



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR FOOD SECURITY AND INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Since it joined the Organization in 1949, the Republic of Korea has transformed from being a recipient country to a key resource partner, becoming one of FAO's top 15 contributing members in 2018. This is also mirrored in its in-kind contributions, including through the assignment of 18 Korean interns to FAO in 2018 and an additional 13 in 2019. Thanks to the rich experience gained as a result of its radical development, the country contributes to the achievement of FAO's strategic objectives in a range of fields, including animal disease and plant pest control, forestry and fisheries, and climate change mitigation, in addition to playing a key role in promoting and developing South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Enhancing global governance for food security

The Republic of Korea's contributions to FAO strengthen efforts to boost international standards through three major vehicles: the *Codex Alimentarius*, the *International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)* and the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)*. Through the secondment of a technical officer to the Codex Secretariat, the Republic of Korea supports the development of international food standards, in particular those related to chemicals in food.

The Republic of Korea also significantly contributes to the IPPC through the Electronic Phytosanitary Certification, the promotion of the International Year of Plant Health, capacity building activities and the implementation of the pilot on surveillance, among others. Furthermore, the country has provided almost KRW 112.8 million (USD 100 000) to the ITPGRFA's core administrative budget in recent years.

Cooperation policy

The Republic of Korea has identified agriculture as a priority sector of its development policy and, as highlighted in the country's International Development Cooperation Plan, it focuses on improving the self-reliance of rural areas through comprehensive rural development programmes, training and agricultural technology.

Agriculture and Rural Development Mid-Term Strategy 2016–2020

The Korea International Cooperation Agency's strategy is centred around several priorities, many of which are embodied in the country's collaboration with FAO. These include:

- Inclusive and sustainable rural development
- Sustainable production
- Market access expansion
- Conservation of rural production systems and natural resources by responding to climate change

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Promoting the sustainable management and use of natural resources

FAO and the Republic of Korea share the belief that agriculture, forestry and fisheries are where the fight against climate change and hunger comes together. Most recently, the Republic of Korea has committed KRW 2.2 billion (USD 2 million) to support five countries, including Small Island Developing States, in the implementation of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Likewise, another KRW 3.6 billion (USD 3.2 million) were provided to FAO to support the development of the United Republic of Tanzania's aquaculture sector. In addition, the country is supporting FAO to the tune of KRW 5.6 billion (USD 5 million) to assist rural communities of Guatemala in increasing their capacities to adapt to climate variability and change. The Republic of Korea also contributes to FAO's Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Mechanism, which supports the implementation of FLR efforts at global, regional and national levels.

FAO-Korea South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) project on rice sector development

With funding of KRW 1.9 billion (USD 1.7 million), the Republic of Korea is providing development solutions to a number of countries under FAO's SSTC programme. The Korean SSTC works to effectively share Asian knowledge and skills with target countries in Africa. Cooperation with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) began in 2017 with participants from Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria joining an IRRI training workshop in June. The project also collaborated with the Africa Rice Center to launch a training program in Senegal in December. In order to expand training opportunities in more African countries, SSTC projects will jointly support training, together with Asian experts and participants from 12 African countries.

Protecting global health

FAO and the Republic of Korea have long worked together to protect small-scale farmers against the immediate loss of livestock and livelihoods, while also improving national and international systems for disease detection and control. With a generous

contribution of KRW 2.8 billion (USD 2.5 million) from the Republic of Korea, FAO supported countries affected by or at risk of avian influenza to better understand poultry value chains and interfaces between poultry and wild birds, coordinate national and regional level risks-based surveillance frameworks, strengthen the capacity of national and regional laboratories, and reinforce emergency preparedness and response systems in 20 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. Given the transboundary nature of many infectious animal diseases, the selected countries are benefiting from improved knowledge gained from the established risk-based surveillance that enables and supports prediction and control of avian influenza. Moreover, the project further provided the opportunity to help address the recent incursion of African swine fever into East Asia, representing an enormous threat to the swine production in the whole region.

Supporting the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

In February 2019 FAO and the Republic of Korea signed a funding agreement of almost KRW 7 billion (USD 6 million) for a project that will contribute to the attainment of sustainable peace and development, and inclusive growth in the Mindanao region of the Philippines. The main objective of the initiative is to support the improvement of agriculture and fisheries-based livelihoods, and accelerated agriculture-based enterprises by fully integrating farmers into value chains. The project will also increase the resilience of smallholders against multiple hazards through the application of disaster risk reduction and management tools, principles and approaches.

