The partnership between Indonesia and FAO began with the country’s membership of the Organization in 1948 and was strengthened with the opening of a country office in 1978. Over nearly 70 years, hundreds of FAO development and emergency programmes have successfully supported the country’s food and agriculture sector, including fisheries and forestry. Emphasis is placed on contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with particular attention paid to the primary beneficiaries, including smallholders, rural women, fishing communities and rural youth – all groups with a pivotal role in ensuring sustainable food and nutrition security for future generations.

**Responding to emerging pandemic threats**

The need to strengthen Indonesia’s capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to new or re-emerging public health threats has been underscored by the presence of persistent highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the country and the emergence of Ebola and the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Africa and the Near East.

Over the last ten years, the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), has worked closely with the Indonesian Government to develop the HPAI control and prevention capacities of around 3 000 animal health officers in 32 provinces. Building on this capacity, a new Emerging Pandemic Threat Programme (EPT 2) is being launched to detect, respond to and prevent newly emerging diseases of animal origin, which could threaten human health.

The Influenza Virus Monitoring (IVM) network and the IVM Online platform were developed with the Ministry of Agriculture for the purpose of monitoring HPAI and other emerging viruses.

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

FAO assistance in Indonesia is shaped by the 2016-2020 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on four priority areas:

- **Increased resilience of livelihoods to the effects of climate change, recurrent disasters and emerging pandemic threats**
- **Sustainable intensification of crop production and improved management of forests and fisheries resources**
- **Rural poverty reduction, more inclusive food systems and value chain development**
- **Improvements in the policy environment and strengthened partnerships in agriculture, fisheries and forestry for food and nutrition security**

The CPF is fully aligned with Indonesia’s National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) as well as the UN Partnership for Development Framework (UNPDF).
Boosting production with conservation agriculture

Climate change is threatening the already precarious food security situation of communities in Nusa Tenggara Timur and Nusa Tenggara Barat provinces in eastern Indonesia. Poor soil fertility and limited rainfall lead to low rice and maize productivity in these areas, where there is often only one harvest per year.

With funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO has established 264 Conservation Agriculture (CA) demonstration plots for strengthened community resilience. The plots are used to train farmer groups in the use of CA practices, such as the use of permanent planting holes, ridges and furrows. The groups comprise nearly 6,000 farmers across nine districts in the two provinces. In little time, average maize yields have more than doubled those achieved with traditional techniques, reaching 4.5 tonnes per hectare. Building on such successes, to date close to 600 additional farmers have chosen to adopt CA techniques at their own initiative.

Rice fish farming improves farmers’ income and nutrition

In collaboration with Indonesia’s Directorate General of Aquaculture, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO has supported the development of 50 hectares of a rice-fish farming, using a cluster approach. Areas targeted in this pilot project include Sleman District in Yogyakarta and Limapuluh Kota District in West Sumatra.

Implemented within the framework of FAO’s Regional Blue Growth Initiative for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture, the project has proved to be a success. It has resulted in increased rice yields and farmers’ incomes, as well as an improvement in the nutritional value of both healthy rice and fish harvests. As such, it could be referred to as a “triple-win” farming practice, as rice productivity and fish production have increased by 20 and 40 percent, respectively. Furthermore, the use of pesticides has been reduced to zero, while inorganic fertilizers use has declined drastically. As 30 percent of rice-fish farming operators are women, the role of rural women in ensuring food and nutrition security was also highlighted.

Rebuilding livelihoods for disaster-affected communities

As part of the country’s efforts to strengthen community livelihood resilience, FAO, UNDP and ILO have helped disaster-affected communities recover from several natural disasters, namely the Mentawai Islands tsunami, the Mount Merapi volcanic eruptions in Yogyakarta Province, the Mount Kelud eruption in Kediri District, and the Mount Sinabung eruption in Karo District.

Positive results were achieved as a result of a joint UN recovery initiative. In particular, 600 community members in Mentawai Islands have benefited from changing their source of livelihood to home gardening and cattle farming. Salak fruit farmer groups in Sleman District, Yogyakarta have managed to improve certification of their organic products, while similar initiatives are being replicated in Kediri and Karo with a focus on: i) promoting new sources of livelihood for relocated people in the areas affected by the Mount Sinabung eruption; and ii) strengthening livestock-based livelihoods for communities affected by the 2014 Mount Kelud eruption.

Promoting ecosystem services through a landscape approach to integrated pest management

A landscape approach to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was introduced in Java to support sustainable agricultural development, especially in rice farming systems. The programme has contributed to increase healthy rice production and economic benefits for 300 farmers in three provinces by decreasing the costs of external inputs, particularly synthetic chemical pesticides and inorganic fertilizers, for better ecosystem services.

As a result, farmers were able to manage their landscape and help prevent pest outbreaks through social engineering and regular pest observation.

“We need healthy soils to achieve our food security and nutrition goals, to fight climate change and to ensure overall sustainable development.”

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General