



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA
NEWSLETTER

For a hunger-free
Africa

January – June 2017



Inside Stories

Page 3

FAO and Eritrea sign a Country Programming Framework

Page 4

FAO shows keen interest in follow-ups
on entrepreneurial training

Page 5

FAO develops guide to use cover crops to increase maize
production in sub-Saharan Africa

Page 6

FAO South Sudan: partnership and capacity-building
to effectively fight the foot-and-mouth disease

Page 7

FAO new Umbrella Programme on Supporting
Responsible Investments

Page 8

FAO-European Union: Improving food security through
Pro-ACT fairs, with great satisfaction among beneficiaries

Page 9

The new market gardening site of Ngoulékpa,
Central African Republic

Page 10

The magic bean (mucuna) in Kanpour, in the
Upper West Region of Ghana

Page 11

Photo gallery: FAO Director-General's visit to
northeast Nigeria and South Sudan



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Tamiru Legesse

Mayram Hola pumping water from
an FAO-supported pond to water
animal fodder seedlings (Ethiopia)



Photo Credit: ©FAO

National summer tree-planting (Eritrea)

FAO and Eritrea sign a Country Programming Framework

The Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization signed a Country Programming Framework (CPF 2017–2021) for the State of Eritrea to guide FAO partnership with the GoSE.

This CPF is aligned to the GoSE's priorities as reflected in the current National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP), which maps Eritrea's projected five-year developmental and economic growth trajectories for the period 2014–2018.

The CPF is likewise aligned with FAO' regional priorities, which include increased productivity and effective market access in agrifood systems, reduced vulnerability to threats to food security and nutrition, and improved management and governance for sustainable use of natural resources. In the area of agriculture, the GoSE is implementing an integrated Five-Year Strategic Agricultural Development Plan in order to achieve sustainable food security.

The integrated strategic development plan aims to increase the agricultural and livestock annual

output for use as food and as raw material for associated industries in a sustainable and secure manner and to earn foreign currency through exports of agricultural and agroindustrial products and substitute imports.

The Minister of Agriculture, Arefaine Berhe, representing the State of Eritrea, and Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative in Eritrea, signed the document.

The GoSE is also highly committed to the protection and management of its natural resources. The National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) for Eritrea is the primary policy document to guide the environmental sector as well as outlining the strategy for environmental conservation.

Gender is also integral to Eritrea's development, and it is reflected in the CPF. Women constitute 55 percent of Eritrea's population. Primarily as a result of the 30-year war of liberation, 47.2 percent of the country's total households are headed by women (EPHS 2010).

The Fifth CEDAW periodic report submitted by the GoSE in 2014 emphasizes on its article 14 on rural women the extensive training provided by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to women in the construction of energy-efficient stoves.

This CPF will be pursued in partnerships as broad as possible and in alignment with the joint efforts of the Government of the State of Eritrea and the development partners for enhanced coordination and aid effectiveness.

NOTE

This CPF is aligned to the GoSE's priorities as reflected in the current National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP), which maps Eritrea's projected five-year developmental and economic growth trajectories for the period 2014–2018.



FAO SHOWS KEEN INTEREST IN FOLLOW-UPS ON ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been following up on the way agri-entrepreneurs implement the skills and plans acquired from training offered by the Organization.

This activity follows several training sessions for a number of participants from across countries in Africa, organized by FAO in collaboration with the Songhai Training Centre in Porto Novo, Benin.

The training programmes, under the auspices of FAO Regional Initiative on Sustainable Agricultural Production Intensification and Value Chain Development, featured participants from countries as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and Zambia.

Participants were trained on maintaining fishery facilities as well as their production cycle. They were also provided with technical skills on feed formulation, particularly floating feed, by using local resources (earthworms, insect larvae and azolla) and more capacity in fishery, from production to sale.

They acquired new skills in the areas of crop, vegetable production, irrigation systems, biological control, soil fertilization, and animal production, including poultry, artificial insemination on catfish, in animal nutrition, and in the technical and economic management of production units.

Knowledge and skills were provided to trainees on renewable energy with focus on production and storage of biogas as a tangible synergy from integrated agriculture production systems. Sources of biogas were animal waste, agricultural waste and organic waste. The benefits deriving from biogas were mentioned, such as electricity production and organic fertilization.

