



Qatar and FAO

Capacity building for sustainable natural resource management

Qatar joined FAO in 1971. Over the years, FAO assistance has aimed to improve the country's management and conservation of natural resources, including technological and institutional development to enable sustainable increases in agricultural and fisheries productivity. The production of safe and nutritious food, together with support to rural livelihoods have also been key features of cooperation.

Supporting the National Food Security Programme

Launched in 2008, the Qatar National Food Security Programme (QNFSP) is in line with the principles of the Qatar National Vision 2030 – with a focus on people, community, the economy and environmental development. Key elements of the programme include the production and use of renewable energy, water management, agricultural development and food processing.

Following development of the related Master Plan for Achieving Water and Food Security, the food security portfolio was moved under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MoEC) and a Supreme Committee for Food Security was formed to oversee the Plan's implementation. The Master Plan is being implemented with substantial input from the private sector, while the QNFSP retains direct responsibility over strategic storage and agricultural development-related issues.

At the regional level, in 2010-2011, FAO helped prepare a World Bank theoretical study which included Qatar as part of the Arab world initiative. This was in line with the Bank's strategic framework for "improving food security in the Arab states." A study entitled "The Grain Chain: managing wheat resources in the Arab countries" was presented to the governments in the region that participated in its formulation.

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

FAO's assistance in Qatar is shaped by the draft FAO Country Programming Framework 2013-2016, which focuses on three priority areas for technical cooperation:

- Strategic planning and policy development
- Enhancement of agricultural and fisheries productivity and production of safe and nutritious food
- Development, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the draft CPF was formulated to reflect relevant priorities in key national development policies and to contribute to FAO priorities in the region and subregion.

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Animal disease control – concerted action

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

In 2015, a regional workshop on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and One Health was organized by FAO and Qatar, in collaboration with the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the World Health Organization. The event was attended by about 100 participants from ten countries in the region, in addition to selected MERS experts from relevant research institutions from around the world. The main outcomes of the meeting were summarized in the Doha Declaration, providing guidance and detailed recommendations in relation to surveillance of MERS in animals, food safety and the environment, risk communication, research needs and regional and inter-sectorial collaboration.

Regional roadmap for selected disease control

In December 2015, the Ministry of Environment generously hosted a roadmap meeting for Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and *Pest des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) in the Middle East region. Jointly organized by FAO with OIE under GF-TADs, the meeting was attended by about 50 participants composed of Chief Veterinary Officers and other animal health experts of ten countries of the Middle East, in addition to representatives of major vaccine companies. The outcomes of this meeting were instrumental in monitoring the progress of countries towards FMD control along the Progressive Control Pathway and also in identifying gaps where international support would be required in the future. It was also the first meeting of its kind to be held in the region. With regard to the PPR roadmap, a regional advisory group was established as governance mechanism to oversee progress in control of the disease.

Agro-cluster projects

In June 2015, FAO assisted the Ministry of Environment in peer reviewing Qatar's Agro-cluster projects. The mission conducted a technical review of the general layout and design of two proposed agro-clusters covering intensive poultry, dairy, sheep and goat production facilities, animal feed milling units and greenhouses.

"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

Qatar's strong MDG performance

Qatar met many Millennium Development Goals before the target date of 2015, including those on ending hunger and extreme poverty; global cooperation for development universal primary education; gender equality in education; reduction in child mortality and deaths in childbirth; combating HIV, malaria and other diseases; and environmental sustainability.

