



FAO Port State Measures Agreement has become international law

The FAO Regional Office for Africa welcomes the legally binding Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) which will allow coastal nations to deny port entry and services to foreign vessels suspected of illegal fishing.

“This is really a very encouraging development. We are confident that in the upcoming months, the number of countries in Africa that will have adhered to PSMA will increase”, said Bukar Tijani, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa.

Too often, African nations lack the capacity to monitor and enforce compliance on laws related to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

“African countries are among the most affected by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and they are

fully aware of the importance of this legally binding agreement; we have in our priorities the fight against IUU fishing

through raising awareness and capacity building,” he added.

Commitment and empowerment

Collectively, 29 countries and the European Union – which signed as a single party – have formally committed themselves through their instruments of adhesion and account for more than 62 percent of worldwide fish imports and

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Global Environment Facility (GEF), Coastal Fisheries Project in Western Africa. Fishermen offloading tunas after a fish port. The Global Fisheries initiative focuses on strengthening the fisheries sector's policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to incorporate environmental, social and economic stability

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Photo Credit: ©FAO

■ FAO commissions poultry farm at Holima

The project is from the Telefood Special Fund provided by the Organization on the request of the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)

FAO handed over a poultry farm with 250 chicks and feed to the Holima Agribusiness Centre (ABC) in Bo District in Sierra Leone under the Sustainable Poultry Development project.

The project is from the Telefood Special Fund provided by the Organization on the request of the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS).

It aims at enhancing diversification in production, particularly in poultry, to support the nutritional status of the members of the ABC together with its communities, and ensure the constant flow of income to the farmers all year round. It will also serve as an alternative, not only for livelihoods activities, but also for the consumption of bush meat, thereby helping to minimize the risk of Ebola Virus Disease resurgence.

FAO admonished members of the ABC to take adequate control of the poultry and provide the required supports to ensure sustainability and benefit for all.

Receiving the consignment, the Chairlady of the Holima ABC, Mariama Koroma, expressed gratitude to FAO for its continued support to the Centre and the community as a whole and said the poultry will provide an additional source for protein in their diets and improve their income.

She promised that her membership will work hard to ensure that all conditions are met to ensure productivity. She explained for example that the Centre will always have feed for the chickens as it runs a rice milling site. Members will also plant corn to feed the layers.

The Holima Agribusiness Centre comprises eight farmer-based organizations with 200 members who live in several villages in the Kakua Chiefdom, all depending on agriculture for their livelihood and the sustenance of their families. With FAO

support, two members of the Centre have been trained in good poultry management and acquired specific skills in food mixture, right feeding measurement, disease prevention and sanitary measures, vaccination, egg collection and handling.

More women and youths will be trained in new skills on the poultry management practices. This will increase the income of the direct beneficiaries and boost the revolving fund established to support other livelihood activities in the community.



Photo Credit: ©FAO

250 chicks and feed to the Holima Agribusiness Centre (ABC) in Bo District in Sierra Leone under the Sustainable Poultry Development project.

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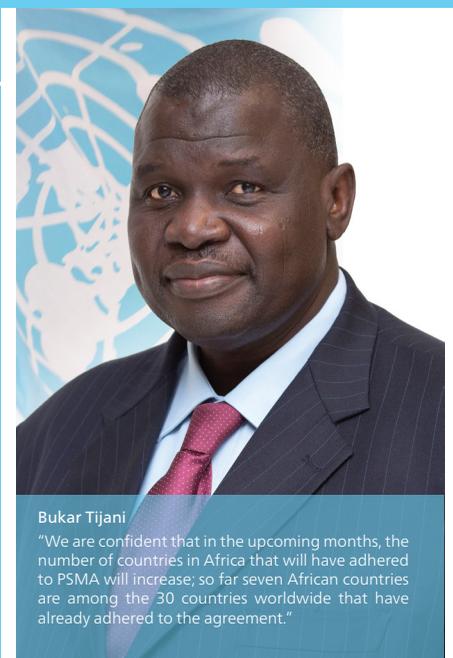
49 percent of fish exports, representing US\$133 billion and US\$139 billion, respectively, in 2013.

IUU fishing is responsible for annual catches of up to 26 million tonnes, with a value of up to US\$23 billion. It also undermines efforts to ensure sustainable fisheries and responsible fish stock management around the world.

