

FAO +

Netherlands

Transformative solutions for a food secure future



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Abbreviations

CSA Climate Smart Agriculture

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FMM Multi-partner Programme Support Mechanism

GP Green Plan

IPPC International Plant Protection Convention

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

MAFAP Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agricultural Policies

MHFW Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

MOSAICC Modelling System for Agricultural Impacts of Climate Change

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

VGGT Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

WBGS West Bank and Gaza Strip
WUA Water User Association

Partnership at a glance

The Netherlands has always been a generous member and a force for innovation in FAO. Thanks to the Netherlands' kind support, FAO has been able to strengthen global food governance, improve the management of natural resources, build inclusive and nutrition-sensitive food systems, and strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This is critical to enable impactful programmes that address shared goals such as increasing agricultural productivity, financial inclusion of family and women farmers, and resilience building. The Netherlands does this while supporting FAO's Regular Programme budget through the Multi-partner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM), which creates tremendous opportunities for more flexible and cost-effective interventions.

FAO is grateful for the Netherlands' commitment to increasing food security, ending hunger and malnutrition, and reducing poverty and social inequality, outlined in the country's development cooperation policy "Investing in Perspective: Good for the World, Good for the Netherlands". Food security as a thematic priority is of the utmost importance and FAO applauds the Netherlands' development policy focus on combating the root causes of poverty and forced migration, while improving climate protection, humanitarian aid, private sector development, women's rights and gender equality. The Netherlands' particular emphasis on the nutritional status of adolescents and integrating reproductive health and gender aspects into food security programmes is noteworthy.

Through increased collaboration over the years, FAO has been able to deliver on a myriad of areas including building resilience against food shortages and undernutrition, reducing food losses and food waste, investing in climate-smart agriculture, and stimulating inclusive and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector, while promoting investments in the food chain together with the private sector. For example, FAO is strengthening food safety in Bangladesh, and sustainable water management in Yemen, and enabling policy-makers through evidence-based monitoring and

analyses. Through the FMM support, FAO is leveraging rural business opportunities for youth, scaling up climate-smart agriculture, and supporting productive and zero-waste value chains. Being solid partners in emergency interventions allows for resilience building in disaster-prone regions in Ethiopia and addressing migration through climate-responsive strategies in Lebanon.

The Netherlands has engaged with FAO in a phenomenal manner during the last decade. In the period 2008–2018,1 the country provided FAO with assessed and voluntary contributions to the tune of EUR 198 million² (USD 233 million). Voluntary contributions were on a positive trend since 2011 and peaked in 2016, with a EUR 22 million (USD 26 million) contribution to support resilience and crisis response in Lebanon, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Likewise, in November 2017, the Netherlands provided EUR 6 million (USD 7 million) to FAO to address severe hunger and build resilience in South Sudan. Moreover, the most financed region in the period 2017–2018 was Africa attracting 68 percent of total contributions. Most of Dutch contributions were directed to resilience and crisis response actions, attracting 94 percent of total funding.

FAO looks forward to continuing its strong and engaging work with the Netherlands and is eager to harness the country's energy towards developing new and improved mechanisms for flexible funding and for private sector alignment — essential for financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

¹ Data for 2018 refers to the preliminary closure of the year.

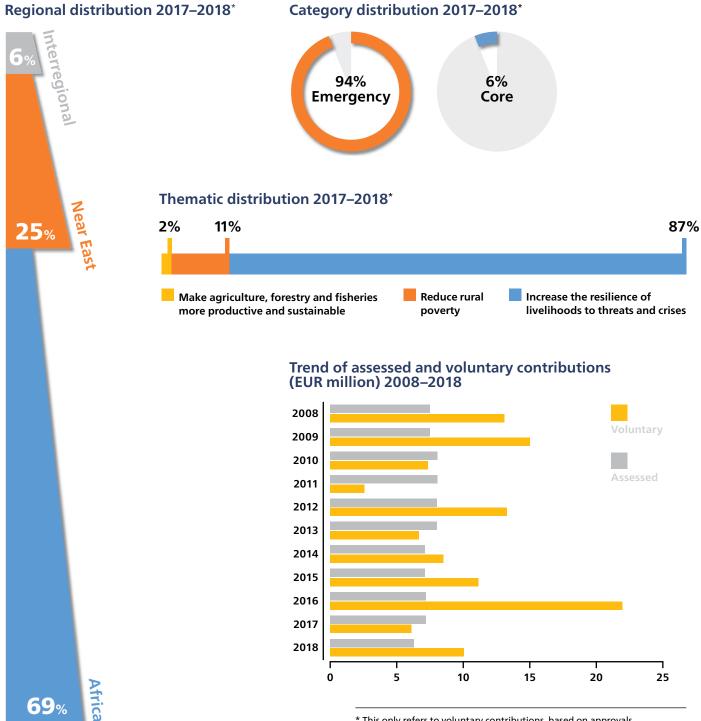
² Values in euros (EUR) in this report are based on the exchange rate as of July 27, 2018 (USD 1 = EUR 0.85).

In figures

Total contributions of the Netherlands to FAO (assessed and voluntary) 2017–2018

EUR 29 652 114

(USD 34 884 841)



^{*} This only refers to voluntary contributions, based on approvals.



Strengthening global food governance

The world's food and agricultural systems are essential to the health and well-being of every woman, man and child on earth. Ensuring that everyone has access to the nutrients they need is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of human societies, but ensuring that food systems grow and develop in ways that can meet the needs of all people is a task that is best accomplished through well-developed cooperation that includes trade, innovation and investment, as well as shared rules for safety and fairness in all aspects of production, distribution and consumption.

Safeguarding the world's food and agriculture also means paying attention to the sustainability and climate footprint of all activities related to food and agriculture. FAO enables different forms of cooperation by providing data and analysis of emerging trends and facilitating the development of norms and standards to guide the actions of governments and their partners. The Organization also supports and sustains technically sophisticated platforms at global, regional and national levels for policy dialogue among governments, farmers, civil society, businesses and consumers.

