FAO AND THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION:

Serving our members together
FAO has a long history of partnership with the countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), providing policy advice, analysis and technical assistance in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, natural resources management and food security in its commitment to support resilient livelihoods and enhance food security.

FAO collaborates with these countries at a global level, as well as at a regional level through a number of regional initiatives, and at a country level via the country programming framework agreed upon with national authorities.

FAO’s support to the OIC countries in 2012-2013 amounted to about US$600 million.

AFGHANISTAN
The FAO programme in Afghanistan is our largest programme in the Asia Pacific region and one of the largest in the world. The total delivery for 2013 was US$32.3 million, of which US$28.5 million was for development projects and US$3.7 million was for emergency projects. FAO Afghanistan’s projects are aligned to the six priority areas of the Country Programming Framework: support for fostering agricultural production capacity; support for better water resource and irrigation development and management; support for the formulation and implementation of effective agricultural policies and institutional capacity building; support for better natural resource management; support for food and nutrition security; and support for capacity development in emergency management.

ALBANIA
Agriculture has traditionally dominated Albania’s rural areas—while its GDP share has been declining, employment in agriculture remains over half of the labour force. FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MAFCP), is completing a capacity building and policy assistance project with the aim to improve the competitiveness of the farming sector through creation of outside farm jobs, increasing income earning opportunities and improving livelihoods in rural areas. The project includes a series of participatory technical workshops, combined with extension services and pilot projects implemented by MAFCP Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres (ATTCs). The target beneficiaries will be selected groups of rural households who will participate in the pilot projects, supported by ATTCs and extension services. These projects aim to improve beneficiary households’ competitiveness through the reduction of on farm labour inputs and help them achieve additional incomes through diversification of employment.

ALGERIA
FAO’s support to the Government of Algeria mainly focuses on the areas of agricultural development, prevention of transboundary animal diseases, sustainable management of fisheries and promotion and development of aquaculture and sustainable forest management. A recent project in Algeria’s Saharan region of Ouargla supported the sustainable...
Development of artisanal and commercial aquaculture by combining agriculture with aquaculture. The positive results achieved through this integrated system have led the government to develop and promote small-scale and commercial aquaculture at a national level to contribute to rural population settlement, job creation, and improved nutrition through diversified protein resources.

AZERBAIJAN
At the beginning of 2014, the government requested FAO to assist the country with the development of meat sector strategy (focusing on abattoirs development), animal breeding strategy and a technical cooperation programme (TCP) on the development of cattle breeding and artificial insemination. FAO has developed TCP frameworks with two ongoing components: Development of Meat Sector and Animal Breeding Strategies; and Food Security Information System in Azerbaijan. IFAD has also approved the financing of the project proposal for "Rehabilitation and sustainable use of pastures", submitted by FAO and now included in the 2014 workplan of its ongoing programme.

BAHRAIN
FAO’s assistance in Bahrain focuses on improving the management and conservation of the natural resource base and enhancing agricultural and fisheries production to improve the livelihoods of the Bahraini people. More specifically, recent efforts have involved capacity development of institutions for strategic planning and policy development; strengthening agricultural information systems; enhancing food safety and improving food and nutrition security. FAO is currently providing technical support to plan and implement an aquaculture development programme that will bring together marine aquaculture and closed system low-water use desert aquaculture to secure long term sustainable development of fisheries and hence to the food security of the country. FAO is also supporting the rehabilitation of the cattle artificial insemination system and other assisted reproduction technologies to increase production and productivity of livestock.

BANGLADESH
FAO’s support to Bangladesh spans a wide range of areas covering: policy advice and support to investment; enhanced food and nutrition security; agribusinesses and prevention of and response to food chain threats and emergencies; climate change mitigation and adaptation and natural resources management; and advocacy and support to aid effectiveness. FAO, mainly through the Investment Center (TCI) and the FAO Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP), has significantly contributed to the formulation and now to the monitoring of the implementation of the Country Investment Plan (CIP), "A road map towards investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition". The CIP is a 5-year comprehensive plan that aims to ensure sustainable food security.

BENIN
After the Niger River overran its banks in August 2013, FAO supported farming families in northern Benin who lost crops, livestock and fishing grounds. The emergency response programme focused on long term development in the area, beyond the short timeframe of immediate emergencies. In addition to providing quality seed, fertilizers, farming equipment, storage infrastructure and training on new technologies and post-harvest activities, FAO’s assistance also included raising awareness on the principles of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and workshops on resilience for community members and local authorities. Trainings covered the use of resilience funds and structural reinforcements such as silos for preparedness in the face of more frequent and severe weather shocks due to the effects of climate change.

BRUNEI-DARUSSALAM
FAO implemented a major EU-funded initiative to strengthen the capacity of two regional organizations in Asia; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in their efforts to coordinate regional approaches to fight against Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPED). FAO helped improve capacities for prevention, control
and eradication of these diseases in countries still struggling with the ongoing H5N1-crisis, the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). By establishing regional epidemiology and diagnosis networks, FAO helped provide standardized training, supported information sharing and promoted exchange of technical experts. It also supported leading laboratories for three priority diseases – foot and mouth disease, pestes des petits ruminants and HPAI. Managerial, technical and field staff of veterinary services, animal health authorities, and animal health services in member countries also benefited from a training and mentoring programme to strengthen their capacity for better cross-border coordination in disease control.

