



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND MORE SUSTAINABLE



Food and agriculture stand at a crossroads. The productive potential of our natural resources base has been damaged in many places around the globe, compromising the future fertility of the planet. Strategic Programme 2 (SP2) works towards building more efficient and equitable agriculture and food systems and investing in rural development which can accelerate achievement of goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda.

This transition to more productive and sustainable production systems and practices in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, is being mainstreamed through supporting countries to adopt a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture, and translating it into actions. This vision for sustainable food and agriculture sets out five key principles that balance the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES

- 1 Increase productivity, employment and value addition in food systems** 
- 2 Protect and enhance natural resources** 
- 3 Improve livelihoods and foster inclusive economic growth** 
- 4 Enhance the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems** 
- 5 Adapt governance to new challenges** 

ACHIEVEMENTS

Promoting more productive and sustainable agriculture globally

The vision of FAO for sustainable food and agriculture, enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, requires a radical rethink of the status quo and of current agricultural policies. Farmers, pastoralists, foresters and fisherfolk are encouraged to produce more while using less in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way. Integrated approaches, such as agroecology, with the various branches of agriculture are working side-by-side. This will be important for a transformational change.

SP2 supports countries in piloting and scaling-up a broad range of productive and sustainable agricultural practices. These range from farmer-led agro ecological innovations, to the application of solar technologies, from the expansion of rice-fish farming to the adoption of small-scale irrigation technologies. For instance, the Blue Growth Initiative promotes innovation in coastal communities and island nations around the world, implementing novel practices such as using the remains of fish fileted for food to make clothes.

Institutions and networks in countries are assisted to improve their ability to promote and adopt more integrated

and cross-sectoral practices, which fosters innovation. Regional networks with a strong focus on climate smart agriculture (CSA), such as the rural climate resilience alliance in Latin America and the Eastern Africa CSA alliance platform, were established or strengthened.

Developing capacity and improving natural resource management at regional level

To ensure women's access to resources, services, local institutions and decent employment and to achieve sustainable agriculture, FAO promotes gender-sensitive practices in agroecology, biodiversity

mainstreaming and CSA. SP2 supports agricultural mechanization and labour-saving technologies, and works with farmer field schools to strengthen farmers' capacities and empower rural women. It also assists partners to integrate agriculture and gender equality into the national adaptation plans and develop gender-responsive climate finance mechanisms and programmes through the global environment facility and the green climate fund.

SP2 continues to strengthen its work to mainstream food and agriculture in SDG implementation by providing support at national and sub-national levels to a large number of countries, and it strongly engages at both regional and global levels to promote these governance changes that are necessary to make progress on the SDGs.

Aligning policies and on-the-ground action to ensure agriculture and food production is sustainable and climate-resilient

FAO assists countries in developing or implementing policies, investment programmes and governance mechanisms related to sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and the 2030 Agenda. This reflects how the SDGs offer a critical entry point for strengthening political momentum towards making these areas more productive and sustainable.

SP2's effort in leading a global approach on the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries has been spearheaded through the publication *Transforming food and agriculture to achieve the SDGs*. This set of interconnected actions serve as a guide for countries. Through this publication, FAO



SENEGAL

Over 30 countries have already developed public policies that support agroecology, promoting integrated sectoral approaches at the national level.

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reinforces support to countries in mainstreaming sustainable food and agriculture in an integrated way at a country level.

SP2 oversaw the methodological development of SDG indicator 2.4.1. The result is an internationally recognized indicator that operationalizes, measures and monitors progress towards sustainable agriculture in three dimensions: social, economic and environmental. To this end, SP2 managed a multi-stakeholder consultation to develop and refine the methodology. Pilots were conducted in five countries, representing all regions of the

world. The agreement was reflected in the formal reclassification of the SDG 2.4.1 indicator from tier III to tier II, confirming that an international methodology was established.

Sustainable food and agriculture: An integrated approach

SP2 led the development of this publication. It draws upon leading experts from various disciplines to provide a comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art thinking and proposals to improve sustainability in food and agriculture.

CHALLENGES

➡ The 2030 Agenda provides a high-level strategic policy framework guiding national development for the next decade. The ambition of the 2030 Agenda is to shift societies and economies onto a sustainable development pathway while “leaving no one behind”. Such a significant transformation can only be achieved through coherent actions, decisions and initiatives that target poverty, inequality, food insecurity and malnutrition, the degradation of natural resources and inclusive growth in an integrated way. Food and agriculture play a key role in achieving the SDG targets, and therefore FAO is continuing to strengthen its work to mainstream food and agriculture in SDG implementation.