THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES AND FAO

Partnering for food security, sustainable development and a future free from hunger
PARTNERING FOR FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND A FUTURE FREE FROM HUNGER

FAO works closely with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to achieve the shared goals of improving food security and nutrition, eradicating hunger and poverty and promoting sustainable rural development. In line with the CELAC Plan of Action 2014, FAO collaborates with CELAC member states in areas of work including the post-2015 development agenda, climate change, South-South Cooperation, food security and family farming.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

In pursuit of its own ambitious hunger eradication goals, Antigua and Barbuda has taken up the Zero Hunger Challenge which was launched in June 2012 at the Rio+20 Conference. Pockets of undernutrition, with both stunting and wasting, have been reported in the child population in Antigua and Barbuda. FAO is collaborating with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to jointly design and implement a set of coordinated, coherent and effective actions to achieve zero hunger in two years. After the initial assessment period, two programmes were identified for priority action: a home-based garden initiative and a school feeding programme. Significant progress has already been made towards building 500 family gardens and expanding the school meals programme to all schools. The Zero Hunger initiative is implemented in conjunction with the three broad thematic areas previously identified by the government and FAO, which include: i) sustainable crop intensification in support of food security and nutrition; ii) sustainable management of forest and trees; and iii) sustainable management of land and water resources.

ARGENTINA

The FAO Representation in Argentina was opened in 2003 and has expanded its field programme in the years following, both in terms of the number of projects and resource mobilization. In partnership with the Government of Argentina, FAO works in six priority areas: i) rural development and rural poverty alleviation; ii) food security and education; iii) environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources and climate change; iv) animal and plant health and food quality and safety; v) bio-energy and other renewable energy sources; and vi) development and institutional strengthening.
A recently implemented project supports the Federal Fisheries Council in assessing the state of fisheries research, defining knowledge gaps, and identifying how to improve conservation of fisheries resources and increase sustainability, as well as develop a strategy for marine fisheries research. Other FAO activities include helping the country strengthen its capacity to implement Rural Territorial Planning, participating in extension workshops on irrigation and rural leadership, supporting the Save Food initiative to eliminate food waste, and strengthening governance for biodiversity protection.

THE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas has been a member of FAO since 1975, and currently their partnership focuses on three priority areas: i) sustainable management of fisheries resources; ii) sustainable forestry management; and iii) enhancing agricultural trade. In the Bahamas, the Ministry of the Environment sees the development of the forestry sector as a priority for the country. The natural pine forests are an untapped and important natural resource. Production and use of timber resources would not only make the Bahamas less dependent on imports, it would also retain financial resources in the country and create job opportunities. Relevant legislation has been enacted and administrative arrangements and financial commitment put in place to implement a forest management programme. FAO is implementing a technical cooperation project on the island of Abaco to pilot a sustainable management programme for the approximately 180 000 hectares of natural pine forests. The project is building the capacity of field staff to effectively manage and monitor forest field operations, which will include sustainable logging practices.

BARBADOS

Barbados has been a member nation of FAO since 1967, and FAO is currently working within the country to strengthen rural communities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, FAO has developed a programming framework that will guide their actions in Barbados through the end of 2016, crafted in response to the country’s National Medium-Term Development Strategy. The framework identifies four priority areas: i) food security and food safety; ii) enhancement of productivity and competitiveness in agriculture and fisheries; iii) sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries resources; and iv) agricultural health and food safety. Among the numerous ongoing projects within the country, there is an initiative to reduce post-harvest losses along the food chain in the Caribbean Community.
and Common Market (CARICOM) subregion, which is being implemented by strengthening the chain of actors and service providers, as well as increasing governmental awareness of the region. Another effort is currently underway to strengthen the small ruminant sector, thereby increasing food security and nutrition. The project is building farmers’ capacities in feeding, breeding, housing and general care for the animals, ultimately leading to long-term development of the sector.

