



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Developing innovative and sustainable solutions for healthy food systems and a healthy planet

A strategic partnership with Wageningen University & Research

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The partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Wageningen University & Research promotes and carries out innovative and sustainable approaches for improving lives and caretaking of our planet as foreseen by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITIES:

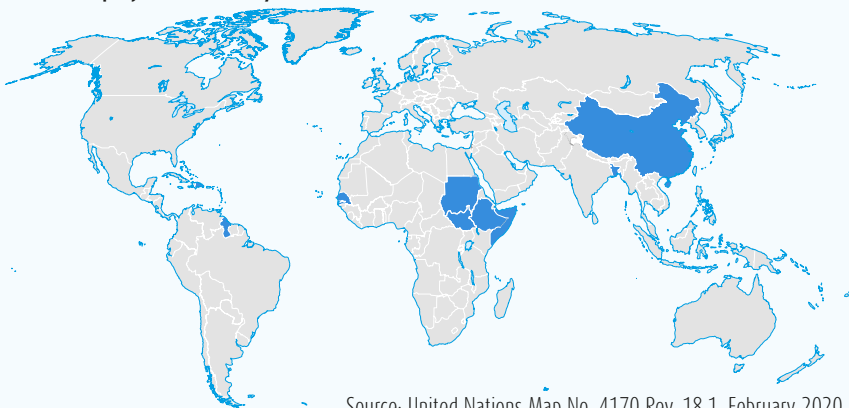
Key areas of cooperation are aligned to:

- improving agrifood economics
- sustainable animal production and health
- impacts of climate change, biodiversity and environment
- sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- improving food security and nutrition
- strengthening food systems and food safety

PARTNERSHIP MILESTONES

- 2008** Memorandum of Agreement signed to foster adaptation and adoption of appropriate technologies in support of intensification of agricultural production systems;
- 2013** Memorandum of Understanding signed to generate, adapt and transfer knowledge and technologies which address complex issues of food security within the framework of agricultural development;
- 2016** Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen food and nutrition security actions in support of the Decade on Nutrition;
- 2017** Letter of Renewal to reaffirm commitment to partnership for an additional four-year period;
- 2021** Memorandum of Understanding signed to facilitate innovative and strategic approaches to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

■ CDAIS project beneficiary countries



Source: United Nations Map No. 4170 Rev. 18.1, February 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

CONTRIBUTING TO



KEY RESULTS

01 | Adaption to and mitigation of climate change impacts

Wageningen Economic Research and FAO collaborated on the [application of blockchain in climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture: state of play and outlook](#) which presents the potential of blockchain technology to support effective climate-related policies in agriculture. The report elaborates on characteristics of blockchains - efficiency, transparency and traceability of information exchanges - highlighting the important role of technology in the context of climate change.

02 | Developing capacities in support of the Decade on Nutrition

The FAO-Wageningen U&R Nutrition Working Group, developed as a result of the [Second International Conference on Nutrition Symposium](#), are collaborating to develop global standardized dietary diversity indicators to assess adequacy of women's diet quality. Through workshops and expertise exchanges, the group has revised the methodology on developing food-based dietary guidelines and has undertaken training of professionals in food composition. With Wageningen U&R's participation in the [FAO Community of Practice on Food Loss](#), experts contribute to the building the body of knowledge on food loss and in particular on its course offerings on [Lost Harvest](#), [Wasted Food](#) which WUR delivered to professionals from 19 countries across Asia, Africa and South America.

03 | Building food system resilience in protracted crises

FAO and Wageningen U&R are collaborating on the Netherlands-funded Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO), a USD 28M four-year plan that addresses the cause and effect relationship between conflict and food insecurity in Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. [FNS-REPRO](#) is FAO's first programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale. The programme's design allows FAO, Wageningen U&R and partners to set good examples of how to build food system resilience in protracted crises and strengthen cooperation across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus towards this end. At country level, FNS-REPRO is focusing on selected value chains which play a central role in agropastoral and farming livelihoods. This ranges from the survival of people and animals during humanitarian crises to improved resource management and livelihood diversification. The value chains selected are gum arabic in the Sudan, animal feed and fodder in Somalia and seed systems in South Sudan. At regional level, the FNS-REPRO learning agenda and knowledge management component helps to strengthen evidence-based strategic programming and build awareness and capacity around food system resilience.

