



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and FAO

Partnering for sustainable  
food and nutrition security



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**“** Eradicating hunger is about joining forces to scale up successful programmes and linking actions for better results. In doing so, we need to work with small-scale producers, helping them increase their production and productivity and linking them to value chains and to functioning markets.”

**FAO Director General, Jose Graziano da Silva**

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### **Introduction**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) strives for a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest; in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

### **Preamble to FAO's constitution**

- Raising the levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions;
- Securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food & agricultural products;
- Bettering the condition of rural populations; and thus contributing towards an expanding world economy and securing humanity's freedom from hunger.

### **FAO Global Goals:**

- Reduction of absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- Elimination of poverty through economic and social progress for all with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and
- Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for benefit of present and future generations.



**HUNGER CAN BE ELIMINATED IN OUR LIFETIMES**

### FAO's Strategic Objectives

SO 1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

SO 2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.

SO 3: Reduce rural poverty.

SO 4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.

SO 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

**1998** Government of the DPR Korea signed the Host Country Agreement and FAO office was opened in Pyongyang

### FAO's mandate is to:

- Raise levels of nutrition;
- Improve agricultural productivity; and
- Better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

### FAO Principles

- Human rights-based approach
- Gender equality
- Environmental sustainability
- Capacity development
- Results-based management

### Commitments

FAO is committed to upholding the commitments agreed upon at the four High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness in Rome (2002), Paris (2005), Accra (2008) and Bussan (2011), and The Transformative Agenda, which inter alia espouses:

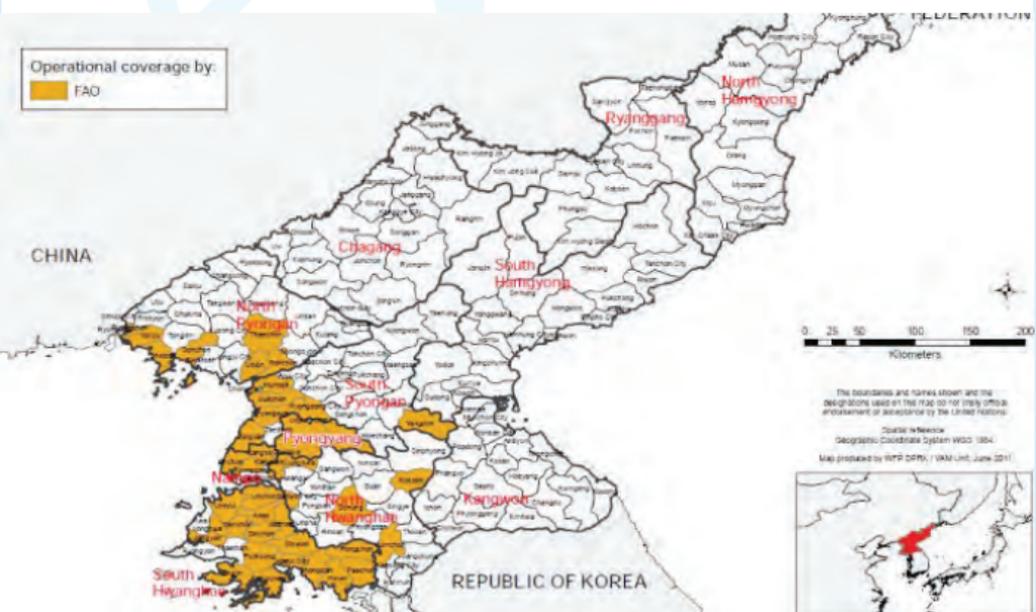
- Centrality of "country owned" and "country-led" strategies and programmes for development;
- Alignment to country programmes;
- Harmonization with country owned processes,
- Mutual accountability, between countries and development partners,
- Transparency;
- Predictability; and
- Partnerships at country level, including with private sector and civil society.

## FAO's Main Areas of Activities

- Putting information within reach;
- Sharing policy expertise;
- Providing a neutral forum for nations to deliberate on issues of mutual concern as equal partners;
- Bringing knowledge to the field.

