



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# SEYCHELLES AND FAO

## AN ENDURING PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

Since Seychelles joined the Organization in 1977, FAO has provided continuous technical assistance to the country. Interventions have comprised policy and programme formulation, including the development of a strong agricultural information base and a wide range of projects supporting effective management of scarce natural resources across the country's agriculture sector. Recent features of cooperation include capacity building for forest inventory, forest policy and agricultural land evaluation.

### Accelerating progress on food security and nutrition in SIDS

Geographic isolation or limited natural resources make Small Island Developing States (SIDS) vulnerable to natural disasters or dependent on imports. These result in a complex set of food security and nutrition challenges. In this context, Seychelles has benefited from the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), and the Regional Programme for Food Security and Nutrition (PRESAN), an ongoing project of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

### Performance in animal welfare

Following the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Gap Analysis recommendations, FAO has undertaken a "One health" initiative with a view to strengthen human and animal health. In Seychelles, dogs are reported to play a significant role in the epidemiology of leptospirosis, which is one of the main zoonotic diseases in the country. In order to manage the dog population, which currently constitutes a potential public health hazard, an adequate legislation and institutional capacity is needed. To this end, an FAO project has been implemented to improve the country's animal welfare legislation, and align it with the international standards.

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

The **2018-2021 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)** centres on the following three government priority areas to guide FAO's partnership and support with the Government of Seychelles:

- ➔ **Support to the governance and the development of legislative frameworks and institutional capacity in agriculture, fisheries and natural resources sectors for improved food security and nutrition**
- ➔ **Enhancement of agriculture and fisheries value chains**
- ➔ **Promotion of innovative and sustainable farming practices in the face of climate change**

Jointly formulated with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects priorities in key national development policies, in particular the 2015-2020 Seychelles National Agricultural Investment Plan (SNAIP), the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP), and the 2018-2021 Agriculture Comprehensive Plan to revive the agriculture sector as one of the most important pillars of the country's economy.



## Supporting the forestry sector

### Forest inventory

FAO is currently supporting the Government of Seychelles in developing and strengthening management frameworks for land, water and forestry to move towards a more sustainable agricultural production system and improved resilience to natural disasters caused by climate change. A technical cooperation project on "Capacity building for preparation and implementation of national forest inventory of Seychelles", managed by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change in conjunction with the Forestry Section and the Division of Biodiversity and Conservation Management was initiated in February 2019. The project expects to strengthen national capacity for implementing an integrated forest land and tree resources assessment, develop the capacity of the Forest Section in the area of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) analysis for mapping and monitoring purposes and to strengthen national capacity on field data collection and analysis. Results achieved to date include: strengthened capacity in land use class definition and the categorization and formulation of

a pilot design of the forest inventory; set up of the Earth survey and the development of its manual (first version); and the securitization of ICT hardware and software for the entire project.

"Small-island states are at the forefront in the fight against climate change."

**Qu Dongyu**  
FAO Director-General

### Forest policy

The Government of Seychelles has recognized the need to sustainably manage, regulate and control the use of forests. However, the country has faced several obstacles, namely a lack of comprehensive forestry policy and legislation, weak institutional capacity and limited information on forests' contribution to the economy and tourism. Given the situation, FAO has been requested to support the preparation of a new forestry policy and legislation as well as preparation of an action plan and road map for their implementation. The support is expected to contribute to the country's technical capacity needs through provision of training workshops and seminars, forest policy analysis, defining of priorities and participatory forest policy formulation. Moreover, it aims to enhance stakeholder participation in national forest programmes and contribute to assessment of forest legislation as well as assist with the monitoring of sustainable forest management.

## Agricultural investment planning

As a member of the African Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Seychelles is involved in initiatives designed to enhance food security and nutrition and increase regional integration and cross-border trade. In this context, Seychelles is among the recipient countries of the project "Support towards the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (2018-2020)". It is envisioned that the project will increase agricultural productivity and competitiveness, increase regional and international trade opportunities and improve the food security and nutrition situation in all SADC Member States.

In October 2019, FAO launched a project on sustainable bioenergy assessment and capacity development in Seychelles to support sustainable bioenergy development in the country. The initiative, which will operate until March 2020, is expected to build capacity on the use of bioenergy and food security, assess relevant bioenergy options at the national level and build a bioenergy roadmap for action.

## Agricultural land evaluation for sustainable land resources management

An FAO project is currently underway to identify land potential to support current and future food production and to understand the related constraints and opportunities to agricultural development in Seychelles. The capacity enhancement programme is designed to ensure that the land evaluation methods and results are managed properly by national partners to respond to future changes. In addition to spatially referenced maps showing current and potential agricultural land use, the land evaluation will provide information on socio-economic data, overlapping land uses, infrastructure, and other opportunities and constraints to agricultural development in the four agricultural regions across the islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue.

