



FAO -TURKEY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REPORT

2013

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The Annual Report of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme covers programme and projects activities undertaken between January 2013 to December 2013.



Republic of Turkey



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of the United Nations**

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Cover photo: A woman farmer cultivating soil for fruit crops of grapes and pomegranates

FTPP Project: GCP/TAJ/006/TUR Home Based Nursery Development for Improved Food Security and Environmental Protection in Tajikistan ©FAO/Vasily Maximov/FAO

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ACRONYMS:

AIS	Agricultural Innovation Systems
BAIF	Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation
BATEM	West Mediterranean Agricultural Research Institute
CACAARI	Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
CACFish	The Central Asian and Caucaus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
CEM	General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
DAD-IS	FAO's Domestic Animal Diversity System
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOSA	ECO Region Seed Assosiation
ERC	Regional Conference for Europe
ESA	FAO Agricultural Development Economics Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of thr United Nations
FAOSEC	FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service
FETUR	FAO Representation in Turkey
FISHDEV	Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
FPMIS	Field Programme Monitoring and Information System
FTPP	FAO-Turkey Partnership Program
GASF	Gender and Agricultural Statistics Framework
GAP/RDA	South-eastern Anatolia Regional Development Administration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GFRAS	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
GIAHS	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System
GIS	Geographical Information System
GoT	Government of Turkey
GPS	Global Positioning System
IC	International Consultant
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
LTU	Lead Technical Unit
MAP	Medical Aromatic Plants
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
MFAL	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (as of 2011)
MoD	Ministry of Development
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFWA	Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NC on LD	National Consultant on the Legislation Development
NPC	National Project Coordinator
PCM	Project Cycle Management
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SC	Steering Committee
SEC	Subregional Office for Central Asia
SFWRCRI	Soil, Fertilizer and Water Resources Central Research Institute
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
SPO	State Planning Organization
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TAGEM-GDAR	General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies
TCDC	Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries
TIKA	Turkish International Cooperation Agency
TUIK	Turkish Statistical Institute
VCA	Value Chain Analysis

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Turkey, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) (Its name was changed into the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) in 2011) and FAO concluded an Agreement in mid-2006 and set up FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP). According to this Agreement, Turkish Government agreed to make an annual trust fund contribution of USD 2 million over an initial period of five years (2007 – 2011) at the benefit of the countries assisted by the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia, based in Ankara and covering Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



Figure 1: Geographical scope of the FTTP Agreement

6 BROAD AREAS:

- Food Security
- Agricultural and Rural Development
- Natural Resources Management including Forestry and Fisheries
- Agricultural Policies
- Food Safety
- Animal and Plant Genetic Resources

The FAO Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) is designed to promote three major themes:

- Food Security and Safety;
- Natural Resources Management;
- Institutional Reform and National Capacity Enhancement.

The Programme has five major objectives:

- To strengthen FAO's strategic capacities in core areas of its mandate, for pursuing the priorities of food security and rural poverty reduction, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;
- To reinforce the involvement of MFAL in the upstream policy dialogue in the fields of mutual interest;
- To progress towards broader consensus on the fundamental objectives and strategies of development cooperation in relevant areas, allowing for an active endeavor by both parties to improve the coherence of their approaches;
- To facilitate complementarities of actions between both parties; and,
- To provide a substantive, financial and operational framework for active cooperation.



2. PARTNERS AND GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PROGRAMME:

The main partners of the FTPP are the Government of Turkey, through MFAL, and FAO. The governing body of the FTPP is the Steering Committee. It usually meets once a year to review the status of ongoing projects and to review project proposals under pipeline for selection and funding as well as other agenda items.

The Co-chairs are MFAL and FAO. Representatives from TIKA, MFWA, MoD and MFA are also invited as observers.

The first FTPP Steering Committee (SC) meeting was held on 28 May 2009 with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL, formerly Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs), the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MoFWA) (formerly as Ministry of Environment and Forestry), the Ministry of Development (MoD) (formerly State Planning Organization, SPO), the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

During the course of the implementation of the FTPP, five Steering Committee Meetings were held respectively in May 2009, May 2010, May 2011, December 2011 and March 2013 in addition to several ad-hoc and informal meetings.

3. FTPP IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTIVITIES

The FTPP is implemented based on the Operational Framework (Annex I) which provides detailed information on programme approach, eligibility criteria, steering committee, national focal points, and procedures for submission and approval of national, regional and multi-country level proposals and for the subsequent implementation and monitoring and evolution of FTPP supported projects.

In April 2011, a technical review committee was established. The main purpose of this informal body is to follow up on the implementation of the programme, address pending matters and to formulate suggestions for consideration by the steering committee and/or the Co-chairs. It is composed of representatives from the technical departments of MFAL and FAO technical and operation teams. Starting from April 2011 until December 2013, eight technical review meetings were held in order to review the ongoing projects. (April 2011, August 2011, December 2011, March 2012, August 2012, January 2013, June 2013, October 2013)

As of December 2013, there are twenty nine projects funded by the programme; seven sub-regional; eleven multi-country; and eleven national. The total funding available through the FTPP is USD 10,100,000. (Detailed list in Annex II).

As of January 2014, there are seventeen projects operational; five pending signature by countries; seven at completion stage; and one has been cancelled following SC's approval.

Since the beginning of the programme, USD 53,000 was accumulated in the interest account. Upon the request of MFAL this amount was used for two training programmes for MFAL staff: Formulation of agricultural and rural investments projects in April 2010; and Rural Invest in May 2010. Upon the Ministry's request for having training on sector impact analysis, a series of training sessions was organized for General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (GDAR). The training was on "Pilot Policy Assistance Activity on "Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach". Within this programme FAO's Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) provides policy assistance to MFAL - through the VCA pilot activity.

3.1. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

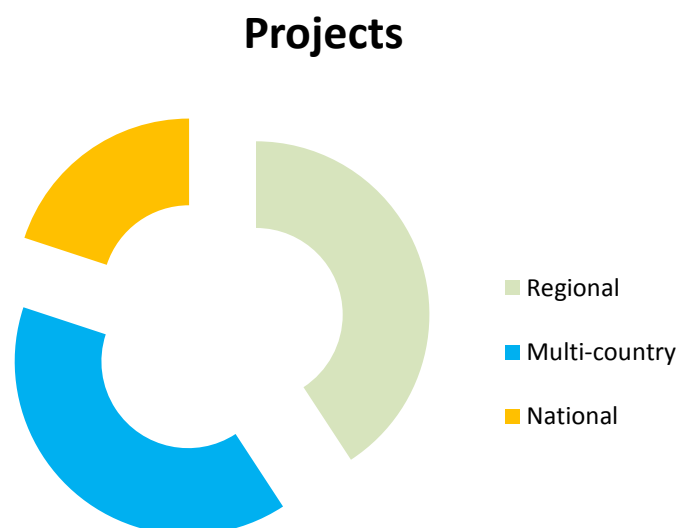
Since 2009, 29 projects were approved and funded under the partnership programme with a total allocation of USD 10,100,000 and the distribution of ongoing projects/approved budgets, since the first SC, in relation to the total budget is as follows:

