

- 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2: Achieve universal primary education
- 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4: Reduce child mortality
- 5: Improve maternal health
- 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

## GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

### MDG 8 aims to develop a global partnership for development.

The targets most relevant to the mandate of FAO are:

- address the special needs of least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked countries and small island developing states;

- develop further an open, rules-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system; and
- in cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

Assistance to LDCs has fallen short of commitments and few countries have managed to provide more generous official

development assistance. Progress in meeting the target regarding trade and the financial system has been slow. The target to make available the benefits of new information and communications technologies has seen rapid progress in the mobile phone sector, but large gaps remain in improving access to key technologies such as the Internet.

### WHAT FAO IS DOING

Over 150 unilateral, bilateral and multilateral donors contribute to financing FAO's field programmes and projects. In 2009, FAO's field programme delivered US\$715 million in technical assistance and emergency and rehabilitation operations and started 2010 with an available budget of over US\$1.5 billion. FAO also has agreements with 27 financing institutions investing in agriculture. Recent agreements include those with the European Union, the International Finance Corporation and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

In 2009, the European Union established the €1 billion EU Food Facility to support efforts to reverse the growing hunger in the world by boosting agricultural production. Over €215 million (US\$301 million) is being channelled through FAO for operations in twenty-seven countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Programmes have a quick but lasting impact on food security through: improving farmers' access to inputs and services; promoting conservation agriculture; expanding certified seed production; improving rural infrastructure; strengthening farmers' organizations; and facilitating linkages to markets. In many countries there is close collaboration with other UN organizations and non-governmental organizations also funded by the food facility. Also in 2009, FAO and the IsDB announced a US\$1 billion agreement to fund agricultural development in poor countries that belong to both organizations.

FAO assists small island developing states to overcome threats to the long-term sustainability of fisheries caused by overexploitation of marine resources. Activities include: improving fisheries conservation and community-based fishery

management; introducing or strengthening aquaculture; and improving post-harvest fish management, marketing and processing. In cooperation with the Pacific Expert Group on Climate Change and Food Security, FAO prepared a policy brief on Climate change and food security in the Pacific in 2009 on the imminent impacts of climate change on food security in Pacific island countries and territories.

#### Trade

FAO, working with its member countries and the World Trade Organization (WTO), is an active partner in efforts to create an open, fair and rules-based multilateral trading system, in particular through its support for food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies conducive to food security. FAO assists developing countries to prepare for multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture, fisheries and forestry. FAO maintains a constant watch on the world market situation and outlook for all the main agricultural commodities.

The Committee on Commodity Problems, one of the five FAO technical committees, reviews problems and issues that affect the production, trade, distribution and consumption of agricultural products.

The FAO publication *WTO rules for agriculture compatible with development (2007)* examines how WTO trade rules relevant to agriculture can be structured in a manner compatible with the development and poverty alleviation objectives of developing countries.

#### Key facts

Official development assistance in 2008 increased 10.2 percent to US\$119.8 billion. However, total aid remains well below the UN target of 0.7 percent of gross national income.

FAO estimates that net investments in agriculture must top US\$83 billion per year – up roughly 50 percent from current levels – to meet future demand for food.

South-south trade has become the fastest growing component of world trade.

In 2007, 64 percent of people in developed regions were using the Internet, compared to 13 percent in developing regions and only 1.5 percent in the least developed countries.

### Recent initiatives to assist LDCs

- A financing scheme adapted by FAO for African smallholder farmers is now being implemented in about 20 countries in Africa, including all of French-speaking West Africa. African farmers usually have to sell their produce immediately after harvest when prices are lowest. Consequently they do not have the money to purchase inputs like seeds and fertilizer. FAO's solution was to introduce a version of *warrantage*, or warehouse receipt system. Under this system, farmers, rather than selling their harvest at once, can use it as collateral to obtain credit from a bank.
- The South-South Cooperation initiative launched by FAO in 1996 within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security is based on the principles of enhancing solidarity among developing countries. As of 2010, more than 40 tripartite south-south agreements have been signed between several cooperating, recipient countries and FAO, whereby over 1 400 experts and technicians have been fielded. A typical agreement, between Viet Nam and Chad, saw Vietnamese experts helping Chad improve activities, including irrigation for rice growing and horticulture, increased cereals production, artisanal fishing, bee-keeping and food processing, as part of Chad's five-year, US\$200 million National Programme for Food Security, which FAO helped design.
- As of April 2010, FAO had distributed seeds and tool kits to over 30 000 farming families in the earthquake zones of Haiti in time for the spring planting season – the first step in the agency's response to the catastrophe that hit the Caribbean nation. FAO plans to distribute another US\$5 million worth of essential inputs for rural families.

### New information and communications technologies

FAO offers an unparalleled collection of online data and information on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, commodities, nutrition and sustainable development for use by member countries and others. FAO provides advice and technical assistance for governments, institutions and rural communities to strengthen capacities in agricultural information management and the effective use of information and communication technologies.

The unique problems rural communities and institutions face with modern information and communication technologies, compared to urban areas, led FAO and the UK Department for International Development to launch a

Bridging the Rural Digital Divide programme with the aim to narrow the gap in support of agricultural development and food security. FAO, in partnership with other stakeholders, also established the e-Agriculture Community of Practice to support innovative approaches to knowledge exchange, taking advantage of new digital technologies for rural development.

Spearheaded by FAO in collaboration with over 30 partner organizations, the Information Management Resource Kit is an e-learning initiative to train individuals and support institutions and networks in the effective management of agricultural information.



**Striving for a fair trading system.**  
©FAO/Giuseppe Bizzarri



**Helping smallholder farmers with quality seed.**  
©FAO/Giulio Napolitano