



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# Partnerships with Non-State Actors at FAO

Progress Report 2020–2021

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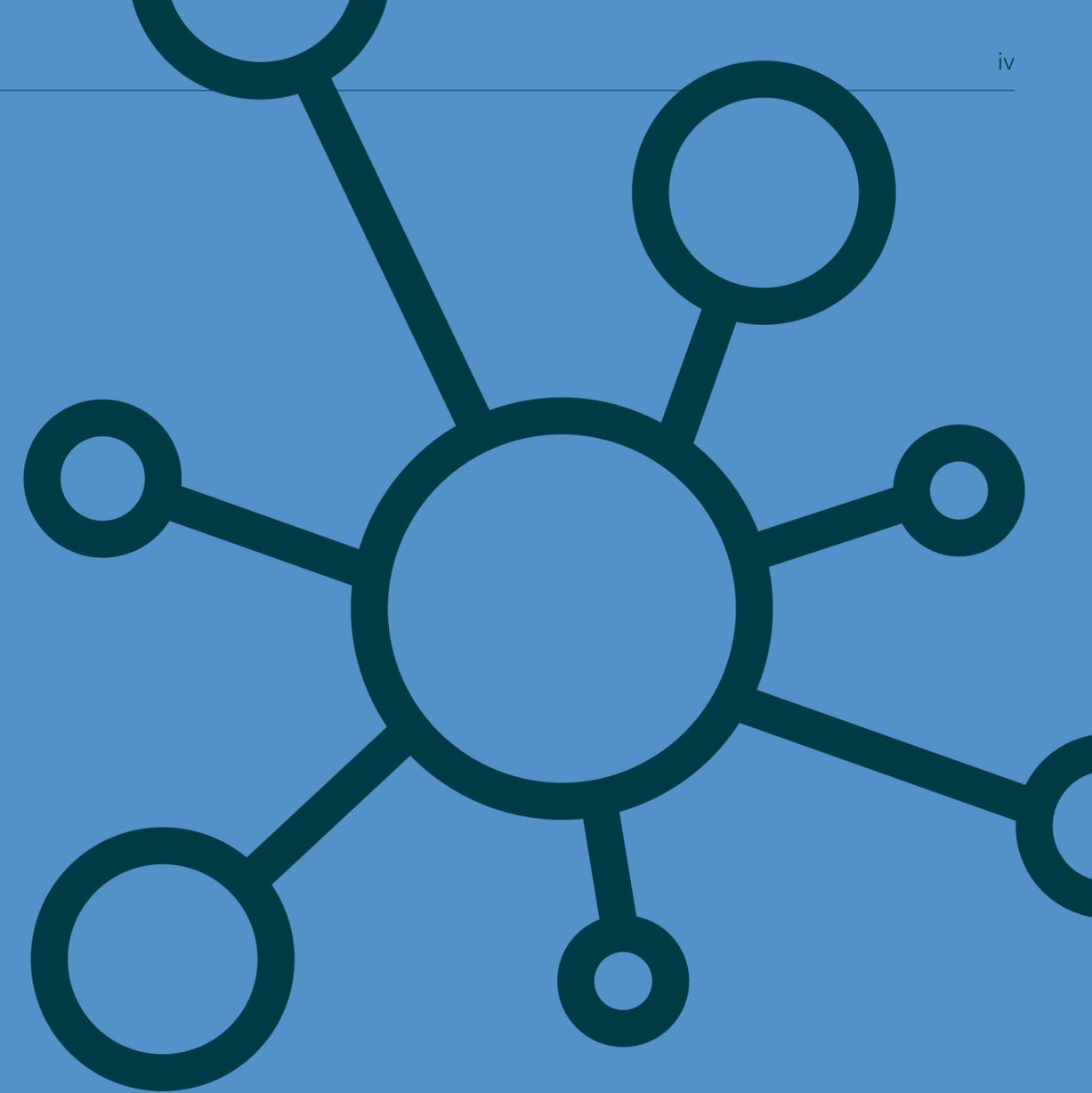
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# Foreword

**I am pleased to share with you the 2020–2021 report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on partnerships with non-state actors (NSAs). Throughout 2020–2021, the Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division continued to facilitate FAO’s engagement with NSAs, specifically: civil society organizations (CSOs), cooperatives, producers’ organizations, parliamentarians, Indigenous Peoples and academia and research institutions (ARIs). This report demonstrates FAO’s achievement in developing partnerships with a wide range of NSAs. »»**



During this time, a wider range of strategic and transformative engagements were consolidated at global, regional and country levels and we hope to capture their achievements in this report. Transformative partnerships are key to realize long term, positive change towards the transformation of agrifood systems. We have several success stories to share.

