FAO Cuba cooperation 2022
Significant results
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Context

2022 was another difficult and challenging year for both Cuba and the region, in a scenario of rising international food prices and increased costs of agricultural inputs and fertilizers, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and climate change.

At a time when Latin America and the Caribbean are struggling to face and overcome the most complex humanitarian, economic, and social crisis of recent decades, our work in accompanying Cuba in the transformation of its agrifood systems has been marked by major challenges.

Focused on moving towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems to achieve better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind, and in partnership with our national counterparts and donors such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the European Union, FAO Cuba continues to take steps towards the consolidation of its essential goals, with more than USD 57 000 000 mobilized between 2019 and 2022, in support of the priority areas signed with the government in the Country Programme Framework 2020-2024.

As a result of the implementation of our projects, Cuba is moving towards greater climate resilience with the productive restoration of 65 000 hectares of land previously invaded by marabou (Dichrostachys cinerea). It has achieved the conservation of phytogenetic and zoogenetic resources of interest for food and agriculture.

We have also accompanied the construction and implementation of public policies impacting the transformation of local agrifood systems in Cuba and their governance, such as the Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security, and other policies and legal norms. In this area of impact, together with the Cuban government, we systematized alliances and methodologies to support mayors in implementing more sovereign and sustainable local agrifood systems.

A particularly difficult moment during the year was the impact of Hurricane Ian in September 2022 in the westernmost part of the country. In this context, FAO was able to provide a rapid response in support of the rehabilitation of agricultural and livestock production, as well as the protection of the livelihoods of the most affected producers, with the mobilization of resources through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities - Agricultural Input Response Capacity (SFERA-CRIA) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

But also in 2022, we experienced moments of great joy during World Food Day, when Cuban children joined students from Egypt, Ireland, Italy and Rwanda in a multilingual music video produced by FAO (Leave no one behind) as part of an international awareness-raising initiative for young people.

With the presentation of the FAO Cuba cooperation 2022 Significant Results 2022, we would like to thank all the people and institutions that accompanied us in achieving our goals. You can read about the main results, projects being implemented, initiatives, and impacts on FAO’s beneficiaries in Cuba on the following pages. Enjoy reading.

Marcelo Resende
FAO Representative in Cuba
Where is FAO in Cuba

Municipal scope projects

- Improvement of the management and protection of the marine habitat in the Gulf of Guacanayabo (CONPES CAMAGÜEY). USD 1,319,863
- Incorporation of biodiversity in important ecosystems of agricultural and pastoral landscapes (AGROPAISAJES SOSTENIBLES). USD 4,662,785
- Pilot, horizontal and sustainable models of knowledge management and technology transfer in agroecology (MAS). USD 2,500,000
- Increased climate resilience of rural households and communities through productive landscape restoration in selected locations in the Republic of Cuba (IRES). USD 3,206,791
- Strengthening policies for sustainable food security in Cuba (POSAS). USD 3,170,000
- Strengthening of the integrated knowledge management system for sustainable food security in Cuba (CONSAS). USD 2,850,000
- Introduction of new agricultural methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including phytogenetic and zoogetic resources, in productive landscapes in selected areas of Cuba (COBIMAS). USD 2,973,289

National scope projects

- Strengthening sustainable management of the national Codex committee and its consultative mechanisms to promote food safety (CODEX). USD 122,550
- Improving Cuba’s institutional and technical capacities in the agriculture and land use sectors for improved transparency in the framework of the Paris Agreement (CBIT-AFOLU). USD 863,242

Resources mobilized

From 2019 to 2022, FAO, together with donors, mobilized USD 57,496,318 through joint projects and programmes with the Cuban government.

USD 57,496,318
Results of the cooperation with donors

In cooperation with the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the European Union, FAO Cuba promoted:

Greater environmental sustainability and climate resilience in 19 rural communities across 12 provinces in Cuba benefit 63,000 families through the sustainable productive restoration of 35,000 hectares of land; the conservation of 12 genetic resources of interest for food and agriculture; and the intensive use of knowledge management, technologies, and agroecological innovations with USD 43.6 million from the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the European Union.

