

Country Programme Evaluation Series

[07/2021](#)

Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the Republic of Moldova

2016–2019

Follow-up report

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Evaluation recommendation	Management response Accepted, Partially accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken	MAR Score	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions
<p>Recommendation 1.</p> <p>Future country programmes should continue building upon the main national priorities, focusing on thematic areas of support, reflecting its comparative advantages and capacities while being contextually responsive and adaptive to development changes and challenges.</p> <p>FAO needs to continue the strategic engagement with the government and stakeholders offering a strong comparative advantage in providing relevant technical and policy advice to support strategic priorities and issues. FAO's continued support in these priority areas may be built upon and further enhanced by identifying new opportunities, approaches and interventions that promote a shift from policy and institutional development to their practical application in the field, focusing on concrete and feasible results.</p> <p>In developing the new programme cycle, FAO should consider investing in sector-specific reviews to identify strategic areas of its engagement within the framework of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).</p> <p>FAO may further strengthen its involvement in providing highly specialized technical expertise in formulating strategies, plans, policies and frameworks, and offer innovative approaches and solutions.</p>	Accepted	Continue to engage with the government in identifying the priorities and providing its technical support and policy advice in relevant areas. Identify new opportunities, approaches and interventions focusing on concrete and tangible results within the formulation of the new Country Programming Framework (CPF) for the period of 2023–2027. Engage actively in the formulation and implementation of the UNSDCF. Design and implement new national projects which will further provide technical support and policy advice including highly specialized technical expertise.	<p>FAO has continued actively to engage with the government and in particular with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry in identifying the priorities, providing technical support and policy advice. In this sense, the support provided to the public authorities increased during the last period when FAO Country Office became the main development partner of the Ministry in developing the Integrated Implementation Programme of the National Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development (2023–2030). On the identification of priorities, FAO supported the government in assessing the impact of the ongoing challenges in the region (war in Ukraine and drought) on agrifood sector, including on small and medium farmers. Based on the Crop and Food Supply Assessment, areas of emergency intervention were defined and currently FAO is implementing through its donor funded projects the Emergency Programme for solving the immediate and medium term needs of the most vulnerable agriculture producers.</p> <p>FAO Moldova actively participated in the development of the new UNSDCF 2023–2027. The Organization was leading the working group on formulation of the outcome 4 of the UNSDCF, including its outputs, indicators and activities. FAO also was part and actively engaged in the formulation of the UNSDCF</p>	Excellent	

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Besides, FAO may focus on country projects versus regional projects. As the evaluation noted, these offer opportunities for improved efficiency and better targeting of financial resources while better catering to country development priorities.			(including the theory of change) and mainstreamed issues related to food systems approach in all outcomes. Currently, the new CPF is designed and will contribute to the implementation of the UNSDCF outcomes and outputs. In 2023, FAO Moldova initiated the elaboration of the new technical assistance projects for the sustainable development of the sector. It is developing GEF 8 and CBIT proposals on topics related to resilience of the agrifood system. On the other hand, FAO will launch this year in Moldova two new projects in specific technical areas namely on developing the extension service and on improving the value chains for table grapes.		
Recommendation 2. In addition to periodic review of development context, to ensure longer-term sustainability of these results FAO should enhance its monitoring of progress, impediments and risks to programme implementation. It would support the Organization to effectively use lessons learned and the knowledge generated for the continuous refinement of programmes in consultation with key partners towards effective and sustainable results. FAO has underscored the importance of innovation, including sustainable, innovative approaches and digitalization in agriculture and new technologies. FAO may enhance its organizational mechanisms for project monitoring and reporting, specifically at the	Accepted	Enhance the monitoring system within the new CPF and programmes. Design and implement new projects using innovative tools as well as support the country in digitalization of agriculture.	The new CPF programme (for 2023–2027) will be fully aligned to UNSDCF outcomes and the monitoring system is capacitated. The office will recruit an additional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist who will assist the office in monitoring the progresses and results of the CPF and programmes. On the other hand, FAO will partner with the European Union and UNDP in creating the digital farmers registry using its best knowledge and expertise for an innovative and transparent instrument in agriculture. Other initiatives on digitalization in the agriculture sector are designed based on the recently developed programme on digitalization in agrifood	Good	