BELIZE

Belize has been a member of FAO since 1983, and FAO currently supports the country in four priority areas: i) sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies; ii) innovations for food security and nutrition; iii) national agricultural health, food safety and quality standards; iv) and climate change adaptation and risk reduction. Examples of recent activities include assisting the government in the formulation of a national extension policy and national irrigation policy and strategic plan; an input supply project to immediately boost local food production as part of the FAO initiative on soaring food prices; organic vegetable production; improving post-harvest storage; a coordinated citrus greening management programme; and assisting low income farmers in adopting new sustainable farming systems. FAO is also supporting a local non-governmental organization (NGO) in its assessment and response to the illegal logging situation in the Chiquibul Forest—Belize’s most prized forest due to its size and rich reservoir of natural and cultural resources.

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Since 1978, the FAO Representation in Bolivia has provided technical assistance for the development of policies, programmes and projects aimed at eliminating hunger and malnutrition and guaranteeing the constitutional rights to healthy food and sustainable production. The Organization focuses its work on four main priority areas: i) food security and food sovereignty; ii) community family farming; iii) sustainability and climate change; and iv) food safety and agricultural health. FAO’s activities and projects in Bolivia have included policy and programme design to support domestic wheat, rice and maize production; a national policy to strengthen family farming; support to national and local food procurement from community family farming systems; implementing public agroecological production systems on a massive scale; and streamlining the national system of disaster early warning, response and rehabilitation. In 2013, FAO worked with the government to consolidate its supplementary school feeding policy, making it easier to purchase products from family farms.

BRAZIL

Brazil has become an increasingly important partner for FAO, and currently the country ranks ninth among FAO resource partners. Brazil has solidified its position as a global producer of agricultural commodities, and extended its national commitment to reduce hunger and poverty and improve nutrition. Working with 45 representatives from the Brazilian government, FAO has identified four strategic areas in which it will collaborate with the government over the following years: i) food security; ii) South-South Cooperation; iii) overcoming extreme poverty and sustainable management of natural resources; iv) and climate change and desertification. Brazil’s investments in South-South Cooperation through FAO have surpassed US$36 million, which has funded, among other projects, the “Strengthening School Feeding Programmes in African Countries” initiative. This programme, based on a model conceived in Brazil, sources school meal programmes to family
farms, thereby creating synergies that strengthen food security, child nutrition and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. In addition, projects under the FAO-Brazil Fund include activities that are part of the Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative; work to strengthen civil society on issues of family farming and access to renewable natural resources; consolidation of the Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA); support to national and subregional strategies for food security and nutrition; strengthening of agro-environmental policies in Latin America and the Caribbean; and post-emergency assistance action in El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti.

CHILE
Currently, FAO and Chile’s agreed priority areas are: i) territorial management of natural resources and climate change adaptation; ii) safety and agricultural health; and iii) South-South Cooperation. Under the first priority area, FAO is assisting Chile in adapting to climate change processes in areas such as water management, soil conservation and production systems. Specific tasks include consolidating and improving the country’s agroclimatic risk management system, developing a ministerial strategy for rainfed agriculture, and improving climate change adaptation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. For the second priority area, food safety and agricultural health, FAO is collaborating with the Chilean Agency for Quality and Food Safety (ACHIPIA) to improve food safety, plant health and animal/veterinary public health by strengthening management systems and border controls. In the third priority area of South-South Cooperation, FAO is assisting Chile in disseminating knowledge and expertise on its success and lessons learned in agricultural growth. Specifically, FAO functions as the coordinating body between Chile and other countries in the region to promote the transfer of technical support for the implementation of public policies and systematized statistical information. FAO also recently recognized Chile for achieving the World Food Summit target of halving the number of hungry people in the population.

COLOMBIA
FAO contributes to the development and implementation of public policies in Colombia to encourage sustainable development of the rural sector as well as food security and economic growth among the most vulnerable populations. The Organization’s key priorities include i) food security and nutrition; ii) watershed management and climate change; iii) family farming for rural development; and iv) risk
management and livelihood rehabilitation strategies. In line with the 2014 International Year of Family Farming, the Government of Colombia recently launched a US$292 billion programme to support 50 000 family farms by providing better financing conditions, infrastructure, production and marketing of thousands of rural families. FAO is working closely with authorities, producer organizations, the private sector and civil society throughout the region to support the formulation and adoption of policies and programmes meant to increase the production of goods and services from sustainable family agriculture. As family farming produces most of the food for local consumption and accounts for much of rural employment, it is a key ally in the fight against hunger and essential to ensuring the welfare of rural households. In the remaining priority areas, FAO is assisting the government in efforts to improve dietary diversity, generating sustainability interventions and nutrition education, watershed and biodiversity management, agricultural risk management, and developing mechanisms and strategies to promote nutritional health in the country.

