



ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME COORDINATION UNIT IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

This Programme was designed to support technical cooperation between FAO and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Building upon years of successful collaboration, the Programme was larger in scope than previously implemented projects. It was developed to assist the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in contributing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting its strategic objectives and priorities for sustainable agriculture and rural development, which was to be done through the formulation and implementation of several technical assistance projects. Because of its scope, the establishment of a Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) in Riyadh was required.

Owing to the launch of the Saudi Vision 2030 and its related development programmes, the planning model and system in the country changed significantly during the period of implementation. In addition, the MoA evolved into the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA). For this reason, the programme was adapted so that it could align with the transformation of the development process that was taking place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The first stage of the Programme ran from 2011-2016. Under the PCU, projects addressing the sustainable management of natural resources, technology transfer and sustainable crop production, plant health, sustainable management of animal and fisheries resources, animal health management and animal vaccine production, seed, capacity building and institutional strengthening were formulated and initiated.

In the second stage, which went from 2017-2018, the reformulated Programme had seven specific Outcomes addressing sustainable food security, agricultural natural resources, sustainable marine fisheries and aquaculture, animal disease prevention and control, plant production and protection, linking small farmers and producers to markets and strengthening evidence-based decision-making and results-based monitoring. During this time, 60 experts produced 139 reports and drafted strategies and development plans in collaboration with the MEWA.

One of the most significant achievements made in this stage of the project was a contribution to the formulation of the first Saudi food security strategy. In addition, the following documents were prepared: (i) a National Strategy and Action Plan for the Eradication and Control of Red Palm Weevil; (ii) an Animal Health and Disease Control Strategy and Action Plan; (iii) an Aquatic Animal Vaccine Production Strategy and Action Plan; and (iv) an Aquatic Animal Health and Disease Control Strategy and Action Plan. Another significant achievement was the preparation of the national flagship programme entitled "Sustainable Rural Agriculture Development Programme, (SRADP 2019-2025)", which was approved by royal decree and designated FAO as the agency to provide technical assistance for its implementation. A related project entitled "Strengthening MEWA's Capacity to implement its Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development Programme (UTF/SAU/051/SAU)" was formulated and operationalized.



KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 33 947 366

Duration
May 2012 – December 2019

Resource Partner
Government of the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia

Partners
Ministry of Environment, Water and
Agriculture (MEWA), formerly the
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Beneficiaries
Direct: Staff of the MoA and MEWA.
Indirect: Small-scale agricultural
producers and fisherman, farmer and
fisherfolk organizations, producer and
consumer cooperatives and wholesale
and retail traders

IMPACT

Through the implementation of the projects and plans formulated under this Programme, and actions initiated previously, the results achieved are expected to lead to an increase in the production of healthy food and in food security, as well as the preservation of natural resources in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, boosting sustainable development in the country overall.

ACTIVITIES

- Seventeen projects were formulated, implemented and monitored.
- Cross-cutting activities were executed.
- Coordination channels were established with the MoA/MEWA.
- Capacities were strengthened in the areas of sustainable food security, the sustainable utilization of agricultural natural resources, sustainable marine fisheries and aquaculture production and consumption, animal disease prevention and control, plant production and protection, and improving linkages of small farmers and agricultural producers to markets through a variety of interventions, including but not limited to training, the identification of good practices, and the formulation of situation analyses, plans and policies.
- A results-based monitoring and reporting system for the initiatives of the MEWA was developed.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

FAO: UTF/SAU/036/SAU

Project Title

Programme Coordination Unit

Contact

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Partnerships and Outreach

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