



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Sustainable agriculture

A tool to strengthen food security
and nutrition in Latin America and
the Caribbean

2014-2015 highlights



FAO strategic objectives

In order to eradicate global hunger and poverty, FAO has established five strategic objectives that are the action pillars in the Region, and which strengthen productive processes for them to be more abundant, diverse, healthy and sustainable



Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable



Reduce rural poverty



Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems



Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

The growing food demand increases pressure on natural resources, whether these are soils, forests, prairies, seas or rivers. To face this situation, FAO members declare it is essential to prioritize the **sustainable production of basic and nutritious foods to guarantee food security**. For that purpose, we promote social-productive innovation and the marketing of products in **Family Farming** systems, which have been positioned as an important food supplier for local consumption and internal markets, significantly contributing to the rural territorial development and the relief of poverty

These sustainable production practices minimize pressure on natural resources, through an appropriate management and preservation of biodiversity, reducing the use of consumables that are harmful for the environment, and using polyculture and native varieties. At the same time, the analysis of environmental risks, caused by climate change, and the increase of resilience, are essential to guarantee rural and urban life systems.

The page is decorated with numerous hand-drawn leaf illustrations in various shades of green and brown, scattered across the top, sides, and bottom. At the bottom, there is a stylized landscape with a green hill and a brown ground area containing small black ants and a small mushroom.

Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

FAO seeks to promote practices and policies that support integration of the agriculture and productive sectors (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries) to ensure the **responsible management and long term availability of natural resources**.

For this, it focuses its efforts on improving and standardizing productive activities, as it acknowledges the **need to produce safe foods and implement good agricultural practices**, such as the integrated pest and disease management, harvest and postharvest handling, technological innovation and the conservation of biodiversity. On including social aspects, such as food security, dignified work, food education and the strengthening of associations. Environmental aspects, such as water and soil management, the sustainability of the productive system, the handling of agrochemicals, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and risk analysis. And economic aspects, such as entrepreneurial management, competitiveness and fair trade.

FAO initiatives at a regional level, in a constant search for such productive sustainability, are developed under an eco-systemic approach to **achieve an efficient production, an egalitarian, participative society with opportunities for its economic, physical and mental growth in a healthy environment**.



Food and Agriculture Organization
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Projects and programs developed in Latin
America and the Caribbean during 2014-2015
to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more
productive and sustainable





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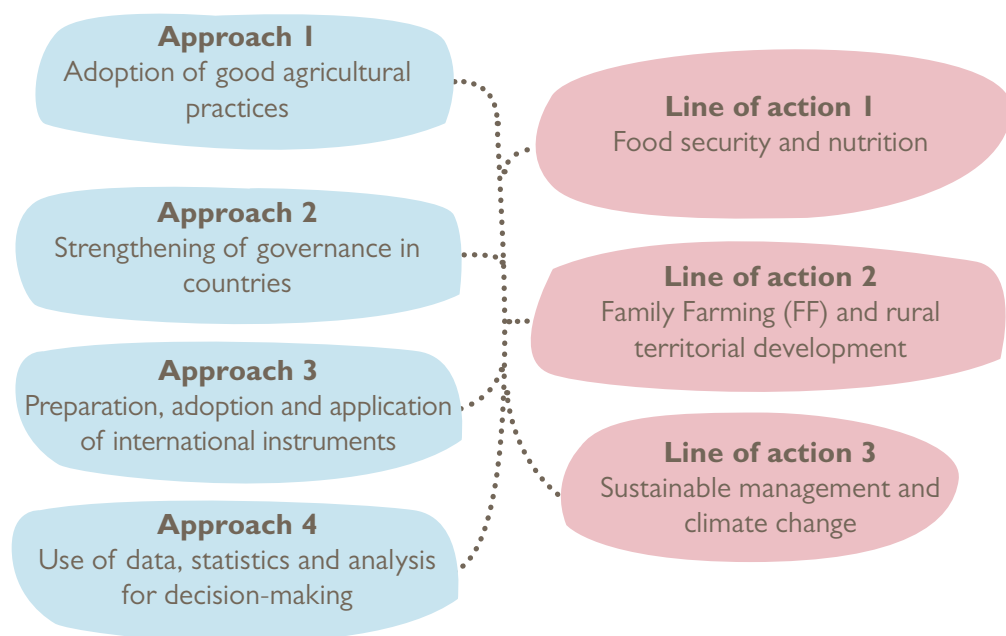
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FAO approaches

Strengthening **productive sustainability** (agriculture and livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) is the most effective to reduce poverty and achieve food security in a world with population growing day to day. In that sense, FAO activities focus on **four approaches**, which contribute to the **three regional action lines**:



The following presents the projects, programs and publications developed by the different FAO operational units in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) during years 2014 and 2015, which should be noted as examples to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries, more productive and sustainable.

Sustainable production and rural development

Good practices used in **agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries**, are most efficient when developed in an **integral and complementary** manner, favoring access to food with high nutritional value and reducing malnutrition rates.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO has worked on innovative approaches to **increase productivity in a sustainable manner**, so as to facilitate the adoption and exchange of **good agricultural practices (GAP)**, with emphasis on **family farming** and **community participation**.

