

Rural employment and decent work at FAO

News from the web



“Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” is the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG), and includes the target 1B: “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people”. Through its new Strategic Framework, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is committed to ensuring that decent rural employment creation is integrated into agricultural and rural development policies, strategies, programmes and partnerships.

This issue shares some of the work that FAO carried out in the first half of 2014 on gender-equitable decent rural employment (DRE) for poverty reduction and food security, in terms of normative work, technical cooperation and capacity development, as well as advocacy and strategic partnerships.

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Highlights

FAO launches new thematic web pages on decent rural employment and child labour in agriculture prevention

Earlier this year, two new thematic pages aimed at offering a first-stop gateway to information on decent rural employment and the prevention of child labour in agriculture, were launched on the FAO website.

Available in the six official United Nations languages, the web pages are an important portal that will provide updates on FAO's latest initiatives related to these areas of work. They have been designed to allow easy access to more in-depth information on these topics, as well as to recent publications, the latest news, event alerts and a variety of other useful resources.

We encourage you to visit the new web pages by following the links:

Thematic page on FAO's role in decent rural employment:
www.fao.org/rural-employment/en/

Thematic page on FAO's role in preventing and reducing child labour in agriculture:
www.fao.org/childlabouragriculture/en/

New - FAO's contribution to reducing and preventing child labour in agriculture



The recently published Newsletter on *FAO's contribution to reducing and preventing child labour in agriculture* provides an overview of activities that the Organization has undertaken from 2012 to 2014 to reduce child labour in agriculture, including fisheries, forestry and livestock.

FAO's child labour in agriculture prevention programme provides policy and technical support through the development of guidance, tools and methodologies – but also through targeted country and regional initiatives. In addition, FAO has contributed to and participated in a number of global and regional events on child labour in agriculture, with the aim to raise awareness on this issue and strengthen inter-agency cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations.

Download the Newsletter in:
English: www.fao.org/3/a-i3792e.pdf
French: www.fao.org/3/a-i3792f.pdf
Spanish: www.fao.org/3/a-i3792s.pdf



Sida-supported intervention in Malawi and Tanzania (2011-2013)

Programme records key results as it comes to an end

After three years of implementation, the programme on *Policy support on rural employment and decent work for the promotion of equitable and sustainable livelihoods* reached its end in June 2014. Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), it aimed to support an **Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for decent rural employment in Malawi and Tanzania**.

In both countries, the approach substantially contributed to raising awareness on decent rural employment issues, which were successfully included in selected national policy and programmatic processes. It also strengthened the capacities of national stakeholders to formulate and apply innovative employment-smart policies and strategies. In the course of the years, FAO developed and implemented activities that were designed to foster the creation of productive and sustainable job opportunities for rural youth in the agro-sector.

During the implementation of the programme, a number of best practices, lessons learnt, case studies, knowledge materials and guidelines were developed. These have been organized into a comprehensive toolbox, available here:

www.fao-ilo.org/ilo-dec-employ/ica/en/

More information on the programme activities and results can be found in the report on the *ICA implementation in Malawi and Tanzania (2011-13)*, available here: www.fao-ilo.org/ilo-dec-employ/ica/malawi-and-tanzania/cd

Or on the Joint FAO-ILO website on Food, Agriculture and Decent Work: www.fao-ilo.org/ilo-dec-employ/ica/malawi-and-tanzania/en/

More and better jobs for rural youth

Ethiopian Highlands: Promoting youth's and women's employment along the small ruminant value chains

Following its recent inception in January 2014, the project on *Rural poverty reduction through job creation in small ruminant value chains in the Ethiopian Highlands* has taken up its activities. FAO has collaborated closely with local service providers to implement an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. An innovative methodology was developed to identify important employment gaps and opportunities for Ethiopian youth and women to realise productive and decent employment along sheep and goat value chains.



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Local researchers have been intensively trained in the application of the methodology, and since May 2014 its implementation is in full flow in project-assisted villages. The combined qualitative and quantitative evidence will allow the project to develop highly participatory solutions to support beneficiaries in four districts, by providing tailored [Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools](#) trainings and inputs that will enable women and youth to become active participants along this rapidly expanding and highly promising value chain in Ethiopia.

