Coordination:

FAO is working closely with the Government of Indonesia, line Ministries and NGOs in providing technical and policy guidance to plan and coordinate rehabilitation efforts in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. FAO’s emphasis is on optimizing sustainable outcomes and rebuilding livelihood opportunities for vulnerable fishing and farming families to enhance their food security and incomes. FAO has provided technical guidance and expertise to the Government of Indonesia through its close collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Forestry. As a result, the Government of Indonesia was able to develop a rehabilitation and reconstruction strategy in Aceh and Nias for agriculture, fisheries and forestry. FAO is also working closely with the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR - Badan Rehabilitasi dan Rekonstruksi) for Aceh and Nias to help coordinate humanitarian efforts in the region.

Agriculture:

In the agriculture sector, FAO has distributed rice seed packages to 11,787 beneficiaries and is currently distributing agricultural inputs amounting to approximately US$1.05 million to an additional 25,000 beneficiary households in the east and west coasts of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD). Rice seed packages, seed crop packages consisting of groundnut, soybean and/or maize seed, vegetable crop packages consisting of six varieties of vegetable seed and estate crop seedlings are being distributed to these households, along with tools and fertilizer. Target districts include Aceh Besar, Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat and Nagan Raya on the west and the districts of Pidie, Bireuen and Aceh Utara on the east.

Equipment worth almost US$490,000, including 75 hand tractors, 150 threshers, 300 water pumps and 50 reapers, are being provided to farmer groups for rice, vegetable and estate crop farming activities. An additional 695 hand tractors and 100 threshers have already been delivered to farmer groups. FAO’s implementing partners in the agricultural sector include international and national NGOs such as Keumang, Solidarités, Patgata, Peace Winds Japan, Child Fund, Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia, Action contre la faim, Food for Hungry, World Relief, Mercy USA, Catholic Relief Services, Spanish Red Cross and Gruppo Volontariato Civile among others.

In August-September 2005, FAO carried out three training sessions in Banda Aceh and Simuelue on the operation and maintenance of hand tractors for community representatives. A total of 147 operators from seven affected districts were trained. To ensure that all active members of the farmer groups are able to utilize the hand tractors, FAO is also currently supporting on-site training of some 770 farmers in the use of hand tractors. More than 400 of these farmers have already been trained.

FAO also supported a cash-for-work (CFW) programme in Aceh Besar district to clear debris and rehabilitate paddy fields, in partnership with local organizations. About 300 labourers, 15 to 20 percent of whom were women, were involved in CFW activities. Another CFW programme to rehabilitate tsunami-damaged farm land currently employs an additional 300 labourers in the district of Aceh Barat.
Livestock inputs of over US$100 000 consisting of poultry kits and veterinary supplies were procured. Veterinary equipment, medicines cold boxes for vaccine storage and vaccines against Newcastle Disease in poultry and Hemorrhagic Septicemia in cattle were delivered to the Dinas Peternakan to help the local livestock authorities resume work in disease prevention.

Additionally, some 300 head of livestock, including pregnant cows and buffaloes, are being distributed to livestock farmers in and around the district of Aceh Besar. About 50 farmers have already received one head of cattle each, with the remaining 250 to be distributed by mid-February. Once the calf reaches six months of age, farmers will be encouraged to donate the cow/buffalo to the next vulnerable member of the community, thus allowing a larger section of the community to benefit from one round of livestock distribution. The livestock were treated for parasites and vaccinated prior to distribution. FAO has also provided the Dinas with medicines and equipment to treat the livestock and administer drugs for up to three months following distribution.

**Fisheries:**

In the fisheries sector, FAO is helping fishing communities resume their livelihoods through the distribution of fishing gear and boat engines. A total of 518 fishing gear kits amounting to about US$400 000 and consisting of 25 different items (including hooks, handlines, etc.) and 3 114 multi-filament fishing nets have been distributed to beneficiaries in North Sumatra and Nias Island. Another 504 kits are being procured for delivery to beneficiaries. FAO is supporting the Dinas Kabupaten Perikanan (DKP), local fishery authority, to implement their boat building programme. FAO’s assistance to the programme includes the development of boat specifications and minimum standards for construction, training of boat builders and monitoring of boatyards for boat delivery. Following a spate of sub-standard boats being constructed and delivered in the last few months, FAO has made the training of boat builders an integral part of its efforts to ensure that safe, high quality boats are delivered to fishers. Forty-two boat builders, including representatives of the DKP and the local fisher association, Panglima Laot, have received training through two boat building sessions held in the districts of Aceh Utara on the east coast and Nagan Raya on the west coast.

