and milk in particular, contributed to under-nutrition among 25 percent of the country’s children, and a drop in nutrition among a growing population of vulnerable, low-income people.

Fortunately, FAO was ready to help. In partnership with the governments of Mongolia and Japan, FAO launched a project entitled Increasing the supply of dairy products to urban centres in Mongolia by reducing post-harvest losses and restocking. That’s a complex name for a simple idea – rebuild the Mongolian dairy industry.

With $800 000 in funding from partners for modern dairy equipment, and $350 000 from FAO, rebuilding is underway. The total project budget of some $2 million permits crucial capacity building and training as well as the purchase of equipment.

The focus of this multi-faceted project is the Milk Marketing Enhancement Programme. With public and private partners, the programme has built 16 model units demonstrating all aspects of this vertically-integrated industry – from dairy cow breeding to dairy sales centres. Five dairies in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, collect milk from 1 500 rural and nomadic families, then safely transport and sell it in cities. In 2006, a model “One-Stop Dairy Sales Centre” was opened in Ulaanbaatar.

These five dairies also supply meals to those who need it most: children. Over 80 percent of the meals in a school nutrition programme in Ulaanbaatar for children in grades 1 and 2 (aged five to seven) come from these dairies. The school meals programme is reaching 110 000 children across the country; the government is adding grades 3 and 4 in 2007 reaching 1 870 000 students in all.

Learning is also essential for those working in the dairy industry, and so with help from FAO, in 2005 the government established the National Dairy Training Centre on the Food Technology Campus in Ulaanbaatar to improve knowledge and skills among dairy workers.
Consumers are also important, and so a modern marketing campaign was launched to promote domestic milk. It's slogan is Mongolian milk for health and wealth. The message is clear: drinking Mongolian milk makes children healthy, and Mongolian farmers and herders wealthier. More than 20 new Mongolian milk and dairy products were launched on to urban markets in 2006.

As the industry rebuilds and continues to grow, dairy producers expect to begin exporting. Market economies require competition, and dairy production is one area in which Mongolians can succeed. Consumers around the world are increasingly demanding natural, safe products. With hardly any pesticides or animal drugs, and no milk-stimulating hormones, Mongolian dairy farmers have products consumers want.

With help from Japan, FAO and partners, Mongolia is once again a land of milk, and one day maybe honey too.

4. A model community forester from Mongolia

Few people have done more to turn Mongolia green, and give people jobs in the process, than Tsenduren Deleg.

Mongolia is known for its broad expanse of steppes, where herders roam in a struggle for survival.

Fifty seven years ago, Tsenduren Deleg was born to one such herdsman. She knows how hard life can be on the great plains, where the harsh dry climate can make finding food, especially fruits and vegetables, a challenge.

Tsenduren’s father was a popular man in his community, and so he was selected to represent them in parliament. As a representative he had the means to provide his daughter with an education. Tsenduren chose to attend the Agricultural University and study forest engineering because, she says, “I wanted to be close to nature. I feel peaceful and serene when I am in the forest.”

Only about 10 percent of Mongolia, however, was forested. Without forests to serve as watersheds, the land was not fertile enough for people to grow the fruits and vegetables they needed for a healthy diet.

So, Tsenduren Deleg, now working as a government forestry official, established the first angiosperm (leaf) tree nurseries in Mongolia. Each year, her nurseries are responsible for planting 300 000 aspen and 250 000 elm trees, along with 30 000 sea buckthorn and blueberry plants.

Before she founded her nurseries, people would have to journey to the forests and cut saplings to bring back if they wanted to plant trees on their land. That could be difficult or impossible for many people.

Not only did her nurseries contribute to the greening of Mongolia, which led to people improving their diets and becoming healthier, they provided jobs for the unemployed.

About ten years ago, Mongolia shifted to a market economy. Government cut backs meant Tsenduren Deleg had to enter the private sector.

She started a successful fruit and vegetable plantation, once again hiring unemployed people as workers. And as a private citizen she still contributed to regenerating the country’s forests.

She and her workers volunteered to participate in the government’s Green belt programme, planting nearly 30 000 sea buckthorn, elm and aspen trees in Khovd province. More than 22 tonnes of vegetables have been harvested from that green zone.

“We have a saying in Mongolia,” says Tsenduren Deleg, “that planting a single tree is the same as lighting a thousand candles for the Buddha. I'm proud to be leaving something for the next generation.”

Undoubtedly, Mongolia's next generation will be thankful for, and proud of, the vision, the efforts and the dedication of Tsenduren Deleg.
# Annex II

## List of selected projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
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<td>Rehabilitation of Fire-Stricken Areas</td>
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<td>Training on Pastoralism and Socio-Economic Development</td>
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<td>Processing of Crop Products in Khovd</td>
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<td>Capacity building and institutional development for participatory natural resources management and conservation in forest areas of Mongolia</td>
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<td>Improving fodder production, conservation and processing for intensified milk and meat production in the central region of Mongolia</td>
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<td>Input supply to vulnerable populations under ISFP</td>
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<td>Modernizing and upgrading the national animal breeding programme</td>
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<td>Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the People’s Republic of China in support of the National Food Security Programme (NFSP) in Mongolia</td>
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<td>Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security for Vulnerable Segments of the Population of Mongolia through Capacity Building in Small-Scale Vegetable Production</td>
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<td>-----</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avian and Human Influenza Control, Preparedness and Response</td>
<td>OSRO/MON/901/MON</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>130 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modernizing and upgrading the national animal breeding programme – Phase II of TCP/MON/3104</td>
<td>TCP/MON/3205</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>68 127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improved meat hygiene and commercial meat processing – Phase II of TCP/MON/3105</td>
<td>TCP/MON/3206</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>59 235</td>
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<td>Quality Meat for Consumers</td>
<td>GCP/MON/007/ITA</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>520 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAO Representation in Mongolia

FAO Representative residing in China (vacant)

Liaison office in Ulaanbaatar
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