Codex Alimentarius

The Codex Alimentarius plays an important role in ensuring the safety, quality and fairness of international food trade. The Netherlands is a proponent of and contributes to it on a voluntary basis. The Codex's broad scope, covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, additives, antimicrobial resistance and biotechnology, makes it an essential part of achieving food security and zero hunger. In addition, public concern about food safety often places the Codex at the centre of global debates. The Kingdom actively participates in the Codex Commission that sets international standards, guidelines and codes of practice. The Netherlands is the permanent host of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) and arranged for the committee to be co-hosted in Brazil in the spring of 2017. It also acted as coordinator of the FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Coordinating Committee for the European region between 2013 and mid-2017.

Since the development of global food safety and quality standards can only be reached when developing countries are able to participate in a meaningful way, the Netherlands announced in 2017 it would contribute EUR 2 million (USD 2 million) to the Codex Trust Fund. These funds will support costs associated with joint FAO/WHO Codex training courses and workshops, including on improving countries' ability to assess nutrient intake and dietary exposure to chemical and biological agents in food, among others.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The Netherlands is a contracting party to the IPPC, which aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests that affect plants and plant products. The convention, which is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, covers cultivated plants and natural flora alike. It also extends to vehicles, aircrafts and vessels, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or materials that can harbour or spread pests. The convention encourages collaboration between various national and regional plant protection organizations to implement the rules set out in the agreement.

The Netherlands has been an active contributor to FAO in support of the Commission and during 2016–2017 was a key resource partner to the IPPC Multi-Donor

Trust Fund, contributing to the IPPC work plan and its specific initiatives, such as the ePhyto — a system of electronic phytosanitary certification that can be easily exchanged between national plant protection organizations.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The ITPGRFA, also known as the International Plant Treaty, facilitates the conservation, sustainable use and continued open exchange of food crops and their genetic materials between countries. This helps to ensure that farmers and researchers across the globe continue to have access to the world's most important food crops and can utilize the valuable genetic traits found therein to transform the livelihoods of farming communities, and contribute to more climate-resilient food production systems. By the end of 2017, more than 4 million samples of genetic diversity had been exchanged under the Treaty.

The Dutch government contributes financial resources to the Treaty and is an active participant in policy discussions. The Netherlands' Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN agencies in Rome currently chairs the Treaty's working group focused on enhancing the multilateral system of access and benefitsharing. The Netherlands also funds the conservation activities of a central gene bank in the Treaty system — the Centre for Genetic Resources — and financially supported the Genetic Resources Policy Initiative II. The latter aims to strengthen national capacities to implement and participate in the treaty through stronger policy, research and training activities that involved teams from Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Nepal, Rwanda and Uganda.

Beyond plant genetics, FAO remains a leading forum for countries to address the conservation of biodiversity for agriculture, including livestock. This includes hosting the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which provided the forum for the negotiation of the International Plant Treaty. Likewise, the commission's flagship reports on the state of both plant and livestock genetic diversity worldwide remain among the most comprehensive reference tools for policy-makers and practitioners in donor and developing countries alike.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)

The VGGT represent a historic breakthrough in the global effort to safeguard the legitimate rights of people to own, use and access land, forests and fisheries. Since 2012, many resource partners, including the Netherlands, have recognized these first-ever global tenure guidelines — endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security — to protect the rights of millions of small-scale farmers. This ensures development is sustainable and contributes to food security for all.

With a contribution of EUR 212 000 (USD 250 000), the Netherlands joined other partners in backing a multiyear project that supports 21 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to implement the VGGT. During 2016–2017, these funds allowed FAO to work with national and regional partners to increase the capacities of civil society and grassroots organizations to implement the VGGT in Colombia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Liberia, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Tanzania and Uganda. Mali and Mauritania, meanwhile, received support in establishing effective national platforms of diverse actors who can together translate the Voluntary Guidelines into a system of people-centred land governance in their country. As a result, international, national and local actors learned to integrate and actively apply the new tenure principles in their local context.





Promoting sustainable management of natural resources

Our well-being and that of our planet depends in no small way on healthy forests, soils, streams and oceans, and the genetic diversity these ecosystems provide. Ensuring the food security and prosperity of future generations is simply impossible without safeguarding these natural resources that enable food production and, by extension, create rural jobs.

Agriculture is where the fights against climate change and hunger come together. That makes it fertile ground for finding new approaches that increase productivity, limit agriculture's environmental footprint and help farmers adapt to a changing climate. At this intersection, FAO is bringing together partners and governments, including the Netherlands, to build holistic solutions that serve people, producers and the planet.

As the source of all life, water — and fresh water in particular — is at the center of global concerns about the sustainable use of resources. These concerns are mounting as climate change adds extra challenges to the existing ones that result from population growth and changing lifestyles. FAO, with the backing of partners like the Netherlands, has been increasing its efforts in recent years to support countries in finding the right strategies and technologies for specific local realities.

In light of its longstanding expertise in land and water management, it is a natural fit for the Netherlands to support FAO in these areas of natural resource management in particular — which the Kingdom has done with generous contributions to projects in regions where such interventions are essential to sustainable development.

Local engagement for food security and sustainable water management in Yemen



Contribution:

EUR 4.2 million (USD 4.9 million)



Beneficiaries:

35 000 people



Location:

Yemen



Duration:

2014-2018



Results:

More than 1 100 women trained in food processing and marketing

38 new Water User Associations established

Use of surface water improved

Sustainable, climatesmart production systems introduced

Capabilities of WUAs boosted in legal, financial, governance and gender matters

Yemen's Sana'a basin has seen an alarming decline in water resources in the last decade. Supplying a growing population of 2.5 million people in the country's capital with fresh water for their daily needs, along with local industries and agriculture, has led to groundwater levels dropping by six metres per year — equivalent to about 200 mm³ in volume. Meanwhile, the Water User Associations (WUAs) the government established at the turn of this century to reduce groundwater extraction have become largely inactive within the span of a few years. As a result, without urgent interventions, water resources in and around Sana's are at risk of totally drying up.

In response, through a project funded by the Netherlands, FAO worked with WUAs and Yemeni authorities to reduce groundwater extraction from the Tawilah sandstone aquifer that feeds the capital region. The idea is that better management systems will allow the local water authorities to restore this key resource and ensure it will be used at more sustainable levels in the future. To this end, the four-year project invested in a multi stakeholder negotiation process that includes local communities, national authorities and research institutes. The goal was to preserve and improve rural and urban livelihoods, while also guaranteeing a long-term supply of water for drinking and farming purposes.