BURKINA FASO
Following the 2012 food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel, FAO helped vulnerable households in Burkina Faso improve resilience in vegetable production. FAO distributed vegetable seeds, fertilizer, phytosanitary equipment, sprinklers, moringa seedlings and papaya plants to 1,550 households. Approximately 1,325 farmers, nearly half of them women, were also trained on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), while an additional 155 farmers including 92 females were trained in nutrition education. The programme increased vegetable production and generated additional income through the sale of surplus crops. The training in nutrition education, in addition to increasing the availability of vegetables, also improved dietary diversity in beneficiary households.

CAMEROON
The Far North region of Cameroon is densely populated and highly vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. Food production in this region barely meets the needs of the population. The main objective of FAO’s resilience building intervention in the region is to improve food security and protect the livelihoods of vulnerable populations by boosting cereal production through the provision of improved seeds, tools and training. In the coastal regions of the country, FAO is working to protect mangrove ecosystems that are currently threatened by a number of development pressures as well as unsustainable management and harvesting practices of the local communities. These mangroves are valuable both for their contributions to local livelihoods and the globally important biodiversity that they contain. FAO strengthened protection and reduced degradation in the region by supporting inter-sectoral coordination and by helping local communities to redirect economic activities towards those that both improve their livelihoods and assist with the conservation of mangroves.

CHAD
Many households in Chad are suffering from malnutrition, which is the combined result of food unavailability and inaccessibility due to chronic poverty and a limited understanding of nutrition. FAO is supporting the promotion of off-season garden agriculture to assist Sudanese refugees and other vulnerable populations in the country’s Sahel region by increasing nutritious food consumption and providing additional income. FAO also works on landscaping of home gardening perimeters to give women access to land. In addition to responding
to immediate food and nutrition needs, FAO has mobilized resources to improve resilience, specifically through the implementation of a new food security and early warning system. Other activities in country include the formulation of a development plan for aquaculture and the direct intervention to locust infestations that helped the country avert a major locust crisis.

**COMOROS**
FAO’s contribution in Comoros focuses on providing expertise on the recovery and revitalization of the agricultural and rural sector. It will assist in creating stable and remunerative employment for rural people in order to increase income and improve food security. In addition, the project will have a specific strategy for promoting efficient agricultural production and ensuring food security, as well as supporting the emergence of small and medium-sized agricultural production units.

**CÔTE D’IVOIRE**
Agriculture is a major driver of economic growth in Côte d’Ivoire – two-thirds of Ivorian households earn a living from it. On the heels of a political crisis and rising food prices, the country is now working to rebuild its agricultural sector. FAO is helping returnees and communities that hosted refugees and the displaced to kick-start agricultural production and, in turn, help lower the country’s alarming malnutrition rates. Specific initiatives include providing agricultural kits for maize, upland and lowland rice and vegetables so that farming families, particularly returnees and host families, do not miss any planting seasons. FAO is also supporting community-based seed growers to produce quality seed so that farmers nationwide have a reliable source of inputs. There is a strong push to create new opportunities for people without land to make a living in agriculture, whether from agricultural processing and marketing or livestock rearing. Likewise, FAO is supporting mothers with malnourished children through village-based nutrition centres.

**DJIBOUTI**
In a recently completed project, FAO helped improve food and nutrition security and restore livelihoods for drought-affected households and smallholders in Djibouti. The initiative involved rehabilitating/constructing a total of four water points and five underground cisterns in Dikhil and Obock regions; distributing 465 plastic containers to enable 400 livestock-dependent households to stock water; and holding four workshops on community management and household water treatment. The project successfully increased water accessibility in Djibouti, thereby slightly decreasing livestock mortality as well as increasing food production in beneficiary farmers’ gardens and enabling them to generate income from the sale of surplus. It also strengthened coping mechanisms among project beneficiaries, especially during the lean seasons.

**EGYPT**
FAO has been assisting the country in establishing an inter-ministerial Food Security Policy Advisory Board, which has created thematic working groups to discuss and develop policies, actions and strategy elements to address food security issues in the country on the short, medium and long term horizons. Based on the endorsed New Five Years Action Pan (2012-2017), FAO is also taking the lead in supporting the government in the organization
of the Agricultural Investment Forum to promote its agricultural strategy and encourage investment. Overall, FAO’s support in Egypt focuses on four main thematic areas:

1. Agricultural information generation, sharing and dissemination to enhance market competitiveness.
2. Enhancement of productivity and efficiency in the agricultural sector through sustainable land and water use and management.
3. Sustaining rural community development.
4. Conserving natural resources and adapting to impacts of climate change.

GABON

From 2011, FAO helped Gabon restore cassava yields by reinforcing the capacity of the most food insecure subsistence farmers to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to cassava-related diseases in the region. In addition to providing improved cassava varieties to farmers, FAO also trained extension workers in cassava disease and pest identification, established farmer field schools to train farmers on increasing production, and helped farmers generate additional income through sale of excess cassava.

