



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## GUYANA AND FAO

### BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AND FOOD SECURITY

A long history of collaboration between Guyana and FAO has served to promote sustainable agricultural systems and contribute to hunger and poverty alleviation in the country. Cooperation has increased since the re-opening of FAO's country office in 2009, with a growing emphasis on technical and policy assistance as well as capacity building, advocacy and knowledge exchange. Partnership building and resource mobilization are further features of cooperation today.



**Established in 1978, the FAO Representation in Guyana is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.**

In observance of this milestone, FAO partnered with the Government of Guyana in commemoration of World Food Day 2017. Under the theme, Changing the Future of Migration: Investing in Food Security and Rural Development, a food expo and exhibition was hosted in Linden (Region 10). A wide cross-section of stakeholders including smallholders, agro-processors, academia and other partners in the agriculture sector participated, including the President of Guyana.

#### Long-term food security strategy

FAO has provided technical assistance to support the development and implementation of the Government's ten-year Food and Nutrition Security Strategy and Action Plan for Guyana (2010-2020). Effects of climate change and other shocks, such as volatile international commodity prices, are adding to the urgency and importance of the Strategy and Plan, the aim of which is to ensure immediate access to food in emergencies and to support long-term hunger and poverty reduction initiatives.

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#### Matching FAO's expertise to Guyana's development priorities

FAO assistance in Guyana is currently shaped by the **2016-2019 Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, built on FAO's past experience in the country and taken into account FAO strategic objectives, regional priorities and initiatives and national, sub-regional and regional commitments. The CPF for Guyana centres on three priority areas:

- ➔ **Food and Nutrition Security**, supporting the Government and various Ministries to strengthen the governance framework and mechanism for food and nutrition security.
- ➔ **Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources**, climate change and resilience of livelihoods to disasters, enhancing capacities in natural resources management, strengthening national governance frameworks that foster sustainable natural resource management and promoting of innovative and gender sensitive approaches and practices for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM).
- ➔ **Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, hinterland and rural development**, focusing on strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable development in the aforementioned fields.

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF is closely aligned with national development priorities, as articulated in Guyana's **National Adaptation Strategy**, the **Green State Development Strategy (GSDS)** and the UN Multi Country Development Framework.



## Regional scope – country focus

Under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, since 1981 the Organization has delivered nearly 70 projects, including country-specific and regional interventions. The focus has been on capacity building, the formulation of legislation and policies, programme management and agricultural planning. Recent examples of the several regional projects involving Guyana are the Reduction of Post Harvest Losses Along the Food Chain in the CARICOM Subregion and FAO’s initiative Processing and Market Development of Cassava. Other regional interventions with a Guyana country focus include projects to promote the strengthening of small ruminant farming, disaster risk reduction, post state measures agreement and sustainable management of wildlife.

### International cooperation

FAO has forged strong partnerships for delivering technical assistance in Guyana together with international and regional institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In this respect, key partners include the UNCT, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), Conservation international, Partners of the Americas, Food for the Poor, Inter-American development bank (IDB), the Guyana Red+ Investment Fund (GRIF), Guyana Lands and Surveys, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Guyana (UG).

### Enhancing forest governance and trade in timber products

Through FAO’s African Caribbean and Pacific European Union-Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (ACP EU-FLEGT) Support Programme, the Organization has been supporting Guyana in improving forestry governance and building capacity. Among the results achieved to date are a draft Roadmap for Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) negotiation to enhance preparedness for negotiations on the VPA with the EU and a Communication Strategy.

## The state of food and agriculture in Rupununi

FAO supported a comprehensive study with Conservation International on the state of food and agriculture in Guyana’s Rupununi region using a food system approach. The recommendations of the study, the first of its kind at the subnational level are being used to guide agriculture development.

FAO conducted an assessment of the governance structure and coordination mechanism for food and nutrition security (FNS) in Guyana. This study, the first of its kind in the sub-region examined the legislative, policy and institutional frameworks for governance for FNS. The recommendations are used to guide programmes for the strengthening of governance.

## Improving agricultural market information

Improving the reliability, availability and dissemination of agricultural information, and more specifically market data, is a priority issue for Guyana. FAO provided technical assistance to develop a comprehensive Agriculture Market Information System with a view to stimulating domestic and regional trade in agricultural commodities and improving rural livelihoods.

“Addressing the impacts of climate change ... is a necessary step to a hunger-free world and sustainable future.”

**FAO Director-General**

Among the results achieved to date is a website showcasing the work and services provided by the New Guyana Marketing Corporation, whose staff have been trained in use of the FAO Agri-Market software. Information provided via the dedicated website should respond to the needs of farmers and agricultural traders requiring easy access to timely market information. Export, prices and crop production and forecasting modules of the Agricultural Market Information System have been completed and capacity building of personnel within the Ministry of Agriculture is enabling the effective implementation of a crop data system to support crop planning and production forecasting. Specific training activities have targeted extension officers, crop reporters and prices collectors.

FAO is also providing technical assistance to the Government in the preparation for implementation of an agricultural census, the last census being done in 1952.

## Mitigating effects of climate change

Guyana experiences extreme weather events, frequently resulting in serious flooding. At the other extreme, droughts caused by the effects of El Niño have had severe impacts on farmers and the agriculture sector overall.

### Managing disaster risks and building resilient livelihoods

FAO assisted the Government in the formulation of a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plan for the agriculture sector, including measures to improve national capacity for livelihood assessments. The Plan has been successfully completed and Ministry of Agriculture extension officers as well as other stakeholders have been trained using the FAO Livelihood Assessment Toolkit. The project included a full assessment of existing mechanisms for prevention, mitigation and preparedness as well as response and recovery in Guyana’s agriculture sector.