



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) joined FAO in 1973. The inauguration of the FAO Representation in 2005 was followed in 2010 with the opening of the FAO Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen in Abu Dhabi, thanks to UAE funding. The Subregional Office is at the forefront of FAO's support to the country's pioneering initiatives in technological innovation applied to the management of food, agriculture and natural resources for sustainable growth. Promoting knowledge exchange and fostering partnerships are key features of current cooperation.

A pro-active agenda for policy coherence for food security

FAO is currently supporting on the implementation of the UAE National Food Security Strategy 2051 through the following initiatives:

- Red Palm Weevil Eradication project for the NENA countries
- Promoting increased resilience and sustainable income generation, food security and nutrition for rural women in Liberia and possibly in other African countries
- Analysis of the most effective use of water and other scarce resources to achieve the best economic returns of typical farms in the UAE under a sustainable management
- Development of Agenda on Innovation, Research and Development (R&D) on Food Security
- Holistic approach for transforming the livestock sector to contribute toward the Sustainable Development Goals through enhanced food security and nutrition
- Strengthening veterinary quarantine systems and import risk analysis in the UAE
- Supporting the Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management considering climate and pollution impacts in the Gulf

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FAO-United Arab Emirates Agreement 2017-2022

In July 2017, the UAE Government agreed to build on its support to the operations of the FAO Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and Yemen by expanding its role and extending the scope of cooperation. The renewed FAO-UAE partnership aims to:

- ➔ Strengthen the sustainability of agriculture and fisheries production in the UAE and the subregion, improving nutrition, food safety and food security;
- ➔ Contribute to the elimination of hunger and the reduction of poverty in the developing countries by improving agriculture and fisheries-based livelihoods;
- ➔ Encourage innovation, technology sharing and capacity development in the food and agriculture sectors, in line with the lead role that the UAE plays in the Gulf subregion and beyond in developing countries.

Cognizant of the importance of food security, in 2017, UAE established for the first time a State Ministry for Food Security, which became FAO's line Ministry by June 2019.

The new Minister has led the formulation of the **UAE National Food Security Strategy 2051**, which was approved in November 2018. The Strategy aspires to make UAE best in the Global Food Security Index by 2051 and among the top 10 countries by 2021, and focuses on facilitating the global food trade, diversifying food import sources and identifying alternative supply schemes.

Cooperation in water management

FAO's Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity in the Near East and North Africa is designed to support countries in coordinating their policies, governance and practices relating to management of this strategic resource. In December 2015, the UAE Government and FAO – together with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture and the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas – signed an Agreement providing for joint projects to unlock the potential of Protected Agriculture. The objective is to improve nutrition levels, contribute to food security and curb water consumption in GCC countries. In this respect, FAO has supported the establishment of a dedicated centre of excellence within the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment: this newly formed “Agricultural Innovation Centre” will support the development of protected agriculture using a New Generation Green House prototype.

“Give me agriculture and I will give you civilization”

H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, Father of the Nation (United Arab Emirates)

Support has also been provided in the form of a Comprehensive Country Assessment (CCA) of water resources accounting and water-related laws and regulations, as well as a Report on Water Legislation in the UAE. In addition, in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, FAO conducted a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the use of Tertiary Treated Waste Water (TTWW) in agriculture.

Partnering to provide up-to-date agricultural information

FAO has assisted the UAE in designing the FENIX/CountrySTAT platform – a statistical system enabling the collection and dissemination of timely and reliable data, including tools for analysis and visualization. Further efforts will be promoted in this area, possibly including: land cover mapping, inventory date palms, and develop statistical systems for the country's fisheries and aquaculture sector.



Federal Food Safety Index

FAO supported the UAE Government in assessing the performance of food safety controls against international standards. This led to the creation and implementation of a Federal Food Safety Index, which has enabled local authorities in all the Emirates to achieve significant improvements in their food safety control systems. In 2015, FAO's Director-General officially commended the UAE Government for its commitment to improved food safety and for its early recognition of the benefits to be gained from developing the Index.

“We have a golden opportunity to end hunger in our lifetime. This would be the greatest legacy we could leave to future generations.”

FAO Director-General

UAE and FAO – working together

FAO has conducted a study for Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) on the potential of aquaculture development in salinized agricultural farms in Al-Khatim, Abu Dhabi.

In partnership with the General Women's Union (GWU), FAO has introduced nutrition education and garden-based learning in selected Abu Dhabi primary schools and is aiming to scale activities up to national level. Also with the GWU, FAO has introduced agri-business principles to potential women entrepreneurs with a view to implement a fully-fledged capacity building programme to assist those wishing to establish their own business.

FAO and the UAE Government were engaged in the following initiatives:

- Preparing the National Plan for Animal Health 2015-2025, with a focus on emerging zoonotic threats such as MERS-CoV
- Developing an Animal Health and Food Safety programme for GCC countries
- Creating drought management and early warning systems in GCC countries
- Compiling an index to show compliance of local authorities to federal environmental regulations
- Creating the first Camel Disease Reference Centre in Abu Dhabi
- Defining national measures for implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Formulating an FAO/IRENA project on Renewable Energies for Sustainable Livelihoods
- Developing UAE's food diversification strategy and implementation plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation of use of treated waste water in Abu Dhabi