COSTA RICA

Since establishing representation in Costa Rica in 1980, FAO has worked closely with the government to provide technical and financial support in achieving shared development goals. A programming framework was jointly prepared by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture defines four priority areas for collaboration: i) raising the competitiveness of the Costa Rican food industry through institutional support and the adaptation of efficient and effective services; ii) promoting innovation and technological development in agriculture, and improving connections between relevant public and private entities; iii) promoting the sustainable and balanced development of rural areas and family farming; and iv) promoting intersectoral efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This is particularly crucial, given that this global phenomenon affects all aspects of Costa Rica's agro-economic situation. Current FAO programmes in the country include the development of a pilot project to eradicate extreme rural poverty in the Brunca Region, an initiative to promote forest conservation by smallholder farmers through sustainable forest management, and a regional project to reduce the environmental impact of shrimp trawling and reduce bycatch to conserve marine habitats.

CUBA

Cuba was one of 19 Latin American countries who participated in FAO’s founding meeting in 1945. Since then, they have contributed to numerous causes in support of the Organization’s mandate of eradicating hunger and establishing food security. The activities implemented by FAO within the country cater specifically to the demands presented by the Cuban Government for the solution of problems related to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector. Together, FAO and the Cuban Government have determined four main areas in which the Organization’s efforts will be concentrated. First and foremost is the issue of sustainable food production, seeds and animal feed. FAO is working to help Cuba reduce food imports through the efficient use of land and the increase of domestic agricultural production. The second is adapting to climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources. The third is the health, quality and safety of food. Finally, support is given to Cuba’s role in the South-South Cooperation Programme. Cuba has worked directly with developing countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the fields of agriculture, forestry and food, with good results. FAO organizes arrangements for technicians and experts in Cuba to work with the host countries. As of 2013, Cuba was one of 16 countries to have reached the 1996 World Food Summit’s goal of halving the total number of their undernourished.
DOMINICA

FAO and the Government of Dominica continue to work together to achieve the shared goals of eradicating hunger and developing a sustainable agriculture sector, focusing particularly on food security and nutrition, rural development, plant and animal health/food safety, and risk management/climate change. Dominica is currently known as the Nature Isle, but has made it a stated intention to also lay claim to the title “the Organic Island”. FAO is helping the country to move closer to that goal by assisting the Dominica Organic Agricultural Movement (DOAM), an NGO formed by a cross section of farmers and traders in the organic food production industry. DOAM coordinates programmes and activities for the development of the local organic industry and ensures that foods grown under certifiable organic conditions are marketed effectively locally, regionally and internationally. FAO assistance will help to create a Plan of Action to support implementation of the Strategic Plan, taking into account the local environment and the relevant experiences and best practices of other organic movements in the Caribbean. FAO’s Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA) programme has also helped develop pineapple value chains in the country.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FAO works with the Government of the Dominican Republic in three priority areas: i) food security and nutrition and poverty reduction; ii) family farming; and iii) integrated watershed management, efficient use of natural resources, risk management and climate change. To prepare for and address the crippling impact of floods, landslides, droughts and hurricanes on agricultural production in the Caribbean, FAO launched a disaster management project with six communities from the southern region of the country. The project increased the resilience of farming and fishing communities through the implementation of community Agricultural Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) plans, location-specific good practices and technology and knowledge sharing of good practices and experiences, making the communities better prepared and more resilient to disasters. FAO is also providing technical support to strengthen the capacity of National Council for the Regulation and Development of Dairy Industry (CONALECHE) to develop, implement, and validate a model to increase productivity in the country’s family dairy sector. By using technologies adapted specifically for small producers in the tropics, as well as properly implementing the rules and regulations, the family dairy sector will be able to significantly increase its level of productivity.
ECUADOR

FAO works with the Government of Ecuador in these priority areas: i) strengthening policies, public institutions and producer associations related to family farming, thereby increasing productivity; ii) achieving permanent national food security; iii) improving food safety and agricultural health through support to the National System of Animal and Vegetable Health and providing technical assistance to generate proposals for regulatory frameworks; and iv) integral management of natural resources and mitigation and adaptation to climate change, mainly through strengthening national environmental policies. The successes of FAO's efforts within the country are already visible in several areas. In 2013, thanks to efforts to strengthen a national eradication campaign, no new outbreaks of hand, foot and mouth disease had been reported in two years. FAO has also worked extensively with the Ministry of Environment in National Forest Assessments to develop the Map of Deforestation of Ecuador in 2012, as well as the nation's first forest inventory.