Africa: youth participation in agriculture is key for inclusive growth

The [28th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa](#), which was held in Tunis from 24 – 28 March 2014, focused its theme on “*African Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development*”. In his [opening statement](#), FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva told participants that:



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“The region’s economic growth rate is above the global average and most of the world’s fastest-growing economies are in Africa. The challenge is to translate this growth into social inclusion. Agriculture, rural development and youth can make this happen.” The Conference also addressed the need for Governments to devote efforts to dedicated agricultural investments for decent youth employment creation.

In the course of the Conference, a well-received side event was organized on *Youth and Development in Aquaculture and Livestock*. The side event was attended by states ministers, senior officials and dignitaries, who listened to and took inspiration from distinguished panellists, including youth entrepreneurs and industry experts.

The side event presented an [information note](#) and two complementing infographics, which highlighted the crucial importance of youth employment in the [aquaculture](#) and [livestock](#) sectors. Delegates provided great feedback to the side-event, and the recommendations emanating from the Conference will enable FAO to better support and include youth employment strategies as a means of escaping rural poverty. Most importantly, these recommendations included the establishment of a Youth Forum on agriculture, including livestock and aquaculture in Africa, so that the voices of young women and men can be heard and communicated to policy makers, making this side event a significant overall success.

For more information: www.fao.org/about/meetings/arc28/side-events/en



Preventing and reducing child labour

World Day Against Child Labour and the upcoming FAO-ILO E-learning course

The 12th of June marked the World Day Against Child Labour. This year, FAO continued to raise awareness on the issue of child labour in agriculture within headquarters and in decentralized offices. With more than 98 million girls and boys working in agriculture, accounting for nearly 60 percent of child labour in the world, FAO's Director-General José Graziano da Silva issued a statement encouraging FAO staff to take action against child labour in agriculture. FAO also hosted an event on [decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture](#) during the [31st session of the Committee on Fisheries](#), drawing particular attention to child labour in this sector.

To commemorate this important day, FAO launched the preview of the first unit of the [FAO-ILO E-learning course "End Child Labour in Agriculture"](#). The complete course will provide agricultural stakeholders and others the opportunity to learn more about child labour in agriculture and what they can do in their respective work areas to address this issue.

Access a preview of the FAO-ILO E-learning course "End Child Labour in Agriculture": www.fao.org/resources/learning/childlabouragriculture/en

Child labour prevention in the Andean countries

A workshop on child labour in agriculture and rural poverty in the Andean countries was held in Quito, Ecuador from 7–9 May. It was organized jointly by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour with the support of Ecuador's Ministry of Labour. Delegations participated from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.



At the workshop, participants took part in a field visit to learn from experiences in child labour elimination efforts in floriculture. At the workshop, participants also exchanged their own experiences, presented research results and formulated guidelines for public policies that aim to prevent and

reduce child labour in agriculture in the participating countries. In this regard, there was an ample consensus on the importance of collaboration between agricultural and labour ministries. Among the suggestions for joint work were awareness raising for various actors (national, local and private), the establishment of cross-sector working groups at national and local level, and the development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Fisheries and livestock workshops to address child labour

Workshops on child labour in livestock and fisheries were held in Tanzania and Zanzibar. These were organized in collaboration between FAO and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development in Tanzania and with the President's Office (Labour Services) in Zanzibar. A total of 33 participants from the Ministry and four district councils took part in the Tanzania workshop, while in Zanzibar, 18 participants from various sector ministries attended, including local government officials from Unguja and Pemba.



The main workshop topics included: an update of child labour activities undertaken in 2013; feedback on experiences and good practices in the progressive elimination of child labour; discussion on areas that still need to be implemented and prioritized; and the mainstreaming of child labour issues into the ministries' annual plans and budget.

Capacity development activities for beach management units and local government officials in Tanzania have since been replicated in Zanzibar with the collaboration of FAO.

