TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

FAO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
A world facing escalating threats demands that we act without delay to safeguard livelihoods, future-proof our planet and lock in sustainable outcomes. The 2030 Agenda is there to guide us. But the historic consensus surrounding its adoption must be matched by political determination to deliver it.

Seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs). One-hundred-and-sixty-nine targets. Two-hundred-and-thirty-two indicators. In September 2015, UN Member States unanimously signed up to a new vision for humanity. By tying broad principles to detailed benchmarks, the 2030 Agenda charts a bold path. It squarely commits the international community to ending poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Its vision is one in which a healthy, prosperous and dignified life, rooted in thriving ecosystems, is a reality for all; a vision in which no one is left behind.

Yet on many counts, progress is faltering.

This should not be so. In their ambition and reach, the SDGs have been described as the tide that lifts all boats. They apply to all countries, developed and developing. Priorities vary; needs and capacities too. Strategies and implementation plans will be nationally designed and nationally owned. But action must be taken together. With barely a decade to deadline, partnerships are vital and leadership essential.

In this global endeavour, the world wins or fails as one.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

In what could indicate fresh political momentum, some 50 countries have submitted voluntary reviews to the 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum. Now in its fourth year, the inter-governmental meeting identifies progress and obstacles, offers guidance and recommendations, and provides institutional impetus towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE 2030 AGENDA

Around the world, over 820 million – one in nine of the world’s population – are still chronically undernourished. Among children, more than one in five is stunted.

But malnutrition is not about hunger alone: poor or unhealthy diets are causing micronutrient deficiencies. Individual and public health is reeling from an unfolding obesity epidemic and associated non-communicable diseases. In nation after nation, the repercussions of climate change are compromising development gains, further fuelling tensions in conflict zones. Unstructured urbanization degrades ecosystems while failing to fulfil the promise of prosperity for all. And as resource depletion threatens our planet’s continued viability, humanity seems willing to further mortgage its future through irreversible biodiversity loss.

From this alarming perspective, the rural poor – four-fifths of all of those living in poverty – may appear as another dispiriting dataset. It takes vision and courage to see them as an untapped resource. Socially left behind and afflicted by some of the worst nutritional indicators, they nonetheless supply 80 percent of the world’s food. In many countries, agriculture remains the largest employer and main economic sector – a major problem and major opportunity rolled into one.

To achieve the SDGs, we must imperatively make it less of the former and more of the latter. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the fundamental connection between people and planet, agriculture and sustainability. This awareness must urgently be translated into investment in rural people, family farmers, fishing communities, foresters and pastoralists; in food systems that are better balanced, more equitable and less wasteful; in agricultural innovation; and in an approach to natural resources that allies environmental concerns to the pursuit of food security and decent livelihoods for all.

Focusing on food and agriculture, investing in family farmers and transforming the rural sector can spur progress towards SDG targets.

THE SDGs: A VIRTUOUS CIRCLE

Actions to achieve SDG2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) will accelerate progress across most other goals and targets, including poverty (SDG1), health (SDG3), education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), water (SDG6), economic growth (SDG8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9), inequality (SDG10), sustainable production and consumption (SDG12), climate change (SDG13), oceans and seas (SDG14), ecosystems, biodiversity and forests (SDG15) and peaceful societies (SDG16).
KEY MESSAGES

WE MUST GET HUNGER BACK ON A STEEP DOWNWARD TREND IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs BY 2030.

The recent rise in world hunger has slowed. But more than 820 million people still do not have enough to eat. The stubbornly high hunger levels seen in recent years threaten to derail the 2030 Agenda. For the world to change course, the political gears must shift decisively. The international community must work to end conflicts; mitigate climate variability; reduce inequality; and invest in creating more equal and inclusive societies. Social protection programmes must be established – and scaled up dramatically where they already exist.

WE MUST TRANSFORM FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS TO NOURISH PEOPLE, NURTURE THE PLANET AND BUILD RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS ALL AT ONCE.

To feed a projected 10 billion people in 2050, we must pivot towards nutrition-conscious, sustainable agricultural and consumption practices; design and enact pro-poor growth policies; and support the livelihoods of small-scale and family farmers. Their resilience to shocks and stresses must be strengthened, their role in meeting the demand for healthier diets recognized and encouraged. Legal frameworks should be established that ensure smallholder access to productive resources.

WE MUST COMMIT TO RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND INVEST IN THE POTENTIAL OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.

Investing in rural life is crucial to slowing distress migration and laying the bases for sustainable societies. There must be systematic efforts to provide those furthest behind with access to land, resources, health, social protection and finance – and to encourage take-up of organic farming, agroecology, agroforestry, crop-aquaculture and crop-livestock. Integrated territorial policies should ensure that societies are networked from field to town to city to stimulate entrepreneurship, empower women, and create decent and diverse jobs for rural youths.

A specialized UN agency, FAO has a long history of working in all three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – on projects designed to leave no one behind. The Organization’s technical capacity, global reach, monitoring expertise, and experience building partnerships and shaping policy can support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.
ZERO IN ON ZERO HUNGER

Achieving the 2030 Agenda calls for a redoubling of efforts. Now is the time to scale up actions already underway.