Based on the experiences of Colombia, Guatemala and Paraguay, recommendations were compiled regarding traditional practices of **indigenous peoples** for resource management and sustainable production. Guidelines and recommendations were systematized to eliminate **gender inclusion** barriers in the rural extension and technical assistance systems for a sustainable family farming. Within the scope of environmental services management, the first review to the pollination principles and progresses was published as an **environmental service** for sustainable agriculture in LAC countries.



Project - Systematization and promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

WOCAT and TECA virtual platforms have allowed publishing 13 practices for the production and conservation of natural resources of six countries in the Region, which were detailed in the publication “Systematization of Water and Soil Conservation Practices for Adaptation to Climate Change”.



More information in www.wocat.net and <http://teca.fao.org>



Project - Contribution of regional information to the Knowledge Platform on Family Farming

The platform gathers information on Family Farming (FF) initiatives from all around the world, considering national laws and regulations, public policies, good practices, data and statistics, as well as research, articles and publications. The information is available to support the governance of the countries, focused on sustainable agricultural production and the management of natural resources.



For more information, go to www.fao.org/family-farming



Project - Regional study on gender and technical assistance for sustainable production in Family Farming

This work included the collaboration of the main social stakeholders who, through four regional workshops, made recommendations regarding the political, institutional and technical-methodological scope, leading to greater inclusion of producer women in the rural extension and technical assistance systems. All this information will be organized in a publication.



Systematization of Water and Soil Conservation Practices for Adaptation to Climate Change

Indigenous Peoples and Public Policies of Food Security and Nutrition in LAC: A Regional View

Principles and Progresses on Pollination as an Environmental Service for Sustainable Agriculture in Countries from LAC



Management and conservation of natural resources

Natural resources and their services are essential to produce food and provide a sustainable livelihood. Within the scope of capacity development, to apply **natural resources management tools**, a publication analyzing the multiple dimensions of the territorial planning in Argentina, is to be noted. Additionally, it is worth mentioning the more than 60 projects funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in the Region, regarding the **sustainable management of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity and climate change**.

In regards to water resources, a technical cooperation project stands out in the **management of water for agriculture and agro-climatic risks**, as well as the ongoing preparation of a regional project **to reuse wastewaters in a safe manner**.



Project - Management of water for agriculture and of agro-climatic risks to contribute to food security

This project identified watershed management as the highest priority topic among applicant countries. Work focused on support and strengthening activities, through the technical assistance of Mexico and FAO, particularly in the management and handling of water resources, irrigation, production management, investment projects and institutionalism.



Fishing and aquaculture are deemed to be the livelihood of 540 million people in the world, which represents 8% of the population. The LAC seas represent a **source of healthy food and resources for thousands of families**. Within this scope, the strengthening and consolidation of the **Aquaculture Network of the Americas** is to be noted: an inter-governmental cooperation mechanism that supports sustainable development of aquaculture in LAC countries.



Project - Activation and consolidation of the Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA, for its acronym in Spanish)

RAA was officially created in 2010 to contribute to the equitable and sustainable development of aquaculture. Since then, it has been strengthened to act in an effective manner as an independent organism. This project helped consolidate the participation of member countries and encourage inter-governmental cooperation. Its activities focused on the creation of a council of ministers and a virtual regional observatory. Additionally, the development of skills, the use of good practices and the creation of groups for information exchange, were reinforced. Information was provided regarding value chains and pilot farms were developed to train aquaculturists with limited resources, from micro and small enterprises.



More information in
<http://www.racua.org>

In regards to the **capacity development in responsible management of fisheries and aquaculture** in Guatemala, the National Program for the Integration of Aquaculture into Family Farming (PRONIAAF, for its acronym in Spanish) is to be noted. It is worth mentioning the publication that shows the status and evolution of **fisheries and aquaculture in Central American countries**.

Other activities carried out in LAC during the two-years' period for the development of fisheries and aquaculture, were:

- Bio-economic analysis of integrated production systems, through the implementation and systematization of the experience of demonstration units (farms) for aquaculturists with limited resources from Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala and Paraguay;
- Creation and strengthening of capacities to compile and exchange data, agreements on illegal fishing, and handling and trade of the Caribbean queen conch;
- Support to regional planning for fisheries management, through data collection and exchange at a national and regional level; and

- Drafting of policies on conservation and management of the Caribbean spiny lobster, and the management mechanisms for deep-sea fishing and vulnerable marine ecosystems in high seas.

According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015), although the surface of forests in the world continues to decrease, the net loss rate has been reduced by more than 50%. The following stand out among the efforts FAO carries out in this area: the beginning of a project that seeks to strengthen **protected area systems** in the Amazon region; and the initiative that contributes to **strengthen forestry policies** in LAC countries and offers **real examples of application of forestry management practices and approaches**. There is also a project that seeks to provide **measures and proposals to maintain and increase productivity of tropical forests** that are overexploited in the Caribbean, the expected results of which are described further ahead in this document.



Project - Integration of Amazon Biome Protected Areas (IAPA) - Amazon Vision

This project seeks to strengthen institutional coordination of services from protected areas. Also, based on the definition of two pilot conservation landscapes, action plans will be implemented and a financing strategy will be designed to promote its application at an Amazon Biome level.