In the greater central African region, FAO helped formulate a strategic plan to define the priority areas of intervention for FAO from 2012-2017. Priority actions will include creating a coherent agricultural

THEMATIC WORK

Blue Growth

Fisheries and aquaculture make a significant contribution to food security and livelihoods of millions of people. Some 200 million direct and indirect employment opportunities occur along the value chain from harvesting to distribution, making the livelihoods of some 880 million people dependent on the sector. However, current trends in fishing and aquaculture practices are not sustainable. The aquatic ecosystem is under stress from over-exploitation, pollution, declining biodiversity, expansion of invasive species, climate change and ocean acidification.

The Blue Growth Initiative aims at restoring the potential of the oceans and wetlands by introducing new responsible and sustainable approaches to reconcile economic growth and food security with conservation of the aquatic resources, and creating an enabling environment for people employed in fisheries and aquaculture to act not only as resource users but also as resource stewards. It builds upon streams of work with global, regional and national impact aiming at effecting transformational changes in capture fisheries management, resource and habitat conservation, sustainable intensification of aquaculture, improved livelihoods and social equitability as well as transparent, predictable and more secure food systems. It is championed by several Islamic coastal states such as Indonesia, Morocco and the UAE.
policy supported by effective investments to increase agricultural production, as well as promoting sustainable forest management practices.

**GAMBIA**

FAO continues to support the Government of The Gambia in addressing the challenges of the agricultural sector and has facilitated the formulation of broad policies and measures to accelerate agricultural production, boost overall sector performance and strengthen exports and trade. FAO spearheaded the formulation of Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (ANRP) to strengthen competitiveness in the sector through commercialization. FAO also assisted the government in the formulation of The Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan (GNAIP 2011-2015) that translates the country’s agricultural priorities into concrete fundable investment programs. To address some very specific challenges to the agricultural sector, FAO supported the government through the formulation and implementation of Technical Cooperation programmes. These programmes included introducing the technology of metallic silos, setting up of aquaculture pilot projects, and promoting nutrition education by incorporating nutrition issues into the school curricula.

**GUINEA**

Food security remains a top priority for FAO and the Government of Guinea. The Ministry of Agriculture has requested support from FAO for the formulation of a country programming framework for the period of 2013 through 2017. During its development, three priority areas of cooperation were highlighted: strengthening food and nutrition security; strengthening the governance of the agricultural sector; and prevention and risk management of food crises, disasters and climate change adaptation. FAO has also provided aquaculture training for Guinean fish farmers by organizing technical workshops. The training, which was conducted in the classroom and the field, contributed substantially to the improved ability of local fish farmers. Apart from local farmers, participants included feed producers and extension staff from each part of Forest Guinea and the newly-established Direction Nationale de la Pisciculture.

**GUINEA-BISSAU**

FAO is supporting the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition in Guinea-Bissau through the establishment of a Coordinating Agency for Food and Nutrition Security and the promotion of the right to food in the country. In this context, FAO provided technical assistance for the implementation of two local projects aimed at increasing the sustainable production of aquaculture and the promotion of family farming in Guinea-Bissau. FAO also guided the government in its development of a National Nutrition Policy, adopted in February 2014, and a Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition, now in progress. In addition, FAO has provided technical and financial support for the revision of laws and regulations to promote responsible governance of tenure in the country. Achievements thus far include the review of the National Agricultural Investment Program (PNIA), approved in December 2013, which now examines new issues such as gender in agriculture, climate change, nutrition, resilience and disaster risk management.

**GUYANA**

In an effort to enhance the capacity of the country to collect, manage and access agricultural market data and information, FAO has been providing technical assistance to develop a comprehensive Agriculture Market Information System. This system is aimed at improving domestic and regional trade in agricultural commodities and enhancing the lives of rural populations. Achievements thus far include a website showcasing the work and services provided by Guyana Marketing Corporation, as well as enhanced staff capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture to implement a crop production data collection system to allow for better crop forecasting and production planning.

**INDONESIA**

The Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) aims at restoring the potential of the oceans and wetlands by introducing responsible and sustainable approaches to reconcile economic growth and food security together with the conservation of aquatic resources. Indonesia has adopted a Master Plan for Economic Development
based on the Blue Growth concepts, and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries is implementing the BGI on the island of Lombok. The focus is on fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, added value, ecotourism and mangrove restoration. FAO is providing expertise and capacity building to support feasibility studies, policy development and project implementation. The BGI’s scope is being expanded to other FAO Member Countries, such as Morocco, Algeria and Senegal. Others, including Côte d’Ivoire, Cabo Verde and Iran have also requested support. There is high potential to upscale the results of this pilot work to benefit other coastal countries and communities.

IRAN
FAO’s intervention in Iran is currently focusing on the rehabilitation of forest landscapes and degraded land through the Global Environmental Facility, with particular attention to saline soils and areas prone to wind erosion. Other areas of intervention include the development of fodder production and regeneration of cross-pollinated forage crops germplasm for improved rural livelihoods. Recently, FAO contributed to the identification and safeguard of the Qanat irrigated agricultural system as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) in Iran. Qanats are water distribution and management systems that have allowed for the development and preservation of the most ancient agricultural civilizations in Iran, Central Asia, China and elsewhere around the world. These agricultural systems provide reliable sources of water to traditional family farms in most dry areas where agriculture and farming would be impossible otherwise.

