The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) was launched by the United Nations in 1994. Focusing on low-income, food-deficit countries, the SPFS is a national-level initiative that enables countries to establish a National Programme to achieve national food security and to formulate a Plan of Action stipulating two or three years of Pilot Phase activities. These activities emphasize:

1. Expansion Phase
2. Implementation of the SPFS
3. Prospective beneficiary countries are those in which net income per person falls below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for International Development Association (IDA) assistance (set at US$1505 per capita in 1996). It is against this background that the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government during the World Food Summit, held in Rome in November 1996.

The SPFS aims at supporting LIFDCs (low-income food-deficit countries) in their efforts to:

- improve their national food security through rapid increases in productivity and food production on an economically and environmentally sustainable basis;
- reduce income and price variability in agricultural production;
- improve people’s access to food. Moreover, the SPFS is a multi-disciplinary programme with a strong emphasis on women’s roles, since in many countries, they cannot be assumed to produce food at all times.

Implementation of the SPFS takes place in two stages, referred to as the Pilot Phase and the Expansion Phase. Every country that indicates an interest in participating in the SPFS mission (in each of the stages) will be assigned a field representative. Under this scheme, advanced developing countries send field technicians and experts to specific recipient countries. The aim is to involve the countries’ own national experts under the direct responsibility of each national government. FAO provides technical assistance and financial support to countries to train technical experts, develop national teams, and carry out feasibility studies.

Moreover, the SPFS is a multidisciplinary programme with a strong emphasis on women’s roles, since in many countries, they cannot be assumed to produce food at all times.

Clear Objectives

South-South cooperation project formulation to constraints analysis; and grassroots participation in harvesting, irrigation and drainage systems; •

experience and expertise achieved by many developing countries to assist others who face similar challenges and conditions.

中国国际支持

中国国际支持

INTL

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

The SPFS is essentially a national programme formulated and implemented by national experts under the direct responsibility of each national government. FAO provides technical assistance and financial support to countries to train national experts, develop national teams, and carry out feasibility studies.

As of November 1998, bilateral support to SPFS pilot activities is provided by advanced developing countries, including those in the Asia-Pacific region, and to a lesser extent, from the oil-producing countries in the Middle East. In addition, FAO provided support to the Republic of Korea and the Government of France in its efforts to implement a model SPFS project in Haiti. In the following year, the SPFS database and the National Programme in Haiti were formally launched by the heads of state and government during the World Food Summit, held in Rome in November 1996. Subsequently, FAO has been working closely with the Government of Haiti to develop and to manage its National Programme. The SPFS aims at supporting LIFDCs in their efforts to:

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experience and expertise achieved by many developing countries to assist others who face similar challenges and conditions.
As the pilot phase draws to a close, hosting farmers are counted at the regional and district level, non-output indicators such as increased basic output and increased awareness regarding the positive impacts of the new technologies and farming practices. These outcomes form the basis for program and SPFS. Before moving on to the Expansion Phase, the Pilot Phase may be extended in some cases:

1. At the same site, by creating a new component, the factors identified in the pilot phase are extended.

2. In some areas (10 to 30) in other different regions, the areas concerned are covered by the program.

3. In a new site (up to 30) in other different regions, the factors identified in the pilot phase are extended.

The Pilot Phase comprises three components:

- A local component as the pilot
- An agricultural component
- The preparation of project feasibility

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Programme Implementation

Considerable progress has been achieved in implementing the Special Programme for Food Security since it was launched in 1994. As of February 1999, the Pilot Phase was in operation in 39 countries and under formulation in another 34.

In BOLIVIA, the National Forest Service has been instrumental in creating projects and policies related to small-scale farmers and vulnerable communities. These projects have focused on the development of local production systems, including aquaculture, artisanal fisheries, small animal husbandry and tree cropping. Here again, special attention is paid to relevant post-production activities that generate income through greater value added.

In CHINA, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has introduced the concept of “green farming” to encourage farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices. This approach has been highly successful, with significant increases in crop yields and reduced environmental impact. The Academy is now proposing a phased withdrawal of all subsidies over a three-year period and an immediate end to the state monopoly.

In NEPAL, the government has taken significant steps to improve rural people’s access to agricultural services and improve their livelihoods. This has included the introduction of new technologies and farming practices, such as the effective use of high-yielding varieties, improved post-production activities, and increased awareness regarding the importance of proper agricultural practices. These outcomes form the basis for program and SPFS.

In TANZANIA, the government has taken steps to improve rural people’s access to agricultural services and improve their livelihoods. This has included the introduction of new technologies and farming practices, such as the effective use of high-yielding varieties, improved post-production activities, and increased awareness regarding the importance of proper agricultural practices. These outcomes form the basis for program and SPFS.
The South-South Cooperation initiative has gained considerable momentum, and since all advanced developing countries have already registered their own LIFDCs, the scheme has been international since November 1996. In 1997, when FAO Ventures, with support from the United Nations Development Fund for South Cooperation (UNDEF), the FAO Foundation for Private and Corporate Giving (FAOFPCG), the World Bank, New Holland (FIAT Group), and the Nippon Foundation, launched the South-South Cooperation initiative, it was moved into the Asian region of developing countries.

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) was approved by FAO's 1996 Conference. The SPFS was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government during the World Food Summit, held in Rome in November 1996. The SPFS is a globally coordinated, country-led programme intended to support LIFDCs in setting national food security agendas, formulating national plans of action and implementing Pilot Phase activities. It is an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) and the Global Initiative to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

The SPFS is a comprehensive, multi-sectoral programme intended to support LIFDCs in setting national food security agendas, formulating national plans of action and implementing Pilot Phase activities. It is an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) and the Global Initiative to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

The SPFS aims at supporting LIFDCs in their efforts to:

- improve their national food security through rapid increases in productivity and food production on an economically and environmentally sustainable basis;
- reduce poverty and vulnerability;
- improve people's access to food;
- improve the South-South cooperation framework within the framework of the CPA and the Global Initiative to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

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