Responding to the spirit of global solidarity to overcome common challenges, countries are broadening participation, forging new partnerships and calling for the involvement of all development actors – the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector, the donor community, academia, cooperatives, and others.

National platforms are being established to develop more integrated programmes and policies, to better interlink different goals and targets. At the same time, multi-stakeholder mechanisms and new forms of participatory governance structures are bolstering policy ownership, while helping to mobilize capacities, information, technologies, and access to financial and production resources.

As international cooperation increases, UN support to countries is shifting to emphasize policy advice, institutional capacity development and monitoring of progress. The role of the UN system as a trusted and neutral facilitator of support processes and partnerships is fundamental.

With the number of those chronically malnourished still dauntingly high, Zero Hunger is at risk. But renewed commitment is essential to realize the vision that inspired the SDGs.

FAO has identified multistakeholder partnerships as one of the key drivers of its support to the 2030 Agenda. The Organization plays a leading role in governance matters and participatory approaches to policy-making, bringing together diverse state and non-state players to interact and discuss policy, supplying essential data, norms and standards, and supporting countries in implementing inclusive and cross-cutting actions.

At global, regional and national levels, FAO builds partnerships to support enabling environments for policies and programmes to achieve transformative change on food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The Organization works to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders and mobilize resources in order to accelerate efforts aimed at rural transformation and ending poverty and hunger.

A SENSE OF GLOBAL URGENCY IS DRIVING NEW ALLIANCES FOR THE SDGs
‘ARE WE THERE YET?’
GETTING TO ZERO HUNGER

In September 2015, the 193 UN Member States commit to 17 SDGs, including Zero Hunger by 2030.

By the year 2030, world population is projected to grow to around 8.3 billion.

Demand for food will grow.
Increase investment in agriculture. Build market infrastructure and improve public goods to help raise productivity and rural incomes.
SDGs 1 2 9 10

Sustainably manage forests, oceans, water, land and soil—and promote an ecosystem approach to extract greater agricultural yield with fewer inputs.
SDGs 2 6 13 14 15

Rising food demand is increasing competition for natural resources.

Over 820 million people are going hungry.
Promote nutrition policies, including dietary education, and shift to consumption and production approaches that promote biodiversity and long-term health benefits.
SDGs 2 3

Malnutrition affects 1 in 3 people and all nations.
Establish social protection systems to improve food access, such as school food and cash transfers. Without nourishment, humans cannot learn, or lead healthy and productive lives.
SDGs 1 2 3 4 8 10

Overweight and obesity is rising.
Improve the way food commodity markets function, and limit extreme food price volatility.
SDGs 2 7 12 17

A large share of food produced is lost or wasted.
Make food systems more efficient, inclusive and resilient.
SDGs 2 7 12 17

Almost 4 in 5 poor people live in rural areas.
Develop pro-poor growth strategies in rural areas, focusing on small-scale farmers and the people left furthest behind.
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SDGs 1 2 8 9 10
Transform agriculture so that it contributes to fossil fuel reduction.

SDGs 2 7 13 17

INCREASING GHG EMISSIONS ARE EXACERBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE IS JEOPARDIZING CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND FISH STOCKS

Adopt holistic approaches, such as agro-ecology, agroforestry, climate-smart and conservation agriculture.

SDGs 2 7 13 17

OUTBREAKS OF TRANSBOUNDARY PESTS AND DISEASES ARE GROWING ALARMINGLY

Establish best practices in preventing diseases and anti-microbial resistance that threaten plant and animal production, public health and trade.

SDGs 2 3 8 17

GLOBALIZATION IS INCREASING DEMAND FOR INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND PARTICIPATION

Build institutions and mechanisms that provide international norms, standards and data, and promote cooperation among countries and partners.

SDGs 2 15 17

Address root causes of inequality. Give poor people access to health, education, land, finance and new technology.

SDGs 1 2 10 17

INEQUALITIES ARE INCREASING BOTH WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA

YOUTH NUMBERS ARE RISING FAST

Diversify rural employment into non-agricultural activities targeting youth to slow their exodus to cities.

SDGs 1 2 3 9 11 16 17

Ensure rural women have equal access to resources, income opportunities, and education.

SDGs 1 2 3 4 5 8 10

GENDER EQUALITY IS A PRECONDITION FOR PROSPERITY

INCREASING GHG EMISSIONS ARE EXACERBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Build the resilience of rural communities to withstand shocks, crises and disasters. Tackle distress migration.

SDGs 1 2 10 15

CONFLICTS AND CRISIS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY PROTRACTED

Build institutions and mechanisms that provide international norms, standards and data, and promote cooperation among countries and partners.

SDGs 2 15 17

The actions in this graphic are not intended to be sequential.
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

ZOOMING IN ON RURAL PEOPLE

The UN Decade of Family Farming, running from this year, covers much of the remaining time of the 2030 Agenda. It aims to concentrate minds on one of the world’s most vulnerable, yet economically critical, populations. Although family farmers produce four-fifths of the food we consume, their livelihoods are often on a knife edge. They are among several left-behind groups whose empowerment is essential if the SDGs are to be achieved.