Total budget: USD 10,100,000

Regional: USD 4,100,000

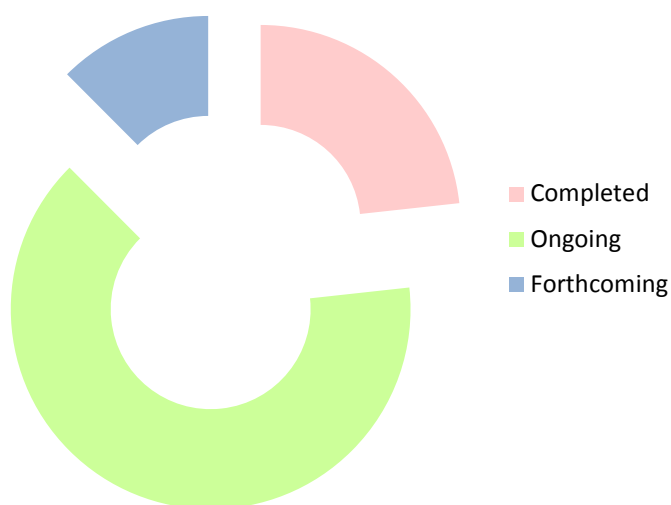
Multi-country: USD 3,950,000

National: USD 2,050,000



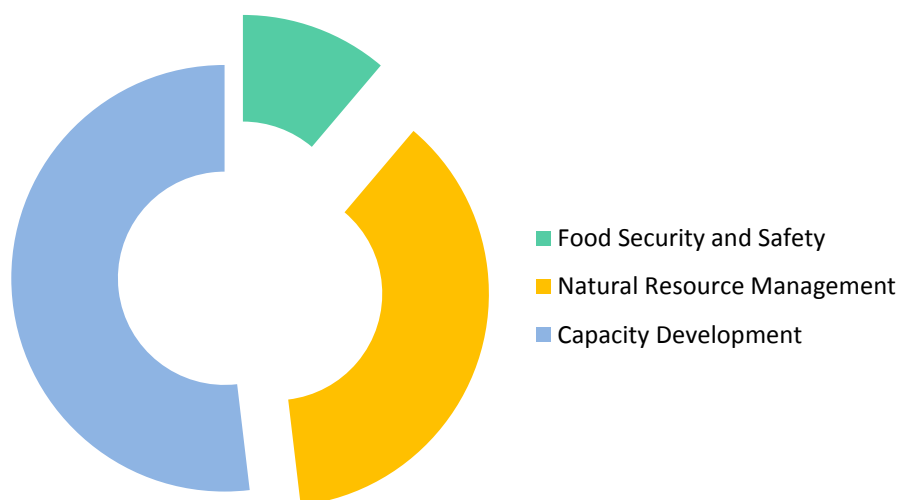
- Total allocation for 24 projects (17 ongoing + 7 completed) is USD 8,840,000 which corresponds to 88 % of the total FTTP funding.
- 1 project (Trans-boundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses) with a budget of USD 200,000 was cancelled. The unused budget was transferred to ongoing GCP/SEC/001/TUR – Cattle Production Project.
- Over 40 Turkish technical staff has taken part in the formulation and implementation phases of the approved projects.

Budget



- 5 projects are pending for approval with an allocation of USD 1,260,000 which corresponds to 12 % of the total FTPP funding.
- 17 ongoing projects with an allocation of USD 6,490,000.
- 7 projects were completed with a total budget of USD 2,350,000.

Thematic Area



The distribution of approved budgets in relation to thematic areas since 2009 is as follows:

Natural Resources Management: USD 3,730,000

Food Security and Safety: USD 1,130,000

Capacity Development: USD 5,240,000

Total: 10,100,000

3.1.1. COMPLETED:

1. Home Based Nursery Development for Improved Food Security and Environmental Protection in Tajikistan

Overall Status: Operationally and financially closed

Beneficiary Country: Tajikistan

Duration: Two years (01 Jan 2010-31 Dec 2011)

(5 months extension)

Budget: USD 199,992

Thematic area: Food security/Food Safety

Project Symbol: GCP/TAJ/006/TUR

Overview:

The objective of the project was to increase income and to enhance livelihood and food security of the most vulnerable households (particularly of rural women) in rural Tajikistan, through increasing areas and diversifying production from tree plantations, for improved conservation of soil and water resources and restoration of forest and woodland ecosystems.

Under the project, the following activities were conducted or implemented;

- The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established with members from the Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Academy of Science, Environment Protection Committee and Forestry and Hunting State Department. The main role of the committee was to provide necessary advice and technical guidance and to monitor the project progress, both in terms of activities and budget.
- The inception workshop was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May 2010. 232 home-based nurseries were established and 5000 forestry and fruit seedlings were distributed to the beneficiaries.
- Project orientation meetings were conducted at district, Jamoat (sub-district) and village levels. During these meetings following issues were discussed: the project goals, objectives, and outputs, implementation approach and planned interventions. Orientation meetings were organized in step-by-step approach from district to village level.
- Criteria for selection of beneficiaries were reviewed and agreed by the Steering Committee and Interest Groups and were established in accordance with the following criteria:
 - poor groups of the rural population living under the conditions of extreme poverty;
 - landless households or the households owning small land plots who are producing insignificant amount of crops;
 - farmers who wish to be engaged in growing of trees, but have no knowledge in this field;

- rural unemployed, and those engaged in their own business;
- poor rural women, especially those who are head of households and poor rural youth.
- Different models were developed for establishing small nurseries to fit the needs of various project areas. Due to several geographical zones, growing different small nursery models were developed and based on these models, agriculture inputs (seeds and grafts) were distributed to the beneficiaries of the project.
- Local tenders were announced in March and November 2010, and following goods were purchased: 197 thousand of pomegranate, grapes, oleaster, poplar grafts and 518.5 kg of acacia, pine, persimmon, cercis, apple, pear, peach, almond, pecan and apricot seeds. Forestry and fruit tree seeds and grafts were distributed among selected households and 222 home based nurseries were established. Additionally in November 2010 through distribution of the inputs, the number of home based nurseries was increased from 222 to 232 through establishing of 10 new home based nurseries.



- The visibility strategy for the project was developed by the project management team and was developed based on the Visibility Guidelines for External Actions. The visibility actions were based on recommendations for each type of activity, and included organization of press conferences, preparation of leaflets or brochures, newsletters, promotional items and other audio-visual products. The aim of all these activities was to publicize the Turkish Government's (through the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs or MARA) contributions and to give due credit to the support for funding of the project activities.

- 12 training sessions were conducted on growing of fruit and forestry seedlings and its grafting for the project beneficiaries.

- 12 training sessions were conducted on Establishment of protection (multipurpose) plantations and nursery development plan for the project beneficiaries;

- The project has designed and published 1 bulletin, at the same time the project has prepared and published 1 guideline, and 4 booklets

on nursery establishing from the cuttings, growing of forest tree seedlings, like acacia cercis.

The project staff also worked on developing and printing of other publications such as bulletins, hand outs and guidelines on conservation and restoration of natural resources, ecosystems and all these items were distributed during the field visits.

- A Field Visit/Study Tour was organized to Turkey in October 2010. The delegation visited public and private nurseries, Provincial Directorates of Environment and Forestry in İzmit, Adapazarı, Eskişehir with the objective of improving the theoretical and practical knowledge of the participants on nursery development and its further implementation in Tajikistan.
- A detailed work plan was prepared by National Consultant on Legislation Development in collaboration with the National Project Manager for identifying the important problems of the nursery. As a result “Draft findings and recommendations report” has been prepared supporting nursery communities and promoting multipurpose plantations in Tajikistan. Additionally, project specialists proposed amendments and additions for a number of existing laws with the aim of improving the legislation in the seedling growing field.



2. Capacity Building in Sustainable Forest Management Planning and Forest Fire Management in Syria

Overall Status: Activities completed

Beneficiary Country: Syria

Duration: 24 months-Extended until June 2012
(6 months extension)

Budget: USD 199,992+USD 30,000 increase

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/SYR/014/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project was to establish the adequate institutional capacities to undertake ecosystem based participatory forest management planning, implementations, monitoring and assessment in Syria.

The Project activities were smoothly carried out in line with the work plan and in close collaboration with the Ministries of Environment and Forestry of both Turkey and Syria.



Forestry organizations of both countries have provided in-kind and cash contributions for the implementation of project activities. The Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry undertook several missions in the areas of forest inventory, monitoring, assessment, management planning, GIS, forest fire management, silviculture and forest information systems.

Forestry Calliper, Compass, Height measurer/meter, Increment Borer, Bark gauge/bark thickness measurer, GPS, Binocular with compass, Satellite images and Laptop which were required equipments or tools for implementing activities in the field were purchased.

Inception workshop was organized in Idlep, Syria, with high level participation on 20 January 2010. 2nd workshop on “Assessment of the Project’s Progress and Achievements, Support for the Follow up Activities” combined field trip was held in Idleb, Syria between 27-29 July 2010 in order to review and assess the progress and activities from the beginning of the project.

The 3rd workshop on “Delivering Forest Management Plan, Assessment of the Project’s Progress and Achievements” was held in Damascus, Syria, 12-13 January 2011. In summary, the project was implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, and relevant national stakeholders. The project contributed to the achievement of the following outputs:

- An Ecosystem Based Functional Forest Management Plan prepared with the stakeholders participation, based on ecosystem-based multi-functional forest management methodology for a selected forest management unit in Syria.
- A forest fire management plan prepared with the stakeholders participation, for the same forest management planning unit.



- Syrian forestry organization gained adequate knowledge and experiences in sustainable forest management planning and implementations, through on-the job training and training courses.

All planned activities under the project, have been successfully implemented and the project operationally closed.

3. Mutually Acceptable Mechanism of Integrated Use of Water Resources in Central Asia through Applying a Scenario Approach

Overall Status: Operationally closed
Beneficiary Country: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan
Duration: One year (20 January 2012-31 December 2012)
Budget: USD 449,970
Thematic area: Natural Resources Management
Project Symbol: GCP/INT/137/TUR



Overview

The objective of the project was to strengthen regional cooperation and promote sustainable natural resource management through enhanced mutual understanding and improved decision making.

The participatory and emergent scenario thinking approach has proved effective in conducting a rapid and comprehensive analysis of the development issues related to the complex water-agriculture-energy nexus in the Aral Sea basin.