FAO possesses experience and expertise in supporting policymaking, partnership-building, and programmes committed to improving food insecurity and nutrition around the world. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022–2031 are geared towards ensuring a healthy, sustainable, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous planet, leaving no one behind. Solid and strategic partnerships with a range of stakeholders are of the essence to achieve FAO's mandate and

indeed to make a lasting contribution to the SDGs. This biennium saw an increase of crises and unprecedented situations. FAO geared its work in partnerships to support youth, women, small scale farmers and others who were disproportionately affected.

This report exemplifies FAO's commitment, lessons learned and success stories in the utilization of transformative partnerships to address the complexity and depth of the challenges of achieving the SDGs.

**Marcela Villarreal**

Director

Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division



# Overview of FAO's engagements with non-state actors (NSAs)

Number of active partnerships



103

active partnerships as of 31 December 2021

73

academia and research institutions (ARIs)

30

civil society organizations (CSOs), cooperatives, producers' organizations, parliamentarians, Indigenous Peoples

New partnerships developed and active partnerships renewed

2020 achievement:

9

new partnerships signed

13

partnerships renewed

2021 achievement:

13

partnerships signed

13

partnerships renewed

Geographical representation of partners by region

North America: 16

Regional Office for Near East and North Africa (RNE): 7

Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU): 53



Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC): 5

Regional Office for Africa (RAF): 7

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP): 15

# COVID-19

**The COVID-19 pandemic created a new set of challenges, highlighted how our food systems are interconnected and global, and called for FAO and partners to adapt to ensure the continuation of joint activities. Twenty-one partners reported taking measures against the COVID-19 crisis through several lines of action.**

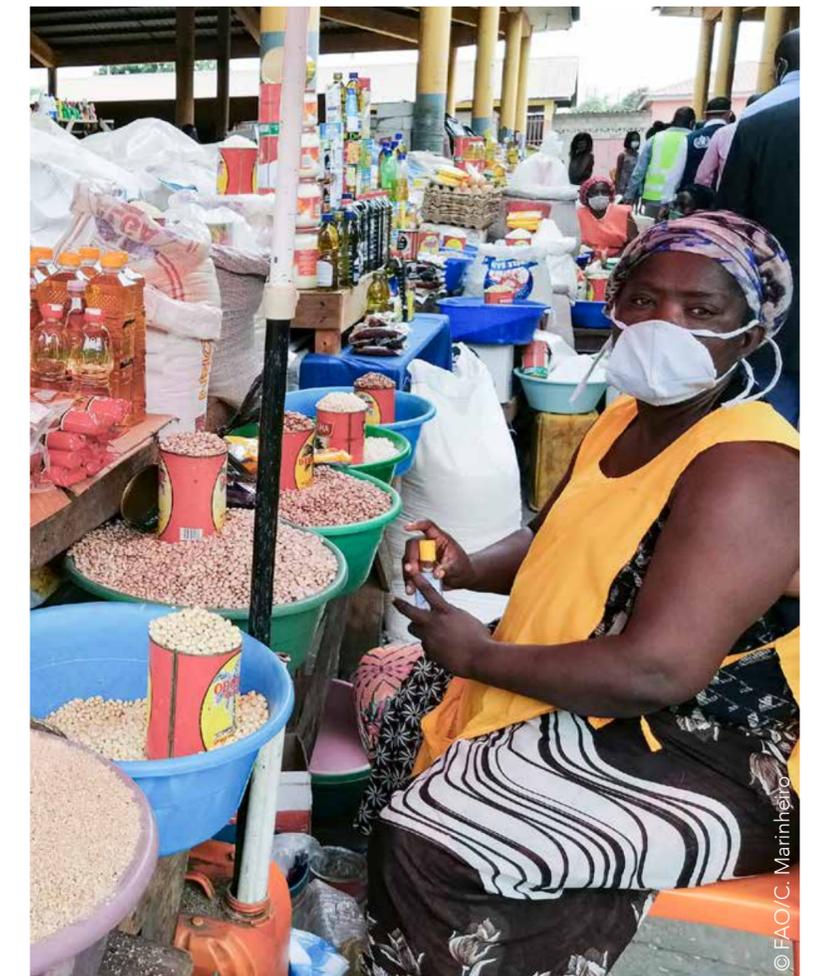
FAO, in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS), and Ankara University Agriculture Faculty (AUAF) developed assessments focused on short and long-term impacts of the pandemic in areas such as agriculture, aquaculture, food security and safety. The assessments showed the importance of implementing measures to mitigate the risk and impact of the crisis on rural livelihoods and agricultural supply chains, as well as the value of proposing rapid mitigation actions.