The treaty enjoins parties to designate specific ports for use by foreign vessels, making control easier. Those ships must request permission to enter ports ahead of time, and provide local authorities with information, including on the

type of fish they have on board, and allowing inspection of their log book, licenses, fishing gear and actual cargo, among other things.

Essentially, countries are empowered to deny entry or inspect vessels that have been involved in IUU fishing, and to take necessary actions. To support this, the Agreement also includes the obligation for parties to share information regionally and globally regarding any vessels discovered to be involved in IUU fishing.



Bukar Tijani

"We are confident that in the upcoming months, the number of countries in Africa that will have adhered to PSMA will increase; so far seven African countries are among the 30 countries worldwide that have already adhered to the agreement."

FAO helps Sierra Leone to mainstream food and nutrition into development programmes



The FNS&RtF project has been aimed at promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture through food-based strategies which is aligned with the country's Food and Nutrition Security Plan.

FAO is working with the Government of Sierra Leone to produce diverse food and ensure good eating habits as part of plans to accelerate the nation's development.

An FAO-led Capitalization Workshop on Nutrition Governance, Capacity Development and Innovative Activities on Linking Agriculture and Nutrition was organized by FAO in Freetown in July 2016.

FAO Senior Officer, David Mwesigwa, said: "At FAO, we recognize the importance of improving the quality of the diets and in preventing malnutrition." Stakeholders in the food and

nutrition sector in Freetown met to share experiences and lessons learnt and capitalize on the promising practices from mainstreaming Food and Nutrition Security and the Right to Food (FNS&RtF) into the Smallholder Commercialization Programme (SCP) project implementation in the past three years.

Commissioned in 2012, the FNS&RtF programme is to support the Government of Sierra Leone, guiding the country's strategy on agriculture to reach its dual objective of wealth creation and improvement of food and nutrition

security. The FNS&RtF project has been aimed at promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture through food-based strategies which is aligned with the country's Food and Nutrition Security Plan. With financial support from the Federal Republic of Germany and the technical support of FAO, the project was initiated based on the premise that undernutrition remained worrisome in the country. It was mainly meant to catalyse the implementation of food-based nutrition to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) to mainstream nutrition into development plans at national and district levels.

David Mwesigwa noted that the project supported the Government of Sierra Leone in guiding the country's strategy on the Smallholder Commercialization Programme and to ensure that the dual objective of wealth creation and improvement of food and nutrition security is achieved.

According to the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Kuhmunch, the capitalization of experiences is a vital process in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, as it brings together different stakeholders and shows their commitment and willingness to collaborate. Helmut Kuhmunch noted that working on nutrition requires a multisectorial approach and involves different actors from

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FAO promotes sustainable agricultural mechanization in Africa



Photo Credit: ©FAO

Agricultural mechanization will play a key role in Africa's ambition to end hunger on the continent by 2025

Despite the renewed interest on mechanization in Africa, a large proportion of agriculture is still done using human power, with huge productivity, health, social and economic losses.

Currently, sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest land productivity in the world. Mechanization offers the possibility to perform operations at the right time and

to maximize agricultural production potential. It also provides multifunctional machinery for post-harvest operations and transport.

Agricultural mechanization will play a key role in Africa's ambition to end hunger on the continent by 2025, as stated in the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared

Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recently launched a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) with the African Union Commission (AUC) on "Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa".

This project is in line with AU Agenda 2063, as well as the new FAO Strategic Objectives of making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable, and promoting agricultural and rural development in Africa.

The project will contribute to the intensification of Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) in Africa by taking stock of lessons learned and experiences from the continent and most importantly, by promoting up-scaling of good practices and integration of national and regional policies and strategies.

Interventions will be built along the entire agricultural value chains, and will be private sector driven and environmentally compatible.

NOTES

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FAO keeps strengthening the resilience of agricultural households affected by the crisis in Central African Republic



This was done through the US\$548 200 project, "Emergency assistance to vulnerable households in the areas most affected by the crisis in Central African Republic", funded by Belgium. It aims to strengthen livelihood resilience and reduce the vulnerability of agricultural households affected by the succession of crises in the districts of Kémo, Ouaka, Basse-Kotto and Mbomou.

Through this 10-month project that closed its operations in February 2016, FAO distributed 271.5 tonnes of crop seeds and 27 237 pieces of hoe as well as 200 kg of vegetable seeds and 16 000 tools to 9 079 households identified as vulnerable. Training on the application of good agricultural practices was given prior to the distribution. Officers of

partner NGOs, including 300 facilitators, were also trained on the Caisse de résilience approach which integrates three levers: technical, through the Farmer Field Schools (FFS); financial, through the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) or improved tontine; and social, through groups' governance for the promotion of social cohesion. These efforts have led to the establishment of 20 farmer field schools in the areas covered by the project.