The incidence in public policies for the transformation of local agrifood systems in Cuba and their governance, with EUR 6.67 million from the European Union, and results in the approval and implementation of policies and legal norms:

- Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security (SSAN Law)
- Law for the promotion and development of Cuban livestock production
- Agroecology law
- Land law
- Bioproducts policy and decree-law
- Agrarian extension policy and decree-law

Alliances

National Association of Small Farmers
Cuban Association of Agricultural and Forestry Technicians
Cuban Animal Production Association
National Association of Cuban Economists
Cuban Association of Social Communicators
Center for Studies on Youth
Embassy of Belgium
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Green Climate Fund
Global Environment Facility
Federation of Cuban Women
José Martí International Institute of Journalism
Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Food Industry
Ministry of Tourism
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
Ministry of Public Health
Ministry of Higher Education
Ministry of Education
Pan American Health Organization
Oxfam International
World Food Programme
United Nations Development Program
Diplomatic representations, agencies and programmes of countries of Europe and the European Union
Major results within FAO’s strategic framework

Extension of an observatory as the digital knowledge management platform and system that will integrate information on results, products, and services that will support the implementation of the SSAN Law at the local level.

Development of an action plan to reduce the impact of climate change in the forestry sector, a proposal for the inclusion of indicators of carbon absorption and sequestration by forests in the National Economic and Social Development Plan until 2030 (PNDES), and an evaluation of the implementation of Cuba’s National Determined Contributions (NDC) in the forestry sector.

Formulation of the bases for the development of a pilot project for a digital ecosystem scalable to various municipalities in the country as part of the local development strategy under the “1,000 Digital Villages Initiative”.

Technical assistance in the establishment of a national committee for the prevention and reduction of food losses and waste and the development of a methodology to develop the municipal strategy to reduce food losses and waste.

Use of the FAO food balance sheet methodology in designing and implementing municipal diagnoses with a nutritional approach to prepare local food sovereignty action plans.

Technical assistance to the process of construction and implementation of the Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security (SSAN Law) and the constitution of the national commission for its implementation, chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic. An advisory group of the national SSAN commission is in operation, with the participation of FAO.
Strengthening of the national statistical system for better management and innovation in action plans for food sovereignty and security and steps towards the implementation of an agricultural census.

Design of a knowledge management system for the agrifood sector with indicators to assess its effectiveness and efficiency.

Strengthening of the capacities of seven municipal gender committees to address climate change and develop more resilient agrifood systems.

Certification of 392 hectares of land under sustainable management, bringing economic benefits for environmental services to 425 people.

Rehabilitation of 2,624 hectares of degraded and marabou-infested land with agroforestry and silvopastoral systems.

Development of a platform to strengthen Cuba’s coffee development programme through 2030, in coordination with MINAG, ANAP and international cooperation organizations and agencies, under the FAO Director-General’s initiative: “One Country One Priority Product”.

Technical assistance for three draft policies and a decree-law to be approved in the 2023 legislative schedule of the National Assembly of People’s Power, which updates the regulatory framework in the institutional reorganization (bioproducts, agroecology, and agricultural extension).

Technical assistance for three draft policies and a decree-law to be approved in the 2023 legislative schedule of the National Assembly of People’s Power, which updates the regulatory framework in the institutional reorganization (bioproducts, agroecology, and agricultural extension).

Technical assistance to the governments strategy for developing new economic actors, including small and medium-sized private enterprises, in partnership with local governments and the academia to develop nutrition-sensitive local agrifood systems.
Climate resilience in Cuba’s agricultural ecosystems (IRES)

Climate resilience in Cuba’s agricultural ecosystems (IRES) works to increase the climate resilience of agricultural production and guarantee food security in seven municipalities vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It is done through the implementation of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, reforestation, and assisted natural regeneration.

Location

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing
USD 38,206,791

Counterparts
Ministry of Agriculture

Donor
Green Climate Fund

Sustainable development goals
Major results

Contribution to the consolidation of local agrifood systems in Cuba through:

- Rehabilitation of 2,624 hectares of degraded and marabou infested land.
- Implementation of 889 hectares with agroforestry and forestry modules and 1,743 hectares with silvopastoral systems.
- Reduced emissions of 130,384 tons of carbon dioxide.
- 12 farm schools for the training of producers were put into operation.
- Training of 2,187 producers, of which 684 are women, and 211 extensionists, agricultural technicians, and cooperative leaders in the use and management of agroecological practices in forestry, agricultural and livestock systems, local development with a gender focus, geographic information systems, planning, and monitoring.
- Training and education of 102 machinery operators, 20 of them were women (19.6 percent).
- Seven debate workshops were held in support of the proposed reforms to the Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security and the draft law for the promotion and development of Cuban livestock production.
- Completion of an initial proposal for a landscape resilience fund to be considered by the Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, and Planning, and Finance and Prices.
Strengthening policies for sustainable food security in Cuba (POSAS)

