



Swaziland
Agricultural
Development
Project



Grown in Swaziland





Swaziland is moving towards commercial farming

The vast majority of Swaziland's 1.2 million people depend on subsistence farming. But years of economic slowdown, a devastating AIDS pandemic and recent droughts, linked to climate change, have made it increasingly hard for the rural population to live off the land.

According to FAO's most recent hunger figures, one in three people in Swaziland is undernourished.

Improving the food security and nutrition of the vulnerable and helping small holder farmers move away from subsistence farming are key objectives of the Swaziland Agricultural Development Project (SADP), a government-led initiative,

with assistance from the EU and FAO, focused on creating a vibrant commercial agricultural sector.

SADP first focused on the most vulnerable, including the elderly and Swaziland's youth - the generation in between having been weakened by the AIDS pandemic.

Vegetable gardens allow vulnerable families to grow vegetables for household consumption, or to sell within the community. Youth groups got assistance to set up small businesses, in areas including poultry farming, pig production or vegetable and crop production.

Gradually, SADP also began educating Swaziland's smallholders about good agricultural practices, enabling them to grow more and better

produce - preserving the environment and lessening the pressure on limited natural resources. Thousands of farmers were trained in practices such as conservation agriculture, agro-forestry and seed multiplication.

In addition, construction and rehabilitation works in the livestock sector, water infrastructure and government services, have contributed to establish a more conducive environment for farmers to increase their output.

Producing more also means that farmers need to be able to sell their surpluses. So, a €1 million Marketing Investing Fund was established to strengthen their links to the markets by supporting agri-businesses, who process and market the produce of small holder farmers.

Key facts and figures

SADP is a 5-year programme, set up in 2009 with €14.2 million in funding from the EU and €341 000 from FAO, to improve the food security and nutrition of vulnerable rural households and contribute to equitable and sustainable economic development by supporting the creation of a vibrant commercial agricultural sector.

Main results:

- Reached over 20 000 farmers
- Trained over 2 000 farmers in good agricultural practices
- Established 800 backyard vegetable gardens for vulnerable households
- Established 60 youth groups reaching 2 250 youngsters
- Improved infrastructure in the livestock sector, water management and government services
- Established €1 million Marketing Investing Fund (MIF)
- Established the Swaziland Livestock Identification and Traceability System (SLITS)
- Contributed to a National Agricultural Extension Policy and a National Agricultural Research Policy
- Contributed to the Swaziland National Agricultural Investment Plan (SNAIP) within the CAADP process

A constant flow of water

Malindane (66 years-old) learned farming at school, as well as through extension workers. They have taught him how important it is to work together. "But it's hard," he confesses, "people first think of themselves."

That's not been the case in Mayandzeni village in southern Swaziland, where they have come together to manage their water resources. Sixty-three farmers jointly manage the water from a dam upstream in the Mpatheni river, which irrigates their fields.

Built in the 1970s, the dam long suffered from a lack of maintenance, impairing its irrigation potential. Now, it has been rehabilitated under SADP.

"With a constant flow of water, farmers are no longer reliant on rainfall to grow," says Makhosini Khosa, who led the water infrastructural works on behalf of the government.

Every day Malindane's eldest daughter, 22-year old Zamokhudle, goes down to the main road to sell the family's produce. "Selling requires speed," she says, rushing off with a bundle of carrots when a bus arrives.

"We have something nice with this land and this water," says Malindane. "But we don't see how nice it is, until someone opens our eyes."



SADP has touched our smallholders farmers

Moses Vilakati, Minister of Agriculture, Swaziland

“The European Union is proud to be part of this endeavour”

Nicola Bellomo, EU ambassador to Swaziland



Good agricultural practices help increase yields and preserve the environment

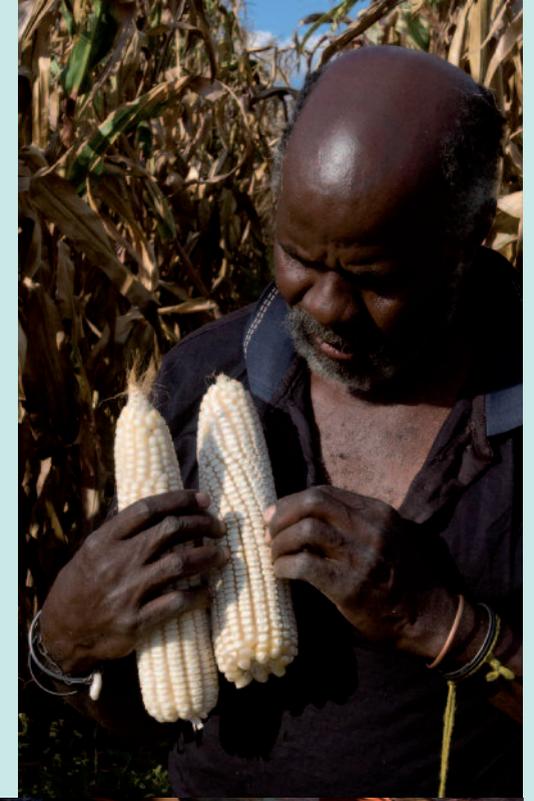
“I can see the difference,” says Melford Mhlamga, standing between two plots of maize plants on his field in south-western Swaziland, holding up a cob from one plot and one from the other side.

The better cob comes from the plot where he has been using conservation agriculture, a farming method enabling the farmer to make a profit in a sustainable way.

Good agricultural practices help smallholder farmers increase their yields. And in using them, they also preserve the environment, as their efforts help mitigate the impact of climate change, often cited as an important factor behind Swaziland’s recent droughts.

Melford is confident that many farmers will be convinced, though he is skeptical about the younger generation. Take his own children. They live and work in the city. They don’t even call, let alone visit him here.

He still has the power to work in the field. It’s not like before, though, when he was a football player. “But I have no time for soccer now,” says Melford. Not that he minds taking care of himself. But, he asks, what happens when his strength fails him? Who will look after him then?



Linking farmers to the market

Today, we are making a very hot sauce called Swazi Fire, says Lizzy Dlamini, cooking supervisor in Eswatini Kitchen, a small food-processing factory on the outskirts of Manzini, the business capital of Swaziland.

Eswatini Kitchen’s sauces and jams are sold in Swaziland, neighboring South Africa, and across the globe through fair trade networks.

It has received a 337 000 Emalagneni grant (USD 34 000) from SADP’s €1 million Marketing Investment Fund (MIF), aimed at linking up smallholder farmers in Swaziland to the markets.

Grants have been awarded on condition that the agri-businesses use the produce of smallholder farmers.



The essential ingredient for today’s Swazi Fire sauce, red cayenne pepper, has come from the fields of Siphosiso Matisa, a retired government worker, and the main income earner for an extended family of thirteen people, including the four children of his deceased sister, and two other orphans.

Siphosiso is very pleased to know that his pepper, converted into Swazi Fire, is sold all over the world. “This gives me the responsibility to produce the best possible quality.”



“Swaziland can make it”

Nehru Essomba, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO



Swaziland Agricultural Development Project

An initiative led by the Government of **Swaziland** with assistance from the **European Union** and **FAO**

FAO and EU: unlocking rural potential

The European Union is one of FAO's most steadfast and generous partners in promoting sustainable rural development to improve the lives of the poor. Working together on the ground in developing countries worldwide, improving food security in emergencies, employing research to foster food safety and quality, stimulating information-gathering to build policy, sharing know-how and involving partners in policy-making, the EU and FAO fight poverty at its root.

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