SMALLHOLDER AND FAMILY FARMERS

WHO: Smallholder and family farmers, including producers, fishers, foresters, herders, rural workers, totalling about 2 billion people.

ROLE PLAYED: Produce most of the food we eat by working the land, raising animals, harvesting fish and managing forests. As stewards of the planet’s natural resources, their daily management decisions are key to global food security and the health of the world’s ecosystems.

WHY FOCUS: A strong entrepreneurial spirit already exists in the rural sector.

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: By committing to pro-poor investment and growth, increasing farmers’ access to resources, employment, income and investment will improve food and nutrition security, sustainability of natural resources, raising productivity and national growth.
RURAL WOMEN

WHO: Rural women make up almost half the agricultural labour force in developing countries.

ROLE PLAYED: Make crucial contributions to agriculture and rural economies. Critical actors in food and nutrition security, as women have primary responsibilities for household and child-rearing activities, in most societies.

WHY FOCUS: Empowering women is the best way to multiply well-being. Evidence shows that when women are given equal access to resources, income opportunities, education and social protection, agricultural output and food availability increases and the number of poor and hungry declines.

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: By improving women’s rights to land and tenure, and participation in rural labour markets and decision-making. Providing access to labour-saving technologies to free women’s time for more productive activities. Investing in women’s nutrition, and in nutrition-sensitive agriculture.
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

WHO: Indigenous peoples and pastoralists number more than 370 million in over 70 countries, comprising about 15 percent of the world’s poor.

ROLE PLAYED: Make major contributions to world heritage and food security thanks to their understanding of ecosystem management.

WHY FOCUS: Increasingly marginalized due to land rights violations and vulnerable to climatic uncertainties.

RURAL YOUTH

WHO: Numbers of 15–24-year-olds are projected to increase sharply in rural locations of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, regions experiencing fast population growth.

ROLE PLAYED: Young people are the life-blood of society. They possess substantial productive capacity and innovative potential, actors most capable of integrating modern agriculture methods with traditional knowledge.

WHY FOCUS: The migration of unemployed youth from the country to the city in search of a job is altering the demographic in developing nations, contributing to an aged rural community and to major stress on urban centres.

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: By adopting employment generation policies that go beyond farming to rejuvenate the rural sector workforce. Investing in education and youth training to enhance skills and increase opportunities.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

**WHO:** People who live in areas prone to conflict, disaster and crisis. In 2018, 74 million people in 21 conflict-affected countries and territories were in Crisis situations, as defined by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

**ROLE PLAYED:** Largely rural people working in agriculture who brave hazardous conditions in growing food and making a living.

**WHY FOCUS:** Living in protracted crises vastly increases vulnerability. Of all the world’s hungry people, some 60 percent – half a billion or so – live in countries affected by conflict.

**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** By strengthening resilience – developing capacities, diversifying activities, promoting rural employment, and investing in social protection – food assistance, cash transfers and school feeding.

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effects, they are abandoning traditional lands for the city. Urbanization has led to extreme economic poverty, while ecosystems, long managed by indigenous peoples, have been affected.

**HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** By ensuring rights of land and tenure are respected. Encouraging participation in development processes. Generating greater access to the market and resources – technical and financial – as well as opportunities for trade and commercial activity.

TURKEY

Ali Hager, Syrian refugee and beneficiary of FAO resilience programmes ©Robin Hammond/NOOR for FAO
HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET

Development at the expense of the environment is no longer an option for a growing global population.

The MDG era, 1990–2015, brought significant benefits to millions of people, including by nearly halving the proportion of hungry people in the world. However, much of humanity’s progress has come at a considerable cost to the environment. High-input, resource-intensive farming has contributed to deforestation, water scarcity, soil depletion and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. Today, there are more people on our planet to feed with less water and productive land.

The 2030 Agenda formalizes the need to conserve natural resources and biodiversity: they are to be managed responsibly, in the interest of humankind and the planet that sustains it. Agriculture and food systems must be transformed away from wasteful, energy-hungry and exploitative approaches. Policymakers and partners should encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns, while ensuring higher governance standards and more inclusive decision-making.

TIME FOR A GREENER REVOLUTION

The Green Revolution of the mid-to-late 20th century provided a much needed increase in agricultural productivity to keep pace with rapid population growth. It is now time for a second green revolution in which agriculture continues to provide abundant and healthy food while at the same time promoting the conservation and use of ecosystem services and biodiversity. The potential exists to reverse the trends that lead to natural resources degradation, deforestation, salinization of soils and desertification. Approaches exist to produce more and healthier food in a sustainable way with fewer resources, reducing encroachment on natural ecosystems, including forests and wetlands.
A COMMON VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Balancing the different dimensions of sustainability is at the heart of FAO’s Common Vision for Food and Agriculture. Working with partners, FAO has developed sustainable approaches in areas such as agroecology, agroforestry, biotechnology, and climate-smart and conservation agriculture that bring together traditional knowledge, modern technology and innovation. Capacity development supports their adaptation at community and country levels to ensure local relevance and applicability.

FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Improving efficiency in the use of resources

2. Conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems

3. Protecting and improving rural livelihoods and social well-being

4. Enhancing the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems

5. Promoting good governance of both natural and human systems
THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING. AGRICULTURE MUST TOO

Food production threatens to be the greatest casualty of climate change, but sustainable agriculture has the ability, through adaptation and mitigation, to respond to more extreme weather events.

