

SUCCESS STORIES

FROM INSIDE POVERTY'S DOOR

FAO AND EU UNLOCKING RURAL POTENTIAL





TWO INSTITUTIONS UNITED BY A NOBLE GOAL



FAO/A. Berry

THIS BOOKLET SALUTES THE GENEROSITY OF THE TAXPAYERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, WHO CONTRIBUTE AROUND US\$40 MILLION PER YEAR TO THE PRO-POOR, ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMMES SHOWN HERE. AND THESE ARE JUST A SAMPLE. OTHER EU-FUNDED ACTIVITIES THAT ARE IMPLEMENTED BY FAO ARE DESCRIBED AT www.fao.org/newsroom.

THESE ARTICLES DESCRIBE THE INNER WORKINGS OF A LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE TWO INSTITUTIONS ARE UNITED BY A COMMON GOAL: ALLEVIATE WORLD HUNGER. AND THEY GO TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM – RURAL AREAS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE MOST OF THE WORLD'S 854 MILLION HUNGRY PEOPLE LIVE AND WHERE AGRICULTURE AND FISHING ARE THE MAIN SOURCES OF INCOME.

IS THE FAO-EU PARTNERSHIP SUCCESSFUL? WE LET THE FARMERS AND FISHERS OF THE WORLD SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ...

DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP/ WHEN A PROJECT IGNITES PROFOUND CHANGE



VEHARI, Pakistan – In the cotton-growing heart of the Indus Valley, Pakistani taxpayers are now financing what European Union taxpayers helped start – a movement to give farmers the skills and confidence to rein in indiscriminate and dangerous use of pesticides, while reducing their poverty at the same time.

“Before, we used to follow what the neighbours did in spraying pesticide,” says small-scale cotton farmer Muhammad Younis, 27. “Last year, I used six to seven applications and this year, after observing my field, I used commercial pesticides only three times and biopesticides like neem and aloe vera twice. The crop looks as good as last year, and I’ve saved money on the pesticide.”

Mr Younis learned field ecology in a Farmer Field School, a method pioneered by FAO and first introduced in Pakistan to train cotton farmers in Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The joint FAO-EU programme, worth US\$12.4 million, operated from 1999 to 2004 in Bangladesh, China, India, Philippines and Viet Nam, as well as Pakistan.

Since 2004, Pakistan has committed US\$7.7 million in public funds to integrate IPM into public policy, university curricula, provincial extension services and research and development. A five-year programme is well on its way to using Farmer Field Schools to train 167 000 farmers in IPM.

In Farmer Field Schools, farmers and facilitators throughout the cropping season spend one morning a week in a typical field, observing insect behaviour and plant growth



Top: A Farmer Field School in Vehari, Pakistan holds its weekly session. (FAO/A. Hafeez)

Centre: Transporting cotton. (FAO/A. Hafeez)

Bottom: Picking cotton. (FAO/A. Hafeez)



rates. Put simply, farmers see that beneficial insects often devour pests, and when this is happening, pesticide is not needed. Farmers begin relying on their own judgement, even in the face of pressure from government agents and pesticide sellers to spray often and without reference to field ecology. Additional benefits included lower exposure to highly hazardous pesticides, especially for the women who pick most of the cotton by hand.

In Islamabad, Michael Dale, the European Commission’s Head of Operations in Pakistan, describes the FAO-EU relationship: “We like to tap FAO’s experience. The EC only has nine people here and there is a limit to what we can do. We’ve been able to do tremendous work together. But in the end, a donor can only act as catalyst. If people can see it is good for them, they’ll take it up.”

➤ www.fao.org/newsroom

«Before, we used to follow what the neighbours did in spraying pesticide.»

Muhammad Younis - Small-scale cotton farmer

NATURAL DISASTERS/ AFTER TSUNAMI OR FLOOD, REBUILDING QUICKLY AND BETTER

ACEH, Indonesia – When the 2004 tsunami crashed ashore, it destroyed not only lives but livelihoods, mostly in rice and cattle farming and in aquaculture. Two FAO-EU projects worth €7.3 million have supported more than 60 000 affected farmer and fisher families here and on nearby Nias Island.

Jamil Yahya, 37, lost six cattle and his barn to the tsunami, while his rice field was ruined by salt water. He and hundreds of fellow farmers received cows and buffaloes, farming supplies and training in improved animal husbandry from one of the projects. "I didn't expect this at all," says Mr Yahya. "I am very thankful to the project and hope to improve my income now."

The projects helped people:

- recultivate their land with improved seed and fertilizer;
- rehabilitate veterinary services;
- return to the seas with high-quality fishing boats and equipment;
- restart aquaculture activities in recovered fish ponds;
- rehabilitate coastal areas with mangrove;
- attend training workshops.



«I am very thankful to the project and hope to improve my income now.»

Jamil Yahya - Farmer

In Sri Lanka, similar projects are aiding 16 000 fisher families and 2 200 farm families. As of late 2006, the EU had contributed a total of US\$15.3 million to FAO's tsunami recovery programme.

