



WHO WE ARE

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations for food, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries and forestry. FAO's global vision is for a world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

WHAT WE DO

For more than four decades, FAO has been working with the Government of the Philippines, civil society, community-based organizations and the private sector to address challenges in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector. Joint efforts have included increasing sustainability in agricultural production, promoting value-adding practices, improving post-harvest management, enhancing productivity and increasing the resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods to natural disasters, climatic hazards and armed conflict.

FAO is guided by its **Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which reflects relevant guidelines and priorities set out in key national policies, including the Philippine Development Plan, the UN Philippines Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development and FAO's regional initiatives. The CPF also supports the Government's peace-building initiatives and economic growth priorities in Mindanao.

FAO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

-  Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
-  Make agriculture, fishery and forestry more productive and sustainable
-  Reduce rural poverty
-  Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural food systems
-  Increase the resilience of livelihood to disasters

FAO in the Philippines

FAO assistance in the Philippines is guided by the CPF, which focuses on three priority areas:

Improving nutrition for all by facilitating improvements in the policy environment and enhancing capacities to incorporate food security, nutrition, gender and social equity issues in agricultural plans, programs and projects. Activities include:

- Incorporating nutrition-sensitive food systems in development plans
- Establishing or enhancing information systems and analytical tools related to food security and nutrition
- Evaluating related policies and programmes

Expanding economic opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry (AFF) and ensuring ecological integrity, clean and healthy environment by promoting improved farm technologies, sustainable management and competitive utilization of environment and natural resources through inclusive value chains.

Activities include:

- Establishing farm business schools
- Enhancing entrepreneurial skills of farmers and fisherfolk and facilitation of farmer-to-market linkages
- Supporting the development of farmers' organizations
- Building capacities for increasing sustainability and competitiveness of capture fisheries and aquaculture
- Improving access of poor rural producers, small farmers, fisherfolks, agrarian reform beneficiaries, and other value chain actors, including indigenous peoples, to appropriate global production and post-harvest practices and technologies
- Facilitating adoption of good farming practices and other technologies that can help increase farm productivity.



Reducing vulnerabilities of individuals and families and fostering just and lasting peace by improving/strengthening capacities of national agencies, local government units and key stakeholders for disaster risk reduction and management, emergency preparedness and inclusive and gender-responsive response to climate change impacts, natural and human-induced disasters, and other emergencies. Activities include:

- Building capacities of local government units and other stakeholders on inclusive and gender-equitable disaster risk reduction and management, and climate change adaptation and mainstreaming into national and local development plans
- Introducing mitigation and adaptation techniques and methodologies
- Provision of alternative livelihood activities
- Establishing early warning systems
- Introducing technologies such as the use of drones to accelerate pre- and post-disaster assessments

FAO in emergencies

Back-to-back crises – **conflict, typhoons, flooding, earthquakes** – make it difficult for many farmers and fishers in the Philippines to rebound as they **struggle to replace what was lost or damaged**, be it seeds and tools, livestock or fishing gear. Getting vulnerable families back to producing food and earning an income – and helping them withstand the next disaster – is at the heart of FAO's work in the Philippines.

Since 2005, FAO has been actively engaged in the rehabilitation of agriculture- and fisheries-based livelihoods in conflict- and disaster-affected areas in Mindanao. FAO has been providing agricultural and fisheries inputs, training farmers and fishers on improved technologies, practices and livelihood options, and strengthening their resilience to disasters.

FAO also supported more than 230 000 farming and fishing households devastated by Typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda) through interventions across four major sectors:

- (1) rice and corn farming; (2) coconut-based farming systems; (3) fisheries; and (4) coastal and mangrove ecosystems.

WHO WE WORK WITH

FAO leverages its strong partnerships with government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, private sector and donors. In the Philippines, FAO is working closely with the Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine Coconut Authority, Philippine Statistics Authority, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, National Nutrition Council, Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, as well as relevant Local Government Units, among others.

In Mindanao, FAO coordinates with the Mindanao Development Authority and also works closely with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries-ARMM, the Bangsamoro Development Agency, Task Force Bangon Marawi, and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

To complement interventions more strategically, FAO is also working with non-government organizations, state universities and colleges, community-based organizations and other UN agencies.

COORDINATION

FAO actively participates in the national Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) and Early Recovery and Livelihood (ERL) clusters in the event of a declaration by the Philippine Government of a "state of emergency".

FAO is also involved in various working groups on Sustainable Rural Development, Indigenous People and Gender Mainstreaming. Along with the National Nutrition Council, FAO co-leads the Food and Nutrition Security Sub-working group of the Philippine Development Forum.

Food and agriculture are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FAO Strategic Objectives are geared towards tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind.

In the Philippines, FAO's work is well-aligned with the SDGs particularly the following:



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Representation in the Philippines

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