IRAQ
FAO is currently implementing three emergency projects funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) under the Iraq Strategic Response Plan. KSA funds are part of a bigger grant of US$500 million donated by the Kingdom to the United Nations to assist the more than one million uprooted Iraqis in northern Iraq. Received funds supported several food security projects, including:
1. Provision of wheat seeds and fertilizer to 20,000 household farmers for the October/November cereal planting season;
2. Supporting 10,000 vulnerable host and IDP households through backyard vegetable and poultry production, micro-industry focused on women and cash-for-work activities to quickly boost food availability, improve nutrition intake and generate extra income;
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems

Over centuries, generations of farmers, fisher folks and herders have developed complex, diverse and locally adapted agricultural systems, managed with time-tested, ingenious combinations of techniques and practices. Building on generations of accumulated knowledge and experience, these ingenious “agri-cultural” systems reflect not only the diversity of cultures and civilization, but also the evolution of humankind. To dynamically conserve these agricultural heritage systems, FAO launched the GIAHS Initiative during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The GIAHS Initiative aims to identify, recognize, support and safeguard agricultural heritage systems around the world. GIAHS is an integrated policy and action framework that brings the importance of culture within agriculture, pride and identity of rural communities through global recognition of their agricultural heritage systems and dynamic conservation.

GIAHS are defined as “remarkable land use systems and landscapes, which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development”.

Over the last decade, FAO has successfully raised understanding and awareness of the importance of traditional yet evolving systems for sustainable development. Currently, there are 31 designated GIAHS sites in 13 countries which include the Oases of the Maghreb Region (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) and the ancient qanat irrigation system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Date Palm Oases System of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Aflaj irrigation system of Oman are being formulated and reviewed for eventual designation as GIAHS.

Moreover, more several countries from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation such as Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Turkey are in the process of identifying additional systems as GIAHS.

3. Safeguarding animal survival, health and production by supplying 7,500 households with animal feed, veterinary supplies and services (e.g. surveillance and vaccination campaigns).

JORDAN

Multilateral cooperation and piloting innovative approaches are among the key focus areas of FAO’s work in Jordan. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, a National Plan of Action was developed in 2014. The plan bridges key short-term humanitarian relief, medium-term restoration and long-term development interventions to boost the agriculture sector and bolster the ability of host communities to withstand the impact of the Syria crisis. Capacity development, control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), control of transboundary plant diseases and pests, income generation and climate
smart agriculture intensification and diversification are the main focus areas of the plan. Currently FAO is carrying out an analysis to assess the impact of the Syria crisis on food security and agriculture-based livelihoods of host communities.

KAZAKHSTAN
In the beginning of the 2000s, FAO and partners initiated large scale conservation agriculture activities in North Kazakhstan. Due to these efforts, the area of land now being farmed using conservation agriculture practices has been increasing. The total area grew from zero hectares in 2001 to 500,000 hectares in 2007, 1,200,000 hectares in 2008 and 1,600,000 hectares in 2011 with continued increases in the region. The utilization of conservation agriculture-based technologies has become an official state policy, and since 2008, the government of Kazakhstan has been subsidizing farmers who are adopting conservation agriculture-based technologies. With these policies in place, Kazakhstan is now included among the top 10 countries with the largest areas under no-tillage in the world.

KUWAIT
FAO and Kuwait collaborate on issues related to food security, as well as the means by which to benefit from the most modern technological expertise in wastewater treatment, and establishment of tree fenders for winds to prevent dust.

KYRGYZSTAN
In 2012, FAO upgraded its Kyrgyz country office to a full-fledged Representation, and its programme shifted from previously dealing primarily with emergencies towards a developmental focus, with specific attention to the policy and institutional reform dialogue. This transition is expressed in FAO’s recent and ongoing national projects, including policy design in livestock, fisheries, and seed subsectors, as well as strategy design for the entire sector. FAO has also assisted the government in strengthening the National Food Security Information System and designing an Animal Identification and Traceability System. Agricultural development projects include sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, sustainable management of mountainous forest and land resources under climate change conditions, improving access of small-scale farmers to high quality seeds, dairy cattle improvement, irrigation improvement, agricultural value chains for selected fresh and processed foods, and pistachio and walnut development.

LEBANON
FAO is supporting Lebanon on several key initiatives, including:
1. Ensuring availability of safe and nutritious food and strengthening national capacities for improved food security (with a focus on the rehabilitation of the dairy sector);
2. Developing institutional capacities to improve agricultural statistics;
3. Fostering agricultural production, increasing marketing and competitiveness, and improving food systems and livelihoods;
4. Ensuring sustainable management and use of natural resources, fisheries and aquaculture resources for food security.

Following the Syria crisis, FAO is intensifying its efforts to enable the Lebanese surveillance system to face the threat of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) coming from Syria, where veterinary services have been significantly disrupted during the last three years.

