



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

KAZAKHSTAN AND FAO

PARTNERING TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

The partnership between Kazakhstan and FAO has been constantly evolving since the country became a member of the Organization in 1997. Kazakhstan has recently increased its emphasis on investments in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and aims to modernize the sector while transitioning to a green economy. FAO technical assistance has focused on the sustainable intensification of agricultural production, promoting conservation agriculture, organic farming and sustainable natural resource management, and institutional development and capacity building.

Promoting organic agriculture

Kazakhstan has identified organic agricultural production as a promising means of improving the competitiveness and export potential of domestic products. However, the absence of a certification system and labelling requirements is currently hindering development of both internal and export markets for organic products.

The FAO project "Support to development of organic farming and institutional capacity building in Kazakhstan" is now working to strengthen capacities in the sector through improved legislation, institution building and strategic planning. Activities include training for farmers, agricultural specialists and policy-makers on various issues related to organic agriculture.



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Matching FAO's expertise to Kazakhstan's development priorities

FAO assistance in Kazakhstan is shaped by an interim **FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on five priority areas.

- ➔ **Food safety and organic food production**, with a view to supporting the improvement of food safety and quality at all stages of the food chain as well as improving regulatory, inspection and certification systems for organic food production.
- ➔ **Animal health and livestock production**, pasture and phytosanitary management.
- ➔ **Sustainable natural resource management (water, land and forestry)**, with a view to strengthening the national capabilities and enhancing policy dialogue and regional cooperation.
- ➔ **Fisheries and aquaculture**, with support focused on the responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources.
- ➔ **Information technologies for agricultural statistics and related data collection and analysis.**

Jointly prepared with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in national development plans, including Strategy 2050 which cites global food security and depletion of natural resources as key challenges. The modernization of agriculture is a major element of the strategy.

Consultation and drafting of a new CPF for 2019-2021 are underway.

Phytosanitary control in action

Together with other Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan is frequently subject to the negative impacts of plant pests and diseases, including highly dangerous quarantine pests that result in significant economic losses for the agriculture sector.

Through a joint regional project, FAO has helped develop Kazakhstan's agricultural production and trade activities by supporting the review and modernization of existing phytosanitary legislation and institutional capacities. With FAO's technical support, senior phytosanitary staff have been trained in pest risk analysis and surveillance, while policy staff, regulatory agencies and other public and private stakeholders have been introduced to relevant international conventions and agreements.

Making a difference with Conservation Agriculture

FAO has long supported Conservation Agriculture (CA) in the subregion, and has recently stepped up its efforts to promote CA practices with a view to protecting fragile ecosystems and making production systems more sustainable. As early as 1999, FAO organized a first regional CA workshop in Kazakhstan, and has implemented several CA projects in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries since then, with Kazakhstan showing a fast uptake of CA practices.

An important example is the US\$600 000 regional project, funded by the Turkish Trust Fund Programme, "Conservation Agriculture and Resource-Conserving Technologies for Irrigated areas in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan".

Results achieved through CA intensification in Kazakhstan have been remarkable. The Government has been subsidizing farmers adopting CA-based technologies since 2008, and Kazakhstan is now among the top ten countries with the largest no-till areas in the world. FAO is continuing to promote CA to reduce carbon emissions and help achieve green goals.

Support to the forestry programme

FAO has provided technical assistance to the Forestry and Hunting Committee, operating under Kazakhstan's Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, for developing the National Forestry Programme and Action Plan.

Core elements of the draft Programme include expansion of forest area; biodiversity conservation; sustainable management and use of forests; increased competitiveness of the wood processing industry; institutional development, policy and legislation; and the involvement of civil society in decision-making processes.

Preserving winter deserts in Kazakhstan

Central Asian countries carry the responsibility of preserving cold winter deserts, known as Kyzylkum and Karakum. Characterized by rain and even snow during the winter time, these desert systems are found in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. They host a rich diversity of endemic species and provide

important ecosystem services for local people, but they are threatened by degradation resulting from excessive fuelwood collection and inappropriate grazing practices.

Together with the Michael Succow Foundation from Germany, FAO has developed the Central Asia Desert Initiative (CADI) to assist the three affected countries with up-to-date methods and in a participatory manner. While FAO's main contribution entails the establishment of sustainable land management schemes for desert landscapes with multiple stakeholders, the overall goal of the initiative is to conserve the biodiversity and inherent ecosystem functions of cold winter deserts. CADI is to receive funding of up to 3.3 million euros from the International Climate Initiative.

Scaling up integrated natural resource management

With support from the Global Environment Facility, FAO has prepared a project proposal for the Second Phase of the Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management (CACILM-II) for scaling up integrated natural resource management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asian countries as well as Turkey. In Kazakhstan, the project will help the Government integrate resilience principles into the policy, legal and institutional framework for integrated resource management. It will also promote broader adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable land management, resulting in socio-economic benefits for local communities and global environmental benefits. To support these activities, GEF has mobilized US\$12 million, including an allocation for Kazakhstan under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).

"The world needs a paradigm shift towards more sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems, ... making farming techniques less reliant on intensive use of inputs and natural resources.."

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General