During 2020, Réseau International URGENCI (Urgenci) conducted the research “Solidarity food initiatives and the Covid-19 crisis,” which showed that 90 percent of Local and Solidarity-based Partnerships for Agroecology (LSPA) initiatives continued to function with increased demand during the lockdown.

Many in-person activities had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. However, partners were able to adapt through the use of hybrid or virtual modalities for workshops and webinars. This innovative digital way of working had a number of benefits, including increased capacity and use of digital technologies; wider outreach; and potential reduced costs.

In this regard, one of the major achievements was the Massive open online course (MOOC) that took place from September to October 2021 on “Nutrition and Food Systems Learn.” The course that was developed by the FAO eLearning Academy in collaboration with key stakeholders such as Agreenium, Institut Agro Montpellier, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), UNESCO Chair in World Food Systems, provided important insights on the pathways to sustainable and healthy diets to over 2 400 participants worldwide.

Such example highlights how MOOCs have proven to be a strategic instrument to engage different groups of stakeholders on subjects related to FAO’s work.



# United Nations Decade on Family Farming

## 2019–2028 (UNDFFF)



Since its proclamation in 2017, the UNDFFF has constituted a global partnership aiming at strengthening family farming and promoting diversified and innovative food systems, while contributing to the 2030 Agenda in an even more comprehensive and coherent way. In this regard, several partnerships have been contributing to increased family farming visibility and reinforcing the implementation of actions in support of family farming.

Under the framework of the Global Action Plan for the UNDFFF, there were significant results during the reporting period:

### UNDFFF Main Results 2021:

National Committees for Family Farming (NCFFs), Family Farmer Organizations, Governments, FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – all working together in

#### 52 countries

Various stakeholders were systematically engaged in the Decade's policy dialogue processes through NCFFs.

#### 2 625 family farmers'

organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), public institutions and academic institutions are part of the NCFFs.

# 1 853

family farmers' organizations and federations have been directly engaged in the committees, forming a very solid basis for the implementation of the Decade at the country level.

### 10 National Action Plans

for the UNDFFF approved in: Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and The Philippines.

### 10 intersectoral coordination mechanisms

were established or reinforced.

### 185 laws

policies and regulations were developed and approved.



# United Nations Food Systems Summit



**The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), held during the UN General Assembly in New York on 23 September 2021, provided an opportunity to unleash new actions, innovative solutions, and plans to transform our food systems and leverage these shifts to deliver progress across all of the SDGs.**

Several NSA partners joined in the UNFSS dialogue series to discuss how to transform food systems inclusively. For instance, over 80 participants from farmer associations, rural youth networks, youth-led organizations and agribusinesses, young policymakers and diaspora youth joined an Independent Dialogue convened by the African Youth Agripreneurs (AYA) platform and titled “The Y Factor: bringing rural youth in the conversation about inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems.”

The digital dialogue was supported by FAO’s Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agri-food system, the Eastern Africa Farmers

Federation (EAFF) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). It was a great opportunity to engage young people across East Africa – particularly rural youth, often underrepresented in policy dialogues – to suggest a pathway towards more equitable and youth-friendly food systems.

As mentioned by one participant to the AYA-convened Independent UNFSS Dialogue “Getting into agricultural entrepreneurship can be a very lonely journey. Digital platforms can create human connection and be a breeding ground for close relationships among entrepreneurs.”

Furthermore, Consumers International was at the forefront of consumer participation in UNFSS. Consumers International convened a member task force in advance of UNFSS, working with the group to publish a global consumer advocacy statement on food, setting out a series of key calls for action. In strengthening consumer engagement in food systems governance, Consumers International builds wider recognition of consumer advocacy and develop capacity of consumer organizations along UNFSS follow-up mechanisms, at both national and international level.

