



# FOOD *for* THE CITIES

## Local Governments for Food Security

### Helping cities to feed themselves



FAO / TC - DCP

Agricultural production training in Senegal



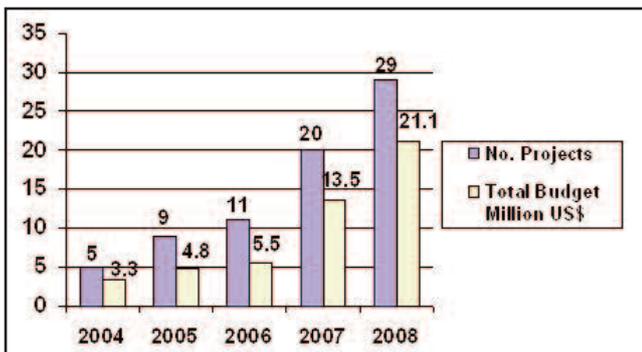
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Improving food security and livelihoods through micro-gardens in Teresina, Brazil

- The backbone is a partnership to develop practical activities to enhance food security and improve living conditions of the population.
- The partnership may also include civil society organisations, NGOs or the private sector, depending on project needs.
- Projects are community oriented, identified and implemented together with local beneficiaries in priority sectors consistent with national priorities.
- Decentralized cooperation, thus, encourages local ownership and sustainability.

The broad alliance to tackle the problems of hunger and food insecurity, launched by the 'World Food Summit: five years later' in 2002, has progressed together with a growing recognition of the role of local governments in both donor and recipient countries. Decentralized Cooperation in FAO focuses on the potential, as agents for change, of regions, provinces, counties, municipalities, etc.

FAO officially launched the Decentralized Cooperation Programme (DCP) in 2002 with the signature of an agreement between FAO and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mobilize social, human and financial resources of Italian local authorities in the fight against hunger also providing a trust fund project to co-fund field projects with local authorities. Since then, 28 cooperation agreements have been signed or are under negotiation with Regions and local authorities from Italy, France, Spain and Belgium for the **joint identification, formulation and implementation of projects**. The programme, receiving support from central governments, NGOs and private industry, by now includes 29 projects at various stages of implementation for a total budget of around US\$ 21 million.



FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme's evolution

*"Being closer to citizens' needs and concerns, local authorities are able to blend institutional authority with people's solidarity... local authorities who wish to join in the global quest for food security for all will find in FAO a committed partner."*

Jacques Diouf, FAO's Director-General



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*Vietnam and Mali south-south cooperation project on rice production*

## FAO's response ...

Decentralized Cooperation is seen as a means to reinforcing the role of local governments and making them better equipped to deal with international aid schemes. This is done in several ways:

- Assisting in project identification and formulation, within agreed priority frameworks;
- Supporting project execution through the provision of technical assistance, and spreading best practices and lessons learned;
- Providing international management through on-site support to local projects and assisting with resources administration, if required, and placing at the disposal of local governments the logistic support of its vast network of decentralized offices at country, sub-regional and regional levels;
- Connecting each Decentralized Cooperation project "horizontally" with other local agriculture activities, and "vertically" with national priorities and programmes of other organizations. In doing so, the impact of each DCP project in a specific area can be raised;
- Cooperation modalities may vary from FAO providing technical advice and monitoring to projects implemented by other partners (e.g. local governments, NGOs) to situations whereby FAO executes various project components (training, expertise, materials or equipment);
- Mobilizing financial resources from within local communities (including government, civil society, private sector) as well as from central governments (co-funding).

## FAO's action ...

**Horticulture in urban areas:** The Municipalities of Milan (Italy) and Dakar (Senegal) promote micro-garden systems in the City of Dakar to improve nutrition and generate income for poor households.

**Urban and peri-urban agriculture:** The City of Rome collaborates with the City of Kigali (Rwanda) in setting up food production schemes in the rural areas and improving urban conditions of living through waste management and tree-planting

**Water management:** The Region of Tuscany (Italy) and the States of Bahia and Piauí (Brazil) agreed to address the sustainable water management component of the FAO Special Programme Food Security supporting the Fome Zero Programme of Brazilian government, in the area of Dois Irmaos.

**Co-development and South-south Cooperation:** The Municipality of Montreuil (France) supports co-development initiatives from migrants originated from Yelimane (Mali) living in Montreuil. Technicians from Vietnam (Province of Hai Duong) provide technical assistance in flood recession farming (rice and corn). Beyond this specific project, the programme now includes the design and implementation of co-development agricultural projects originating from ideas proposed by migrants' communities living in European and other OECD regions and municipalities supporting twinning arrangements and use of part of migrants' remittances.

**Improving food security and nutrition policies:** the Region of Flanders (Belgium) supports FAO Special Programme for Food Security in Malawi to strengthen community groups, intensify and diversify farm production through emphasis on small-scale irrigation and conservation of natural resources.

**Strengthening of local capacities:** the Generalitat de Catalunya (Spain) collaborate with rural communities and farmers organizations in Nicaragua and Guatemala to make better use of sustainable resources and strengthen capacities for promoters and producers in support of local development.



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*Sustainable management component of FAO SPFS supporting the Fome Zero Programme of Brazilian Government*



Food for the Cities – Multidisciplinary Area  
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