Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IRAN AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDING NATURAL RESOURCES

FAO has partnered with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran since the country joined the Organization in 1953. The cooperation was strengthened with the re-opening of a country office in 1992, and over the years FAO has provided policy and technical assistance in promoting sustainable development of the country's agriculture and rural sectors. More recently, interventions have been focused on policy advice, capacity building and planning to increase agricultural productivity as well as improvements to forestry. Another key area of cooperation is the development of sustainable small-scale agriculture based on agro-ecological and climate-smart approaches.

Focus on development challenges

FAO's mission in Iran is to inspire and engage partners in promoting lasting solutions for sustainable development, with a focus on:

- capacity building
- policy and strategy development
- crop production
- livestock and animal health
- fisheries and aquaculture

Improving the aquaculture genetic resources management system

Based on the interest of the Government of Iran for creating a national strain of rainbow trout, FAO is funding the project "Genetic Improvement of Rainbow Trout in Iran".

This project provides technical and strategic assistance to Iran in implementing an integrated and sustainable management system for selective breeding of Rainbow Trout.

Matching FAO's expertise to Iran's development priorities

FAO assistance in Iran is shaped by the **2017-2021 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on four priority areas.

- **Environmentally sustainable and climate-smart agriculture**
- **Food security and food safety**
- **Inclusive and resilient rural development**
- **Knowledge-based economy and society**

Jointly developed in cooperation with the Government and under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad (MAJ), the CPF ensures cross-sectoral participation, thanks to the involvement of the Ministries of Health and Medical Education, Energy, and Welfare and Social Services as well as academic institutions and field and decentralized institutions and structures.

In addition to supporting FAO's Strategic Framework and regional priorities, the CPF is closely aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Iran 2017-2021 and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CONTACT

Mr Gerold BÖDEKER
FAO Representative in Iran
FAO Representation
1st Floor, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization,
Yemen Street, Velenjak, Chamran Highway,
Tehran, Iran
Tel: +98-21 2241 3803
E-mail: FAO-IR@fao.org

Supporting sustainable water resources management

> "Pro-growth and pro-poor policies, processes and institutions can help accelerate sustainable development."
>
> **FAO Director-General**

During the past decades, demographic and socio-economic developments in northwestern Iran have led to a severe escalation of water scarcity in the region. This has put intense pressure on Urmia Lake - the largest inland body of water in Iran - leading to an ecological crisis.

In this context, with generous financial support from the Government of Japan, FAO is implementing the "Integrated Programme for Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Urmia Lake Basin".

By providing technical and strategic assistance, the project is contributing to more sustainable, productive and resilient agricultural and rural systems, with a positive impact on the environment in general and on the water balance of Urmia Lake.

Rehabilitation of degraded land and soils that are prone to wind erosion

This project focuses on the main threats to land and forest resources in Iran by removing key barriers to Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLFM).

The goal is to restore and enhance biodiversity and the capacity of degraded forest lands to provide for sustainable livelihoods, food and nutrition security and combat desertification. The project achieves this by: (i) strengthening local and national capacity to implement participatory integrated SLFM initiatives; (ii) adopting and implementing sustainable alternative livelihoods options; and (iii) mainstreaming these approaches into national plans, policies and processes.

Sustainable intensification of oilseed crops, especially soybeans

This project supports national efforts to build public and private sector capacity to harness and fine-tune innovations in sustainable oilseed crop production and utilization along specific value chains. It also seeks to integrate new technologies into cereal-based systems.

Soybean, as the principal crop for initial focus, is an oilseed legume with high potential and that will add sustainability and resilience to irrigated wheat systems. In addition to being an excellent source of vegetable oil, it is one of the very best sources of protein for livestock feeds.

Strengthening national readiness for climate financing

Through the "Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme" FAO supports Iran in strengthening its national capacities to develop, assess, finance and implement programmes and projects that aim to increase adaption to climate change and mitigate its effects. The programme includes the establishment of a functional coordination body within the government, which should improve the country's national climate change decision-making mechanisms.

Improving agriculture monitoring systems through satellite imagery

In the face of climate change, FAO is providing technical assistance to Iran in setting up an improved agriculture monitoring system. Based on the integrated use of advanced geospatial technology, the system will support the development of techniques, policies and investment conditions for achieving sustainable agricultural development.

The primary objective of the project is the establishment of a prototype version of an operational agriculture monitoring system in the three provinces of Zanjan, Mazandaran and Kerman. As a result, improved agricultural information and reporting based on geospatial technology is expected to lead to the adoption of improved strategies for diversification and increases in agricultural production.