



# Small-Scale Family Farming



## FOCUS COUNTRIES

Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, and West Bank & Gaza Strip.

## OVERALL GOAL

Bring small farmers back to the heart of rural growth and development.

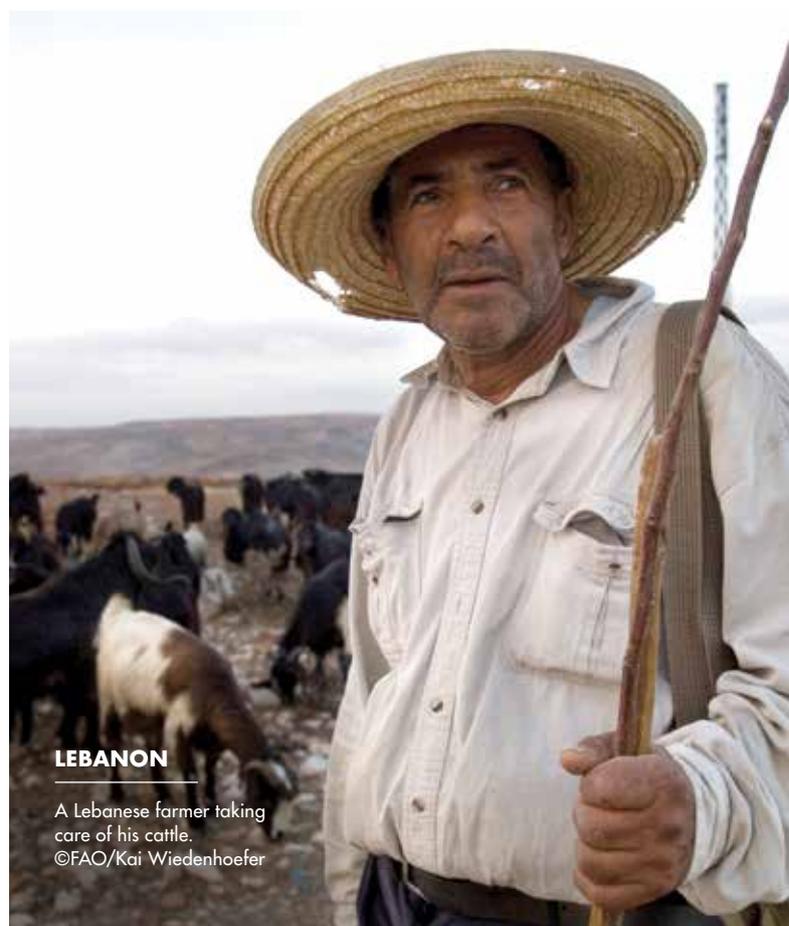
## ABOUT THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

In the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, more than 80 percent of agricultural production is provided by small-scale family farming. Despite its enormous contribution to food security and to rural economy, small-scale family farming faces a number of intertwined constraints impeding its productivity, profitability and contribution to economic growth.

The overall objective of this Regional Initiative is to reduce rural poverty by promoting and supporting inclusive small-scale agricultural development, with special attention to governance and institutions, including improving access of smallholders to social protection, rural services and markets, strengthening the capacities of producers' organizations and promoting youth employment and sustainable value chain development.

The Initiative will make a significant difference through its contribution to poverty reduction, employment generation particularly for youth and

women, and inclusive growth as well as reducing rural-urban migration. Assessments of gender issues will help identify targeted activities as well as provide input to policy making, helping in the development of gender-sensitive policies favoring smallholders. The Regional Initiative on Small-Scale Family Farming specifically addresses one of the most important structural challenges in the region: high numbers of youth unemployment and gender inequality.