The beneficiaries were able to sow 4 478 hectares of food crops with a production of 6 718 tonnes of crops and 400 hectares of vegetable crops for a production of 1 200 tonnes of vegetables. The revenue generated by all households amounted to US\$1 588 825, or US\$225 per household. With the farmer field schools/VSLA approach, 56 women

agricultural producers group (1120 households) and 50 young farmers' groups (1 000 households) are now operational.

According to a member of the groups involved in the first round of the savings and loan scheme, the approach implemented by FAO "is good for those of us who are left behind because we cannot have access to bank loans. The improved tontine helps us achieve our small projects."

The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development through the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development (ACDA), partner NGOs (COHEB, PNRM, AHA, COOPI, PU-AMI, AMAP, Caritas Kaga-Bandoro) as well as associations and cooperatives in the agricultural sector in Central African Republic.

Malnutrition shatters lives and hampers economic and social development

The study on the “Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA)”, which is an African Union-led initiative in Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda, shows the social and economic effects of malnutrition.

The fact that the highest malnutrition rates are registered in Africa underscores the need to urgently mobilize further efforts to significantly reduce malnutrition level and its effects. During his visit to Mauritius and

Madagascar from 9 to 11 May 2016, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, emphasized the need to increase investments in nutrition. He shared the experiences of many countries to show that food insecurity is not the only cause of malnutrition. To achieve a reduction in economic losses caused by malnutrition, a multisectoral approach is required, involving agriculture, health, water, hygiene and sanitation, social protection, communication, education, food safety, etc. The United States Ambassador to the UN

Rome-based Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP), David Lane, visited southern Madagascar, which is affected by a severe drought. At the end of his visit, he emphasized how important it is to continue the interventions carried out by the three UN agencies and which aim at improving the nutrition situation by increasing agricultural productivity and strengthening the resilience of the populations living in these areas and directly affected by the effects of climate change aggravated by the impact of El Niño.

Various forms of malnutrition coexist in the countries of the Indian Ocean. Madagascar and Comoros are more affected by chronic malnutrition – affecting physical and cognitive development – with prevalence rates of 47% and 32%, respectively; however, the proportion of adults (men and women) affected by overweight is 59% and 49% in Seychelles and Mauritius, respectively, and this results in the prevalence of foodborne chronic diseases such as diabetes, certain cancers and cardiovascular diseases, which impact on public health.

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) requested FAO support for the



Various forms of malnutrition coexist in the countries of the Indian Ocean.

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FAO helps Sierra Leone to mainstream food, nutrition into development programmes

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agriculture, health, water and sanitation, fisheries and so many others.

The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Eddie Bayoh, applauded FAO commitment in the implementation of the project and capacitating agricultural extension officers across the country, adding: “It is our mandate as a Ministry to ensure food sufficiency in the country, but the production of diverse food and good eating habits is also essential”. The workshop methodology was a mixture of experience sharing, expert talks, small thematic presentations on promising practices in small groups, and a plenary discussion. It

will be thoroughly documented to make knowledge and information available to a wide range of stakeholders nationally and internationally.

Remarkable achievements

During the past three years of implementation, the FNS&RtF project received technical support from FAO in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat. The project has succeeded in supporting MAFFS to mainstream nutrition into development plans at national and district levels. Besides, the right

to food issues are in process of being integrated into the revised national constitution. To date, the project has made positive contributions both at national and district levels. Notable among them are the incorporation of Food and Nutrition Security and the Right to Food in the Njala University curriculum and pre-service programme, the development of the Sierra Leone Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) for healthy eating, which is soon to be launched, in-service training of agriculture extension workers on basic nutrition concepts, and strengthening district-level coordination mechanisms.



Ending Hunger in the Horn of Africa: Moving from rhetoric to action

Although individual countries have made substantial efforts to cope with severe droughts and other natural disasters, there are still signs that the problem is still far from over.

For instance, in the Horn of Africa, the recurring and severe droughts and other natural disasters have over the years caused widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic hardship. Some researchers and experts in disaster analysis and early warning have argued strongly for a regional approach to supplement national efforts.