During a series of 5 regional workshops, a comprehensive set of four scenario logics for the Aral Sea basin has been progressively developed jointly by Central Asian countries and Afghanistan and agreed upon by all riparian states. These four plausible and relevant scenario logics describe how the future of the Aral Sea basin might evolve by 2040 and will serve as the basis for preparing comprehensive scenario stories. Given that the detailed scenario stories could not be developed and validated during this project phase, four draft scenario synopses provide a condensed overview about the way Central Asia might turn out in the future for all four scenario logics (see Box: 'Draft four scenario synopses').

However, the focus is not on the scenario set but it is on the process gains. A key result of the exercise was the insights gained by examining relevant questions against the backdrop of the scenario set with the convergence of views that emerged among the riparian countries.

In addition, experts from Central Asia and Afghanistan have also acquired fundamental skills in scenario building and the 'scenario thinking' process.



A brochure (text, layout and graphics) in English and Russian was published and, in the framework of the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, a video 'Searching for water peace' was made available on YouTube to communicate the project results. The Terminal Report was also produced.

“FOUR DRAFT SCENERIO SYNOPSIS”

‘Wise Owl’: the regional outlook improves when effective agricultural reforms combined with small but targeted investments in water infrastructure boost agricultural productivity and reduces worries about structural water deficits.

‘The Camel with Six Humps’: favorable economic conditions combined with overall modernization of the agricultural sector reduce pressure on the region’s water resources and opens a window for enhanced regional cooperation

‘Swan, Lobster, and Pike’: in spite of large public investments, agricultural modernization proves elusive and the region struggles to achieve water security

Dead End: budget strains and ineffective reform policies conspire to weaken the agricultural and energy sectors and bring the region into a downward spiral

A concept note has been drafted for the second phase of the project which aims at: mainstreaming the ‘scenario-thinking’ in the five Central Asian countries to enhance policy dialogue (at both national and regional levels) and strengthen regional cooperation for the sustainable management of natural resources in the sub-region. Estimated budget for this second phase project is 800,000 USD for a period of 18 months.

4. Capacity Development for Analysis and Strengthening of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in Central Asia and Turkey

Overall Status: Activities completed

Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan

Duration: Two years (12 Jul 2010-31 Mar 2013 with the extension)

Budget: USD 220,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/RER/029/TUR

Overview

The project objective was to increase capacities at national and sub-regional level to analyze existing agricultural innovation systems (AIS), in order to identify gaps and recommend interventions to strengthen AIS at national and sub-regional level, especially for information management and knowledge sharing. The results achieved for each projects outputs are described as follows:

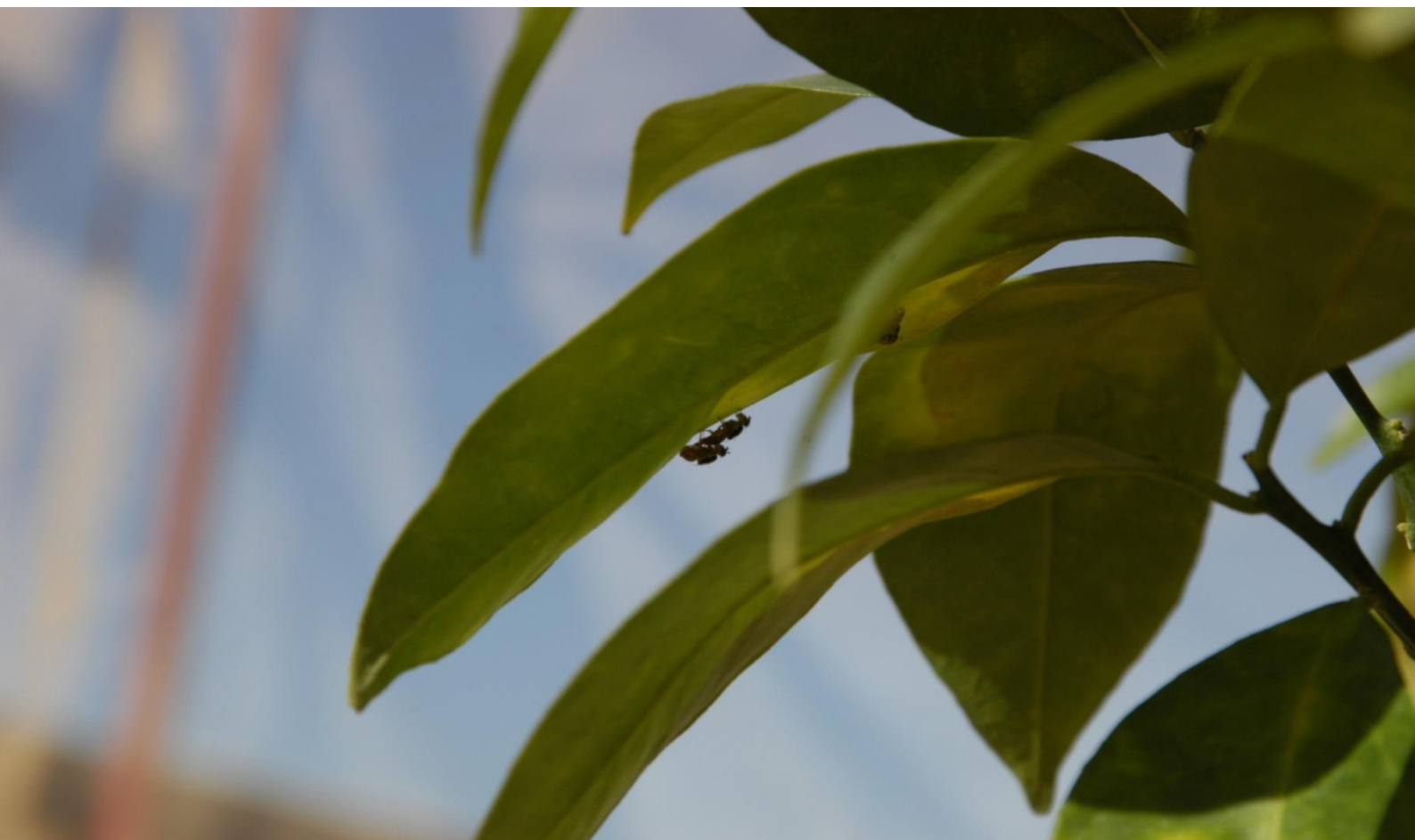
- Five in-depth country studies on AIS which will include at least three case studies per country on successful use of ICT enabled information and communications systems.
- Inter-country comparison of country studies and sub-regional synthesis.

- Fifteen trained national resource persons (three per country) in analysis and strengthening of AIS.
- Sub-regional project document for strengthening existing and/or establishing new AIS.
- Network of resource persons on AIS established for the sub-region.

A sub-regional project document entitled “Realizing the potential of agricultural innovation in the sub-region to improve farmer’s livelihoods and food security” has been drafted, cleared and translated in Russian. This follow up project aims at strengthening the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in each participating country and in the Central Asian sub-region as a whole. It will include Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan with an estimated budget of USD 2,14 million. The increased capacity to improve AIS will include information management and knowledge sharing as well as a focus to accelerate the pace of innovation in the sub-region. The project will produce the following outputs:

- Facilitated learning processes in the region by developing a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge exchange visits in the region
- Explore and fund innovative partnership at national and sub-regional level
- Capacity development program develop the enabling environment a national and sub-regional level to develop policies that enable innovation

It is foreseen to organize a side-event during the upcoming ERC where the main elements of the draft project document will be presented.



5. Initiative for Pesticides and Pest Management in Central Asia and Turkey

Overall Status: Activities completed

Beneficiary Country: Seven FAO-SEC countries

Duration: Three years (10 Aug 2010-31 Dec 2013 with the extension)

Budget: USD 450,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/RER/035/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project is to assist countries of Central Asia to reduce risks for health and environment from obsolete pesticide stockpiles and from pesticides current and future use with specific focus on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

A workshop was organized in October 2010 in Menemen, Izmir, to present the current status of pests and pesticides management in the beneficiary countries. A pesticide management gap analysis was carried out to identify weaknesses in the areas of inspection and quality control.

Major outputs of the project can be listed as:

- Completion of the obsolete pesticide inventory; training the national specialists on the Pesticide Stockpile Management System (PSMS); entering the inventory data to the PSMS; and review of the national legislation on pesticide management.

Several regional training workshops on pesticide registration and PSMS as well as on-the-job trainings during the inventory of obsolete pesticides were carried out. The inventories are completed in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and in the South Kazakhstan. Unfortunately the project document was not signed by Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan due to that an inventory in these countries was not carried out.

These outcomes serve as the basis for formulation of a new project funded by GEF on lifecycle management of pesticides and disposal of POPs pesticides in Central Asia and Turkey. However the project activities were mainly focused on obsolete pesticides and less attention was paid to pesticide and pest management. The project did not cover the activities aimed for development of the strategy for pesticide reduction, review on IPM/IVM and current activities, existing infrastructure for bio-control agent production and applications and development of detailed "National Prevention Plan". These activities partly covered by study on status of plant protection in Central Asia carried out by SEC in 2011/12, discussed and presented in the Regional Workshop "Save and Grow": Promotion of Conservation Agriculture and Efficient Plant Protection Methods.