By the end of 2017, the project had established 38 new WUAs, which meet monthly, as well as communication networks between the various associations. The latter were engaged in rehabilitating traditional terraces and other water infrastructures to ensure better use of surface water. FAO used a cash-for-work model for this part of the project, in which WUAs received compensation to construct or rehabilitate small-scale water harvesting installations that capture rainwater for irrigation and animal use. Communities participated directly in the management of water resources as they were the actual implementers on the ground. This benefited more than 4 100 households — about 35 000 people.

WUAs also received on-the-job training to draft their own proposals and plans for water projects in their communities, write financial and technical reports and supervise the implementation of their ideas.

What is more, the project introduced sustainable, climate-smart crop production systems, for which the WUAs received greenhouses and solar water pumps, and more than 1 100 women were trained in food processing and marketing. The latter initiative expanded the value chain, gender equality, and good practices in agriculture and water management.

On a policy level, FAO supported a new ten-year Sustainable Integrated Water Resources Management plan, endorsed by relevant national ministries. Also thanks to the project, the water alliances are now legally recognized by the Ministry of Social Affairs — a first in Yemen.

Helping farmers ditch unsustainable production

The production of qat, a much-used stimulant in Yemen, takes up a staggering 60 percent of all water used for irrigation in the country. Under the Dutch project, FAO negotiated with a number of qat farmers to remove their production. In return for allowing their qat trees to be bulldozed, FAO provided them with greenhouses and training in vegetable farming. FAO was able to show these farmers an economic analysis that proved that this transition would provide them with higher economic returns, which enticed them to take the leap.



Technology-based solutions for land and water productivity in Africa and the Near East



Contribution:

EUR 8.5 million (USD 10 million)



Beneficiaries:

Researchers, local planners, policy-makers and farmers



Location:

18 water-scarce countries in Africa



Duration:

2015-2019



Results:

Freely available data tools created

Policy-makers assisted to take evidence-based policy decisions

WaPOR database launched in 2017

Information made available to modernize irrigation schemes

Since 2015, the Netherlands and FAO have been expanding their collaboration in the area of water management with an EUR 8.5 million (USD 10 million) contribution by the Dutch government. The four-year project they embarked on helps 18 water-scarce countries in Africa and the Near East monitor and improve the way they use water for crop production through the use of remote sensing technology — more specifically satellite imagery.

The goal is to provide relevant and specific information on water consumption and agricultural production, which — combined — express water productivity in agriculture. Using remote sensing rather than country survey data offers a unified measuring tool that allows for easy comparisons between the productivity of land areas — from the country level to the farm level. By posing questions such as why one farm is using the available water better than another farm in the same area, researchers and local planners can then investigate how farmers in those areas manage their crops — including crop selection and irrigation techniques — and identify ways to close yield gaps.

The data tools created under the project have been freely available to governments and farmers alike and have helped policy-makers take evidence-based policy decisions. This includes the continental- and country-level database WaPOR — the Water Productivity Open-access portal — launched in 2017. This online database uses satellite data to help farmers achieve more reliable agricultural yields and improve their livelihoods. At the same time, irrigation authorities have access to information to modernize their irrigation schemes, while government agencies are able to use the information to promote and increase the efficient use of their natural resources.

FAO is implementing the project in collaboration with the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, the International Water Management Institute, a consortium of private and research institutions (FRAME Consortium) and other partners.





Enabling food systems for nutrition and health

More that 70 percent of the world's food comes from small-scale producers. Agribusinesses, meanwhile, are important generators of employment and income in rural communities worldwide. Farmers and governments alike have much to gain from building inclusive food systems that better integrate smallholder farmers into value chains, allow them to be part of agribusiness and improve their access to markets. Enabling farmers to add value to raw materials can boost rural economies, improve food security and nutrition, and offer new off-farm employment opportunities. This not only supports food security but is also essential to breaking cycles of rural poverty.

The Netherlands has been supportive of FAO in its efforts to allow smallholder farmers to tap into global value chains that are sustainable and more stable, and that enable small producers, especially women and youth, to earn enough money to ensure a decent life for them and their families. FAO has a long history of developing principles and tools that help governments build robust policies that support rural producers and link them to new markets. It also brokers new partnerships between farmers, governments and the private sector. Above all, FAO works to ensure agricultural development is people-centred and leads to improved access, availability and consumption of safe and nutritious food.

Raising the bar on food safety in Bangladesh



Contribution:

EUR 13.2 million (USD 15.6 million)



Beneficiaries:

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and local institutions, food producers and food handlers



Location:

Bangladesh



Duration:

2012-2019



Results:

Fully functional National Food Safety Laboratory established

National capacities to formulate better food standards strengthened

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority created

Inspection protocols reinforced

Development of three new value chains supported With generous backing by the Netherlands, FAO, since 2012, has been working intensively with the Government of Bangladesh to improve food safety in the country. The Programme on Improving Food Safety in Bangladesh, which comes to an end in mid-2019, has allowed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW) and local institutions to make strides in public health and food trade by boosting the technical and managerial capacity in many sectors of Bangladesh's national food control system.

The programme was instrumental in establishing a fully functional state-of the-art National Food Safety Laboratory and an associated network of food laboratories. Bangladesh has also been strengthening its capacity to formulate better food standards in line with the Codex Alimentarius and set up new mechanisms to gather data and evidence on food-borne illnesses and common hazards in food. Inspection protocols have been reinforced through procedural documents and training. Targeted campaigns on food safety were conducted to raise awareness on food safety, including consumer health campaigns aimed at women and children, as well as other awareness activities for producers, farmers, food handlers and street food vendors. In addition, under the programme, the development of three value chains was supported and through linkages with the market, food trade was improved.

FAO achieved these results through multiple components. The programme trained and advised local institutions to help them improve food safety and to set grounds for establishing a stronger food safety system based on risk assessment. As a result of the activities of institutionalization of food safety, the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, an umbrella organization for food safety, was established. FAO also worked with local governments to enhance public awareness and education on food safety and health, along with efforts to institutionalize food safety. This included the setup of a food safety unit within MHFW, as well as experience exchanges facilitated through study tours organized for national officials in Europe. Another key component was improving surveillance of food-borne diseases and preventive approaches that homed in on risks and involved different stakeholders in the food chain. Finally, food producers received special support to enhance food safety and facilitate improved market access.

