



MARHABA

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Food and Agriculture Organization's Sudan office. This month the global theme for World Food Day 2012 was announced: 'Agricultural cooperatives – key to feeding the world'. The theme highlights the role of cooperatives in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger. The UN General Assembly also designated 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives.

In the world today, an estimated one billion people are members of some kind of cooperative. In Sudan, FAO supports small-scale farmers, displaced people and other vulnerable groups to form cooperatives for cheese-making and other agroprocessing, fishing and handcrafts to share resources and increase their bargaining power and market access.

World Food Day is observed on the 16th of October each year – the date marks the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization. We'll be bringing you more information about World Food Day as it approaches.

Mai Moussa Abari

FAO Representative in Sudan



HELPING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS ACCESS RURAL MARKETS

Some of Sudan's agricultural cooperatives will be the end beneficiaries of a new rural marketing training program that was carried out this month. FAO's Sudan Productive Capacity Recovery Programme-Capacity Building (SPCRP-CB) held an agribusiness Training of Trainers workshop for Marketing Unit staff within the State Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Irrigation in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Red Sea and River Nile states. SPCR-CB's work includes supporting 25 agricultural cooperatives that have the potential to become viable small businesses. The state Marketing

Units are linked to the cooperatives to give them support.

Ms Kartoum Ali Al Fadi from River Nile's Marketing Unit was one of the participants. "Modern types of marketing and value chains are new to Sudan's farmers so the training has added to the knowledge we have to help them," she said.

In the past, marketing was based on simple supply and demand where farmers brought their harvest to market with little choice about who they sold to or how much they charged. But by joining together in a marketing group, small-scale farmers can increase their power in the marketplace. They can add together their individual harvests into a larger total to make it more attractive to buyers and they can add value through packaging to prevent spoilage, grading produce according to size and quality and processing to make a new product.

Ms Al Fadi works with River Nile cooperatives involved in fishing, fodder production, yoghurt- and cheese-making, onion- and okra-drying, jam-making and orange processing. "We will now go to our groups and tell them about choosing crops that are more profitable, low-cost etcetera. We

will talk to them about what they are doing now and what they want to achieve in the future,” she said.

FAO Agribusiness Consultant Marlo Rankin conducted the training. “Part of the workshop focused on teaching Marketing Unit staff how to analyse the supply chains in which the cooperatives operate, by identifying their suppliers for raw materials, the customers for finished products and the support services required to get the right product to the right place at the right time”. Previous training provided by SPCRP-CB covered topics such as value chain business models and how cooperatives can apply for and manage business loans.

SPCRP-CB is funded by the European Union’s European



FAO's Mahmoud Dafalla inspects JICA-funded agricultural inputs before delivery to South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

AGRICULTURAL SEASON UPDATE

The rainy season started in June in most parts of Sudan, triggering the start of the main cropping season. FAO's field office staff have been busy procuring and managing distribution of agricultural inputs to vulnerable households in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Darfur and eastern Sudan who would otherwise have no access to improved seeds or quality tools this season. These activities were funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and mean poor farmers, displaced people and other vulnerable groups can grow their own food and not be dependent on food aid.

Heavy rains in North Darfur caused flash floods in Malha

locality this month. Many homes were destroyed and 10,000 livestock were killed. FAO delivered 187 metric tonnes of animal feed for distribution to vulnerable livestock owners by implementing partner Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), and the Ministry of Animal Resources supplied animal vaccines. In eastern Sudan, the rainfall has so far not been enough to alleviate the significant fodder gap. In response to this problem, FAO has distributed 100 metric tonnes of animal feed in partnership with German Agro Action (GAA) and SRCS. It was provided free to very poor livestock owners in four localities and sold to comparatively better-off livestock owners to support a community-managed revolving fund for animal feed.

GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

FAO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development have released *Agricultural Outlook 2012-2021* which states that agricultural production needs to increase by 60 percent over the next 40 years to meet rising food demand. The full report can be found online at:

www.agri-outlook.org

Commission.

