



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO + France

Partnering for food security and prosperity

France has long been an active and generous resource partner, working closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in support of shared food security and agricultural development goals. French expertise and seconded personnel make a vital contribution to the achievement of the Organization's mandate, and the country plays a major role in catalysing global and regional cooperation. France continues to support a wide range of programmes, with a recent focus on food security governance, climate change and resilience, agroecology, family farming, animal health, and sustainable management of forests and lands.

Shared commitment to address climate change issues

With the signature of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, France reaffirmed its global leadership in addressing the challenges of climate change. The country and FAO continue to prioritize climate change — together with related food and agricultural issues — and advocate for its inclusion in the global agenda.

This shared commitment translates into financial and technical support to specific interventions designed to mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change, with a particular focus on the Sahel. Through its support to FAO, the country finances major ecosystem restoration projects in the Mediterranean area and in Africa, while promoting the scaling up of agroecology practices and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Strengthening the partnership

The successive renewals of the Framework Agreements between France and FAO since 2005 (2005–2012, 2012–2017 and 2018–2021) illustrate the country's commitment to FAO's mission and ambitious objectives. Dynamic collaboration based on mutual trust is reflected in the uninterrupted provision of financial and technical resources, including the secondment of experts and the strengthening of cooperation with high-level research institutes. Indeed, almost 60 highly qualified French experts have been mobilized in various fields since 2009, as well as nearly 15 Associate Professional Officers since 2005.

Moreover, France's contribution of EUR 1 million to FAO's Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism, a flexible funding modality, reflects the country's support to the principles underlying the new financing pact created in response to the reform of the United Nations development system. Likewise, in 2019, France became the first non-African donor to contribute to the innovative Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, with EUR 2 million.

Strategic partnership

Since 2014, annual strategic consultations have offered a forum for exploring common priorities for future cooperation.

The Framework Agreement (2018–2021) provides a renewed and strengthened strategic direction for the partnership between FAO and France. Priority areas for cooperation include:

- Improving food security and nutrition governance and policy
- Strengthening the economic, social and environmental performance of agricultural food systems
- Strengthening health safety in the vegetable, animal and food sectors
- Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations, and improving the prevention and management of crises
- Contributing to the implementation of FAO's climate strategy in support of the Paris Agreement



Scaling up Agroecology

France continues to play a prominent role in championing agroecology, which constitutes a key aspect of the transition toward more sustainable and multi-performing food and consumption production systems.

France's high-level participation to the International Symposium on scaling up agroecology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), organized in Rome in April 2018, illustrates the country's engagement to promote transformative change in how food is grown, produced, processed, transported, distributed and consumed. The Symposium brought together more than 700 participants with representatives from 72 governments, about 350 non-state actors' organizations, and representatives of 6 United Nations' organizations, and resulted in a concrete set of actions for different stakeholders to foster the growth of agroecology and support countries through this process.

Forest and Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Land Management

France contributes EUR 1.8 million to a regional project titled "Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Sustainable Land Management in the Sahel". This cooperation, managed by the FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, targets Burkina Faso and the Niger. The project aims to sustainably provide multiple social, economic and environmental goods and services, and achieve the objective of neutrality in terms of land degradation by 2030.

The FLR approach seeks to transform degraded or sterile lands in healthy and fertile landscapes, where local communities, ecosystems and all stakeholders can cohabit within the framework of sustainable land management. Restoring and then sustainably managing these lands has a profound impact on reducing poverty, improving food security, restoring ecosystem services, and adapting to the effects of climate change.

Strengthening cooperation in key research areas

On 16 February 2018, FAO and four major French research and high-level education institutions agreed to increase joint efforts to develop innovative food security and environment-sensitive approaches that contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. These include the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), the National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and the French Agricultural, Veterinary and Forestry Institute (Agreenium).

This renewed partnership focuses on major themes, particularly in developing countries, including agroecology; sustainable natural resource management in the context of climate change; agricultural innovation for family farmers; sustainable and safe food systems for food security (nutrition, waste and loss reduction, market chain governance); and sanitary risks, such as those related to animal and plant health, One Health and antimicrobial resistance reduction.



French support and contributions to FAO's programmes and interventions are provided through:

- Trust fund projects funded by the Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs
- Trust Fund projects funded through the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)
- Secondment of personnel
- Mobilization of targeted technical and scientific expertise at the global and field levels.