Project - Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) - Phase II

Through this project, the Community of SFM Practices was implemented: a platform for the exchange of knowledge among LAC countries. The methodology process of exemplary cases within the context of the countries was also discussed, selecting 31 new cases. The edition of a new publication on the cases and lessons learned is expected for 2016.



Project - Ensuring long-term productivity in lowland tropical forests of the Caribbean



At the end of this project, the expectation is to have guidelines for the management of forests that have been subject to exploitation for centuries. For that purpose, a prevention strategy will be prepared, and the economic benefits of applying silvicultural treatments will be assessed, considering potential payments for reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

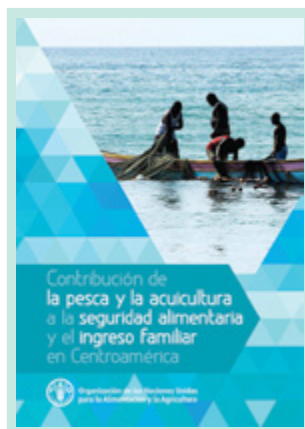


Publications

Rural Territorial Planning - Concepts, methods and experiences



Contribution of Fisheries and Aquaculture to Food Security and Family Income in Central America



Animal and plant health and food safety

Through institutional organization, community participation and the engagement of experts, FAO supports **the improvement of animal and plant health and food safety services** of the countries. In that area, it is worth mentioning the **technical assistance and strengthening of skills** for the **regional management** of one of the most serious and devastating **diseases of citrus** (*Huanglongbing*, HLB), of the **coffee leaf rust**, and the **Panama disease caused by *Fusarium***. In regards to animal health, projects are developed to prevent **bovine paralytic rabies**, and to eradicate **foot-and-mouth disease**.

The Caribbean progresses towards the development of a viable and sustainable sector of small ruminants, which is a key component of the food security and nutrition strategy of this region. In this area, the **capacity development for the recovery of degraded pastures and the reduction of productive and environmental risks from climate change** stand out, considering the costs and benefits of the adoption of new technologies.

Likewise, the preparation of a project promoting **pesticide management** in the Caribbean throughout its life cycle, to minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment is highlighted.



Development and strengthening of technical and institutional capacities

The **development of capacities** is an **essential element** within FAO's strategic framework, and is fundamental to achieve **sustainable changes and results**. In this area, the **creation and management of expert committees and networks** is to be noted; as well as the **development of courses** focused on relevant stakeholders in the implementation of public policies of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors.

Regional networks and committees of experts in LAC

- Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife (REDPARQUES).
- Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA).
- Regional Network of Experts on Quinoa.
- Regional Committee of Experts on *Huanglongbing* (HLB).
- Mountains Regional Committee.

Noted courses

Good practices and rural development

- Sustainable farming systems and rural development in buffer zones of natural protected areas.
- Integrated development of cassava in the Caribbean.

Fisheries and aquaculture

- Extension in aquaculture.
- Good practices in fish culture and processing in aquaculture with limited resources.
- Productivity and quality of aquaculture production.
- Aquaculture management and manufacturing of products.

Governance associated to forestry resources

- Methodology of exemplary cases for the strengthening of sustainable forestry management programs and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Elements for formulation and implementation of national forestry policies.

Animal and plant health

- Foot-and-mouth disease: attention to complaints and sanitary emergencies.





Participative governance

Sustainable development requires the creation of **governance** and financing frameworks for the extensive range of local needs and backgrounds. As a related activity, the **coordination and support of FAO Regional Technical Commissions¹ on matters of fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock development**, are to be noted. These commissions meet every two years and include the participation of representatives from member countries and FAO specialist technicians.

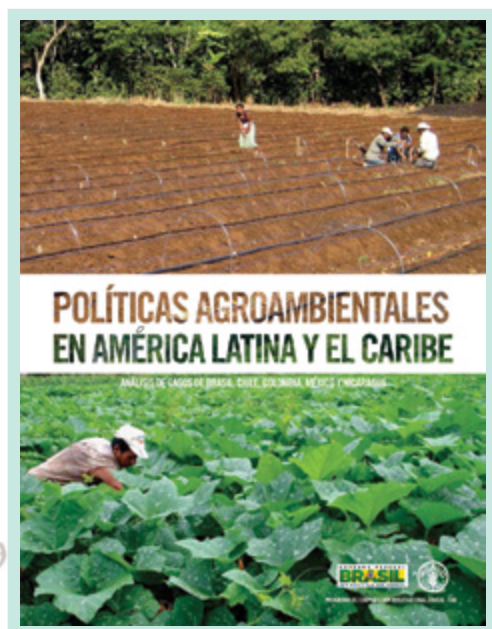
Additionally, FAO collaborates with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Committee of Commerce and Economic Development of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in regards to the delivery of **policy recommendations** regarding **responsible governance of natural resources and sustainable development of family farming**.

The institution of forums to facilitate the exchange of governance-related information is also to be noted. The **parliamentary permanent forum on fisheries and aquaculture** was created in 2014-2015, which will meet annually to promote the development and sustainability of the sector. Then, within the framework of a project to **strengthen agro-environmental policies in LAC countries**, forums were held to promote dialogue and the exchange of national experiences. Lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations of this project were gathered in a publication.