EL SALVADOR

FAO's representation in El Salvador was established in San Salvador in 1978. Since then, in accordance with its mandate and expertise, FAO has provided technical and financial support for over 100 national and regional projects. These projects have contributed directly to FAO’s three main priority areas in the country: i) family farming, nutrition and alleviation poverty; ii) strengthening legislation and institutional capacity to improve management and efficiency; and iii) natural resources, climate change, risk management and emergency response. A recent project aimed to integrate the right to adequate food and good governance in El Salvador's national policies, legislation and institutions. FAO focused mainly on capacity development of national stakeholders to allow them to better integrate the right to food in their work, and on advocacy, communication and information activities engaging civil society organizations. An FAO-supported awareness raising radio campaign highlighted the linkages between food security and nutrition, using ten messages about rights and responsibilities in ensuring the realization of the right to adequate food, as well as information about healthy eating and living. FAO is also supporting the government's family farming plan by providing assistance in implementing farm management plans aimed at involving the entire family, diversifying production and generating surplus and income.
GRENADA

The Government of Grenada partners with FAO on several strategic priority areas, including i) the development of a risk management apparatus for the agricultural sector; ii) improving food security and nutrition; iii) increasing the availability of certified and quality seeds in the country; iv) enhancing agricultural health and food safety; v) support to risk reduction and climate change; and vi) reducing transboundary diseases. In one project in the country, FAO provided equipment and assisted with the tendering process for an abattoir the government built as part of a redevelopment programme for the town of Grenville. The abattoir has been built on the grounds of the School for Agriculture and is expected to have the capacity to slaughter up to 55 small and large ruminants each day. It was designed according to FAO guidelines for the construction of small abattoirs. FAO’s assistance contributes to the sustainable production of meat which meets the highest international standards and can also be sold in the domestic market for consumption by locals and tourists alike. With the development of this market, more producers will be encouraged to intensify their livestock operations, contributing to an eventual reduction in imported meat and meat products.

GUATEMALA

FAO’s work with the Government of Guatemala focuses on four key priority areas: i) food security and nutrition with emphasis on restoring peasant food systems; ii) sustainable management of renewable natural resources and risk management/climate change adaptation; iii) strengthening political and agricultural institutions to revive the peasant economy; iv) and improving the competitiveness of family farming food markets. As part of a recent strategy to boost food security through aquaculture, FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAGA) in developing the National Programme for Integration of Aquaculture in Family Agriculture (PRONIAAF). This programme aims to increase and diversify fish production, enhance animal protein intake and improve income of peasant families. One of the strategic lines of the programme is the creation and operation of agro-aquaculture farms in areas prioritized by the Zero Hunger Challenge. Examples of FAO’s previous programmes in Guatemala include improving food security and smallholder farmer incomes through certified seed and fertilizer distribution, as well as strengthening climate change adaptation through management of water resources.
GUYANA

Good working relationships with the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Health have helped FAO and Guyana work together to achieve shared development goals in the country. Their partnership is guided by the four priority areas of: i) nutrition and food security; ii) agriculture and rural development; iii) sustainable natural resources and climate change; and iv) agriculture health and food safety. In an effort to enhance the capacity of Guyana to collect, manage and access agricultural market data and information, FAO has been providing technical assistance to develop a comprehensive Agriculture Market Information System. This system is aimed at improving domestic and regional trade in agricultural commodities and enhancing the lives of rural populations. Achievements thus far include a website showcasing the work and services provided by Guyana Marketing Corporation, as well as enhanced staff capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture to implement a crop production data collection system to allow for better crop forecasting and production planning.