04 | Enhancing sustainable and safe fisheries for better nutrition

In 2017 FAO and Wageningen U&R collaborated on a report entitled "[Microplastics in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Status of knowledge on their occurrence and implications for aquatic organisms and food safety](#)". The report takes stock of scientific knowledge on likely pathways in terms of sources, transport and distribution in both marine food chains and seafood value chains, and provides a framework to assess the risks that can affect commercial fish stocks and consumers. A joint technical paper developed in 2019 on "[Freshwater small pelagic fish and their fisheries in major African lakes and reservoirs in relation to food security and nutrition](#)" emphasizes the critical role for food security and nutrition of small fish in inland waters. This report was produced under the [Small Fish Food](#) project undertaken by an international consortium which includes FAO and Wageningen U&R and which works on innovative integration of fish in African food systems to improve nutrition. In 2020, Wageningen U&R and FAO collaborated to develop "[GO small-scale fishing](#)", an educational tool focusing on the content and uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, which provides a novel approach to disseminate international instruments to stakeholders.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, zoonoses research has become even more important. The Early Recognition and Rapid Action in Zoonotic Emergencies (ERRAZE@WUR) is a new ambitious Wageningen U&R wide research and investment framework which builds a solid scientific foundation on animal-human interactions under the One Health approach. FAO looks to engage in the initiative to aid FAO Members in preventing future pandemics and mitigating their impact.

FAO and Wageningen U&R work in triangular cooperation with China to promote sustainable aquaculture value chains in Africa. These, in turn, will contribute to capacity building of FAO reference centres on aquaculture and agriculture policy in China and development of sustainable aquaculture value chains in Ethiopia by FAO reference centres in China and Wageningen U&R. The cooperation leverages Wageningen U&R's expertise in international development and China's technical knowledge in aquaculture to strengthen agricultural and aquaculture development cooperation policies and practice, and encourage

development of selected aquaculture value chain policies, models and practice regarding public-private partnerships. In continuation of inland fisheries work in Africa, Wageningen U&R and FAO are developing a document on balanced harvesting management of inland fisheries as well as the development of a project to enhance species recognition and specimen measurement of fish in the Nile Basin (specifically in South Sudan) using artificial intelligence.

FAO and Wageningen U&R are beginning collaborations on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains in OACP Countries Project (FISH4ACP), providing expertise on multi-stakeholder partnerships which will build up national task forces supporting commodity platforms to improve aquaculture value chains. The new collaboration will contribute to food security and increased nutrition, economic prosperity and job creation by ensuring the economic, social and environmental sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Collaborating since the 1970s and with more than 500 WUR alumni having worked in FAO, the partnership promotes and puts into practice innovative and sustainable approaches which have the potential to improve lives and encourage care of our planet as foreseen by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Joint capacity development actions, expertise exchanges, project implementation and resource mobilization efforts help to enhance FAO's work on fisheries, nutrition, food safety, forestry, climate adaptation and mitigation, and animal production and health to improve food and nutrition security and sustainability of natural resources.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Wageningen U&R is a collaboration between Wageningen University and the Wageningen Research foundation. With nearly 6 500 employees and over 13 000 students worldwide, Wageningen U&R offers BSc, MSc and PhD programs in natural and social sciences. Their research addresses scientific, social and commercial problems in the field of life sciences and natural resources. Wageningen U&R is widely known for its agriculture, forestry, and environmental studies programs. The mission of Wageningen U&R is to "explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life". This overarching mission is supported by its education and research on healthy food and living environments, which is used by governments and the business community. The strength of Wageningen U&R lies in its ability to join the forces of specialised research institutes and the university and combine the efforts of the various fields of natural and social sciences. This union of expertise leads to scientific breakthroughs that can quickly be put into practice and be incorporated into education. This is the Wageningen Approach.

LOOKING FORWARD

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