



Cabo Verde and FAO

Partnering for resilience and sustainable rural development

Cabo Verde and FAO have partnered since 1976, with technical and operational assistance spanning the food and agriculture sector and including communication for development and institution building. Early interventions were focused on emergency assistance. Since then, there has been a shift towards longer-term development interventions and a greater concentration on food and nutrition security, increase of agricultural production and productivity, improved land management, value chain development and food safety. In the last biennium, FAO sponsored 42 projects covering a wide range of areas, including technical cooperation and emergency assistance.

A hunger-free country

Under the country's Food Security and Nutrition Strategy, FAO has worked with the UN and Cabo Verde Government in the Joint Programme "Support to Food and Nutrition Security in Schools" – with a budget of over US\$4 million.

The objectives of this school meals programme are to encourage school attendance, improve food security, provide a safety net to poor families, with greater emphasis on nutrition, improving the food ration, while promoting local agriculture and enhancing nutrition education. As a result, in April 2015 a School Meals Law was approved for implementation over the next ten years.

Some of the main national processes and policies supported by FAO in Cabo Verde are:

- Establishment of the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security
- Review and adoption of the National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security (2020) and National Action Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (2014-2016)
- Preparation of the National Agricultural Investment Programme for implementation of the ECOWAS and NEPAD Common Agricultural Policy
- Elaboration and implementation of the 2015 National Agriculture Census

Matching FAO's expertise to Cabo Verde's development priorities

FAO assistance in Cabo Verde is shaped by the **Country Programming Framework (CPF)** reviewed for 2016-17, which is centered on the medium-term priority areas:

- Improving productivity and agricultural/fishery competitiveness to reduce food insecurity
- Institutional capacity building for sustainable management of natural resources
- Strengthening resilience, mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, with the **National Agricultural Investment Plan**, the **Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development Plan** and the **Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy III**.

As a middle-income country, sharpening the focus of resource mobilization in the implementation of the current CPF, is a top priority for Cabo Verde. Accordingly, FAO contributed to the periodic review of the UN Development Assistance Framework and the One UN Programme in the country.

CONTACTS

Remi Nono Womdim

FAO Representative in Cabo Verde
FAO Representation
United Nations House
OUA Avenue, Meio Achada Santo Antonio
PO: 66 - Praia, Cabo Verde
Tel: +238 260 50 50
E-mail: FAO-CV@fao.org

Support to CPLP

FAO works with the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries (CPLP), including Cabo Verde, in its efforts to achieve a hunger-free community. The Organization's operational strategy in CPLP countries has sought to strengthen governance mechanisms for food and nutrition security, by improving coordination and providing technical support for updated regulatory policies. It has supported family farming and aquaculture as pillars of food and promoted nutritional education through school feeding.

Longstanding partnership

Having partnered for 40 years, Cabo Verde formally recognized FAO as a key and reliable development partner by the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde in February 2016. At the FAO 70th Anniversary ceremony, the Organization awarded two commemorative medals to key partners in Cabo Verde: one to the National Institute for Agriculture Research and Development (INIDA), and the other to an outstanding farmer in recognition of his support to other farmers and his success in introducing and developing strawberry production in Cabo Verde.

Building resilient agricultural systems

Climate change and irregular rainfalls in Cabo Verde may have a negative impact on farmers' income and access to food. To help 32 000 people facing threats to their food supply and livelihoods, FAO formulated a US\$500 000 project in support of the country's drought-affected farmers. The Organization is currently assisting over 8 000 rural households through the distribution of agricultural kits containing maize, bean, cowpea tomato, cabbage and onion seeds. Animal feed drip irrigation equipment has also been provided to animal farmers.

Similarly, in the aftermath of the Fogo volcano eruption and Hurricane Fred, FAO has been providing emergency assistance to rural populations and displaced people on five islands: Fogo, Santiago, Boa Vista, S. Nicolau and S. Antão.

Projects: Emergency Assistance for Strengthening Livelihoods of Drought-Affected Vulnerable Populations. Emergency Assistance for the Restoration of the Agriculture Production Means for the vulnerable Communities affected by the Hurricane Fred and Torrential Rains. Emergency Assistance for Re-launching Productive Activities for the Communities affected by the Fogo Volcano Eruption. Delivered under FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme.

Fostering Blue Growth

In October 2015, the Government of Cabo Verde adopted the Blue Growth Charter. Aiming to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors, the Charter targets key sectors, such as fishing and aquaculture, seafood value chains, marine and coastal tourism, scientific research, and responsible management of coastal areas and maritime transportation. In support of this initiative, Cabo Verde is currently conducting a "Blue Growth Diagnostic", to improve implementation of programmes and policies related to the four pillars of food security.

Technically assisted by FAO, the project also seeks to strengthen the national strategy for sustainable development and poverty reduction by effectively integrating Blue Growth-related concepts and creating an enabling environment.

"Interventions should be based on the concept of the human right to food. Fighting hunger is not charity, nor should it be dependent solely on a government's good will."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

Project: Support to the Implementation of the National Strategy on Blue Growth in Cabo Verde. Delivered under FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme.

Towards sustainable agriculture and forestry

FAO's recent technical assistance to Cabo Verde has focused on agriculture and forestry sustainability as a means of decreasing the country's dependency on imported food and resources. In the same vein, a two-year project for urban and peri-urban agriculture is being implemented, aiming to improve food security and nutrition, reduce poverty, create jobs, especially for youth and women, and contribute to Cabo Verde's overall economic growth.

Similarly, an urban and peri-urban forestry project aims to improve communities' quality of life through the creation and self-management of green spaces and the strengthening of institutional capacities for planning and management of these areas.

FAO is also supporting the National Reforestation Programme, which is expected to recover 7 000 ha over five years to prevent soil degradation and desertification.

Projects delivered under FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme. Pilot areas: Praia (Santiago Island), Mindelo (S. Vicente Island), Espargos (Sal Island) and Porto Novo (S. Antão Island).