In all, the programme has been instrumental in bringing about stronger food safety and quality control in Bangladesh across horticultural, fish and poultry value chains. Food handlers were trained on good practices, which raised awareness among the producers on meeting food safety criteria. This, in turn, means stronger confidence in Bangladeshi food products.

Boosting smallholder development through school milk scheme in Bangladesh

Since 2013, FAO and the Dutch **Rabobank Foundation** have shared a partnership that began with a series of successful initiatives focused on developing family farmer cooperatives in Africa. Most recently, the two partnered on a pilot to help implement rural school milk programmes in the southern region of Bangladesh in collaboration with the Bangladesh Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (Milk).

Dairy production provides one of the fastest returns for livestock keepers in the developing world. It gives regular returns to farmers, especially to women, enhances household nutrition and food security and creates off-farm employment. The highest growth in demand for milk and dairy products has been, and continues to be, in the Asia-Pacific region, where dairy consumption has trebled since 1980.

Linking school milk programmes in rural areas to local smallholder producers holds significant opportunities to improve the livelihoods of farmers, with positive ripple effects on poverty and nutrition of families in agricultural communities. In Bangladesh, this particularly relates to the country's southern coastal region. Achieving such effects, in general, requires investments in sectors with a higher participation of poor people, which is the case for smallholder livestock farmers. It also requires investments in initiatives that ensure these communities are more resistant to shocks.

With this in mind, Rabobank, FAO and Milk partnered on a pilot that helped develop the local dairy sector by increasing the collection of milk from small-scale dairy farmers. They also established a small pasteurizing unit for the supply of milk to selected schools, implemented standard operating procedures to ensure the milk provided to children is safe and conducted outreach trainings to improve milk productivity and quality at the farm level.

Through the two-year project, the nutrition status of 2 000 primary school children from grades one to five in Satkhira district improved through enhanced milk consumption and nutrition awareness. The parents, teachers and children who participated in the pilot programme underlined the positive impact it had on children's health, physical growth, cognition, absenteeism and overall behaviour both in school and at home. Collected data confirmed this. In fact, teachers consistently recorded higher attendance and better attentiveness in classrooms. The pilot has set the foundation for future assessments and action plans towards scaling up the school milk programme in Bangladesh, and the Government of Bangladesh has committed to it with public and private resources.

Empowering policy-makers with evidence-based analysis



Contribution:

EUR 3.4 million (USD 4 million)



Beneficiaries:

Policy analysts, decision-makers and farmers



Location:

Global (Benin, Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique and Rwanda)



Duration:

2015-2019



Results:

Policy briefs and technical reports on key policy issues prepared

Recommendations for policy reform presented and discussed with government institutions and agricultural sector stakeholders

Capacity of government staff and researchers in policy monitoring and analysis enhanced

Policy monitoring database updated, including price incentives and public expenditure indicators Since 2009, FAO has been partnering with governments on Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agricultural Policies through the MAFAP programme. The latter builds on the understanding that an enabling policy environment is key for agricultural development, food security and poverty reduction in developing countries. This includes making sure policy analysts and decision-makers within the government can generate and use reliable evidence on the ways their policies impact value chain actors, from farmers to consumers. With the right data, government policies can become more consistent with the overarching goals of food security and agricultural development. To this end, MAFAP has successfully partnered with government institutions, research organizations and local civil society groups in several countries, to create policy monitoring systems and carry out a consistent set of policy and public expenditure analyses across a wide range of agricultural value chains.

With support from the Netherlands, FAO implements a second phase of the initiative that builds on these partnerships and uses the evidence gathered in the first five years of activities to support the reform of policies that constrain agricultural development. MAFAP II has been zooming in on policies that hold back smallholders from reaching their full potential as producers and from building stable agriculture-based livelihoods. More specifically, the idea is that such policy 'solutions' will result in a more conducive environment for agricultural investment and productivity growth for producers and ultimately make their products more competitive.

Generating quantitative indicators is an important part of the initiative and MAFAP ensures such data is comparable across commodities, countries and years. This provides sound evidence that can then be used to involve a wide array of stakeholders and development partners in policy dialogues at national, regional and international levels and to advocate for inclusive policy reforms where needed. What is more, this common set of indicators makes it easier to understand how different food and agricultural policies work in various contexts.

Supporting Rwanda's fourth Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture

The year 2018 marked an important step in Rwanda's agricultural transformation, as the country launched its new Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture. Over the past year, MAFAP supported Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) in formulating the plan, which seeks to boost crop and livestock productivity in the country.

The Government of Rwanda is especially interested in increasing production of high-value exports and in strengthening the overall profitability of its farming sector. More specifically, the new framework is meant to focus on innovation and extension, productivity and resilience, inclusive markets and value addition, and responsive institutions.

In March 2017, MINAGRI reached out to FAO to request support to ensure the strategic plan builds on

evidence that MAFAP generated in previous years — especially on its review of public expenditure trends. Following the request, MAFAP experts analyzed price incentives across six key commodity value chains — beans, coffee, milk, rice, tea and wheat. They carried out an agriculture public expenditure review for the years between 2011 and 2016 and assessed the impact of crop intensification on food security and nutrition in the country. As a result, MAFAP recommended the government promote crop diversification and good nutritional practices to farming families. The government took this to heart and made improving nutrition a clear priority in the new framework — with related expenses expected to increase more than twofold in the coming six years.

Likewise, the MAFAP recommendation to renew public support to agricultural research and innovation has resulted in a striking increase in financing allocated to agricultural research, in order to boost agricultural productivity and economic growth in the country. The MAFAP team collaborated with other key development partners in a wide consultation process whose expertise helped improve the Plan's technical quality and feasibility to reach the desired development impacts.





Partnering for zero hunger: FMM

Investment in rural jobs and development can give a jolt to rural economies, boost food security and nutrition and offer new employment opportunities. It is also essential to breaking cycles of rural poverty.

As a strategic and cost-effective response, the Multi-partner Programme Support Mechanism is a pooled fund that was established in 2010 as a new vehicle for partners willing to support FAO's work through flexible contributions. The Netherlands' contribution of almost EUR 21 million (USD 25 million) to the FMM allowed FAO to try new ways of working, collaborate across sectors — both within the organization and outside — and reap the benefits of complementary initiatives.

