



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# ARMENIA AND FAO

## COOPERATING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Over the past 25 years, FAO has been supporting Armenia in the areas of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries with the aim of improving rural livelihoods and food security. Current cooperation includes an emphasis on increased competitiveness and improved rural livelihoods to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals – while leaving no one behind.

### Strengthening food security and nutrition

**The project strategically mediates the challenges in the country and promotes cross-sectoral collaboration.**

The regional project “Developing capacity for strengthening food security and nutrition in selected countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia”, implemented by FAO and funded by the Russian Federation, reflects current country priorities in food security and nutrition.

In Armenia, FAO is cooperating with the Government and other partners to raise political awareness of and commitment to assuring food security, improved nutrition, social protection and agricultural development. The project is bringing together best practices and instruments for capacity development, policy dialogue and learning about food security and nutrition strategies, including nutrition-sensitive social protection and school feeding programmes, from the three participating countries: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.



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### Matching FAO's expertise to Armenia's development priorities

FAO's assistance in Armenia is shaped by the **2016-2020 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, focusing on three priority areas:

- ➔ **Sustainable use of natural resources, disaster risk reduction and management.** FAO is strengthening policy frameworks and national capacities for the sustainable use of natural resources, ensuring increased productivity through best practices for sustainable use of land, water, and plant genetic resources; promoting fish production; elaborating a plant genetic resources programme; and strengthening extension services and research capacities.
- ➔ **Animal health, plant protection and food safety.** FAO is supporting a preventive approach to food safety emergencies through strengthening of national scientific and technical capacities in risk analysis and food safety, including early warning and response to food safety emergencies. Emphasis will be given to addressing antimicrobial resistance.
- ➔ **Food and nutrition security and poverty reduction.** FAO and the Government are working to strengthen policy and legal frameworks and social protection systems to eradicate hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and rural poverty.

Jointly formulated with the Government and other development partners, the CPF priorities and outcomes address government priority areas as outlined in key national documents with an emphasis of developing agriculture, fisheries and forestry enhancing capacities of small holders and family farmers.

## Ensuring sustainable development of grape industry

**The project supports the Government of Armenia in introducing new approaches and instruments for sustainable development of agriculture in the country**

“Sustainable food and agriculture is at the heart of FAO’s agenda, and it can only be achieved in cooperation with partners.”

**Vladimir Rakhmanin**

**Assistant Director-General  
– Regional Representative  
for Europe and Central Asia**

Armenia is considered as one of the oldest hotbeds of viticulture. The range in altitude of the country and the variety of its soil and climatic conditions create a favourable setting for grape production. Currently, viticulture in Armenia is threatened by phylloxera, a soil-borne

pest that can rapidly wipe out entire vineyards. Some grape-growing regions of the country have already been affected. The project supports the Government in establishing bases for the production of certified phylloxera-resistant grape planting materials.

## Enhancing human security

**Focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable regions**

“Enhancing human security and building resilient society in disadvantaged communities of Armenia” is a joint project involving six UN agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, IOM and UNIDO). As part of project activities, FAO will promote agricultural development in target regions, thereby contributing to poverty reduction in rural areas. Pilot demonstrations of a sustainable integrated crop production and management system have been introduced to increase agricultural productivity and resilience to climate change.

## Strengthening policy coherence

**Agriculture and rural development strategy**

Supporting the Government in the formulation of a national agriculture and rural development strategy is a key area of FAO’s assistance in Armenia. The aim is to establish a coherent policy framework for the sector and to position agriculture in support of development in rural areas. FAO is also supporting the development of an action plan and providing assistance in the formulation of policy recommendations to address the issue of abandoned land. Proposed measures include land policy advice and the establishment of a land banking system.

## Global knowledge transfer

Armenia is included in the FAO-China South-South Cooperation programme to improve aquaculture value chain efficiency and food security in the Western Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia. The focus of the project is on improving knowledge of the fish value chain, from input supply to final consumption. Specifically, the objective is to raise farm productivity through improved supply chains and farm business management practices; increase national output and supplies of affordable fish in local and regional markets; boost knowledge of processing; and open up trade opportunities for private investors.



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