# Success stories

During the 2020–2021 period, many positive NSA partnerships took place. Here is a short selection of those success stories.

## Texas A&M University System

### *“Building Resiliency to Strengthen Food and Nutrition Security”*

In May and November 2021, the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) of FAO and Texas A&M AgriLife collaborated for the implementation of the second and third foot-and-mouth disease training events for North America.

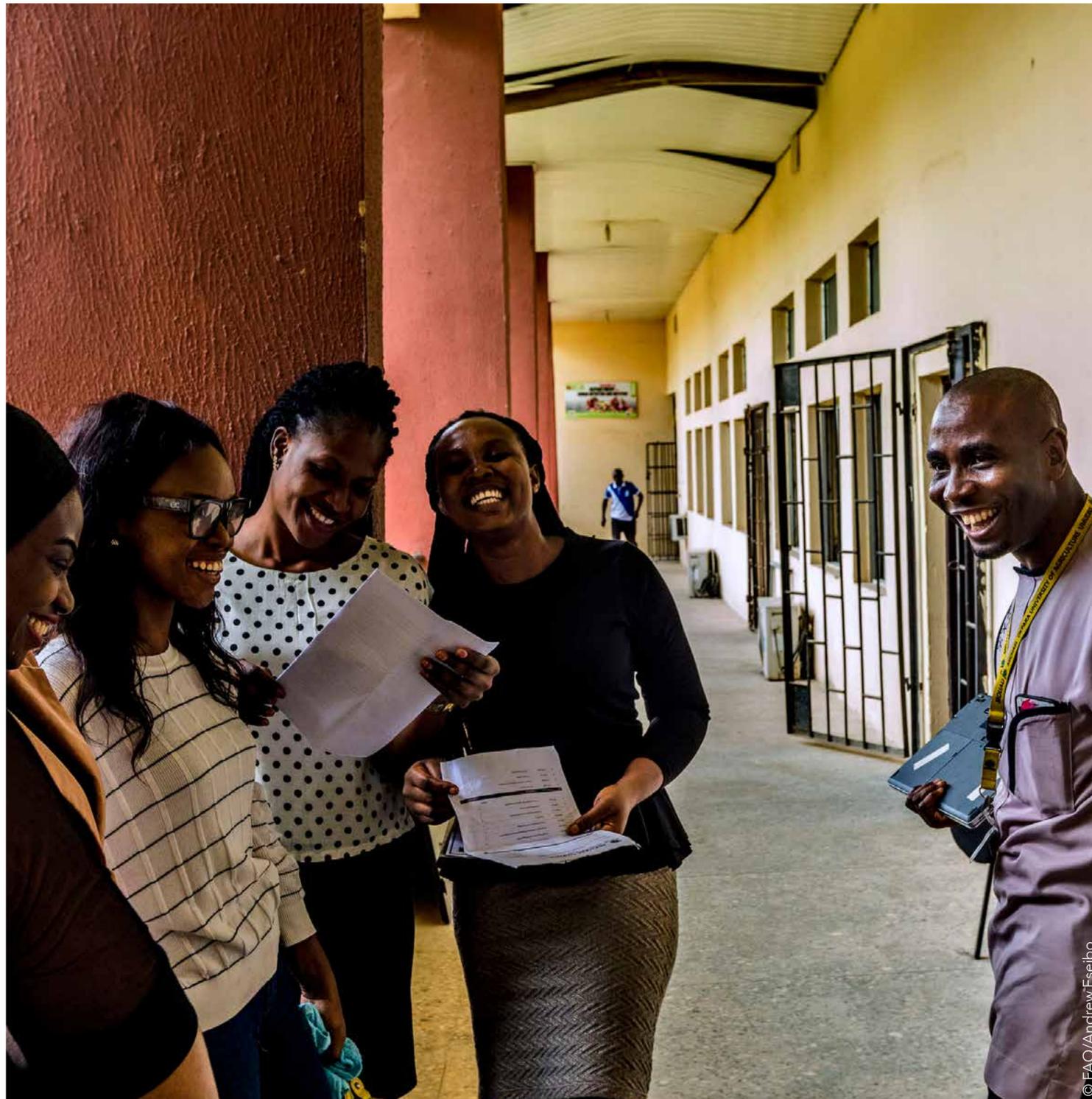
“The need for this training is at an all-time high for United States and North American veterinarians working with livestock,” said Elizabeth Parker, Associate Director, Texas A&M Institute for Advancing

Health Through Agriculture. “If the U.S. experiences an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, early detection will be key, and our private sector veterinarians will likely have an important role in assisting animal health officials in detection and response.”