This resulted in the formation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) in 1986, which was superseded by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in 1996. The attention given to the 2011 humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa led to a reassessment of intent and priorities among governments, donors and implementing partners so that more emphasis would be given to addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in the entire Horn of Africa.

The resultant IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) was launched in 2013 with the aim of ending drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa. The IDDRSI Strategy (2013-17) and its related Regional Programming Paper (RPP) describe the strategies and investment priorities intended to contribute to building resilience to drought and related disasters. Large efforts have also gone into development of complimentary Country Programming Papers (CPPs).

In 2012, FAO developed a strategy for renewing its commitment to realizing a hunger-free Horn of Africa. This was aimed at responding to the underlying problems of food security in the region and put in place additional mechanisms for sustainable development.

Subsequently, in June 2014, the African Union Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, endorsed the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. One of the main tenets of the Declaration is the "Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025".

This grew out of the Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025, established in 2012 between key partners including the African Union Commission, its NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the Lula Institute and FAO. The Malabo commitment to ending hunger is catalysing high-level political support and leadership for concerted actions to eradicate hunger on the continent.

The FAO Regional Initiative on Africa's Renewed Commitment to End Hunger by 2025 supports and capacitates governments to engaging in multisectoral planning and coordinated implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of financial commitments to food security and nutrition policies and programmes under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). These regional initiatives contribute to the larger African Union implementation strategy for the Malabo commitment and provide an operational instrument to help translate the vision and goals of the African Union Agenda 2063, as well as the United Nation's Zero Hunger Challenge, into concrete actions on the continent and serves as a key pillar of FAO work in Africa.

As a result of these and other efforts to ending hunger and building resilience in the Horn of Africa, as well as the need to translate these commitments into action on the ground, the FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) and the African Union Commission, through FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), launched the project titled "Ending Hunger in the Horn of Africa: Moving from Rhetoric to Action".

The objective of the project is to implement a coherent set of activities intended to improve partnership and coordinated action on ending hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the Horn of Africa by 2025 through providing a consultative forum for governments, regional economic communities (RECs), development partners and stakeholders to discuss, review and develop new strategies on hunger eradication for the subregion. The project is expected to take stock of policies and investments for ending hunger in the Horn of Africa (HoA), to establish national and regional partnership mechanisms for hunger eradication in the HoA, and to encourage advocacy and communication for ending hunger in the Horn of Africa.

Malnutrition shatters lives and hampers economic and social development

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formulation of the Regional Programme for Food and Nutrition Security (PRESAN) which aims at addressing these problems in a systemic, multisectoral and intersectoral way in the region. As part of the CAADP Nutrition Initiative and the Regional Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, PRESAN is in line with the recommendations of the 29th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Abidjan in April 2016 and the conclusions of RIO+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) that recognize and support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in their initiatives to improve nutrition.

From 31 May to 2 June 2016, the nutrition focal points in the SIDS in Africa – Cabo Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius,



Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles – met in Mauritius to strengthen their networks in order to contribute to the mainstreaming of nutrition into agriculture and development policies and programmes as part of the monitoring of the outcomes of the ICN2 Framework for Action. At the same time, they will be supporting the island countries to achieve their nutrition goals under the Malabo

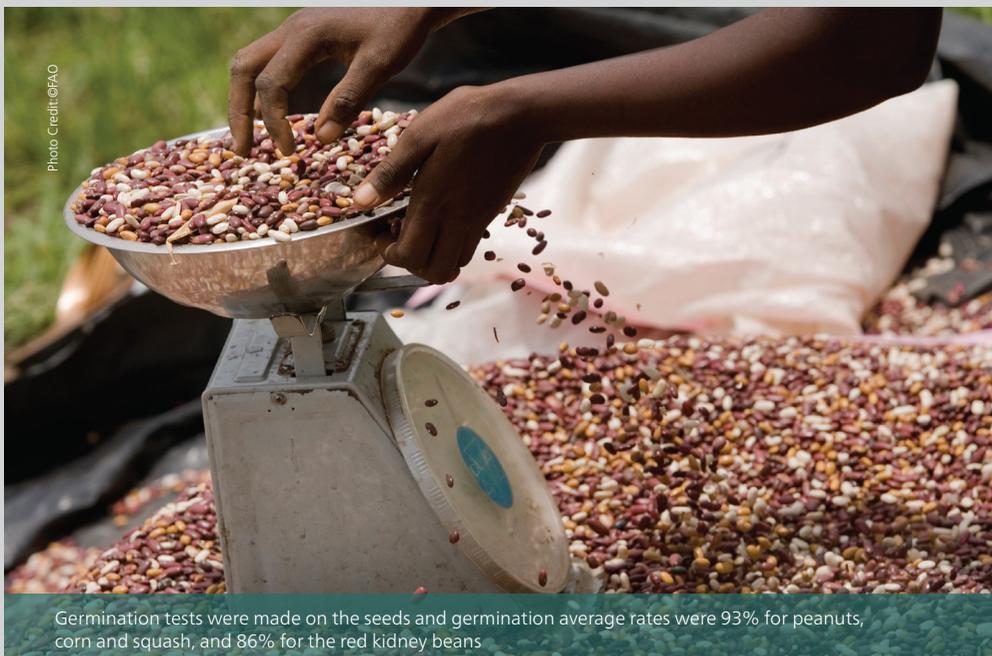
Declaration for 2025 and the commitments towards the SDGs for 2030. These initiatives must be promoted and supported so that all expectations are fulfilled, because in reality, the nutritional well-being of populations should not simply be seen as a consequence of development but rather, as a prerequisite for it. That leads to the strategic option, namely, that the fight against malnutrition in all its forms, including hunger, is the fight against poverty.