Climate change is having profound consequences on our planet’s diversity of life and on people’s lives. Oceans are warming. Sea levels are rising, creating an existential threat for dozens of small island states. Longer, more intense droughts threaten freshwater supplies and crops, endangering efforts to feed a growing world population.

Without action, the changing climate will seriously compromise food production in countries and regions that are already highly food insecure. It will affect food availability by reducing the productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries, and hinder access to food by disrupting the livelihoods of millions of rural people who depend on agriculture for their incomes. It will expose both urban and rural poor to higher and more volatile food prices.

Ultimately, it will jeopardize progress towards the SDGs.

Agriculture has a major role to play in responding to climate change. FAO is now supporting countries to both adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change through research-based programmes and projects, with a focus on adapting smallholder production and making the livelihoods of rural populations more resilient.

Launched at COP 23 in 2017 and scheduled to report to COP 26 in 2020, the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture provides a model for turning awareness into a roadmap. Benefitting from FAO’s technical support, Koronivia examines ways to adapt agricultural sectors, better manage livestock, soil, water and manure, and address the socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change in agriculture.

WEATHERING A CHANGING CLIMATE

Over the past decade or so, the agriculture sector has absorbed at least 25 percent of the total damage and losses caused by droughts, floods and storms and other climate extreme events. Those who are now suffering most have contributed least to the changing climate. Farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and community foresters depend on activities that are intimately and inextricably linked to climate. They will require greater access to technologies, markets, information and credit for investment to adapt their production systems and practices.
CLIMATE FINANCING

Channelling public and private investments into agricultural sectors, including through flows of climate finance, can harness their transformative potential. At the UNFCCC Climate Conference (COP21) in December 2015, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) were the basis for negotiations, helping form the Paris Agreement. At COP22 in 2016 these INDCs became Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) roadmaps for achieving the Paris Agreement. The Agriculture sectors feature prominently in the 161 INDCs and 22 NDCs submitted to the UNFCCC by 189 countries as at 29 July 2016. FAO has a long history of working with governments to advise on public agricultural investment, and a strong track record of working with national and international financial institutions to develop and deliver bankable projects.

Promoting practices like agroecology that allow producers to thrive in a changing climate, FAO supports countries to develop their national climate plans, identifying adaptation solutions and mitigation options to build resilient food production systems and sectors.
POWERING THROUGH: THE CHALLENGE OF RESILIENCE

CONFLICT AND PROTRACTED CRISSES

Increasingly at the root of protracted crises, conflict, compounded by extreme weather events and natural disasters, disrupts agricultural production and exacerbates food insecurity. As of mid-2019, some two-thirds of the population of Yemen or South Sudan are relying on international food assistance to survive. In Syria, northeast Nigeria and elsewhere, huge numbers still go hungry or face the threat of hunger. In mid-2018, the UN Security Council broke new ground with the adoption of Resolution 2417, which explicitly recognizes the link between conflict and hunger.

The recurrence of disasters and crises undermines countries’ efforts to end poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and to achieve sustainable development. People who rely on farming, livestock, forests or fishing for their food and income – around one-third of the world’s population – are most vulnerable to drought, floods, earthquakes, conflict, disease epidemics and market shocks.

By helping countries strengthen early warning and disaster risk reduction systems, FAO aims to increase the resilience of households, communities and institutions to prevent and cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture; ensuring the most vulnerable, the rural poor, prepare for any emergency.

TACKLING THE ROOT CAUSES OF DISTRESS MIGRATION

The movement of people within and across lands has taken place throughout the ages. Safe and regular migration contributes to sustainable development, economic growth and food security. Today, however, there is increasing evidence of distress migration, which presents complex challenges. Conflict and political instability have forced more people to flee their homes than at any time since the Second World War. But poverty,
In May 2019, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, told the Pacific Island Forum: “We have the blueprints, the frameworks and the plans. What we need is urgency, political will and ambition.”

Responding to the invitation of the 52 Small Island Developing States as part of their Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, FAO has developed a Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition (GAP) in close collaboration with other UN entities. The GAP aims to create enabling environments for food security and nutrition; to transform food systems to improve their nutrition-sensitivity, resilience and sustainability; and to empower people and communities to lead healthy and productive lives.

Geographically remote, import-dependent and exposed to extreme weather patterns, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) share unique vulnerabilities, resulting in a complex set of food security and nutrition challenges. High costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation and communication curb opportunities for the private-sector development needed to stimulate domestic food production. The result is a looming health crisis with many SIDS suffering from the ‘triple burden’ of malnutrition, where undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity co-exist in the population.

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food insecurity, unemployment, climate change and environmental degradation are also among the root causes of mass migration.

