Throughout its 30 years of support to Burundi, FAO has focused on policy and strategy development; technical support for agricultural projects; the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics and information; and agricultural emergency assistance. FAO’s interventions take gender into account and aim to improve resilience to food crises by transforming agriculture into a highly productive and income-generating sector of the economy.

**Food security and climate change**

FAO combines the promotion of food security with the fight against climate change through its support of climate resilient production systems, integrated landscape management and the promotion of sustainable food value chains. The Organization also works together with other parties in the fight against the degradation of natural resources, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition.

FAO has recently provided support to communities near Lake Tanganyika, in the south of the country, which, in 2015, were affected by torrential rains that destroyed their fishing infrastructure. Members of the affected communities have been trained in sanitary conditions, hygiene in fish markets, management techniques, fish processing and fish conservation. FAO also provided them with fishing equipment to recommence their activities.

**“Good nutrition is one of the best sources of economic growth, and it contributes to peace and stability”**

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

**Matching FAO’s expertise to Burundi’s development priorities**

FAO’s assistance in Burundi is defined by the 2012-2018 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on four strategic priorities:

- Professionalization and intensification of the agriculture sector
- Sustainable natural resource management
- Management and use of agricultural information and statistics
- Support to strategic planning and coordination of the agriculture sector

The CPF is directly aligned with the country’s National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP), the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the UN Development Assistance Framework.
Supporting employment for rural youth

FAO is supporting the fight against unemployment in Burundi, in particular by strengthening employment opportunities for unemployed rural youth and by increasing the nutritional capacities of vulnerable rural households. For example, in the north of the country, some 25 unemployed youths were provided with 300 chickens each, allowing them to earn an income from their henhouses. These young people no longer rely on FAO for their poultry feed, but instead create employment for others.

Coping with crises

Burundi’s political and security crises, aggravated by the socio-economic crisis that has prevailed for more than two years, have forced more than 400,000 people to flee to neighbouring countries. Those who return find it difficult to rebuild their livelihoods. Structural challenges such as population growth, soil poverty and the effects of climate change, increase the population’s vulnerability. More than half of the population is moderately or severely food insecure. FAO’s mission is to support thousands of people made vulnerable by these crises by improving their resilience to food shocks by making the agriculture sector more productive and profitable.

Increasing the resilience of communities

FAO has been assisting farmers to join micro-credit groups whose aim is to promote self-development through the provision of credit to its members. Additionally, farmers employed in the reconstruction of infrastructure have been able to use their earnings to start other development initiatives, including livestock farming. In this way, these communities have become less dependent on assistance.

Reducing food insecurity through the provision of information

FAO supports the Burundian Government in managing a reliable and publicly accessible statistical database, which is updated regularly. The data provided serve as an essential decision-making tool, particularly with regard to risk reduction and management of disasters and food emergencies. FAO also applies the Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification Framework (also known as the IPC scale) to Burundi. By complementing national food security data, this widely used tool enables resilience to be significantly strengthened. Linked to this mechanism is a Community-Based Early Warning Bulletin (SCAP), which is regularly updated and disseminated.

Coordinating multiple stakeholders

FAO plays a key role in coordinating multiple stakeholders in the country. For example, the Organization uses its decentralized offices to provide supervision in support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock’s efforts to combat food insecurity.

Through its coordination role, FAO is providing support to the recovery of the agricultural sector by transferring knowledge and technologies and by carrying-out research into problems that arise in production processes. FAO’s assistance is aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector and farmers’ resilience through sustainable interventions.

Increasing agricultural output through technological innovations

FAO supports increased agricultural production through intensification, especially through the use of high-yielding seeds, the establishment of seed centres, hydro-agricultural development and improved land productivity. FAO supports the promotion of a market agricultural economy.

FAO is also active in supporting food availability and the fight against malnutrition through the extension of micro-gardens to counter the scarcity of arable land and through the planting of vegetables.

In addition to these initiatives, East Burundi has benefited from synergies produced by several parallel interventions coordinated by FAO. In particular, a multistakeholder programme is supporting more than 6,000 farmers who have adopted better farming practices, including fertilizer use, agroforestry, land erosion control and energy conservation through the use of improved stoves.

FAO has also encouraged actions aimed at increasing the productivity of livestock and agriculture farming. For example, by providing farmers with the capability to produce improved animal feed themselves. FAO has also been providing farmers with small livestock whose organic manure is used to increase agricultural productivity.

Supporting capacity building activities

FAO supports capacity building in diverse sectors, such as the promotion of community health and hygiene, trades, entrepreneurship and literacy, among others. These initiatives promote the diversification of jobs and incomes. Thirty beneficiaries recently received training under these initiatives enabling them to pass-on their knowledge to a further 270 people.