NOTE

The fact that the highest malnutrition rates are registered in Africa underscores the need to urgency mobilize further efforts to significantly reduce malnutrition level and its effects.



FAO and its partners organize a seed fair in Central African Republic



Germination tests were made on the seeds and germination average rates were 93% for peanuts, corn and squash, and 86% for the red kidney beans

The city of Bouar, capital of Nana-Mambéré District located 450 km west of Bangui, hosted a seed fair from 17 to 19 May 2016. This event, which mobilized many producers, was organized with the aim to enhance agricultural activities in the locality.

Organized by FAO in partnership with the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and CARITAS Bouar with funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the seed fair of Bouar has provided an opportunity to assess the local potential for crop seeds and revitalize the market mechanism between local producers and farmers in search of seeds.

This event helped producers to sell in three days more than 27 tonnes of seeds of maize, peanuts, squash and red kidney beans, for over 21 million CFA francs (US\$35 450). About 20 producers were selected for this purpose in the subdistrict of Bouar and its periphery, based on the availability of the seeds as well as the results of the seed germination tests. Indeed, "germination tests were made on the seeds and germination average rates were 93% for peanuts, corn and squash, and 86% for the red kidney beans," said Didier Mashariki, Bouar CRS Office Manager. In all, 1 000 beneficiaries identified by CRS were served during the fair.

"We used to buy and distribute the seeds directly to beneficiaries. But now, based on the results of this pilot fair, we will see what approach to take henceforth for the provision of seeds to the beneficiaries", said Jérôme Degane-Namkonin, Manager of the FAO field office in Bouar.

Seeds to support community resilience

According to Frédéric Ouagonda, Nana-Mambéré District Executive Officer, this fair has been organized to support farmers who have seen their granaries burned and their seeds washed away during the crisis. "With this fair, you are giving hope to our farmers, because Central African Republic is an agriculture-based country," he said to the organizers.

"By focusing on agriculture, you are saving Central African Republic, you are conducting a policy to reduce not only poverty but also dependency on assistance, which characterize Nana Mambéré," he added, before warning any beneficiary who would be tempted to sell the seeds. Each beneficiary received coupons with a total value of 21 500 CFA francs (US\$36) with which they bought three varieties of seeds of their choice and a Linda type of hoe. In addition, they each received two Ceylon types of hoe while exiting the stands. François Sekena, beneficiary from Maïgaro village, said he was very satisfied with the organization of this fair after the difficult times they went through. "With these seeds, I can produce to meet the needs of my family. I hope that FAO continue to support us in the agricultural sector for the development of our country," he concluded.