Rural development can address factors that compel people to move by creating business opportunities and jobs for young people that go beyond crops, such as small dairy or poultry production, food processing or horticulture enterprises. Directing resources to the rural sector can also lead to increased food security, more resilient livelihoods, better access to social protection, reduced conflict over natural resources and solutions to environmental degradation and climate change.
Tied to the principle of leaving no one behind, and driven by means of partnerships and accountability, FAO’s broad priorities in the 2030 Agenda are to:

- End poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition
- Enable sustainable development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry
- Respond to climate change and build resilient communities
THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOAL 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GOAL 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

GOAL 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

GOAL 4 Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

GOAL 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

GOAL 6 Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

GOAL 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

GOAL 8 Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

GOAL 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

GOAL 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

GOAL 11 Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

GOAL 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

GOAL 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

GOAL 15 Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

GOAL 16 Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

GOAL 17 Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
TEAMING UP FOR THE SDGs

Strengthening strategic partnerships with non-state actors is a major FAO priority in supporting countries to mobilize resources and implement the SDGs.

The logic driving the 2030 Agenda is clear: unless we work together, we stand little chance of achieving the SDGs. Goal 17, the “how-to” goal, provides the framework for sharing expertise, resources and investments, and promoting best practices and inclusive participation.

LEADING MULTISTAKEHOLDER ALLIANCES

FAO participates in and often leads, hosts or provides the technical secretariat for major inter-agency and multistakeholder alliances, including the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition, the Committee on World Food Security, the UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security, UN-Energy, UN-Water and UN-Oceans.

Partnerships with NGOs, producer organizations, cooperatives, parliaments and the private sector are at the heart of FAO’s mission to help build consensus for a world without hunger.

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Widely recognized as a model approach to multi-stakeholder engagement, the FAO-hosted Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition. The CFS brings together representatives from civil society and cooperatives, the private sector and businesses, scientific and academic institutions, donors and philanthropic foundations to discuss policy alongside government delegates, who ultimately take decisions.

Led by a joint secretariat involving FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the CFS supports countries to implement negotiated cross-cutting policy products. Significant products implemented in recent years include the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Strengthening strategic partnerships with non-state actors is a major FAO priority in supporting countries to mobilize resources and implement the SDGs.

Means of implementation targets feature in each of the SDGs as well as in SDG17, Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, where they are separated into sections on finance, technology, capacity building, trade and systemic issues. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, June 2015, on financing for development is integral to the 2030 Agenda.

ACHIEVING 17 GOALS AND 169 TARGETS WITH JUST TEN YEARS TO GO CALLS FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS TO POOL EFFORTS AND KNOWLEDGE

UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

FAO cooperates with more than 60 accredited institutions from around the world to develop joint projects, prepare technical manuals and teach FAO-inspired courses. Examples include: Agrinatura, Texas A&M University, RUFORUM, Roma Tre University, and Wageningen University.

FARMER ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOs

Civil society organizations play a critical role in the fight against hunger given their technical expertise, their representation of the hungry and poor, and their increasing presence in the field. FAO has established partnerships with 32 CSOs and 7 cooperatives, including La Via Campesina, Consumers International, SEWA and Slow Food.

PRIVATE SECTOR

The Organization has established strategic partnerships with more than 50 enterprises, companies and businesses in the fight against hunger to increase investments in agriculture, foster entrepreneurship and improve knowledge dissemination. Partners include Rabobank Foundation, ENI and Telefónica.

PARLIAMENTARY ALLIANCES

FAO works with 40 regional, subregional and national Parliamentary Alliances worldwide to guarantee the right to food for all, particularly through enacting laws, directing political discussion, approving budgets and ensuring adequate processes for accountability.

RESOURCE PARTNERS

FAO works with resource partners from national governments, UN agencies, Institutional Resource Partners, International Financing Institutions, the private sector and foundations, including the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and the Central Emergency Response Fund.

SOUTH–SOUTH COOPERATION

For more than 20 years, FAO has worked with close to 100 partners to support the mutual sharing and exchange of knowledge, good practices, policies and technology between and among countries in the global South.
UN specialized agencies that combine technical, monitoring and policy expertise are well positioned to support countries shape policies based on evidence, facilitate partnerships that scale up action, and promote multistakeholder participation for greater ownership of the SDGs.

Educated by experience, expertise and data, here is a snapshot of some of the many policy themes that FAO focuses on together with partners.

**ACCESS TO FINANCE**

Assisting governments tailor policies and regulatory frameworks for rural financial inclusion; promoting innovation within financial sectors to reach the rural poor; and facilitating knowledge exchange and cooperation between countries.

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIODIVERSITY**

Convening and hosting international fora and contributing to negotiations that strengthen policies on ecosystem services and biodiversity for food and agriculture.

**GENDER**

Prioritizing policy actions that increase women’s access to land and other productive resources, decent jobs, market opportunities, social protection and rural services.

**RESILIENCE IN PROTRACTED CRISES**

Providing policy guidance, building partnerships and supporting programmes to strengthen livelihoods and food systems and reduce communities’ exposure to crises.

**RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION**

Offering evidence-based policy support and programme design for rural development, strengthening the capacity of producer organizations and rural institutions; and increasing investment in rural infrastructure and pro-poor services.

**SOCIAL PROTECTION**

Working to incorporate social protection into national rural development policies, food security and nutrition strategies and investment plans; supporting government to design, implement and assess systems focused on benefitting the rural poor.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

Providing policy assistance aimed at enhancing both agricultural productivity and sustainability, including protecting crops, limiting chemical contamination, managing biodiversity and ecosystem services, and strengthening livelihoods.

**SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES**

Working with governments, fishery bodies and small-scale organizations to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, which promote a human-rights approach, addressing issues of gender, employment, climate change, disaster risks and trade.
TRADE POLICY

Offering analysis on the possible consequences of trade policies, capacity development to improve understanding of international rules and their implications; neutral forums for dialogue between ministries of trade and agriculture; and assistance in preparing for trade negotiations and in implementing agreements.

TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

Supporting initiatives in over 47 countries to raise awareness, develop strategies, policies, legislation and programmes to improve tenure systems following adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

RIGHT TO FOOD

Supporting countries to implement the Right to Food Guidelines by developing methodologies and analytical tools, helping to formulate and implement policies and programmes through capacity development, promoting global and regional governance of food security and nutrition, and facilitating partnerships with different stakeholders.

NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Promoting norms, standards and frameworks, FAO advocates for policy change that contribute to healthy diets and sustainable food systems, including marketing regulations and economic incentives.

FOOD LOSS AND FOOD WASTE

Offering technical support and policy guidance to countries along the entire food supply chain, from production, post-harvest, storage and processing to distribution and end consumers.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN AGRICULTURE

Improving risk governance across sectors; improving information and early warning systems; strengthening agricultural institutions and investment; building resilience; promoting capacity development; enhancing preparedness capacities for response and recovery; and applying the principle of building back better, all guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030).

These are selected examples. For more information on FAO's policy work visit www.fao.org/policy-support/en/
**JOINING FORCES AT COUNTRY LEVEL**

**ALBANIA**

**SDGs 1 2 5 8**

Albania’s economic progress has earned the country middle-income status in recent years. But any newfound wealth has largely clustered in the cities: it has yet to change the lives of the nation’s rural residents. Women in particular continue to struggle with high long-term unemployment.

As part of its efforts to research and promote opportunities for rural women, FAO has conducted a gender assessment in Albania. The stated aims were to close the “gender gap”, improve livelihoods in the countryside, and develop rural areas in sustainable ways. Recommendations included opening up marketing and distribution activities in beekeeping as a diversification opportunity for women; focusing on sage, essential oils and export commodities; and working to meet growing demand for traditional and gourmet foods.

The data collected, and the analysis of value chains and markets, are helping support women’s empowerment initiatives by the country’s policymakers and international development agencies.

**BANGLADESH**

**SDGs 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 12 13 15**

Widely praised for achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, Bangladesh has unveiled an ambitious Vision for 2041 to align both long-term national plans and Five-Year Plans with the SDGs. The country will need to accommodate rapid trade-related shifts in agriculture. Inter-sectoral policies must be geared towards creating a modern agri-sector that is both highly productive and climate-resilient, while sustainably managing natural resources.

FAO is working closely with the Bangladeshi government on climate resilience, as well as on nutrition, food security and food safety, and on fisheries and livestock. The objective is to expand knowledge, capacity, monitoring and reporting as the country sets out to realize Vision 2041.

**ECUADOR**

**SDGs 1 2 13 15**

Globally, agrifood chains consume nearly a third of available energy, mostly in post-harvest operations and in the form of fossil fuels.

**FAO is scaling up many of the successful projects and programmes the Organization has been working on in scores of countries around the world.**

The challenge is to disconnect the development of agrifood chains from the use of fossil fuels, all without compromising food security.

FAO’s Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project in Ecuador’s central province of Napo has been working to strengthen cocoa value chains to support livelihoods dependent on the crop. Napo is home to traditional approaches such as chakra, an agroforestry
system that maintains high agrobiodiversity and ecological efficiency. Supported by FAO, the Kichwa indigenous community has developed partnerships with the private sector, exporting cocoa in great volumes in the form of gourmet chocolate bars, fine cocoa powder and liquor.

The project directly benefits more than 1,000 farmer families. By 2017, it had led to the carbon sequestration of 11,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. The region’s deforestation rate has been cut by 15 percent.

**KYRGYZSTAN**

**SDGs 2 4 5 8**

By 2006, fifteen years into Kyrgyzstan’s independence, aquaculture production had tumbled twentyfold to a mere 71,000 tonnes. The precipitous fall, in a country boasting nearly 2,000 lakes, reflects the collapse of subsidies from what was once the Soviet state budget.

Through a USD 2.5 million project funded by Finland, FAO has been supporting small-scale fish hatchery and aquafeed production facilities, providing technical expertise, equipment and construction materials.
The first unit opened in 2016 in the easternmost province of Issyk-Kul, home to the world’s second-largest saline lake; further units followed in other provinces.

FAO has also contributed to the creation of ten fish associations, in the provinces of Issyk-Kul, Jalal-Abad, Chui and Naryn; and supported the development of a fisheries curriculum at the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, alongside technical training for fish farmers. There was strong emphasis on gender mainstreaming, with women fish farmers setting up several groups within the project.

FAO has been working with the provincial government of Jiwaka to design a blockchain – or distributed ledger – to allow pig farmers to expand beyond local markets. The system is supported by an app accessible on government-funded smartphones: it creates an immutable record for each animal, listing its pedigree, vaccinations, diet, medications and any other information relevant to consumers. This robust digital history offers the buyer quality assurance, and the farmer a fair return on investment.