Five boats produced during the first boat-building training have been delivered to fishers. Approximately 200 more boats are being built by FAO in collaboration with local NGO partners in Aceh Besar, Aceh Barat, Aceh Utara, Pidie and Simeulue (island). Many of the 42 FAO-trained boat builders have returned to boat yards administered by these NGOs, thus linking FAO’s quality training with its boat building assistance. More than 50 labourers are actively engaged in and earning incomes through these boat yards.

FAO has signed an agreement with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) to provide boat engines, fastenings and fishing gear for 35 boats currently being built by the NGO. The equipment will be delivered once the boats have been constructed. Each boat will provide a source of livelihood for a team of 2-4 fishers and their families.

FAO is also assisting about 189 beneficiary groups, 30 percent of which are led by women, through the distribution of small-scale fish processing units and processing sheds to the Aceh Besar district on the west coast, and Pidie, Bireuen and Aceh Utara districts on the east coast of the Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) province. About 1 512 individuals, 60 percent of whom are women, have benefited from employment in these fish processing units. A majority of the small-scale entrepreneurs have already commenced fish processing activities, with harvests of 3-5 tonnes per week being recorded in the district of Pidie. Planning is underway to replicate this entrepreneurial project in the districts of Nagan Raya and Aceh Barat along the west coast.
FAO is procuring 21 traditional motorcycles complete with pannier baskets and ice boxes to replace their loss so that coastal communities can re-establish links with the trading community. Ten of these are currently being handed over to local fish transporters in Aceh Besar. An additional 100 bicycles equipped with similar pannier baskets and smaller ice boxes have been procured, and will be distributed to the fishing communities in Simuelue, Pidie, Bireun and Aceh Utara.

Two fish markets have been built in the Meuraxa sub-district of Banda Aceh while a jetty is currently under construction and is nearing completion. Some 200 insulated-fibre fish boxes are in the process of being distributed to the fishers, fish traders and fish processors around Banda Aceh and Simeulue. Of these, 100 ice boxes have been distributed to 54 beneficiaries in Simeulue while 85 beneficiaries have received one ice box each in Banda Aceh.

Activities are underway to assist some 650 tambak farmers in Pidie and Bireun districts along the east coast and Aceh Besar in the north. Village-level participatory meetings have already been held with farmers to discuss tambak planning and rehabilitation. Some 42 ha of tambak farms are currently being cleaned and repaired, jointly, by tambak farmers and internally displaced people through a CFW scheme supported by FAO. Approximately 500 ha of tambak farms will be rehabilitated through similar CFW programmes to clean and repair the tambaks, followed by the provision of agroinputs including fish and shrimp seed, feed and fertilizer to farmers who lost their capacity to resume activities as a result of the tsunami.

FAO also supported a workshop on “Aquaculture Farm Rehabilitation in Aceh” organized by BRR/MMAF/Dinas Perikanan on 28 January 2006 at LOKA Ujung Batee (Regional Brackish-water Aquaculture Development Centre) in Aceh Besar. Some 54 participants representing 23 organizations and agencies participated. The workshop was the first in a series of ‘best practice’ workshops that aims to bring together government agencies, NGO’s and other organizations to share experiences, promote awareness of best practices, and provide a forum for solving technical issues in aquaculture rehabilitation in Aceh and Nias.

Forestry:

Many farmers and fishers in tsunami-affected areas are dependent on forests and trees for their livelihoods. Efforts to rehabilitate mangrove forests, to plant coastal shelterbelts, and to replant timber and fruit trees would serve to protect human lives and inland assets, and improve household economies. FAO is utilizing participatory approaches, in the context of integrated coastal area management, to develop programs to build the capacity of provincial, district and village-level communities in planning and implementing forest rehabilitation programs, in reforestation, in the sustainable management of coastal trees and forests and in agro-forestry. Local capacity building (through technical support, coordination, training and guidelines) and resulting forest and tree-derived benefits will provide affected populations with a means to address their immediate livelihoods needs, provide a solid foundation for coastal protection, and ensure a sustained supply of wood, non-wood products and environmental services from forests.

In addition, FAO’s assessment of wood demand and supply for reconstruction of houses and other infrastructure has produced positive results concerning government action to protect natural forest and wildlife reserves and address the danger of accelerated illegal logging and deforestation. FAO continues to assist government agencies in coordinating and monitoring the supply and demand for wood for reconstruction ensuring that environmental sustainability standards are maintained.