In view of the increasing collaboration with the Songhai Centre, plans are far advanced for the training of more young farmers. This will no doubt bring to the fore the benefits of integrated agriculture systems and the opportunities for Africa.

Young agricultural entrepreneurs trained at the Songhai Centre are ready to "nourish, educate and discipline the next generation" whilst they develop their respective businesses.

NOTE

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Photo Credit: ©FAO/Léchoko Noko

FAO develops guide to use cover crops to increase maize production in sub-Saharan Africa

The FAO Regional Office for Africa has developed a guide on the use of cover crops to sustainably increase maize production and systems in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) for a wider adoption by other countries.

In Rwanda, the IMPABARUTA cooperative, in Kamonyi District in the Southern Province of Rwanda, has over 746 members of which 524 are women, with a production area of 60 hectares of maize.

They dry the husks in traditional drying facilities and transport the product to the cooperative where it is categorized by quality, then husked, bagged and stored.

The highest quality seed is then sold to the Government, with whom the group has a permanent contract. The rest of the seeds is sold back to the growers at a reduced rate.

The cooperative also leases a shared plot of land where maize is grown, and members have the option of

working the land for a wage. IMPABARUTA also functions as a microfinance institution, with loans available to its members to increase their production and generate income.

The cooperative also has a full-time staff, including an agronomist and an accountant. During its recent history, one of the biggest challenges faced by IMPABARUTA has been to make sure that input costs such as fertilizer are kept low in order to maximize profit.

The group has been receiving technical assistance through Global Communities on advanced farming techniques such as organic methods of composting, fertilization, and pest control.

These interventions have led to cost savings for the cooperative, which have then been invested into equipment that increases the speed of production, such as electronic huskers for the dried maize.



Photo Credit: ©FAO Rwanda

The farmer group has been receiving technical assistance through Global Communities on advanced farming techniques such as organic methods of composting, fertilization, and pest control.



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Karel Prinsloo

FAO South Sudan: partnership and capacity-building to effectively fight the foot-and-mouth disease

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a transboundary disease, has a devastating effect on animals, resulting in production losses, reduced household income and food insecurity among subsistence farmers in Africa.

In response, FAO conducts government capacity-building projects that encompass human, scientific, technological and financial resources and institutional capabilities in African countries.

In March 2017 at the launch of a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on the disease, entitled 'Support to implementation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) in South Sudan', FAO handed over laboratory equipment worth US\$19 000 to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Resources. The equipment is aimed at helping establish a laboratory for testing samples from suspected foot-and-mouth disease cases, and enable assessment of impacts of the FMD.

"As animals don't have passports, they are freely moving across borders, which has a big impact on the spread of diseases and the livestock sector in the subregion", said Patrick Kormawa, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to the AUC and the UNECA.

"We believe, as FAO, that one of the important ways in which we are contributing to the economic development of this country is to improve the opportunities for South Sudan to access the international market. We look forward to working with the Minister, ministry staff and of course, other partners contributing to this project," he added.

The support will enable the identification of the right vaccine to be given to the specific strain of the virus in order to initialize the right treatment. The information will feed into the national epidemiology information system, as the cold chain system will help produce and analyze trends of the disease outbreaks. With the technical support from FAO, the Ministry will now

be able to develop a more robust system to help analyze trends and formulate fitting interventions to fight and prevent the spread of the disease. There are plans under this project to develop a unique strategy designed for presentation and control of the disease.

Strengthening partnership

The South-Sudan's Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Resources highlighted the importance of livestock to the communities and called for a deeper partnership with FAO in helping implement priorities of the comprehensive agricultural matrix plan that was endorsed recently by the parliament.

"It is important to add value to the commodity of livestock in order to compete at international export market; without proper laboratory equipment, disease surveillance is not possible", said the Ministry's Undersecretary Dr. Makuei Malua."

FAO NEW UMBRELLA PROGRAMME ON SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), investment in agriculture and food systems needs to increase, specifically to eradicate poverty and achieve zero hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. FAO estimates an increase of US\$118 billion in investment annually until 2030. However, not only do we need more investments in agriculture and food systems, but the world also needs better responsible investments.

Unfortunately, worrying accounts keep coming in about infringements of community rights, threats to livelihoods and damage to the environment caused by investments, showing that not all investments contribute to sustainable development.

