



Tajikistan and FAO

Partnering to achieve sustainable development and food and nutrition security

Cooperation between Tajikistan and FAO has been ongoing since the country joined the Organization in 1995. FAO assistance was initially provided in the form of short-term emergency interventions in response to a locust outbreak and also to help the transition to stability after a period of civil war. More recently, cooperation has focused on rehabilitation and development interventions to build a sustainable agriculture sector and food and nutrition security.

Comprehensive agrarian reform for enhanced productivity

Despite its low level of productivity, agriculture remains a key sector for Tajikistan's economy. With 70 percent of the population living in rural areas, agricultural growth therefore has the potential to contribute significantly to poverty reduction.

In 2007, the Government launched a major reform programme to strengthen the country's agriculture sector. Objectives included boosting productivity and increasing resilience against external shocks. The scope of the programme was later broadened, resulting in the "Agrarian Reform Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan", which has been in place since 2012.

The 2012 Programme revolves around the institutional reform of agriculture-related ministries and agencies. It focuses on policy formulation and the creation of an environment that is conducive to increased private sector activity, while also stressing the importance of local government reform.

From the outset, FAO has been supporting the Government in planning and implementing the process. The Organization has also taken the lead within the Development Coordination Council, playing an active role in coordinating the various initiatives implemented by donor and development partners present in Tajikistan.

Matching FAO's expertise to Tajikistan's development

FAO assistance in Tajikistan is shaped by the recently signed **Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2016-2017**, which was jointly developed with the Government and in consultation with resource partners. The Framework provides three medium-term priority areas:

- **Sustainable food security, nutrition and food safety**, through institutional reforms, capacity building and support to the development and implementation of national food security policies and programmes
- **Sustainable management of natural resources and improved resilience to climate change**, with a clear emphasis on tackling land degradation as well as the application of a landscape and watershed management approach
- **Sustainable agricultural productivity and competitiveness**, with a focus on livestock production, health and crop production, among others

In addition to supporting FAO's corporate strategic objectives and regional priorities, the CPF is closely aligned with Tajikistan's national strategy documents, including the **Living Standards Improvement Strategy for 2013-2015**; the **National Development Strategy** and the **Food Security Programme**. It also supports the **Joint Country Partnership Strategy** (signed by 12 development partners in 2009) and the **UN Development Assistance Framework for Tajikistan 2016-2020**.

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Capacity development for food security and nutrition

FAO has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the analytical and technical capacities of national partners involved in reviewing and formulating national food and nutrition security policies as well as strategies and laws related to the country's agrarian reform. Gender issues have been addressed and measures taken to ensure an enabling institutional environment. Technical and managerial support is provided to value chain stakeholders, including farmers, processing companies and government institutions. The aim is to develop inclusive, efficient and sustainable agricultural value chains and to raise awareness of nutrition.

Policy assistance

Under a 5 million Euro project funded by the European Union, FAO is assisting the Government in the implementation of the Agrarian Reform Programme 2012-2020 by supporting institutional capacity development within the Ministry of Agriculture.

The resulting increase in knowledge and expertise in policy-making, financial and policy analysis, disease surveillance, data management and analysis as well as communication with stakeholders (from farmers to high government officials), should in turn lead to the development of more appropriate agriculture policies. Other improvements will include the establishment of constructive regulations and coherent incentives for effective management of Tajik agriculture.

Project: Strengthening Institutions and Capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and State Veterinary Inspection Service for Policy Formulation.

Natural resources and environment

The sustainable management of natural resources and strengthened resilience to climate change have been major features of FAO's cooperation with Tajikistan. Activities have been implemented to improve the conditions of the country's limited soil resources, to stop land degradation, and to address issues related to deforestation. To this end, FAO supports the strengthening of a policy-enabling environment, along with strategies and investment programmes. It is also helping to promote innovative and multi-sectoral approaches together with gender-sensitive practices and technologies in selected production landscapes.

Sustainable agricultural productivity and competitiveness

FAO is supporting Tajikistan in the development of sustainable livestock and dairy production, fisheries, the seed sector, organic and conservation agriculture, plant protection, integrated pest management, locust control and agricultural machinery.

Innovative and gender-responsive approaches and techniques are applied and special attention is always paid to strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the relevant government institutions, service providers and beneficiary communities.

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

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

Improved capacity for locust management

With funding from Japan (US\$5 million), a three-year FAO project is being implemented to improve locust management capacities in Tajikistan as well as in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

In addition to building national capacities, the project has been designed to foster regional cooperation. Experts will enjoy a regular exchange of information and will be involved in joint activities including cross-border surveys.

A regional training-of-trainers programme on locust management was developed, including practical guidelines on reducing the risks and potential negative impact of locust control operations on human health and the environment.

Project: Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia.

