



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

CHINA AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

Over the past four decades, FAO and China have enjoyed a solid partnership covering a large number of the country's priority areas for food and agricultural development, including sustainable intensification of agricultural production, preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity, global health and poverty reduction. Over 400 FAO projects have benefited tens of millions of people across the country, with special attention given to smallholder farmers and vulnerable and poverty-stricken groups.

Increasing food production while protecting the environment

Cooperation between FAO and China has contributed to the gains made in economic growth and increased food production of the country, which accounts for 21 percent of the world's population and only 9 and 6 percent of its arable land and water resources, respectively.

To support sustainable intensification of agricultural production, FAO has promoted innovative interventions to bring greater value added to ongoing national initiatives. Novel practices, including but not limited to agroecological approaches, climate-smart agriculture, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, sustainable food value chains, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), biodiversity conservation and ICT and e-agriculture, will be mainstreamed. This will be achieved by means of policy advice and technical support, awareness raising, capacity building, institutional networking and pilot initiatives in the field.

The forestry sector will also be prioritized, with piloting of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in selected provinces so as to increase carbon storage and create carbon credits for trade.

Matching FAO's assistance to China's development priorities

China is now in its 13th Five-Year Development Period (2016- 2020), and FAO, together with the Government and a wide range of stakeholders in the country, has developed the **Country Programming Framework (CPF) for 2016-2020**. It sets out four priority areas:

- Fostering sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture development
- Reducing rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Promoting one-health approach for sustainable agricultural trade and improved public health
- Fostering regional and international agriculture cooperation

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Supporting China's poverty alleviation programme

China has made remarkable achievements in poverty reduction. According to China State Council's official release in 2016, the country has lifted 700 million people out of poverty over the past 30 years. In October 2015, the Chinese Government set the objective to eliminate rural poverty by 2020. This objective was

subsequently listed as an obligatory index in China's 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development.

Together with partners, FAO is designing programmes to support poverty reduction in China by bringing in its poverty reduction expertise such as empowering the

"For more than 40 years since China's reform and opening up, the country has developed considerably in terms of agriculture, poverty alleviation, agricultural science and technology, which can be used as reference for other developing countries."

Qu Dongyu
FAO Director-General

rural poor and their organizations, promoting decent rural employment and rural social protection. A number of countries have demonstrated significant interest in adapting China's experience to their national context. In that regard, FAO is mapping China's experience in poverty reduction with a view to sharing it with other countries.

Global knowledge transfer

China is a pioneer of FAO's South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme and remains a highly committed supporter, sharing knowledge and transferring its advanced technologies with other developing countries. In 2009, China donated USD 30 million to FAO through a Trust Fund to support the FAO-China SSC Programme (Phase I). In 2015, China and FAO signed a General Agreement providing for an additional USD 50 million Trust Fund in support of a second phase.

China's Belt and Road Initiative opens additional opportunities for SSC. In close consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, FAO, with the Government of China, developed an Umbrella Programme in the field of agriculture, which covers the areas of 1) inclusive value chain development for agricultural products; 2) supporting the introduction and development of innovations in e-agriculture; 3) control of transboundary animal and plant diseases and; and 4) sustainable management of natural resources, which includes protection of biodiversity, combating desertification and mitigation of climate change risks.

Fostering innovation and partnerships

Innovation is the driving force for achieving a world free from hunger and malnutrition. FAO China has established an Innovation Lab (AgLabCx) focusing on several issues including better connecting smallholder farmers to the market with Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), and reducing food loss and waste. The lab creates platforms for generating innovative ideas and assists in incubating the best of these. Through the lab, people are motivated to think out of the box, and to raise innovative and feasible plans with entrepreneurial thinking.

Innovation is more than technology. It is a complex process where multiple actors play different roles towards one common goal. FAO China is bringing governments, NGOs, foundations, institutions, academia, companies and other partners together to foster agricultural innovation and to create an environment that enables innovation in agriculture to flourish and generate solutions. For example, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation supported the FAO-Tsinghua Ag-LabCx on designing innovative solutions for the development of Hani Terrace in Honghe County of Yunnan Province, which has also received strong support from the local government. In addition, in 2018, GF Securities Co. Ltd. donated USD 1 million to FAO-China to support the implementation of an "SDG Villages" project. This promotes the "Internet + Agriculture + Finance" model in 16 poverty-stricken villages in China from 2019 to 2021.

Promoting the "One Health" approach

FAO promotes a "One Health" approach for sustainable agriculture development and trade and improved public health. The aim is to manage and reduce the impact of animal and plant diseases and other public health threats, especially Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), thus improving food safety and human health and nutrition.

FAO and its partners have been successfully conducting the China Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (CFETPV) through the "One Health" approach since October 2010. Since its inception, 178 graduates have conducted over 100 outbreak investigations and more than 162 epidemiological studies. Training sessions have benefited more than 13,000 participants engaged in national response to H7N9, peste des petits ruminants (PPR), African swine fever and other disease emergencies in the field. CFETPV has played an active role in promoting the innovative concept of animal disease prevention and control in China. It has also provided strong technical support for improving scientific based decision-making for animal disease prevention and control.