



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

NORTH MACEDONIA AND FAO

PARTNERING TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The partnership between FAO and North Macedonia has grown steadily since the country became a member of the Organization in 1993. Cooperation has spanned a wide array of areas such as biosecurity and animal health, land tenure, value chain development, forestry, climate change adaptation and mitigation. There has been a continual emphasis on policy and institutional support, with a focus on aligning the country's agriculture and rural sectors with European Union standards and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Increasing agricultural competitiveness

Assistance has focused on restructuring and modernizing the agrifood sector. This has involved improvements in the land structure and the mobility of the agricultural land market, the food-processing chain and food quality and safety systems.

Mainstreaming the national land consolidation programme

Since December 2014, FAO has been supporting the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy in implementing the National Land Consolidation Strategy (2012-2020). Through the ongoing EU-funded MAINLAND project, FAO is helping smallholders and family farms overcome excessive land fragmentation, small farm sizes and insufficient agricultural infrastructure. The project is supporting the Ministry's implementation of the first round of land consolidation projects under the National Land Consolidation Programme.

FAO is also working with the government to improve the functioning of the agricultural land market through better use and management of state-owned land.

Projects: Mainstreaming the national land consolidation programme (MAINLAND), funded by the EU and FAO; and Support to Privatization of State-owned Land, funded through FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

Matching FAO's expertise to North Macedonia's development priorities

FAO's technical assistance in North Macedonia is shaped by the **2018-2020 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on three priority areas:

- Increasing the competitiveness of the agriculture sector
- Enhancing rural livelihoods through sustainable rural development
- Improving capacity for the sustainable management of natural resources and climate change mitigation and adaptation

Formulated jointly with the Government, stakeholders and development partners, the CPF reflects priorities laid down in key national policies and sectoral strategies, including the **National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (2014-2020)**, the **Law for Agriculture and Rural Development** and the **European Union Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) for North Macedonia**. The CPF reflects FAO's Strategic Objectives and regional priorities and is fully aligned with the **United Nations Strategy 2016-2020** and EU priorities for the country.

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Small farmers' integration into value chains

FAO is promoting the advancement of the country's poultry sector through improved cooperation between farmers and processors and improved interaction

"We need sustainable food systems that offer healthy, nutritious and accessible food for all, as well as ecosystem services and resilience to climate change."

FAO Director-General

with markets. An FAO project is supporting the development of a green and competitive broiler subsector to contribute to poverty reduction and improved nutrition. A unified public-private strategy is being developed to maximize the broiler subsector's contribution to economic growth, job creation and environmental

sustainability. In particular, the strategy aims to enhance capacities along the value chain and to bring about policy reforms.

Project: Development of a green and competitive broiler subsector, funded through FAO TCP.

Enhancing rural livelihoods

Key government priority areas for cooperation are: improved living and working conditions in rural areas; access to knowledge; and investment in human capital in the agriculture sector.

National strategy and policies in harmony with European Union standards

Between 2013 and 2014, FAO assisted the Government in developing the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020 and its Operational Plan. These documents serve as the basis for programming the national budget in relation to agriculture and rural development. FAO support will continue with a view to strengthening the technical capacity of the Ministry for monitoring and evaluating national agriculture policies, as well as the implementation of necessary reforms as part of the EU accession process.

Integrated Local Community Development

An FAO-funded project on integrated local community development will help the Government address constraints faced by Macedonian rural communities linked to restricted investments in agricultural infrastructure, an ageing rural population, hampered access to markets for farmers, lack of income-diversification opportunities, limited knowledge of sustainable practices and land degradation. A community development plan and an action plan will be developed in two pilot rural communities through a participatory and inclusive process.

Project: Support to integrated community development, funded through FAO TCP.

Sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change

North Macedonia is a small country, highly vulnerable to natural hazards, including floods, droughts, forest fires and extreme temperatures amplified by climate change. Increasing the resilience of agriculture, as a key sector in the country's economy and an important employer in rural areas, has been a core national priority.

Climate-resilient, sustainable agriculture

FAO is strengthening the resilience of farmers in partnership with the Ministry, the National Hydro-Meteorological Service, academia and civil society and is supporting sustainable agricultural production practices and technologies. Initiatives include enhancing early-warning and monitoring systems for climatic events and plant diseases, pest surveillance, enhanced information management and mainstreaming disaster risk-reduction and risk management for the agriculture sector. FAO is also supporting the establishment of the National Agro-Ecological Zoning initiative, the Land Resources Information Management System, and the Scenario Development initiative, in North Macedonia.

Project: Assessment of agricultural production through NAEZ and LRIMS and scenario development, funded through FAO TCP.

Sustainable forest management

FAO has provided assistance in modernizing the management of North Macedonia's forest resources, including support in the areas of fire preparedness, wood energy information and policy development. During 2018 and 2019, an assessment of the methodology for the implementation of a National Forest Inventory is being carried out as a baseline for designing a National Forest Inventory and, subsequently, an up-to-date national forest monitoring system.

Accessing environmental climate finance

As a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, North Macedonia can benefit from the Convention's financial mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). FAO is supporting the Government in developing its capacities to leverage GCF resources for climate investments, set up mechanisms to establish climate change adaptation and mitigation priorities and implement targeted projects to tackle climate change.

Project: Support for the management of an effective national coordinative mechanism regarding the Green climate fund, funded by the Green climate fund.