



# The European Union and FAO Partnership

## *Partnering for sustainable rural development and global food and nutrition security*

The European Union is among FAO's most important partners through programmes implemented in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Near East and Latin America. Today the EU and FAO are engaged in close cooperation with a strengthened focus on the shared goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

### Aligning on policy dialogue and cooperation priorities

The main areas of cooperation under the FAO-EU partnership are:

- **Food and nutrition security**, which is at the heart of FAO's mandate and action, and a pillar of the EU's approach to sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- **Agriculture combined with social protection and resilience-building**, as an engine for rural employment and growth in rural areas, and a contribution to addressing the root causes of migration.
- **Climate-smart agriculture, forestry and fisheries** for the sustainable management of natural resources and conservation of biodiversity.
- **Food safety and reduction of food waste** in the context of a circular economy.
- **Agricultural research and innovation** at the service of sustainable rural and agri-business development.
- **Statistical cooperation and information exchange** for shaping sound policies, with a special emphasis on developing countries.

### Improved global governance for hunger reduction

The EU-FAO Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme improves the way in which the global community works together to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is linking the EU development agenda with FAO's key strategic objectives on food security and nutrition. The programme is helping to strengthen governance food security and nutrition by supporting the 'renewal' of the global Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and linking it with other global processes such as the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition. It engages with a very wide range of partners and actively supports and works with regional organizations such as Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGTs) are an excellent example of how the CFS has helped countries adopt consensual policy guidance which is subsequently being translated into concrete actions at the country level.

The Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme also improves access to innovative tools, quality information and analyses in order to improve the evidence base for policy decisions and to link social protection, agriculture, food security and nutrition (for example the Women's Dietary Diversity Indicator, the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), and Resilience Impact Measurement and Analysis).

The programme significantly contributes to improving knowledge and capacities in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, resilience, social protection and sustainable crop production intensification with the goal of improving food security outcomes. The NEPAD-CAADP Nutrition Initiative and the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards are two such outcomes.

#### CONTACT

FAO Liaison Office with the European Union and Belgium  
Boulevard Simon Bolivar 30  
Tel.: +32-2-2040740  
E-mail: FAO-LOB@fao.org

## FIRST: an innovative partnership for food security and nutrition

The Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation programme, known as FIRST, aims to strengthen the enabling environment for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture by providing assistance to 20 countries and subregional organizations in related fields. The concept is innovative, and the EU, FAO and recipient countries are actively working together to provide the appropriate policy support. The FIRST Policy Assistance Mechanism adds value to the European Commission's efforts and investments to improve food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in selected priority countries and provides a mechanism for expanding the collaboration at the global level.

## INFORMED: support for decision-making

There are 800 million people in the world suffering from chronic hunger. The number of food crises is increasing, with impacts on the food security status of the most vulnerable communities. The concept of resilience has emerged as a viable framework to recurrent and protracted crises, by integrating humanitarian and long-term development initiatives. Given the complexity of resilience dynamics, the Information for Nutrition Food Security and Resilience for Decision-Making Programme, INFORMED, aims to provide technical, analytical and capacity development support to regional institutions and national governments in food and nutrition security and resilience analysis for policy and programming design purposes. Countries are provided with access to quality data and information as well as tools such as the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) in support of policy-making.

## New tools in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease

The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), constantly strives for innovation for delivery at the frontline of disease management. With financial support from the EU, the programme seeks to improve countries' preparedness for an incursion of this livestock disease, which has devastating socio-economic impacts. EuFMD also works to build capacity for the sustainable control of FMD in countries in the European neighbourhood that are not free of the disease. Through FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health

(OIE), it works with global partners to support the progressive control of FMD worldwide.

Working with over 50 countries, the Commission recognizes the growing need among central and local veterinary services for training in FMD preparedness and control. New online training courses and webinars have been added to the Commission's existing repertoire of face-to-face training. These new tools, now available in seven languages, are equipping countries to cascade appropriate training to much larger audiences and connecting FMD experts to field veterinarians at the frontline of disease control. Thousands of users are now registered with the Commission's e-learning platform. Alongside its training programme, the EuFMD operates a Fund for Applied Research, organizes the world's largest scientific and technical conference on FMD, produces monthly updates on the global situation, provides expert scientific advice to its membership and remains ready to respond to a disease emergency, should it occur.