HAITI

FAO’s assistance to the Government of Haiti focuses on four key priority areas: i) capacity building for policies and strategies for food security and nutrition; ii) promoting agricultural sectors through private and public investment and agricultural support services; iii) increasing natural resource management capacity and resilience to climate change; and iv) strengthening risk management capacity for natural disasters and food crises. FAO’s Road to Recovery programme in the country has contributed significantly to the reduction of food insecurity levels by rebuilding the irrigation systems and access roads, reinforcing the banks of rivers and streams, and relaunching activities associated with watershed management, particularly tree planting, in order to prevent flooding. More recently, the emphasis of FAO’s programme has shifted towards development operations. The Haiti Resilience Initiative was developed for the 2014/15 biennium, to increase resilience of family farmers, contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and reduce rural poverty. Particularly significant is the Government’s request for FAO assistance in support of its Agricultural Recovery Plan. In November 2013, FAO convened a Regional Technical Meeting (in Panama) with South-South Cooperation partner countries to garner increased support for the Agricultural Recovery Plan. This set the stage for much stronger coordination between countries in the region providing assistance to Haiti.
HONDURAS

FAO supports development initiatives in Honduras through four priority areas: i) food security and family farming; ii) sustainable rural business development; iii) natural resource management and climate change adaptation; and iv) disaster risk management and resilience. In each of the four areas, FAO focuses on strengthening institutional capacity of the State to manage public policies and protection systems, as well as the development and promotion of food security. It also aims to strengthen conservation strategies and retention of the human capital formed by these projects and institutions. FAO’s Special Programme for Food Security (PESA) in the country has improved the nutritional status and food security of approximately 33,000 families by supporting family farming. The programme works in three phases: first, direct support to families by identifying and developing best practices for food security; second, geographical and conceptual expansion of good practices through government agencies at national and local level using a comprehensive and multisectoral approach; and third, incorporating food security into institutional frameworks and local and national programmes. Other FAO projects in the country have included strengthening the organizational capacity of seed producer families, and developing and improving rural financial systems to support families in the southern Lempira and northern Choluteca regions.

JAMAICA

Jamaica has been a member of FAO since 1963, and FAO representation in the country works closely with the government to support national efforts to promote food security and sustainable development, with a focus on four priority areas: i) value chain development; ii) creation of an enabling framework for the transformation of the agriculture sector; iii) sustainable management of resources; and iv) national food security. FAO has provided technical support to assist the government to respond to repeated outbreaks of the beet armyworm, which threatens to destroy the livelihood of small vegetable farmers in the southern part of the country, as well as erase productive gains in the cultivation of onions. The project is ongoing and will help to establish a comprehensive monitoring and forecasting programme using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. Additionally, to support a Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to on-farm crop and pest management, 20 extension officers and ten farmers are currently receiving intensive training in FFS methodologies and crop management techniques. The trained extension officers and farmers will then train approximately 150 other farmers. FAO is also helping in the development of a disaster preparedness and emergency response plan for the local agriculture sector.

MEXICO

For nearly 70 years, FAO and Mexico have cooperated to meet development goals, improve food security and eliminate hunger. FAO’s strategic vision for technical assistance in the country focuses on four priority areas: i) support for the Mexico National Hunger Programme; ii) cooperation in the formulation and evaluation of policies and implementation of public programmes to improve rural productivity; iii) support for environmental sustainability, resilience and green economy as a tool against climate change and other risks; and iv) encourage South-South and Triangular Cooperation programmes, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. FAO is currently working with the government on a number of initiatives, including strengthening the strategy and the measurement and information management for the country’s Strategic Project for Food Security (PESA) under its National Crusade Against Hunger. It is also facilitating REDD+ implementation in Mexico by building the country’s
capacities for a national measuring, reporting and verifying system necessary for the implementation of REDD+, conducting research on local incentives for REDD+, and promoting Mexico as a centre of excellence for South-South Cooperation.

NICARAGUA

FAO’s work in Nicaragua contributes to the national policies and programmes that are part of the National Plan for Human Development 2013-2017, focusing particularly on five priority areas: i) governance and investment for food sovereignty and food security and nutrition; ii) productivity and climate change adaptation in family farming; iii) school feeding and nutrition education; iv) production patterns for sovereignty and food security in the Caribbean coast; and v) agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries policies with a focus on climate change adaptation. FAO has several projects underway in the country, including an expansion programme for the Special Programme for Food Security (PESA); technical assistance and capacity building to increase production and linkages in agri-food chains in the potato and maize sectors; improving marketing of efficiency and equity in selected agro-food value chains, strengthening school feeding programmes; emergency assistance to communities affected by floods, among others. In 2013, FAO recognized Nicaragua for reaching Millennium Development Goal 1 of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger. Between 1990 and 2010, the prevalence of undernourishment in the country decreased from 55.1 percent to 20.1 percent.