Within the framework of the development and implementation of a sub-regional forestry agenda, and jointly with the other members, the Regional Strategic Program for the Management of Forestry Ecosystems in Central America and the Dominican Republic (PERFOR) was created. This program seeks to **promote and facilitate the integration of forestry management into the food security, rural territorial development, climate change and energy policies, among others**.

1. Technical Commissions in the Region: Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC), Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Latin American and the Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC).

Agro-environmental Policies in LAC - Case analysis of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Nicaragua



Regional Strategic Program for the Management of Forestry Ecosystems in Central America and the Dominican Republic (PERFOR)





Sustainable agriculture

A tool to strengthen food security and nutrition in
Latin America and the Caribbean

“Nature does not change, although the way of viewing nature invariably changes from age to age. No matter the age, natural farming exists forever as the wellspring of agriculture”

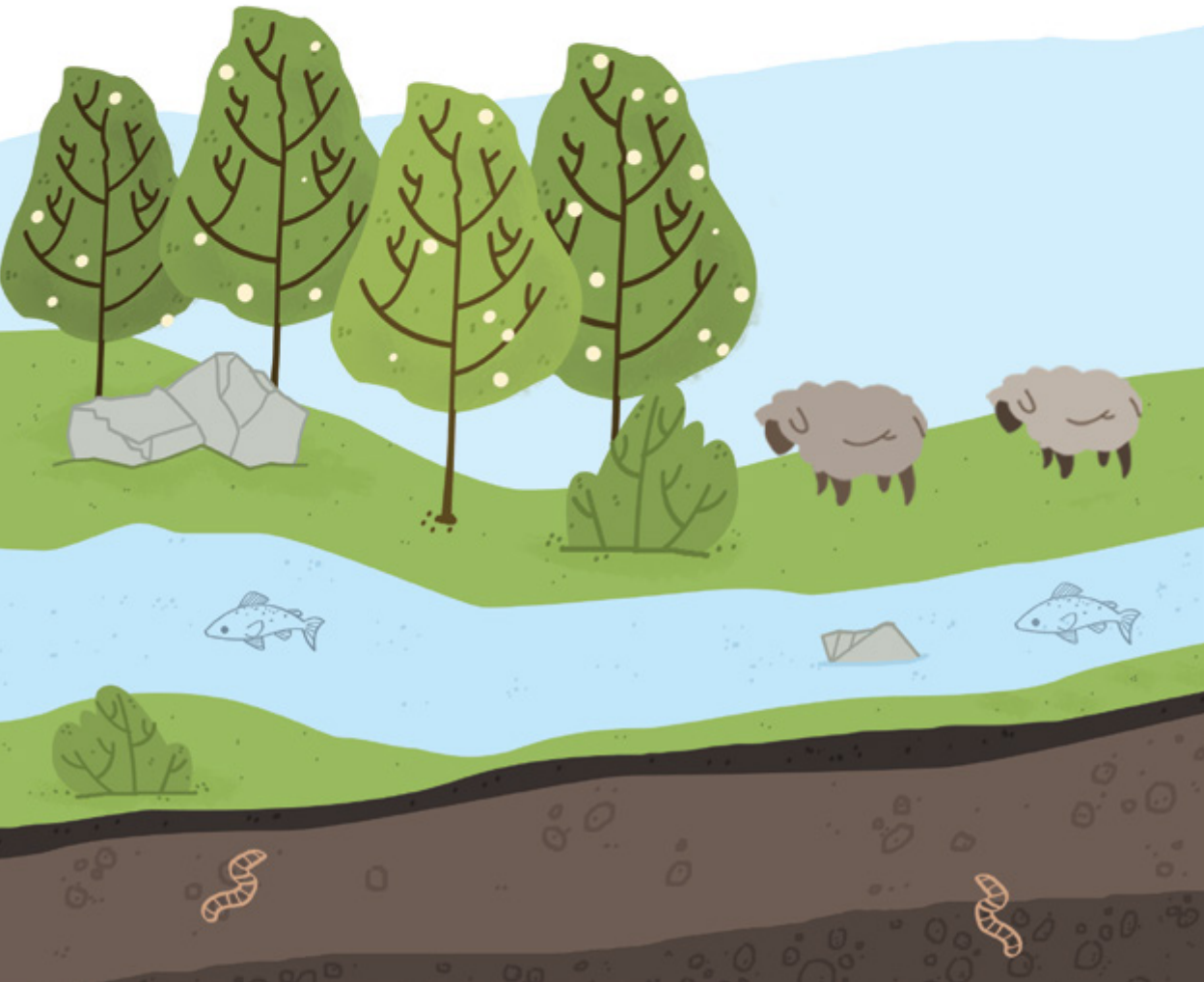
Masanobu Fukuoka, farmer, biologist and philosopher

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Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO integrated efforts to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2015





Integrated efforts to consolidate a sustainable agriculture in the Region

Eradicating global hunger and poverty is a complex task that requires the interaction of the five strategic objectives FAO has established. The following shows inter-related programs and projects developed during 2014-2015 in the Region, to consolidate a sustainable agriculture.