LIBYA
FAO has been supporting Libya through the provision of advice and technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Marine Wealth, with the overall goals to develop the agriculture sector, improve food security and support economic development and diversification. Focus areas of intervention include:
1. Sustainable intensification of crop productivity;
2. Upgrading food safety and phytosanitary standards;
3. Improving sustainable livestock productivity and health;
4. Enhancing sustainable exploitation and development of fisheries and marine resources;
5. Sustainable use and management of natural agricultural resources;
6. Knowledge management and capacity development to improve support services to the agriculture sector.

MALAYSIA
Many Malaysians are dependent on coastal and marine resources for their food, livelihoods and security. However, most of these resources are part of larger, transboundary marine ecosystems which require multi-country approaches to their sustainable management and conservation. An FAO project aims to support the development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to protect the health of the ecosystem and sustainably manage the living resources of the Bay of Bengal in order to improve the food and livelihood security of the region’s coastal population, including Malaysia. Key issues being addressed by the project include: overexploitation of living resources, habitat degradation, land-based sources of pollution and the status of these critical habitats post-tsunami, and their ability to support livelihoods in the future. FAO will assist in identifying sound policies to strengthen community-based approaches to integrated coastal resources management, empowering local communities to participate in processes and decisions associated with the development fishery management plans and increasing options such as access to alternative livelihoods.

MALDIVES
FAO and The Maldives collaborate on many activities. The country relies on imports for approximately 96 percent of its egg requirements. FAO recently helped implement a project to support the development of a domestic egg industry in the country. The overall goal of the project is to establish a commercially viable and environmentally sound domestic egg sector that sustainably increases family incomes and improves household food security. More specifically, the project aims to build technical, managerial and policy capacity to overcome critical gaps in the ability to develop sustainable egg production models in the island communities in Maldives.

Mali
Agriculture and pasture are the most important sectors for Malian’s livelihoods, representing 80 percent of the workforce. FAO is providing quality seeds, small ruminants and veterinary support to vulnerable families that have lost their assets in the Sahel crisis, in order to reinforce food and nutritional security and quickly increase the resilience of the vulnerable population. In response to both immediate needs of the population and structural vulnerabilities, FAO is setting up market gardens with fences, as well as rehabilitating water points and irrigation infrastructure. Increasing rehabilitation and resilience is of the utmost importance, and with this objective in mind, FAO is distributing seeds, restoring vegetable production, increasing access to credit and supporting livestock breeders. Additionally, FAO’s Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) is based in Mali and covers the 23 countries of West and Central Africa. Its main objective is to prevent and control transboundary animal diseases, as well as to assist governments in better responding to animal health emergencies.

MAURITANIA
The main focus of FAO’s programme in Mauritania is support to the livestock sector. Specific projects have involved: supporting veterinary services and camel breeding modalities; natural resource management, including management of watersheds areas and climate-smart agriculture; seed and crop production and improvement of small irrigation schemes; improved fish management; and strengthening resilience to shocks, including food shortage and drought consequences, through improved food and nutrition monitoring systems.

MOROCCO
FAO activities in Morocco address the following priorities: rural development with special attention to vulnerable groups; support to the government in the implementation of regulatory frameworks and harmonization of agriculture policies; sustainable management of natural resources and improvement of living standards in rural areas;
management of forestry genetic resources and water sanitation; management of food crises including reinforcement of institutional capacities to better cope with shocks such as spikes/volatility of food prices; pest control (including through integrated pest management); disposal of obsolete pesticides and the management of the impacts of drought and climate change. A current FAO project in Morocco aims to safely support blue growth in marine and inland fisheries. FAO is providing assistance to improve aquaculture production and align it to international health standards, as well as assisting the Moroccan government to establish a Blue Growth Observatory to control the direct or indirect use of national water resources.

**MOZAMBIQUE**

FAO is helping to establish a Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (FSN) in Mozambique. Achievements thus far include the creation of the Organic Statute of the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (TSFSN) at national and regional levels, as well as efforts to create a Parliamentary coalition for FSN in the country, as part of the larger efforts to establish an African and Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) coalition for FSN in the coming years. FAO has also supported the creation of the Women Peasant Movement in Mozambique (MMMR) to promote the participation of women on the national agenda of FSN and within the CPLP. Other key initiatives were the preparation of a workshop to promote dialogue on the family farm sector, which employs 80 percent of the labor force of the country, along with the establishment of a platform for the private sector movement “Scaling Up Nutrition” and the organization of 500 farmer field schools in several provinces.

**NIGER**

Niger introduced its 3N (Les Nigeriens Nourissent les Nigeriens – Nigeriens Nourish Nigeriens) Initiative in 2011 to increase the country’s resilience to food crises and reduce poverty through agricultural reform. The programme centres on improving smallholders’ access to water, inputs, information and training. FAO has supported the initiative by providing quality high-yielding seeds and fertilizers to farmers through seed fairs and direct distribution. FAO has also trained farmers and agricultural extension workers on technical specifications for seed use, distribution, certification and quality control. The project contributed to significant production increases in both rain-fed and irrigation farms, increased household food availability and dietary diversity, and improved incomes for farmers who sold their products in markets.