Flexible and multiyear funding provided by resource partners to the FMM was used for projects that built the capacity of producers and agripreneurs, helped governments create sound policies, empowered women and youth to engage in sustainable food production and marketing, and supported partnerships between different actors in the agriculture and food sector at local level. As such, the FMM underlines a shared belief in holistic solutions that serve people, producers and the planet.

Creating new income opportunities along small ruminant value chains in Ethiopia



Contribution:

EUR 1.2 million (USD 1.4 million)



Beneficiaries:

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and 610 rural households



Location:

Amhara and Tigray regions; Ethiopia



Duration:

2013-2016



Results:

Evidence-based recommendations available and discussed with government officials

Barriers for rural youth and women to engage in small ruminant production identified

92 trainers and extension agents trained on livestock production and business management

610 households increased their regular income through sheep fattening activities

Ethiopia has a population of 100 million, 80 percent of whom live in rural areas. Moreover, 85 percent of rural households are at least partly dependent on livestock for their livelihoods. As a result, Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa, including 50 million sheep and goats. The fast growth in the global demand for small ruminants clearly offers new income and employment opportunities for rural households in Ethiopia.

The Netherlands supported FAO in assessing the potential of this growth for employment and wealth creation in Ethiopia, particularly for poor women and young people. The project helped to strengthen skills in two national research centres in the country. With these newly acquired skills, a survey was conducted — covering over 1 100 households — and results were analyzed to provide the Ethiopian Government with recommendations for enhancing job creation, quality of jobs and productivity along small ruminant value chains in the Amhara and Tigray regions.

The initiative coupled the analytical work mentioned above with pilot, on-the-ground activities. This included the training of 68 new trainers on livestock production-related topics, entrepreneurship, business management, bookkeeping and business plan development. They, in turn, trained 24 development agents and 610 farmers grouped in associations, of which over a third were women.

Two key aspects of livestock production are access to finance and adequate feeding of the animals — feed accounts for the biggest share in investments in livestock production. In light of this, the project helped to develop appropriate terms and conditions for the implementation of revolving funds, which were then put in place by six local savings and credit associations. In addition, the project enabled the defining of the properties of different feedstuffs available within the country in order to maximize their use in livestock production. This resulted in the production of 25 new data sheets — concerning feedstuffs that are particularly relevant for small ruminant producers in Ethiopia — that were added to Feedipedia, an open access information system on animal feed resources that has become a worldwide reference for information on the nature, occurrence, chemical composition, nutritional value and safe use of nearly 1 400 livestock feeds.

A reason to stay

When 24-year-old Kiflom left his village, he went seeking employment and a better life in Saudi Arabia. Without land, Kiflom had no resources from which to draw a livelihood so he undertook a dangerous journey hoping to return with the start-up capital to set up a small business in his hometown of Atsbi-Wenberta, some 100 km from Mekele, Tigray's capital.

With so many Ethiopians seeking work in Saudi Arabia, a crackdown on irregular migrants saw Kiflom deported back to Ethiopia. "I was traumatized. I had to leave all my belongings behind," he said. "I needed to rebuild my life from scratch."

Kiflom returned to his village empty-handed and embarrassed. "I didn't have the money I hoped to set me up." The community experiences recurrent drought, agricultural failure, food insecurity and an absence of economic opportunities. However, once Kiflom was selected to take part in the FAO project, things began to change for him.

Through the local NGO RuSACCO, Kiflom was loaned ETB 10 000 (around USD 500), enough to get him ten sheep and access to improved supplementary feed, veterinary drugs and services.

Kiflom made a profit by selling the animals he fattened. He then diversified his business and also rears chickens to supplement income. He believes he can change the lives of the youth in his village by influencing them to engage in the small ruminant business.



Building the foundations for climate-smart agriculture



Contribution:

EUR 1.7 million (USD 2 million)



Beneficiaries:

Smallholder producers, national ministries and research institutions



Location:

Malawi, Viet Nam and Zambia



Duration:

2014-2018



Results:

Extended evidence base to better identify the right CSA solutions provided

Public, private and civil society stakeholders' capacity built

Linkages and engagement in evidencebased decision-making for CSA facilitated Increasing the productivity and incomes of agricultural producers (farmers, foresters, fisher folk and livestock keepers) is essential to achieving food security and nutrition in rural areas throughout the world. Climate change is adding to this challenge. This increases the need to re-evaluate strategies to increase agricultural production and growth under these new climate realities and to build sound policies and institutions to support them. To this end, FAO developed the Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach to sustainably increase agriculture, incorporating the need for adaptation and the potential for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions where possible.

Responding to the effects of climate change on food systems requires close cooperation between the research community, the private sector and policy-makers to ensure research findings are relevant to policy debates, and that policies are informed by rigorous up-to-date analysis. FAO's CSA approach promotes and supports these partnerships.

With Dutch contributions through the FMM, FAO supported the development of evidence on CSA that can feed into strategies and increase the production and incomes of smallholder producers in Southern Africa. Along the way, it increased the understanding of adaptive capacity and greenhouse emissions from agricultural production.

The four-year project that ended in 2018 provided an extended evidence base necessary to better identify the right CSA solutions for specific local contexts. At the same time, FAO worked with local institutions to ensure that proper policies were in place to support and expand these emerging CSA practices. By building the capacity of public, private and civil society stakeholders, the project facilitated linkages and ensured all parties were engaged in evidence-based decision-making for CSA planning and investment.

Simulating climate change impacts with MOSAICC

In an effort to support agricultural decision-makers enhance the evidence base of climate change and better prepare for various climate scenarios, FAO, in partnership with several research institutes, developed the Modelling System for Agricultural Impacts of Climate Change (MOSAICC) — an innovative, interdisciplinary tool to carry out climate change impact assessments at national level.

In Zambia and Malawi, based on a series of trainings in 2016, the FAO CSA team worked with national ministries and research institutes to produce localized climate projections as well as potential impacts and vulnerabilities of changing climate on the agricultural sector in 2017. More specifically, the project provided trainings in IT, climate and crop analysis to local experts, who were then able to make yield projections for main staple crops — like maize, rice, sorghum, groundnut and soybean — under various climate change scenarios. FAO further provided follow-up workshops while also directly supporting the local expert teams to complete comprehensive analyses and technical reports.