“Make agriculture, forestry activity and fisheries more productive and sustainable”

- * Identification of public policy and governance strategies for the continuous improvement of food security and Family Farming (FF).
- * Strengthening of the institutional frameworks to enhance food security and nutrition, the rural territorial development and FF.



“Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition”

- * Strengthening of productive sustainability and the family income of aquaculturists with limited resources, through alternative aquafeeds



“Reduce rural poverty”

- * Governance and technical strengthening in the management of disaster risks that affect FF, agricultural production and food security.
- * Increase in the resilience and reduction of vulnerability to climate change effects.
- * Implementation of a regional coordination mechanism for the management of sanitary risks in the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors.
- * Technical assistance for the management of diseases in coffee production (coffee leaf rust) and citrus (Huanglongbing – HBL).



“Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises”

- * Support to FF to improve availability, access and the use of quality seeds in High Andean zones.
- * Promotion of preparation, development and trade of cassava value added products.
- * Technical assistance for the sustainable intensification of production and consumption of quinoa (Andean Zone).



“Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems”

Contributions to Regional Initiatives

FAO **regional initiatives** are work programs that reflect the priorities of the Region and are linked to strategic objectives. Their purpose is to take effective measures to eradicate hunger and poverty, and to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. The following shows the contributions to regional initiatives between 2014 and 2015, within the scope of sustainable agricultural production and management of natural resources.



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

▶ Regional initiative: Support to the Hunger-free LAC initiative

Setting of political commitments and adoption of inclusive mechanisms to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition:

- * Development of inter-sector regional mechanisms of articulation and coordination for the sustainable development of production.

▶ Regional initiative: Family Farming (FF) and rural territorial development

Improvement of institutional capabilities to implement FF policies and territorial development programs:

- * Definition of criteria, identification, systematization and documentation of good agricultural practices.
- * Formulation of agro-environmental policies for the responsible governance of natural resources and sustainable development.
- * Analysis of integral traditional practices for the sustainable management of resources and production for adaptation to climate change.

Improvement of FF access to natural resources, services and production resources:

- * Bio-economic analysis of integrated production systems (fisheries and livestock).
- * Systematization and promotion of sustainable production and soil conservation practices.
- * Creation and/or management of committees and networks of regional experts.

- * Strengthening of regional mechanisms for the adoption of good agricultural practices.
- * Development of management systems for the use of agricultural residues (in progress).
- * Participatory elaboration of guidelines on policies to eliminate gender inclusion barriers in sustainable FF.
- * Strengthening of capabilities for the sustainable intensification of production, the integration of production systems and adaptation to climate change.
- * Approaches, methodologies and experiences in territorial planning.

Regional initiative: Improving food systems in the Caribbean

Strengthening capacity to develop value chains of agricultural products that are sustainable and resilient to climate change, including the facilitation of trade, inclusion and use of national and regional products:

- * Systematization and promotion of sustainable production and soil conservation practices.
- * Development of management systems for the use of agricultural residues (in progress).
- * Participatory creation of guidelines on policies to eliminate gender inclusion barriers in sustainable FF.
- * Strengthening capacity for the sustainable intensification of production, the integration of production systems and adaptation to climate change.

Support to CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and the Eradication of Hunger

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), since 2015, has assumed the commitment of ensuring food security and nutrition, through a strategy for the eradication of hunger and poverty in member states (SAN-CELAC 2025 Plan¹). The following shows the support offered by FAO in regards to sustainable agricultural production and the management and conservation of natural resources, considering the challenges of climate change.



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

▶ SAN-CELAC 2025 Plan

Pilar 1. Policies to face challenges on food security and nutrition (SAN)

Line of action 2. Facilitation of interregional food trade

- * Interregional trade and knowledge: standards for production encouragement, phytosanitary and safety measures.
 - Manuals: production of crops, plant quarantine, diagnosis of banana wilt.
 - Guide for the formation of urban boxes (cajas urbanas).
 - Voluntary guidelines for the sustainability of small-scale fisheries.
- * Strengthening of interregional trade of consumables.
 - Support to FF to obtain quality seeds for the improvement in the production of root vegetables and grains.

Line of action 3. Food loss and waste

- * Information, training and awareness in good agricultural practices and access to innovating technologies.
 - Promotion of good agricultural practices through virtual platforms (WOCAT and TECA platforms, and Family Farming Knowledge Platform*), and a publication.

¹ The SAN-CELAC 2025 Plan is based on four pillars that seek to respond to the goal of creating a hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean, through action areas that respect the diversity of social and political projects specific of each of the LAC countries.

Pilar 2. Access to healthy and safe foods

Line of action 3. Family Farming (FF)

- * Support and encouragement in the implementation of the SAN-CELAC action plan and promotion of South-South cooperation projects in public policies for FF.
- * Training, rural extension, access to quality consumables and technological innovation to support FF and sustainable development.
 - Training workshops and e-learning courses.
 - Study on gender and rural extension.
 - Support to FF to obtain quality seeds for the improvement in the production of root vegetables and grains.
 - Promotion of good agricultural practices through virtual platforms (WOCAT and TECA platforms, and FF Knowledge Platform*), and a publication.
- * Promotion of the investigation on the strengthening needs base for the development of FF.
 - Principles and progresses on pollination as environmental service (publication available).
 - Creation and management of discussion platforms on agro-environmental policies (issue of a publication on lessons learned projected for 2016).
- * Efficient use of natural resources, mainly the water resource.
 - Documentation of successful experiences in the management of water resources and the safe reuse of wastewaters (activity in progress).