Strengthening policies for sustainable food security in Cuba (POSAS), part of the Strategic support for sustainable food security in Cuba (SAS-Cuba) programme, financed by the European Union, works to improve the formulation and management of policies that contribute to municipal food self-sufficiency in Cuba.

Location

With nationwide impact in the 168 municipalities of the country.

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing

EUR 3 170 000

Counterparts

Alejandro de Humboldt Institute for Fundamental Research in Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT)
Ministry of Agriculture

Donor

European Union

Sustainable development goals

© FAO
Major results

Contribution to the reduction of food imports, consolidation of local agrifood systems, reduction of food loss and waste, and food and nutrition education through:

- Technical assistance to the government in designing and implementing the Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security (Law 148/2022 SSAN) and its decree regulation 67/2022.

- Technical assistance in formulating other policies and legal norms linked to the SSAN Law and local innovation processes.
  - Law for the promotion and development of Cuban livestock production
  - Land Law

- Capacity building for key national (798), provincial (835) and municipal (5 978) stakeholders in agrifood sector management models and processes and in tools for the preparation, monitoring and follow-up of the municipal gender strategy and its action plans in six municipalities in Cuba (155 national and territorial stakeholders, including 105 women).

- Accompaniment in preparing a gender action plan for six Cuban municipalities, with concrete actions and indicators for integrating the gender approach into municipal development plan and achieving greater women empowerment.
Strengthening the integrated knowledge management system for sustainable food security in Cuba (CONSAS)

Strengthening the integrated knowledge management system for sustainable food security in Cuba is part of the SAS-Cuba Country Programme and is financed by the European Union. It seeks to improve the articulation of actors in six municipalities in an integrated knowledge management system based on sustainable and resilient food production.

Location

With nationwide impact in the 168 municipalities of the country.

Financing

EUR 3 170 000

Counterparts

Directorate of Science, Technology, Innovation and Environment of the Ministry of Agriculture

Donor

European Union

Sustainable development goals

© FAO
Major results

Contribution to the consolidation of local agrifood systems, reduction of losses and waste, and food and nutrition education through:

Capacity building of local and national stakeholders to promote, through knowledge management, science and innovation, the transformation towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems:

- 297 people trained in the management, reproduction, and production of animal feed in small livestock species (sheep, goat, rabbit), agrotechnical management of vegetables, cassava technology and climate change.

- 50 people trained in the conceptual bases of gender for knowledge management and innovation.

- 60 people trained in the local agricultural innovation system.

Design of a training programme to promote agricultural extension activities, technical assistance and innovation in four production chains (vegetables, root vegetables, fruit trees, and small livestock).

Definition of basic aspects for the design of a knowledge management platform to support the development of local agrifood systems (Integrated knowledge management system).

Strategic partnerships among science, technology, and innovation entities from different sectors (Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Higher Education; Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment; Ministry of Food Industry; AZCUBA Group) in support of the redesign of the agricultural extension system and the agricultural science system in the country.
Biodiversity conservation and sustainable agricultural management (COBIMAS)

Introduction of new agricultural methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including phytogenetic and zoogenetic resources, in productive landscapes in selected areas of Cuba (COBIMAS) seeks to promote the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity through the introduction of Sustainable intensification of agricultural production for the adaptation and rescue of plant and animal species of global importance for food and agriculture.

Location

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing
USD 2 973 288

Counterparts
Alejandro de Humboldt Institute for Fundamental Research in Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT)
Ministry of Agriculture

Donor
Global Environment Facility

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Major results

Contribution to the reduction of food imports, the consolidation of local agrifood systems, the strengthening of food and nutrition education, and the development of new economic actors through:

- Increase of populations of 12 endangered local varieties of plants and animals, which are of food and agricultural interest.

- The FAO promoted Sustainable intensification of agricultural production approach is used in 26,996 hectares of land. Of these, 4,091 hectares have been certified.