Supporting fisheries and aquaculture through Blue Growth strategies



Contribution:

EUR 1.6 million (USD 1.8 million)



Beneficiaries:

Resource users, coastal communities and key staff at national ministries and public institutions



Location:

Bangladesh, Barbados, Cabo Verde, Kenya, Kiribati, the Philippines, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia and Viet Nam



Duration:

2014-2018



Results:

Blue Growth as a strategic development approach better understood

Coordination across national fisheries and aquaculture institutions promoted

National stakeholders encouraged to identify investment priorities and increase innovation

Further investments catalyzed through international financial institutions

Oceans play an increasing role in international efforts to alleviate poverty and improve food security. Unleashing the full potential of the world's oceans requires responsible and sustainable approaches to their economic development. Since 2014, the FAO Blue Growth Initiative has supported countries and coastal communities to improve the governance of sectors reliant on aquatic resources. FAO's Blue Growth approach helps countries to transform fisheries and aquaculture production systems, and to adopt new practices to improve food security, incomes and livelihoods, while ensuring the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems by integrating efficient resource use into the policy- and decision-making process. Several coastal and Small Island Developing Sates have been vanguards in harnessing the Blue Growth concept as a way to balance sustainable economic development and conservation of aquatic resources.

With a contribution from the Netherlands through the FMM, FAO implemented a four-year project in ten countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. More specifically, the project supported the training of community members, resource users and key staff at ministries and public institutions in these countries. In addition to building capacity, FMM funds were used to raise awareness of the transformational potential of Blue Growth in other countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Grenada, Madagascar, Morocco, and São Tomé and Príncipe, resulting in subsequent Blue Growth investments.

During the 2016–2017 biennium, these resources helped to raise awareness among local partners and national authorities on the potential of Blue Growth as a development strategy, including the necessary enabling conditions to support the transition. These include institutional reforms to promote greater coordination across ministries and public institutions charged with fisheries and aquaculture, the environment and finance. National stakeholders were encouraged to identify investment priorities and innovative solutions to support the transition of their marine-based economies towards a Blue Economy. Seaweed farming, aquaponics, mangrove preservation and sustainable aquaculture were key areas of intervention, and FAO collaborated with policy-makers and other local actors to increase efficiency and strengthen value chains with the ultimate goal of increasing economic benefits for coastal communities through sustainable resource use.

One direct result of the Netherlands' contribution is that several countries were able to work with FAO to access African Development Bank funds to help generate further investment and develop a portfolio of "bankable" Blue Growth projects. As part of the African Package for Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies, FAO is providing technical assistance through funding from the African Development Bank and the World Bank to capitalize on opportunities for funding through other international financial institutions such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.



Partnering with the private sector for more productive, zero-waste value chains



Contribution:

EUR 2.2 million (USD 2.6 million)



Beneficiaries:

Vulnerable farmers



Location:

Global (Cameroon, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Myanmar, Zambia and Zimbabwe)



Duration:

2013-2018



Results:

Data on critical loss points gathered

Underlying causes of loss and waste in key value chains in target countries identified

Guidelines, strategies and policies to address food loss and waste developed Each year, around 1.3 billion tonnes of food are lost and wasted worldwide, amounting to one-third of all food produced. This loss and waste represents an inefficient use of resources that not only negatively impacts the economy but also threatens food security and further limits the availability of water and land resources that are already scarce in many parts of the world. This is not to mention the significant greenhouse gases produced by it. Reducing loss and waste from farm to factory to fork is a global challenge and, at the same time, a great opportunity to feed the world more sustainably. It provides agribusinesses and consumers an opportunity to add value to waste through innovation and to systematically improve the way in which they handle, store and use food.

To this end, in 2013 with support from the Netherlands, FAO launched the Save Food Initiative to respond to the growing problem of food loss and waste through support to the development of inclusive and efficient value chains. More specifically, the Netherlands funded the Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, which falls under the larger umbrella of the Save Food Initiative. The Global Initiative has been successful in gathering data on the critical loss points and the underlying causes of loss and waste in key value chains. The results of these studies, in turn, were used in 2017 to develop guidelines, strategies and policies to address food loss and waste in ten countries.

FAO's Save Food initiative is a global player in raising awareness about loss and waste, and in identifying solutions that are appropriate for achieving more inclusive and efficient agribusinesses and agrifood chains. Given the magnitude and complexity of the problem, FAO places a premium on partnership between the public and private sectors that involves a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including food-chain actors — from herders, farmers and fishers to global companies and regional and international organizations.





Working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

The world's 2.5 billion people who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods often bear the worst impact of conflict, natural disasters, pests and other emergencies. FAO combines the strengths of humanitarian assistance and development actions to assist countries to effectively prevent and cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition. FAO's approach is proactive — by addressing the root causes of risk and crises and focusing on risk prevention, real progress can be made in achieving a world free of hunger.

The Netherlands has long been an important partner to FAO's work in emergencies and protracted crises, with 12 ongoing projects in 2017–2018. In addition, the Netherlands is the third-largest contributor to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, which releases funds to FAO for time-sensitive humanitarian interventions.

Dutch funds not only saved lives of vulnerable communities caught up in crisis,

but also strengthened their livelihoods so that they can better withstand future shocks. This timely investment has reduced humanitarian needs (and costs) and allowed for a more targeted allocation of limited humanitarian resources.

The Netherlands' ongoing support has further allowed FAO to harness the complex relationship between agriculture-based livelihoods, long-term development and peace. Maintaining food production and rebuilding the agriculture sector are fundamental to preventing loss of life from severe hunger and to providing a pathway towards resilience, recovery and, ultimately, development.

This was reinforced by the UN Security Council Resolution 2417 — a milestone achievement in 2018 and one in which the Netherlands played a key role — that recognizes the importance of food production during conflicts as well as investments made to safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods and build resilience of food systems in the context of fragility.

Easing the burden of conflict migration on Lebanon's rural regions



Contribution:

EUR 7 million (USD 8.25 million)



Beneficiaries:

Government and national entities, and over 688 smallholders



Location:

Lebanon



Duration:

2014-2018



Results:

243 ha of surface area reclaimed

107 820 m3 of water conserved

25 000 fruit trees planted

53 351 work days created

55 000 m2 of retaining walls built

Many of Lebanon's poorest families depend on agriculture as their primary source of income and employment. Although the role of agriculture in the national economy has been declining in relative terms, it continues to play an important role in the rural economy and has a significant impact on rural livelihoods. At the same time, Lebanon has been dealing with the ripple effects of the ongoing crisis in neighboring Syria, which has resulted in an influx of some 1.5 million displaced Syrians, particularly into rural areas in Lebanon, where families are already struggling to produce enough food and seek out a living. Land and resources are often limited here, especially in mountainous areas, and supporting newcomers has been a heavy burden on the Lebanese host communities.