**NIGERIA**

FAO’s major initiative for food security in Nigeria covers a wide range of food and agriculture projects, from increasing the vitamin content of eggs to improving water management in rice fields, building floating fish cages and introducing beekeeping. A group of Chinese experts and technicians are working in the country through a South-South Cooperation (SSC) arrangement launched by FAO. The two-phase effort supports Nigeria’s National Programme for Food Security. In the first phase, approximately 500...
Chinese technicians completed 4,000 field visits, conducted more than 500 demonstrations and carried out more than 200 microprojects. This led not only to improved yields and livelihoods, but also to replication by farmers' organizations that had been supported by the initiative. Due to the success of the first phase, the project’s reputation grew, allowing the second phase to be more demand driven. It now responds to individual states’ requests for specific types of support.

**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

By linking small-scale local production with major food assistance programmes, FAO interventions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS) aim to enhance food availability and access, boost the local economy and protect vulnerable agricultural livelihoods. In this context, the main focus of the current FAO programme in the WBGS is on improved household-level food production (horticulture, quinoa and...
animal production and health, fisheries, natural resources), sustainable livelihoods and income generation, market oriented and sustainable high value crops sector development, institutional sanitary and phytosanitary capacity building, reinforced operational coordination and evidence-based and food security related information management. FAO’s targeted response includes supporting rural families, herders and farmers with rainwater harvesting and cisterns, animal diseases and plant pest control, provision of fodder, rangeland rehabilitation, mobile veterinary centres and provision of seeds and fertilizers.

OMAN
FAO’s overall support in the Sultanate of Oman focuses on:
1. Support to policy, strategy and planning;
2. Enhancement of agricultural and fisheries production and productivity;
3. Development, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
4. Value addition, agro-processing, marketing, food safety and consumer protection;
5. Rural employment generation and enhancing the private sector role in these spheres.
Other areas of support include the disposal of obsolete pesticides and developing guidelines for safety of fishing vessels. FAO is also currently assisting the government in the formulation a sustainable agricultural development strategy, in effect through 2030.

PAKISTAN
The overall strategy in FAO Pakistan includes five areas within the context of the OneUN One Programme II (OPII), Country Programme Framework (CPF) and the FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs):
1. Build programmes for multiple projects covering pertinent development issues such as Balochistan agriculture development, animal health, crop reporting services-remote sensing, women in agriculture, rangelands, Vision 2050, dubas bug on date palm, pesticides and marine/freshwater fisheries studies;
2. Build humanitarian programmes (as opposed to emergency responses) for Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA), Afghan refugees, displaced persons, and flood affected communities;
3. Strengthen cross-cutting capacity building especially for gender issues, nutrition development, security, communications and procurement;
4. Prepare an emergency ready FAO representation with physical and technical capacity for emergency response and institutional support; and,
5. Develop contacts and networks with all partners through which ideas and actions can be moved at very low cost.

QATAR
FAO’s assistance in Qatar aims at improving the management and conservation of the natural resource base and the orientation of technological and institutional change in its sustainable use. The overall goal is to increase agricultural and fisheries productivity and production of safe and nutritious foods to enhance the livelihoods of the Qatari people. FAO’s current projects include assisting the government to improve fisheries planning and management by enhancing available knowledge on the state of fisheries and fishery resources in Qatar. FAO has also carried out intensive consultations with various departments of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), institutions and stakeholders to support the formulation of a water resource strategy, focusing on non-conventional water resources (desalinated water and treated sewage effluent) and using compost produced from domestic solid waste for agricultural production.

SAUDI ARABIA
The current FAO-KSA Technical Cooperation Agreement Programme is contributing substantially to sustainable agriculture development while preserving natural resources. Collaboration with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given birth to a sustainable agriculture development model that covers multiple sectors ranging from management of water resources to crop production and good agricultural practices, crop protection, aquaculture, development of natural resources and institutional
and human capacity building. Current efforts are focused on how to consistently and sustainably scale-up the model created by the partnership, ensuring that natural resources, especially water, are sustainably managed and conserved.

**SENEGAL**
The agriculture sector, including livestock, forestry and fisheries, is the main source of employment and revenue for about 60 percent of Senegal’s population. Irregular rainfall, declining soil fertility and relatively low levels of investment in the sector have led to a decline in production. FAO is distributing rice, millet, maize, cowpeas and watermelon seeds, as well as fertilizer to vulnerable farmers in an effort to increase their production capacity and diversify the food available. FAO is also investing in agriculture by providing important tools for production and processing and supplying good quality seeds to be stored in stocks. Disparities in agricultural production are localized across the country, and FAO focuses its response on the worst affected areas, particularly in the regions of Diourbel, Kaffrine, Kédougou, Kolda, Saint Louis, Sédhiou, Louga, Matam, Tambacounda and Ziguinchor, including the pastoral zones for livestock interventions.