## Action against desertification

Action Against Desertification is an EU initiative for ACP States. It promotes sustainable land management and restoration of drylands and degraded lands in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions. The programme is implemented by FAO and partners using the 10th EDF funding under intra-ACP financing modalities and builds on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel flagship Initiative to combat land degradation and desertification. The large-scale restoration of drylands across Africa is being prepared by scaling up an approach already tested in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger. This approach ensures communities are at the heart of restoration efforts and it focuses on their needs for useful native forest and fodder plant species.

## Supporting the Peruvian *veedores* in community forest management

The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme is working in 35 countries to improve forest governance and promote the legal production and use of timber.

Peru's tropical forest area is one of the most important sources of biodiversity in the world. A national forest law passed in 2011 foresees the provision of greater support for community territorial monitoring – a mechanism known as the *Veeduría Forestal Comunitaria* (VFC).

The VFC aims to strengthen indigenous peoples' ability to manage forest resources, generate benefits from goods and services that forests provide and, ultimately, to improve protection of forest resources. The FLEGT programme is supporting the *veedores* – indigenous leaders whose are custodians of the forest – through the indigenous organization CODEPISAM (Coordination of Development and Defence for Indigenous San Martin People), comprising eight federations of the Awajun, Kechwas and Shawi peoples. With financial and technical support from the EU programme, the *veedores* are being trained by the local NGO, CEDISA, as well as OSINFOR, a governmental organization that manages plant and animal resources.

*Project: Financed with intra-ACP funds and implemented in support of the EU Action Plan on FLEGT*





©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

## Assessing the impact of research on EU agriculture

What factors enable, foster or limit the effectiveness of scientific research on agriculture and how do research-based innovations reach farmers? The collaborative research project IMPRESA has been set up to assess the economic, environmental and social impacts of research on European agricultural and food systems. By doing so it contributes to more informed decisions concerning future research programmes in EU Member States. It is supported by the EU and implemented by a consortium of European universities and research institutes together with FAO. It takes stock of current research activities across Europe, identifies key issues on measuring research impact and analyses public and private expenditures on scientific research in agriculture.

## Building capacity for agricultural innovation in the tropics

Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) is a partnership between FAO and AGRINATURA-EEIG, benefiting from EU financial support. CDAIS works in support of the Tropical Agriculture Platform set up in 2012 at the initiative of the G20 to promote agricultural innovation in tropical countries, with a particular focus on small- and medium-scale producers and enterprises in the agribusiness sector. It aims to establish a mechanism that promotes, coordinates and evaluates capacity development activities to strengthen demand-oriented agricultural innovation systems for the purpose of driving sustainable agricultural growth.

CDAIS is helping tropical countries create more productive and sustainable agricultural sectors by promoting the development of national capacities in agricultural innovation. Activities are under way in Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Rwanda. In these countries, key partners from public institutions, the private sector, farmers' organizations and civil society are working together to formulate national capacity development plans based on the needs of small-scale farmers, agri-businesses and consumers.

## Serbian agriculture – post-flood recovery

In May 2014, Serbia was struck by unprecedented rainfall and flooding. EU funds enabled assistance to be delivered to tens of thousands of vulnerable flood-affected farming families in 41 municipalities. By January 2016, the recovery programme had supplied 26 387 families with 2 600 tonnes of crop seed and fertilizer, 1 800 tonnes of animal feed, 2.2 million fruit-tree saplings, 1 400 head of livestock, 460 items

of farming equipment, 945 beehives and 856 greenhouses. An additional 8 000 farmers will receive assistance this year. In total, assistance will reach 144 000 people. In addition to direct assistance, capacity building is provided in disaster risk reduction and management. This EU-funded programme is considered the most valuable form of assistance delivered to Serbian farmers following the floods.