- 425 people in Ciénaga de Zapata (Zapata Swamp), Sancti Spíritus and Delta del Cauto benefit economically from payment for environmental services on 392 hectares of land certified with sustainable management practices.

They obtain economic benefits

- More than 30 private producers from nine farms in the Zapata Swamp and nearly 40 families from productive units attached to the Flora and Fauna Business Group.

- 120 workers from four production units and 25 independent producers from five farms in Sancti Spíritus.

- 80 families (150 people) in Delta del Cauto.
Capacity building for climate action (CBIT-AFOLU)

Improving institutional and technical capacities in the agriculture and land use sectors for enhanced transparency under the Paris Agreement (CBIT-AFOLU) aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacities in the agriculture, forestry, and other land use sectors to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

Location

With nationwide impact

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing

USD 863 242

Counterparts

Grass and Fodders Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture

Donor

Global Environment Facility

Sustainable Development Goals
Major results

Contribution to the consolidation of local agrifood systems through:

Design of a digital platform for analysis of monitoring, reporting, and verification of climate finance for greenhouse gas emissions and removals. This platform will be linked to the National Environmental Information System, as a complement to information management processes that contribute to environmental indicators for decision making.

Preparation of an action plan proposal for the forestry subsector regarding climate change impacts and adaptation actions based on the piloting and validation of the results of climate change impact assessments on the forestry heritage of 17 agroforestry companies, two protected areas, the natural distribution of two endemic pine species, as well as carbon absorption and sequestration by the forests.

Updating of the action plan for the agricultural subsector with adaptation actions for tobacco crops and the presentation of a mitigation strategy proposal to the TABACUBA Business Group, a key player in the production of this crop at the national level.

101 technicians, officials and managers improved their skills in relevant topics for the monitoring and evaluation of compliance with Cuba’s nationally determined contributions based on the Enhanced Transparency Framework established through the Paris Agreement.

In collaboration with another ongoing project, theoretical and field training was provided on the use of the tools developed by FAO Collect Earth and Earth Map of Open Foris for monitoring the nationally determined contributions in the context of reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Codex Alimentarius

Strengthening the sustainable management of the national Codex committee in Cuba and its consultation mechanisms to foster a culture of food safety will contribute to a greater culture at every link in the food chain, promoting consumer health and fostering trade in safe food.

Location

With nationwide impact

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing

USD 122 550

Counterparts

Center for Quality Management and Development of the National Standards Office (ONN)

Donor

Codex FAO/WHO Trust Fund

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Major results

Codex developed actions that will promote food safety, reduction of losses and waste, and food and nutrition education.

Approved a Codex of Cuba procedures manual, which serves as guide for the operation of the national committee and strengthens and supports government decisions and the country’s position on issues related to international food regulations and legislation, as well as actions to ensure quality and safety through an educational, preventive and comprehensive health approach.

Strengthened the knowledge and technical capacities of 63 people (85 percent of them are women) on the operation of Codex in the country.

Codex Alimentarius: Created in 1963 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), it is a set of international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice that help to ensure safety, quality, and equity in international food trade. Cuba has been member of this international mechanism since 1964.
Sustainable agroecological models (MAS)

Sustainable agroecological models, approved in 2022, will work on the development, strengthening, and implementation of an integrated knowledge management system in the agricultural sector to increase food production in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Location

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing
USD 2 738 226

Counterparts
Alejandro de Humboldt Institute for Fundamental Research in Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT)
Ministry of Agriculture

Donor
European Union

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Major results

Sustainable agroecological models will contribute to the consolidation of local agrifood systems through:

- Identification of agroecological initiatives in its areas of intervention that can be scaled up to other territories, in line with the agroecological approach suggested by the SSAN Law.

- Technical assistance to the pilot extension of the Technological Observatory for Food Sovereignty (SAEN+C) as an integrated management platform for the different priority axes of the SSAN Law in each territory.

- Introduction of science, technology and innovation in the modification of certain statistical indicators reflecting the evolution and behavior of the baseline in each municipality for the implementation process of the SSAN Law.

- Introduction of science, technology and innovation results with the beneficiaries of the territories based on the consolidation of local agrifood systems.