Fabrizio Rosso, Deputy Executive Secretary of the EuFMD, stated “we are looking forward to our next training event in December 2022 with Texas A&M, which could include virtual reality application.”



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## Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

*“Capacity Development in Support of Family Farming Policies”*

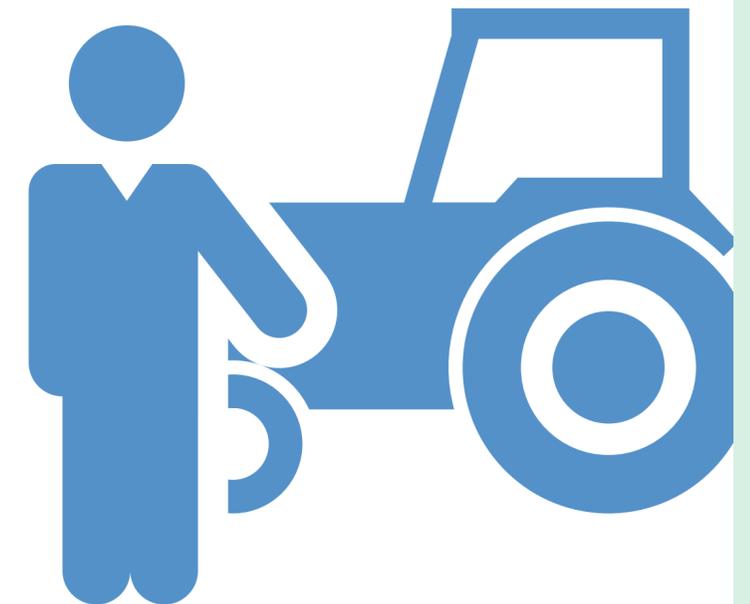
In Uganda, family farming activities are fundamental for the development and livelihoods of the population. Over 70 percent of households work directly with agricultural activities, contributing to an essential part of the country’s food chain.

For this reason, in November 2021, FAO, in collaboration with RUFORUM, implemented the Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming Training Program for State and NSAs in Uganda.

Through the implementation of participatory and experiential learning approaches, participants learned about the existence of tools and instruments available, and acquired new competencies to build, implement, monitor and evaluate family farming policies.

“I didn’t know what family farming was, but after the training I appreciated it and every day in my work as we plan for National Development we take cognizance of the contribution of family farmers to food and nutrition security and eventually human capital development.”

Mr. G. Bwengye, Agricultural planner, National Planning Authority, Uganda



## Ankara University

### *“Baseline Data Collection for Resilience Impact Evaluation on Syrians under Temporary Protection and Host Communities”*

In 2021, the AKCAM Institute of Ankara University developed a detailed gender-sensitive socio-economic baseline study with a focus on Syrians under temporary protection (SuTP), international protection applicants and status holders, and Turkish smallholder farming households.

The study represented a key contribution to the project “Building Resilience of Syrian under Temporary Protection and Host Communities in Turkey through Supporting Socio-Economic Integration and Creating Livelihood Opportunities” (OSRO/TUR/901/EC) initiated in 2019 by FAO.

The goal of the collaboration was to ensure the objectivity and credibility of the results.

“Given the extremely difficult working and living conditions, as well as the deprivation of social protection mechanisms, Turkish seasonal agricultural workers constitute one of the most disadvantaged groups in Turkey. In recent years, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been added to this group. Improving the working and living conditions of these groups, including them in the social protection systems should be the common responsibility of everyone. The ‘Baseline Data Collection for Resilience Impact Evaluation on SuTP and Host Communities’ project, which we carry out together with FAO, is important in terms of revealing the problems, finding permanent solutions and putting them into practice, and provides significant contributions to these groups.”

Prof. Dr. Bülent GÜLÇUBUK, Director,  
Ankara University Development  
Studies Center



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## Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA)

*“Empowering Youth and Women to Thrive in the Agricultural Sector”*

A central component of the partnership between FAO and AsiaDHRRA is overcoming the barriers that are preventing youth and women from engaging in agriculture for a living and supporting youth and women to become agri-entrepreneurs. This includes capacity development for AsiaDHRRA country-level organizations (national DHRRA) and partner rural peoples' organizations on the use of FAO tools to assess needs and capacities, and enhance their planning for policy interventions on youth, women, and responsible investment.

