



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

HAITI AND FAO

STRENGTHENING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND ENHANCING RURAL INCOMES

Haiti has enjoyed a dynamic partnership with FAO for more than 40 years. FAO interventions have focused on food security and nutrition through support to the formulation of national agricultural policies and implementation of development programmes. Today, a key part of cooperation is resource mobilization in support of programme implementation through collaborative arrangements such as South-South Cooperation (SSC).



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

From emergency response to development

Haiti is still in a reconstruction phase following the major earthquake in 2010, Hurricane Sandy in 2012, drought in 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Hurricane Matthew caused considerable damage to the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, on which two-thirds of the population are dependent for their livelihoods. Estimates put these damages to 7 percent of GDP, and 31 percent in terms of lost value added from agricultural activities.

After a period of emergency response, since 2014 there has been a change of focus in FAO's activities - from emergency agricultural relief to sustainable economic and agricultural development.

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Matching FAO's expertise to Haiti's development priorities

FAO assistance in Haiti is shaped by the **2017-2020 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on four priority areas.

- ➔ **Institutional capacity building on food and nutrition security**, to ensure that information systems are functional and intersectoral interventions are integrated and coordinated
- ➔ **Development of agricultural value chains**, to develop a high-performance agriculture sector
- ➔ **Conservation and management of natural resources** including strengthening of related information systems
- ➔ **Building resilience to natural disasters and food crises**, developing post-disaster policies adopting appropriate environmental and climate change policies

The CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies and is fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Haiti. It also supports FAO's Strategic Objectives and the Regional Initiatives:

- ➔ **Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean**
- ➔ **Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**
- ➔ **Improving Food Systems in the Caribbean**

Haiti is also included in a global initiative for strengthening the resilience of livelihoods during crises.

New CPF review

The 2017-2020 CPF is currently under revision to accommodate new and emerging Government priorities.

Key cooperation achievements

Over the past biennium, FAO technical support to the Government of Haiti has led to:

- The establishment of a Haitian Parliamentary Front against Hunger for sharing experiences with other countries
- Development of city, departmental and national plans on food and nutrition security
- Training of food security national coordination staff
- A draft seed bill and the development of seed policies as part of a five-year plan of action
- Draft Laws on School Feeding programmes and Plant variety Protection (under preparation)
- The elaboration of a National Policy and Strategy for Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Nutrition
- Review of the National Food Security Plan
- An updated National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation (developed in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment)
- The creation of 150 Artisanal Seed Producer Groups (GPAS), trained, equipped and mentored to produce, package and market Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) and planting material
- The establishment of over 200 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to improve production, storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products
- Support, training and mentoring for agropastoralist associations, which are now managing 13 dairies and producing and processing milk as well as marketing dairy products

Support to the seed sector

FAO is providing technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) with the aim of improving the seed sector. In the past few years, in collaboration with the National Seed Service (SNS), FAO has trained and mentored 150 Artisanal Seed Producer Groups to produce and market Quality Declared Seeds (QDS), becoming the country's main supplier.

FAO and the Ministry are continuing their efforts to strengthen seed production in the private sector with the goal of improving the amount of available quality seeds from 4 to 30 percent of annual domestic requirements. Since May 2015, FAO has provided technical support to the National Seed Service and also contributed to the improvement of the Haiti's dairy sector. Staff in the livestock farming division of the Departmental Agricultural Directorates and the agropastoral associations have developed capacity in animal feed and health, while 13 dairies have received practical dairy processing and marketing support.

FAO response to Hurricane Matthew

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, FAO supported both the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) and the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation in the evaluation of damage to agriculture as well as an assessment of the food security situation and post-disaster needs.

“Agriculture and family farming are the drivers of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development...”

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

In the two agricultural seasons following Hurricane Matthew, FAO distributed 370 tonnes of different crop seeds and 17 million sweet potato and cassava cuttings to nearly 59 000 households. Some 6 500 households also received agricultural tools. In addition, seed fairs organized by FAO have helped 2 600 families benefit from US\$25 vouchers to buy Quality Declared Seeds (QDS).

Between March and June 2017, well over 5 000 households have received funding to set up communal agroforestry nurseries, rehabilitate irrigation infrastructure and improve the management of micro-watersheds.

Mobile veterinary clinics were also set up in the south and in the Grande Anse department; while 3 000 fishers were supplied with material and equipment to help them resume their activities.

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From left to right:

1. Nathanael Hishamunda, FAO Representative in Haiti.
2. Vincent Degert, European Union Ambassador in Haiti
3. Jobert C. Angrand, Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development, Haiti
4. Jean Brunet Duverseau, Director of the Torbeck dairy, Haiti.