- Implementation of actions that contribute to resilient and sustainable agrifood systems from the local level, with an agroecological and digital vision.
Sustainable agrolandscapes

Approved in March 2022, Sustainable agrolandscapes seeks to reduce pressures on natural resources by integrating biodiversity conservation into coffee and cocoa crops and livestock production in eastern Cuba, incorporating more sustainable practices in these production systems.

Location

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing
USD 5 105 750

Counterparts
National Institute for Agroforestry Research (INAF)
Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Humanity
Ministry of Agriculture

Donor
Global Environment Facility

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Major results

Sustainable agrolandscapes will contribute to the consolidation of local agrifood systems through:

- 250,000 hectares of land improved with strengthened governance, of them 50,000 ha in fieldwork.
- 700 hectares of restored land and ecosystems.
- 15,000 direct beneficiaries, including 3,324 women and 11,676 men.
- 10,911,887 tons of greenhouse gases mitigated.
- Closed cycle and circular economy experiences that favor the use of coffee, cocoa, and coconut crop residues for animal feed and soil improvement.
- Use of livestock waste as biofertilizers, thereby increasing the efficiency of production systems and improving the environment.
- Strengthening of value chains associated with coffee, cacao, cocoa, coconut, and livestock production and identification of markets for marketing products resulting from sustainable practices.
Conpescas Guacanayabo was approved in 2022. It seeks to contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity through the sustainable management of fishery resources and other marine and coastal resources in the Gulf of Guacanayabo, applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture.

Location

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba

Financing
USD 1 319 863

Counterparts
Fisheries Research Center (CIP)

Donor
Global Environment Facility

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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**Expected results**

Recovery of six marine species from the impacts of overfishing and other environmental pressures, namely, pink shrimp, lane snapper, mutton snapper, mullet, tarpon, and southern stingray.

Inclusion of sustainable fishing practices and introducing participatory governance for the management of fishery resources through the diversification of livelihoods, to reduce the pressure concentrated on some species.

Contributing to greater sustainability of fisheries and providing alternatives to communities that depend on these fishery resources, thus improving the ecological balance and biodiversity health of the Gulf of Guacanayabo.

Empowerment of women in the fishing industry to change the current balance of men and women in the fishing and aquaculture sector.
The Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme concluded in Cuba

Implemented between 2018 and 2022, the Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) programme in Cuba accompanied the Cuban government in the formulation of the Food sovereignty and nutrition education plan based on experiences in the development of food security plans in other countries in the region.

FIRST contributed to formulating and implementing the SSAN Law and the training and sensitization of dynamizing agents in different regions of the country.

It had a significant role on the mobilization, communication, participation, and coordination of local actors in the process of drafting the SSAN Law and in planning, training, and decision-making related to the consolidation of local agrifood systems.

2018

The National Plan for Food and Nutrition Security (Plan SAN) contemplated national guidelines for the consolidation of local, sovereign, and sustainable agrifood systems based on intersectoral articulation, the participation of actors linked to food production, processing, marketing and consumption, and the promotion of a food and nutrition culture.

2019

To guarantee the right to food, in addition to the measures and public policies approved in Cuba, the organization of local agrifood systems on an agroecological basis with gender and generational equity is essential.

Diosnel San Loys, Vice Minister of Agriculture

2020

The Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) programme concluded in Cuba
FIRST contributed to the training of journalists and communicators on food security issues.

The governance structure at its municipal, provincial, and national levels is a novel aspect that distinguishes the SSAN Law.

Maricela Díaz Rodríguez, Member of the Advisory Group of the National Commission on Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security.

2021

It provided technical assistance to 168 municipal governments by creating 36 groups of dynamizing agents and trainers in the country’s 15 provinces and with methodologies and tools that support the construction and implementation of municipal food and nutrition security plans.

This Law is not a magic wand. We will not have food on the table just because it came into force. Still, it does constitute a legislative initiative that contributes to bringing us closer to the purpose of achieving food sovereignty and strengthening food and nutritional security.”

Mayra Cruz Legón, Legal Director of the Ministry of Agriculture.

2022

FIRST strengthened the transition from a centralized agricultural management model to a decentralized model with greater autonomy for local stakeholders, promoting sustainable family farming, agroecology, and the consumption of healthy and wholesome food.