The workshop report was sent out to the Ministries of Agriculture of the countries in the region and published on SEC website. Review on the IPM and the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management in the countries of the region is started in the framework of the GCP/RER/040/EC

6. Conservation Agriculture and Resource Conserving Technologies for Irrigated Areas in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Overall Status: Activities completed
Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Duration: Two years (1 Jan 2011-31 Dec 2013 with the extension)
Budget: USD 600,000
Thematic area: Natural Resources Management
Project Symbol: GCP/RER/030/TUR



Overview

The objective of the project is to improve rural livelihoods and food security levels through increased productivity of irrigated farming systems in four Central Asian countries - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

A regional inception workshop was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 31 January - 1 February 2011 with the participation of officials and researchers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and ICARDA. Additionally, national inception workshops were conducted in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Project activities and outputs were presented during major regional events such as:

- World Congress on Conservation Agriculture on 26-29 September 2011 in Brisbane, Australia,
- Side event of the 28th ERC, Baku, April 2012,
- Regional Workshop on Registration of Pesticide Applying Equipment, 28 May – 01 June 2012, Menemen, Turkey,
- Regional workshop on Save and Grow, 4-6 December 2012, Antalya, Turkey,
- Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation, 17-18 June 2013, Ghent, Belgium.

The field equipment (no-till drills, sprayers, moisture meters, etc.) delivered to the project sites that allowed establishing demonstration of no-till technology in combination with the residue retaining and diversification of cropping system.

In Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan field days and FAO backstopping missions were conducted. The project outcomes disseminated through the national TVs and other mass media.

The project national personnel contributed in the study carried out by FAO-SEC in cooperation with CIMMYT and ICARDA on the status of conservation agriculture in Central Asia.

The study outcomes printed in a form of a report, including the guidelines for policymakers on promotion of conservation agriculture in the national policies, and were submitted to the Governments of SEC countries. The outcomes of the project will be replicated in other projects foreseen in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on promotion of conservation agriculture through development of farmers' field schools (FFS).

Project final workshop was conducted on 10-11 December 2013 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan with the aim of discussing the project achievements, carrying out gap analysis and defining future of Conservation Agriculture in the region.

7. Design of an Agricultural Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic, 2011-2015

Overall Status: Operationally active
Beneficiary Country: Kyrgyz Republic
Duration: Two years (1 Sep 2011-31 Dec 2013 with the extension)
Budget: USD 200,000
Thematic area: Capacity Development
Project Symbol: GCP/KYR/008/TUR



Overview

The objective of the project is to set priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic in agriculture and to specify its role in the sector and in the implementation of agrarian reform.

Draft Strategy has been finalized in close collaboration with the Government, private sector and independent experts.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration presented it to the Government, for further review. The final document will serve as reference for shaping policies in the agriculture sector in Kyrgyzstan

Project NTE extended until the end of 2013, as per the Government's request, additional technical inputs from FAO were provided to elaborate more on Livestock sector strategic development.

In January 2014, the Minister requested FAO assistance in revisiting the draft strategy in terms of its timeframe, and extend it till 2017 to be in line with the National Sustainable Development Strategy by 2017. FAO agreed to provide technical assistance through other resources.



3.1.2. ONGOING:

1. Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development- FishDev

Overall Status: Operationally active

Beneficiary Country: Seven FAO-SEC countries

Duration: Five years (5 Dec 2009-4 Dec 2014)

Budget: USD 1,799,998 (initially USD 1,500,000. Additional allocation of USD 300,000)

Thematic area: Natural Resources Management

Project Symbol: GCP/RER/031/TUR

Overview

The development goal of the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FISHDEV Central Asia) is to increase the Central Asian fisheries and aquaculture sector performance in terms of its capacity to generate food, employment and income, and in terms of its economical viability, environmental compatibility and social acceptability. The programme



addresses the scope of the FAO Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP), and particularly focuses on the fisheries and aquaculture sector as listed under “Area 3 Natural Resources Management, including Forestry and Fisheries” of the FTPP. The programme is structured in such a way that it can achieve within a five year period the following outcomes:

- A formally established regional fisheries and aquaculture arrangement in the form of Regional Fishery Body or Network covering the participating countries;
- Strengthened fisheries and aquaculture sector policy, legal and institutional frameworks;
- A capacity building and education programme for fisheries and aquaculture professionals of the region established and functioning; and
- Increased sustainability in the management of fisheries and aquaculture.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:

Increased Regional and Global Collaboration

- The Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) is a Regional Fisheries Management Organization established under the article XIV of the FAO Constitution and it is one of the marked achievements of the FishDev Programme. The Inaugural Session of CACFish was held in Istanbul, Turkey (19-21 December 2011). The 5-Year Work Programme for CACFish has been prepared. The first session of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the CACFish was organized in Kiev, Ukraine from 20 to 22 November 2012. The programme will further act as a catalyst for the development of the CACFish and the implementation of a framework for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region.
- Increased membership of FAO-SEC countries in the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI),
- Increased population of FAO-SEC countries in the global for a such as COFI and its Subcommittee on Aquaculture,
- Introduced the FAO-SEC countries to

the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

- Increased institutional capacity building in fisheries and aquaculture



Review studies and projects for the Region

- Carried out fishery and aquaculture sector review in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan
- Prepared several fishery and aquaculture projects in the Central Asia and Caucasus region

Policies and planning for the Region

The following national fishery and aquaculture policies, strategies and planning documents were produced with FAO-SEC support:

- Kyrgyzstan: Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Development and Management in Kyrgyzstan (2008-2012). A national fisheries and aquaculture development policy and a strategy for Kyrgyz Republic



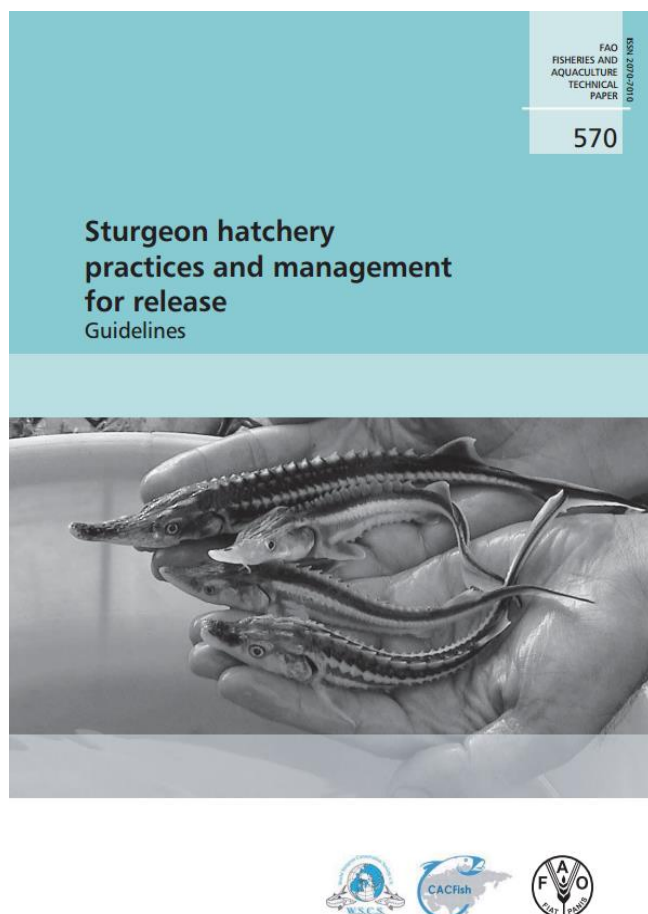
- Azerbaijan: A national fisheries and aquaculture development policy and a strategy prototype for Azerbaijan
- Uzbekistan: Conception of aquaculture and capture fisheries development of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2008-2016)
- Tajikistan: Policy and Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for Poverty Alleviation in Tajikistan (2010-2025)

Capacity building activities

FAO-SEC organized capacity building and training in fisheries and aquaculture for numerous stakeholders in its member countries in 2009-2012:

- 10 intergovernmental meetings,
- 16 regional workshops and trainings,
- 3 national workshops,
- 1 expert workshop,
- 3 study tours covering fish culture and inland fisheries.
- Trained more than 400 participants





Awareness raising and information dissemination

FAO-SEC contributed to translating the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and six of the Code's Technical Guidelines into Russian, and supported their publication and dissemination. FAO-SEC also participated in preparation, publishing and disseminating key publications from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, as well as technical papers, circulars and reports and EIFAC Occasional Papers. 30 publication in total were prepared.