*Links to platforms: www.wocat.net, <http://teca.fao.org> and www.fao.org/family-farming.



Project “Support to Family Farming to improve availability, access and the use of quality seeds in High Andean zones”

Through the increase of the yield and production of basic grains and root vegetables in areas seeded with quality seeds, this project allowed improving food security in High-Andean zones of Family Farming. The initiative, completed in 2015, allowed increasing food availability in the Region with native products and improving the revenues of users and producers of quality seeds.



“The project has served us to improve our economy, for health and the good living of the families”

Pedro Paucar, producer and seller from Ecuador



Project “Technical assistance for the management of Huanglongbing (HLB) in LAC”

This project came up as the answer to the need for preventing and mitigating HLB in the Region, as it is one of the most nefarious pests for citrus in the world. Completed in 2015, the following stand out among its results: the creation of a regional information system; the development of updated guiding instruments and the training of over 90 individuals. Additionally, a strategic framework was prepared to manage HLB in the Region, as well as coordination mechanisms to implement it, through a Regional Committee of Experts on *Huanglongbing*.





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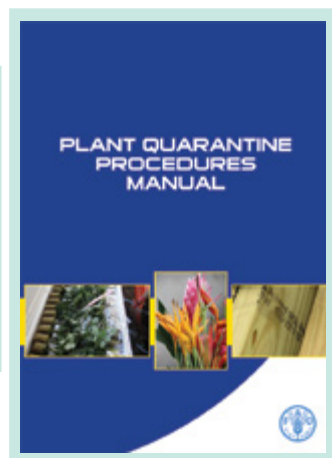
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Systematization of Water and Soil Conservation Practices for Adaptation to Climate Change

A vegetable garden for all

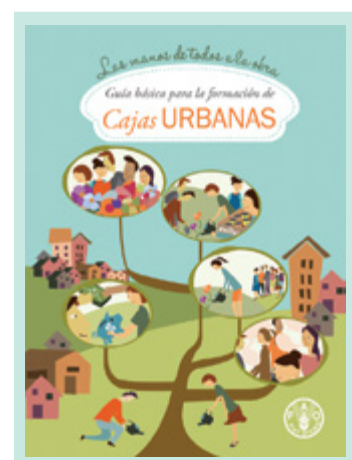
Plant Quarantine Procedures Manual



Technical Manual for diagnosis of Fusarium Wilt (Panama disease) of banana (Tropical Race 4 - TR4)

Basic guide for the formation of urban boxes (cajas urbanas).

Voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries





Project “Promotion of Family Farming (FF) and the Mercosul Family Farming Fund”

This initiative was created in 2013 and will be completed in 2018. Its purpose is to facilitate the convergence of organizations and Governments, to generate political dialogue within the scope of the Specialized Meeting on FF of Mercosul (REAF). It focuses on the design of differential public policies, and the development and strengthening of FF in member countries, through the financing of incentive programs and projects for the sector.

Support to South-South Cooperation initiatives

In Latin America and the Caribbean, South-South Cooperation has been a valuable instrument to respond to global challenges. For that purpose, the exchange of experiences, good practices, policies, technology and technical knowledge, among the southern countries of the world, has been key. The following presents three cooperation initiatives in the Region.



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

Project “Strengthening of the cotton sector through South-South Cooperation”

Brazil, with its experience in the cotton sector, offers the best conditions to make available to other countries its good practices in rural development and Family Farming. This project, which ends on 2016, seeks to make more sustainable the cotton value chain of member countries. Through the promotion of good practices, the purpose is also to extend the capabilities and levels of inter-institutional coordination to strengthen the sector in the Region.



Towards cooperation between FAO and Itaipú Binacional

In order to improve the sustainable production of agricultural goods and services in the Region, the technical field trip to the Parana Basin, in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, was carried out in 2015. At the time, representatives of governmental institutions from Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru, strengthened their institutional capabilities through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, regarding the program promoted by Itaipú Binacional, called Cultivating Good Water (Cultivando Agua Buena - CAB).

CAB seeks to establish the criteria and conditions to guide the production of goods and services in a sustainable manner, conserving natural resources. This program focuses on the quality and quantity of water, and on the life quality of people. It promotes their rights and obligations, and the active and judicious participation of the whole community.

Since CAB was perceived as an experience with a high potential for replication, FAO and Itaipú Binacional will keep a close work connection with the countries, to propose sustainable projects through the South-South Cooperation modality. Additionally, they will promote the generation of new instances for the strengthening of capabilities for new sectors involved in territorial development.