It facilitated spaces for participation, articulation, and construction of synergies between agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System in Cuba and international cooperation for consolidating local agrifood systems.
Closure of the FAO-WFP project: Strengthening community resilience for food and nutrition security in municipalities impacted by hurricane Irma (PROACT)

“Strengthening community resilience for food and nutrition security in municipalities impacted by hurricane Irma” (PROACT) was implemented between 2019 and 2022 by FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP), with funding from the European Union.

It increased root vegetable production from 872 tons at the beginning of the project to 1,889 tons at its conclusion.

PROACT developed a school feeding model based on local resources, through a direct link between farmers and educational centers, in seven municipalities affected by drought and hurricane Irma in Villa Clara province.

62 educational institutions benefited from the conservation of safe food and the implementation of a training programme on healthy eating and nutrition, including support for school gardens for educational purposes.

More than 13,000 people were provided with training and support.
Gaps affecting the resilience of root vegetable value chains were identified to meet the demand for nutritious food under drought conditions and after a hurricane impact.

A food and nutrition surveillance system was implemented for the first time.

Smallholder farmers supported by the project reported increased production, income, and a reduction in post-harvest losses (from an initial 15.8 percent to 6.9 percent of the total production).

Strengthened information management and monitoring of risk associated with droughts and hurricanes with technical equipment to improve measurements of climatic, agrometeorological, and hydrological variables.

Increased women’s participation in cooperatives from 410 in 2019 to 529 in 2022, same as their participation on managing boards from 36 to 54.

An integrated knowledge management programme for agricultural systems vulnerable to extreme weather events (hurricanes and droughts) was developed and validated.
Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security

The SSAN Law will be a huge step forward on the road to strengthening the right to healthy and adequate food for the population in Cuba. It is enshrined in articles 77 and 78 of the Constitution of the Republic and is evidence of the state’s political will to promote and give effect to that right on the island.

Marcelo Resende
FAO Representative in Cuba

Food production

The demand for what is required to feed the population has to stop being a simple reference and become the goal to be achieved. Sowing what is needed to meet that demand is the main indicator that will guarantee the achievement of the goal. Contracting producers is the materialization of this goal and is the way to ensure results.

Manuel Marrero Cruz
National Commission for Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security

Food losses and waste

Although there are a set of regulations in the country related to the treatment of food losses and waste, the fact that it is addressed from a comprehensive approach in the Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security is a novel thing.

Michely Vega León
Institute for Fundamental Research on Tropical Agriculture
Youth
Agroecological principles and practices must permeate youth. That is essential. Implementing the SSAN Law with the participation of youth in local agrifood systems in the municipalities is a major challenge, so timely training and communication with our youth is a fundamental pillar in achieving the goals pursued by the Plan.

Yuvan Contino
President of the Young Agroecologists Group, attached to the National Association of Agricultural, Forestry and Tobacco Technicians.

Intersectorality
The SSAN Law recognizes that the food problem is not due to agriculture alone. It is an intersectoral, interinstitutional, multilevel problem. It involves many Central State Administration agencies and directly the governments, who are responsible for the implementation and coordination of the commissions pooling all the actors involved in the production, processing, and marketing of food.

Maricela González
Professor at the Hermanos Saíz Montes de Oca University.
Guerillero Newspaper, September 2022

Challenges for equity
The access to empowering resources such as land, production equipment, time, specialized knowledge on some topics, and credit are some of the challenges women face in guaranteeing food sovereignty.

Dayma Echevarría León
Consultant on Gender Issues

Nutrition education
The country's first challenge is the incorporation of food and nutrition issues into local development. Each population, mayor, and local government should know their basic nutritional needs and what they should produce to cover their needs.

Blanca Terry Berro
Director of the National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology
World Food Day
Leave no one behind

On October 16, 2022, FAO celebrated World Food Day in the context of the approval and implementation of the Law on food sovereignty and food and nutrition security and the restoration of 35,000 hectares of land of degraded soils intended for agricultural production.

With the slogan Leave no one behind, the day called for transforming agrifood systems to make them more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, to fight poverty and hunger, reduce inequalities, and preserve the environment.

Marathon race

On October 10, thousands of people of all ages participated in the famous race for World Food Day, organized by the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER), through the Marabana/ Maracuba project, with the support of FAO and WFP.

Theoretical event

FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, and WFP held the Theoretical event “Local agrifood systems: towards healthy and sustainable diets.” It was held on October 14 at the Cuban Association of the United Nations.
Cuban children from the Comandante Pinares elementary school in the municipality of East Havana participated in the global video for World Food Day 2022.