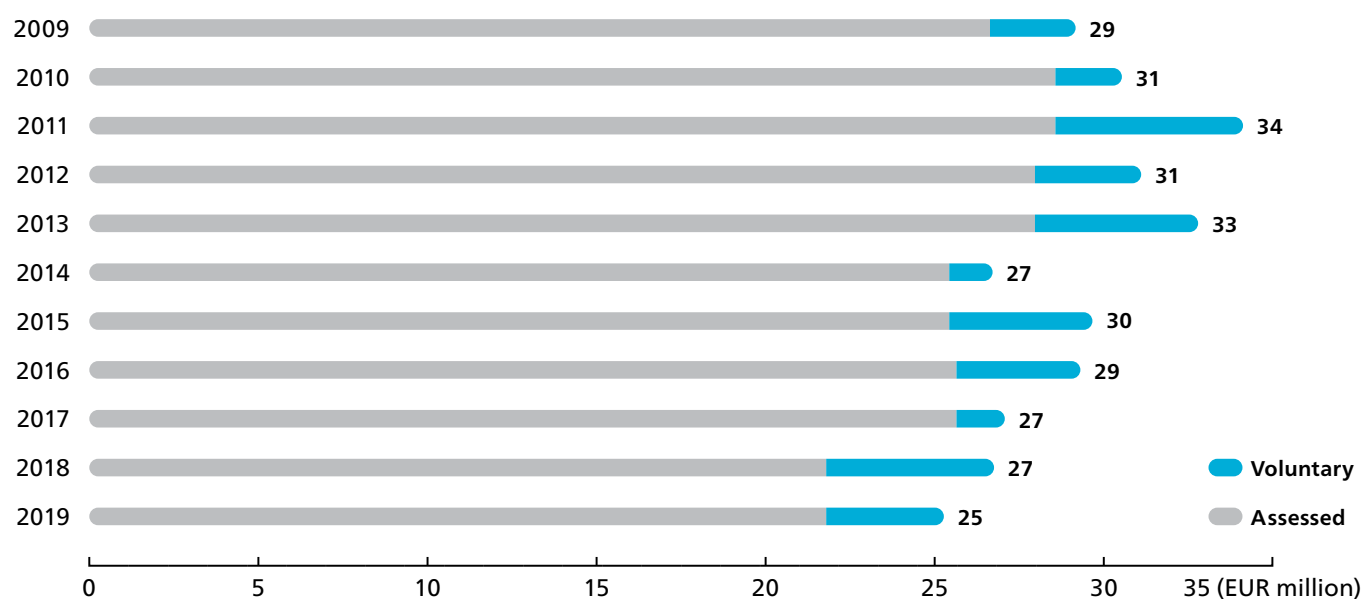
A further feature of French support is the strengthening of regional cooperation and integration, particularly in Africa, including global platforms such as CGIAR and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research.

Partnership in figures

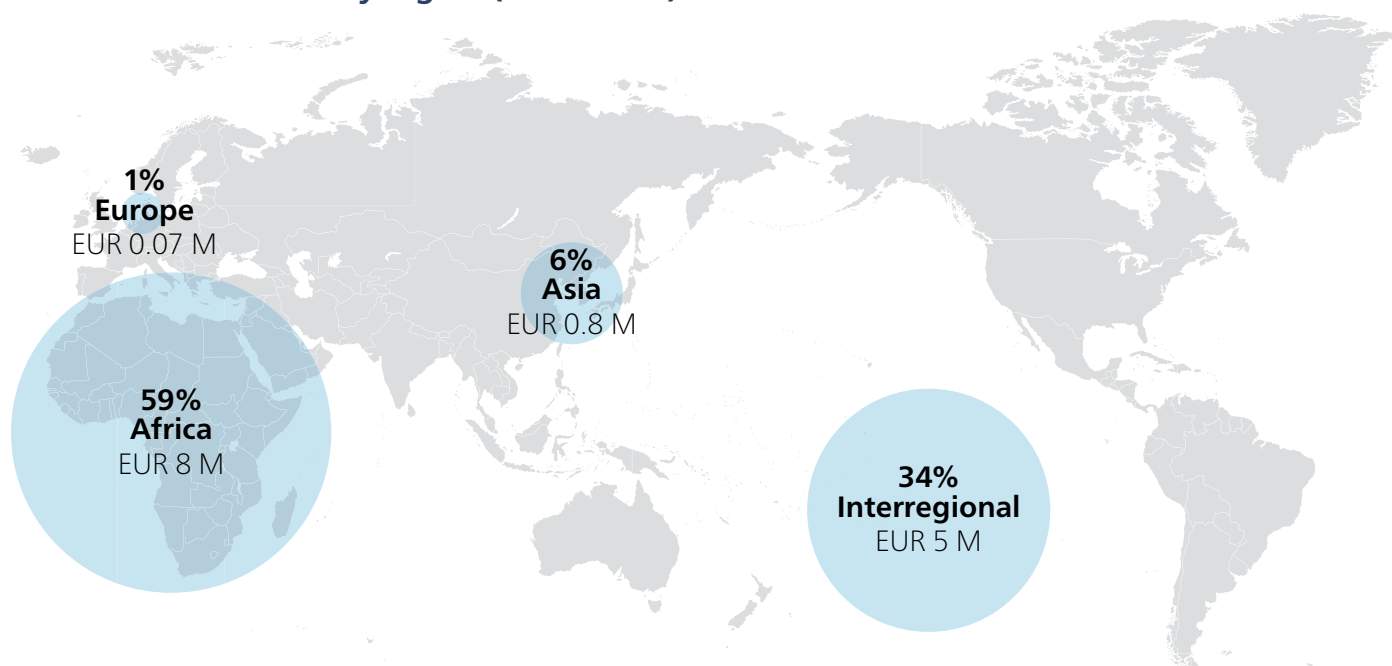
Total French contributions¹ to FAO
(assessed and voluntary²) 2016–2019