Other news...

Decent employment and migration

There are important links between migration, agriculture, rural development and food security. In recognition of this, FAO is strengthening its focus on rural migration under its new Strategic Framework. FAO works to offer the rural poor viable alternatives to distress outmigration, while also fostering rural-urban linkages, advocating for better management of rural labour mobility and promoting the productive use of remittances in agriculture and rural areas.

Building on its normative and country-level work, FAO is engaging actively with the international community on migration issues. In June, FAO participated in the GIZ-organized Eschborn Dialogue 2014 on *World in Motion: Mobility, Migration, Digital Change*, and joined many of its counterpart UN organizations – including the ILO, IOM and UNICEF, among others – as a member of the [Global Migration Group](#).



Promoting decent work is key to FAO's Blue Growth Initiative

One of the major outcomes of Rio +20 will be to ensure progress towards a “Blue Economy”. This concept, which focuses on enhancing the health of marine ecosystems, has gathered much interest at the international level and has become the key foundation for a number of development strategies and frameworks.

To assist countries in developing and implementing blue economy and growth agendas, FAO recently launched the [Blue Growth Initiative \(BGI\)](#). The initiative aims to foster partnerships and act

as a catalyst for policy development, investment and innovation in support of food security, poverty reduction, and the sustainable management of aquatic resources. The Blue Growth Initiative recognizes that to achieve sustainable and transformative change, decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture has to be ensured. In other words, blue jobs have to be decent jobs.

Conservation and sustainable management will take both environmental and human wellbeing into account and this will have an important role to play in achieving the post-2015 global sustainable development goals. A FAO inter-departmental working group on decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture has been established and is currently formulating a large-scale work programme.

During the [31st session of the Committee on Fisheries](#), a side-event on why [decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture](#) matters for Blue Growth was organized, with panellists from ILO, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the Kingdom of Thailand, INTERPOL and FAO. The discussion will feed into the work programme of FAO and is part of a larger stocktaking exercise being conducted on decent rural employment in fisheries and aquaculture.

Recent publications:

Decent rural employment for food security: A case for action (and related leaflet)



This case for action argues that creating more and better jobs in rural areas is essential to achieving food security and reducing poverty. Decent jobs will enable households to maintain a stable level and quality of food consumption and contribute to the overall social sustainability of agri-food systems.

Full publication: www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2750e/i2750e00.pdf

Leaflet: www.fao.org/docrep/018/i2933e/i2933e.pdf

Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture



This document aims to provide guidance to governments and development partners on how to find practical pathways to address child labour and provide support to fishers, fish farmers and fish workers, particularly in the small-scale sector. It also offers for the first time a global overview of child labour in the different fisheries and aquaculture subsectors.

www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3318e/i3318e.pdf

FAO promoting decent employment opportunities for rural youth



This briefing paper details the complementary set of awareness-raising, policy assistance, capacity development and technical support activities through which FAO seeks to promote decent on- and off-farm employment opportunities for youths in rural areas.

www.fao.org/docrep/018/i2976e/i2976e.pdf

Second Edition: Guidance on how to address rural employment and decent work concerns in FAO country activities



This document is designed to provide key conceptual information, important tools and examples of concrete actions to enable FAO country staff to address decent rural employment within their programmes, projects and activities. This second edition has benefited from field testing in 31 FAO Decentralized Offices.

www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1937e/i1937e.pdf

Children's work in the livestock sector: Herding and beyond (and related leaflet available in English, French and Spanish)



This explorative study aims to give an overview of available data on child labour in the livestock sector and indicate potential avenues for action. It provides a basis for further research and discussion on this topic, in order to reach a common understanding of what efforts need to be prioritized and to encourage governments and other stakeholders to address this issue.

Full publication (available only in English): www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3098e/i3098e.pdf

Leaflet: www.fao.org/docrep/018/i2971e/i2971e.pdf

French leaflet: www.fao.org/docrep/019/i2971f/i2971f.pdf and Spanish leaflet: www.fao.org/docrep/019/i2971s/i2971s.pdf