



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO + Japan

A growing partnership towards sustainable development

Japan has been among FAO's foremost partners since the country joined the Organization in 1951, working to build food security and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. The country's financial contributions, expertise and human capital are vital to FAO's work on a broad range of topics, including international standard-setting, climate change mitigation and adaptation, response to transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases, nutrition, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), emergency response and resilience building.

Supporting global food governance

FAO contributes to the daily lives of people around the world by developing and promoting international standards, guidelines and codes of conduct around the production and trade of food. Japan helps to boost these efforts through its support to major covenants whose governing bodies are hosted in FAO: the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Enhancing sustainable food value chains and nutrition

Japan supports FAO's work on food systems through a wide range of activities, contributing to ensuring that development within agriculture is people-centred and leads to improved access, availability and consumption of healthy foods. Within the ASEAN region, Japan's contribution of USD 1.3 million between 2016 and 2019, helped to develop effective and inclusive food value chains in Indonesia and the Philippines, by training actors in selected value chains on marketing, business management, and good manufacturing and agricultural practices.

Thanks to Japan's support (USD 1.5 million between 2017 and 2021), FAO is also working to ensure that food systems are conducive to healthy diets for better nutrition, through awareness raising and capacity building initiatives. The project is collaborating with universities in Ghana, Kenya and Viet Nam to incorporate FAO capacity development resources into their existing learning programmes, ensuring the dissemination of knowledge and skills to foster continuous innovation on nutrition. Likewise, the initiative is strengthening the capacities of small and medium enterprises to adopt nutrition-sensitive practices and approaches in their business models.

Strengthening the FAO-Japan partnership

FAO and Japan have been expanding and deepening their partnership in recent years. Since 2017, the Japan-FAO Annual Strategic Consultation has offered a forum for exploring common priorities for future cooperation. The year 2019 was of particular importance for the FAO-Japan partnership, with big events that underscored some key tenets of this joint work, namely the G20 Agriculture Minister's Meeting and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development hosted by Japan.

FAO has also made major progress in promoting and expanding partnerships for innovation with Japanese non-state actors, including academia, the private sector, civil society and parliamentarians.



Combating climate change

FAO and Japan share a strong commitment to mitigating and adapting to climate change, which reflects a common recognition of enhanced forest carbon sinks as cost-effective measures to tackle climate change. An ongoing Japanese-funded project (USD 2 million between 2017 and 2021) is helping to improve the formulation and implementation of afforestation/reforestation (AR) efforts around the world, by assessing the mitigation potential of AR ambitions. Likewise, the initiative is supporting developing countries in identifying and prioritizing locations where AR interventions are likely to have the greatest impact.

Moreover, at the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties in 2017, a decision was reached on the next steps for agriculture within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The resulting Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) acknowledges the unique role of agriculture in helping countries to deliver on climate goals and achieve food security. Through a three-year project funded by Japan, FAO is supporting the KJWA roadmap towards enhanced capacities and knowledge-sharing opportunities for countries and relevant stakeholders with regard to climate action in the agricultural sector. Thanks to the project, countries will be better placed to take urgent action to combat climate change, making the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors more productive and sustainable.

Promoting natural resource management

Japan has contributed for more than 20 years to projects aimed at strengthening the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and supporting the development of relevant knowledge and tools to guide the fishery sector towards sustainability in the face of a changing climate. A USD 3.3 million-project, running from 2014 to 2021, for example, is supporting the responsible and appropriate application of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, while enhancing knowledge of area-based management, sustainable deep-sea fisheries, and management and conservation of sharks. Likewise, with a contribution of close to USD 9 million between 2019 and 2022, Japan is supporting community fisheries management in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Pacific and those and other African coastal countries of the Indian Ocean, to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and enhance the livelihoods, food security and resilience of SIDS communities.

Japan is also a longstanding partner of FAO's GIAHS Programme. GIAHS are landscapes that sustainably provide multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security for millions of small-scale farmers, but are threatened by climate change and the high competition for natural resources. Japan has contributed to an increase in GIAHS sites around the world and the strengthening of existing ones, and has supported training programmes at national and regional levels, which allow developing countries to gain first-hand knowledge of the lessons and experiences of Japan's own GIAHS sites.

Fostering the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

In its contributions to FAO, Japan has not only shown its commitment to helping those immediately affected by crises, but also to harnessing the complex relationship between agriculture-based livelihoods, long-term development and peace. Between 2014 and 2019, Japan contributed close to USD 30 million towards two projects in Afghanistan that enhanced agricultural production through irrigation improvement and institutional capacity strengthening, built the resilience and self-reliance of livestock keepers, and protected rural livelihoods from the Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other transboundary animal diseases.

Japan has also provided around USD 2 million to support the Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health from 2015 to 2020. The initiative has allowed strengthening FAO's role in responding to animal disease emergencies, and has been instrumental in supporting global assistance to countries in Africa and South East Asia in preventing, responding to, controlling and eradicating transboundary animal diseases and zoonosis. The project also significantly contributes to maintaining global freedom from rinderpest through strengthened capacities for rapid response and containment.