## Supporting food security clusters

FAO and WFP have been working together as part of the Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), with EU financial support since the cluster's creation in 2011. The Support Team provides guidance to country-level clusters, supporting capacity building and communication outreach with specific partners as well as the wider humanitarian community.

Since 2012, the EU has been supporting country-level food security coordination in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Chad and Bangladesh. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, EU support enabled FAO and WFP to merge agricultural, food and cash assistance under one single coordination framework and helped build national ownership of needs assessments and rapid response mechanisms. In Chad, it allowed FAO and WFP to maintain a high level of support to the government-led food security response to the chronic crisis, and in Bangladesh, to co-lead a preparedness cluster, building national capacities for early warning, mapping, rapid assessment and early response.

The EU also supported the resilience project in the Horn of Africa, along the border between Kenya and Uganda, helping cross-border pastoralist communities to react to natural disasters such as drought and to control transboundary livestock diseases. The project also supported the process of peace negotiations between border communities involved in livestock farming and supported capacity building through Pastoralist Field Schools as well as rehabilitation of cross-border livestock trade.

## EU measures to combat illegal fishing

The EU is contributing to the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing through improved global fisheries governance. It is one of the first parties to have deposited its instrument of accession to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (PMSA) and is encouraging others to ratify the PMSA to enable its entry into force in 2016 – by which time 25 countries must have ratified the agreement.



©FAO

## Contribution to rebuild the fisheries sector in Somalia

Sustainable fisheries can serve a key role in tackling food insecurity and malnutrition, generating rural employment and building resilience of fishing communities. The EU, in collaboration with other partners, is contributing to rebuild the fisheries sector, and facilitate the deployment of fish-aggregating devices (FADs) along the Somali coast, to facilitate access to fish for the small-scale fishermen, avoiding long distance travel in unsafe boats. The FADs initiative is at the heart of efforts to boost coastal livelihoods, strengthen resilience and tackle the underlying causes of piracy and illegal fishing. The Programme is crucial for creating employment along the fisheries food chain in Somalia's piracy-affected areas. European Union Naval Forces – with a regional role in combating piracy and monitoring fisheries – also collaborates by providing protection and logistical support for vessels that deploy the fish-aggregating devices.

## SmartFish activities in Madagascar

In Madagascar, the fish production in rice fields is estimated to be 3 000 to 5 000 tonnes per year, with a potential to increase to 50 000 tonnes in 30 years time. This would signify a major step forward in poverty reduction and support to food and nutrition security in remote rural areas. The Indian Ocean Commission's SmartFish Programme funded by the UE and co-implemented by FAO is an innovative programme designed to introduce theoretical and practical training in rice-fish farming. It specifically targets rural youth at a middle

*"Agriculture and food security are the entry points for growth and development strategies in many countries."*

**José Graziano da Silva,  
FAO Director-General**

school level, given that 60 percent leave the education system before reaching high school. Voluntary school educators are trained by professionals to teach their pupils techniques in this new field of activities. At the end of 2016, 17 000 children in four regions (Itasy, Vakinankaratra, Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra) should be trained, which will have a positive mid-term impact on the immediate stocking of rice-fields. This method of farming requires little investment from farmers and holds true potential for restoring soil fertility and increasing people's access to animal protein.

## The Global Soil Partnership

*From well-meaning intentions to concrete actions*

Despite being the prime basis for agricultural production and food security and a provider of essential ecosystem services – including potential contributions to climate change adaptation and mitigation – soils have been a neglected natural resource. The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Initiative is key to increasing the general understanding of the important role played by soils. The Initiative heads two major awareness-raising platforms: the International Year of Soils (celebrated in 2015) and World Soil Day, celebrated 5 December each year. GSP also supports the development of Action Plans to address soil conservation and sustainable management.

In addition to supporting the International Year of Soils in 2015, the EU supports GSP activities related to the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, a key advisory body, the Revised World Soil Charter, capacity development in digital soil mapping, and preparation of the first edition of the State of the World's Soil Resources report.