**SIERRA LEONE**
The Government of Sierra Leone, with support from FAO, is helping the country’s smallholder farmers make the transition from subsistence to commercial farming. The five-year, US$403 million plan known as the smallholder commercialisation programme seeks to help farmers grow more and varied crops, process more of what they produce and market their goods more effectively. Around 3.5 million people, or roughly two-thirds of the country, depend on agriculture, while some 70 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. By encouraging farmers to farm for business, Sierra Leone hopes to lift annual agricultural growth to the 7.7 percent needed to halve poverty and hunger by 2015. To achieve this, FAO and other partners are working with the government to make sure farmers have better access to quality seeds, fertilizers and machinery as well as training—from improved cropping techniques and group governance to financial management and marketing skills. It is also making a big push to develop irrigation systems, improve feeder roads so that farmers can get their goods to the market and make it easier for them to access financial services.

**SOMALIA**
Most people in Somalia rely on farming and livestock for their food and income, but drought, conflict, displacement, disease and environmental degradation have wiped out many Somalis’ ability to earn a living. One missed planting season or the loss of livestock will push most families deeper into poverty and hunger. That is why FAO Somalia is using cash transfer initiatives in the country’s most vulnerable communities while working to help Somali farmers prepare and sow their fields ahead of the rains, providing them with improved seeds, fertilizers and technical support to boost yields. Likewise, FAO is vaccinating livestock and ramping up animal health services and disease surveillance and monitoring. FAO is also working to restore incomes and build stronger local economies through cash-for-work schemes, which provide vulnerable families with daily wages in exchange for work on community infrastructure.

**SUDAN**
In Sudan, FAO is helping vulnerable rural people, including herding, fishing and farming communities, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees, to regain their livelihoods and strengthen their food security. FAO’s focus is on sustainable solutions to strengthen local systems and reduce aid dependency, expand livelihood opportunities, facilitate early recovery and improve preparedness on the ground. Ex-combatants, IDPs and women are learning food processing techniques (cheese-making, fish preservation), business techniques and other skills to improve their incomes. At the same time, FAO is supporting community-based conflict management and negotiation through improved natural resource sharing, such as fuel-efficient stoves, which use less coal and provide a source of income for women who make and sell the stoves. Other ongoing activities include improved crop production, animal health and
production, environmental restoration and protection, livelihood diversification (including improved access to markets through market oriented production and value-chain linkages), capacity building for food security policy and strategy and sectoral coordination.

**SURINAME**
FAO assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in formulating seven agriculture subsector white papers on rice, bananas, horticulture (vegetable, fruit, root crops), livestock, fisheries, interior development and agribusiness to support the government in achieving food security targets. A National Stakeholder Consultative Exercise has been completed and the Ministry is utilizing the subsector documents in various national planning exercises.

**SYRIA**
Since 2011, FAO has been providing support to the most vulnerable rural and peri-urban families on their food security and livelihoods. FAO interventions in Syria have been focusing on:
1. Coordination and co-leadership of the food and agriculture sector, including strengthened food security information collection, analysis and sharing;
2. Emergency support to household staple crop production (distribution of wheat and barley seeds) to contribute to increased food production;
3. Backyard food production (poultry and vegetable) and micro gardening to facilitate access to fresh, nutrient–rich foods at home and in communities;
4. Emergency support to small-scale herders (livestock inputs, feed, veterinary inputs, technical support), helping families maintain their livestock assets and animal production, strengthening veterinary services and reducing the spread of animal diseases.

**TAJIKISTAN**
FAO's presence in Tajikistan dates back to 1997, as a valued provider of emergency related assistance. Over the past three and half years, FAO has moved away from dealing with emergencies towards the development process, with specific attention to policy and reform dialogue creating a solid platform within government agencies but also between the government and donors. FAO has become a vital player in the ongoing Agrarian Reform in the country, ensuring technical assistance in the agriculture sector in the areas of the crop diversification, dehkan farm restructuring, local governance and institutional reform. In the livestock sector, FAO projects help to improve cattle production, manage animal genetic resources, and improve the health of livestock through control of animal diseases. FAO is also assisting the country in strengthening the National Food Security Information System (FSIS) by helping to establish a Food Security Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture, creating and adopting guidelines for crop and food security assessments, and designing a database for 60,000 Dehkan farms.
**TOGO**

After heaving flooding and sharp increases in food prices from 2007-2008, Togo’s farmers suffered losses and malnutrition in rural populations was exacerbated. FAO, with funding from the EU, responded by providing seeds and fertilizer to some 15,000 farmers to grow staple crops such as maize, rice and sorghum. An additional 5,500 more farmers received inputs for market gardening. FAO estimates that the total value of what they produced is nearly double the amount invested by the EU. In addition, the EU-funded FAO efforts also delivered structural support to Togo’s agriculture, in particular to its seed sector and the market information system. More recently, FAO started a project in Togo to promote the right to food and good governance around food security, with the primary aim of empowering stakeholders for their effective involvement in the management of processes related to the right to food and food security.

**TUNISIA**

FAO interventions in Tunisia focus on the improvement of the performance of the agriculture sector through public-private partnerships and the enhancement of agriculture producers’ capacities to sustainably use and manage scarce natural resources, intensify agricultural production (also through Integrated pest management strategies) and manage wildlife and protected areas.

