



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## GERMANY AND FAO

### PARTNERING FOR SECURE FOOD, BETTER NUTRITION AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Germany's contributions to FAO support a wide range of programmes — spanning normative work, development cooperation, emergency response and resilience building — making it vital in FAO's drive to achieve its strategic objectives. The country remains an important partner for FAO, advocating for key themes such as the right to food and responsible investments in agriculture in major international fora like the G7 and G20 summits. The year 2017 marked 15 years of successful collaboration between FAO and Germany through the Bilateral Trust Fund (BTF), where more than USD 134 million have been channeled since 2002, enabling FAO to deliver tangible results at the global, regional and country level.

#### Enhancing global governance for food security

Germany assists FAO in developing and promoting international standards around the production and trade of food. Between 2017 and 2018, Germany contributed USD 389 394 to the core administrative budget of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and over USD 500 000 to support the Treaty's Global Information System.

Germany has also been a staunch supporter of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) with projects under the BTF, as well as in its trilateral Land Partnership with Sierra Leone and FAO. In recent years, the country made USD 7.5 million available to support the implementation of the VGGT in five countries in West Africa (Liberia, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone) and two in Asia (Mongolia and Nepal). The activities were aimed at developing and consolidating government commitments around the VGGT, and strengthening the VGGT institutional settings and multi-stakeholder national platforms.

#### Working together

The centrality of agriculture, food and nutrition security, rural development and climate change in Germany's development policy underscores a remarkable alignment between key Government priorities and FAO's overarching goals.

Special initiatives — such as the One World, No Hunger — have given Germany more flexibility to allocate funding to priorities that are central to FAO's areas of work, including:

- ➔ Food and nutrition security
- ➔ Famine prevention and resilience building
- ➔ Innovation in the agricultural and food sectors
- ➔ Structural transformation in rural areas
- ➔ Natural resource protection
- ➔ Secure access to land



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## Tackling climate change and promoting sustainable energy

FAO and Germany share the belief that the interlinkage between food security and climate change needs to be addressed simultaneously, increasing resource efficiency in agriculture and building resilience to climate risks. In the period 2016–2018, Germany provided USD 1.6 million to the Global Bioenergy Partnership, enabling capacity building activities in Viet Nam and Paraguay to monitor the environmental, social and economic impact of the bioenergy sector. The project set the basis for a national platform for the long-term monitoring of bioenergy sustainability in the two countries, allowing the assessment of the contribution of modern bioenergy to climate change mitigation and sustainable development. Moreover, between 2014–2018 Germany contributed USD 2 million to FAO's Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture programme, supporting the enhancement of global knowledge on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the agriculture sectors. The initiative resulted in the development of a range of knowledge products, tools and data resources, which provide the necessary information to build a sustainable national GHG inventory and to assess emissions from the agriculture sector.

## Improving nutrition and food systems

Providing farmers with the capacity to process and add value to the food they produce, enables the partnership between Germany and FAO to cut food waste, connect small-scale rural producers to city markets and build the capacity of governments to shift nutrition behaviour at home. With a contribution of USD 2.3 million between 2014–2018, Germany supported FAO's Food for the Cities programme. The latter assisted local institutions and other stakeholders involved in city regions in identifying and understanding gaps, bottlenecks and opportunities for sustainable planning, informed decision-making, investment prioritization, and sustainable food policies and strategies, to improve local food systems with strong rural-urban linkages. This promotes mechanisms of food governance in urban food policy councils and in new institutional food programmes and policies. In addition, policy action plans are developed through a participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue to ensure continuity and ownership.

## Promoting sustainable use of forests and other natural resources

FAO and Germany believe that agriculture is where the fight against climate change and hunger come together. With funding of around USD 5.2 million in recent years, the country backed FAO in building the capacity of 18 countries to strengthen their National Forest Management Systems. The project supported the monitoring of countries' forest-related REDD+ activities — deforestation, forest degradation and sustainable management of forests. In addition, information was provided on forestry-related subjects — forest characteristics, biodiversity and forest concessions. The strengthened capacities help facilitate country reporting to international conventions and agreements, as well as provide information on forest and land use nationally.

## Supporting agricultural livelihoods in humanitarian crises

Conflict and insecurity have been the main drivers of acute hunger in the last few years, along with climate variability and extremes, such as drought. With projects worth more than USD 20 million, Germany has been a crucial partner in FAO's efforts to assist crisis-hit and vulnerable communities to become food and nutrition secure. German support has enabled people displaced by the ongoing crises in Syria and northern Nigeria to rebuild their lives, move towards self-reliance and meet their food needs, while easing pressure on host communities and enhancing local economies. In 2017, Germany's generous support played an important role in averting a famine in Somalia, providing extremely vulnerable people with a means to rapidly access food and resume food production. Likewise, with funding of over USD 12 million, Germany is contributing to a FAO-World Food Programme project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to strengthen food security and smallholder farmers' livelihoods, while supporting peace and stability.