PANAMA

FAO focuses its efforts in Panama on four key priority areas: i) family farming and rural development; ii) food security and nutrition; iii) sustainable management of natural resources; and iv) risk management and disaster resilience. Within the framework of these key objectives, FAO works to strengthen family farming through the improvement of production systems, access to markets, the capacities of national institutions in delivering technical services and institutional capacity to formulate policies in support of family agriculture. Its food security and nutrition efforts include building the capacity of national institutions and vulnerable communities to train trainers to improve knowledge transfer, while strengthening the institutional capacity to implement and monitor coordinated food security and nutrition policies, strategies and programmes. To promote sustainable natural resources management, FAO works to improve institutions and governance in the integrated management of natural resources with
a territorial approach, while strengthening the national technical capacity to monitor emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation, using a multisectoral approach and broad participation of local/indigenous communities. In the priority area of risk management and disaster resilience, FAO works with the government to help vulnerable producers better cope with recurrent risks, partially through its support in developing a proactive risk management institutional framework that is specific to the forestry and agricultural sectors.

PARAGUAY

FAO works in conjunction with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Paraguay to provide technical cooperation services in their respective areas of specialization. Increasing agricultural competitiveness has been identified as a priority by the government, particularly strengthening access to markets, with an emphasis on small and medium producers. Other priority areas include: support to family farming and food security; sustainable forest management and environmental services; livestock sector development; and managing risks associated with climate change. FAO/IICA specific projects in the present and coming years include developing the management capacity of knowledge, research, innovation and technology transfer; strengthening agricultural health, food safety, and national biotechnology and biosafety programmes; increasing access to land and inputs; strengthening sustainable agricultural and forestry production; improving the system of rural extension services; and incorporating new financial services, including crop insurance, for family farmers.

PERU

FAO’s partnership with Peru is centred on four priority areas: i) food security and nutrition, ii) family farming; iii) sustainable management of renewable natural resources; and iv) disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. FAO is currently assisting Peru in strengthening the governing and coordinating bodies for its national food security and nutrition policies, including establishing the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, as well as formulating regional strategies for its implementation. To support and promote family farming, FAO is assisting Peru in developing its National Strategy for the Promotion of Family Farming as well as its strategic plan on seeds, including distribution and regulation of potato, quinoa and maize seeds. With regard to sustainable natural resources management, FAO is supporting the implementation of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) as a tool for continuous collection of information on the many resources and services of forests. In the priority area of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, FAO is helping rural
communities and local authorities to be better prepared to cope with different climate threats. It is expanding vulnerability mapping, identifying areas that are at risk as well as measures to be taken for various extreme events. It is also setting up community-based risk management groups, strengthening monitoring activities and encouraging the integration of disaster risk reduction and management into local plans and budgets.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

FAO’s partnership with the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis focuses on three priority areas: i) capacity building for groups and cooperatives with an aim to foster the development of viable livelihoods and competitive agribusiness; ii) aquaculture development; and iii) the creation of sustainable food production systems for food security and nutrition, sustainable use and adaptation of agricultural biodiversity. In the country’s aquaculture sector, most fisheries are artisanal, but they make an important contribution to food security. Around 460 small-scale fishing vessels make up the fishing industry, with 2,000 fisherfolk representing 14 percent of those employed on the islands. Local catches contribute 500 tonnes of fish for local consumption. The government is aiming to transform the industry through improved technology to increase fisheries production. In addition to co-managing the sector and implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries, FAO is helping to strengthen fisherfolk organizations on the islands, as they need to be organized if they are to be equal partners with the Ministry. Strong fisherfolk organizations may also take a leading role in the efforts to reduce praedial larceny of fish and fisheries gear and equipment.