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Outcome level.6 Innovative approaches towards more robust monitoring, inclusive at the country level, could efficiently and effectively inform project management if the activities undertaken resulted in the desired changes, made no changes, or sparked unintended ones. It would be beneficial in tracking progress made towards achieving the higher-level outcomes and better target efforts such as capacity building. The FAO Country Office may also seize opportunities for innovation by tapping into knowledge and experience by concretely supporting sustainable, innovative approaches, new technologies and digitalization in agriculture while facilitating full national ownership of interventions.			sector. The mentioned above programmes was elaborated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry with FAO's support.		
<p>Recommendation 3.</p> <p>FAO should further strive to support the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind and effectively using its comparative advantages.</p> <p>Guided by the principle of inclusiveness in sustainable agriculture and rural development, the FAO Country Office may do so by:</p> <p>i. Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply at the local level, championing green innovation and supporting small-scale producers ensuring resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in a changing climate and environment.</p>	Accepted	Support inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food system in Moldova through integrating and implementing the four betters in the country. Namely, the four betters and proposed objectives will be included in the UNSDCF and CPF as well as implemented accordingly. Collaborate with the government in including relevant activities in the national policy framework.	<p>The four betters and respective programme areas were integrated in the relevant outputs of new UNSDCF 2023–2027 with the aim to support inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood system. These priorities are reflected mainly in the outcomes 1, 3 and 4 of the UN cooperation framework. Also, the new CPF will have the aim to support the government in achieving a sustainable agrifood system.</p> <p>As mentioned above FAO is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry in developing the Integrated Implementation Programme of NARDS. During this process, the Country Office is leading the organization of the consultation processes with the main national stakeholders on the strategic provisions related to the implementation of</p>	Good	

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ii. Optimizing the social conditions of the value chain actors by strengthening the value chains, ensuring that all actors benefit fairly and equitably from food loss and waste reduction, food availability, income generated and access to resources. iii. Developing more inclusive and efficient agri-food systems, supporting implementation at the policy and enterprise level of trade agreements, global standards and support to domestic markets and export diversification. iv. Enhancing its support in developing national capacities for sustainable management of natural resources and making the agricultural sector more resilient to climate-induced risks.				the four betters and priorities related to agrifood system. Moreover, FAO is providing technical assistance for the government in conducting Food Systems National Dialogues and contributing to the reporting process of the food system stocktaking meeting.		
Recommendation 4. Considering the potential for enhanced collaboration, inclusive in mobilizing significant resources in priority areas of its programming framework, FAO may further identify new possible areas for partnerships and resource mobilization and expand its engagement in joint activities. Particularly in the face of main global trends and challenges (i.e. COVID-19), enhanced collaboration and strategic partnerships building would support the Organization to address the root causes of problems and respond to the new demands and expectations in the upcoming UNSDCF to ensure FAO's impact at the country level.	Accepted	Conclude new partnerships with the development partners, including UN agencies. Facilitate the dialogue among civil society, government and development partners on relevant policy issues in agriculture and food system. Strengthen the Country Office capacities in mobilizing more financial resources for the implementation of the country programme.	During the last period of time, the collaboration with UN agencies was enhanced through joint projects and common initiatives. In this sense, FAO is currently implementing two joint UN projects in partnerships with UNDP and ILO. In addition, the RBAs, FAO, IFAD and WFP developed a roadmap and concept note for supporting the agrifood sector. These documents will serve as mobilization and implementation tools for joint intervention in food system area. The resource mobilization capacities of the Country Office increased significantly with the implementation of the Emergency Programme in agriculture. New donors funded projects are	Good		

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<p>The Organization may do so by considering potential complementarities and synergies around the priority areas of the UNSDCFs and forming potential partnerships, also formulating partnerships' and communication action plans around specific technical workstreams. FAO may use the above-referenced action plans to promote cooperation and coordination, information sharing, and produce policy and advocacy content based on forward-looking analysis proposing practical solutions based on FAO experience and scientific knowledge.</p> <p>Localized approaches such as multi-stakeholder engagements at the country level could further complement these action plans. The Organization could use its comparative advantage in facilitating policy discussion among civil society, government and international partners on food security, nutrition and broad issues of sustainable agricultural development where FAO could offer its technical expertise.</p>			<p>launched and the team is acquiring knowledge and expertise in this area. Also, FAO Moldova is preparing concept notes for submitting those to donors.</p>		

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