The blockchain pilot complements other FAO projects in Papua New Guinea’s livestock sector, including training in animal husbandry and One Health approaches. These aim to eliminate the use of human antibiotics in animals, which pass into the food chain and risk creating antibiotic resistance in consumers.

FAO and the Government of Paraguay have formulated the Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change (PROEZA) project to improve the resilience of poor and extremely poor households in the face of climate change. This is being achieved through risk-responsive social protection, alongside measures to combat deforestation and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. By topping up Paraguay’s Social Cash Transfer Programme (Tekoporã) with financial and technical incentives, the programme encourages sustainable agroforestry practices and makes household use of biomass more efficient.

The Green Climate Fund has approved USD 90 million for the project to improve the lives of around 17,000 extremely poor families – more than 87,000 individuals – in eight departments of Eastern Paraguay.

Community gardens have an established role in promoting healthy eating habits – as well as local cohesion. In one region of the Philippines, their association with schools has
brought to life the linkages between food security and educational attainment.

In the province of Laguna, some 80 km out of Manila, young people have transformed three schools – and, in one case, a wasteland – into small-scale gardens. The partnership between FAO and the Yakap Kalikasan NGO saw the pupils visit an organic farm to learn about sowing and harvesting vegetables, composting, vertical gardening techniques and botanical pest control.

In one school, the students now grow their own lettuce, cucumbers and beans – and marigolds on the side, to act as a natural insect repellent. In another, string beans, okra, eggplant and Chinese lettuce are supplementing canteen meals.

In many developing countries, there is evidence that the availability of nutritious meals keeps children in school, improves their performance, and ultimately enhances their life prospects.

**RWANDA**

**SDGs 2 9 13 15**

Rwanda is striving to transform its agriculture, elevating it from a subsistence to a knowledge-based sector. It aims to equip farmers with the skills and expertise to become active market players and exporters. Yet climate uncertainty, soil erosion, inefficient farming practices and poor coordination have held the country back in its determination to forge ahead with inclusive growth.

Building on principles of sustainable food and agriculture, FAO has supported efforts at all levels – national, district and community. A cross-sectoral task force has facilitated dialogue and partnerships; close collaboration with farmers and local authorities has helped identify key impediments to sustainable agricultural development; and thriving Farmer Field Schools, focusing
on sustainable agricultural production and forest landscape restoration, have enhanced the resilience of both communities and local ecosystems.

**SENEGAL**

SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 15

Most of Senegal’s rural poor depend on subsistence agriculture, livestock rearing and maraîchage systems to feed themselves – all highly climate-sensitive sectors, badly hit by decreasing rainfall and degradation of soil fertility.

FAO has established agro-sylvo-pastoral projects to build the capacity of pastoralist communities to adapt to climate change, while mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CAA) measures into existing national programmes and policies.

Under the project, some 15,000 producers and 10,000 herders, 40 percent of whom are women and youths, are being trained in sustainable soil management, water conservation and the proper application of fertilizers and pesticides to improve food production and generate higher incomes. As well as technical expertise, the project is fostering increased self-determination and the confidence to innovate.

**UGANDA**

SDGs 1, 2, 5, 15

In a country that is home more than a million refugees, the pressure on natural resources to sustain both newcomers and host communities carries a high risk of environmental degradation and long-term economic damage. With further increases expected in numbers and length of stay, there is a vital need for responsible planning when it comes to forest and land use.

FAO and UNHCR have jointly assessed the potential of non-wood forest products – wild fruits, nuts, mushrooms, vegetables, seeds, honey and insects – to contribute to nutrition and form the basis of sustainable livelihoods. The study found that these were not “famine foods”: for an overwhelming majority of host households, they help build household resilience.

The study’s findings further suggested that with adequate planning, value chains based on shea (Vitellaria paradoxa), Tamarindus indica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Ximenia americana var caffra, edible insects (Ruspolia differens and Macrotermes sp.) and honey could fully offset unsustainable levels of demand for wood.

**ZIMBABWE**

SDGs 2, 5, 10, 15

Smallholders hold most livestock in Zimbabwe – yet their contribution to national and household food and nutrition has historically been limited. Low levels of research, input supply, credit and marketing services have resulted in poor productivity and offtake.

To improve Zimbabwe’s regulatory and institutional environment in the field, FAO has helped craft a National Livestock Policy and submitted it to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement for adoption. It also promoted good husbandry practices, drilled or rehabilitated boreholes, and formed or strengthened hundreds of livestock-oriented farmer groups, with a large female membership.

Nearly 40 trainers were trained in Farming as a Business, who in turns extended training to more than 3,000 farmers.
Almost 150 veterinary kits were made available in an effort to improve animal health and productivity.

**WEST BANK**

**SDGs** 2 3 6 9 16

Water scarcity, coupled with poor management and underuse of accessible resources, have hindered agricultural growth in the West Bank. Figures from the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture suggest up to 40 percent of pumped water is lost through leaky pipes. Disputes between neighbouring farmers have left some with no choice but to pump out wastewater to irrigate their crops.