SAINT LUCIA

The Government of Saint Lucia and FAO work together to achieve development goals with a focus on three main priority areas: i) agriculture and natural resources sustainability and the potential impact of climate variation; ii) food security and nutrition; and iii) enhanced institutional capacities, policy formulation and investment promotion. FAO is currently supporting the government in a programme to modernize meat production in the country through the construction of a modern slaughterhouse/meat processing facility. It will enhance food safety, build consumer confidence in meat.
and meat products, stimulate livestock production and help locally produced meats to reach high-end market segments, including the lucrative tourist industry, which currently imports all of its meats and meat products. FAO is assisting the country through the development of general operating and management plans for the operation of the facility.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

FAO’s support to St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the past decade has focused on capacity building, assistance in policy formulation, agriculture planning and agriculture legislation development. Its three main objectives, as agreed upon with the government, are i) fostering agricultural entrepreneurship; ii) boosting production in crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries; and iii) conserving the natural environment/increasing biodiversity. In an income generation initiative, FAO assisted the community in Georgetown, on the Northeast coast of St. Vincent, after losing its traditional sources of income due to the closure of the local sugar factory and the decline of banana production. Decades ago the people of Georgetown were well known for their skills in using bamboo to build baskets and other household items. With the increased use of plastic, the tradition of bamboo weaving was almost lost. The Georgetown Craft Makers Association decided to revive traditional bamboo craft to generate income opportunities for local youth. With the assistance of FAO, the community group registered as a non-profit organisation and employed two local trainers and a facilitator.

SURINAME

Agriculture ranks as the second major economic sector in Suriname as it accounts for 10 percent of total exports earnings; employs 17 percent of the labour force and contributes approximately 10 percent to GDP. Top priorities for the government and FAO include i) modernization and development of food production systems; ii) food and income security for vulnerable livelihoods and communities in environmentally sensitive areas; and iii) enhanced food security policy, legislation and information systems. FAO assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in planning agriculture for the future by helping the ministry formulate seven agriculture subsector white papers on rice, bananas, horticulture (vegetable, fruit, root crops), livestock, fisheries, interior development and agribusiness to support the government in achieving food security targets. A national stakeholder consultative exercise has been completed and the Ministry is utilizing the subsector documents in various national planning
exercises. Other ongoing projects in the country include strengthening aquatic animal health protection systems, preparation of the agriculture sector action plan and disposal of obsolete pesticides.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FAO and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago focus their partnership on three priority areas: i) food security and nutrition; ii) agriculture and rural productivity and business development; and iii) the modernization of food and agriculture sector. An important aspect of agriculture sector development and food security is the ability to collect and review information and to use the data to develop future strategies. FAO is working with the government to strengthen agricultural data and information, specifically by helping to develop a one-year plan to establish a National Agricultural Data and Information Division, operational guidelines for the division’s systems, processes, programme planning and protocols, as well as a strategic plan and work programme for the division. Other ongoing projects include improving food security in the region, expanding a cocoa drying facility for the Tobago Cocoa Farmers Association, and improving forest and protected area management.

URUGUAY

FAO’s support to the Government of Uruguay is focused on six priority areas: i) policies to improve competitiveness and integration into value chains; ii) land management, natural resources and biodiversity; iii) development of the fishing sector; iv) animal and plant health and food safety; v) rural development, food security and family farming; and vi) South-South Cooperation. In recent years, FAO and Uruguay have reworked and improved the country’s institutional framework and management of fisheries resources by applying information management tools and implementing fishing zones, while the government adopted the Law on Promoting Responsible Fisheries and Aquaculture. Producers were also trained on sustainable development and production for fisheries and aquaculture. Other projects have helped the country with food safety, land use planning, climate change adaptation, horticulture and deciduous fruits, pesticide management and combating desertification. In the future, FAO and Uruguay plan to expand their partnership through more South-South Cooperation projects, particularly through collaborations between Uruguayan public agricultural institutions and potential
host countries. Plans are being developed to partner Uruguay with Colombia to assist private and public institutions in the dairy sector; with Chile on adapting agriculture to climate change and variability; and with Haiti in the general framework of support to the country and region.

