



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Supporting water and soil rehabilitation for improved climate resilience in the Islamic Republic of Iran

To enhance the resilience of rural communities and agricultural systems against climatic disasters

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The 2019 spring floods and the heavy rainfalls of January 2020 in the Islamic Republic of Iran severely affected the large areas of the country, especially in four provinces of Lorestan, Khuzestan, Golestan, and Sistan and Baluchistan.

The floods caused tremendous damages and losses to the agriculture sector of the country, including severe effects on the land and water resources of the provinces mentioned above.

These disasters also led to a significant level of soil erosion, contamination and salinity as well as changes in soil texture, posing threats to the recovery and rebuilding of the agriculture sector.

Moreover, the floods have destroyed many agricultural infrastructures, including

drainage and irrigation channels and pumping systems. Not only did these damages have a short-term effect on the next crops but they will also have long-term effects on land productivity and yields by which they may necessitate land use changes and significantly affect rural livelihoods in the affected areas.

## **Project objective**

In response to the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implements a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project to assist the country in rehabilitating the soil and water resources and enhancing resilience of agriculture system and rural communities against climate change and climatic disasters.





# FAO'S CONTRIBUTION

As the United Nations specialised agency leading the global efforts in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable rural development to end hunger and poverty, FAO offers technical expertise to its member countries, strengthening their national capacities to plan, implement, and report on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and build resilience of the agriculture sector to climate change and disasters.

The Organization also works on improving food security and nutrition and sustainable livelihoods of rural communities, especially in areas prone to the severe climatic events, such as floods.

FAO strengthens national and local capacities, providing knowledge, skills and equipment for climate resilient irrigation design, flood and drought risk management, and climate-risk informed soil and water management approaches, all aimed at reducing risks and enhancing resilience of stakeholders, enabling them cope with future extreme events.

FAO in close collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, implements various components of this TCP project, including organising six training workshops for national and local experts.

# PROJECT RESULTS

- Equipping 210 national and local experts with climate resilient soil and water management knowledge and skills.
- Formulation of climate resilient soil and water rehabilitation strategies in targeted provinces, based on thorough soil examination, assessment of water resources and climate risks.
- Assessment of climate change impacts on agriculture and existing climate change adaptation and disaster risk management systems and capacity to identify areas for improvement.
- Identifying climate smart and disaster resilient agriculture, soil and water management measures.
- Building capacities in selected communities to adopt the recommended measures
- Fielding the recommended measures to strengthen the national climate change adaptation and disaster risk management systems.

## Main partner

This project is being implemented in close partnership with the Department of Water and Soil at the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the national counterpart of the project which has the overall responsibility for the management of water and soil resources in the country.

## Budget

FAO allocates USD 396 000 for this TCP project to mobilise global expertise to support national efforts to increase the resilience of the local communities against climate change and natural hazards to ensure a sustainable climate-smart water and soil management.



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