## FAO Core Functions

- Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, conventions, protocols, treaties, codes of conduct, technical guidelines, norms and standards;
- Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to FAO's mandate;
- Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels;
- Advise and support capacity development to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes;
- Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and best practices in the areas of FAO's mandate;
- Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development;
- Advocate and raise awareness at national, regional and global levels, in areas of FAO's mandate.



## FAO's work in DPR Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPR Korea) signed the Host Country Agreement on 1st January, 1998 and 9th February, 1998, FAO Representation in the DPRK was established under the Agreement for Double Accreditation

from China. Over the past three decades, FAO has cooperated with the DPR Korea, providing agricultural technical assistance ranging from agro forestry, fruit and crop production and marine aquaculture to trans-boundary pest and disease control.

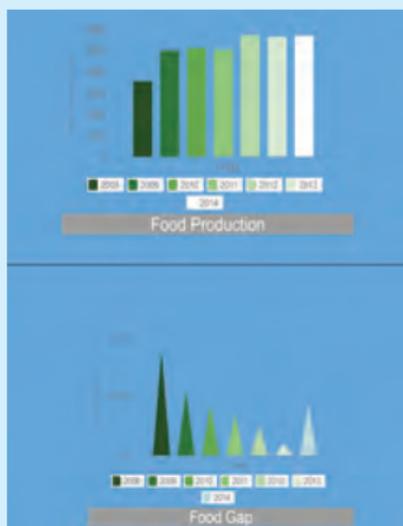
Emergency support has been a major feature of cooperation in the past, while more comprehensive programme approaches to development have been adopted since the second half of the 1990s, including an increasing focus on issues such as food safety. During this period, some 214 field projects assisted by FAO have received funding totalling USD 80.428 million.

The DPR Korea has a total population of 24.65 million. Rural communities make up one third of the population mostly living in the 3000 cooperative farms which utilise 90% of the agriculture land. FAO work covers 8 out of 11 provinces, spread across 66 counties. Agriculture is the mainstay of the national economy employing 36% of its workforce. Despite the adverse topography, inclement weather, climatic aberrations and limited agricultural land, food production continues to grow. Self-sufficiency in food production is a national priority.

From 1984 the FAO-DPR Korea country office has received funding from UNDP, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, European Commission, Norway, Luxembourg, WFP, Republic of Korea, Italy, Finland, Australia and Central Emergency Response Fund, making FAO presence in DPR Korea relevant.

FAO cumulative delivery at the time of the CPF preparation in 2011 stood at USD64.4 million; the country office made a total delivery of USD 3 258 million in 2011; USD 5 819 million in 2012; USD 4 106 million in 2013 and USD 2.845 million in 2014. This has contributed to the increase in agricultural production leading to the gradual reduction of the chronic food gap in the country as illustrated in the graphs below.





## Country Programming Framework 2012-2015

To help DPR Korea achieved its National Development Objectives, FAO prepared the 2012-2015 Country Programming Framework (CPF) which was extended to 2016 to align with new The United Nations Development Action Framework.

The CPF defines FAO's priorities for technical cooperation with the Government of the DPR Korea. The CPF is a framework to guide how FAO can best assist the Government of DPR Korea in meeting its development priorities. The CPF reviews existing DPR Korea Government priorities vis-à-vis past and ongoing FAO's interventions to identify the gaps in and future potential for FAO assistance. It sets out jointly-agreed medium-term priorities for DPR Korea Government-FAO collaboration in the areas of FAO's competence, including agriculture, food security, natural resource management and rural livelihoods, mainly through agriculture-based activities.

The CPF five priority areas of focus for DPR Korea Government – FAO collaboration include:

- A: Strengthening national food and nutritional security
- B: Improving natural resource management
- C: Improving rural livelihood
- D: Coping with climate change and
- E: Strengthening institutional capacity for agricultural research, extension and administration

The CPF's total resource requirement is USD77 831 066. FAO mobilized USD17 092 027 for implementation of 6 TCP, 10 emergency and 4 development projects. GoDPRK contributed USD1 307 183 bringing the total resource mobilized to USD19 400 109 (25%) and leaving a resource gap of USD 58 430 957 (75%).





