



Portugal and FAO

Partnering to promote information and knowledge exchange

The FAO Office in Lisbon, Portugal was established in October 2009 in order to promote visibility and create stronger relationships between FAO and key partners, including the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and its member governments. FAO works closely with Portugal and CPLP to promote the dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge with the aim of strengthening technical cooperation and familiarizing the public with the work of FAO, particularly on the issue of hunger.

FAO and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries

The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) is an intergovernmental, multi-regional organization founded in 1996 by Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe. Timor-Leste joined the Community after its independence in 2002. The CPLP was established with the main objective to strengthen the political, economic and diplomatic cooperation and coordination among its member states.

In total, the CPLP is a population of almost 250 million inhabitants. The common historical and cultural ties make the CPLP a space for dialogue, consultation and sharing of experiences facilitated by a common language. Because CPLP member countries have widely diverse backgrounds, both in terms of region/location and levels of human development, members benefit from the exchange of experiences on common ongoing processes and development goals. It also provides for unique opportunities to collaborate on South-South Cooperation.

FAO has worked with the CPLP on numerous projects and programmes to achieve shared development goals. In 2014, the two organizations joined forces to establish the Hunger Free Community of Portuguese Language Countries. With a total allocated contribution of US\$500 000, the programme will support the CPLP and its governments, parliaments and non-governmental partners in implementing the Regional Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security approved in 2012.

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Emergency assistance in the fight against locusts in Guinea-Bissau

In late 2003, a new upsurge of locusts gradually developed in the Western Region of the species' range. This increase initially concerned Mauritania, Mali and Niger, and extended in early 2004 to northwest Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya). Swarms that escaped the intensive control operations moved to the Sahel and neighboring countries Burkina Faso and Cape Verde, and eventually made their way to the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea.

The Government of Portugal contributed €331 900 to an emergency survey and control measures for locust populations. The assistance aimed to strengthen national capacities in plant protection to allow for a rapid, appropriate and environmentally-friendly response to the presence of winged gregarious locust populations in the territory of Guinea-Bissau. The long-term objective was to contribute to the preservation of food security in the country and the region through the improved protection of agro-forestry-pastoral production, while focusing on preserving the environment and human health. Specifically, damage to fruit trees in bloom (cashew, mango and orange) and vegetable crops was limited during the locust control operation, and the programme also ensured minimal impact of sprays on any entomofauna and water surfaces.

The project achieved its expected results, thus contributing to preserving the food security of rural communities living in areas infested by locusts in Guinea-Bissau, and strengthening national capacities to handle future locust outbreaks.