



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ACTION COMMITMENT PARTNERSHIP

FAO'S WORK IN AFRICAN,
CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC
(ACP) COUNTRIES

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE SDGs

Home to more than **1.1 billion people** and generating some **USD 2 trillion** in gross domestic product, the 79 countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region are, collectively, a demographic and economic heavyweight.

By leveraging their skills, experience and a burgeoning young population, ACP nations – including many of the world's Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries – have great potential to transform agriculture and food systems.

But while conditions vary significantly, ACP states face common challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – from reducing rural poverty to ending hunger to ensuring sustainable agricultural production and consumption. These challenges threaten their capacity to deliver a whole range of interconnected outcomes: better nutrition, food security, economic growth and environmental wellbeing.

To assist the ACP region and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, FAO works hand in hand with member states across the climate, agriculture and food nexus.

Made possible by generous donors such as the **European Union**, FAO's support takes the form of deep partnerships focused on:

→ **ACTION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION**
TO STABILIZE LIVELIHOODS AND IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

→ **DEVELOPING THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR**
FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

→ **SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**
TO PROTECT SPECIES AND CONSERVE ECOSYSTEMS

→ **PROMOTING THE MARKETABILITY OF ROOTS AND TUBERS**
TO BOOST FARMING INCOMES AND VALUE CHAINS

→ **MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS**
TO MANAGE PEST CONTROL AND ELIMINATE HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

ROLLING BACK THE SANDS

Desertification, land degradation, drought: beyond their direct impact on the environment, they compromise human health, food security and rural employment, with serious implications for regional and global security. Sustainable development in ACP countries depends on reversing these phenomena, or mitigating their effects.

In July 2014, FAO joined forces with the ACP Secretariat, the African Union and the European Union to help bring to life the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel. In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Haiti, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, FAO and its partners have been using EU funding to restore drylands and degraded lands. Communities are taking an active part in the Action



Against Desertification project, ensuring the restored lands serve their needs in fodder and other products and services. Tree seed centres are mobilizing quality seeds from native species, contributing to climate resilience. FAO also supports national action programmes to combat desertification and promotes South–South Cooperation in ACP countries.

25 MILLION
TREES PLANTED



50 000
HECTARES OF
DEGRADED LANDS
RESTORED

FISHING FOR GROWTH

Fish is a major economic sector in ACP countries. In twelve of them, it makes up more than half the value of all exports. But while aquaculture production in the ACP region has jumped 16 times in the last quarter of a century to reach some 800 000 tonnes, this still represents less than one percent of global output. In late 2019, the EU, which absorbs half of all African and Pacific fish exports, signed a EUR 40 million (USD 45 million), five-year programme to boost the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in ACP nations.

Targets include both inland and marine fisheries, involving catfish, small pelagics, oyster, shrimp and tilapia value chains from Nigeria to Zimbabwe, and from Lake Tanganyika to São Tomé and Príncipe and Africa's Atlantic shores. In the Caribbean, FISH4ACP – as the project is known – will concentrate on stocks of mahi-mahi and seabob shrimp in the Dominican Republic and Guyana respectively. In the Pacific – again in collaboration with the ACP Secretariat and with EU support – it will focus on tuna fisheries around the Marshall Islands.



USD
45 MILLION
FOR FISHERIES
↓
10
VALUE CHAINS
SUPPORTED IN
10
COUNTRIES

GOING WILD FOR SUSTAINABILITY



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USD **50 MILLION**
FOR CONSERVATION
AND SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION



12 COUNTRIES
SUPPORTED

Wild meat is an essential source of protein, fat and micronutrients. Millions of ACP citizens – chiefly indigenous people and rural communities – depend on it for food and income. But expanding human populations; habitat loss; more lethal hunting practices; and commercial trade in wild meat all pose significant threats to wildlife. Unless wild meat is sustainably managed, wildlife populations will decline and rural communities will

face rising food insecurity. The risk will only become more critical as demand for wild meat grows in urban areas, where it is seen as a delicacy. With the EU's support and in coordination with the ACP Secretariat, FAO's Sustainable Wildlife Management project is helping tackle these challenges among village communities in countries from Guyana to parts of West and Southern Africa to Papua New Guinea.*

The aim is to improve the regulation of wildlife hunting; increase the supply of sustainably produced meat and fish; strengthen management capacities in indigenous and rural settings; and reduce demand for wild meat, particularly in towns and cities (for example, by developing alternative protein sources, including through insect farms).

*Programme implemented in partnership with the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

ROOTING FOR THE FARMERS

In many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, roots and tubers – potatoes, yams, cassava and similar crops – provide a fifth of all calories consumed. But all too often, the crops are poorly marketed, generating meagre incomes for farmers. With its African Roots and Tuber project, FAO has been working to strengthen cassava value chains in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Malawi and Uganda, and Irish potato value chains in Rwanda and Uganda. This involves support to trade policies for better regional market integration;

improving competitiveness by sustainably intensifying production; boosting access to information services and finance for smallholder farmers; and making climatic risk management tools, such as climate insurance, more readily available. Here too, EU support and active collaboration with the ACP Secretariat will allow future projects to support small-scale food processors and agribusiness incubators – with the added benefit of creating decent rural jobs and higher youth employment in the root and tuber sector.

USD **20 MILLION**
FOR ROOT AND TUBER
VALUE CHAINS



7 COUNTRIES
SUPPORTED



PEST CONTROL DONE RIGHT

In many developing countries, pesticides are widely used for the control of pests and diseases in agriculture. Unsound chemical management; the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs); the presence of unsafeguarded obsolete stocks of pesticides; and the overall poor management of pesticide products pose significant risks to human health and the environment. Under the EU's Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements programme, FAO has supported the disposal of over 1 000 tonnes of pesticides from Africa and the Caribbean. Working closely with the ACP Secretariat, the Organization also helped establish



regional committees and networks of national authorities in all three ACP regions. Regional guidelines for the harmonization of pesticide registrations were developed in Africa, and a Regional Pesticide Registration Scheme in the Pacific. FAO was also instrumental in establishing a multidisciplinary, postgraduate diploma in Pesticide Risk Reduction at the University of Cape Town. Nearly thirty government officers from ministries

3 200
OFFICIALS TRAINED
AND EMPOWERED



35 COUNTRIES
SUPPORTED

of agriculture, the environment and health have graduated. The move has created a cadre of practitioners with a culture of integration and collaboration in responsible pesticide management.



(From left) EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella, FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu and ACP Secretary General Patrick I. Gomes sign off on the FISH4ACP project in Oslo in October 2019.

A LASTING PARTNERSHIP

FAO'S longstanding partnership with ACP countries has intensified in recent years, boosted by a strategic dialogue and strong EU engagement. Projects have targeted food security, fisheries and wildlife, and the prevention and disposal of obsolete pesticides. The emphasis has been on improving lives and livelihoods while promoting sustainable agricultural practices and building resilience.

With the EU as its main partner, FAO will continue to work closely with ACP nations to transform food systems, leverage innovation and advance women's empowerment; to strengthen South–South cooperation among member states; and to mobilize the private sector in pursuit of common goals.