



Jamaica and FAO

Building resilience and sustainable food security and nutrition

Jamaica joined FAO in 1963. In 1978, the Organization established a representation in Jamaica which today also covers the Bahamas and Belize. Over the years, FAO has partnered with Jamaica to achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development, mainly through the Organization's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). Interventions have ranged from policy formulation to technical agricultural development and emergency assistance projects. Recent cooperation has placed a strong focus on food security and nutrition, targeting rural, peri-urban and urban populations. Jamaica hosted and chaired the 35th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (5-8 March 2018, Montego Bay) (LARC). The Chairperson of the 35th Session of the LARC was invited to present the Report of the Regional Conference on programme and budget matters to the FAO Council (4-8 June 2018).

40 CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN **JAMAICA**

Established in 1978, the FAO Representation in Jamaica is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Cooperation today follows an integrated multisectoral approach to reduce hunger, eliminate poverty and promote sustainable management and utilization of the country's natural resources. The 40th anniversary of FAO's partnership with the Jamaican Government highlights the importance of concerted action to ensure responsive policy development, strategic planning and strengthened institutions.



CONTACTS

FAO Representation in Jamaica
1-3 Lady Musgrave Road, Kingston 5
Jamaica W.I.
Tel: +1 876 9279162
E-mail: FAO-JM@fao.org

Matching FAO's expertise to Jamaica's development priorities

FAO's assistance in Jamaica is currently shaped by the 2016-2019 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on three priority areas:

- **Value chain development for strengthening food systems**, with a focus on improved production of important commodities and increased Government capacity for applying a value chain approach.
- **Food and nutrition security**, supporting the implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan and promoting mechanisms for integrated action between various state actors.
- **Building resilience and sustainable livelihoods**, supporting the implementation of national systems such as the Agriculture Disaster Risk Management System, which promote a sequential and integrated approach to building resilience to the effects of climate change and disasters in rural development and agriculture.

Jointly developed with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national policies and contributes to FAO's Strategic Objectives. Key outcomes of the CPF are elaborated based on the **Agriculture Sector Plan** as defined in Jamaica's national development plan, **Vision 2030**, which falls within the ambit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CPF is fully aligned with the Caribbean UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) 2017-2021.

Strengthening the School Feeding Programme

In line with national and regional Food and Nutrition Security plans, Jamaica's sustainable School Feeding Programme (SFP) is promoting lifelong healthy eating habits.

With FAO's support, six sustainable school feeding pilots are currently showing the benefits of a multi-dimensional model for school feeding. Building on existing national nutrition plans, the pilot initiative is designed to strengthen mechanisms for intersectoral coordination at the national and community levels. Key infrastructural improvements have been implemented across participating schools, and enhanced nutritional education as well as intersectoral stakeholder cooperation have been achieved.

TCP project implemented by FAO together with Jamaica's Ministries of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Education Youth and Information

Strengthening management of Jamaica's sea cucumber fishery

FAO provided assistance to the Government in developing a management strategy to encourage sustainable exploitation of sea cucumbers while safeguarding the livelihoods of coastal fishers. FAO has increased the technical and institutional capacities of the national Fisheries Division, by providing expertise to pilot an extensive island shelf stock assessment. A geostatistical methodology for data analysis was introduced and the potential for mariculture was examined. Results have led to the design of a five-year strategic plan – including training and awareness raising among fishers and traders – in the aim of restoring the sea cucumber population.

TCP project implemented by FAO and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries

National Strategy for the Reduction of Food Losses and Waste

The Jamaican Government estimated that approximately 40 percent of food was lost during the harvesting, production and commercialization stages. This concern for the state of Jamaica's food security and sustainability led to FAO's support in developing a national strategy to manage Jamaica's food system. The national strategy focuses on creating opportunities among, and linkages between stakeholders for the prevention and reduction of food losses and waste (FLW). The programme will guide stakeholders involved in Jamaica's food production system and assist in improving post-harvest management of agricultural crops. This effort is part of a Regional Strategy for the Prevention and Reduction of FLW developed through the Regional Experts Network for Latin America and the Caribbean and facilitates the sharing of experiences and establishment of linkages with other countries in the region.

TCP project implemented by FAO and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries

Upgrading the Ginger Value Chain

Despite being a high-value crop, ginger production in Jamaica has decreased as a result of ginger rhizome rot (GRR) disease in primary cultivation areas, persistent droughts, fragmented coordination among stakeholders and a dated framework to inform policy.

To revitalize the industry, the Government has engaged in the sustainable development of the ginger value chain, thereby contributing to food security, decent rural employment and trade diversification. FAO supported the development of Jamaica's Ginger Upgrading Strategy and Action Plan (GUSAP), provided guidance on governance and management of the value chain, and strengthened ministerial technical capacities for implementation of the strategy. By the end of the project, the sector should benefit from sustainable "GRR-free" ginger production and expanded market opportunities.

Project implemented by FAO and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries

Global knowledge exchange

Improved surveillance for evidence-based nutrition management

FAO and the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries are developing a Nutritional Surveillance System through South-South Cooperation with Chile. The exchange of expertise and experience between Chilean institutions, FAO and the Jamaican Government has strengthened technical and institutional capacity in nutritional surveillance to inform nutrition policy and management. The system should lead to more efficient and accurate recording and dissemination of data on Jamaicans' dietary practices and patterns, which in turn will enable a better understanding of the country's nutrition-related challenges.

"To save lives, we must invest in livelihoods."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