The Umbrella Programme

This is where FAO's new umbrella programme, which supports responsible investments in agriculture and food systems, comes in. It responds to the global need for enhanced and better investments in agriculture and food systems with a set of key advocacy and capacity development activities that could be funded at global, regional and country levels.

The Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division (OPC), which has led the development of the programme, used an innovative approach for its development. OPC organized eight capacity assessment events, which involved governments, private sector and civil society organizations.

The outcomes of these events formed the basis of the programme, enhancing the buy-in of all stakeholders and alignment of the activities with the actual needs of stakeholders.

The umbrella programme: key outputs

- Increased awareness and joint action on responsible investments in agriculture and food systems;
- An improved enabling environment and strengthening capacities to enhance responsible investments in agriculture by and for all stakeholders;
- Improved monitoring and assessments of trends and impacts of investments in agriculture and food systems;
- Central to the programme is supporting the application of key international guidance instruments on enhancing responsible investments;



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Desmond Kwande

Of essential importance in this regard are the 2014 Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), which provide broad-based guidance to all stakeholders;

They have been developed through an inclusive multistakeholder process by the Committee on World Food Security.

The programme will also be strategically interlinked with guidance instruments such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure and the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains.

Call on all staff working with issues related to responsible investment

'The Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division of FAO would like to work together with all staff members whose work touches on responsible investments in agriculture and food systems. In that regard, OPC is planning a series of webinars and videoconferences in the coming months to hear from you and raise internal awareness about the programme and responsible investments among FAO staff in regional offices.

FAO-European Union: Improving food security through Pro-ACT fairs, with great satisfaction among beneficiaries

Vulnerable populations in Muyinga, Kirundo and Karuzi provinces have obtained seeds to use for the 2017B growing season. Support was provided through seed fairs organized by Pro-ACT, which is an FAO project funded by the European Union. This project is being implemented in the North in the provinces mentioned above and in the South of the country in Makamba and Rutana provinces.

In the North, the fairs were organized in collaboration with the Burundi Network 2000+ in Bugabira and Buhiga, with the Burundi Red Cross in the municipalities of Busoni and Butihinda, with ODEDIM in Mwakiro, and with ERB in the Bugenyizi Commune. The beneficiary communes have been largely affected by the climatic variations: drought in Kirundo, hailstorm in Karuzi and pests, namely the maize stem borer and the fall armyworm in Muyinga. Seed fairs have enabled vulnerable beneficiaries who have plots of land to start the season (2017B).

According to the Deputy Project Coordinator for the Northern Region, Philbert Yandemye, these fairs were organized as part of the support to vulnerable individual households to have food crop seeds so that they can restart farming activities. Each household receives between 20 and 26 kilograms of seed. "These fairs come at the right time, since rains have begun for the season. The beneficiaries will be able to improve their agricultural production and, through it, their food security", he explained.

Appreciation from the beneficiaries and the administration

"Very early tomorrow morning, I am going to sow the bean that is given to me, since the seeds will help my family and the country. We are eight in the family. If the sky remains clear and

God blesses our seeds, we will have a good production", said Daniel Kinyogoto, a beneficiary in Buhiga Commune.

For her part, Kaneza Glorioso, from Buhiga, exclaimed: "I just bought the 'kameneke' variety. It matures very early. I will harvest what I sow and feed my family with the production. I thank FAO for having given me the seeds. My five children will benefit greatly from this. Despite the lack of rain in our locality, I will plant these seeds, and God will help us".

"With the harvest, I will feed the family. Perhaps this harvest will offset the crop failures of the previous season", said Nimpagaritse Marie, a beneficiary in Buhiga.

"With the seed, I will be able to sow. This will benefit my family of three. We were desperate. These seeds will provide us with vegetables, in addition to the harvest," said Ibrahim Ndayiziga, a beneficiary in Buhiga.

"I will sow these seeds and harvest several times", said Erica Ndayishimiye from Buhiga.

"I bought the 'urwera' and 'kinure' varieties; these are exactly the seeds I was looking for. I have not sowed my field since January and I was confused because I did not know where or how to get seed. I will sow it right away. My family of six will benefit from the harvest from this bean. I thank FAO for helping me change my life. I have much hope because the rain fell yesterday in the field where I will plant the seed. I would have other seeds from these," said Appolonie Ndimubakunzi from Buhiga.

