

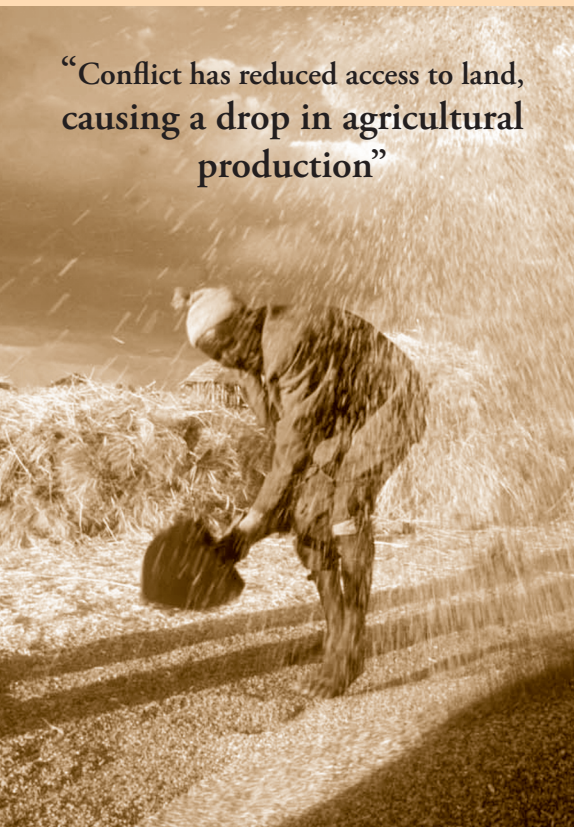
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

KEY FACTS

- Population: 18 million
- GDP (PPP) per capita: US\$1 510
- Population below poverty line: 44%
- Labour force by occupation: agriculture 68%, industry and services 32%
- Total land area: 322 460 sq km, bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, and Mali
- Total arable land: 10%
- Life expectancy: male: 46 years, female: 51 years
- Literacy rate: male: 57.9% , female: 43.6%
- Human Development Index: 163/177

(Source: UN; World Bank)

“Conflict has reduced access to land, causing a drop in agricultural production”



FAO IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Funding of agricultural programmes increased in 2006, allowing FAO to reach 25 000 farming households with essential seeds and other inputs in the most devastated areas. FAO also invested in seed multiplication, training 740 seed multipliers. FAO continues to work closely with WFP and other partners in food security monitoring.

BACKGROUND

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire continues to suffer the after effects of the September 2002 attempted coup that divided the country, causing massive population displacement and serious disruptions to its socio-economic development. Four years later, the country remains split between the rebel-held, land-locked north, and the government-controlled south.

Political advances during the first half of 2006 saw a slight improvement in the security situation, but the establishment of a lasting and sustainable peace process is still uncertain. The ensuing humanitarian crisis has had a devastating effect on approximately 700 000 displaced and highly vulnerable persons, particularly in the volatile west and north of the country.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Prior to the political crisis of 2002, Côte d'Ivoire enjoyed a relatively prosperous food security situation with good social services and infrastructure, skilled labour and favourable agroclimatic conditions.

Four years of political division have left Côte d'Ivoire's agriculture sector without any cohesive, central administration. Conflict has reduced access to land, causing a drop in agricultural production. The livelihoods of rural households have declined, particularly in zones where ethnic tensions are rife. Access to seed is difficult and, where available, seed tends to be low quality and low yielding. In addition, rural communities in the south, northwest, centre and east of the country experienced variable weather conditions in 2005, which led to poor harvests in 2006. Approximately 10 percent of children under five are malnourished. Supporting the sustainable settlement of IDPs and returnees continues to be a priority.

Prior to the 2002 conflict, local sources of revenue were mainly cash crops, however a cotton crisis and poor cashew harvest in the north led to the decline of household resources. Insecurity in the west is preventing the maintenance of coffee and cocoa plantations and, in some cases, cash crop activities have been replaced by the marketing of food crops.

FAO RESPONSE

In 2006, funding of agricultural programmes increased, allowing FAO and its partners to reach more than 25 000 vulnerable households with inputs of rice or maize seeds, vegetable seeds, small tools and fertilizers. The FAO also invested in seed multiplication, with 740 farmers trained for the development of 25 hectares of maize and 60 hectares of rice in the north and the west.

In 2007, FAO will continue working in Côte d'Ivoire with WFP and other partners to restore and protect the agricultural production resources of

vulnerable households. Priority will be given to displaced households who have recently returned home, households affected by malnutrition and HIV/AIDS, and those households who experienced poor harvest as a result of low rainfall. Project proposals include training local organizations and field workers on how best to deal with issues of malnutrition and food quality, as well as the distribution of quality agricultural inputs such as seed, tools and fertilizers to vulnerable rural families. Proposed livelihood support will cover the initial investment required for resumption of income generating activities in war affected areas. Coordination and information management is focused to improve the efficiency of emergency agricultural interventions and permit continued data collection and monitoring of food security, vulnerability and agricultural production.

PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Funding required: US\$2 867 937

Support to food security, nutrition and livelihoods of vulnerable households and communities

Objectives: To enhance food security and prevent malnutrition of vulnerable households and communities.

Activities: Training of local organizations and field workers on prevention of malnutrition through improved food quality and diversity; introduction of an agricultural support component into existing therapeutic, supplementary and community feeding programmes, as well as HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation programmes; support for home gardening; organization of workshops addressing problems across sectors affecting nutrition and sharing information on nutrition.

Beneficiaries: 9000 vulnerable households and communities.

Implementing partners: National Nutrition Programme (PNN, Ministry of Health), ANADER, NGOs.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$540 925.

Provision of agricultural inputs to assist vulnerable rural households affected by the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire

Objectives: To reinforce the production capacity of vulnerable farmers and promote exchange of local seeds through the provision of essential agricultural inputs and organization of seed fairs.

Activities: Distribute cereal (either upland/lowland rice or maize) vegetable and pulse (bean or groundnuts) seeds together with tools and fertilizers to beneficiaries. Where appropriate, a seed fair will be organized to promote the local seed networks and agriculture training will be provided to beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries: 15 000 vulnerable farmers, including IDPs, returnees, malnutrition affected households, HIV/AIDS affected households, vulnerable households with limited harvest.

Implementing partners: WFP, international and national NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Animal Production and Halieutic Resources.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$1 412 153.

Livelihood support to vulnerable populations in war affected regions of Côte d'Ivoire

Objectives: To improve food security of vulnerable households living in war affected areas through diversification of livelihoods.

Activities: Cover the initial investment required for resumption of income generating activities such as simple food processing, fresh water fishing, fish breeding, bee keeping and honey production, small animal husbandry (chicken, pork), blacksmithing and marketing. Provide training on technical skills and financial aspects.

Beneficiaries: 5 000 war affected families.

Implementing partners: WFP, ONUCI, Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, local communities.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$554 829.

Support to the coordination of emergency agricultural operations and food security information collection and analysis

Objectives: Improve efficacy and effectiveness of food security interventions through the strengthening of coordination and food security information management.

Activities: Coordinate and facilitate humanitarian interventions in the agriculture sector; support agricultural, food security and nutrition information collection and exchange; promote cooperation with all the actors engaged in food security on needs assessment, methodologies and best practices; recommend interventions most likely to be effective in each situation.

Beneficiaries: Vulnerable farmers, humanitarian actors engaged in emergency agricultural programmes, Government agencies.

Implementing partners: Government, WFP, UNICEF, OCHA, NGOs.

Duration: January – December 2007.

Funds requested: US\$360 030.