With financial backing from the Netherlands, FAO designed a comprehensive project to assist the Government of Lebanon in supporting agriculture infrastructure development in small mountainous communities as a way to respond to the reduced food security and strained livelihoods families have been experiencing, particularly those hosting Syrian refugees.

The project contributed to the implementation of Lebanon's Green Plan (GP), which for decades has provided funds to farmers who wish to upgrade their lands. More specifically, it supported GP's Strategic Plan 2015–2019 to sustain rural livelihood while improving water and soil conservation. Investment in labour-intensive agriculture projects, such as land reclamation, can be a win-win strategy, as it allows farmers to improve their incomes, productivity and food security, while at the same time creating employment opportunities for locals and Syrian newcomers alike.

The Netherlands' contribution ensured the GP is better equipped to respond to the growing demand from farmers by adding to its financial, technical and managerial capacity. It gave a jolt to the GP's funding mechanism and reduced the backlog of farmers waiting for subsidies. FAO also worked with the GP staff to enhance its monitoring and evaluation unit and will provide training to farmers in collaboration with Lebanon's extension and agriculture education systems.

In all, the project strengthened the capacity of the GP to implement rural development projects for vulnerable people, improved the livelihood of farming communities by supporting the reclamation of some 390 ha of land, and enhanced the know-how of more than 1 200 families. Trainings will provide farmers with the skills to establish and manage high-value orchards and irrigation systems to support their new production. To this end, farmers received support to plant fruit tree seedlings, which will create new sustainable seasonal jobs for orchard husbandry and harvesting of apples and other fruits for years to come.

Returning to the land

"I will fill my land with cherry trees," said Shafik, staring at his newly reclaimed agricultural plot.

Shafik, who is 65, was forced to neglect his agricultural land for 30 years. The civil war in Lebanon and the conflicts that followed made it inaccessible and turned it weedy, dry and infertile. When his land finally became accessible again, he did not have the financial means to rehabilitate it.

"I used to be a farmer on my own land, growing cereals and pulses on part of it, but I was forced to abandon it and operate lands that were not mine," he said.

Now he is one of more than 1 200 Lebanese farmers who are benefiting from agricultural infrastructure investments to reclaim and rehabilitate abandoned lands, as part of a three-year project implemented by FAO, in collaboration with the Green Plan.



Upgrading the technical agriculture education system in Lebanon

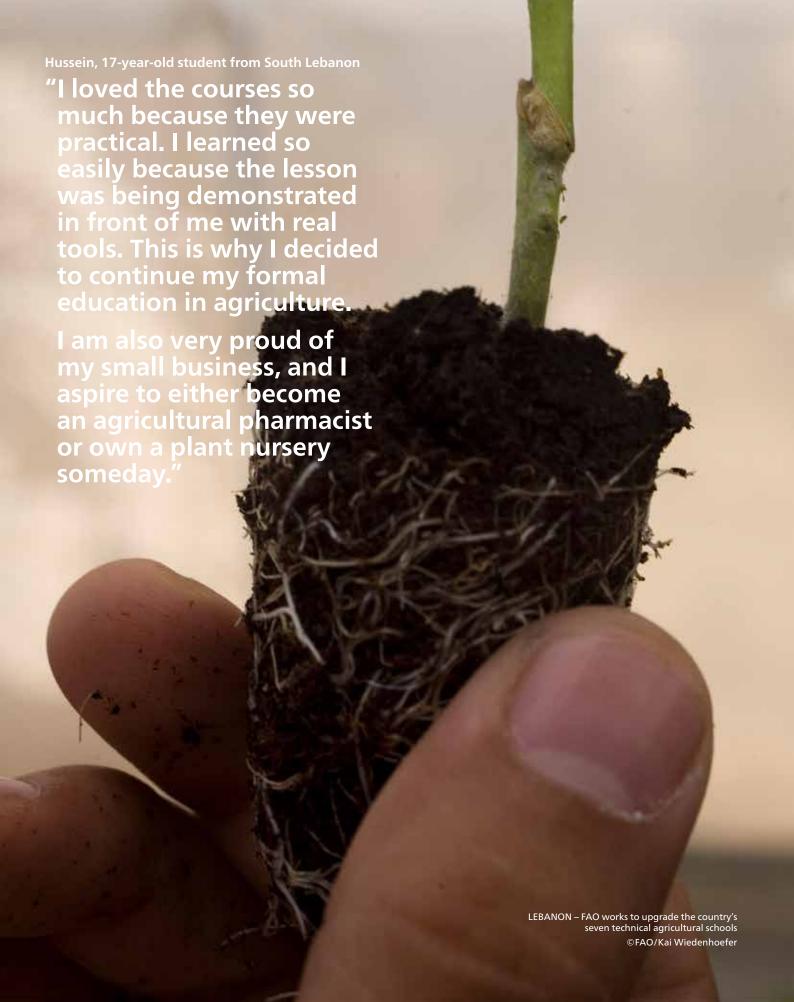
The Government of Lebanon has identified agriculture as a sector that could provide job opportunities and income, both for displaced Syrians and for unskilled Lebanese workers from host communities, especially young people. But to do so, it needs support.

That is why FAO, with the Netherlands' support of EUR 4.4 million (USD 5.2 million), has been working with the government and other partners to improve access to agricultural technical vocational training to young Syrian and Lebanese students. Along the way, they have been upgrading Lebanon's seven technical agriculture schools and updated the curriculum of the Lebanese *Baccalauréat Technique* in agriculture, the public three-year secondary-level technical degree program.

This will allow young Lebanese graduates to have a better chance to access the job market, while providing displaced Syrians with the necessary technical qualifications and official diplomas to apply not just in Lebanon but also once they return to Syria, so they can contribute to the post-conflict reconstruction of their country.