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

FAO’s work with the Government of Venezuela focuses on four priority areas: i) support for sustainable agricultural development; ii) support for initiatives aimed at achieving food security and food sovereignty; iii) support to climate change adaptation, risk management and environmental preservation; and iv) promoting the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative (HFLACI) and support for South-South Cooperation. FAO and the Government of Venezuela recently signed an agreement to implement a Venezuelan-led regional food security, nutrition and poverty eradication programme within the framework of the HFLACI. The programme will work on three tracks: strengthening leaders, producers and social organizations in rural areas; facilitating the commercialization and trade of products from family farms; and supporting hunger eradication efforts in various economic integration zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular in the Petrocaribe region. Additional FAO-Venezuela partnerships include a fisheries development programme with environmental and economic sustainability criteria, through which FAO will provide technical assistance and support the transfer of technology and good practices to fishing communities along the Venezuelan coast. The Government of Venezuela has also supported several South-South Cooperation projects with FAO, including a recent agreement to promote sustainable rice production systems in sub-Saharan Africa, which will support ten countries in their efforts to strengthen food security through more efficient rice production, with a strong emphasis on small producers.
In accordance with FAO’s Strategic Framework, the Organization has implemented several Regional Initiatives to mobilize resources and deliver results on the priority areas agreed upon with its partners. Several CELAC countries are collaborating with FAO on its Regional Initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative

In 2005, the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLACI) was launched as a joint commitment by countries and organizations to eradicate hunger within one generation. This Regional Initiative is driving the HFLACI forward, developing and strengthening political and governance processes towards achieving food security and nutrition objectives.

The Initiative supports regional, subregional and national commitments to the eradication of hunger and the right to food at the highest political level, including the programme for the eradication of hunger and poverty of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the regional Parliamentary Front Against Hunger (as well as national parliamentary chapters) and regional integration bodies’ work plans to address hunger eradication. In particular, the Regional Initiative supports countries in achieving their national food security and nutrition goals through better design and implementation of multisectoral public policies and programmes and the strengthening of related institutions, legal frameworks, information systems and resource allocation. It also seeks to improve coordination among different sectors, ensuring inclusion of different stakeholders such as civil society, parliamentarians, academia, indigenous peoples, producer and consumer organizations and the private sector.
Although important progress has been made in reducing poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean in recent decades, almost one third of the rural population still lives in extreme poverty and is at high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. Most rural poor are smallholder family farmers and improving their livelihoods will help lift them out of poverty.

The Regional Initiative aims to reduce rural poverty and enhance food security and nutrition through rural territorial development, supporting member countries to create synergies between agriculture and other social and rural development sectors. This approach takes into account the needs and specificities of the territory and aims to create an enabling environment for family farming while sustainably fostering rural livelihoods.

This Regional Initiative addresses two fundamental problems faced by countries across the Caribbean region: first, limited food and feed crop value chain development, and second, low utilization of domestic agricultural products. Both have resulted in a high food import bill, which in 2013 was estimated at US$4.75 billion. Constraints that undermine participation, productivity, investment, value addition, competitiveness and trade have to be addressed. In addition, attention must be given to issues related to quality, standards, governance and the promotion of local food and feed to increase market entry.

Priority countries are expected to develop and establish sustainable food systems through improved policy and governance for increased investment, production, employment, trade and consumption. This will result in improved access to quality food and improved nutrition through changed consumption patterns.
Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions that has made the greatest progress in reducing hunger in the past two decades. Thanks to the political commitment demonstrated by all countries, the region has already met the Millennium Development Goal 1c target of halving the proportion of undernourished people by 2015, and has achieved 92 percent progress toward the World Food Summit target of halving the total number of people suffering from hunger. FAO is committed to working with CELAC and member countries in the region to implement concrete actions at all levels to achieve the goal of eradicating hunger permanently by 2025.

FAO’s work in Latin America and the Caribbean is channelled primarily, though not exclusively, through four major strategic policy areas, which address all dimensions of food security and nutrition in response both to emergency needs and to the underlying causes of hunger: i) comprehensive policies and strategies for food security and nutrition; ii) strengthening of family farming; iii) combating poverty and extreme poverty, particularly in rural areas; and iv) intra-regional and domestic trade for food and nutritional security.

"Latin America and the Caribbean has become a benchmark in the global fight against hunger. FAO shares the commitment of CELAC countries to channel this success into current and future plans, policies and programmes to eradicate hunger and ensure food security in the region."

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General