



Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions

SARD-M Regional Focal Points' Terms of Reference

1. Background

The four-year (2005 – 2008) Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M) aims to support the rural livelihoods of mountain peoples by facilitating the design, review, implementation and evaluation of relevant policy packages and institutional processes promoting SARD in mountain regions at global, regional, national and local levels.

The project formulation applied a participatory process involving governments, international organizations and civil society's organizations. Building on existing structures, networks, projects and programmes, the project is implementing its first activities in 2005.

The priority activities are to:

1. **Assess the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies**, including social, economic, environmental and institutional aspects, in relation to Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development principles.
2. **Strengthen local institutions to promote SARD**, by developing training materials and sessions, in close collaboration with NGOs, producers' associations, cooperatives, universities, etc.
3. **Analyze positive and negative externalities of mountain regions** through a comparative review of existing methods and tools.

Given the inter-regional and multi-stakeholder structure of the project, Regional Focal Points are expected to play a **pivotal role** by developing and fostering synergies and interaction between the core global activities of the SARD-M Project and the actions undertaken at regional, country and local levels, as well as by mobilizing, networking and coordinating the partners of the Project at regional and sub-regional levels.

The identification and selection of institutions acting as Regional Focal Points take into consideration the following criteria:

- ✓ **Legitimacy** of intervention at the regional level through a regional mandate;
- ✓ **Experience** on SARD issues;
- ✓ **Capacity to coordinate** and integrate actions related to mountain areas notably through participation in the International Year of Mountains or in the Mountain Partnership;
- ✓ **Implementation** of projects or programmes related to project specific objectives;
- ✓ Involvement of **civil society**;
- ✓ Identification of a **coordinator**.

2. Terms of Reference

The Regional Focal Points will **perform general and common support activities** (e.g. communication and advocacy, networking and coordination with other partners) and, depending on their scope of activities and on-going projects or programmes, **contribute specifically** to the design and/or implementation of one or a few **project priority activities**.

▸ **Coordination and synergy-building among Regional Focal Points and their activities**

- Participation in a meeting of Regional Focal Points organised by the FAO SARD-M Team.

▸ **General and common support activities**

- Facilitation of information sharing, communication, coordination and networking with partners (governments at national or decentralised levels, civil society...), notably with existing national focal points:
 - provision to the FAO SARD-M team of updated information, case studies, documentation, training material on activities related to SARD-M objectives, as well as of other projects and programmes related to the promotion of SARD-oriented mountain policies, to be notably disseminated through the SARD-M website;
 - contribution to the production, and dissemination of awareness-raising, communication and training materials in collaboration with the SARD-M Project Team, notably through their institution's website;
 - identify and network with relevant entities.
- Mobilisation of potential partners (governments at national or decentralised levels, civil society...) on the project: creation and coordination of a regional network of partners committed to work for and contribute to the promotion of SARD in mountain regions.
- Public awareness on the concrete application of SARD mountain policies, taking advantage of the project's material, methods and tools, in coordination with national and local partners.
- If requested and depending on additional funding, participation in relevant meetings organized by the FAO SARD-M Project Team.

▸ **Contribution to the implementation of the project activities** *(to be defined with each focal point according to Regional Focal Point experience and on-going projects/programmes)*

Collection of relevant documentation

- Contribution to the analysis of the **strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain policies** by assisting the on-going collection of relevant documentation (policy studies, partners' experiences and case studies, etc.) through regional partners and networks.
- Contribution to on-going collection of existing training materials aimed at **strengthening local institutions to promote SARD**.
- Contribution to the analysis of **positive and negative externalities** of mountain regions by assisting the on-going collection of relevant documentation (policy studies, partners' experiences and case studies, etc.) through regional partners and networks.

Contribution to or implementation of one or a few priority activities

For example, depending on Focal Point's projects/programmes and on the availability of funds:

- Organization of a workshop to assess the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, in relation to SARD principles;
- Contribution to or implementation of a case study related to the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies;
- Organization of a workshop on the positive and negative externalities of mountain regions;
- Development or adaptation of training materials promoting SARD and/or organization of training sessions that strengthen the capacities of national and local institutions decision-makers to formulate, implement or evaluate SARD policies in mountain areas.