



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

ITALY AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR FOOD SECURITY AND PROSPERITY

As host country to FAO's headquarters since 1951, Italy has been an integral part of FAO's history and culture, and an active contributor to its work and Rome-based events, as well as a staunch supporter of increased collaboration between the three United Nations Rome-based agencies. It is no surprise then, that Italy has been a crucial partner in FAO's mission to reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition all over the world, through the provision of expertise and financial support.

Enhancing land tenure rights

FAO is instrumental in brokering a number of major international guidelines and agreements around the production and trade of food, including in the area of tenure rights. Since 2013, Italy has been a committed resource partner in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). Its contributions of around USD 4.9 million have backed a multiyear project supporting 70 countries in implementing the guidelines across Africa, Asia and Latin America; as well as supported the expansion of policy development in countries such as Colombia, Guinea, Niger and Senegal.

A strategic, more cost-effective response: The Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM)

The FMM is a pooled fund that was established in 2010 as a new vehicle for partners willing to contribute to FAO's work through flexible funding. In 2019 Italy provided USD 1 million to the fund, which enables investments in new approaches and practices — including closing agricultural data gaps to achieve SDG2 — and the strengthening of capacities to help women and men in rural communities respond to pressing challenges, while also creating global impact through the development and dissemination of knowledge products.

Joint work around common priorities

According to a recent strategic dialogue with Italy, the country's priorities for cooperation with FAO include:

- ➔ Agroecology
- ➔ Sustainable value chains
- ➔ Public-private partnerships

Italy's development policy framework also directly connects with FAO's mandate to ensure global nutrition, by highlighting sustainable agriculture and food security, with a focus on rural areas, women's empowerment, and support to smallholder farmers and producer organizations.



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Enabling sustainable private investments in agri-food systems

Italy has recently contributed to the AgrInvest programme, which builds on FAO's expertise in formulating, implementing, supervising and evaluating agricultural investment plans, as well as its advisory role on policy and legislation. The initiative will facilitate public-private policy dialogue and undertake sector analyses and value-chain studies, including for sustainable mechanization and agriculture innovations, to bolster the kind of decision-making that will attract sustainable private investments to agri-food systems.

Tackling climate change

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is just one of the tools available to increase resource efficiency in agriculture and build resilience to climate risks. Italy and FAO have worked together since 2014 to build and bolster the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA). Italy provided around USD 2 million for the Alliance's crucial start-up phase (2014–2017), decisively shaping its governance structure. It also supported six country-level case studies assessing the state of CSA implementation; undertook several CSA knowledge activities including webinars, online discussions, and the development of technical documents and reports; and conducted feasibility studies for CSA interventions at country level. In 2018, Italy contributed an extra USD 2.5 million to CSA activities, increasing the emphasis on developing pilot projects at country level, while continuing its support to GACSA and CSA knowledge products, making them more accessible through FAO channels and the Alliance's membership.

Sustainable and responsible use of natural resources

Our well-being and that of our planet greatly depend on healthy forests, soils, streams and oceans, and on the genetic diversity these ecosystems provide. Italy pays special attention to mountains (among the world's most important and fragile environments) as well as marine life in the Mediterranean, which is deeply tied to its culture and economy. Italy's contributions to projects that protect natural resources near and far to its shores remain essential to sustainable development worldwide. The Italy-funded MedSudMed project (USD 7.6 million) has been a major joint endeavour to assess and monitor fisheries and fish stocks in the Strait of Sicily, ensuring the area's marine resources are used sustainably. Meanwhile, with a contribution of USD 3 million, Italy has championed sustainable mountain development by supporting the Mountain Partnership alliance's Secretariat (hosted by FAO), the Climate Change and

Mountain Forest project, the launch of the Fragile Ecosystem Coalition, among other initiatives under FAO's Sustainable Mountain Development programme.

Investing in resilient livelihoods to address rising hunger

Crises not only undermine rural livelihoods, but can also leave families with no choice but to move in search of safety or income opportunities. Investing in agriculture and sustainable rural development can create alternatives for rural people and help make migration a choice and not a necessity. The Italy-FAO Emergency Trust Fund was established in 2007 to strengthen the Organization's capacity to provide prompt and effective response to emergencies in the agriculture and food security sectors. With a total budget of USD 19.5 million, the Fund has supported 36 projects since its inception.

From promoting seed fairs and helping farmers recover after El Niño in Malawi, to supporting young agripreneurs and diversifying women's incomes in war-torn Syria, Italy and FAO make a difference in rural areas through both humanitarian and development projects — and increasingly with interventions that connect these two spheres. Moreover, in 2018 Italy provided around USD 2 million to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable women in Senegal and the Sahel through adaptation to climate change, agroecology and livelihood diversification.

