



TURNING THE RISING TIDE OF HUNGER



FAO and EU Food Facility

When food prices hit record highs in 2007-2008, leading to unacceptable levels of hunger around the world, the European Union (EU) responded quickly and massively with the € 1 billion Food Facility.

Europe's support comes at a critical moment: one out of six persons on this planet is undernourished, more than ever before.

Launched in 2009, the EU Food Facility is a two-year programme to help developing countries move towards long-term food security.

Over € 228 million (US\$315 million) is being channelled through FAO, allowing the organisation to field operations in twenty-eight countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, touching the lives of more than 9 million people in rural areas.

The Food Facility responds to FAO's urgent calls for increased investment in agriculture after three decades of decline.

It targets the transition period from emergency aid to longer-term development. FAO is helping to boost agricultural production by working with local communities and farmer organizations on quality agricultural inputs, seed and livestock production, extension, access to markets, storage, irrigation and conservation agriculture.

A small portion of funds were diverted to contribute to FAO's relief efforts following emergencies in countries where FAO was already operating Food Facility projects, such as Haiti and Pakistan.

Set up in close collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis,

the Food Facility focuses on programmes that will have a quick but lasting impact on food security.

EUFF projects are embedded in government policies for food security and poverty reduction and are in line with government programmes to address the food price crisis.



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More and better food in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH - Investing € 11 million in two years, the EU, working with FAO and the government, is providing high quality agricultural inputs and training to 50 000 vulnerable farming families to help increase their food production and improve the family's nutrition. "These are great investments for the farmers," said Chan Sarun, Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The EU helps another 24 000 households plant vegetable gardens and engage in small-scale aquaculture activities to diversify production. Moreover, irrigation schemes are being rehabilitated to push productivity up, while equipment and storage facilities, as well as training in drying and storing techniques are provided to at least 5 400 households to bring down post-harvest losses.

BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Helping developing countries move towards long-term food security, FAO projects under the EU Food Facility cover the following areas:

- expanding certified seed production;
- ensuring access to quality inputs and appropriate extension;
- strengthening existing farmer-based organizations;
- improving storage infrastructure;
- facilitating linkages to markets;
- establishing and strengthening community-managed irrigation schemes;
- increasing livestock production;
- promoting conservation agriculture.



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Emergency relief and long term support for Niger

NIAMEY - As part of its response to the food crisis in the Sahel, FAO mobilised an additional € 3 million EU Food Facility funds in support of farmers and pastoralists hit by drought in late 2009. Meanwhile, FAO continues to provide longer-term support to farmers to build or rehabilitate agricultural input stores and warehouses, rehabilitate lowlands for vegetable production, improve seed production and spread knowledge through farmer field schools. EUFF funds are also being used to scale-up the warrantage system, an innovative financing scheme to allow smallholder farmers in Niger to make more money.



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Helping Guatemalan smallholders

GUATEMALA CITY – Under the EU Food Facility, subsistence farmers get help to raise their productivity and food stocks by using certified seed and inputs. Arnulfo Beteta, a small-holder living with his wife and three children in the Las Minas community in the department of Quiché said: “This is a huge help to families who simply cannot afford to buy this.” Jointly implemented by FAO and the WFP, the Food Facility is investing € 11 million in Guatemala to increase the food production of 14 000 smallholders for domestic consumption and for sale on local markets, and to improve household nutrition security.

WHAT THE PROJECTS COVER

- **Global:** eradicating rinderpest, an animal disease that has plagued world food security for ages;
- **Afghanistan:** support to seed industry and seed production;
- **Bangladesh:** provision of training and production inputs to over 80 000 farmers, livestock holders and fishermen;
- **Burkina Faso:** seed improvement and multiplication, provision of agricultural inputs, capacity building;
- **Burundi:** seed distribution, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, capacity building;
- **Cambodia:** water management, agricultural and aquaculture inputs, provision of equipment and storage facilities;
- **Central African Republic:** seed multiplication, conservation agriculture, reintegration of ex-combatants in the agricultural sector, opening of 80 input shops;
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** seed distribution, rehabilitation of agricultural assets, support to farmer organizations, food security information;
- **Eritrea:** distribution of agricultural inputs, increase access to quality seeds, increase livestock production capacity, improve water management capacity;
- **Guatemala:** improvement of productivity of maize, increase in smallholders' investment in technology;
- **Guinea Bissau:** provision of agricultural inputs, school gardens, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure;
- **Haiti:** natural resource management and water storage, diversification and intensification of agriculture, aquaculture/fishing;
- **Honduras:** distribution of agricultural inputs, improvement of storage facilities; farmers' training;
- **Jamaica:** strengthening of the national food security programme;
- **Kenya:** increasing availability of livestock and livestock products;
- **Liberia:** joint programme with UN partners, capacity building of extension agents and farmers, agricultural input supply, school gardens;
- **Lesotho:** input trade fairs, conservation agriculture;
- **Mozambique:** quality seed production and distribution; establishment of seed production plant;
- **Nepal:** distribution of agricultural inputs and livestock, farmer training
- **Nicaragua:** support to local farmers' organizations;
- **Niger:** emergency assistance to farmers and pastoralists hit by drought in late 2009, support to agricultural input stores, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, improved seed production, farmer field schools;
- **Pakistan:** seed distribution, small-scale irrigation and water harvesting, agricultural implements/machinery for 100 farmer associations, farmer training;
- **Philippines:** small scale irrigation, training of farmers and extension workers;
- **Sierra Leone:** establishment of 100 agribusiness centres;
- **Somalia:** distribution of agricultural inputs, rehabilitation of irrigation canals, improved market access;
- **Sri Lanka:** irrigation rehabilitation, increasing rice production, developing poultry production and horticulture, training of farmers and extension workers;
- **Togo:** quality seed production and distribution, training of seed producers;
- **Zambia:** conservation agriculture, distribution of agricultural inputs;
- **Zimbabwe:** provision of agricultural inputs to 176 000 vulnerable farming families, improved extension for livestock production.