FAO has rehabilitated 32 water conveyance systems in the village of an-Nassariya, boosting the efficiency of some 150 km of piping. Loss through leakages has been eliminated. Curbing the use of untreated wastewater has improved food safety. Farmers have seen their fields bloom, with a sharp reduction in water-related social conflict. One farmer reports adding three grape orchards and expanding his crop to include seedless grapes; income from the farm went up by half, at USD 3,000 net profit per hectare.

**MULTI-COUNTRY**

**SDGs** 1 2

Monitoring hunger levels and the risk of famine; informing stakeholders; and building technical consensus on the severity of food insecurity is vital, particularly in crises. Together with 15 partners, FAO promotes a common approach for food security analysis through the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). The IPC is a set of tools used in over 30 countries to generate information on the severity and causes of food and nutrition crises, and persistent food insecurity.

At the same time, FAO’s Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) continuously monitors national food supply and demand, along with other key indicators. It issues reports on prevailing conditions and provides early warnings of impending food crises. FAO’s Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) System translates alerts into pre-emptive action to reduce the impact of disaster.

Nurturing wildlife is critical to safeguarding biodiversity and achieving food security – particularly for the poorest and most marginalized people, many of whom live in threatened habitats. Hunting must be kept as sustainable levels; endangered species protected; and the essential role of wild animals preserved within forested and savannah ecosystems.

FAO has been working with partners across African, Caribbean and Pacific nations – in Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe – to help conserve wildlife and use it sustainably, and to increase food security for people who depend on wild meat.

The seven-year, EU-funded project is expected to improve regulation of wildlife hunting; expand the supply of sustainably produced meat products and farmed fish; strengthen the management capacities of indigenous and rural communities; and reduce the demand for wild meat, particularly in towns and cities.

*These are selected examples. For more information on FAO country work, visit [www.fao.org/home/en/](http://www.fao.org/home/en/)*
The SDGs are the first Member State-led global development push in history, laying out specific objectives for countries to meet by a given time-frame with achievements monitored periodically to measure progress.

A significant factor in the success of the SDGs will be new and effective ways of collecting data, monitoring targets and measuring progress. In March 2017, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed some 230 indicators to monitor the SDGs’ 169 targets. These global indicators will help countries measure the progress they are making towards achieving objectives, learn from experiences and understand in which areas to prioritise and allocate resources.

The sheer weight of indicators, however, represents an immense challenge for countries. Four times greater in number than for the MDGs, indicators are also set to be disaggregated by gender, age, income, geography and occupation to reflect the 2030 Agenda’s guiding principle of leaving no one behind.

While countries are chiefly responsible for gathering data, international agencies are lending assistance by strengthening national capacities and by ensuring that data are comparable and aggregated at subregional, regional and global levels.

Recognized for its experience and expertise in developing methods and standards for food and agriculture statistics, FAO is custodian UN agency for 21 SDG indicators, across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and a contributing agency for five more – a significant increase on the four indicators the Organization was responsible for in the MDGs.

While developing indicators that can be disaggregated, adopted universally, and reported regularly and cost-effectively, FAO is at the forefront of innovations to collect and capture information, striking new partnerships and investing in novel equipment, from earth observation satellites to mobile devices to aerial drones.

### FAO, AS CUSTODIAN AGENCY, IS:

- Supporting governments to set national priorities and targets
- Fostering strong and coherent institutional and policy environments
- Engaging all actors concerned in national policy processes and dialogues, and contributing to innovative partnerships
- Supporting national statistical institutions to produce global and national indicators
- Supporting governments to report on challenges and results
- Contributing to mobilizing resources in support to national efforts
- Contributing to the global follow-up and review of SDGs
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**FAO AS CONTRIBUTING AGENCY**

- **1.4.2** Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure  
  **UN-Habitat**, World Bank, FAO, EDGE, UN-Women  
  **II**

- **1.5.2** Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)  
  **UNISDR**, FAO, UNE  
  **II**

- **14.c.1** Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources  
  **UN-DOALOS**, FAO, ILO, IMO, UNEP, ISA  
  **III**

- **15.3.1** Percentage of land that is degraded over total land area  
  **UNCCD**, FAO, UNEP  
  **II**

- **15.6.1** Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits  
  **CBD**, FAO  
  **I**

The contents of this table may be subject to change as indicators are agreed and modified by countries.
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INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS

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Efforts to eradicate hunger are flatlining. Even where food is not scarce, malnutrition in the form of poor, undiversified diets is generating an obesity crisis with severe public health consequences. Buffered by extreme climate variability and protracted conflict, the planet is reeling from biodiversity loss while struggling to sustain a growing population.

Such mounting vulnerabilities, coupled with a legacy of political inertia, are threatening to derail progress towards the SDGs. Now more than ever, we must act to future-proof our world and lock in sustainable outcomes. Part of the solution lies in a willingness to transform food systems and agriculture; to nourish humanity while nurturing the environment; to invest in rural people and family farmers, who produce most of our food; and to leave no one behind as we harness the potential of all.

The 2030 Agenda is still – if only just – within our grasp. But the historic consensus surrounding its adoption must be matched by political determination to deliver it.