

IMPACT

TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION



For more than six decades, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has led global efforts to alleviate hunger, focusing on ways to improve agricultural production and, in turn, the lives of rural people. Under its mandate, FAO spearheads activities that focus on making sure the environment is protected, that food produced is safe to eat, and that all people have enough to live healthy lives.

Yet today, our world has nearly 1 billion people who are hungry and another billion malnourished. FAO estimates that the agriculture sector needs to double its production in the coming years if it is to feed the earth's growing population, a goal that will be much more attainable if all involved have access to current and timely information tailored to their needs – policy-makers need information to underpin setting of national standards and regulations, farmers need climate and market information to guide their planting, harvesting and investment decisions, and consumers need nutrition information to guide their decisions on what and how much to eat.

As a knowledge organization, FAO creates and disseminates critical information, in the form of global public goods. But this is not a one-way flow. In its work as a knowledge organization, FAO also plays a connector role, through identifying and working with partners who bring in other levels of expertise, and establishing a dialogue between those who have the knowledge and those who need it.



CREATING

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS *Applying technology for better results*

The digital age has brought with it an array of options for increasing the efficiency and cost effectiveness of gathering, analyzing and disseminating information that can propel the agricultural sector to reach new heights of production and sustainability. FAO has developed and introduced a range of digital tools and methodologies that countries use for developing and applying their own norms and standards. But these tools also enable them to feed their national data into global databases that can collate statistics from across the region or globe to give a realistic picture of the state of the world's agriculture. FAO's host of information management systems provide data on the world's fish, forest, crop and livestock resources, its monitoring systems provide early warnings of spread of pests and diseases or of climatic changes, all presented as global public goods.

SHARING

KNOWLEDGE *Ensuring success on the ground*

The added value of creating global public goods is ensuring that the people who will benefit from the information they contain have the know-how and capacity to access it and apply it to improve their lives. Thus FAO takes its expertise to where it is needed, providing capacity development – to farmers in their villages but also to scientists in their laboratories, as well as providing policy assistance to governments and their ministries, and facilitating South-South Cooperation for sharing of knowledge and experiences. In addition to its web-based portals, databases and e-learning courses, FAO also works with governments in designing and targeting individual workshops and field school courses for local communities. At any one time, FAO manages more than 2 000 field programmes and projects around the world, each one specifically designed to add more information, more understanding and more opportunity to find solutions. Each project has a specific goal, a specific problem to solve, and once reached, FAO also provides the tools to glean best practices and share what has been learned among other farmers or other communities that face similar problems.



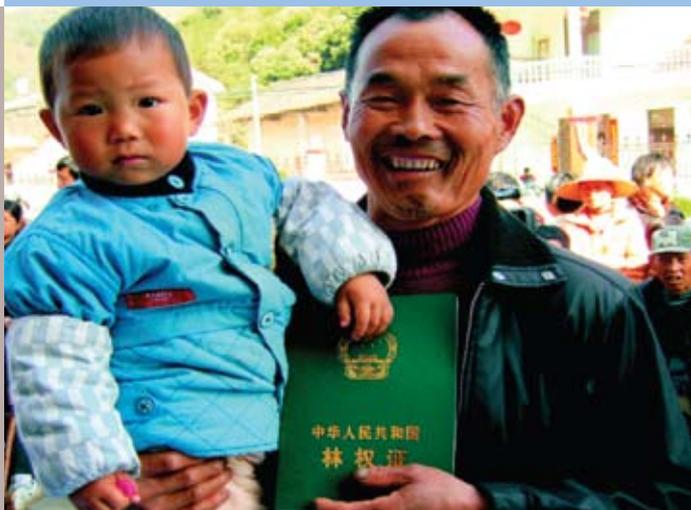
Achieving hunger eradication

The work of FAO is built on an overarching goal of eradicating hunger, which can be achieved by accelerating the shift toward sustainable food consumption and production systems, promoting greater fairness in the global and national management of food systems, expanding South-South Cooperation and speeding the Organization's decentralization so FAO can bring its expertise closer to the field. Together, these objectives underpin FAO's work with governments and public and private sector partner organizations, which develops national capacity to leverage public goods.

This folder introduces FAO focus areas through success stories that illustrate FAO's role in connecting the field to national, regional and global initiatives. The stories range from local projects to global strategies, offering snapshots of what FAO has introduced, what it has improved and, most of all, what it has left behind in terms of its contribution to food and nutrition security and sustainable natural resource management.

Focus areas where FAO's comparative advantage contributes to impact:

- providing early warning of food crises
- detecting and preventing transboundary threats to production, health and the environment
- promoting sustainable forest management
- controlling biosecurity risks related to fisheries and aquaculture
- establishing global entities for dealing with scarcity of water and land resources
- developing capacity to improve agricultural information and statistics
- contributing to global standard setting and implementation into national policies and legislation.



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