SEC Fisheries and Aquaculture web page developed and updated:

<http://www.fao.org/europe/sec/activity-areas/fisheries/en/>

2. Promoting Management of Animal Genetic Resources in SEC Countries

Overall Status: Operationally active

Beneficiary Country: Seven FAO-SEC countries

Duration: Two years (21 Nov 2011-20 Oct 2014 with the extension)

Budget: USD 700,000

Thematic area: Natural Resources Management

Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/003/TUR

Overview

The project aims to support the Ministries of Agriculture in three Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and in Azerbaijan and Turkey in formulating a national livestock breeding policy and strategy for the sustainable use and development of livestock and to establish networks linking stakeholders and supporting the institutional development and capacity-building on national and subregional level.

Therefore, the objectives of the project are to strengthen and/or implement operational National Focal Points for the management of animal genetic resources in Central Asian countries as well as in Azerbaijan and Turkey and to assist in the establishment of a subregional focal point for animal genetic resources using the FAO guidelines for the development of Regional Focal Points and to support the development of National Strategies and Action Plans for the management of animal genetic resources.

Major outputs of the project can be listed as:

- All participating countries started to form or strengthen National Focal Points, bringing the various stakeholder groups together.
- All National Focal Points have started to build up working groups and collecting information on available animal genetic resources in their countries, which will be entered into FAO's Domestic Animal Diversity System DAD-IS.
- With this increased insight on national animal genetic resources available, countries will start to develop and adapt their National Strategies for the management and conservation of livestock and develop action plans.



There were some difficulties in the implementation of the project such as:

- Delayed, slow or no response of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan regarding adoption of the project. At the end, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan refused to participate in this project.

- In some countries unstable personal situation in stakeholder's institutions created obstacles in adopting the project.
- It was not easy to find local experts combining the necessary expertise and language skills.
- Lack of awareness of the value of animal genetic resources and the countries' role in implementing the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.
- Lack of FAO infrastructure in some of the beneficiary countries, the lack of a FAO country office in Kazakhstan impacts the smooth administrative flow.

3. Identification and formulation of a regional project to strengthen scientific, technical and institutional cooperation to support responsible fisheries in the Black Sea

Overall Status: The project has been operational as of 15 May 2012

Beneficiary Country: Turkey, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia

Duration: One year (15 May 2012-15 Feb 2014 with the extension)

Budget: USD 100,000

Thematic area: Natural Resources Management

Project Symbol: GCP/RER/025/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project is to prepare a project document for the full phase, based on the results of a formulation mission in the Black Sea countries to assess, in consultation with the relevant national authorities and other relevant stakeholders, the needs and expectations relative to fisheries management and research in the black sea region.

Major outputs and activities of the project can be listed as:

- Each of the Black Sea littoral states has produced a national overview report by a national consultant.
- A consolidated report has been produced based on these reports and sent to the countries for comments.
- A series of formulation meetings has been conducted with the countries to get feedback on the report and to discuss national and international fisheries issues.
- The countries have been requested to send the Official National Priorities for cooperation among the Black Sea littoral states.
- For the Coordination Workshop which was organized at the FAO Regional Office in Budapest, October 2013, a Concept Note, based on inputs from all Black Sea littoral states on a future Black Sea Fisheries cooperation, was produced based on the inputs above.
- Consensus was obtained at the workshop on the draft content of activities and concept for the Project Document of the new next phase project.

- The Final Validation meeting will be organized in January 2014. The meeting will strive to obtain consensus and endorsement among the six littoral states on the final content of the Project Document which will subsequently be submitted for the donor community for funding and negotiation.

4. Stewardship of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Azerbaijan and Turkey

Overall Status: Operationally active
 Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan, Turkey
 Duration: Two years (15 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2014 with the extension)
 Budget: USD 250,000
 Thematic area: Capacity Development
 Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/028/TUR
 Signature date of FAO-MARA Agreement: May 2010
 Country signatures: Turkey

Overview

The objective of the project is to establish basis to identify, recognize, conserve and sustain management of agricultural systems and to associate landscapes, biodiversity, knowledge systems and cultures.

The project focuses on integrating family and traditional farming communities to national socio-economic development agenda. It also tries to address poverty and food insecurity of local communities through sustainable management of natural resources.



GIAHS PROPOSAL ABOUT "NATURAL DYEING AND WEAVING SYSTEMS" IN DIYARBAKIR PROVINCE

After a successful introduction workshop at the beginning of the project in the pilot area, 25 case studies were received and six of them shortlisted by the project steering committee as potential GIAHS sites. 3 of the 6 shortlisted potential GIAHS sites in the pilot area were identified as "GIAHS proposal" and dynamic conservation plans of these three sites are under preparation. While assessments of the potential sites in the pilot area were on the way, GIAHS labeling and marketing studies in the pilot area were completed.

GIAHS introductory materials printed and distributed to related stakeholders. The GIAHS initiative and the project were introduced to related stakeholders in Blacksea, Aegean and Mediterranean Regions. It is expected to receive remarkable GIAHS proposals from these regions.

A working group has been established for identification of labeling and certification procedures and rules for Turkey. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (TAGEM) has led the process. Finally, the project deliverables for Turkey are ready to be submitted and thus the first phase of the project is about to complete. The National Project Manager in Azerbaijan has completed the field studies and submitted his reports for Gabala and Shaki regions.

A Letter of Agreement will be signed with the Agrarian Science Center of Azerbaijan and the centre will complete the reports for Lankaran and Guba regions. A Regional Programme Coordinator will be recruited to finalize the reports of Turkey and Azerbaijan and to organize the joint activities within the project.



5. Cattle Production Improvement in Central Asia Countries

Overall Status: Operationally active
Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
Duration: Three years
Budget: USD 600,000
Thematic area: Capacity Development
Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/001/TUR
Signature date of FAO-MARA Agreement: 2011
Country signatures: Completed



Overview

The objective of the project is to start modern, robust and self-supported beef and dairy cattle production improvement programmes in Central Asia and Caucasus. The project aims to improve livestock productivity by establishing district-based cattle producer associations, to access to better feed, to disseminate modern livestock farm husbandry and management practices and to support modern milk marketing associations.

Main Achievements:

- Assessment missions to all three countries were completed.
- Project offices were set up
- Training workshops on cattle husbandry practices in all three countries were conducted and a total of 418 farmers were trained.
 - 140 farmers from 19 villages participated in the training in Azerbaijan.
 - 149 farmers from three districts participated in the training in Kyrgyzstan.
 - 129 farmers from Shahrinav district participated in the training in Tajikistan.
- Demo plots for forage production were established in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (4, 4 and 8 respectively).
- Cattle Producer's Associations in selected pilot districts were established and started to function as center of information.

- So far the number of registered farmers of the associations are; 65 in Azerbaijan, 186 in Kyrgyzstan and 53 in Tajikistan.
- A study tour to Bursa and Balıkesir provinces of Turkey was conducted for 28 participants from 3 countries (9 from Azerbaijan, 9 from Kyrgyzstan and 10 from Tajikistan). The programme was prepared to show the participants livestock husbandry practices in Turkey, forage farming, role of Cattle Breeders Associations in Turkey, agriculture and livestock related industries in Turkey. The experience of Turkish farmers and industry was transferred and shared with the participants.
- Up to present time following activities were implemented in Tajikistan under the project: 4 demonstration sites for fodder production (alfalfa, fodder beet and maize) were established; Association of Livestock breeders in Shakhriyev district was registered; 9 farmers and livestock breeders participated in a study tour held to Turkey and 5 participants held a training sessions at the BAIF Central Research Station, India, and “Chuzi farm” was selected as a module farm and a new ration for feeding of dairy cows was developed and introduced.
- Demonstration plots for maize for silage and sudan sorghum were set up in Azerbaijan. Theoretical and practical training for the preparation of maize silage for small scale farms was conducted in Azerbaijan. This improved forages were introduced in cattle feed and experimental studies for feeding cattle have been initiated.
- Milk collection and cooling tanks for each country were procured in order to set up a milk collection and marketing scheme. In addition agricultural machinery were procured in order to support newly established cattle producers associations.



6. Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and Caucasus

Overall Status: Operationally active
Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan
Duration: Two years (20 Jan 2012-31 Dec 2014 with the extension)
Budget: USD 300,000
Thematic area: Capacity Development
Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/002/TUR



Overview

The objective of the project is to decrease degradation and loss of soil, water and biodiversity resources and to increase environmental, economic and social benefits from upstream and downstream mountain watersheds at the beneficiary countries.

The project focuses on building up national capacities to improve management of natural resources and reversing land degradation. The project provides practical training programmes based on the recommendations resulting from the FAO-led global review of watershed management experiences.

Main Activities can be listed as:

The first regional workshop on Participatory-Integrated Watershed Management and Rehabilitation was jointly organized by the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (CEM), Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and FAO from 5 to 9 November 2012, as a first step to the implementation of the project. Within the context of the regional workshop, the first steering committee meeting took place on 7 November 2012.