2016 NATIONAL Reforestation Campaign

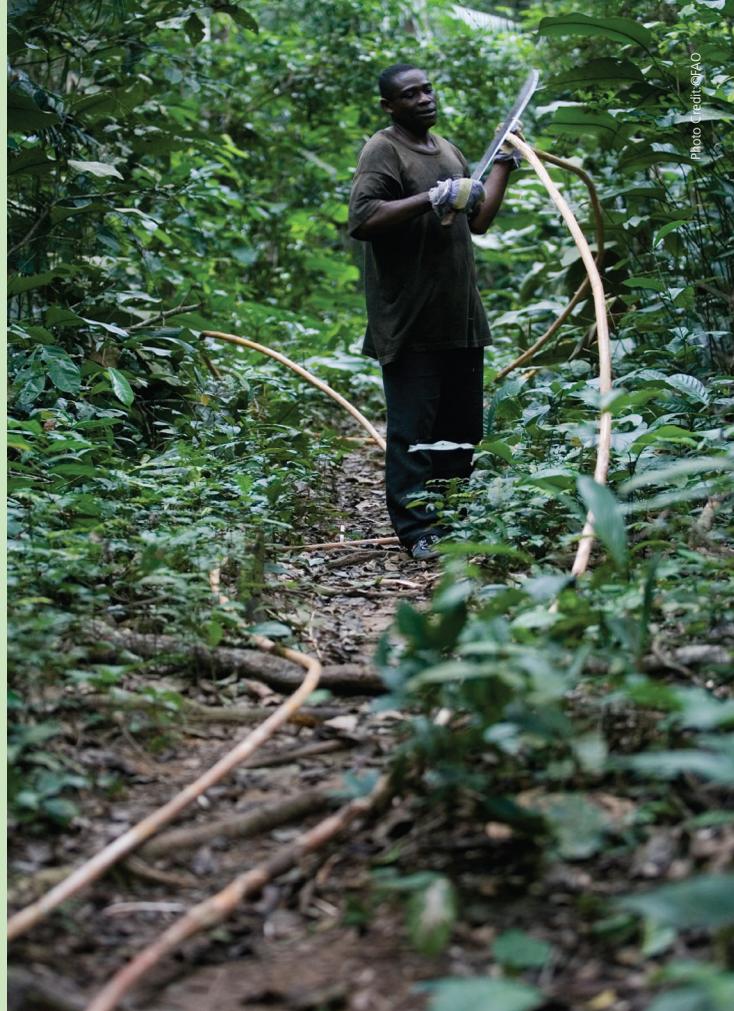
FAO provides support by planting 196 800 seedlings

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has actively participated in the 2016 National Reforestation Campaign in Benin by donating 196 800 seedlings in June. They consisted of 153 456 seedlings of acacia, 13 344 of eucalyptus and 30 000 of red and white mangroves.

The activity is part of the 2016 work plan of the mangrove restoration project on the Ramsar 1017 site in Benin. Funded by FAO for two years, the project TCP/BEN/3502 aims to establish mechanisms for the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in order to contribute to the welfare and food security of local populations along the coasts.

The goal is to offer, among others, alternatives to the populations of wetlands where women cut down mangroves for wood to dry salt and smoke fish, thereby destroying these ecosystems. As a result, fish lack habitat for breeding, waters easily overflow their banks, causing flooding, and sand easily invades waterways. It is in response to this situation of environmental degradation and risk of food insecurity that FAO launched this project. Its implementation has been entrusted to the Forests and Natural Resources Department of the Beninese Ministry in charge of environmental issues. It is this Department that leads the national reforestation campaigns.

Thus, in Kpètou in the Comè Municipality, in Kpomassè in Bopa, Ouidah and Grand Popo, 168 beneficiaries are committed since last year to plant and maintain 378 000 seedlings of acacia and eucalyptus, which are fast growing forest species, on an area of about 150 hectares. This year, there was an in-fill planting of a total of 166 800 seedlings on the sites, following the planting of last year. Moreover, the project helped to rehabilitate degraded mangrove swamps through the planting of 30 000 seedlings of red and white mangrove.



Thus, a total of 378 800 seedlings were planted on private plots of land and made available to communities to serve as wood energy parks to protect them from the destruction of mangroves.

Isaac Arnaud Quenum, FAO Project Coordinator and acting Chief Forest Inspector for Atlantique-Littoral, has repeatedly reminded the selected beneficiaries of their commitment to maintain the seedlings throughout the operation. "You have made land available and you committed yourselves to maintain these seedlings. Do as you have said. The administration will ensure that your environment benefit from what is being done today."

As for the beneficiary populations, their feelings vary. While some see in this project a future pecuniary interest when seedlings become trees, others consider it to be an obvious solution to the environmental degradation. Véronique Anagonou, Chief of Kpètou village in the Comè Municipality, believes that "this gift of FAO and the government is to help us develop other alternatives, including firewood, to reduce our pressure on mangroves and thereby contribute to the survival of fishing, which is the main activity for the men in our village."

