



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Enhancing resilience in African francophone countries

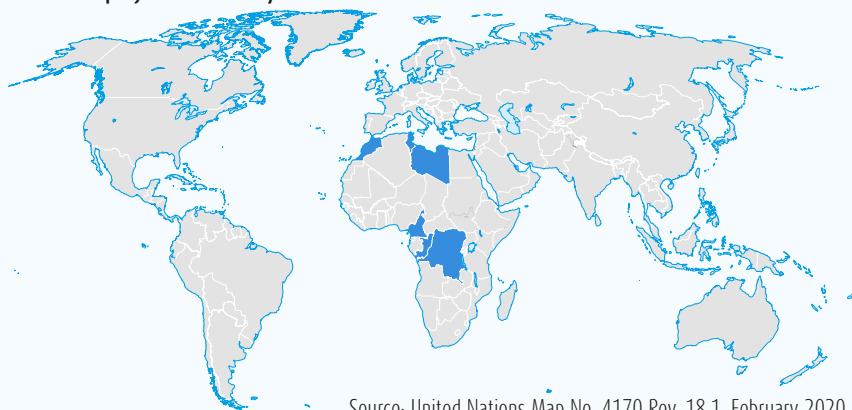
Based on previous collaborations and common vision for enhanced global actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the University of Liège (ULiège) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2017. The collaboration focuses on enhancing resilience in African francophone communities.

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITIES:

Since then, the partnership has contributed to:

- developing capacities on emerging pandemic zoonotic diseases under the One Health Initiative;
- promoting joint research on the climate change-migration nexus and its impacts on rural youth and agriculture;
- exploring sustainable energy sources in support of displaced communities to reduce deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions;
- preventing and manage plant pests and disease threats; and
- fostering long-term food security solutions through joint funding of PhD programmes on peace and resilience.

■ CDAIS project beneficiary countries



Source: United Nations Map No. 4170 Rev. 18.1, February 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

PARTNERSHIP MILESTONES

- 2017** Partnership established
- 2019** Workshop Meeting with FAO, ULiège and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in China and launch of a South-South cooperation agreement to host PhD students in FAO field offices
- 2020** Establishment of an Internship agreement – Renewal of the memorandum of understanding

CONTRIBUTING TO



KEY RESULTS

01 | Animal Health/Production

FAO contributed to the development of the curriculum for the ULiège Master's Degree on Integrated management of health risks in the Global South.

02 | Land and Water

In 2018, Gembloux participated in the Global Soil Laboratory Network annual meeting to help harmonize soil characterizations and build national capacities on topics related to soil data.

03 | South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In 2019, the establishment of a Triangular Cooperation partnership between FAO, Gembloux and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences allows for joint supervision of PhD students in the context of FAO resilience projects, and has been instrumental in establishing visiting fellow modalities and disseminating FAO's technical knowledge.

04 | Climate and Environment

In 2019, a Master student was supervised by FAO's Forestry Department and worked closely with the FAO **Climate and Environment Division** to develop a methodology for the setup of new displacement settings in case of a sudden crisis. The methodology employed Geographic Information Systems and **SPHERE standards**, taking into account energy, environment, shelter and associated sectors.

05 | One Health

- During the period 2018-2020, four students participated in internship and volunteer programmes with FAO/ECTAD on topics such as capacity development on Anti-Microbial Resistance in livestock and the response to COVID-19.
- A ULiège PhD candidate is currently working with FAO in the Republic of the Congo as One Health Coordinator. His study explores the resilience of public and animal health systems, their response capacity to zoonotic disease outbreaks, lessons learned and how these can be transformed into best practices.
- A PhD student from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is being co-supervised by FAO in Tunisia on the management of bird flu using a sectoral approach.
- In 2017, a **joint publication** was issued on the value chain approach in animal and public health, focus on present applications and challenges.
- FAO staff in Kinshasa mentored students working on theses on "small keeping of livestock as a proposal in public health programs against malnutrition in DRC" (2017) and "health communication in the management of cholera in DRC" (2018).

06 | Sustainable food systems

Staff at FAO's offices in the Republic of the Congo and at Headquarters provide mentoring a PhD student whose research focuses on sustainable food systems for African cities.

07 | E-Learning Product Uptake

FAO and ULiège agreed to strengthen curricula using FAO e-Learning Academy products. The following core themes were found relevant for courses development: child labor, climate change, gender, social protection and resilience.

LOOKING FORWARD

- Under the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, a new component of the collaboration between FAO and ULiège is being developed in partnership with the Chinese Academy for Agricultural Science (CAAS) in support of the development of innovative knowledge by young talented students whose research falls under the areas of FAO's mandate in countries where FAO has active projects.
- FAO and ULiège are exploring the possibility of creating a European network of interdisciplinary experts working in fields which support the development of bio-pesticides based on natural molecules extracted from plants to protect crops and stored commodities.



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AREAS OF COLLABORATION

FAO and ULiège work together on topics including zoonotic diseases, the climate change-migration nexus, rural youth, agriculture, sustainable energy, deforestation, animal diseases and plant pests, resilience building to shocks and crisis, soil analysis and food security.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE

The University of Liège is a public institution in the francophone part of Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation) that maintains an even balance between teaching, research and services to the community. ULiège is home to 25 000 students spread across eleven faculties. The university offers 40 degrees and more than 200 masters courses in all subject areas, including more than 40 large-scale inter-disciplinary research units, 3 500 academic and research staff, and more than 2 100 regular research agreements.

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