"I am a widow and disabled. Being alone, I run out of seed since I have cultivated my field. I would like to thank FAO very much for having just made a very commendable gesture in providing me with seeds. I hope I will have a good harvest, since rains have begun", said Therese, who was met in Busoni in the Kirundo Province.

"The drought hit us during the last season; we did not harvest any seed. The seeds I have just received will



Photo Credit: ©FAO Burundi

Each household received between 20 and 26 kilograms of seed to improve their agricultural production and food security

significantly supplement the little I had kept. I will be able to feed my children if the harvest is good", said Salvador Bandende, a beneficiary in Busoni.

"I harvest very little during the last season. With this support, I just bought valuable beans. If I harvest enough, I will share a part with others. I hope it will rain sufficiently. I see that it rained even today", said Nshimiye from Butihinda in Muyinga Province.

Zacharie Cimana, too, hastened to go and plant the seed he obtained. "I am pleased with FAO support. I will make money from the seeds I have had. They will help me feed my wife and my two children", he said.

Marie Nyabenda, beneficiary in Butihinda, realized that the seeds obtained were provided to her at the right time, "when rains have begun".

Macumi Marie, a student in Buhiga who came to help her grandmother carry the beans received from FAO, said she was "very happy" for the seeds. "My brothers and sisters and I will have what to eat from the harvest. I would have the school materials from the production. I thank God and FAO for remembering us. May the latter continue to support us."

The adviser to the Butihinda Commune Administrator pointed out that these seeds will help the citizens, adding: "It will help them come out of the state of poverty".

Traders welcomed their participation

"I sold a lot, and in a short time. I brought 527 kilos of 'kameneke' and

'urwera' beans, and I only have 90 kilos left. I sold these two varieties at 1 800 a kilo", said Daniel Kinyogoto, a trader in Buhiga Commune.

"For me, the fair was interesting. I was able to sell more than half of my stock. The buyers were pleased with my seeds. I sold the 'kameneke' and 'kinure' varieties. Many of them already knew them," said Amina Nshimirimana, a shopkeeper from Buhiga.

Before the fairs begin, an inspection team always analyses the seeds brought by the vendors to ensure that the quality of the stocks visited is the one brought to the fair. Seeds that do not meet the standards are not allowed at the fair.

The new market gardening site of Ngoulékpa, Central African Republic

The relocation to Ngoulékpa of the market gardeners from the Bangui M'poko airport site is the result of project TCP/CAF/3502 entitled "Support to the post-conflict programme of relocating Boeing market gardeners to the Ngoulékpa site", launched in September 2015.

The development of market gardening activities and the rapid occupation of the Bangui suburbs, including the Boeing area, have led to the illegal occupation of part of ASECNA's land property. The settling of market gardeners on the ASECNA site poses a security problem at the airport and ASECNA authorities have begun work to fence the airport site.

The project "Support to the post-conflict programme of relocating Boeing market gardeners to the Ngoulékpa site" is an FAO support to the Government of the Central African Republic under the Technical Cooperation Programme

(TCP). It is in line with the Government's priorities and calls on several humanitarian and development partners to achieve synergy.

The US\$359 000 project is implemented by the Government of the Central African Republic, FAO and the German NGO Welthungerhilfe (WHH) for a period of 18 months.

The objective is to create favourable conditions for the relocation of market gardeners from the ASECNA site to another, which is 5 kilometres away from the airport, in particular in Ngoulékpa. FAO assistance provided producers with the necessary inputs and tools for optimal utilization, to learn about good command of horticultural production techniques and strengthening organizational capacities and competitiveness of the Federation of Bangui Market Gardeners.

Right conditions for optimal production

In order to implement the project, three Memoranda of Understanding were signed between FAO and three implementing partners: the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development (ACDA) for the distribution of seeds and market gardening tools, collection of technical and economic data from production units, and advisory support; the Association for Environment Protection in the Central African Republic (ACOA) for the popularization of composting techniques in market gardening, and the Higher Institute of Rural Development (ISDR) for the manufacture of biopesticides and capacity-building of market gardeners for their utilization.