During the meeting, project work plan was reviewed, updated and it was aimed to identify project country's needs, priorities and their expectation within regional project.

The second regional workshop on "Integrated Participatory Watershed Management: Planning, Rehabilitation and Income Generation" was jointly organized in Mersin and Kahramanmaraş, Turkey. The regional workshop aimed to train the participants on integrated-participatory micro-watershed planning and rehabilitation, and income generation and livelihood improvement, institutional development and inter-ministerial cooperation.



For the upcoming periods of the project it is planned to organize the third regional workshop and training on “Seed, Nursery, Arid Zone Afforestation Techniques” in Turkey, in order to increase awareness, knowledge, exchange of views and experience of selected specialists of the forestry department and related agencies in the project countries about methodologies on nursery development, seed and seedling production and arid zone afforestation activities.

7. Promotion of Water Saving Technologies in the Uzbek Water Scarce Area of the Transboundary Podshaota River Basin

Overall Status: Operationally active
 Beneficiary Country: Uzbekistan
 Duration: Two years (2 Dec 2010-31 Dec 2014 with the extension)
 Budget: USD 200,000
 Thematic area: Natural Resource Management
 Project Symbol: GCP/UZB/002/TUR



Overview

The objective of the project is to achieve a sustainable agricultural production in the Podshaota transboundary small river basin by implementing irrigation water saving technologies, and to increase irrigation water productivity and minimization of water deficits thus stabilizing crop productivity.

In 2012, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture in Uzbekistan indicated that the low implementation of the project is due to the transboundary nature of the project since Uzbekistan water management activities depend upon the upstream countries. Therefore, in order to increase the practical relevance of the project results, amendments were made to the structure of the project with a focus on strengthening the capacities of a water user association for the production of high-value crops (with the adoption of water saving irrigation technologies).

FAOSEC Land and Water Officer carried out a technical backstopping mission in November 2012 to review the institutional framework and coordination, strategy/methodology and the work plan of the project, specifically addressing the problems highlighted below. Since then, team members (e.g.

national project manager, technical assistant and national specialists) were recruited in June 2013, also procurement process of automatic mini-weather stations initiated in October 2013.

The first component of the project is completed. A complete water balance of the Podshaota river basin with an in-depth assessment of water resources (availability and requirements) has been provided to improve the decision-making on water resources allocation and use in the basin. Unfortunately, the procedures for acquiring all types of 'specialized equipment' are very lengthy and complex in Uzbekistan and no permission and necessary petitions are being processed by the beneficiary institution for the procurement of the stations. Payment of project staff is not (timely) released by UNDP Uzbekistan and this situation hampers progress reporting to FAOSEC.



8. Improving Food Security, Food Safety and Living Standards of Vulnerable Populations in Tajikistan through Effective and Sustainable Control of Brucellosis in Animals and Humans

Overall Status: Operationally active

Beneficiary Country: Tajikistan

Duration: Two years (1 Jan 2012-30 Jun 2014 with the extension)

Budget: USD 180,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/TAJ/009/TUR

Overview

The overall objective of the project is to improve the income and living standards of the vulnerable people, particularly women and children through improving delivery of health services for controlling brucellosis in both humans and livestock.

The project aims to strengthen the achievements already made in the past and contributes to cost sharing with the government for vaccination services to be provided to farmers. Due to the limitation of funds, the project has been implemented only in Rasht Valley. The project supports continuation of a proven methodology that reduces the prevalence of brucellosis in both humans and animals. The SVIS veterinary and laboratory personnel are the direct counterparts in the project. The final beneficiaries are the livestock owning population of Rasht Valley (eight districts in DRD) and Nurek as a result of the expanded animal vaccination coverage and awareness on the best hygiene practices for reducing the risk of infection with brucellosis.

800,000 doses of REV-1 vaccine against brucellosis were procured and delivered. Three vaccination campaigns for sheep and goats were successfully completed by end of 2014. 8 workshops on cost sharing were held in project districts. Epidemiological data on registered cases of brucellosis and information from the National Center of Veterinary Diagnostic on testing of samples collected from sheep and goats on brucellosis was collected.

A no cost extension of the project until June 2014 was requested to evaluate the effect of vaccination on the level of disease in animals and human and to compare the result with areas that had no vaccination. The result of this sero-monitoring will be used for the national brucellosis control program in Tajikistan.

9. Protection and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in West Mediterranean region in Turkey

Overall Status: Operationally active
Beneficiary Country: Turkey
Duration: Two years (8 May 2012-8 Apr 2014)
Budget: USD 180,000
Thematic area: Natural Resource Management
Project Symbol: UTF/TUR/058/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project is to improve preservation and utilization of genetic resources of medicinal and aromatic plants by enhancing technical capacities, collection and conservation of germplasm in the gene bank, cultivation in the experimental plots as well as improved policy and strategies.

The major activities conducted under the project can be listed as:

- The inception workshop was conducted in May 2012 in Antalya, Turkey. The work plan was discussed and reviewed by the stakeholders in the workshop.
- The training on evaluation and characterization of MAP species was conducted on June 2012 in Antalya.



- Trainings for trainers on quality evaluation of raw material were conducted in November and December 2012 in Eskisehir and Antalya respectively.
- The training on Biochemical assays of the active ingredients including comparisons of the properties of wild and domesticated progeny and to ascertain the genetic diversity of the accessions was conducted in July 2012.



- The project was presented in the FAO Regional Expert Consultations on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants held in April 2012 in Budapest, Hungary and in November 2013 in Antalya, Turkey
- The project was presented in the “First Mediterranean Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants” in Gazimagosa, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus during 17-20 April 2013.
- Backstopping missions by SEC and AGP conducted, the progress of the project evaluated and work plan reviewed.
- Demonstration plots for cultivation of MAP are established in BATEM.
- National Network of MAP as a web-site established and located under BATEM website (www.map.batem.gov.tr).
- Leaflets, posters and booklets on MAP conservation and utilization for beneficiaries developed and ready for printing.
- Preparation to a study tour for the national counterparts in the Institute of MAP of Hungary is in progress.

10. National Geospatial Soil Fertility and Soil Organic Carbon Information System

Overall Status: Operationally active

Beneficiary Country: Turkey

Duration: Two years (1 Aug 2012-31 Jul 2014)

Budget: USD 200,000 (FTPP) + USD 350,000 (SFWRCRI-TGAE)

Thematic area: Natural Resources Management

Project Symbol: UTF/TUR/057/TUR



Overview

The outcome of the project is to establish a National Geospatial Database for Soil Fertility and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) Information System for Turkey with reliable data and information on upper soil fertility, soil carbon content and chemical fertilizer consumptions. The Soil Fertility & SOC Information System will be accessible via WebGIS server service to various users ranging from farmers to researchers and decision-makers.

Inception workshop was held in Ankara on 4 October 2012 with SFWRCRI with the participation of project partners, stakeholders, and FAO experts to share experiences on soil management and digital soil mapping, and to review project the logical framework and finalize the work plan.

Laboratory analysis of soil samples is progressively proceeding. By the end of July 2013, 1829 soil samples from soil archive of 16 provinces of the country have been analyzed and soil fertility properties and soil organic carbon contents of the soils were determined. Considering the fact that, about 23% of the soil archives has been analyzed, the performance of the project team will be increased to be able to successfully reach the outcomes of the project.

11. Seed Sector Development in Countries of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

Overall Status: Operationally active
Beneficiary Country: ECO countries
Duration: Two years (1 May 2013-30 April 2015)
Budget: USD 400,000 (USD 350,000 FTTP + USD 50,000 ECO)
Thematic area: Food Security/ Food Safety
Project Symbol: GCP/INT/123/MUL



Overview

The objective of the project is to contribute to the development of the seed sector in ECO countries and to better integrate within the international seed sector for improved food security.

The major activities conducted under project can be listed as:

- The inception workshop was conducted on 27-28 June 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.
- National Consultants and the Project Team Leader / Regional Project Coordinator were identified and recruited.
- It should be noted that in countries that already have a seed policy (AFG, AZE and KGZ) only one national consultant has been appointed. For countries that need to develop a policy (currently PAK, TAJ and UZB) there are three consultants with separate areas of responsibility, although their work will be closely coordinated and all will contribute to formulation of the draft policy.

- A Regional workshop on Formulation of Seed Policy Documents and Harmonization of the National Legislation organized on 01-03 October 2013 in Kyrgyzstan in parallel to ECOSA 5th Seed Trade Conference.
- A Regional Workshop on Review of Seed Legislation and Formulation of Seed Policy Document was organized on 10-11 January 2014 in Turkey in parallel to ECOSA 6th Seed Trade Conference.
- Guidelines for preparation of the reports by the NC and country reports as well as formulation of the national seed policy document developed and deadlines for submitting reports and conducting the national seed policy workshops defined.

