



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

COMOROS AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Since Comoros joined the Organization in 1977, a variety of interventions have been delivered across the food and agriculture sector. Assistance has included capacity building, institutional strengthening and policy formulation as well as direct support to development projects. Current cooperation efforts are geared towards increasing agricultural production, particularly food products, and protecting natural resources – with an emphasis on agroforestry development. Strengthening agricultural data collection and information systems is another priority area.

Improving rural livelihoods

Comoros has several policies and strategies that face major difficulties in their implementation and/or require updating. In addition, data collection, analysis and monitoring-evaluation systems are obsolete or almost non-existent. In the field, the Rural Centers of Economic Development (RCED) are state structures that are responsible for the implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects through support and advice to producers. However, several difficulties constrain them in realizing their true function, especially in regards to human and financial resources.

FAO is supporting the country in the areas of knowledge management, information, and monitoring and evaluation. For example, FAO, together with IFAD and the World Bank, are currently helping Comoros to create its first National Investment Plan (NIAP) in order to better coordinate and articulate investment and intervention. FAO is also supporting the country to identify needs and gaps and to develop long-lasting solutions to these issues. Furthermore, the Organization is working with the Government of Comoros and the Government of France to develop a program that will aim to strengthen RCED delivery of services.

Matching FAO's expertise to Comoros' development priorities

FAO's assistance in Comoros is shaped by the **2018-2021 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which revolves around three priority areas:

- ➔ **Improved institutional and structural governance** in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors for the benefit of family farmers
- ➔ **Promotion of family farming** through the increase and diversification of production and the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures for public procurement and job creation
- ➔ **Management and restoration of degraded lands and forests and strengthening of climate change adaptation capacity** of vulnerable households for food and nutrition security

Jointly developed with the Government and other stakeholders, the **CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies**, including the revised Rapid Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (2018-2021). It also takes into account sectoral policies such as the National Agricultural Strategy, the National Fisheries Strategy, the National Forestry Policy, and the Food and Nutrition Strategy. The CPF is **fully aligned with the revised UN Development Assistance Framework for Comoros (2015-2021)** and supports **FAO's corporate strategic objectives and regional priorities**.

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Promoting family farming, from farm to fork

Comoros has great potential in its agriculture and fisheries sectors. However, these sectors face major issues, including a lack of irrigation systems for agropastoral activities, isolated productive agricultural areas, rudimentary tools, and a lack of knowledge in technical farming which limits innovation in agricultural production.

FAO helps to popularize innovative and successful production and recovery techniques for farmers to help diversify production and create jobs. Moreover, the Organization promotes the production and dissemination of culinary practices based on high nutrient local foods, with an FAO project on agriculture sensitive to nutrition in its final phase of formulation.

“Food security and nutrition must be a priority in Small Island Developing States.”

Qu Dongyu
FAO Director-General

Management and restoration of degraded lands and forests

Comoros has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. More than half of the land is degraded and erosion affects the vast majority of agricultural land. Current agricultural practices reinforce soil degradation (burning, use of fertilizers, etc.). Moreover, the increase in temperature, the prolongation of drought periods, the change in rainfall patterns, sea level rise, and ocean acidification, increase the vulnerability of households. In addition, the emergence of new pests have also been observed.

FAO supports the dissemination of techniques for the management and restoration of degraded lands and forests. FAO also contributes to strengthening the capacities of vulnerable communities and households with a focus on young people and women in areas exposed to hazards by promoting techniques in climate change adaptation, in particular Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and pest control. Through a TCP Facility, FAO is currently supporting the government in finding a sustainable solution against pests and diseases in vanilla production.

Emergency support

On the night of 24 April 2019, Comoros was hit by the devastating Tropical Cyclone Kenneth. Rapid assessment indicated that the agriculture sector was most impacted by the Cyclone, with some areas of the country losing up to 80 percent of their production capabilities.

In response, FAO has technically and financially supported the assessment of the agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food security sectors. Through the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), FAO is currently assisting 3 129 household to relaunch their production with agricultural kits. Moreover, 2 400 households are benefiting from Cash+, an intervention that combines cash transfers with productive assets, inputs, and/or technical training and activities to enhance the livelihoods and productive capacities of poor and vulnerable households.

Through the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), the Organization is also currently helping the Government to deal with the foot and mouth disease crisis that is occurring in the island of Mohéli.

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