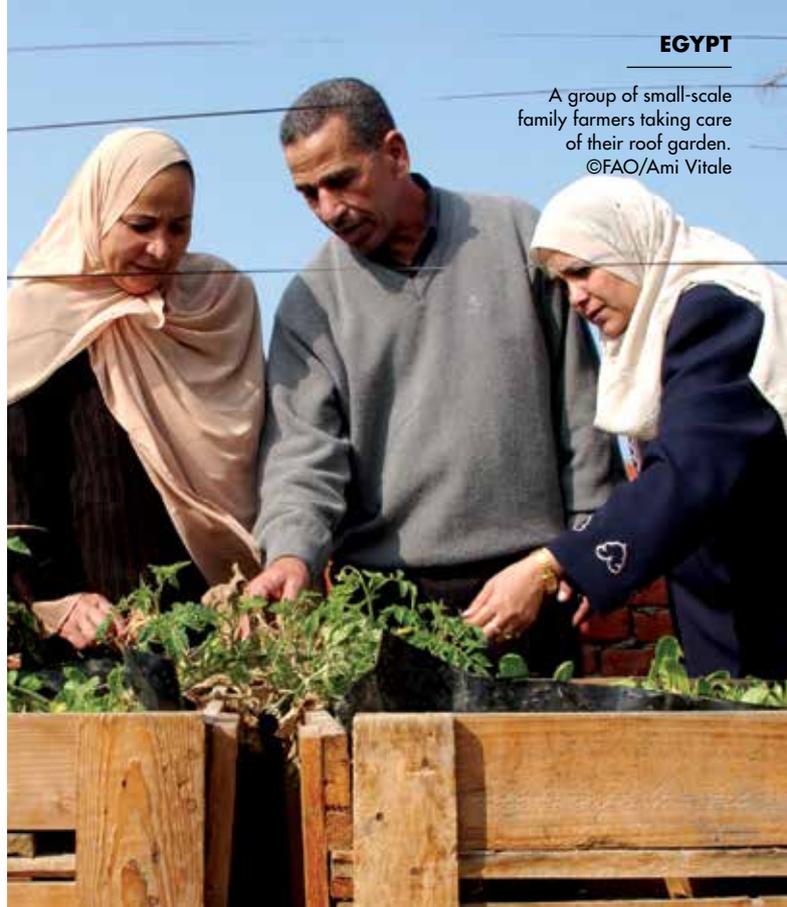
### LEBANON

A Lebanese farmer taking care of his cattle.  
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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

This Regional Initiative was piloted during 2014-15 in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia achieving the following results:

- > A baseline study was conducted to identify and analyze the typology of smallholders in the NENA region, identify the constraints and barriers they are facing and build evidence to support policies and strategies for sustainable and inclusive development of the small-scale family farming sector in the region.
- > In addition, the Initiative piloted interventions that address key areas of emphasis: governance and institutions, capacities of producers' organizations and youth employment. On governance and institutions, major achievements include the harmonization of the legal and institutional frameworks governing producers' organizations in livestock and fisheries in the Arab Maghreb Union.
- > Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security were promoted in Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. The Initiative conducted several training and capacity building interventions in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia aiming at strengthening the managerial capacities and the professionalization of producers' organizations.
- > An e-learning platform for producer organizations in the Maghreb countries was established with the aim to facilitate their access to knowledge and promote experience sharing among the various stakeholders.
- > Support to projects in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia aimed at improving smallholders' productivity through improved extension systems and support to access to markets.
- > As part of the sub-regional youth employment programme in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, diagnostics of the situation of rural youth employment, challenges and opportunities have been initiated. The generated knowledge will provide the basis for the development and implementation of a decent rural youth employment strategy in the agricultural sector in the target countries.



## IN PRACTICE

Specific activities include:

- > Support the development of tools for capacity building related to agribusiness, food value chain, market linkages, sustainable access to rural services and investment.
- > Technical and managerial support to promote inclusive, efficient and sustainable agrifood chains for specific commodities having an important economic value for the communities and the economy of the country.
- > Support the adoption and dissemination of innovations, through strengthened producers' associations and the development of farmer field schools in twelve countries.
- > Support the expansion of agriculture employment, in particular for youth, the integration of social protection in agriculture strategies and the extension of social protection coverage to rural workers.

### Contact

Alfredo Impiglia, Regional Initiative Delivery Manager, Regional Office for Near East and North Africa,  
email: Alfredo.Impiglia@fao.org

### More information

<http://www.fao.org/neareast/perspectives/sustainable-agriculture/en/>