



Ghana and FAO

Partnering for sustainable agricultural transformation and resilient livelihoods

Cooperation between Ghana and FAO began in the year of Ghana's independence, 1957, when the country joined the Organization. The newborn nation showed immediate recognition of the key role of agriculture in development and generously offered to host FAO's Regional Office for Africa in Accra. An Agreement to this effect was signed in 1959. FAO has since worked very closely with the Government, providing a broad range of support to the national food and agricultural development agenda. More recently, FAO's assistance has focused on three interrelated pillars: food and nutrition security, rural economic diversification, and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.

Building enabling policy environment

Building on its success in having achieved the hunger reduction target of the Millennium Development Goals as well as the World Food Summit goal of halving the absolute number of the hungry in the country by 2015, Ghana is poised to prioritize agricultural development as the driver for achieving food security and balanced nutrition as well as generating employment opportunities in rural areas. The Government of Ghana recently launched its agricultural development strategy, dubbed "*Planting for Food and Jobs*" which will guide interventions and partnerships.

FAO is providing support to strengthen the capacity of national systems and institutions to produce and implement evidence-based policies and strategies. Furthermore, FAO has been facilitating the development of a number of policies and investment plans, including:

- Medium Term Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (METASIP)
- Food Safety Policy
- Nutrition Policy
- Seed Policy
- Veterinary and Livestock Improvement Acts
- Fisheries legislations and policies
- Forest resources governance as part of the drive to launch Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licenses
- National Plan of Action against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Agricultural Census
- Safe Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides

Matching FAO's expertise to Ghana's development priorities

FAO assistance in Ghana is guided by the **Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2013-2017**, which sets out three priorities for FAO's medium-term assistance:

- **Food and nutrition security**, strengthening extension services, promoting good agricultural practices and improved nutrition, and facilitating expansion of irrigation agriculture to increase productivity and production. Technical assistance and support to capacity building are also provided.
- **Environment and sustainable natural resource management**: with a focus on sustainable resource use, environmental governance, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- **Rural development and resilient livelihoods**: generating decent employment and livelihoods diversification in rural areas, with an emphasis on developing skills especially among youth and women.

The cross-cutting issues of gender equality and women's empowerment are also addressed by the CPF.

Prepared in close collaboration with key ministries and departments as well as non-governmental organizations and development partners, the CPF contributes to national objectives outlined in the **Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda**, the agricultural development strategy "*Planting for Food and Jobs*", as well as other key policies.

New CPF formulation

Consultation and drafting of a new CPF for 2018-2021 are ongoing.

CONTACTS

Abebe Haile Gabriel

Regional Programme Leader for Africa and
FAO Representative to Ghana
FAO Representation
No. 69 Isert Road, North Ridge
Accra
Tel.: +233 30 2610930
E-mail: FAO-GH@fao.org



Productive agricultural employment for youth through economic diversification

About 45 percent of Ghana's labour force is engaged in agriculture, which contributes about 20 percent of the GDP. In view of the poor income and employment prospects for the

majority of youth in rural areas, the country has been working to enhance opportunities for productive youth employment in these areas. In support of this Government action, FAO has mainstreamed youth employment and gender equity into many initiatives being undertaken across the country.

Two such initiatives currently under way are:

- 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. Over 800 young entrepreneurs are being empowered directly through skills development and engagement in productive ventures in at least four regions.
- A Public-Private Partnership, which integrates access to improved agricultural inputs, services and markets for smallholder and young farmers. Through this mechanism, FAO is promoting productive youth employment by developing the country's rice value chain.

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

José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

FAO is supporting the Government in its climate action agenda by promoting climate-smart agriculture, including the initiative "Transition towards Climate-Smart Agricultural Food Systems". Ghana is prone to flooding as well as transboundary animal and plant diseases. To respond to emergency situations that have adversely affected Ghana's food and nutrition security and sources of livelihood, FAO has been supporting the Government in the following ways:

- Building resilience through the initiative "Resilient livelihoods for improving access to good practices and financial services for risk reduction".
- Strengthening national specialist capacities and supporting the establishment of laboratory facilities in the country. The year 2015 saw the return of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, which FAO had helped to stamp out in 2007. FAO has supported the country in its attempt to address the re-emergence of this major disease, to prevent its spreading and to contain the risk of new outbreaks. The national veterinary services are being provided with ongoing technical assistance.
- Providing emergency assistance to farmer households affected by flooding. In 2015, mid-year floods resulted in the loss of lives and destroyed the livelihoods of rural and peri-urban communities living in close proximity to rivers and irrigation schemes. An FAO emergency intervention is helping 2 200 affected farmer households to improve their resilience to such disasters. Essential agricultural inputs are also being supplied, and improvements are being made to irrigation infrastructure.
- Providing technical assistance to the assessment of damages and the management and control of the recent Fall Armyworm outbreak, which has affected several food crops in all of Ghana's regions. An emergency project was recently formulated to address the critical situation.

These activities aim to help Ghana succeed in making the agriculture sector more productive and resilient, thus reducing hunger and poverty.