Samè Avlessi, a local authority, urges the beneficiaries: "These seedlings planted today will henceforth constitute the border between us and Lake Ahémé. They will prevent waters from coming to invade us and sand to fill the lake. This is why I would like to invite the beneficiaries to maintain them, especially along the lake."



Photo Credit: CHAO

Advocating for the right to adequate food

The International Fair for Agriculture and Animal Resources (FIARA), held in Dakar in April 2016, provided an excellent opportunity for the round of discussion “Window on Agriculture”, which aims at reflecting on specific thematic areas for agricultural and rural development. Organized jointly with the Agricultural and Rural Outlook Initiative (IPAR) on the theme: “How to improve food security in Senegal using a human rights-based approach?”, the 10th “Window on agriculture” provided an opportunity to exchange on the right to adequate food and the ability of a human rights-based approach to positively impact food and nutrition security in Senegal.

The meeting brought together over 100 participants, representing producers’ organizations and the civil society, the government, technical and financial partners, as well as the private sector, who attended the FIARA.

Chairing the meeting, Modou Mboup, Technical Advisor in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (MAER), reaffirmed “the commitment of [their] department to continue its efforts towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, among which food security and human rights issues are of prominent importance. National parliamentarians maintained that “food is at the beginning and at the end of every process” and reiterated the availability of the National Assembly to support the stakeholders.

Simon Blondeau, International Consultant on the right to food in FAO Rome, recalled that “the right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman

and child, alone or in community with others, has the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement”, citing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

“In the efforts to promote decent rural employment and establish social safety nets that contribute to the realization of the right to adequate food, a special attention should be paid to women and their role as active stakeholders for development,” he recommended.

Following him, other panelists highlighted concrete experiences related to the advocacy for the realization of the right to food in Senegal. Seydou Ndiaye, of the African Network on the Right to Food (ANoRF) in Senegal and the Senegalese Social Forum; Zakaria Sambakhe, of the NGO Action Aid; and Yoro Thioye of the National Council for Rural People’s Consultation and Cooperation (CNCR), reported on their respective activities with local authorities, rural communities and family farmers.

Several recommendations were made during the exchange with the participants. The implementation of a human rights-based approach that fully contributes to ensuring that every woman, man and child enjoys their fundamental right to feed themselves in dignity has been proposed. Participants felt that such an approach is necessary to increase the positive impact, ownership and sustainability of programmes, policies and laws, which contribute



As part of its TCP/SEN/3502 "Promoting a safe and sustainable agriculture at, FAO Senegal was also present at the bio village organized by the Sell Sellal Cooperative and the NGO Enda Pro-nat.

of the human rights-based approach to any issue on food and nutrition security.

Promoting micro-gardening and a safe and sustainable agriculture

FAO also took advantage of FIARA to promote micro-gardening and a safe and sustainable agriculture through exhibitions made of recycled material with several varieties of spices and mint, lettuce and tomatoes.

FAO supported the Association des acteurs du micro-jardin (A MJ, www.a2mj-sn.com) of Dakar, in partnership with the NGO ACRA, the city of Milan and the Italian Cooperation, which are implementation partners for the project on micro-gardens in the city of Dakar under the GDCP/SEN/002/ITA project, "Capitalizing on the technology of micro-gardens in the city of Dakar."

More than 800 exhibitors were present on the site, representing 14 countries and Senegal. For three weeks, they had between 6 000 and 8 000 visitors daily.

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to improve food and nutrition security for all in Senegal. They also called for meeting the following criteria for the success of such an approach: active and inclusive participation, accountability, non-discrimination and emphasis on vulnerable groups, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and rule of law.

Participants also felt that, to achieve the right to adequate food in Senegal, a fair and equitable access to land is fundamental. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land were cited as sources of essential recommendations for the operationalization

FAO intervention in Malawi helps communities secure land rights

Land, as one of the major factors of production, is the only readily available resource to poor people in Malawi, and if protected and put to good use, can contribute to women's economic empowerment.

But the lack of a legal framework has made it difficult for people of Malawi, especially women and children living and depending on customary land, to enjoy and secure land rights. In response, FAO in Malawi has partnered with UN Women, LandNet and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to advocate for a functioning legal regime on land that will secure land rights for all and in particular for women and other

vulnerable groups within the right to food framework.

This idea of partnership is to ensure greater impact of results on the ground, realizing that women economic empowerment requires concerted and multifaceted approaches. In holding awareness-raising campaigns and tailor-made trainings on broader land governance issues, FAO and its partners are guided by three key documents that have been endorsed by FAO Member countries, including Malawi, over the past 10 years.