Proyecto “Strengthening of agro-environmental policies in LAC countries, through dialogue and the exchange of national experiences” (Phase II)

The purpose of this project is to share experiences and lessons among countries in the Region, within a South-South cooperation framework, starting from the confirmation of the existence of capabilities and good results in the application of agro-environmental institutional and political frameworks. Although there are no models that function the same for all countries, examples of successful experiences can serve as reference, or can be adapted for implementation in different contexts. Experiences and lessons learned during Phase I of the project are included in the publication “Agro-environmental policies in LAC - Case analyses from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Nicaragua”. Currently, progress is being made in the systematization of cases of policies/programs with agro-environmental focus, in the four new countries that joined the project in its Phase II. On the other hand, through the dialogue process, a proposal of Voluntary Guidelines for Agro-environmental Policies for LAC is being prepared. Its purpose is to contribute to the achievement of the goals in the post 2015 global development agenda.



■ Phase I

■ Phase II



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Sustainable Agriculture

A Tool to Strengthen Food Security and Nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean

*“Agriculture, for an honorable and high-spirited man,
is the best of all arts and occupations through which a man can find its livelihood”*
Xenophon, Greek writer and historian

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FAO in action


Images of an efficient, sustainable and inclusive
production in Latin America and the Caribbean

2014-2015






FAO in action



In the Region, FAO has focused its efforts on improving life conditions of a population that, through the years, has been affected by poverty, displacement, armed conflicts, lack of opportunities and marginality. These conditions have affected its intellectual, cultural, economic and physical development. In this context, strengthening in an integral manner the sustainable agricultural activities and making a responsible use of natural resources, are fundamental to improve food security and nutrition (FSN) and resilience to climate change, natural disasters and conflicts in the Region.



For this, FAO's action has created opportunities to access healthy and varied foods, the sale of which has allowed increasing family incomes. This, at the same time, has facilitated the creation of a social fabric in the communities, through spaces for dialogue, agreement and socialization of projects, results and lessons learned.

Cross-regionally, FAO has empowered the role of women in rural development and the participation of youth and children. Acknowledging, recovering and integrating traditional practices into the development of sustainable and innovative technologies, has also been key for the success of projects.



We invite you to walk with us part of this road, through some images¹.



1. **Photography:** Guadalupe Gómez Verdi and Valentina Stutzin - Colombia and Guatemala



Images of an efficient, sustainable and inclusive production in Latin America and the Caribbean

The following portrays some of the results of the interventions FAO has carried out in the Region, in favor of the social-economic development of its communities and to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable.

Work Area: Diversification of sustainable production for the strengthening of food security and nutrition (FSN)



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Diversifying products in Family Farming allows rescuing traditional foods, carrying out a balanced diet, protecting biodiversity and creating economic opportunities for local communities (Alta Verapaz, Guatemala).



Knowing that 12.5 million children in the Region support family tasks in the agriculture sector, FAO develops sustainable production programs that protect their physical, psychological, educational and moral integrity. For that, it implements safe practices, tools, methodologies and strategic associations, in neglected sectors such as fisheries, silviculture and livestock (Antioquia, Colombia).



Producing crops in association with pisciculture, livestock and the appropriate management of forestry resources, allows reducing the environmental pressure on wild populations. Additionally, it diversifies food for the family, creates sustainability in productive systems and reduces the risk of small-scale agricultural production (San Marcos, Guatemala).



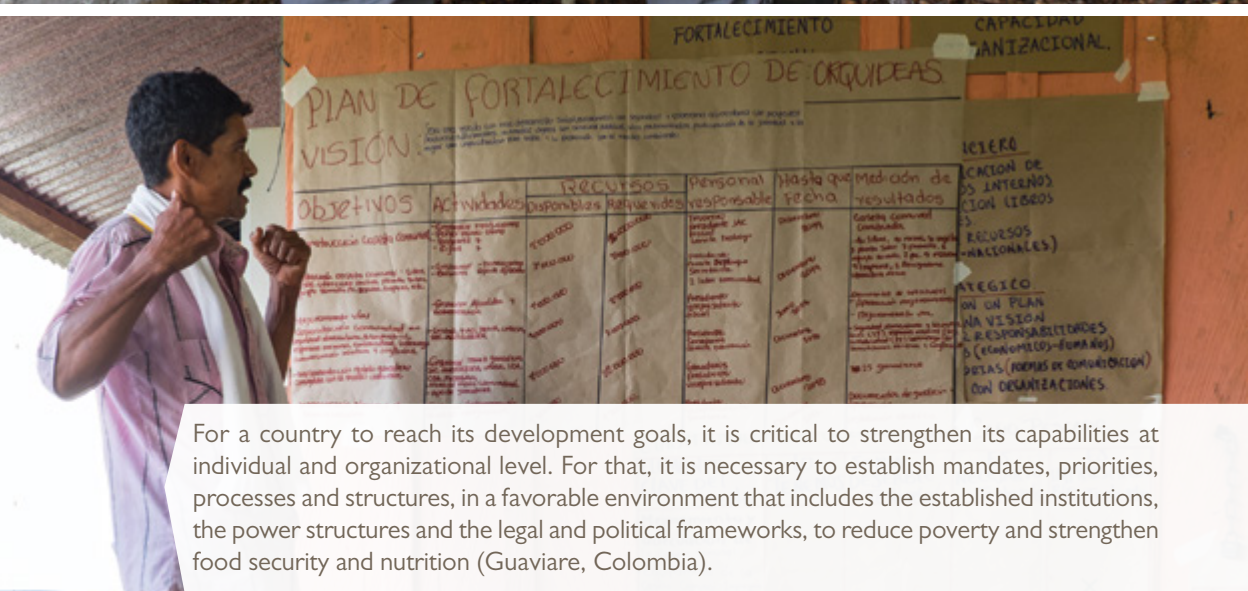
Work Area: Strengthening of the life systems, innovative practices, governance and family farming