FSL UPDATE

Consultant Matthew Serventy is in Sudan on a two-month mission funded by the Danish Refugee Council to support coordination of the Food Security and Livelihoods sector. Here he provides an update on his work:

“I’ve recently visited Darfur and am now in Kassala looking at how FSL coordination is working and where it can be adapted to suit a protracted, but changing emergency environment. There is no magic solution to coordination as it requires effort from all partners in the sector. Given the very different state situations there will never be a single solution, so individual states must adapt to their local working environment and needs. A good example is the new plans for the FSL meetings in three Darfur states. In South Darfur monthly meetings will be chaired in turn by WFP and FAO, in West Darfur meetings will be rotated among all sector partners including NGOs and line ministries, and in North Darfur the Ministry of Agriculture will take the lead supported by a task group of UN agencies and government departments.

Only ‘locally grown’ solutions are likely to be sustainable in the long term, as the humanitarian community paves the way for more Early Recovery and development activities, and

emergency thinking gives way to development processes. I will next be in Khartoum to advise the sector on how best to adapt FSL structures there.”

CONTROLLING FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE IN SUDAN

FAO Sudan in partnership with the Government of Sudan has launched a new Foot and Mouth Disease surveillance and diagnosis project funded by FAO for \$USD491,000. The project will be implemented by FAO with the Ministry of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Rangeland over two years.

Cattle, sheep, goats and camels are susceptible to FMD. The disease causes dramatic economic losses when it enters a herd, and is a major hindrance to international trade. An FMD outbreak in 11 dairy farms in Khartoum state in 2001 is estimated to have caused \$US1.77 million in financial losses.

The FAO Representative Mr Mai Moussa Abari attended the inception workshop at the federal ministry in Khartoum. “Transboundary diseases don’t respect borders, as we saw after the recent FMD outbreak in North African countries. FAO will do all it can to provide technical support to this FMD project,” he said.

The project team will investigate the present status of FMD and its epidemiology in Sudan to create baseline scientific data to form a control strategy. Strains of the disease predominant in Sudanese herds will be isolated and identified with a view to future vaccine production. The project will improve national capabilities for detecting and controlling outbreaks and therefore reduce morbidity and mortality. It will also increase the efficiency of disease outbreak notifications to national, regional and international organizations. The Government of Sudan will assume leadership of the on-going FMD activities at the end of the project period.

A global target has been set for the world to be FMD-free by 2020. Five technical stages have been established to help countries achieve the target. Sudan is at the first stage and this project is expected to help Sudan reach the second stage by the end of next year.



Mr Abari speaking at the launch.



FAO IN THE FIELD

FAO's Abdelrahim Suliman Abdalla reports on how one woman in a South Darfur IDP camps is raising chickens to help feed her family and send her children to school.

Fatima Abusalim is 40 years old and a mother of six. She and her husband Eisa Abbaker live in Otash IDP Camp, Nyala. Fatima was one of a group of women in the camp who received 15 laying hens and training in raising poultry under a CHF-funded FAO project in 2006.

"I was not thinking that kind of training and supply of 15 chickens would be a means of livelihood for my family, but since then I've managed to restock my farm 3 times - I now have 60 chickens," Fatima said. Her chickens produce at least 4 dozen eggs a day which means Fatima can earn around 40SDG while maintaining low costs.

"My life has improved, my children are better fed and I can pay for my children's school fees. I'm like a blind person who's been given a guide-stick". Fatima is now thinking of expanding her poultry farm to further improve her income. She dreams of having better food for her children and being able to support them until they graduate. She also hopes to one day return to her home village, and she prays for peace for all of Sudan.

"I'm like a blind person who's been given a guide-stick"



NEW LONG-TERM PROJECT IN EASTERN SUDAN

FAO in collaboration with UNIDO, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Government of Sudan have agreed to implement a multi-million dollar food security project in Kassala state.

The Integrated Food Security Project (IFSP) aims to achieve food security for vulnerable people by increasing agricultural production and productivity, linking smallholder farmers to markets and training young people in marketable skills as well as promoting self-employment.

The project document was endorsed this month and FAO's Kassala office has started implementation.