First is the Right to Food (RtF) guidelines, followed by the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of

Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), which serve as a reference to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the overarching goal of achieving food security for all and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; and more recently, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture (RAI) and Food Systems.

These trainings have targeted district officials, local CSOs and rural communities. In addition, women have received specific trainings in confidence building, leadership advocacy and group dynamics sessions to enhance their advocacy and lobbying skills on land governance. This has resulted in increased knowledge of land rights and already led to subsequent community action over land issues.

So far, these training sessions have reached 90 government officials and 120 civil society organizations' representatives in the districts of Mzimba, Salima, Dedza, Ntcheu, Thyolo and Chikwawa.



At least 24 district trainers have been identified through a selection criteria devised by implementing partner organizations and out of these, 20 have been trained as national facilitators on land governance.

In addition, over 600 community members have been sensitized, 120 community leaders trained, and 260 women representatives of various women's forums reached with land rights messages, with regard to the role women play in promoting and protecting their land rights.

At least 24 district trainers have been identified through a selection criteria devised by implementing partner organizations and out of these, 20 have been trained as national facilitators on land governance. In terms of case management, so far, over 20 land cases have been handled in the six districts, two of which cases have been successfully pursued by the communities trained in Salima district.

Speaking during an interface meeting with communities in Salima District, Senior Group Village Headman Kuluunda noted that his village has been empowered to claim their land rights.

"We have managed to stop land transaction because we suspected unfair play especially when compensations were perceived as being done in a selective manner and the details of the whole compensation package not provided to us", Kuluunda narrated. Fletcher Simwaka, a district facilitator for land rights trainings, said the action of the community to demand transparency in land acquisitions demonstrated the impact of the trainings that the communities received.

"We hope that with this awareness, the knowledge they have gained will help galvanize the communities into action and hold their leaders accountable to ensure transparency and accountability on the decisions they make while at the same time protecting the vulnerable groups such as women", he added.

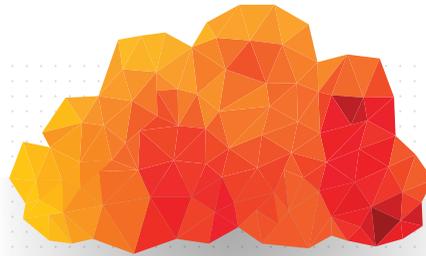
FAO Representative in Malawi, Florence Rolle, attributes the gains so far in addressing land governance challenges in Malawi to the strong collaboration among partners, including the government and resource partners. "We need to remain ever resolute in our quest to help poor people secure land rights so that they become food and nutrition secure and

economically independent", she said. In addition to these district level activities, FAO together with the same partners have been supporting several sensitization sessions for parliamentarians, civil society organizations, senior chiefs and media in relation to 11 new land bills that have been prepared to enable the implementation of the 2002 Land Policy.

The land bills have been tabled to Parliament since 2012 and were never enacted. Thanks to an intensive support provided by all the partners over the past year, the four main land bills were enacted at the end of parliament sitting on 15 July 2016.



The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), serve as a reference to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the overarching goal of achieving food security for all and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food



Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too.



Let's adapt agriculture to climate change to build the Zero Hunger Generation



**WORLD
FOOD DAY**
16 OCTOBER
2016
TIT-BITS

Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too

One of the biggest issues related to climate change is food security. The world's poorest – many of whom are farmers, fishers and pastoralists – are being hit hardest by higher temperatures and an increasing frequency in weather-related disasters.

At the same time, the global population is growing steadily and is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. To meet such a heavy demand, agriculture and food systems will need to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and become more resilient, productive and sustainable. This is the only way that we can ensure the well-being of ecosystems and rural populations and reduce emissions.

Growing food in a sustainable way means adopting practices that produce more with less in the same area of land and use natural resources wisely. It also means

reducing food losses before the final product or retail stage through a number of initiatives including better harvesting, storage, packing, transport, infrastructure, market mechanisms, as well as institutional and legal frameworks.

This is why our global message for World Food Day 2016 is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too."

It resonates with the crucial time in which the day will be observed, just before the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP22, from 7 to 18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco.

FAO is calling on countries to address food and agriculture in their climate action plans and invest more in rural development.

By strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, we can guarantee food security for the planet's increasingly hungry global population and also reduce emissions.