In parallel, FAO and AsiaDHRRA continued promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues. Together the partners worked to strengthen mechanisms and processes in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on gender mainstreaming in Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE), bringing about synergies, cooperation and collaborative partnerships to support the objective of inclusivity under the ASEAN RDPE Work Plan 2021–2025.

*“AsiaDHRRA and FAO will continue democratizing spaces for representation and participation of rural people and their organizations and promoting advocacy and knowledge sharing on key policies.”*

Ms Marlene Rodriguez, Secretary-General, AsiaDHRRA

## Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)

*“The Important Role of Youth in Agrifood Systems”*

In 2020, FAO and EAFF joined forces to promote youth employment in agrifood systems by improving information and knowledge sharing between youth and youth networks representatives in East Africa. To do so, a youth-specific online regional platform and community was established. This came to life in August 2021 as the African Youth Agri-entrepreneurs platform which now has more than 760 members. It allows individual agri-entrepreneurs and rural youth organizations to connect, share, and learn from each other in their journey to embrace agriculture as decent and profitable work. The major objectives of this digital platform involve capacity building for youth enterprises, business development through strategic linkages and a knowledge base for information.

*“As young farmers we need to occupy our space, there is nothing good for us without us, and there is no future without us young people.”*

Ms Elizabeth Nsimadala, President, EAFF



## Interpeace

### *“A Partnership for Contributing to Peace”*

Conflict is currently the main driver of food crises around the world. According to the latest release of The Global Report on Food Crises (2021), 99 million people who suffer from acute food insecurity live in places affected by conflict or insecurity.

In 2020–21, the partnership between FAO and Interpeace underpinned the development of context/conflict analyses in several African countries, and improved capacities and abilities of FAO’s decentralised offices to develop and implement conflict-sensitive programmes. Through the trainings, workshops, and accompaniment that have been carried out by FAO projects have been rendered more conflict-sensitive and their potential to support peace has been strengthened, including the design of Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) projects and country programmes under the EU-funded Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme.

Another significant achievement during 2020–2021 is the co-creation and development of Operationalizing Pathways to Sustaining Peace: a How to Guide and the linked Annex of indicators to be used in Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning frameworks. The focus of this paper is to elaborate the pathways through which FAO can optimize deliberate contributions to peace, and inform the design, adaptation and impact measurement of its interventions.

Full list of active partnerships is provided as Annex to this report.



# Way forward

## FAO's new Strategic Framework and transformative partnerships

**Over the last two years, the world has been struggling to cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. A crisis on this scale has not been seen for generations. Progress in reducing poverty has reversed, hunger and food insecurity have rapidly escalated, and malnutrition is increasing.**

Though COVID-19 and conflict have also done their damage, many of the key drivers of poverty and hunger were already at play beforehand. The frequency and intensity of climate variability and extremes, conflict, and economic downturns have increased significantly in the last ten years.

While each of these drivers is unique, they interact to create multiple, compounding impacts that affect low- and middle-income countries. Income inequality, which COVID-19 has exacerbated in countries both rich and poor, further magnifies the negative impacts.

Nevertheless, there cannot be a path to an inclusive and resilient recovery without including the rural sector, where about 80 percent of the world's extreme poor live. Rebuilding after the COVID-19 crisis will require investments in rural development and agriculture to achieve the 2030 Agenda through the transformation toward MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life – leaving no one behind.



International cooperation and solidarity will be essential to ensure a strong economic rebound for all countries. CSOs and ARIs play a fundamental role in this effort, given their proximity to and interest in meeting the needs of the vulnerable populations.

While CSOs have an ability to mobilize and launch initiatives that seek social justice, respect for human rights and a life with dignity without poverty and hunger, ARIs contribute to scale-up knowledge and innovations, strengthen capacities, provide evidence-based solutions to policy processes and share its own experience. Their concerns and work often coincide with FAO's work and mandate.

FAO is seeking stronger and more strategic engagement with CSOs, cooperatives, producers' organizations, parliamentarians, Indigenous Peoples, and ARIs. Only by working together we can transform agrifood systems into more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive systems.

In particular, the importance of bringing voices of small-scale producers to policy fora cannot be stressed enough. Their voices are essential to drive the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems. FAO is committed to scale up our approach to partnerships – to ensure they are effective, targeted and impactful to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Our next generation of partnerships needs to truly be “transformational”.