From the farmer to the farmer: innovating to generate new products is fundamental to improve cooperative production and to recover the social, cultural and productive livelihoods of vulnerable communities. This plant produces 100% organic concentrate for bovine, poultry and porcine livestock, at a smaller price and with supplies farmed by producers themselves in the Farmer Reserve Zone (Guaviare, Colombia).



Using municipal and farming organic residues is a practice that promotes the mitigation of climate change. It has been estimated that in 1997-99, 590 to 1,180 million tons of carbon were fixed as organic matter from the soil coming from manure and crop residues (Antioquia, Colombia).



For a country to reach its development goals, it is critical to strengthen its capabilities at individual and organizational level. For that, it is necessary to establish mandates, priorities, processes and structures, in a favorable environment that includes the established institutions, the power structures and the legal and political frameworks, to reduce poverty and strengthen food security and nutrition (Guaviare, Colombia).



Work Area: Implementation of good practices for the management of natural resources and biodiversity for sustainable production in the Region



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Constant supervision, innovation, good production practices and the strengthening of production technical capabilities for family farmers, are the foundations that ensure the sustainability of projects. Silvopastoral systems favor diversity, improve production, promote carbon storage and reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions by 21% and 36%, respectively (Guaviare, Colombia).



In rural environments, water is the main production factor that needs to be guaranteed. Due to that, FAO promotes solutions in the management of water resources through the introduction of low cost technologies that allow generating a more efficient, equitable and resilient agriculture (Meta, Colombia).

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For thousands of years, human kind has depended on genetic resources for food and agriculture; therefore, preserving biodiversity is a global responsibility. Genetic diversity, its value and conservation, will allow a better adjustment to changing climate conditions and to overcome the challenges upon the appearance of emerging illnesses (Guaviare, Colombia).




The soil is a live system that supports the life of multiple species. Ensuring its quality will allow having healthy and nutritional foods. Recovering and properly handling soils, basins and slopes, is indispensable to ensure the food and nutrition quality of the communities (San Marcos, Guatemala).

Work Area: Development of inclusive and participative programs to strengthen Food Security and Nutrition, and resilience in the Region

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A woman with short brown hair, wearing a grey and black patterned hoodie, is watering rows of green seedlings in a nursery. She is holding a long-handled watering can. The nursery is covered with a white plastic sheet supported by wooden poles. In the background, there are signs on the poles, one of which says "PROHIBIDO FUMAR" (No Smoking) and another says "AREA DE PLANTACION" (Planting Area).

The support given to productive enterprises led by women has allowed them to develop abilities, personal skills and technical-productive capabilities that benefit their family and community environment. The picture portrays an example of a productive enterprise: nursery for vegetable seedling production for farmers in the Region (Antioquia, Colombia).

A group of nine people, including seven children and two adults, are standing in front of a large mural of a forest. They are all smiling and holding bunches of fresh green leafy vegetables. The children are wearing blue and white school uniforms. The adults are wearing casual clothing. The mural behind them depicts a lush green forest with trees and foliage.

The school vegetable garden can become an educational instrument focused not only on children and teachers, but also on their families. Through it, appropriate eating can be promoted, sustainable production techniques can be improved, and environmental awareness becomes possible (School Vegetable Garden “Yopo Güeta Süacha”, at Colegio San Martin, Cundinamarca, Colombia).

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Rural youngsters are deemed important actors in the fight against hunger and poverty. They are high-potential agents to implement innovative and sustainable production strategies. This favors the productivity of agricultural processes and allows them to build their self-esteem, responsibility and leadership, as well as strengthen rural development and family values (Petén, Guatemala).





Involvement of indigenous women

FAO carries out sustainable forestry, aquacultural, fishing, agricultural and livestock activities based on traditional practices that guarantee agricultural diversity, livelihoods, rural development, the sustainable management of ecosystems, gender equality, cultural diversity and food security (Alta Verapaz, Guatemala).



Sustainable Agriculture

A Tool to Strengthen Food Security and Nutrition
in Latin America and the Caribbean

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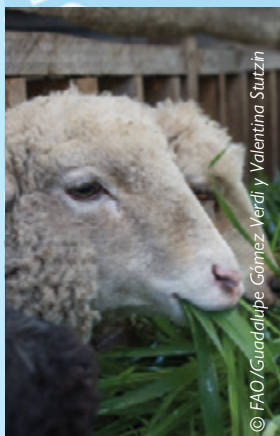
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Sustainable agriculture

A tool to strengthen food security and nutrition
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"Safeguarding the environment... It is a guiding principle of all our work in support of sustainable development; it is an essential component of poverty eradication and one of the foundations of peace."

**Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General
and 2001 Nobel Prize recipient**

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