The project covered 1 000 direct beneficiaries who were settled on about 100 hectares of land. These beneficiaries are made up of 526 member households of the

Federation and 472 households from the ASECNA site. The other beneficiaries are women traders, fishmongers, transporters and rickshaw drivers.

The FAO approach has integrated the fundamental aspects of resilience, namely, technical aspects through the establishment of farmer field schools, social aspects by strengthening the governance of men and women producers' associations, and financial aspects through the setting up of cash transfer to facilitate local investment. To ensure sustainability, the approach developed is based

on the involvement of beneficiaries in the choice of inputs/tools and training needs.

In order to gain synergy and coherent implementation of the project, the Government also requested and obtained from the German NGO WHH about US\$3 million to proceed with the development of the site with the construction of socio-economic (health centre, school, storage warehouse and market) and hydro-agricultural infrastructures.

As part of this project, FAO provided a series of training sessions to the

beneficiaries on good governance and field bookkeeping, Farmer Field School approach, technical arrangements for seed distribution, compost production techniques, biopesticide production techniques, processing and conservation techniques for market gardening products. They also benefited from a study and exchange trip to Porto Novo in Benin.

THE MAGIC BEAN (MUCUNA) IN KANPOUR, IN THE UPPER WEST REGION OF GHANA

In 2013, FAO in collaboration with the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture together with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented various soil fertility improvement demonstrations in the region using mucuna crop under the Crop Intensification for Increased Agricultural Production in Sahelian Environmental of Northern Ghana programme.

Climate change effect results in erratic rainfall pattern coupled with unpredictable intermittent dry spells. Mucuna, in the leguminous family, has the advantage of suppressing and eradicating weeds like striga on cereal fields. It also facilitates easy land tillage as its leaves prevent soil compaction through rain drops and sunshine while maintaining a cool temperature for plant growth.

The year 2015 is almost the third year of implementation in that region. So far, many farmers in over five districts are practising the intercropping with mucuna. The result is overwhelming.

Almost all the farmers who use the mucuna seeds are impressed with the performance of their production. One of the wives of the farmers had this to say:

"Just before we were introduced to this seed, we were always worried anytime



Photo Credit: ©FAO Ghana

we cultivate our crops because the soil was not very good: we would ask ourselves if it would grow, if we would get enough food to feed our family, all because our crops were not yielding anymore as we were having very little water for the crops. Very little rains. So when we heard of the mucuna seed and the wonders it was doing, we quickly rushed to our neighbor to try it on our lands. We couldn't believe what we saw last year. This year, my husband decided to plant more mucuna seeds to be able to supply other farmers. We thank FAO and EPA for coming to our aid".

Although the rains were not enough as at the time of reporting, the harvests from the mucuna/maize intercropped fields have increased as compared to the previous year's yields when the mucuna was introduced. In spite of that, the high interest and willingness of farmers to propagate mucuna in the near future demands for a continuation of distribution of mucuna seeds in the coming years to complete FAO task in ensuring food is available at all times.

PHOTO GALLERY: FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO NORTHEAST NIGERIA AND SOUTH SUDAN



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Pious Utomi Ekpei

FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, and FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Bukar Tijani, visit northern Nigeria to see results of an FAO-supported farm in Maiduguri.



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Pious Utomi Ekpei

FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, meeting with women farmers to see results of an FAO-supported farm centre in Maiduguri in northeast Nigeria.



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Pious Utomi Ekpei

FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, meeting experts on irrigated farms in the Lake Chad Basin crisis to improve food security, nutrition and to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in Africa.



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Albert Gonzalez Farran

FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, greets a child as he arrives at the settlement in Kok Island, Unity region, South Sudan. His visit was part of a joint FAO and WFP Directors' mission to South Sudan.



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Albert Gonzalez Farran

The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), David Beasley, and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, José Graziano da Silva, check seeds, farming tools and fishing kits distributed by FAO in Ganyiel, Unity region, South Sudan.



Photo Credit: ©FAO/Albert Gonzalez Farran

The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), David Beasley, and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, José Graziano da Silva, visited the milk bar built by FAO in Rambek, Lake States, South Sudan.



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generation



Food and Agriculture
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**



1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



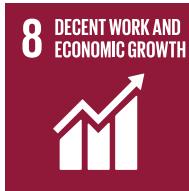
5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



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