EUR 108.4 M (USD 121 M)

Trend of assessed and voluntary² contributions (2009–2019)



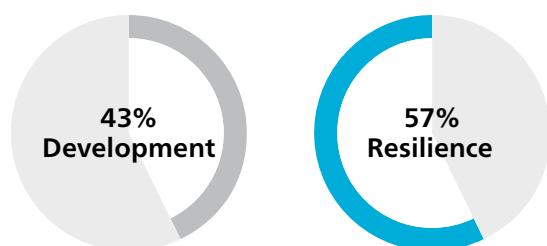
French contributions by region (2016–2019)²



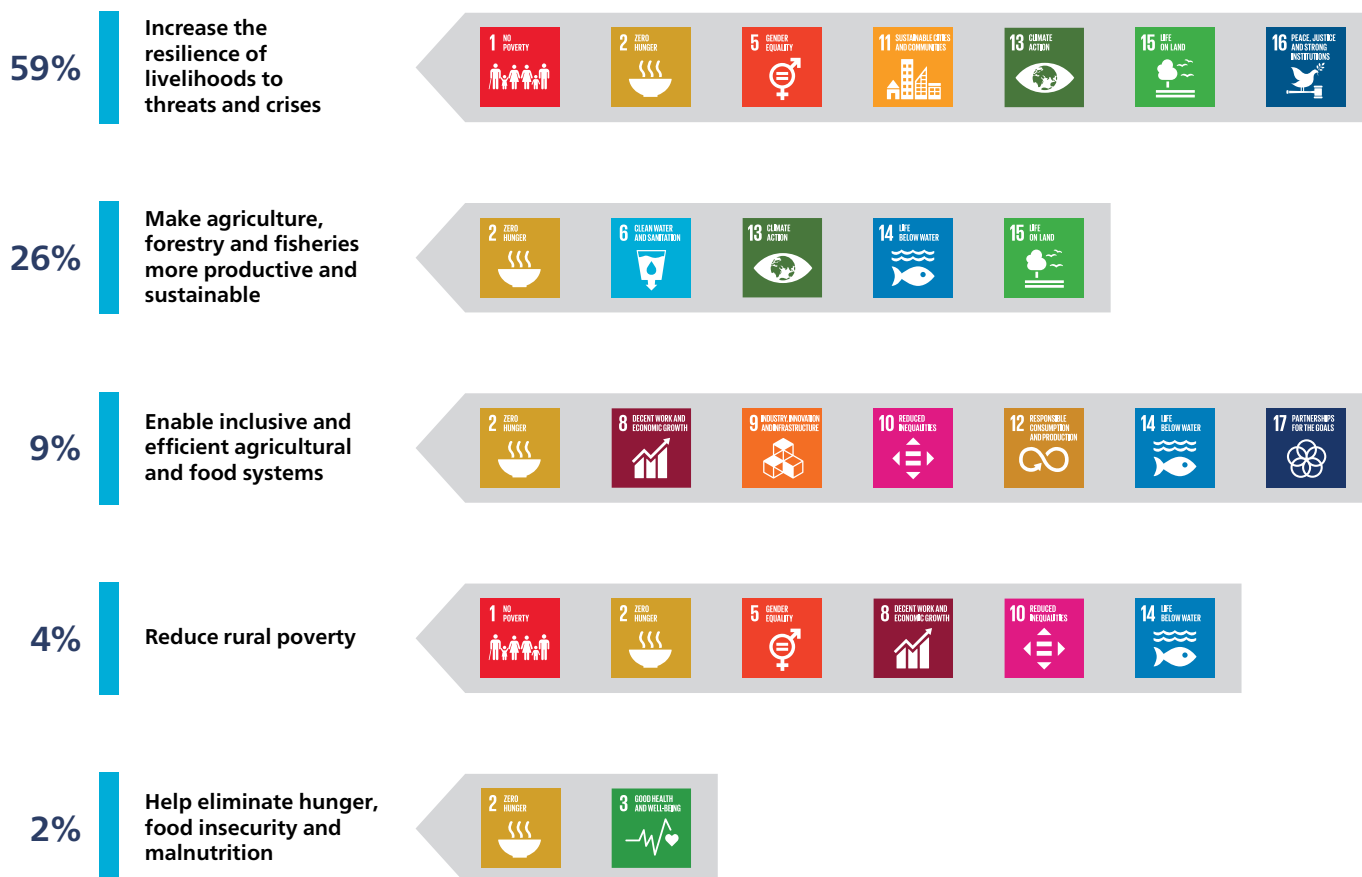
¹As of November 2019 preliminary closure.

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

French contributions by category (2016–2019)²



French contributions to FAO's areas of work/Strategic Objectives (2016–2019)² aligned to the SDGs³



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

³SDG targets and indicators included in the 2018–21 Strategic Objective results framework, as per FAO Director-General's Medium Term Plan (2018–21).

CONTACT

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