This includes 17-year-old Hussein from Lebanon, who is attending his first year at the technical agriculture school in Nabatieh, South Lebanon. Hussein is one of 1 850 Lebanese and Syrian students who took agricultural vocational classes, and then enrolled in the formal *Baccalauréat Technique* in agriculture.

Hussein has proved to be an excellent student and potential businessman. He has already set up a small greenhouse in front of his house where he plants and sells flowers and ornamental plants.



Enhancing the competitiveness and production capacities of smallholder farmers



Contribution:

EUR 8 million (USD 9.4 million)



Beneficiaries:

Smallholder farmers



Location:

West Bank and Gaza Strip



Duration:

2013-2016



Results:

915 farmers, including 113 females, restored access to water resources

Over 1 800 farmers, including 370 females, improved the profitability and sustainability of their agricultural businesses

27 farmers' cooperatives, including 6 women-led cooperatives, strengthened their technical and managerial capacities

17 new economic and environmentally feasible high-value crops and varieties introduced and scaled up

Recurrent conflict and restrictions on natural resources, markets and services have deprived vulnerable families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS) of their basic needs and exhausted their ability to cope with shocks. Since 2012, FAO has been partnering with the Netherlands to support Palestinian farmers and herders and the institutions and organizations that serve them.

In recent years, the Netherlands enabled FAO emergency response interventions in the WBGS, while investing in livelihoods and capacities, including promoting innovative approaches like hydroponic agriculture and the use of sustainable energy. Through its contributions, the country supported Palestinian farmers to adopt market-oriented, high-value crops, and to increase the competitiveness and profitability of agricultural ventures in the WBGS. Close to 1800 farmers from 27 producer cooperatives were able to diversify their crop varieties, allowing them to tap into new value chains, particularly on post-production stages like post-harvest, distribution and marketing.

By improving the crop varieties and the chain of production, targeted farmers' cooperatives are now able to produce high-value crops and products that can compete in national and international markets, at small and medium scale.

The project successfully bridged the humanitarian and development nexus and was instrumental in shifting FAO's support from an emergency focus to a longer-term development focus in the WBGS.

Using solar energy to protect agricultural livelihoods in Gaza

For more than a decade, the Gaza Strip has suffered an acute lack of electricity. By early 2017, the Gaza Power Plant was on the verge of ceasing operations due to lack of fuel to run the plant, bringing down the supply to a mere four hours a day, with no improvement in sight. The electricity deficit has had a considerable impact on industry and agriculture, affecting the food and income security of thousands in the Gaza Strip.

Owing to a contribution of almost EUR 800 000 (USD 940 000) from the Netherlands, FAO is providing time-critical support to over 325 farming households in the form of solar-powered irrigation systems that allow them to continue planting as before. The emergency project, which started in December 2017, will run for 16 months and aims to minimize damages and losses to domestic crop production in the current season, and ensure production in future seasons is at normal levels. This will protect agriculture-based livelihoods, food security and domestic food production, regardless of future reductions to electricity in the Gaza Strip.

This project will also contribute to climate change mitigation as the shift to a renewable energy source results in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from operating the targeted wells, while ensuring not to generate excessive water use through targeting licensed wells with established abstraction quotas.

Interventions like this, aimed at supporting renewable energy sources, gain extra importance in an emergency context, where they help to protect lives and livelihoods and support the transition from relief to rehabilitation on to development.



List of projects funded by the Netherlands (ongoing over the 2017–2018 period)*

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
OSRO/BGD/802/NET	SAFE PLUS: Strengthening of market linkages and technical capacity for agricultural groups to promote income generation in Cox`s Bazar	5 378 076	1/12/2018	30/11/2021	Ongoing
OSRO/ETH/606/NET	Emergency livelihood support to El Niño-affected smallholder farmers in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Tigray	2 219 756	25/5/2016	31/12/2017	Closed
OSRO/GAZ/402/NET	Capacity building programme in support of the Palestinian National Authority — sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures (Part I)	1 367 658	1/4/2014	31/12/2018	Closed
OSRO/GAZ/704/NET	Solar energy for agriculture in Gaza	940 378	1/12/2017	30/4/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/INT/901/NET	Support to the FAO Animal Health Service in infectious and vector borne disease control and to FAO Indonesia in the prevention and control of HPAI	1 215 002	1/12/2009	1/10/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/LEB/601/NET	Upgrading the technical agriculture education system in Lebanon	9 088 100	1/12/2016	31/12/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/LEB/602/NET	Promotion of agriculture livelihoods & employment through investment in land reclamation & water reservoirs	8 250 000	1/12/2016	30/11/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/LES/603/NET	Emergency support to rural livelihoods affected by the El Niño induced-drought in Lesotho	550 000	27/6/2016	26/6/2017	Closed
OSRO/MOZ/602/NET	Emergency El Niño response	1 151 590	1/6/2016	31/12/2017	Closed

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
OSRO/SSD/705/NET	ELRP 2018 — Emergency Livelihood and Resilience Programme South Sudan	7 500 000	1/1/2018	31/12/2018	Closed
OSRO/SSD/808/NET	South Sudan fisheries sector support project	5 000 000	1/11/2018	31/12/2023	Ongoing
OSRO/SWA/601/NET	Emergency support to rural livelihoods affected by the El Niño induced-drought in Swaziland	600 000	14/7/2016	31/12/2017	Closed
GCP/BGD/047/NET	Improving food safety in Bangladesh	15 624 998	1/7/2012	31/3/2019	Ongoing
GCP/BGD/066/NET	Support for modelling, planning and improving Dhaka's food system	12 555 736	15/8/2018	30/6/2023	Ongoing
GCP/GLO/543/NET	Monitoring and analysing food and agricultural policies II (MAFAP II)	4 000 000	1/5/2014	30/4/2019	Ongoing
GCP/IND/177/NET	Programme support to Nationally Executed (NEX) Land and Water Programme in India	4 704 670	1/1/2004	31/5/2017	Closed
GCP/INT/229/NET	Monitoring water productivity by remote sensing as a tool to assess possibilities to reduce water productivity gaps	9 992 590	9/3/2015	31/1/2021	Ongoing
GCP/YEM/036/NET	Decentralized supply and water use management in the Sana`a Basin to sustain water resources and rural livelihoods	4 934 507	15/7/2014	31/12/2018	Closed

^{*} Contributions provided to the Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds are not included in this list.
** In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects.
*** As of 7 Februrary 2019.

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