**TURKEY**

FAO has strong collaboration with Turkey on food security and rural development. The Government of Turkey, represented by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MFWA) and FAO have been closely collaborating to reach a joint partnership agreement in the areas of forestry and land management since 2009. Currently, FAO is in the process of developing a Regional Animal Health Centre in Turkey to improve national and regional capacity in managing animal health threats in the region. It is also assisting the government in several key initiatives, including capacity building on improved micro-gardening technologies in selected Syrian refugee camps; a regional coordination centre for food security; recovery of the sturgeon population through habitat assessment and restocking; management of the chestnut blight and increased capacity for improving forest health and vitality; and enhancing Turkey’s capacity to adapt to climate change.

**TURKMENISTAN**

FAO is strengthening its partnership with the Government of Turkmenistan at the global, regional and country levels. The recently developed Country Programming Framework (CPF) in Turkmenistan identifies the following priority areas for intervention and support:

1. Agricultural production and food security;
2. Sustainable natural resource management,
climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
3. Increasing the resilience of rural livelihoods to agriculture and food security threats and shocks.

UGANDA
Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for roughly 77 percent of Ugandans. Climate change and environmental challenges, such as erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and flooding, pose a threat to crop and livestock productivity. To help farmers face these challenges, FAO is supporting the production of drought-tolerant crops, constructing infrastructure for water and soil conservation, training farmers on sustainable farming and animal husbandry practices and facilitating community planning. Specifically, the farmer field school approach, widely adopted by FAO Uganda, is very effective for farmers to improve production and learn about post-harvest handling and farming-as-a-business—from processing their goods to marketing them more effectively. The schools also encourage farmers to join village loan and savings schemes to increase their access to credit. The approach places particular emphasis on women and youth; it also serves as an excellent way to raise awareness on nutrition, gender, HIV/AIDS and climate change.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
The current FAO programme in the United Arab Emirates focuses on fostering women entrepreneurship in the agro-food sector and on improving the nutrition of school children through nutrition education and garden-based learning. Specific support is currently being provided to guide and facilitate the integration capacity of the UAE’s food control bodies in achieving appropriate levels of food safety and consumer protection. FAO is also developing a programme aimed at providing technical assistance and policy advice, as well as fostering Private Public Partnership dialogues.

UZBEKISTAN
Uzbekistan has had a growing collaboration with FAO since 2001. Recently, the country has made efforts to increase its presence in regional and international markets, demonstrating impressive growth in the agricultural sector. Uzbekistan has the potential to play an important role not only in significant diversification of diets in the country but also in expanding food supply to world markets. FAO and its partners are supporting the government by providing technical support in integrated seed sector development, in addition to technical assistance to further develop the agricultural sector, sustainable management of natural resources and increased resilience of rural populations to climate change. Among the plant protection problems that pose a challenge for agricultural production and food security, locusts are a significant threat, especially in the region of Central Asia and the Caucasus. FAO is also implementing a five-year programme to strengthen locust management capacities in ten countries in the region and to increase intra-regional cooperation to combat it. The Organization’s presence in Uzbekistan will be reinforced with the opening of an FAO country office in Tashkent.

YEMEN
FAO’s recently formulated Plan of Action promotes an integrated approach that combines emergency and development interventions to address specific needs of vulnerable smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fishing communities, IDPs, refugees, migrants, returnees, as well as national agriculture support service providers. Main ongoing programmes and areas of intervention include strengthening and capacity development of food security information systems, decentralized supply and water use management to sustain water resources and rural livelihoods, support to food and agriculture cluster coordination, improved household-level food and nutrition security through backyard food production, desert locust and red palm weevil prevention and control, upgrading of see quality standards, as well as strengthening veterinary capacity for transboundary animal disease control.
Improved agricultural market information is paramount to strengthening the global food system and to reducing the incidence and impact of price surges that are based on false data, speculation or other disruptive factors. Against this background, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) has played an important role in significantly enhancing market transparency and in providing a platform for regular policy dialogue. Set up by the G20 in 2011 with a multi-agency secretariat hosted by FAO, AMIS produces timely and reliable market assessments, conducts research on topical issues affecting agricultural markets, and assures better coordination among countries to reduce market instability and unilateral action.

AMIS participants include the main producing, exporting and importing countries of agricultural commodities, allowing the initiative to provide a global focus and to analyse developments affecting international markets. The positive experiences of AMIS since the launch of the initiative have encouraged some governments to establish similar mechanisms at the regional level, such as the Mediterranean Agriculture Market Information Network (MED-AMIN). The network, which was launched in February 2014 under the overall auspices of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), includes seven members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. AMIS, together with FAO and the European Commission, are invited as permanent observers to MED-AMIN meetings. Building on the expertise gained so far, the AMIS Secretariat provides advice and assistance in setting up a similar mechanism for MED-AMIN, especially in view of harmonizing the methodology for crop supply and demand balances, and for improving exchange and communication with national focal points.

“We use our technical knowledge to assist countries in setting policies and implementing concrete actions at the country level. And we bring what we learn from our work in the field back into the global discussion on norms and public goods.”
– José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

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