**National event**

Marcelo Resende, FAO Representative in Cuba, spoke at the national event for World Food Day and International Rural Women’s Day, held in the eastern province of Las Tunas, with the participation of the National Association of Smallholder Farmers (ANAP) and the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC).

**Educational day**

The Ministry of Education, together with FAO, UNICEF and WFP, held an educational day to promote healthy nutrition habits in early childhood.

**Zona Quinta festival**

Various business ventures, local development projects, and other economic actors gathered at the fourth edition of the Zona Quinta festival, held on October 15 and 16 at Quinta de los Molinos, with the support of various agencies of the United Nations System in Cuba. In this context, the outstanding Cuban farmer Fernando Funes Monzote also launched his book *La metáfora del Pozo. Finca Marta Experiencia Agroecológica* (The metaphor of the Well. Finca Marta Agroecological Experience).
Rehabilitation of local food production in the areas affected by hurricane Ian

On September 27, 2022, with an extensive diameter of 600 km, hurricane Ian lashed the western provinces of Cuba for more than seven hours, causing significant losses in the agricultural and fisheries sector and food storage, marketing, and processing facilities.

After its devastating passage through western Cuba, more than 80,000 animals died in the livestock sector, including 16,800 laying hens. Likewise, 82 percent of the food distribution centers suffered severe damage, as well as 57 percent of the Family Assistance Systems (SAF).

In response to the effects of the hurricane, FAO mobilized just over USD 1 million to rehabilitate local food production in the affected areas.

Affected municipalities

Artemisa (Bahía Honda, Candelaria, San Cristóbal)

Pinar del Río (Pinar del Río, Viñales, La Palma, Los Palacios, Consolación del Sur, San Juan y Martínez, San Luis)

Map in accordance with the UN. 1986. Map No. 3401. https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cuba
Central Emergency Response Fund

Funds were mobilized through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as follows:

**USD 500 085**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct beneficiaries</th>
<th>Indirect beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91 597</td>
<td>1 423 799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 161</td>
<td>546 570</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funds were earmarked for:**

- Procuring seeds and inputs for the restoration of semiprotected, crop houses and postures.
- Improving the availability of and access to food for people affected by the hurricane, with emphasis on the most vulnerable.
- Contributing to the immediate recovery of short cycle nutritious food production and people’s livelihoods.
- The rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure and technologies, with emphasis on restoring semiprotected crop houses and postures.

Even if these resources are insufficient for the rehabilitation of local food production in the affected areas, they provide a good impetus to achieve significant impacts as part of the UN systems response and its Action Plan.

Marcelo Resende
FAO Representative in Cuba
Special fund for emergency and rehabilitation activities - Agricultural input response capacity

FAO, with financial support from the Government of Belgium, assisted Cuba in the rehabilitation of local food production in the areas affected by hurricane Ian.

Financial support from Belgium through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities - Agricultural Input Response Capacity (SFERA-CRIA), amounted to:

**USD 500 000**
The funds were used to purchase roofs for the rehabilitation of poultry houses and the recovery and improvement of peoples livelihoods.

The availability of eggs in the communities and the consumption of animal protein will increase to contribute to improving the nutrition and health of:

- **1 425 000 people in vulnerable conditions**
- **285 000 households**
During 2022, FAO provided technical assistance in designing and implementing several draft laws that will contribute to the transformation of Cuba's agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life.

**Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security**

It is aimed at achieving food sovereignty, and strengthening food and nutritional security in order to protect the right of all people to healthy and adequate food. It also seeks to organize sovereign and sustainable local agrifood systems that articulate in an intersectoral and interinstitutional way the production, transformation, commercialization, and consumption of food.

**Law for the promotion and development of Cuban livestock production**

This is based on the promotion and sustainable development of livestock farming and principles thereof; the responsibilities, rights and obligations of those involved in its management; and public records of livestock farming, genetic pool and livestock inspection.
Promotion of agroecology in Cuba

The scaling up of 253 agroecological initiatives was promoted in Cuba, 61 of them were led by women, through its Agroecology 2019 contest.

Technical assistance was provided for the development of the agroecology policy.

Actions were carried out to support the strengthening of the group of young agroecologists through the organization of a national fair and the international youth fair on local agrifood systems.

