



Kuwait and FAO

Partnering for sustainable food security and resilience in the region

Kuwait joined FAO in November 1961. The country's longstanding cooperation and partnership with FAO culminated in a joint declaration of intent, signed in 2013, for the opening of a permanent FAO office in Kuwait. The declaration also highlighted the joint commitment of FAO and Kuwait to halve hunger and poverty in the country by 2015, to achieve environmental sustainability, and to establish a global development partnership. The office will enhance capacity building and the management of national expertise and staff as well as efforts to develop the extension services.

Appreciation for Kuwait's role in achieving food security

Kuwait achieved the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals 1st target of halving the number and proportion of undernourished people in the country.

In 2013 FAO lauded Kuwait for achieving its anti-hunger goals for 2015. This reflects the pioneering food security strategy in Kuwait. Since then, only 38 states, including Kuwait, have achieved the Millennium Development Goal to end hunger before the deadline set by the UN.

Working together

Building capacities in the field of fish stock assessment

Kuwait participated in the Support to capacity development for fishery stock assessment in GCC countries and Yemen project hosting phase 2 of the capacity development training in 2013 and providing an expert trainer.

Matching FAO's technical expertise to Kuwait's development priorities

FAO assistance to Kuwait revolves around three strategic priority areas:

- **Structural challenges relating to high population growth**, including a serious shortage of land and water resources for food production, and changing patterns in food consumption which in turn has led to a heavy reliance on imported food.
- **External global and regional developments, including increased volatility of global food prices**, fluctuations in world food supplies, the effects of climate change, political instability, and conflicts and war.
- **Internal political challenges**, particularly food programmes and agricultural subsidies involving support to both consumers and producers.

FAO has agreed to support Kuwait in formulating a partnership programme for agricultural development aimed at enhancing the country's aquaculture and water sectors, tackle livestock diseases and boost technical skills. The FAO/Kuwait Partnership Programme will cooperate in pursuit of food security, nutrition, farming and rural development and that benefit both Kuwait and, where possible, other states within the framework of South-South cooperation.

Twelve projects are envisaged for development in the following general technical areas:

- Fisheries management
- Water resource management
- Natural resource management
- Animal production
- Animal health
- Technical capacity development

The projects, expected to last between one and five years, will encompass food security, agriculture and natural resource management issues. They range from mapping the DNA of commercial fish stocks to sustainable water management and to combating brucellosis in local camels.



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Rapid assessment of animal disease outbreaks

Between January and February 2015, Kuwait reported outbreaks of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in dairy cattle in Sulaibiyah, Al Jahrah Governorate. Prior to these reports, LSD outbreaks were last detected in 1991. The recent outbreaks are part of the ongoing spread of LSD across the Near East region. To address this serious threat to the livestock sector and food security, in March of the same year FAO fielded an emergency mission to carry out a rapid assessment of the disease outbreak in the country. A report was drafted, then submitted to Kuwait's authorities.

Protected agriculture: a means to alleviate water scarcity

In September 2015, Kuwait participated in the Protected Agriculture Workshop held at the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) in Dubai. There it engaged in efforts to cut water consumption while improving nutrition and food security in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The event was organized by the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), together with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and FAO, as part of FAO's regional Water Scarcity Initiative for the Near East and North Africa.

Fisheries and aquaculture cooperation

As a member of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), Kuwait has benefited from several related technical programmes, while providing operational and financial support to the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) being established within the RECOFI framework. Kuwait has also offered to host RECOFI's headquarters and secretariat if they are relocated. The most recent meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management (held in November 2015) was generously hosted by Kuwait in Kuwait City.

"We have a golden opportunity to end hunger in our lifetime. This would be the greatest legacy we could leave to future generations."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