Partnership in figures

Total Japanese contributions to FAO¹
(assessed and voluntary²) 2018–2019

USD 164 852 130

Japanese contributions to FAO's areas of work / Strategic Objectives (2018–2019)²

53%

Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

38%

Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

5%

Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

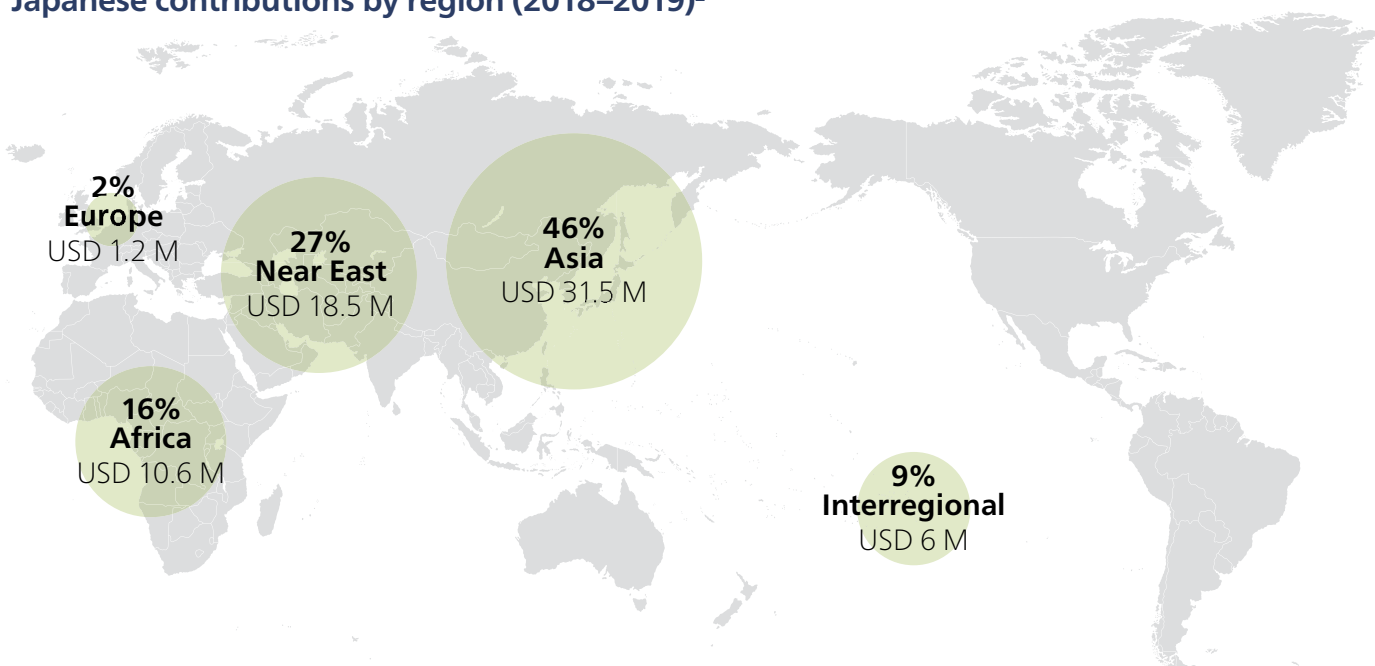
2%

Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

2%

Reduce rural poverty

Japanese contributions by region (2018–2019)²



Japanese contributions by category (2018–2019)²



¹As of October 2019 preliminary closure.

²Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals, excluding those provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds.

Timeline of relevant events

30 January 2018

Second Japan-FAO Annual Strategic Consultation held in Tokyo during a one-week visit of FAO's Deputy Director-General (Programmes) to Japan, who had a series of exchanges with state and non-state actors in the country.

09–13 April 2018

34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Nadi, Fiji, with the participation of the Vice-Minister for International Affairs of Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

19 April 2018

5th International Forum on GIAHS held in Rome, in which certificates were awarded to the three Japanese GIAHS sites designated in 2017 and 2018 (Osaki, Nishi-awa and Shizuoka).

25–29 June 2018

FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 Regional Reporting Workshop hosted in Tokyo.

22–29 June 2019

41st Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome, with the participation of the Vice-Minister for International Affairs of Japan's MAFF.

11–12 May 2019

G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held under the Japanese G20 Presidency in Niigata, with the active participation of FAO's Director-General, who made an appeal to discuss investment priorities for sustainable agricultural development, while urging the G20 to ensure healthy diets through regulation.

31 January 2019

Third Japan-FAO Annual Strategic Consultation held in Rome, where both parties reviewed the progress of the partnership and discussed common priorities and new humanitarian and development projects for the year ahead.

15–19 October 2018

45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held in Rome during which FAO and JICA organized the side event "Aligning agriculture and food processing-related policies to enhance healthy sustainable diets", together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordination Agency.

28–30 August 2019

7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama, Japan, with the participation of FAO's Director-General, who met with the Japanese Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs.

14–18 October 2019

46th Session of the CFS held in Rome, during which Japan contributed to side events promoting nutrition improvement and sustainable food systems, in the run up to the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020.

21 October 2019

FAO's Director-General and the Vice-Minister for International Affairs of Japan's MAFF discussed further collaboration on the introduction of digital and other new technologies in agriculture.

21 November 2019

International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability held in Rome with participation of JICA and the Ocean Policy Research Institute — the Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan.

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