Helping Haiti's rural poor

On the other side of the world, the FAO-EU partnership in northern Haiti helped those affected by a 2004 tropical storm that killed over 2 000 people and wiped out the only way rural Haitians could make a living: livestock raising and farming. More than just replacing what was lost, the project hired local people to reconstruct and reinforce irrigation canals and river banks to withstand future floods.

Daniel Ureña, Programme Officer at the EC Humanitarian Aid Office for the Caribbean, worked closely with FAO on the project. "We've been lucky in Haiti that FAO has an emergency unit to work with," he says, adding that he feels the two organizations should continue working together on disaster preparedness. "We're trying to blur the lines between response and preparedness. In the Caribbean, it's the same organizations involved in both."

Tsunami projects:

➤ www.fao.org/tsunami

Caribbean hurricane projects:

➤ www.fao.org/newsroom/en/field/2006/1000402



Top: Project coordinator works on a report while villagers reinforce the river banks in Haiti. (FAO/G. Bizzarri)

Bottom: Boatbuilding in Aceh. (FAO/A. Berry)

PROTECTING EUROPE/ ANIMAL DISEASE: EUROPE AND FAO DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND

KIRKLARELLI, Turkey – In early 2006 a battle to save Europe from invasion was fought and won here, when Turkish authorities repulsed a deadly intruder from the east: a new strain of the virus that causes Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), a devastating sickness affecting cows, pigs, sheep and goats.

They were able to do so thanks to a €4.5 million FAO-EU project that combines European resources with FAO expertise to help Turkey's General Directorate of Protection and Control conduct regular vaccinations, track animal immunity levels and monitor for the disease in the country's strategic Thrace region, Asia's gateway to Europe.

"We widely vaccinate animals in Thrace," notes Dr Musa Arik, the General Directorate's head of Animal Health Services, "but we knew we had a problem when we detected a new, previously unseen strain of the FMD virus to which even vaccinated animals would not be immune."

"It started with one cow. I think she caught it at the communal well," recalls dairy farmer Recep Duba of Balanbancek village. "Then all of a sudden six animals had it. It spread like lightning."

Working in coordination with the Turkish authorities, the FAO-EU project responded swiftly. The EU's vaccine bank, one of



Top: Preparing to vaccinate cattle in Turkey. (FAO/K. Wiedenhofer)
Centre: Bottles of EU-donated vaccine. (FAO/K. Wiedenhofer)



the largest in the world, had stocks of an antigen on hand that could be used to manufacture a vaccine effective against the new strain, and urgent production of 2.5 million doses for use in Thrace began immediately.

Within 48 hours a team of FAO and EU experts was deployed to the field to help provincial authorities plan their counterattack. The outbreaks were contained and stamped out.

"When the outbreak started in Thrace, many of the bordering countries, Greece, Bulgaria and other Balkan countries including Romania, were very concerned," says Nermin Kahraman, of the EC Delegation to Turkey in Ankara, adding: "We have a very good working relationship with FAO and FAO has a lot of expertise in this area and very good working relationships with the Turkish authorities."

Although Europe has generally been free of the disease, an outbreak in the UK in 2001 necessitated the slaughter of six million animals and cost the country €13 billion.

«We have a very good working relationship with FAO and FAO has a lot of expertise in this area.»

Nermin Kahraman - Member of the EC Delegation to Turkey

➤ www.fao.org/newsroom

■ GETTING BACK TO WORK/ ACROSS SUDAN, FARM RELIEF IS ONLY FIRST STEP



BULBUL DALAL ALANGRA, Sudan – “I used to live in a village near here. We were attacked by *janjaweed* militia and lost everything. Thirty members of my extended family went to live in Kalma Camp in Nyala. But the rest of the family who were still here said to come back, so I did and started to farm again.”

This simple story from Hassan Abdel Mukaram, a Darfur farmer, could be multiplied a thousand times. It illustrates that there is more to the Darfur tragedy than displaced people sitting in camps waiting for peace to come. They want to go back to work and, in certain pockets of stability including in the camps themselves, are able to do so. That’s why an FAO-EU programme provides not only emergency relief such as seeds and tools, but also improved farming methods so people like Mr Mukaram can reap a better return from their hard work.

“While we try to solve problems, we have to help people see into the future,” says Demere Seyoum, Field Director for World Relief, an NGO that works with the FAO-EU programme. “When farmers see a field ploughed by a donkey next to a field worked only with a hoe, they become believers. The donkey-ploughed crops are much higher. And that is why we work with FAO in donkey restocking and deworming.”



Top: Southern cattle herds are healthier thanks to the eradication of rinderpest. (FAO/J. Cendon)
Left: Darfur farmer inspects millet grown with FAO-EU seed. (FAO/J. Cendon)
Centre: Fishing in Southern Sudan. (FAO/J. Cendon)

Supporting the peace process

Meanwhile, in Southern Sudan, where a peace agreement was signed in early 2005, the FAO-EU programme has introduced money-making activities such as seed production to help returnees get off food aid as soon as possible. “Thirty women in our group have been trained to multiply sorghum seeds,” says beneficiary Mary Akwajo. “It helps women generate income and in fact 20 of them have bought plots of land in town with their proceeds.”