12. Development of a Communication Strategy and Visibility Services of FTTP programme

Overall Status: Operationally active
 Beneficiary Country: 7 SEC countries
 Duration: Three years (1 Apr 2013-31 Mar 2016)
 Budget: USD 197, 495
 Thematic area: Communication
 Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/009/TUR

Overview

The main objective of the project is to increase level of awareness on the FAO Turkey Partnership Programme and to ensure visibility for all the projects being implemented under this programme as well as showing practical effects of the projects.

The major activities conducted under project can be listed as:

- Task Force Meeting was organized with the participation of relevant MFAL and FAO staff.
- A National Consultant recruited to draft the specifications of the communication company to be hired for the provision of services.
- Tender Specifications were prepared for the formulation and implementation of the Communication Plan.
- A communication company will be contracted in due course in partnership with the FAO LTO officer, FAO Turkey and MFAL staff.
- Communication company will focus their work on the message that “FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) helps to improve food security and alleviate rural poverty in Central Asia; and that the Government of Turkey is a major resources partner for FAO in the Central Asia region”.

- These messages will be developed and executed by a comprehensive multimedia campaign, using existing and new communication material to deliver the key messages to the targeted audiences.

13. ECO Regional Centre for Food Security (ECO RCC FS)

Overall Status: Operationally active
 Beneficiary Country: ECO countries
 Duration: Three years (1 Apr 2013-31 Mar 2016)
 Budget: USD 499,211
 Thematic area: Food Security and Capacity Development
 Project Symbol: GCP/RER/044/TUR



Overview

The objective of this project is to assist the ECO Secretariat and member countries in the implementation of an Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS), as well as strengthening capacities of both ECO and member states to ensure a successful and sustainable implementation and monitoring of the RPFS.

Major activities conducted under the project can be listed as:

- ECO-RCC staffs were appointed by the Minister of MFAL, consisting of the Regional Programme Coordinator, Mr. Ömer ÖZEL, and three technical experts, Dr. Ufuk BAĞCI, Dr. Kerim Nida ÇALIM, and Mr. Can Devin İÇEL.
- ECO-RCC website, www.eco-rccfs.org, was launched in July 2013 for disseminating information on RCC events, RPFS and enhancing communication among ECO Member States.
- A special training on writing and presentation rules and skills was carried out for the ECO-RCC staff in Ankara on 24-27 June 2013 as an activity of the Project.
- The Regional Programme Coordinator visited Iran on 08-10 September 2013 to deliver a presentation to the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) at the ECO Secretariat Headquarters on establishment of ECO-RCC, its goals and working principles, past and future activities of the Centre as well as RPFS.
- The First Programme Steering Committee Meeting and Inception Workshop were organized between 23 and 25 September 2013. The Meeting was attended by the delegations from the ECO Member States such as Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and

Republic of Turkey. In addition, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) also participated at the Meeting as observers.

- Procurement process of first group of office equipment was finalized including 1 multi-function printer, 4 notebook computers, camera, sound recording, projector and a computer server.

- The first phase of the Food Security and Project Cycle Management Training Program was successfully completed in Ankara on 18 November - 7 December 2013. The training program was jointly carried out and sponsored by the



Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey (MFAL), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), FAO, and Middle East Technical University (METU). Trainees from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan as well as Turkey participated in the three-week training program at METU Continuing Education Centre in Ankara, Turkey. During the training program, the trainees had the opportunity to visit several units of MFAL (General Directorate of Food and Control, General Directorate of Agrarian Reform, Department of Strategy Development, Gene Bank, National Food Reference Laboratory) and some agricultural food processing establishments in Beypazari, Ankara.

- Preparations are ongoing for the second phase of the training programmes on Project Cycle Management and Regional Food Security Project Formulation.
- Preparations are ongoing for identifying and planning missions to various ECO Member countries.

14. Capacity Development Support to Rural Women on the Socio-Economic and Gender Aspects of Sustainable Rural Development

Overall Status: Operationally active
 Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan, Turkey
 Duration: Two years (20 May 2013-17 Apr 2015)
 Budget: USD 250,000
 Thematic area: Capacity Development
 Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/007/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project is to increase capacity of rural women and women associations through training and awareness rising on food security, nutrition, production of hygienic food. Through this project, establishment of women associations will be encouraged to involve actively in the economic and social lives of their communities.

Major activities conducted under the project can be listed as:

- The work plan has been revised and activities are to be further adjusted upon conduction of the inception mission with the stakeholders.
- Inception mission was organized at the end of 2013 upon recruitment of Project personnel both national and international consultants.
- At present project personnel recruitment is ongoing.

15. Capacity Development in Food Safety Risk Management of Food Processing Enterprises and National Authorities in Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Tajikistan

Overall Status: Operationally active
Beneficiary Country: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
Duration: One year (01 Apr 2013-31 Mar 2014)
Budget: USD 200,000
Thematic area: Capacity Development
Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/010/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project is to increase capacities of main stakeholders, including officials of line ministries, food inspectors and food processors to develop risk-based preventive systems for food safety hazards management and control.

Major Progress:

- All consultants have been recruited.
- Inception mission was organized to Kyrgyzstan on November 2013, and Tajikistan mission will take place in February 2014.
- A request has been sent to the MFAL for the adjustment of the EOD and NTE as per the actual start date of the project.

16. Strengthening National Capacities for Production and Analysis of Sex-disaggregated Data through the Implementation of the FAO Gender and Agriculture Framework (GASF)

Overall Status: Operationally active
Beneficiary Country: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey
Duration: Two years (03 Jun 2013-29 May 2015)
Budget: USD 330,000
Thematic area: Capacity Development
Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/008/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project is to have more detailed sex-disaggregated data on the agro-rural sector integrated into national data collection and reporting activities.

Major Progress

- The project has been officially launched through initiation of inception mission to Turkey during September 16-20, 2013 concluded by the inception workshop on September 19, 2013 in order to meet with the national stakeholders and project partners: TUIK and MFAL of Turkey.
- At present recruitment of the project personnel is ongoing.



- A Roundtable Meeting is planned to be organized in FAO-SEC Office in January 2014 for the identification of main national gender issues in the agricultural and rural sector with the participation of relevant stakeholders from different Ministries.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be established with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) to facilitate the collaboration between two agencies during the implementation of project activities, and also to further develop channels of cooperation in the other fields of joint interest.

17. FAO GIEWS Price Database and Analysis Tool

Overall Status: Operationally active
 Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
 Duration: One year (01 Jul 2013-30 Jun 2014)
 Budget: USD 150,000
 Thematic area: Capacity Development
 Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/006/TUR

Overview

The main objective of the project is to further develop FAO-GIEWS Price Tool software through creation of a national component that could be used at country level; and to improve food price monitoring for preventing food crises and helping to implement required national policies.

Major Progress

- The inception mission has been conducted on September 17-26, 2013 to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- In Kyrgyzstan it has been agreed that the NSC best suited to host the implementation of the activities because of IT strength (Price system, FSIS portal, etc) and to be discussed further with FSIS working group during next session.
- In Tajikistan, FSIS project confirmed agreement to support the project implementation. It is recommended to make an agreement on hosting the project by State Agency or MoA.

3.1.3. FORTHCOMING:

1. Improving Livelihood of Rural Population in Azerbaijan through Increased Apiculture Productivity

Overall Status: Pending signature
Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan
Duration: Two year
Budget: USD 200,000
Thematic area: Food Security
Project Symbol: GCP/AZE/005/TUR

Overview

The main objective of the project is to improve household income through increased honey production in general and per honeybee colony specifically. This will be achieved by improving colony management skills, improving the quality and availability of honey bee queens, better technical assistance from beekeeper associations and by involving women in all management and marketing processes.

Status

- Assessment mission was carried out and recommendations were prepared.
- The project document was prepared and technical clearance was received from the Project Review Committee.
- The project document was also sent to Azerbaijan for country signature.
- Waiting for signature from Government of Azerbaijan.

2. Development of Organic Agriculture and Institutional Capacity Building in Azerbaijan

Overall Status: Pending signature
Beneficiary Country: Azerbaijan
Duration: Two years
Budget: USD 200,000
Thematic area: Capacity building
Project Symbol: GCP/AZE/006/TUR

Overview

The objective of the project is to improve legislation, strengthening institutional capacity, training national experts and using the principles and practices of organic agriculture. At the end of the

project it is expected that legal basis for promotion of organic agriculture will be improved, organic farming techniques and measures will be sufficiently validated by a core group of farmers and an expanded program will be prepared for farmers of other districts.

Status

The project document was submitted to the Government for a counter-signature. Unfortunately, due to lengthy internal procedure in the Government of Azerbaijan, the project is not signed as of December 2013.

