



# Morocco and FAO

## *Partnering for resilience and sustainable agricultural development*

FAO has supported Morocco's development throughout the food and agriculture sector for over 60 years. Since the opening of the FAO Representation in Rabat in 1982, more than 200 national and 65 regional projects have been delivered. Technical assistance at the country level is focused on support to policies and strategies for sustainable development, in particular the Green Morocco Plan, the Fisheries Plan, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Water Strategy and the National Forestry Programme. Morocco is also actively supporting other African countries within the South-South Cooperation framework signed with FAO in 2014.

### Global knowledge transfer

Since 1998, Morocco has been very active in sharing expertise and techniques with other countries, in particular for locust control. In April 2014, the Moroccan Government and FAO signed a general agreement for South-South Cooperation from 2014 to 2020, providing for at least US\$1 million in aid to African countries. FAO then signed two agreements for a further US\$1 million with the Crédit Agricole Group and Mutuelle Agricole Marocaine d'Assurances (MAMDA) to support FAO-Morocco South-South cooperation programme.

To date, Morocco and FAO have signed four tripartite agreements involving Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Swaziland. Two more agreements with Tunisia and Cameroon are ready for signature. Under South-South Cooperation supported by China, an agreement in support to the Green Morocco Plan on irrigation, sustainable development of value chains, agricultural mechanization and extension is about to be signed, while another agreement on the application of spatial remote sensing in the management of agricultural water and land cover is under preparation.

### Matching FAO's expertise to Morocco's development goals

FAO assistance to Morocco is defined by the **Country Programming Framework (CPF)** which focuses on three priority areas during the period 2017-2020:

- Sustainable, inclusive and effective development of food and forest systems
- Sustainable, inclusive and integrated management of natural resources and fragile areas in the face of climate change
- The development of South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve food security, reduce poverty and sustainably manage natural resources

Formulated jointly with the Government and other development partners, the CPF 2017-2020 is organized around 17 Outputs, for a total resource mobilization value of US\$37 million.

### CONTACTS

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## Promoting GIAHS and quality local produce

The Oasis Zones and Argan Tree Groves are key national priorities for Morocco and they are also among the agricultural systems designated under FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites (GIAHS) initiative. A national project on the adaptive management and the biodiversity of five Moroccan oases systems is underway. A similar subregional project to monitor oasis systems in the Maghreb is also being carried out under a collaborative arrangement between FAO and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). Another project started in 2017 for revitalizing oasis agro-ecosystems through a sustainable, integrated landscape approach in the Draâ-Tafilalet Region.

FAO has signed a Protocol agreement with the National Agency for Oasis and Argan Zone development (ANDZOA) for joint implementation of sustainable development programmes.

## Climate change adaptation

In November 2016, Morocco hosted COP 22 to the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change, for which the Government requested FAO support. FAO's commitment included the mobilization of experts, the organization of events and the formulation of new projects for adaptation of agriculture and resilience of communities in the face of climate change.

Increasing temperatures and declining in rainfall levels are a serious threat to Moroccan agriculture, including its forests. FAO has long been committed to promoting the adoption of an integrated and sustainable approach to watershed management and to combating desertification in the Midelt area. Thanks to FAO's support, Morocco was the first country to fully install the MOSAICC v.1.0 system, a tool designed to measure the impact of climate change on agriculture. MOSAICC is now operational in five national institutions engaged in climate monitoring activities.

## Sustainable natural resource management

FAO supported Morocco in 2007 during the development of the National Irrigation Water Saving Programme (PNEEI).

This Programme provides for the conversion of less efficient conventional irrigation systems into more economical and effective water systems, including drip irrigation. To implement PNEEI, FAO conducted a pilot project on the economy and efficiency of irrigation water use in the Doukkala region. The results of the project served as a basis to mobilize significant national and donor resources to support a more ambitious irrigation conversion project in the Oum Er Rbia basin. FAO is supporting the conversion project in collaboration with the Directorate of Irrigation and Management of Agricultural Land of the Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries.

In the area of sustainable forest management, FAO is providing support to the High Commission for Water and Forests and for Combating Desertification. It is helping to implement the National Forestry Programme, particularly in the development of a national surveillance network, a forest fire risk monitoring mechanism and a National Forest Inventory. In the fisheries and aquaculture sector, FAO has supported Morocco in strengthening its coastal fleet and in carrying out Blue Growth activities together with the Maritime Fisheries Department. The Organization is currently helping the country to develop a national strategy for the promotion of aquaculture development with the National Agency for Aquaculture Development.

Morocco is one of three pilot countries to test the effectiveness of the Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA) approach. FAO experts worked in collaboration with national counterparts to evaluate the main challenges faced by the country.

*"I trust we can continue to work in close collaboration to achieve our common objectives, for the benefit of the people of Morocco and the peoples of the region."*

FAO Director-General