Long-standing FAO-EU support for community-based animal health services and mass vaccinations in the south is also credited with helping eradicate the livestock plague rinderpest, a major constraint to economic growth.

Between 2006 and 2010, the European Union will put €60 million into FAO-EU efforts across Sudan to replicate these success stories and to build the capacity of Sudanese government offices to plan, implement and control their own nutrition and agriculture programmes.

«While we try to solve problems we have to help people see into the future.»

Demere Seyoum - Field Director for World Relief

➤ www.fao.org/reliefoperations/app_sudan_intro_en.asp

HUNGER POLICY AND ACTION/ IMPROVING GOVERNMENTS' ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMMES

«We advocate creating a single government programme that cuts across all ministries.»

Luca Alinovi - Manager of EC-FAO programme

ROME, Italy – Governments in developing countries often request help in understanding the nature, causes and even the whereabouts of hunger in their territories, in order to implement comprehensive programmes to improve the situation. The European Union is providing such help through its €15 million EC-FAO Food Security Information for Action Programme.

The programme builds the food security policy-making capacity of 20 countries in Africa, the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central and Southeast Asia.

Policy-makers need good analytical tools. The programme develops and provides access to tools for:

- early warning, food insecurity and vulnerability mapping;
- conducting nutritional surveys;
- harmonizing statistical databases;
- conducting needs assessments.

Policy-makers and technical experts want to add to their knowledge. The programme develops and provides a distance-learning course and training materials aimed at improving the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of food security information.



How governments structure their national anti-hunger programmes is important too. FAO recommends that governments involve all concerned government ministries.

Take the example of Kenya, one of the participating countries:

“Food security in Kenya is usually understood as an issue related to emergency food aid interventions. Their food security programmes are under the Office of the President,” explains

Luca Alinovi, Manager of the EC-FAO programme.

“We advocate creating a single government programme that cuts across all ministries and not only addresses emergencies, but also other causes of hunger, such as low agricultural productivity or the AIDS pandemic,” he says. “And we help bring this about by sponsoring food security working groups made up of senior decision-makers from all ministries, in which they can discuss and formulate common food security strategies.”

The EC-FAO programme also holds special workshops that bring together the producers of food security information with the main users – decision-makers. Such meetings provide important feedback to the information producers, so they can deliver the most useful reports and analysis to the decision-makers’ desks.

Mr Alinovi sums up: “The international community does not impose hunger programmes on sovereign countries. But we can make information about who is hungry, where and why more and more transparent. In that way we believe that governments will see more clearly and objectively what they need to do.”

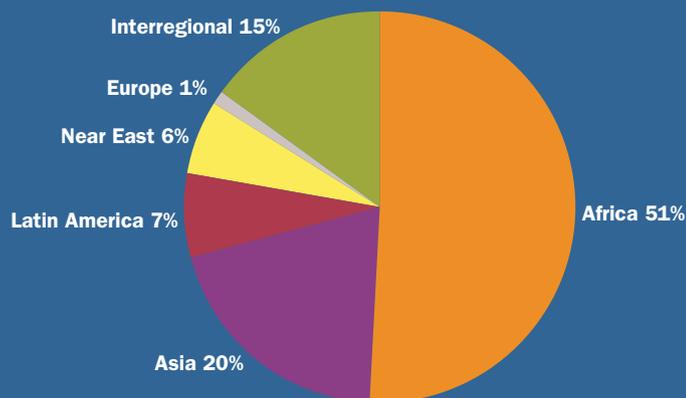
➤ www.foodsecinfoaction.org

Top: Why is this child hungry? Governments need to know. (FAO/A. Vitale)

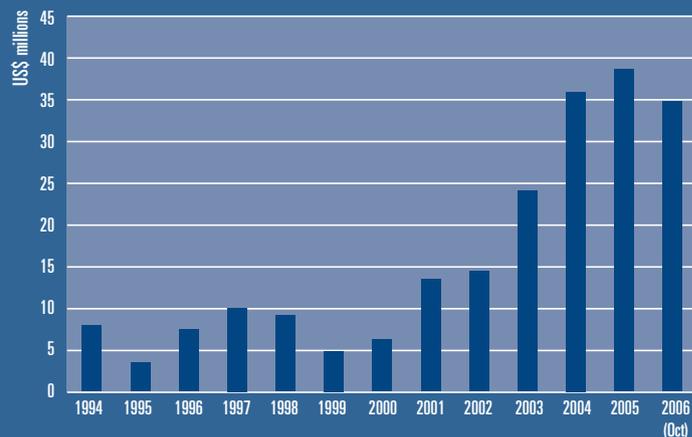
Bottom: A workshop at FAO headquarters in Rome teaches visiting policy-makers how to use a new statistical database. (FAO/I. Balderi)



**FAO-EU COOPERATION BY REGION
INCLUDING EMERGENCIES
(1994-2005)**



**VALUE OF FAO-EU SPENDING ON EMERGENCY AND
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
(1994-2005)**



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Main cover photo:

A fishing boat in Indonesia washed ashore by the tsunami is surrounded by a new field of rice. (FAO/J. Holmes)

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