FAO will continue to work closely with its Members, the UN system, civil society, academia, research institutions and other partners to usher in a post-COVID recovery that will help achieve the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty and hunger in all its forms.



### Better Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional and global level, ensuring resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in a changing climate and environment.



### Better Nutrition

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets.



### Better Environment

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and combat climate change (reduce, reuse, recycle, residual management) through MORE efficient, inclusive resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.



### Better Life

Promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities (urban/ rural areas, rich/poor countries, men/women).



# Annex 1. List of formal partnerships (as of December 2021)

African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT)	Canadian Civilian Response Corps (CANADEM)	Future Food Institute (FFI)	International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia)	Italian Research Institutions: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR); Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA); Agenzia Nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economica sostenibile (ENEA); Istituto Superiore per la protezione e ricerca ambientale (ISPRA)	Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)
Agreenium	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)	Geneva Graduate Institute	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)	Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione IULM
AgriCord	Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS)	Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Research Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture	International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)	Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (JAAS)	L'Université Mohammed Premier and L'Institut National De Recherche Halieutique
Agrinatura	Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS)	IFOAM Organics International	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Johns Hopkins University	Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)
Al-Sulaiteen Agricultural Research, Studies and Training Centre (SARSTC)	Consumers International	IHE Delft	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)	La Via Campesina	Michigan State University
American University of Beirut	Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	iMMAP	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)	Le Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)	Mississippi State University
Ankara University	Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V.	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)	International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)	Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)	M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU)
Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)	Development Association World Rural Forum (WRF)	Institut Polytechnique UniLaSalle	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	OceanCare
Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)	Duke University	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)	Interpeace	Pan-African Parliament	Pennsylvania State University
Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA)	Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Polytechnic University of Turin	
Beijing Forestry University (BFU)	Food Banking Regional Network (FBRN)	International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)			
Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa)	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development - CIRAD and INRA	International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)			

PRIMA Foundation	UPA Développement international	University of Liege
RedR Australia	United Arab Emirates University (UAEU)	University of Lisbon
Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)	Universidad de Chile	University of Nottingham
Réseau International URGENCI (Urgenci)	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	University of the Philippines Los Baños
Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy	Universidade Aberta of Portugal	University of Tsukuba
Sapienza University of Rome	Universidade Federal do Paraná	University of the Western Cape
Sultan Qaboos University	Università degli Studi Roma Tre	Wageningen University and Research
Texas A&M University System	Università degli Studi di Roma UNITELMA Sapienza	World Farmers' Organization (WFO)
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT)	Università degli Studi di Torino	World Maritime University
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)	Universitat Politècnica de Valencia	World Vision International (WVI)
Tufts University	Universite Laval	Zhejiang University
Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUAL)	University of California Los Angeles	6 Canadian International Cooperation Organisations: Carrefour; CECI; SUCO; SOCODEVI; UPA-DI; Mer et Monde
	University of Catholique de Louvain Belgium	
	University of Florence	
	University of Freiburg	

# Annex 2. Financial contribution from NSAs to FAO

## Financial contribution from NSAs to FAO

Name of Contributing Partner	Project Title	Geographic Focus	Financial Contribution (USD)	Year of Contribution
<b>Center for International Forestry Research</b>	A Multi-Partner Trust Fund to implement the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030	Global	<b>595 097</b>	2021
<b>International Islamic Charity Organization</b>	Support to small-scale dairy farmers, sheep herders and IDPs in northwest Syria	Syria	<b>500 000</b>	2020
<b>International Institute for Sustainable Development</b>	Supporting the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry	Asia and the Pacific	<b>230 957</b>	2021
<b>Mississippi State University</b>	Farm diversification strategy through integrated agriculture-aquaculture system	Global, Nigeria	<b>215 445</b>	2021
<b>Stockholm University</b>	Delivering Actions and the shared consensus for UNSG Summit	Global	<b>58 419</b>	2020
<b>World Resources Institute</b>	Country support to the enhancement of the Nationally Determined Contribution in the AFOLU sector - Technical Assistance Fund (TAF), on behalf of the NDC Partnership Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)	Global, Albania, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eswatini, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe	<b>2 911 775</b>	2020
			<b>64 642</b>	2021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 3 470 194 (2020)</b> <b>USD 1 106 141 (2021)</b>			

Source: Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS)

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