



# Plastics in agriculture

## Country support

FAO, in collaboration with UNEP and GEF, is supporting Kenya and Uruguay in catalyzing a framework for investment in the agriculture sector, which looks to detoxify agrifood value chains by eliminating the use of the most harmful chemicals and plastics.

The FARM project will help Kenya and Uruguay scale up investment in alternatives for the sustainable management of plastics used in agriculture.

The use of plastics in agrifood value chains is pervasive. FAO estimates that every year 12.5 million tonnes of plastic products are used in plant and animal production. The crop production and livestock sectors are the largest users, followed by fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry.

The benefits of using plastics in agriculture include increased yields and production efficiency alongside reduced food loss and waste. However, their use also incurs high environmental, economic and social costs, primarily from increased pollution.

Solutions to plastics pollution in agrifood value chains need to be cross-sectoral, inclusive, based on principles of circularity and an integral part of the overall transformation of agrifood systems to become more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

## Did you know?

- ✦ The 2021 [FAO Assessment Report](#) included a call for global action for improved inter-sectoral collaboration and governance to address the issues of plastic use throughout agrifood systems. The report identified alternatives and interventions to improve the circularity and sound management of agricultural plastics based on the 6R model (Refuse, Redesign, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover).
- ✦ In December 2022, the FAO Council endorsed the decisions of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28) and recommended that FAO develops a voluntary code of conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture, to assist policy makers and other agrifood supply chain stakeholders in designing and implementing policies for improving the sustainability of plastics used in agriculture. In June 2023, FAO started a consultative process with Members and stakeholders for the development of the Code.
- ✦ FAO is actively involved in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process and participates in the INC sessions. FAO is fully committed to assisting Members in ensuring that the new instrument encompasses the sustainable management of plastics across all agricultural sectors with due consideration to nutrition, food safety, and food security aspects, while taking into account the crucial role of smallholder farmers and fishers.



Download the FAO report  
"Assessment of agricultural  
plastics and their sustainability:  
A call for action"

## Contact

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