



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## GHANA AND FAO

### PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cooperation between Ghana and FAO began in 1957 when the country gained independence and joined the FAO. Relations were strengthened further with the establishment of the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra in 1959, and the Organization has partnered in a broad range of areas since then. More recently, FAO's assistance has focused on sustainable improvements in agricultural production; sustainable management of the environment and natural resources; and building resilient communities for reducing rural poverty.

#### Supporting agricultural transformation in a safe environment

FAO and the Government have dedicated major efforts to facilitate the development of policies and strategies to guide the sustainable development of the agriculture sector and the natural environment. The overarching goal has been to contribute to the development of livelihoods and the economy at large. This has been done by strengthening the capacity of national systems and institutions to elaborate and implement evidence-based policies and strategies that drive the necessary transformation.

#### Policies and associated plans and initiatives supported by FAO

The 2018-2021 Ghana Agricultural Investment Plan; the Sustainable Management of Shea Parklands Strategy; the Agricultural Engineering Policy; the Antimicrobial Resistance Policy and Strategy; the Food Safety Policy; the Nutrition Policy; the Seed Policy; the Veterinary and Livestock Improvement Acts; Fisheries legislation and policies; Forest resources governance as part of the drive to launch forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licenses; and the National Plan of Action against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

#### CONTACT

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

FAO assistance in Ghana is shaped by the **2018-2022 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on three priority areas:

- ➔ **Sustainable agriculture to drive agro-industrialization and economic growth.** Initiatives to increase agriculture production, strengthen capacities for the production and consumption of safe and nutritious foods, and inclusive agro-enterprises and value chains.
- ➔ **Sustainable natural resource management for a safe, secure and productive environment.** Weight is given to policies and international instruments that foster sustainable production and address climate change; initiatives for climate-resilient and inclusive economic growth through the adoption of more integrated and cross-sectoral policies; and sustainable management practices.
- ➔ **Resilient livelihoods for reduced vulnerability and rural poverty.** FAO will work with Government to strengthen capacities for emergency preparedness in the agriculture sector; provide policy advice on multi-sectoral poverty reduction strategies and programmes; vulnerability reduction practices and agriculture-related interventions in that address migration.

Jointly formulated with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the 2017-2024 **Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies**, the 2018-2021 **Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework** and the **Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy**.

## Natural resources management and the climate change agenda

FAO is working with the Government to boost efforts for the sustainable use and management of land, water, fisheries, forestry and genetic resources. Also, technical support is being provided to the crops, forestry, livestock and fisheries subsectors to assist them in adapting to climate change.

“Agriculture, food security and poverty alleviation are the cornerstones of growth and development.”

**José Graziano da Silva**  
FAO Director-General

An integral part of FAO’s approach to assisting the Government in natural resource management is the handling of the ecological, social and economic risks associated with agricultural sector production. These risks include pests, diseases and climate change.

Support has been geared towards improving the preparedness and response to emergencies, natural disasters and crises in the agricultural sector.

In this context, a number of initiatives have been carried out to help Ghana succeed in making the agriculture sector more productive and resilient, thus reducing hunger and poverty. These include:

- Promoting and enhancing sustainable management of wetland resources for better ecosystem services and resilient livelihoods of Keta and Ada coastal communities
- Enhancing capacity and risk reduction of emerging Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) to African tilapia aquaculture
- Promoting conservation agriculture and integrated pest management for sustained soil fertility and productivity
- Supporting sustainable management of Shea Tree Park lands
- Delivering emergency response to the fall armyworm outbreak, and establishing a surveillance network
- Building resilient livelihoods to improve access to good practices and financial services for risk reduction
- Strengthening national capacities to prevent and manage the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, and helping to upgrade laboratory facilities

## Promoting youth employment

About 40 percent of Ghana’s labour force is engaged in agriculture, which contributes significantly to GDP.

In view of the poor incomes and employment prospects for the majority of youths and rural dwellers, the country has been working to enhance opportunities for productive employment through programmes such as “Planting for Food and Jobs” and “One District on factory”.

FAO is supporting the Government in this endeavour to ensure that the necessary systems are in place to provide inputs, extension and access to markets and to enhance farmers’ profitability. Access to finance has been the bane of many farmers over the years, as lack of finance reduces their ability to grow their activities and to take advantage of opportunities along the value chain. To bridge the gap between agricultural finance demand and supply, FAO is supporting the Banks, Government, and traditional and non-traditional financial institutions in providing practical advice and innovative platforms to help develop innovative financing solutions for farmers, which mitigate the risks to lenders.

FAO has also mainstreamed youth employment and gender equity into many initiatives being undertaken across the country to contribute to the country’s drive to promote youth employment in agriculture.

The FAO-managed Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF), which supports agribusiness employment opportunities for youth through the development of sustainable aquaculture systems and cassava value chains, is one of the programmes being used to catalyse economic growth.