## FAO successes in DPR Korea

### Strengthening national food and nutritional security

FAO and DPR Korea government work towards ensuring food security through increased production of vegetables and soybean. FAO projects will provide 132 metric tonnes (MT) of soybean seed to be planted on 2640 ha of land. The projected production of 6600 MT of soybean will produce protein rich soymilk, soy flour and other blended foods. FAO also supported the production of wheat through the provision of wheat seed and urea fertilizer. This saw an increase yield of up to 600 kg/ha.

Projects:

- *Special Programme for Food Security - Phase II*: USD 1 060 495 Funded by Italy
- *Emergency support to improve food security and nutrition of vulnerable farming families*: 300 000 funded by CERF

FAO has supported quality seed production for staple food and vegetable crops. Farmers have been trained in seed management and improved facilities for seed production provided. FAO supported government policy review with a view of increasing food production. Seed production has increased by 20-25% and international seed quality standards increased from 13 to 20%.

- *Project: Improved Seed Production for Sustainable Agriculture*: USD1 729 355 funded by UNDP

### Coping with climate change

In a world threatened by climate change and water shortages, climate smart technologies are valuable in reversing the conditions threatening food and nutritional security. FAO introduced conservation farming technologies to cooperative farms in DPR Korea to adopt climate resilient agriculture practices. The CA technologies use available fuels more efficiently and reduce the layover time between planting and harvesting seasons to increase performance and yield. Another climate smart technology System of Rice Intensification has increased rice production using less resources, improved soil fertility and preserved the environment. For the farmers, SRI allows less production costs, reduces time, labour and investment in machinery.

- *Project: Enhanced Food and Nutrition Security through Conservation Agriculture and Double Cropping*: USD 1 894 377 funded by European Union
- *Improved Rice Production and Sustainability through System of Rice Intensification*: USD 300 000 TCP

### **Improving rural livelihood**

Jointly implemented by Government and FAO, the pasture seed multiplication and sustainable pasture development project promotes grass based sustainable livestock development with an aim of improving rural livelihoods. 50 000 ha of abandoned native pastures in the Sepo Uplands will be developed to support 100 dairy goats and 24 dairy cow as well as sheep. This, once scaled up, is expected to improve food and nutritional security, reduce poverty and child mortality and improve maternal health.

- *Project: The pasture seed multiplication and sustainable pasture development in Sepo uplands: USD436 000 TCP funded*

### **Improving natural resource management**

To ensure food security, it is imperative that DPR Korea uses all available resources sparingly to feeds its population. FAO has supported the *Integrated Crop-livestock Farming System* project where livestock and crops will be produced within a coordinated framework. The waste products from the animals support crop production and in turn crop residues and by-products feed the animals. The mixed farming system directly contributes to improved food and nutrition security of some 5 110 families and indirectly to some 642 430 people.

- *Project: Support for Integrated Crop-livestock Farming System: USD 368 000 TCP funded*

### **Strengthening institutional capacity for agricultural research, extension and administration**

FAO emergency response teams have combated foot and mouth disease as well as Avian Influenza outbreaks in DPR Korea. Support has enhanced government's capacity to respond to and manage the outbreaks by developing and implementing an emergency preparedness and response plan. Government field staffs farmers are trained in veterinary services, disease surveillance and control. The result is a continued constant supply of poultry, food and nutrition security and improved livelihoods of populations.

Projects:

- *Emergency Assistance to Control HPAI Capacity: USD 400 000 TCP funded*
- *Emergency Response to Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak: USD435 000 TCP funded*

### **Save food, reduce hunger**

FAO provided improved technologies to demonstration cooperative farms to reduce post-harvest losses of food and enhance nutrition and food security. Approximately 15.56 % in rice, 16.65 % in maize and 16.35 % in wheat and barley is lost during post harvest. Farmers have been trained in planning and coordination of post-harvest management systems. With storage facilities and equipment provided, increased food production is ensured. Some farms recorded a 50% reduction of such losses and improvement in food security and nutrition for 6 804 cooperative farmers.

- *Project: Reduction of Post Harvest Losses for Food Security: 1 705 586 million funded by UNDP*