We worked on the formulation of a proposal for a programme and connection of actors around agroecological tourism, presented to the European Union and the cooperation of its member countries.

We led the production of three publications summarizing Cuba’s results in support of agroecology promotion.

We worked in the promotion of the doctorate in agroecology at the Agrarian University of Havana.
FAO Subregional Coordinator for Mesoamerica visited an elementary school with results in food and nutrition education

On the occasion of the visit to Cuba of the FAO Subregional Coordinator for Mesoamerica, Adoniram Sanches Peraci, we visited the Comandante Pinares Elementary School, located in Campo Florido, East Havana municipality, to take a close look at some of the results in food and nutrition education of this educational center.

At the meeting, Sanches Peraci talked with students, teachers and families of the school, which has an enrollment of 400 students. He learned first-hand about the management of the school garden and the benefits it has brought to nutrition and to increase knowledge about healthy eating.

“Our center has yielded many good results over the years. However, the garden has been one of the experiences that has given us the most for children and families,” said the school’s Principal, Redelio Rivero. He said that the food produced in the garden has also been supplied to other institutions, such as homes for children without family support and the Family Care System.
During 2022, FAO Cuba continued to work through its projects and programmes on gender mainstreaming to minimize inequality gaps in rural communities. In this regard, we achieved the following results:

Broad participation of women in the processes of capacity building, exchange of experiences, management of public policies and development strategies promoted by the projects.

Articulation with local and national actors to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Strengthening of partnerships with various organizations for the work of the gender committees (at municipal and provincial levels) in support of the implementation of the gender strategy of the agricultural system.

Access to productive resources, knowledge, exchange of experiences, and improvement of working conditions for women benefiting from the projects.

Farms and field schools are led by women.

Publication of five newsletters Con ellas en la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios (With them in the transformation of agrifood systems), aimed at disseminating information on rural women, as well as a set of tools for managing local agrifood systems with gender equity.
If we are to get where we need to be by 2030, we must focus on transforming our agrifood systems. They are not only the largest economic system, measured in terms of employment, livelihoods, planetary impact, but poverty and inequality are endemic in our agrifood systems. If our agrifood systems are transformed sustainably and inclusively to deliver the food security and nutrition outcomes we need, they can become a powerful force contributing to ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms in the world.

Dr Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General
18 July 2023, University of Naples Federico II

The region has the highest cost of a healthy diet in the world. If we fail to take charge of this situation as soon as possible, it will have serious consequences on food insecurity, chronic malnutrition, overweight, and obesity and an impact on the social and economic development of the region, distancing us from the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda; and violating the right to adequate food of millions of inhabitants in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mario Lubetkin
FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean

The primary challenge is to prepare municipalities using the tools of popular education for the implementation of the SSAN Law because there can be no local agrifood systems without real empowerment and sovereignty of the municipality. How do we reach our children in schools, in hospitals? How do we get each producer to understand the SSAN Law? How do we get governments, from their management system, to produce what the municipality needs, and at the same time train, communicate, articulate, link and substitute imports?

Jorge Luis Tapia Fonseca
Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Cuba

Belgium’s contribution to the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities - Agricultural Input Response Capacity (SFERA-CRIA) for the rehabilitation of local food production in the areas affected by Hurricane Ian and the agility of FAO’s mechanisms to mobilize funds, as well as its technical expertise and network of contacts in the field, has been a strength that has allowed us to provide a rapid response to the emergency, as well as to contribute to the recovery of food production and livelihoods of 476 poultry farmers and their families in the most damaged municipalities in the provinces of Pinar del Rio and Artemisa.

Jean-Jacques Bastien
Ambassador of Belgium to Cuba

We cannot fail to recognize and thank the accompaniment we have had from the Agencies of the United Nations System in Cuba, particularly FAO, in the process of drafting and implementing the Law on food sovereignty and food and nutritional security. This legal norm promotes the organization of local agrifood systems on agroecological bases with gender and generational equity, and the transformation of these systems into sustainable models. This is essential to promote the production, transformation and commercialization of food in the municipalities as an ideal way to satisfy the food demands and nutritional needs of the people, strengthening the role of family agriculture and the recovery and development of rurality.

Diosnel San Loyo
Vice Minister of Agriculture of Cuba

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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