



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Regional Initiative pays attention to technical, social, economic and environmental aspects. Inclusiveness of women, youth and vulnerable groups is also a key principle. Activities focus on the following areas:

- > Sustainable management of agricultural land and water resources.
- > Sustainable intensification of smallholders' production.
- > Strengthening the organizations of small producers and family farms.
- > Enhancing access to rural services – such as advisory services and micro-loans.

Efforts will be geared towards:

- > Disseminating sustainable agricultural best practices.
- > Strengthening governance to support producers and resource managers.
- > Enhancing equitable access for smallholders to productive resources, services, organizations and markets.
- > Developing inclusive and efficient agribusinesses and agrifood chains.

The Regional Initiative complements regional and global integration processes, such as the European Union's European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD), and the "Voluntary Guidelines on The Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security" and builds upon results of the United Nations International Year of Family Farming 2014.

FAO is working with partners to achieve even more in this area: the European Union, the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group for South Eastern Europe, and Landnet, an informal regional network dealing with land tenure issues.



KYRGYZSTAN

Small-scale farmers harvesting cotton.  
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## IN PRACTICE

Specific activities include:

- > Conducting studies on smallholders and family farming in each focus country, with a view to scaling up country programmes for a more significant contribution to the region.
- > Strengthening organizations of small producers and family farms, at both community and policy level, in several countries.
- > Promoting aquaculture and culture based fisheries in Tajikistan and alternative use of water resources in Armenia.
- > Developing farmer field schools in Kyrgyzstan to promote modern crop management techniques.
- > Enhancing rural services such as advisory services, and supporting the development of a national land consolidation programme in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- > Supporting the rehabilitation of seed production systems, and of integrated pest Management practices for smallholders, through expert consultations in Georgia.
- > Strengthening cooperation among farmers and improving agricultural extension services.
- > Developing national rural development strategies with ministries of agriculture for improved programme preparation, policy-making, monitoring and implementation processes.

### Contact

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### More information

[www.fao.org/europe/regional-perspectives/smallholders-family-farms/en/](http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-perspectives/smallholders-family-farms/en/)

In its work to end hunger, malnutrition and poverty, FAO has identified five key priorities, each channelled through a Strategic Programme. This initiative is being implemented in the context of:



The FAO Strategic Programme to  
**REDUCE RURAL POVERTY**

[www.fao.org/about/what-we-do/so3](http://www.fao.org/about/what-we-do/so3)