3. Strengthening of national and institutional capacity on land consolidation

Overall Status: Pending signature

Beneficiary Country: Turkey

Duration: One year

Budget: USD 100,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: UTF/TUR/060/TUR

Overview

The main purpose of the project is to strengthen institutional capacity on the assessment of land consolidation and improve land consolidation works.

Status



- Project document was drafted by FAO staff and international consultant in collaboration with the MFAL staff, and the project was operationally cleared by the FAO HQ.
- NPC will be appointed by MFAL.
- Upon signature process, the project budget code will be activated.
- Then, task Force Meeting will be organized to discuss and plan the project work plan.

4. National capacity enhancement and elaboration of strategies on mobilization of foreign investments to the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan

Overall Status: Active pipeline
Beneficiary Country: Uzbekistan
Duration: Two years
Budget: USD 160,000
Thematic area: Capacity Development
Project Symbol: GCP/UZB/003/TUR

Overview

The main purpose of this project is to enhance capacity of local experts in development of mobilization of external recourse and preparation of investment projects in the sector.

Status

- Project document has to be revised. FAO - TCI has strong and reasonable objections to some of the project outputs.
- However, Uzbekistan government did not agree with the revisions.
- It was recommended that project should be cancelled since implementation is difficult. The decision would be finalized in the upcoming Steering Committee Meeting by both parties, MFAL and FAO.

5. Towards Better National and Regional Locust Management in Caucasus and Central Asia

Overall Status: Pending countries signature
Beneficiary Country: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan. Uzbekistan
Duration: Five years
Budget: USD 600,000
Thematic area: Capacity Development
Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/004/TUR

Overview

The main objectives of the project are to improved national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia through national capacity development on locust monitoring and control in the recipient countries, and to coordinate and implement the overall Five-year Programme in the recipient countries.

Status

- Agreements have been submitted for signature in April 2013.
- Signed project agreement received from Tajikistan. Still awaited from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.
- Uzbekistan government mentioned that they are not interested in participating at the project through a formal letter.



3.2. TRAININGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

3.2.1. Pilot Policy Assistance Activity on “Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach”

Within this programme FAO’s Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) provided policy assistance to MFAL - General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (GDAR), through the pilot activity: Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach, through series of workshops and group work with the aim to respond to the policy assistance needs expressed by the Government.

This activity benefited from the conceptual and operational framework of the wider multi-country programme “Sustainable Development, Food Security and Inclusive Growth: Understanding Paradigms and Exploring Policy Impacts for Policy Making (UPPI)” by:

- Providing the material and tools necessary for the Value Chain Analysis.
- Adopting a knowledge generation approach based on analytical work
- Studying real case situations through an assessment of policy options within a country development strategy.

Creating of and collaborating with a team of GDAR.

- Organizing the GDAR teams into Working Groups (WGs), who are expected to produce policy-relevant outputs and to participate in capacity development events.

FAO’s technical support to GDAR aimed at providing a package of services comprising a progressive step-by-step approach to create permanent capacities in the country and to provide specific advice to address emerging issues, external shocks or required policy revisions.

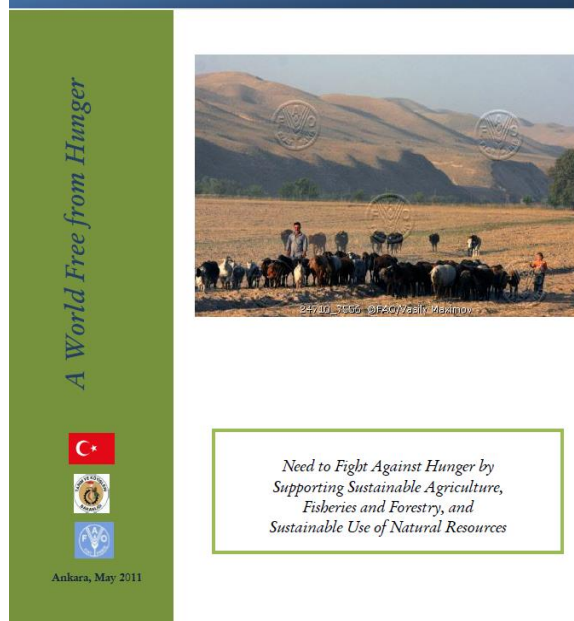
3.3 FTTP Newsletter



The first FTTP newsletter was prepared in May 2009 in Turkish, English and Russian. The aim of this publication was to increase publicity and visibility of the programme to a wide range of audience. The newsletter focused on key elements of the FTTP and approved projects. It was decided that future issues will include elements on the progress made and best practices.

The last newsletter which provides information on FTTP and ongoing activities of the FTTP in order to raise awareness and ensure the visibility of the programme was published in 2011; the new one is being prepared and will be printed to reflect the developments up to date.

FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme



Other visibility materials such as newsletters, fact sheets, brochures, calendars, posters also including audio-visual productions will be produced under the “Enhancing Visibility of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) (GCP/SEC/009/TUR) Project” focusing on the Government of Turkey’s role as a major resources partner for FAO in the Central Asia region. The exchange of information between institutions, projects and activities will also play a key role to facilitate learning from experiences, good practices and creating synergies. The dissemination of the achievements of the FTPP will pave the way to the sustainability of the results of the programme.

4. LESSONS LEARNT

FTPP has been proven to be a successful regional programme. It has made substantive progress towards the planned outcomes and also making significant contributions to FAO’s work in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and its policy assistance activities with member countries in Central Asia. FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme provided an opportunity to transform both FAO’s and MFAL’s vision and efforts into an operational tool for contributing to the development of the countries in the region especially in the areas of food security and rural poverty reduction.

Furthermore, under FTPP a number of activities are being conducted in the participating countries with considerable potential to positively affect the lives of people.

It should also be taken into consideration that FTPP has been making significant contributions towards the overall region-wide institutional capacity building efforts and also effectiveness of FAO. Therefore, the continuation of these catalytic contributions is vital for all stakeholders.

After the five operational years of the FFTP, based on the main challenges/bottlenecks, the main lessons learnt can be summarized as follows:

- Sense of ownership should be strengthened among the partner countries and the Turkish Government's role should be identified in this strengthened co-ownership and partnership.
- At the launch of the programme, high level participation from all the countries of the region should be promoted for ensuring the continuous support from the relevant offices during the project approval, formulation, signature and implementation stages.
- Delays in project formulation and difficulties in finding good consultants for project formulation should be taken into consideration at the onset of project approval/formulation/development phases.
- Additionally, there is need for funding during the project formulation stage.
- There is also a need for a well-functioning planning, monitoring and evaluation system.
- The existent time consuming processes such as translation of the final project documents into Russian and national languages before their official submission to the relevant countries; and the finalization of the signature procedures by the beneficiary countries (require at least six to twelve months each, depending on the various internal procedures in different countries) should be taken into consideration. If possible, alternative solutions should be discussed between the donor country and beneficiary countries.
- Having National Focal Points in each country is a mechanism that did not perform well up till now. The identification of the role and contribution of the National Focal Points should be clearer and their role should be more effective by raising awareness and facilitating cooperation among the respective institutional bodies of Governments, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.
- Collection and use of reliable and up-to-date data information is of importance for achieving the results of the projects, including gender disaggregated data.
- Increase visibility of the projects under FFTP programme with the highlights on the impact assessment and demonstration of success stories.
- The projects which have specific project managers who follow project activities on daily basis have shown more success in terms of timely management and implementation though most of the projects have limited budget to recruit project manager/assistant.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The planning of second phase programme should include a careful analysis and evaluation of the work that has been done in the first phase. The achievements and shortcomings, the possibilities of new directions and the strengthening of the weaknesses should be carefully taken into consideration.
- A balance should be established between: a) the objective of having an impact on long term substantive matters and institutional reforms; and b) the short term objectives of rapid results at the country level. It is recommended that the long term structural objectives should receive considerably more weight in the second phase of the programme.
- It should also be considered that approval, formulation, clearance, signature and implementation of all projects consume same time and effort. Therefore, for the sake of efficiency and effectiveness, second phase of FTTP should avoid funding the projects with limited budget and duration, and thus have low impact on the development of the countries.
- FTTP should continue to focus on improvement of national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; introducing the issues by considering the countries' needs, with the demand driven and participatory approach in order to make a significant contribution to region's overall development. In addition, the overall implementing strategy applied in each country should be adapted to the special circumstance of those countries.
- After the SC approval, the full formulation process and related investments should start only once official confirmation of Government(s) interest/commitment is ensured. This would also strengthen the sense of ownership by the concerned Governments. This issue should also be taken into consideration during the second phase of the FTTP.
- National Project design should reflect countries' priorities and be in line with Country Programme Frameworks (CPF) to ensure ownership of the Governments and better address the needs of the beneficiaries.
- The feasibility criteria against budgets of the projects should be reconsidered to ensure sufficient funds to implement proposed activities in the beneficiary countries

